

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

ORGANIZED 1786

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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State" **A**

March

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO

"...The church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth," I Timothy 3:15.

On April 15, 1986, the Bryan Station Baptist Church will be 200 years old. Our longevity is cause enough for celebration, but our rich heritage and history should make us even prouder of this occasion.

Let's think back two centuries to a time of log cabins, forts, Indian raids, and pioneers. After the American Revolution, emigrants traveled to Kentucky in search of land, religious freedom, and a better life. Those pioneers were courageous and self-reliant in view of the obstacles they had to overcome.

As the pioneers broke their way into Kentucky, they would try to settle within stations or stockades in order to better protect themselves from the Indians. One of the most important stations in Kentucky was Bryant's Station, located about five miles northeast of Lexington. It was first established by the Bryants brothers in 1779. When William Bryants was killed in 1780 by the Indians, the other brothers returned to their home in North Carolina. Colonel Robert Johnson and others took over the station and it remained a Lexington outpost for several years. At one time, this post was besieged by 600 Indian warriors.

Our church was organized by members of the "Traveling Church." The Traveling Church arrived on Gilbert's Creek on December 31, 1781 and it didn't take the members long to scatter all over the Blue Grass. The members of the Traveling Church were led by Lewis Craig and they originated from Spottsylvania County, Virginia. In Virginia, all pastors who were not members of the established church (Episcopal) had to seek permission each time they prepared to preach. Pastor Craig had been arrested several times for "preaching without permission." He became disgusted by the actions of the Virginia magistrates and announced to his congregation in September 1781 that he was going to depart for Kentucky where a "soldier of the cross" could preach without persecution. His entire congregation elected to go with him.

Between five and six hundred people started the long journey of nearly 600 miles and along the way others joined them so that, by the time they arrived in Kentucky, they numbered approximately 2000. Only one man



The Bryan Station Baptist Church has truly been blessed of the Lord. We have had our problems and our revivals. We were organized before Kentucky was a state--doing business for the Lord. Today, the church stands firm on the same teaching committed to her when organized. We desire to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

To pastor such a church is a joy. The Lord has truly sanctified her with the truth. The ministry of the church is going worldwide: cassette tapes are sent free to foreign countries; books by C. D. Cole are printed and have influenced many lives, many preachers; churches have been organized in different parts of the world. For all this, we are just thankful to the Lord and look forward to greater things in the future.

The Bryan Station Baptist Church will be 200 years old on April 15, 1986. We plan special services for this week. Make plans now to join with us!

Till He comes,

Al Gormley

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO...

was killed by Indians on the journey. This was the largest group of individuals that had ever set out for Kentucky at one time and it was reported they stretched along the trail for over 25 miles. There is no record of how many died or were born on the trip, nor is there a complete list of those men and women who suffered the hardships of the trail to plant the banner of truth in our state.

Bryan Station Church was constituted by Lewis Craig and others on April 15, 1786. The following eight persons were in the constitution: Augustine Eastin, Henry Roach, William Tomlinson, William Ellis, Sr., Joseph Rogers, Ann Rogers, Elizabeth Darnaby and Elizabeth Rice.

Ambrose Dudley, born in Spottsylvania County, Virginia, in 1750, arrived in the Blue Grass in May of 1786 and was appointed to take pastoral care of our church on Sunday, October 22. Dudley, who had been a captain in the Colonial Army during the American Revolution, was saved while stationed in Williamsburg. After the war, Dudley felt the calling to preach and was considered one of the most prominent preachers in Kentucky. The church grew to about 200 members by 1790 under his leadership.

By 1801, Bryan Station was one of the most influential churches in Kentucky and it had 561 members. August 26, 1801, David's Fork Baptist Church was organized out of the Bryan Station Baptist Church due to an enlarged membership as a result of the Great Revival. During the Great Revival, which lasted from 1801-1803, our church received 421 members. It became necessary to divide the membership, so 267 members were fondly released to organize David's Fork. The remaining church was still large and it continued to prosper until 1809, when it became involved in a difficulty with Town Fork Church, which resulted in its division.

The first church building of the Bryan Station Baptist Church, which was built in 1807, was actually occupied by two churches. Both parties claimed the name and prerogatives of Bryan Station Church, and the majority party entered into the constitution of the Licking Association of Particular Baptists. The minority was recognized by the Elkhorn Association. Ambrose Dudley and his followers were thereafter referred to as "The Particular Baptist Church at Bryan's Station."

The minority, or the missionary Baptists, called Jeremiah Vardeman as pastor in 1811. Besides his pastoral duties, Vardeman was a very active evangelist in Kentucky and several adjoining states for almost thirty years before he moved to the west.

This is the early background and history of our church. Through the years, the church has weathered divisions over such issues as the establishment of Sunday School, whether or not an organ should be allowed, and the type of roof to be put on the building. However, through it all one thing has endured that no fallible human being has been able to alter, and that is... the truth. That's why, 200 years later, we are still able to make the claim:

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
PREACHING THE SAME TRUTH SINCE 1786!

THE MISSION OF THE SON OF MAN

BY: C. D. Cole

"For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.

Before going into the heart of our theme, we want to notice the title our Saviour gave Himself in this text, "The Son of Man." He seemed to have a fondness for this title. He might have always spoken of Himself as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father, the Wonderful, the

Counselor. Or He might have used the titles found in the book of Revelation, where He is called by a variety of names to set forth His glory and sovereignty. Our Lord has honored humanity by wearing this title. Man was the acme of God's creation, and as such is honorable. Christ loved to be a man. His condescension was not so much in becoming a man, but in the way He became a man and in the work He had to do as a man. Manhood does not neces-

sarily involve humiliation and shame. The humiliation of manhood is in its sin. Christ will always be a man--He is now a man in the glory--the exalted and glorified man, who is able to exalt and glorify His brethren.

I. His mission.

A. It was a sacrificial mission. His trip to this earth was the most expensive trip ever made by anybody. It cost Him, for awhile, his glory--He exchanged His glory

with the Father for shameful treatment by men. It cost Him much suffering and pain of body. He went hungry; he had not where to lay His head; He was beaten and finally killed. Christ's experiences here would be the experience of every perfect man. The impure cannot love the pure. Sinful men who aim to live godly in Christ Jesus will always suffer persecution, and the only reason all of God's children are not treated as shamefully as was Christ is due to the fact that they are not perfect as Christ was. Christ suffered in soul. He said on one occasion, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful unto death." His undertaking to be made sin and a curse as His most terrible load.

B. He did not come to earth to escape shame and trouble in heaven. Jimmy Walker, after investigation into his record as mayor of New York, went into voluntary exile to keep from facing an enraged populace. How quickly people forget! He came back later and was acclaimed by thousands. But Christ had no record in heaven to be ashamed of. He was from old the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Creator of worlds. He was the object of universal worship there, equal with the Father in every sense.

C. Christ did not come in the hope of receiving popular acclaim. It was not like the visit of a president or emperor to another country. He knew how He would be treated for He knew what was in man, and when He came He did not commit Himself to men until His hour came to die. "And needed not that any should testify of man; for he knew what was in man." John 2:25.

D. He did not come to be ministered unto but to minister and give His life a

ransom for many. He had the right to ride thru this world in a royal chariot compelling every man to do his bidding and to minister to His every wish. He had royal prerogatives but He laid them aside and came here to serve. He said to His disciples. "I am among you as one that serveth."

E. He did not come on a work of destruction. He said I came not to condemn the world, but that the world thru me might be saved." His mission to the earth was not like the mission of Italy into Ethiopia. He did not leave the maimed and bleeding and dying in His path. He went about doing good. Before Him in His pathway lay the maimed and dying, but behind Him there was health and happiness. All this was sacrificial.

II. It was a successful mission.

A. His mission was to do the Father's will and in this He succeeded. He did all that was planned for Him to do. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he could give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." John 17:2. It was predicted in the Old Testament that He would be successful, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him: he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." Isaiah 53:10.

I can conceive of human failures but I cannot conceive or believe in the failure of Christ, the Mighty God. To suppose a displeased Father, a disappointed Saviour, and a defeated Holy

Spirit seems to be to be well nigh atheistical and blasphemous. I can understand the failure of banks and business institutions; of armies and military operations, but I do not believe in the failure of God's plans and purposes. Whoever does, it seems to me, has poor comfort to offer frail humanity.

III. It was a prolonged mission.

A. He is still working at the commission of seeking and saving. He has only transferred His headquarters to heaven; there has been no forsaking the task. The book of Acts is a record of what He continued to do after He was taken to heaven.

He is still seeking and saving the lost. His work is twofold--seeking and saving. The word for lost has a twofold meaning. It means to be away from God--all we like sheep have gone astray; and it means to be in a dangerous condition--exposed to the wrath of God. The word "apollumi" is translated perish 33 times, destroy 23 times, and lost 28 times. Christ's work was not finished in every sense when He died on the cross. His sacrificial work was completed, but that work has to become real in human experience if men are saved. So He is still at work and will continue to work thru the Holy Spirit. His agent, during the long day of salvation.

Oh, sinner, do you realize your lost condition? Do you know that you are exposed to the wrath of God? And are you troubled about your condition before God? May God help you to be. If you are, Christ must be seeking you. And He is seeking you to tell you that he paid the sin debt for sinners. He is seeking you to win you to faith in Himself.