

## History of Faith Miracle Temple

Our founder, Elder Willie G. Baylor, Sr., was one of two children born to T.C. and Josephine Baylor on December 7, 1929 in Porterville, Mississippi. Elder W.G. Baylor married Mattie E. Triplett on January 24, 1950. They moved to St. Louis, Missouri later that year. Upon arrival, they became members of the Rose of Sharon Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend George W. Clark.

In 1957, through a series of divine revelations, Elder W.G. Baylor acknowledged God as a higher power in his life. To that date he had never sat under the preaching of a Pentecostal preacher.

God dealt with him personally as he walked in the light known to him. He was not baptized in Jesus Name nor filled with the Holy Ghost. In 1957, upon entering the hospital for test, he met a man suffering from a serious illness. He was moved to pray for the miraculously healed him.

Two days after being released, while at home (3711½ Garfield Avenue), he received the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. After receiving the Holy Ghost, he remained at the Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. Through his preaching, though limited, many souls began seeking higher heights in God. This move of God caused a conflict with the pastor of the church, causing Elder W.G. Baylor's membership to be terminated.

After leaving Rose of Sharon, he continued the prayer band he had started in his home (1510 North Grand) in 1959. God blessed his efforts as he went from house to house conducting meetings. Soon he set up a permanent meeting place in the basement of his home. Many souls were added to the prayer band.

In 1961, the late Bishop Austin A. Layne, Sr., pastor of the Temple Church of Christ, baptized him in the Name of Jesus. As the prayer band grew, Elder W.G. Baylor was moved to establish a church in a storefront at 3903 Garfield Avenue, which became known as Church of God Apostolic. Many souls were added and the church grew under his leadership.

Many members from the previous church, including the pastor and his wife, followed Elder W.G. Baylor. Later, many received the Holy Ghost and were baptized in Jesus Name in a baptismal pool constructed in the home of Elder W.G. and Sister M.E. Baylor at 3645 Hebert Street. In the mid-sixties, under the late Bishop P. L. Scott, the Church of God Apostolic became a member of the Midwestern District Council.

In 1970, the church moved to 2601 North Prairie Avenue and changed its name to Faith Miracle Temple. Elder W.G. Baylor's outreach for souls flourished, as he became known for his great revivals in such places as St. Louis, Missouri; East St. Louis, Illinois; Louisville, Philadelphia, Meridian and Lauderdale, Mississippi; Kansas City, Kansas; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Birmingham, Alabama and



man; God

Garfield Avenue),

Kansas City, Missouri. He was known as the preacher who would walk on the top of the pews while preaching the Word of God.

October 8, 1985 the Lord called this “Giant of a Man” to rest. The legacy of Elder Willie G. Baylor, Sr., will live forever and increase in significance as with most great men who have gone to the other side of life. His desire was to see his entire family saved - God honored his desire. Elder W.G. Baylor’s inspiration and teachings are ever present in the multitude of souls currently being won to Christ at Faith Miracle Temple.

From the ministry of our late founder, Elder Willie G. Baylor, Sr., three churches were birthed and two pastor:

1. *Faith Tabernacle Church in Springfield, MO.* *Bishop Jones Foote*
2. *Jesus Is All Church of God in St. Louis, MO* *Pastor Edward Payne/Pastor Timothy Payne*
3. *Faith Holiness Apostolic Church in E St. Louis, IL* *District Elder Ronnie Carter*
4. *El Bethel Temple in St. Louis, MO* *Suffragan Bishop Elliot Coleman*
5. *True Pentecostal Apostolic Church* *Pastor Derrick Triplett*

***“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” I Timothy 4:7.***

After the passing of our founder, Elder Ronnie Carter, the assistant pastor, became the pastor of Faith Miracle Temple for three years from 1985-1989. God moved Elder R. Carter to another part of the vineyard and Bishop James A. Johnson became the overseer of the church for one year.

**In 1990**, Elder Larry J. Baylor became the pastor of Faith Miracle Temple with 30 members including the children and **\$600** in the bank!

Bishop Larry J. Baylor was saved in Houston, Texas. God gave him a mind to fast and pray regularly after he was saved and after a short time in Houston, God sent him back home to St. Louis, Missouri to work with his father. Under the leadership of our pastor, Bishop Larry J. Baylor, the work and vision of our founders has continued to become a reality. During Bible class one Thursday night, the Lord spoke to Bishop Larry J. Baylor to encourage all the members to turn around and face the empty pews. He admonished the members to begin to thank God for all the people in the empty pews. The members received the Word from the Lord through the pastor, and began to praise the Lord and thank Jesus for the new souls. We kept praying for the souls we didn’t see for the Bible says in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.

National Evangelist I. C. Bonner preached a revival at Faith Miracle Temple; souls were baptized in Jesus’ Name and filled with the Holy Ghost. God began adding to the church during this revival and eventually 2601 North Prairie Avenue was filled to capacity.

**In 1996, 2601 North Prairie Avenue was sold** and Faith Miracle Temple relocated to 4146 Grand Boulevard to St. John’s United Church of Christ. The pastor, Philip Hunger was a gracious man who allowed us to share the facility and continue our Tuesday night Prayer meeting, Thursday night Bible class, Sunday School and Sunday morning Worship Services.

During this period, due to St. John’s lack of a baptismal facility, the **late Suffragan Bishop Jesse Battle Sr.** opened his church to allow us to baptize souls in Jesus’ name. We purchased 9.7 acres of land at 5320 North Highway 67, our former edifice.

In **December 1996** of the same year, Bishop Larry J. Baylor was joined in **holy matrimony** to Sister Tanika Williams. They continued to work together toward the building of Faith Miracle Temple.

In **1997**, Faith Miracle Temple purchased 9.7 acres of land at our former location 5320 N. Highway 67. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 13, 1997. The ceremony was officiated by **Bishop James A. Johnson** and also attended by the **Late Mother Josephine Johnson**. The first service was held on Sunday, August 16, 1998.

On January 29, 2001, Pastor Larry & First Lady Tanika Baylor welcomed the arrival of their first child, **Cameron Joel Baylor**.

In **February 2001**, FMT purchased 7.5 acres of land to the south due to the increase membership which caused a need for additional parking. There were 220 additional parking spaces added to facilitate the speedy growth at FMT. The ground breaking ceremony was held on May 20, 2001.

Faith Miracle Temple continued to grow and meet the needs of its members and visitors.

The HIGHER GROUND DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY INSTITUTE BEGAN on September 8, 2002.

The HIGHER GROUND DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY INSTITUTE GED CLASSES & TUTORING BEGAN in 2008.

FAITH MIRACLE TEMPLE BEGAN SUNDAY MORNING GLORY SERVICE ON October 5, 2003 at 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Higher Ground International Ministries was established in December of 2005.

By 2009, Bishop Larry J. Baylor through prophetic anointing and acquaintances is Presiding Bishop over 30 churches in South Africa including (*Faith Miracle Temple South Africa*), 40+ Churches in Philippines including (*Faith Miracle Temples Philippines*), 30 churches in Nairobi, Kenya, and 1 church in Dubai and began a Work in Russia in December 2008

**On July 18<sup>th</sup>**, during the 2009 HGIM Annual Conference, Pastor Larry J. Baylor, HGIM General Overseer and First Land Tanika Baylor were **consecrated to the Bishopric**.

On May 29, 2011, Bishop Larry J. and Lady Elect Tanika Baylor **elevated** and passed the **Pastoral Mantle** to Elder Marlon and Sister Ida Baylor.

The **year 2011** marked fifty years for Faith Miracle Temple Church. A November week of celebrations was held with nightly services, a Founder's Gala Ball and the highlight with closing ceremonies during both services on Sunday was the **burning of the mortgage to 5320 N Hwy 67**.

On October 5, 2014 HGIM **elevated** Pastor Marlon T. & Sister Ida Baylor to Jurisdictional Overseer. Pastor Marlon Baylor received a **Doctor of Divinity** from St. Thomas Christian University in Jacksonville, FL on April 21, 2018.

Today, Faith Miracle Temple Church has over **1800 members** with approximately 90 ministries serving and reaching out to the community while continuing to spread “the good news.”

From the ministry of Bishop Larry J. Baylor, the following churches have been birthed:

1. Living Hope Church in Florissant, Mo , Pastor Ronald Neal
2. Restoration Faith Assembly in Florissant, Mo, Pastor Derrick Triplett
3. Greater Faith Deliverance Church in St. Louis, Mo , Pastor Samuel & Lady Teresa Burns Founder
4. Divine Holiness Temple in East St. Louis, Illinois , Pastor Lazael Moore
5. Abiding Faith in St. Louis, Mo, Pastor Jerome Carroll
6. Bread of Life Church Pentecostal Church in St. Louis, Mo, Jurisdictional Overseer David Battle
7. Disciples Empowered by Ministries in St. Charles, Mo, Pastor Donald Wesley
8. Faith Miracle Temple of Glory in Kentucky, Pastor George Hurd
9. Higher Ground Community Outreach Center, Pastor Shyroun Ridgel
10. New Living Ministries, Pastor Greg Roby

Under the leadership of our pastor, Bishop Larry J. Baylor, the work and vision of our founders has continued to become a reality.

**On December 19<sup>th</sup>**, Faith Miracle Temple purchased our New Edifice at 870 Pershall Road. It has more than 70,000 square ft, seats approximately 1200(twelve hundred) in the sanctuary, has a Youth and Banquet Center across the parking lot, a full size gymnasium, and state of the art high definition Video and Audio. **This is the Commanded Blessing.**

We are privileged to have one of our Founders still with us, Mother Mattie E. Baylor, who we honor today, who has continued to work to help make Faith Miracle Temple the assembly it is today. Mother Baylor still gives countless hours of service in the various ministries of the church from the receiving room to the Director of the Senior’s Ministry which is known as the Precious Roots.

**Mother Baylor Faith Miracle Temple thanks God for YOU as we honor you today!**