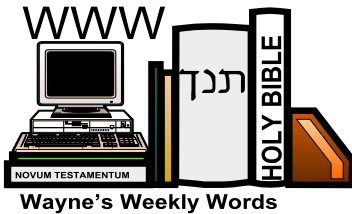


SNAPSHOT #2

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Last week we saw, how for the first two years (1983-1985) of Berean Bible Fellowship the Lord really did supply all our needs - and then some. We had \$11,000 in our Building Fund.

We had much of what we needed except for one very important item - we had no place to call "home." Every Sunday morning, someone would have to drive to Nancy Ferrari's barn, hitch up the trailer and haul 150 chairs, a pulpit, 75 hymnals, and other things to Judkins. These then had to be set up. That evening the reverse had to be done. We were getting weary of doing this.

Beside this, when the school was closed Sunday night, we really had no place to meet until the following Sunday. We needed, desperately, to have our own facilities. And we had \$11,000 to purchase these!

I cannot say what other people thought at the time but I know what I thought. The only way we were going to obtain facilities was for God to give us facilities. There was no other way. Considering what the Lord had already done in the way of miracles for our church, I fully expected another one.

I wasn't sure if a million one dollar bills would come floating down from the sky or Bill Gates would attend one of our services and feel sorry for us. I just felt that some miracle had to happen. It did!

In the Fall of 1985, Pastor Mick Hill from Halcyon Road Bible Baptist Church contacted us and asked if he could attend our next Elder Board Meeting (at that time, this consisted of Pastor Jim, Hal Belch, Bruce McLennan, and myself).

We met in Pastor Jim's office - a room in his garage (nice place for the "Pastor's Study?"). Pastor Mick showed up along with an elder, Don Hanson.

Then Pastor Hill was given the floor. His presentation consisted of three main points. (1) He had obtained our Doctrinal Statement from Dave Wickstrom. They had read it carefully and determined that it was substantially in agreement with Bible Baptist's position. (2) we had a lot of people (over 200 members by then) but no facilities, and (3) They had facilities but, for various reasons, very few people.

Their congregation had shrunk to the point that the church was no longer self-sustaining. So, Pastor Mick proposed that the two churches merge. They would provide the facilities are merge with us. There were two conditions placed on this. First, the name had to be changed from "Berean Bible Fellowship" to "Berean Bible Church" (a change a lot of us welcomed). Second, we would take Pastor Mick on as the Associate Pastor with Pastor Jim remaining as the Senior Pastor. We were happy to do this too. Actually, we would have been happy to do just about anything!

So, on November 3, 1985 we all met together as a single body of believers in facilities that were completely debt free.

What about the \$11,000? God had a purpose for this also (most of it, anyway). First, at that time, there was only one Pastor's Office and that would be Jim's. We agreed that we would convert Pastor Mick's garage into a study for him, which we did. We spent some of the \$11,000 on this. Then there were only about 8 pews in the auditorium. For some reason, the back of the auditorium had no pews. So, we used some of the \$11,000 to purchase additional pews. If you look closely, you can tell which pews are which!

But wait! If the facilities were debt free, there as no mortgage on anything, how come we now have a mortgage on the Manse? Where did that come from? Well, that's next week's snapshot.

Wayne

