

# The Story of Jacksonville Baptist Temple



## 1994-1998 God's Goodness

"Praise ye the Lord, O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good..." - Psalms 106:1

Jacksonville Baptist Temple's history begins prior to its conception in 1994.

Jacksonville Baptist Temple was part of a desire that our pastor had to see people saved. Pastor Ted Patterson, who was saved and surrendered to preach in

West Memphis, Arkansas, moved to Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia, to receive the unique training needed to effectively serve as pastor. In February 1994, Pastor Patterson and his Pastor, Louis Baldwin, made a trip to central Arkansas to survey a good location for the church. On that trip, they visited the Jacksonville area. The Lord orchestrated a meeting with Dr. Roy Harris. Dr. Harris joined hearts with the vision of these men and offered his assistance. He became the liaison for negotiating the building purchase. After several years of training, giving, and serving, Pastor Patterson was commissioned by Crossroads Baptist Church, in May 1994, to start Jacksonville Baptist Temple.

With much excitement, Pastor Patterson and his family moved to Jacksonville, Arkansas. Pastor Baldwin and 15 members of Crossroads Baptist Church came to Jacksonville to help assist in the establishing of the church. A week long campaign of door knocking, soul-winning, and preaching, culminated with our first Sunday service on July 17, 1994. There were sixty-three people in attendance, one soul saved, and Jacksonville Baptist Temple began to support its very first missionary.

The first few years of ministry were very exciting. We experienced the awesomeness of a very gracious God. We were able to purchase a pre-existing church building on 236 Pearl Street. The Lord allowed Pastor and Mrs. Robert Hart to come aid in our ministry. In addition to Pastor and Mrs. Hart, God used Pastor and Mrs. Clenton Patterson to assist in the early years of Jacksonville Baptist Temple's ministry. We thank God for allowing these faithful men to work not only in our ministry, but also in their own ministries. God in His grace also relocated another young family, Sean and Christine Brown, from Crossroads Baptist Church, VA to work with the youth here at Jacksonville Baptist Temple.

In 1997, once again, Jacksonville Baptist Temple saw God's marvelous hand of grace when we became an autonomous church. We held our charter service on February 9, 1997, with forty-three people signing the charter.

As the ministry continued to grow, God's grace became more evident. In 1998, God sent Linda Green, a Navy Chief, stationed in Millington, TN. to Jacksonville Baptist Temple. In order to be involved in the wonderful works God was doing here, Linda traveled from Millington, TN. to Jacksonville each Wednesday and Sunday. One day, as she traveled home, God called Chief to be a missionary to the fields of Africa.

## 1999-2003 - God's Graciousness

"Look on the fields for they are white already to harvest..." - John 4:35

With this verse in mind, Jacksonville Baptist Temple saw a need for a daycare in the community. It was our desire to not only teach children Biblical principles, but also reach the parents of those young children.

God saw the desire of our hearts and allowed us to purchase the facility we are in today. It was through God's grace we were able to purchase this building and through that same grace we were able to start Temple Baptist Academy. The goal of Temple Baptist Academy was to educate children and to see them spiritually ready to face the wiles of the devil.