



Pastoral roster

Frank Roper, H.R. Waldo, C.W. Spalding	1908-January 1921
F.W. Ainslie	January 1921-February 1923
No regular pastor	February-July 1923
Ralph Daily	July 1923-February 1924
J. W. MacDaniels	February 1924-May 1926
W.B. Bancroft	May 1926-November 1928
Norman Olsen	November 1928-May 1929
No regular pastor	May-November 1929
Arthur Guthrie	November 1929-May 1932
No regular pastor, Arthur Guthrie, interim	May-November 1932
A. Christopherson, interim	November 1932-April 1933
Clark Bancroft	April-September 1933
No regular pastor	September-November 1933
F.M. Sturdevant	November 1933-October 1937
W.O. Slaughter	October 1937-November 1941
Luther M. Nelson	November 1941-July 1943
Clifford Brumfield, interim	July-September 1943
M.H. Knoblock	September 1943-February 1948
E.E. Lott, interim	February-September 1948
Ervin C. Basler	September 1948-May 1951
Dr. O.E. Sanden, Glenn Jones, other interims	May 1951-September 1952
Leslie E. Thomas	September 1952-January 1958
Robert Peterson, interim	January-September 1958
H.E. Garland	September 1958-March 30, 1975
Robert Peterson, interim	March-November 1975
Richard W. Johnson	November 1975-November 1994
Robert Peterson and Lyle Swedeen, interim	November 1994-September 1995
David Peterson	September 1995-August 2004
Lyle Swedeen, interim	October 2004-March 2005
Mark Meals	March 2005-July 2012
Jeremy Penrod, interim	August 2012-May 2013
Jeremy Penrod	May 2013-present

1920's and 1930's

In 1916, the Calvary Baptist Church was formed by a group of 115 members and the pastor, Rev. H.R. Waldo, who withdrew their membership from the East Lincoln Baptist Church. The Calvary congregation held their meetings in a building on North 27th Street, just north of Vine Street.

Finally, the group purchased and remodeled a drug and grocery store building located on the corner of 27th and Holdrege Streets. The group then called their church the Holdrege Street Baptist Church. During this time, Rev. Waldo resigned and Rev. C.W. Spaulding was called as pastor and served until September, 1920.



27th and Holdrege

Near the Holdrege Street Baptist Church, another church was already meeting. The Rush Memorial Baptist Church began in 1908 as a Sunday School, a missionary branch of the East Lincoln Baptist Church (now the Second Baptist Church). Sunday School services were first held in various homes.

Then in 1911, the congregation began to meet in a church building which was moved from Emerald, Nebraska, and located at 1417 North 24th Street, one-half block south of Holdrege Street. The building was dedicated on May 5, 1912. Rev. Frank Roper and others pastored the group. By 1912, the church was self-supporting and given its independence by the "home" church. Rev. F.W. Ainslie became the pastor four years later.



Rush Memorial Baptist Church

In late 1920, Rev. Ainslie was asked to be pastor of both the Holdrege Street Baptist and Rush Memorial Churches since the two meeting places were located near each other. He accepted, and the congregations decided to combine their memberships and services. On Jan. 2, 1921, after a short meeting in the Rush

- 1912 - Rush Memorial dedicates building
- 1916 - Calvary Baptist Church begins meeting
- 1917 - USA enters World War II
- 1919 - Treaty of Versailles ends World War I
- 1921 - Rush and Calvary combine

1921 - combined church becomes Temple Baptist
 1923 - F.W. Ainslie, first pastor, resigns
 1925 - building moves and is remodeled
 1929 - Stock Market crash leads to Great Depression
 1939 - World War II begins in Europe

Church, the people marched in a body to the Holdrege Street building for their first joint service.

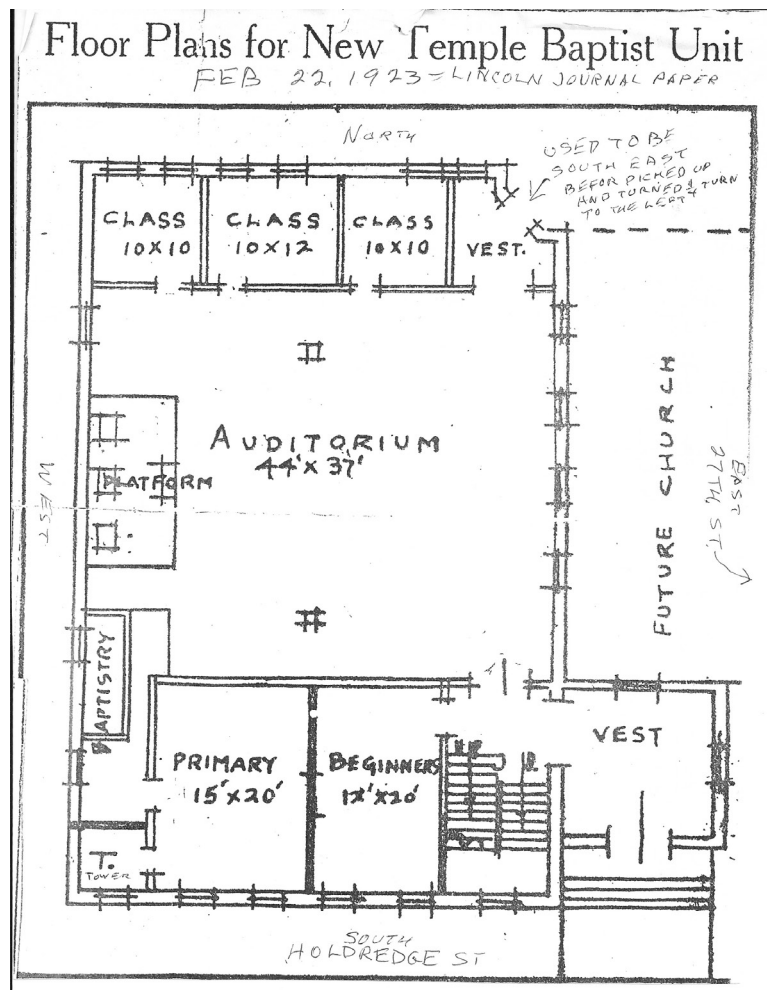
On Jan. 9, 1921, the combined memberships voted to call their church Temple Baptist Church. The old Rush Memorial building was sold for \$303.18 and remodeled into a house. Mr. Ainslie continued as pastor until February 1923, when he resigned to become secretary for the Baptist State Convention.



Rush Memorial Baptist Church
 (now a residence in Lincoln)

In July 1923, Rev. Ralph Daily was called as pastor and served until February 1924. Rev. J.W. MacDaniels, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Rapid City, South Dakota, was called to the pastorate in February 1924 and served until May 1926.

In April of 1925, the church building was moved back from



the corner and turned to face the south. A loan of \$1,000 was secured and a gift of the same amount was given to the church from the Northern Baptist Missionary Society. Also, a \$5,000 loan was secured from the First Trust Company. Ground breaking for this new location was on Feb. 22, 1925, with 65 people present.

Remodeling was soon begun and the new cornerstone was laid on April 2, 1925. The building committee consisted of E.W. Aura, W.B. Jones, H. Thompson, Mrs. William Graves and Russell Guthrie. Not a service was missed during the move and remodeling. However, for a few nights, car headlights were used to furnish lighting for the evening services.

The contract was awarded to a local contractor and the building was completed enough for comfortable use in the fall of 1925 and was dedicated on Oct. 11 of that year. Rev. W.D. Bancroft was supply pastor from May 1926 to November 1928. Rev. Norman Olsen was called to be pastor in November 1928 and resigned in May 1929.

The depression came in the 1930s, and the church was not financially able to pay a pastor. The pulpit was filled by supply pastors from the city, and their pay usually consisted of car fare, baskets of food, and occasionally a meager offering. Many times only one service was held on Sunday because of the cost of heat and lights.

When evening services were held, various families brought a bucket of coal with them in order to have fuel for the furnace and Rev. A. Christopherson preached without pay. Mr. Arthur Guthrie, who later was ordained, helped with the services from November 1929 to November 1932. There was no regular pastor from November 1932 to April 1933. Rev. Clark Bankcroft filled the pulpit without pay from April to September 1933. Rev. F.M. Sturdevant and Rev. W.O. Slaughter were also interim pastors during this time of low finances.

At a business meeting in September 1933, the matter of whether to continue having evening services was discussed. After much prayer, the group voted to continue the services. For many years, the members operated a dining hall at the State Fair Grounds to secure money to make payments on their loans. Ice cream socials were also held to raise money. However, the Lord showed the church members that the Biblical way of supporting His church was by the means of tithes and offerings.



Slaughter

1940's and 1950's

In the fall of 1941, the church was able to call a full-time pastor and pay him \$15 per week, plus living quarters in an apartment on the second floor of the church. Rev. Luther Nelson from Nebraska City was called in November 1941 and served as pastor and custodian. He also attended a few classes at the University of Nebraska while in Lincoln. Rev. Nelson resigned in July 1943 to attend a university in another state.



Nelson

Rev. Clifford Brumfield served as interim pastor for a few months until Rev. M.H. Knobloch accepted the pastorate in September 1943 and served until February 1948. By this time the financial status of the church had improved and the pastor was paid a regular salary, plus a parsonage allowance. During a "watchnight" service on December 31, 1945, the mortgage held against the building by the First Trust Company was burned. The man to whom the money was paid at the loan company gave the church a gift to start a new building fund.



Knobloch

Rev. E.E. Lott was interim pastor until Rev. E.C. Basler was called in September 1948 and served at Temple until May 1951. In 1948, a lot was purchased on Idylwild Drive for \$1,120 and a new parsonage costing \$7,500 was built by the men of the church. In 1952, this property was sold for \$11,000 and another parsonage was purchased on the southeast corner of 36th and Randolph Streets for \$8,000.



Basler

Rev. E.E. Lott was interim pastor until Rev. E.C. Basler was called in September 1948. Rev. Basler served the Lord at Temple until May 1951. In May of 1948, Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur Sanford, global partner appointees to Argentina, were introduced to the church members and during the summer they conducted the Vacation Bible School. The church voted to take on their support with a payment of \$120 per month, which was promised by several families within the church. The Sanfords were the first global partners to be supported by the church.

In June 1940, the members voted unanimously to build a new church in another location. However, before much could

be done, the old mortgage with considerable interest had to be paid to the Northern Baptist Mission Society. The church had only \$750 of the \$1,000 that was owed on the principal. On May 23, 1950, the amount of \$750 was offered by Clarence Brockman, church representative, to Mr. William Parks, the executive secretary of the mission. It was accepted for the total obligation and our debt was cancelled. At this time, the church severed its relations with the Northern Baptist Convention (within two weeks after this business transaction, Mr. Parks died).

On Nov. 1, 1950, the following people were placed on a planning committee to locate a suitable lot for the erection of the new church: Richard McCune, Mrs. Max Stuermer, and Robert Mills, Sr. Preliminary plans were drawn by Robert Turner, a church member who was an architectural student at the University of Nebraska. Final plans were drawn by Ben Hemphill, a local architect. The building committee consisted of Clarence Brockman (chairman), Everett Dennis (who left the city and was replaced by Lloyd Larson), and Violet Pankrantz Dockens (who also left Lincoln and was replaced by Mrs. Lyle Gross). Others on the committee were Marion Griffiths, Mrs. Franks Sampson, Donald Lohr, Keith Mills and Darwin Penrod. The northwest corner of 50th and Randolph Streets was purchased on April 7, 1951 for \$2,500; ground breaking services were held on Sept. 30, 1951.

At this time an agreement was made with two neighboring businessmen in the 27th and Holdrege Street area for the purchase of the old church property. With the sale of the property plus \$500 from the buyers for quick vacancy, and with a loan of \$25,000 from First Federal Savings and Loan Company, a contract to construct the basement and to frame the super structure of the new building was awarded to the M.W. Anderson Company on Sept. 24, 1951. Several thousand dollars in labor and materials were donated by the men of the church and little by little the balance of the work was done and the entire building completed. The total cost of the building was approximately \$70,000.

The cornerstone was laid on May 25, 1952, and the first service was held on Easter Sunday (April 5, 1953). On Dec. 24 of that year, Clarence Brockman, chairman of the building committee, passed away and plans were made to purchase an organ in his memory. This organ, a Baldwin, was purchased in July 1958. During the time of construction of the new building, services were held in the upstairs rooms of a fire station on 27th Street,

1941 – church calls Luther Nelson as full-time pastor

1941 – USA enters World War II after attack on Pearl Harbor

1945 – World War II ends after atomic bombs dropped on Japan

1950 – church begins to look for new site and purchases property at 49th and Randolph

1952 – cornerstone laid

1953 – services held at new location

just north of Vine Street.

Several pastors, including Dr. O.E. Sanden and Rev. Glenn Jones served as interim pastors from the time Rev. Basler left in May of 1951 until September 1952, when Dr. Leslie Thomas from Creston, Iowa, was called as pastor. He served until January 1958. Following his ministry, Rev. Robert Peterson served as interim pastor until September 1958, when Rev. Harold E. Garland from Guthrie Center, Iowa, was called as pastor.



Thomas



TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

GROUND BREAKING SERVICES

September 30, 1951

4:30 P.M.

Frank Sampson, Moderator

50th and Randolph
Lincoln, Nebraska.

1960's and 1970's

The church parsonage located at 3601 Randolph, originally purchased in 1952, was sold in 1959 and a house at 4945 Randolph was purchased for rental purposes and possible future church parking. However, this was sold in 1967 and the Lord enabled the members to apply this amount toward the purchase of a block of ground across the street from the church for \$35,000. The final payment on this land was made in April 1970. The north section of this property is now our main parking lot, while the south part of the block was sold to a builder and eight houses were built.



Garland

In a few years, the church had outgrown its facilities and another building program was introduced. In October 1960, the church members authorized the trustees to proceed with negotiations to float \$80,000 worth of bonds at 5% interest for a period of 14 years through the Broadway Bond Company. A building committee consisting of Richard Sieck (chairman), Russell Guthrie and Darwin Penrod was appointed.

At a Watchnight Service in December 1960, the \$25,000 mortgage to the First Federal Savings and Loan Association was burned and the church was debt free. With the debt paid, plans were drawn by architect Robert Gibb for the new addition and remodeling of the existing building. Bids were received from several local contractors. At a special meeting in May of 1961, a unanimous vote by the church awarded the contract to Darwin Penrod. Ground breaking was held on May 14, 1961, and excavation started the next day. The sanctuary was nearly doubled in size and turned to face another direction. New pews replaced the old ones. Twenty classrooms were added, plus other rooms for various uses. The nearly completed sanctuary was occupied on Dec. 17, 1961.

Many in the congregation donated for special needs that arose during the progress of the building program and with much labor from the men of the church, several hundreds of dollars were saved. The building, which cost approximately \$80,000, was completed by the end of April 1961 and the indebtedness was erased in 1973, several years ahead of schedule. Dedication of the new edifice was held on May 6, 1962. Guests who participated in this great day were Rev. Ervin Butler, Rev.

1961 - church breaks ground for addition
and renovations
1965 - Temple Baptist Church joins GARBC
1971 - NARBC buys land that becomes
Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp
1972 - 11 Israeli athletes are murdered by
Black September terrorists during the
Olympics in Munich, Germany
1974 - Richard Nixon resigns as president

J.L. Patten, Rev. D.H. McMillan, and Dr. Leslie Thomas, former pastor of Temple who gave the dedication message.

On Feb. 24, 1965, the members voted to seek fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, and the church was received into the national association in June, 1965. The Lord continued to bless the ministry of the church with souls saved, Christians edified and the missionary outreach expanded. At that time, the church helped in the support of 26 missionaries, mission agencies, Regular Baptist educational institutions, benevolent social agencies, a national radio ministry, and a camp, with a yearly missionary budget of \$9,252.

In 1971, the Lord led our Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches to purchase 95 acres of beautiful land near Genoa, Nebraska, for the sum of \$11,500. Since the purchase, many cabins have been built plus a large multipurpose building, bath houses, etc. It was named Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp.

Pioneer Girls and Boys Brigade for the young people were activities of special interest. However, the AWANA program, inaugurated in 1968, replaced these two groups with a weekly time of games, Bible study and Scripture memory. A bus ministry was started in 1966 with the purchase of a fairly new bus. During this time, the church also started a library ministry, consisting of books on theology, ministry, Christian living, missions, and Christian fiction. Our first Director of Christian Education, Mr. John Yuskis, was hired in the summer of 1971. However, John





felt the Lord's call to work at Shepherd's Home in Wisconsin and left for this new work in July of 1973.

In the 1960's, the membership was able to purchase three houses west of the building that served as rental properties and parking for a time. Now, all have been removed for building additions and senior citizen parking!

In the fall of 1971, a committee was appointed to start securing opinions and ideas from the church members as to the possibility of expanding the church facilities. This committee consisted of Ken Peterson, Richard Sieck and Gordon Jones. It was agreed to add to our present building. Therefore, Mr. Robert Gibb was once again contacted to draw up plans for an addition of a new sanctuary with basement Sunday School rooms. At a special business meeting on Nov. 14, 1972, the church members voted to accept these plans immediately. The following were appointed as members of the building committee: Dayton Cyr, Earl Fulliton, Richard Sieck, Darwin Penrod, and the pastor.

The committee served as the general contractors and a large part of the work was done by the people of the church, thus saving thousands of dollars in labor. A loan of \$110,000 was secured and the balance of the cost was raised by the people of the church. The first service held in the new sanctuary was on Oct. 13, 1974, and the dedication service was on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 3, 1974, with Dr. David Nettleton as the speaker. The old sanctuary was renovated for use as a fellowship and recreational area.

1980's and 1990's

In the spring of 1974 Joseph Mogle was called to serve as Director of Christian Education and Music and did so until August 1975. Rev. Harold Garland resigned in March of 1975 (after 17 years of ministry) and subsequently accepted the pastorate of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan. Rev. Robert Peterson again served as interim pastor until September 1975, when Rev. Richard Johnson from Kasson, Minnesota, was called to pastor the church.



Johnson

During his ministry, John Yuskis returned as assistant pastor for a short period of time before accepting a position again with Shepherd's Home. Richard Baum also served as assistant pastor for several years before he accepted the call to become pastor of First Baptist Church in Loup City, Nebraska. Other youth coordinators during Rev. Johnson's ministry that served in a part-time capacity were Dan Beverly and Michael Hertzler.

Several exciting events highlighted Pastor Johnson's time as pastor. In February 1988, the church surprised Pastor and Mrs. Johnson with a trip to the Holy Land. A new kitchen was built in the old foyer area of the fellowship hall and the main auditorium restrooms were expanded and remodeled. In 1993, a major renovation of the auditorium was completed (including new carpet, pew pads, paint and decorative woodwork).

An emphasis on global partnering was also a key aspect of Pastor Johnson's ministry. In the 1980s, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Weirman, members of our TBC family, served three short-term stints in Bangladesh at Memorial Christian Hospital. In the late 1990's, they returned to Bangladesh full-time and continued in that role until 2013. During the summers in the early 1990's, our young people participated in ministry trips to British Columbia, Canada, and among the Mormons in Utah. In addition, they assisted with several church plants in Nebraska (Tecumseh, Grand Island and Hastings) and served as cabin leaders and support staff at Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp. Many attended Bible colleges, and several began preparing for vocational Christian ministry.

The camping ministry at Whispering Cedars was also an area of importance during these years. Pastor Johnson often served as president of the camp board, providing needed oversight as the camp grew, and encouraging our church family to partici-

pate in the camping ministry. Many of our members served as cabin leaders, program directors, cooks and staff during these developmental years at the camp.

In November 1994, Pastor Johnson resigned. For the third time, Rev. Robert Peterson was pressed into service as interim pastor, this time serving jointly with Rev. Lyle Swedeen who was also a part of our church family (both worked at Back to the Bible). They alternated Sundays for preaching responsibilities until September 1995, when Rev. David Peterson from Pueblo, Colorado, accepted the call to serve as pastor at Temple Baptist Church.

During the years preceding Pastor Peterson's ministry, the church's attendance had declined and was in need of rebuilding. During his nine-year ministry, the Sunday School and morning service average attendances grew by more than 30 people, new ministries were added, and people were saved and added to the membership.



D. Peterson

Outreach and evangelism were key parts of Pastor Peterson's ministry. A Thursday evening visitation ministry was started in which recent visitors and new neighbors were visited. Each spring, evangelistic ladies Bible studies were held in the homes of church members, and ladies from the church and each neighborhood were invited to attend.

The Sunday School ministry was also an area of emphasis during these years. Annual teacher training conferences were held to identify and train new teachers and to provide continuing education for those already teaching. Members of our church, as well as other area pastors, were used to present the sessions at these conferences, and churches from our local and state fellowships were invited to participate with us.

Training young people for ministry was another of Pastor Peterson's ministry emphasis. During these years, 10 of our young people spent at least one year of study at one of our approved Bible colleges. In 1999, Jeremy Penrod was called to serve as assistant pastor. Training young people for ministry was a continued priority as the church sent a group of senior high teens on summer missions trips (from 2000-2011) to assist various global partners (in Nebraska, Kentucky, Arizona and Missouri) with their Vacation Bible Schools and other ministry needs.

1980 – Dr. Frank and Alves Weirman are commissioned as global partners to Bangladesh

1981 – President Ronald Reagan is shot by John Hinckley Jr.

1985 – Kansas City Royals beat St. Louis Cardinals in seven games to win the World Series

1986 – Space Shuttle Challenger explodes in flight, killing all on board

1993 – auditorium renovations completed

1998 – Google is founded

2000's and 2010's

In July of 2004, Pastor Peterson resigned as pastor and Rev. Lyle Swedeen returned to Lincoln to again serve as our interim pastor. In March of 2005, Rev. Mark Meals, who had recently moved to Lincoln to frame houses and had joined the membership of Temple Baptist, was called to serve as pastor, and he served for seven years.



Meals

Evangelism was an area of emphasis under the leadership of Pastor Meals. *Sharing Jesus Without Fear*, a witnessing training program, was presented during the Sunday School hour to prepare people to share their faith. Each fall, church members would go door-to-door in the neighborhoods surrounding our church facility, sharing with each home a tract written by the pastor to introduce people both to Jesus Christ and to our ministry at Temple Baptist.

Another area of emphasis during his ministry was hospitality and fellowship. Annual family fun nights, church socials, and dinners designed for outreach each served to build relationships within the church body and provided additional opportunities to invite friends, family and co-workers to be introduced to our ministry and to our Savior.

Ministry to our seniors was another ministry highlight during these seven years. The monthly Sonshine Bunch luncheons, along with services at local retirement communities (Gramercy, Tabitha, The Walters, etc.), all provided avenues for ministry for our church family and opportunities for Gospel outreach for those at these communities.

In August 2012, Meals resigned and Assistant Pastor Jeremy Penrod led the church through the interim time. In April 2013, the church voted to call him to serve as its next lead pastor. He had been licensed to preach by the church family in the early 2000's and was ordained to pastoral ministry by the church in November of 2009.



Penrod

During his first eight years as pastor, nearly 40 people from our church family entered the eternal presence of their Savior (eight in the first year alone). Apparently, *Philippians 1:23* ("*having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better*") had become the official life verse for many

in our congregation. The vast majority of these folks had been decades-long members of our church family, had built faithfully on the ministry foundations laid by the charter members, had intentionally invested in the lives of those in this church, and left glowing examples of consistent growth and zealous service.

A deliberate change to our midweek schedule happened in 2013 as well. For decades, the necessity of corporate prayer as the key to effective ministry had been emphasized, but participation in our weekly ministry had dwindled to a half-dozen people due to scheduling overlap with our midweek outreach ministries. To restore an intentional emphasis to the priority of corporate prayer, the Wednesday prayer hour moved to an earlier start time at 6 p.m., so that the church family could meet together for prayer in advance of the 7 p.m. focus on outreach and discipleship.

During the past eight years, the make-up of our congregation has undergone significant changes. In our 2021 church directory, more than 40% of the family units listed are new to the church since 2013. In addition, new visitors have been a recurring reality nearly every week during the months of April, May and June. And while the global coronavirus pandemic posed a significant health risk for much of 2020 and early 2021, God graciously protected our church family by limiting our exposures to the virus and granting quick healing to the few who contracted the virus.

For 100 years, God has used Temple Baptist Church to impact our city, state, nation and world with the Good News of salvation offered through the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. For 100 years, we have faithfully taught and followed His instructions given to us in the Word of God. For 100 years, God has used His people to encourage and edify each other and to spur each other on to love and good works. As we await the return of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we resolve with a renewed purpose to passionately pursue continued faithful ministry in the years that lie ahead.

To God be the glory—great things He hath done and will continue to do!

2000 - Y2K doesn't happen

2001 - terrorists attack New York City and Washington, D.C., killing thousands

2005 - Hurricane Katrina devastates Louisiana

2011 - U.S. forces kill Osama bin Laden

2013 - Wednesday night schedule changes to emphasize prayer meeting

2016 - Chicago Cubs win first World Series in 100 years

People of Temple Baptist



Church through the years

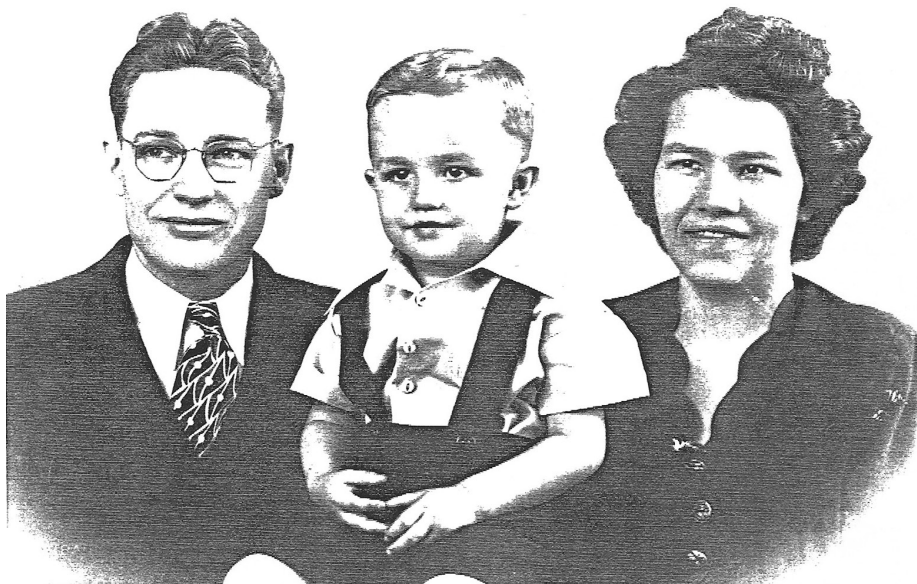
Teachers in 1971



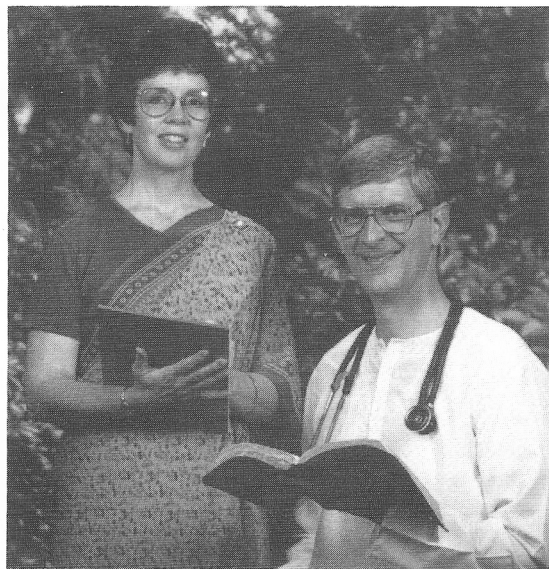
Global Partner roster

Charles and Babs Anderson	France
John and Jean Baughman	Kentucky
Virginia Beyer	Canada
Charles and Irene Brocka	Hawaii
Jeff and _____ Bunjer	Germany
Steve and JoAnn Carter	Colorado
Richard and Marcia Ernst	New Guinea
Suzanne Farley	China
Barry and Ellen Farlow	Brazil
James and _____ Garlow	Washington
Dr. David and Annette Haag	Indiana
Gerald and Julie Hawk	Texas
Peter and Mary Lou Jenks	Nebraska
Paul and Patti Karpenko	Israel
Dan and _____ Mapes	Peru
Richard and Sheila Meyer	Florida
Charles and _____ Nichols	Ohio
Jeff and Sarita Penrod	Israel
Betty Pulver	Nebraska
Ed and _____ Rathburn	Iowa
Roger and Sheryl Ridley	Nebraska
John and _____ Rogers	Utah
Dorothy Sanford	Argentina
James and Joyce Sloan	Kansas
Andy and Elizabeth Smith	church construction
Kent and Kelly Spencer	Colorado
Ken and Wilma Steward	Washington
Peter and Daisy Wakefield	Asia
Dr. Frank and Alves Weirman	Bangladesh
Eric and Jacy Wilmeth	Ohio

The above listed have received regular support
from Temple Baptist Church.



Above: Wilbur, Judson and Dorothy Sanford are the first global partners Temple Baptist Church votes to support.



Left: Temple Baptist Church commissioned Dr. Frank and Alves Weirman as global partners to Bangladesh.

Dr. Frank and Mrs. Alves Weirman



Church Planting
Through
Medical Evangelism

In

bangladesh

