

The Official History of

SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, NEWARK OH

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church dates its glorious past back to 1917 when a mother of four boys and one daughter, Sister Rendy Murray who was originally from Prattville, Alabama had a dream and sincere desire to have a missionary baptist church established in her new residence of Newark, Ohio. Upon Sister MURRAY's arrival in 1917 there were no missionary baptist churches in the Newark area. At that time people had to either attend the Methodist church or travel to Columbus or Mt. Vernon, Ohio to attend a missionary baptist service. Because travelling became difficult and Sister Murray became dissatisfied with the Methodist services, the Lord moved upon the heart of Sister Murray to organize a Sunday School and prayer band in her home at 175 Monroe Street in Newark. Little did anyone know that God was in the process of establishing His church that would later touch many lives throughout the world!

Sister Murray with the help of Rev. W. A. Tutt had much success with the prayer band which met every Wednesday night. After a short while the prayer band grew into a mission. The mission soon moved to a house on Arch Street. During this period of time, Sister Murray was again divinely inspired to call the mission "Shiloh" after the church in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1919, due to the mission's tremendous growth, Sister Murray and many supporters were able to purchase a ten room house and lot at the corner of South Cedar and Washington Streets with a six hundred dollar loan from brother Clarence Goodson. The church was formally organized and in 1920 the mission was incorporated as the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. From 1921 to 1922 Rev. B.J. Trotter served as pastor. From 1923 to 1926 Rev. J.F. Walker Served as pastor. From 1926 to 1931 Rev. J. H. Simms served as pastor and the first church cornerstone was laid and the basement was eventually completed. From 1931 to 1933 Rev. L.G. Green served as pastor.. From 1933 to 1934 Rev. C.H. Harris served as pastor. Under his leadership a baptismal pool was completed. Rev. Harris eventually was called to the pastorate of the (Gay) Tabernacle Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio.

From 1935 to 1948 Rev. I. P. Fears served as pastor where a reading and writing literacy program was instituted and the first black boy Scout troop was established. Following Rev. Fears' 13 years of renown leadership, Rev. B. N. Parker served as pastor and traveled over 100 miles to conduct worship services at Shiloh. He served from 1948 until 1958 and the first pews and hymnals were purchased as well as the first church mortgage was paid off and burned.

From 1959 to 1960 Rev. J. H. Arnett served as pastor. From 1960 to 1968 Rev. E. L. Alexander served as pastor and the first land purchasing began for the remodeling of the first church.

In July of 1969, the Lord honored the many labors of our ancestors when the Rev. Charles Whitney Noble, Sr. was called to pastor Shiloh. By the spring of 1970 the first church renovation was completed. Dr. Noble was again inspired to make even greater strides in his service to God and the Shiloh community after the church renovation was completed. In his efforts to better the living conditions for the people of Newark, Dr. Noble spearheaded the planning for a multi-million dollar housing project in 1970. By 1974 the first phase -- originally called Noble Arms and renamed in the late 1980's as the Rendy Murray Commons was completed for senior citizens. Phase II was incorporated to include another senior citizen facility and several town houses for low-income families. In 1980 Phase 3 was seen in its fullness with the Washington Square Plaza Senior complex and banquet hall. In 1986 the first residents moved in to Phase 4 which is commonly known as the Bill E. Mitchell Retirement Village I located at 1030 South 30th Street in Heath, Ohio. Phase 5 in Heath was completed a few years later. On March 31, 1989 Phase 6 -- The Johnny John Eastgate Manor (also known as the Job's Manor Project) for the physically challenged -- was completed and its dedication was held in September of 1990. Phases 7, 8, and 9 were completed in 1989 in conjunction with the Newark and Mt. Vernon Moundbuilders Guidance Centers as the service providers which includes both shared and independent living for the mentally challenged. Phase 10 was completed on June 9, 1995 for the developmentally disabled and was co-sponsored with

the Licking County Association of Retarded Citizens. In November of 1995 Phase 11 known as Oak Hill Manor was completed in Utica Ohio. The Shiloh housing ministry is yet scheduled to expand in December of 1997 to include Phase 12, which is a 42 unit senior complex with a McDonald's Restaurant. This newest asset known as Candlewick Commons will be the first of its kind in the nation.

Through the magnanimous leadership of Rev. Dr. C.W. Noble, Sr., Shiloh has grown to local, state, national, and international prominence and precedence. Dr. Noble has been in the pastoral service for 28 years which is the longest tenure of any minister in the history of Shiloh. Dr. Noble expanded the church's mission field into Kenya, Africa where there presently is a church named after Shiloh of Newark, Ohio. Dr. Noble served as president of the Ohio Baptist General Convention and Shiloh hosted the O.B.G.C. state convention in October of 1984. Also Dr. Noble was appointed in October of 1984 to serve as the first National Baptist Housing Commission Chairman whereas he presently chairs over a twenty-six city housing project from the nation's capital in Washington D.C, to California. He also served as the NAACP National Fundraising Campaign for Churches and Pastor and hosted the NAACP President Benjamin Hooks at Shiloh. On August 25, 1988 at the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church the first chapel services and classes were held beginning at nine o'clock in the morning for the Par Excellence Learning Center. Dr. C.W. Noble was the founder and his wife, retired Colonel Nora M.K. Noble, served as the first Administrator. In 1989 Dr. Noble and Mrs. Nora M.K. Noble attended the U. S. Presidential Inauguration as a member of the President's "inner circle" of former U. S. President George Bush on January 20, 1989. Furthermore on March 13, 1989 for their achievements in housing and leadership on the national level, Dr. and Mrs. Noble's names appeared in the U. S. Congressional Record.

In 1979 the present church's million dollar edifice was completed. Finally on Sunday, May 15, 1994 the Lord honored the dreams and prayers of many whereas the present church mortgage was paid off and burned.

The 1995 annual them focused on "joy" whereas the 1996 and 1997 annual theme emphasis was on "God's peace".

In conclusion, Shiloh through the dynamic leadership of Dr. C. W. Noble and many others who have many more contributions too numerous to mention; the church's motto taken from Proverbs 29:18 which says "Where there is no vision, the people perish" which is also an accurate summary of the true nature of Shiloh and with the inspiration of God and visions of Sister Rendy Murray through Dr. Noble, Shiloh would not be the magnitude of inspiration and service as it is represented here today.