

DECEMBER 1999 - DECEMBER 2019

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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20 YEARS OF GRACE

The Great Shepherd said in Matthew 16:15

"I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it"

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

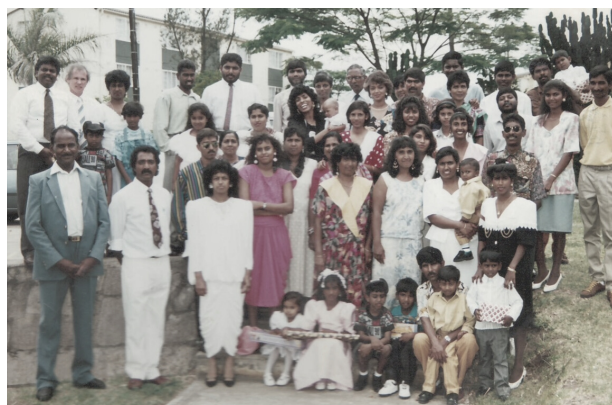
The year 1976 marks a time in history when the first Indian families moved into Phoenix. Neighboring places like "Tin town" Springfield and Sea cow lake were experiencing a flood disaster, so the sprawling new township called Phoenix presented a hope for the families that were affected. During the course of this time, Brother M. Joshua of the Sea cow lake Baptist church was driving through Phoenix and noticed a wayside Sunday school. This led Sea cow lake Baptist church to start a Sunday school in the home of Mr & Mrs Jugdeo with just 20 children - "but by the Grace of God".

By the leading of the Holy spirit, a cottage meeting was held in the home of Mrs Peters in Stonebridge, which was the foundation of the body of Christ now identified as the First Baptist Church (FBC).

The first service started with just four families and as the Lord grew the congregation, it made its first move to a tent meeting outside the flats of Mr Chetty in Drawbridge close.

Due to many obstacles FBC had to make its second move to the yard of Bro George in Stonebridge for a few years. After which a classroom was timeously attained at the Clayhaven Primary school where FBC called home for many years. Subsequently the stables at Newcottage became an option and the FBC made its fourth move.

Due to the planned demolition of the stables the church sought refuge in room 27 of the Daleview high school for many years. During the span of this time Almighty God used various servants to oversee His flock.



Part of the Church in Dalview School - 1991

## BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

The church was led to purchase the current property in 1992 from NBS Devco, but "by the grace of God". After the purchase, the land lay dormant for 5 years due to planning and various obstacles. The enemy had set out to hinder the vision, but by the Lord's grace, the FBC was enabled to overcome numerous hurdles but "by grace of God".

After much prayer and supplication, the FBC was now ready to take steps by faith to trust Almighty God to commence the building project. The project commenced in April 1999 and completed in December 1999 but "by the grace of God"

The building was officially open on 19th December 1999. A victorious day for the First Baptist Church as we would now continue to build the body of Christ to be a light unto the world.

Joseph Naidu was called to be the under-shepherd of the church. And today we give thanks for 20 years of fellowship in Southgate all by Gods extravagant grace.



Land in Southgate



Church Council of 1999



This is the Lords doing and its marvelous in our eyes.  
Psalms 118:23



THEN I  
ANSWERED THEM AND SAID UNTO THEM,  
THE GOD OF HEAVEN, HE WILL PROSPER US;  
THEREFORE WE HIS SERVANTS WILL ARISE AND  
BUILD- NEHEMIAH 2:20



Part of the First Baptist Congregation in 1999



# OUR MISSION

"To go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."  
Mark 16:15

Since the inception, the First Baptist church has been following the Holy Spirit to undertake numerous outreach ministries to fulfill our Lord's great commission. It is at the heart of everything we do.

We have also placed colossal focus on discipling the people of God through the teaching of the word of God. For we believe that -  
"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Our mantra: "Only one life to live will soon be passed, only whats done for Christ will last." - C.Studd



**WE BELIEVE "IT IS THE WHOLE BUSINESS OF THE WHOLE CHURCH TO PREACH THE WHOLE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE WORLD"  
(CHARLES SPURGEON)**



# OUR OUTREACH

The body of the First Baptist has been called to service through hospital visitations, tract distribution, school bible distribution and reaching out to those in need.

## HOSPITAL VISITATION

For the past 20 years, the Holy spirit has placed a strong emphasis on the First Baptist church to see the Mahatma Gandhi hospital as fertile grounds for evangelism. Hence the first two Mondays of every month is dedicated to hospital visits.

The gospel tracts, bibles, fruits and sweets were always used to the glory of God with the one goal in mind, to follow the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of the sick for the Lord's salvation. Above all, our strongest armor is the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in this sometimes hostile field. The irony we have realized over the years in this mission at the hospital named after Mahatma Gandhi was his sentiments to the gospel "I would have been a Christian had it not been for Christians". OUR LORD ALWAYS REIGNS.

As His hospital teams evolved over the years, the FBC has a current team at MGMH that sees 600 patients every month (fertile ground) but by the grace of our Lord to the glory of God alone.



## FBC FOLLOWS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ESTABLISH A POSTAL SERVICE IN PHOENIX

This was the vision that Almighty God gave the FBC 20 years ago to place a gospel tract in every home in Phoenix. The 3rd Tuesday of every month, saw the postal service deliver an average of 200 gospel tracts to homes in different units.

Almost 35,000 tracts have been delivered thus far and still a vast amount of homes to be covered. This service has currently a set number of postmen that evolved over the years but by the grace of God alone for the glory of God.

## THE FIRST BAPTIST WELFARE

We are the recipients of the greatest gift the world has ever known – the love, grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. At no cost to us but at the highest cost to our Lord Jesus we are free, forgiven and victorious. "Having freely received we freely give".

The First Baptist welfare department was established in 1995. By the leading of the Holy spirit it started off unofficially with a few being sensitive to the needy. In the year 2000 it became an official part of the FBC. All of scripture continuously compels us to be sensitive to those in need! the welfare department is funded by financial input of members and friends outside of the FBC. The durability of this department is the force of scripture that permanently reminds us that "The poor will always be among us".

Our dependence on the Holy spirit has led us to care for the widows, the homeless, those in financial need and all others in need of our "Lords indescribable love". This department is currently being overseen by Brother Mickey Chinsamy.



## THE FBC FOLLOWS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ALLIANCE WITH GRANNIES ORPHANAGE, SINAKEKELE & MOZAMBIQUE MISSIONS

During the 20 years span in Southgate the Lord has certainly put an emphasis on His body growing to be able to discern what His spirit is saying "As the Lord leads", "By Almighty God's will", "By His grace" is the continuous adages being reinforced weekly to follow the Spirits leading.

With growth in being sensitive to the spirits leading, the FBC has partnered with Grannies orphanage (who cares for street kids) and Sinakekele (who cares for abandoned babies). Over the years gone by, the FBC has clearly seen the will of the Lord in us being able to meet needs in these institutions from time to time - but by His grace.

The First Baptist church being in alliance with many missionaries, involved in Mozambique, has seen the body fulfill our Lord's command to go beyond our borders. Heaven's records would certainly show in this outreach that the word of the our Lord is certainly living and active in the FBC.



## FBC FOLLOWS THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CONTOURS OF THE NATURAL MEN OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS

Within the last 20 years, the FBC has experienced the transforming power of the Holy spirit in that a natural concern for the hungry was given priority including keeping the homeless in Southgate, but the Holy Spirit has also led to give priority to spiritual bareness and the eternal nature of the soul.

Hence for the last 5 years the FBC was led to acquire gospel tracts and bibles to give freely to different churches, soup kitchens who in turn minister to those that think that they are only physically hungry.

In this dispensation the church believes Almighty God wants us to be an official free distributor of gospel tracts and the various bible translations. The FBC has grown over the years in keeping stock of both bible translations and gospel tracts to freely give where his Spirit leads.



## FBC FOLLOWS THE HOLY SPIRIT IN DISTRIBUTING BIBLES AT SCHOOLS

With the urgency of the gospel, the FBC felt the compulsion of the Holy Spirit lead us to open doors in schools. By the grace of God, the FBC was sensitive to the changing tides at schools, who once was hostile to the gospel.

With our Lord opening doors, the FBC saw this as another blessing to be bible distributors in almost 40 schools in the last 5 years. This year, 547 bibles were distributed to 5 primary schools. An old but true adage says "Where God guides, He provides". True to this adage, God did connect us to Bible society (SA) and 3 different Gideon (Int) camps to meet the needs of bibles required in the various schools.

To our pleasure, we find that there is a permanent bible distribution team at the FBC, who are always committed to give priority to this mission at the schools thus confirming His will for our work in the schools. Our vision is to cover every school in Phoenix with bible distribution "For His glory alone".



## CHURCH DEPARTMENTS

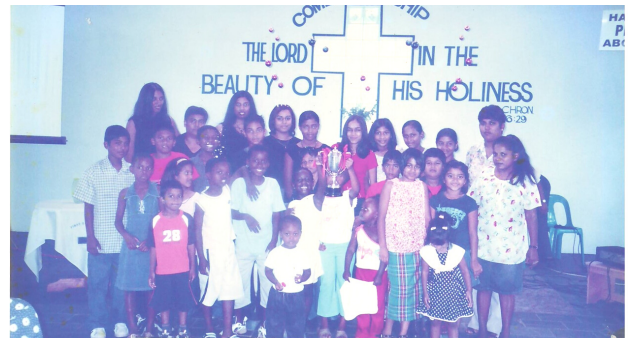
### SUNDAY SCHOOL

“TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD”  
-PROV 22.6

One of the hallmarks of the FBC is that Almighty God has started to build His body through a wayside Sunday school. The Sunday school has continued functioning for 43 years with various teachers serving to fulfill the mandate scripture enjoins us to "Train up a child in the ways of the Lord".

With this scope of time the FBC Sunday school has established a godly tradition in always engaging in the Baptist union scripture exams on a yearly basis. This ensured that the First Baptist children were always thrust with sound doctrine in forming their spiritual foundation.

One of the visible blessing from the Lord is many children wrote the same exams their parents wrote within 43 years it existed. This department has always started the year with all its focus on the Baptist union scripture exams thereafter an internal church theme and exams and closed of the year with various expressions of dance and plays to reinforce the themes for "Glory of God" to both parents and children of FBC. The current Sunday school teachers are Rosy, Roslyn and Nicole.



Sunday school in the year 2002



The current Sunday School

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## WORSHIP TEAM

The current team comprises of both young and experienced musicians whose talents are God given.

We keep Jesus at the heart of our worship and believe that music is a means to expressing worship already present in our hearts and a response to the revelation of the splendour of God. We are committed to humbly leading others to encounter the greatness of God and to do so in Spirit and in truth. The word of God informs our choice of music and we strive to glorify Christ in all that we do.

Over the years the team has faced various challenges but we continue to grow and pursue to honour God in our very lives first, by grace through faith. We are also committed to growing in the knowledge and truth of our Lord.

In our devotions together we have been reminded of this truth: "The Great God values not the service of men, if the hearts be not in it: The Lord sees and judges the heart; he has no regard to outward forms of worship, if there be no inward adoration, if no devout affection be employed therein. It is therefore a matter of infinite importance, to have the whole heart engaged steadfastly for God." This is our prayer as worshipers.



## INTERCESSION TEAM

This prayer group was certainly born through the prompting of the Holy spirit within the scope of the last 20 years. The Lord has clearly shown the need for His church to join in intercession for the salvation of all men.

Spiritual devotions are included in these meetings with its primary focus to call on the name of "The Lord" to save those who need salvation, both in and out of the FBC. This group meets on 3 Saturdays of every month at 6am.

This group persevered in prayer the last 20 years because the Holy spirit continued to leave the "weight of this need" in the heart of those that intercede together with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



## FIRST BAPTIST LADIES DEPARTMENT

As we lift our hearts and hands to give thanks to Almighty God for His presence in the FBC for the last 20 years, so too is this department part of the body for the last 20 years.

The blueprint that our Lord has used for them to follow is to continue with their sanctification process, through bible study but certainly their priority rested in intercession with and to Almighty God for the needs of the FBC as led by the Holy spirit.

Their meetings continue to remain on every 3rd Tuesday of the month in different homes. These meetings have always been "Home to the hearts of our praying mums".



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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSEPH NAIDU

Believing that this was the call of Almighty God, I would like to reiterate those baby steps to submit as an under-shepherd to his body called the First Baptist Church. If I could draw with bold lines for a minute - fear, doubt, suspicion, uncertainty and all of the traits of my natural man were warring with the Great shepherd's spirits call. Living with large doses of the worlds spirit, to pursue comfort, luxury and be a responsible provider to my family, this call looked like an emotion to fill in a need at the FBC rather than a calling of Almighty God.

The greatest challenge of mine was to abandon my mainstream business and pursue a life of faith and learning to deny myself, being unchartered to me 20 years ago. As the Holy spirit would always be candid, the life of an under-shepherd in the FBC would certainly translate to a total change in lifestyle for my family and I.

Despite being fearful of the new office, the Lord's been continuously gracious in reiterating His power to take care of my concerns. One of my pervading concerns 20 years ago was to see Tiffany through the different stages of her life, but now with a total different fiscal policy. Whist this ongoing internal war prevailed, the Lord always pointed me to His words found in Matthew 6:33. With absolutely no experience with the power behind this verse, I would certainly say our Lords graciously thrust me into this office whist being tainted in my mind.

"Gentle" is how I would describe our Lord, in dealing with my gift of faith, as he continued to teach me that He is sovereign over all His creation. 20 years gone by and I sometimes feel ashamed before our Lord about my doubts of His indescribable power He has invested in His precious word! I certainly know so much more by His grace of the power behind the words He expressed in Matthew 6:33 and can certainly say that His grace is sufficient for me, you and all others He calls to serve Him.

Over the last 20 years I am continuously being schooled in following the Holy spirit and there are constant reminders that our Lord is the only Great shepherd of His church called "First Baptist Church". Continuous encouragement is given to abandon my over zealous mind in all matters for His body, hence training is ongoing to discern the will of the Father for His First Baptist Church.

The greatest temptation for me is to subscribe to the innumerable unbiblical models that permeate our age, to grow larger by methods and techniques. But by His grace was always led to comply to the model set out in scripture to the glory of Almighty God. This is what the Lord desires as He walks through the First Baptist Church, as he indicates in the early chapters of the book of Revelation. These then are the marks of His ideal church - love, suffering, sound doctrine, genuineness, evangelism and humility.

The First Baptist church is certainly not a perfect one, but we continue to labour that our Lord would class it a healthy one. Small numbers would always be considered unfruitful by the worlds standards but demonstrably the First Baptist church has been faithful to the word of God!

R.C Sproul - I think that the greatest weakness in the church today is that no one believes that God invests His power in the bible, everyone is looking for power in a program, in a technique, in anything and everything; except where God has placed it - His precious word! Hence I found the Spirits emphasis on expository preaching to work in unity with the Holy Spirit in sanctifying the saints at the First Baptist Church.

This is my living hope in our Lord as He gathers the FBC at 8.30am every Sunday, that the FBC would all someday wake up to the greatest gathering of our Lord in eternity. My personal motto continues to be a passion from the depths of my soul " To love you Lord, like no other. To serve you Lord like no other" as he enables me through His Spirit.

And I continuously pray that the Lord would keep lighting fires through the pews of the FBC to echo the sentiments: " To love you Lord, like no other; To serve you Lord like no other" until we all would hear the most beautiful, most valuable and the sweetest words that would echo through eternity: "*Well done my good and faithful servant!*".

- JN



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# THIS IS US

We are a Jesus centered, bible believing tribe of followers. Small in number but great in the business of heaven.

We desire to see the world around us come to know Jesus in all His power and beauty.

We are rooted in eternal truths and committed to teaching of Holy scripture.

Our church is more than a place, it is people; living and serving and walking humbly before God.

We gather to worship and scatter to serve. We are not perfect but Our Lord Jesus is.

Jesus is our lead story, He is our only story.

We believe that He is unrivaled in history and eternity and that He is God and He is good.

The gospel is central to everything we do because of what Jesus has already done.

The gospel we celebrate is that we were once dead but now we are alive.

We believe that worship is a lifestyle. The best worship we can offer is the song we sing as we reach out to those in need.

We are not just an organization but a family; brothers and sisters placed in one household.

Gods people who share in each other's joys, suffering and pray for one another.

We are a family on a mission to build His house, for His fame in His world.



Part of the First Baptist Congregation in 2019