

PREFACE

I have been blessed with the opportunity to prepare a revision of the history of Springfield Baptist Church in Washington, Georgia for its website. I feel blessed for a number of reasons: one is that I had researched the history when I wrote the book Appointed to Tell in 2000; second I found even more information during my research for the book Appointed to Tell More in 2001; third being the great granddaughter of Rev. Lewis Williams, the founder and first pastor of the church, it just seems like an appointment by him(posthumously) and by God; and fourth it was in this church where I received the Lord in my life and where my training to be a leader began. Needless to say, I am overjoyed at the blessing.

What we have here is a walk through of how Springfield was formed by thirteen former slaves whose dream had been the formation of their own church. It seems that at the end of slavery, they began their mission of accomplishing this task and in 1868, it became a reality. They formed a body of Christians who were committed to teaching the Bible and the love of Christ in the community.

We see that there were ups and downs as with any organization, but there was faith and perseverance and as a result Springfield is still moving on as are the seven daughter churches: Booker's Chapel,1874; Cherry Grove,1884; Gibson Grove,1884; Young's Chapel,1885; Twin Oaks, 1886; Hilliard Station.1896; and Mt. Carmel, 1901. It is a joy to see all of these churches growing and thriving; and especially the ongoing growth of the "mother church" some one hundred forty years later. It shows what can be done when people love the Lord and are committed to their promises and work to carry them out.

I encourage all of the members, of Springfield and the daughter churches to continue the good works and more importantly to appreciate our rich history. Tell this history to your children so they can know the importance of having faith in God and Jesus Christ and to reaching out to others to do the same; as well as how when we work together, great things can be accomplished.

It has been such a joy to work closely with current members: Booker T. Jackson, Eddie Howard Finnell, Eileen Moore; Loretta Evans, my sister-in-law and friend of the church; and Mechelle Davis, the webmaster. Thank you all and to Rev. Norman Williams, the current pastor and to all the members, a special thank you. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Gartrell Evans, Ed. D.
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
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