

Church History

The History of the Church of Restoration is preserved with the hope of inspiring our present and future congregations. It is our prayer that they will protect the ideas and dreams of those who labored for so long and endured many hardships while working in our Lord's vineyard. Thankfully, God has been our shield and strength. He has guided us with counsel; blessed us by providence and inspired us by His Spirit.

The Church of Restoration was established in 1944 by the late Rev. Stephen Blake and a band of thirty or so Christian brothers and sisters. The organization of the church initially started with eight people in a living room in. They had no money, no people, no finances, but a big vision, and big faith, in a Big God, who does miraculous things through people, with big FAITH! They organized (at that time) the Community Baptist Church in the heart of West Oakland located at 810 Chester Street. After several temporary church moves, in March of 1948, members, visitors and friends marched from Chester Street to begin worship in their new edifice at 1607 8th Street, Oakland, California.

The years between 1944 and 1983 had brought about many changes to the Community Church Family. They began to experience many financial struggles, hardship and a period of economic distress. However, with God, along with faith, sacrifice and perseverance, the church endured. The Community Baptist church Family remained steadfast and was able to meet and fulfill the spiritual needs of the community despite their many challenges. During this period of almost 40 years, Community Baptist had installed six different pastoral leaders and prior to bringing in yet another pastor, the name had been changed to Trinity Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1983, Rev Samuel Williams was called to lead the congregation in yet another pastoral change. Trinity remained at the 8th Street location until July of 2000 when it became necessary to relocate Trinity Church Family to the Oakland Army Base by the late Rev. Samuel Williams, Sr. He remained pastor of Trinity until his transition to Heaven in January of 2003.

For almost two years Trinity was without a shepherd, but was blessed to have residing in their pulpit, Rev. C Cedric Claiborne, as interim pastor for six months. Upon the departure of Pastor Claiborne, the church began to go through uncertain times... but through much prayer and supplication, the members rallied together and appointed a member pastor-search committee. Under the guidance of Pastor Lester Cannon, their roles were to represent the church and lead out in search of a new pastor. Until that time, Rev. Lee Patrick, Jr. served as pulpit leader until a permanent pastor was called to Trinity and thus the search began.

The faithful members of Trinity proclaimed that "God wasn't through with us yet!" In December of 2004 they were blessed beyond measure with the calling of Rev. Elliott T. Ivey Sr., as the new pastor, leader and shepherd of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Under Pastor Ivey's leadership, Trinity in December of 2004, officially became New Beginnings Missionary Baptist Church, and truly it became a new beginning, for the church family.

Upon Pastor Ivey's arrival to the Army base location, New Beginnings was essentially a "Church without walls "tossed to and fro"... Due to closing of the army base in the beginning of 2006, Pastor was forced to relocate the church to yet another "temporary" home, this time located at the Oakland Masonic Center on Broadway Street. They worshipped there for three years until a "by-chance" (God ordained meeting) in July of 2009 with two Servants of the Lord, Pastor John Cooper and Pastor Elliott Ivey. That meeting

resulted in two churches, New Beginnings Baptist Church and Mt Pleasant Baptist Church (which was founded in 1949) merging into one Church Congregation; thus, Pleasant New Beginnings Baptist Church was birthed.

Pastor Elliott Ivey has laid a wonderful foundation of solid biblical understanding as well as spiritual unity, while also promoting love and fellowship. Relentless in his vision to restore People to God, People to People and Grace to the World is what led Pastor Ivey to transition the mindset of his church congregation from the Pleasant New Beginnings Church” to an on-purpose and steadfast, “Church of Restoration” (The COR).

In a span of over seven decades, The Church of Restoration has endured more than a few name changes, with at least eight or more shepherds called to lead God’s people. We are Grateful for the 76 years that God has brought us to. We can truly say, that we have only come this far by faith, leaning and depending on the Lord!

To God Be The Glory for the Celebration of 76 YEARS!

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