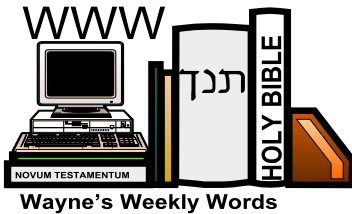


**SNAPSHOT #3**

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him*

*be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21

Last week we saw that, on November 3, 1985, we and Bible Baptist Church became Berean Bible Church. We had facilities. We had two pastors. We had about 12 missionary couples we were sending support (having taken on the Bible Baptist missionaries as well as our own). We had everything we needed - almost.

With a membership of about 250 now, we needed more room. If you didn't get to church early, you might not get a seat. Some Sundays I was afraid the Fire Marshall might show up! That problem could have been fixed by having two morning services. The big problem was lack of Sunday School rooms.

We considered how we could obtain more rooms. The only way we could even think of adding to the present facilities would require additional parking space (the city would mandate that). There is still a vacant lot on the other side of Faeh street but it was not for sale, nor has it ever been.

After a lot of head scratching, we decided that the best solution would be to buy one of the homes adjacent to the church and covert it into Sunday School rooms. There were two problems associated with this idea. The first was that neither of them were for sale.

It was sometime in 1987 (I believe) that we began to pray in earnest that one of these two homes would be put up for sale so we could buy it. We prayed in earnest and, less than two months after we began to pray, the owner of the Faeh Street property came to Pastor Jim and told him he was going to sell the property and wanted us to have the first chance to make an offer. Jim told him it would take several weeks to give him a definite answer as we would have

to call a special congregational meeting to obtain approval. That was ok with the owner.

Several weeks later we held the congregational meeting to determine which of the three properties we would buy. No, that's not a typo, I meant to write **three**. By the time of the meeting, the owner of the Bennett Street property had also come to use with the same offer. On top of that, the owner of property several doors up on Bennett Street said he, too, was interested in selling. This is why I quoted Ephesians 3:20-21 above. *Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.* The Lord seems to take great delight in answering prayers this way.

I mentioned there were two problems with purchasing one of these homes. The other was we really didn't have the money to do so. We did, however, own the property at 713 Faeh Street where Pastor Mick was living.

First, we declined the last offer as the property did not adjoin any of ours and was of limited value. We decided we needed to buy both of the others - with little money. We determined that, if we moved Mick to the Bennett Street property, we could sell what was then the manse and get enough money to buy the property at 709 Faeh Street and have enough left over for a down payment on the Bennet Street property.

After a lot of looking around, we were able to obtain a loan for the Bennett Street property and so we have arrived at where we are today. We still owe money on the Manse (Bennett Street). We could pay that off and be debt free by using money from the Reserve Fund. "So," you ask, "why not do it and save paying all that interest?" It turns out that the interest we get from the Reserve Fund is nearly enough to pay the interest on the Manse. By next month, the Reserve Fund interest will exceed the Manse interest so we are better off the way we are - if we need money to make major repairs, we will have it and not have the problem of securing a new loan.

So much for the material. Next week, the spiritual  
Wayne



