

**SNAPSHOT #5**

*But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which*

I Corinthians 1:27

*are mighty;*

We have looked at the miracles God performed for our church in materialistic ways. There were also some rather miraculous things which He did in the spiritual realm with people.

In late May or early June of 1983, an organizational meeting was held at Pastor Jim's home. We selected interim offices and assigned other duties. Hal Belch, Bruce McLennan, and I were selected as Elders. Jack and Betty Hunter were to head up the Deacons (I cannot remember who the other deacons were). About 5 or 6 women were appointed to handle the Sunday School and nursery. Some men were appointed ushers. Of course, Gail would be the secretary. Jim and his son Dave were to draw up the Statement of Faith (an outstanding one) and I, with Jim and Gail's help was to complete our constitution with the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

We had people in all the positions we would need for a church of 150 to 200 members. There was only one catch in all this.

None of the Elders had ever been church officers before except for me - I had a little experience. None of the deacons had ever "deacked" before. Fortunately the Sunday School teachers had some experience. I have never had any legal training but had to writeup the Articles of Incorporation and file them with the State and get State and Federal tax exemptions. *God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise.* It would seem to be about as foolish to start up a church with such an ill-trained group of people as it was to start it with only \$200.

That's man's wisdom. Hal and Bruce caught on to being Elders quite quickly and did an excellent job.

Jack and Betty Hunter quickly got the Deacons organized and performing the duties good deacons should do. The Constitution was written and the legal work completed in short order.

Then there were others. Dear Joe Hammond (Graces' husband), even though a senior citizen, was there every Sunday morning to unload and setup the chairs and every Sunday evening to take them down and load them again. That was his ministry.

Then there was Wayne Phillips (Phyllis' husband) who would go calling with Jim and, I believe, sometimes on his own. They covered every home in Shell Beach and part of Pismo Beach telling people about our church.

Mike Towery, who was a painter and hence had a truck, had to haul the trailer back and forth most Sundays. There were a few others we could call on when Mike couldn't make it, but most Sundays he did the work.

I think the thing that made the biggest impression on me was the men who were chosen to lead singing and give the announcements. We very quickly decided that Pastor Jim should not lead the entire service by himself. We selected a number of men to take turns leading the song service and giving announcements.

They, too, had no training. I don't believe any of them had ever done anything in church before. There were a few Sundays when I sat in my chair and cringed and hoped that there were no visitors there that Sunday. A few of the men had to be persuaded that they were needed elsewhere. But, the rest of the men really matured in the business of leading a worship service and went on to be deacons, elders, and hold other positions in the church.

As Berean Bible Church grew and matured, its officers and leaders also grew spiritually and became mature church leaders. This was a fulfillment of what Paul wrote to Timothy, *The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

II Timothy 2:2

Wayne



