

SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY **(Abridged Version)**

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church dates its past back to 1917 when a mother of four boys, Sister Rendy Murray¹ originally from Pratville, Alabama had a dream and sincere desire to have a missionary Baptist church established in her new residence of Newark, Ohio. (Note: Sister Rendy Murray's mother was a former slave named Americus and was related to Frederick Douglas by marriage.) Upon Sister Rendy 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 traveling 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.

Sister Murray with the help of Rev. W. A. Tutt and inspiration of Jesus Christ 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. Sims served as pastor and the first church cornerstone was laid and the basement was eventually completed. From 1931 to 1932 Rev. L. G. Green served as pastor. From 1933 to 1934 Rev. C. H. Harris served as pastor. Under his leadership baptismal pool was completed. Rev. Harris eventually was called to the pastorate of the {Gay Street) 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 in Newark was established. Following Rev. Fear's 13 years of renowned leadership Rev. B. N. Parker served as pastor and traveled over 100 miles each week 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 and was remembered as a great evangelistic preacher.

On July 11 of 1969 the Rev. Dr. Charles Whitney Noble, Sr. was called to pastor Shiloh. By the spring of 1970 the first church renovation was completed. Being inspired to better the living conditions for the people of Newark, Dr. Noble spearheaded the planning for a multi-million dollar housing project in 1970. From 1970 to 1997 thirteen projects in twelve phases were established through Dr. Noble's efforts:

- Phase I-Rendy Murray Commons, an 82 unit senior citizen housing complex (built in 1974).
- Phase II-East Newark Urban Community Development Corporation, a 25 unit senior citizen housing complex combined with 98 units of subsidized family housing (built in XXXX).

¹ According to the 1920 U. S. Census Sister Rendy Murray was living in her Newark, Ohio home with her four adult boys and two minor girls circa age of 7 years. It is speculated that these girls were her granddaughters. One of the girls named Anna was the grandmother of NBC Channel 4 local television news anchor Mike Jackson. For Black History Month Mr. Jackson did a feature story of his maternal great grandmother Sister Rendy Murray in Newark at Shiloh with her great grandson Brother Jeremiah Steele, Jr. and Shiloh's Pastor Emeritus the Reverend Dr. Charles w. Noble, Sr. on February 12, 2013. Jeremiah Steele, Jr. is the surviving grandson of Sister Rendy Murray's son Miles Steele. Mr. Jackson noted his connection with the Shiloh Family when he noticed the obituary of Brother Jeremiah Steele, Sr. in December 2012. He was deeply touched to know the deep Christian faith of Sister Murray whereby she was the instrument to getting a church established in her community and having the first senior citizen housing complex in Licking County named in her honor. Sister Murray passed in 1960 and is buried in the local Cedar Hill Cemetery in Newark under the recorded name of Marinda Murray.

- Phase III-Washington Square Plaza, a 103 unit senior citizen housing complex (built in 1980).
- Phases IV & V-Bill Mitchell I and Bill Mitchell I, both 45 unit senior citizen housing complexes (built in 1986 & XXXX respectively)
- Phase VI – Johnny John Eastgate Manor, a 20 unit complex for the physically challenged (built in 1990).
- Phases VII, VIII and IX-WASHNEW, WASMVER, and Washington Square Permanent Housing, 13 total units of independent style living for the mentally challenged (built in 1989).
- Phase X-Park View Plaza, 10 units of housing for the developmentally disabled (built in 1995).
- Phase XI, known as Oak Hill Manor was completed in Utica, Ohio.
- Phase XII-Candlewick Commons, a 42 unit senior complex combined with a McDonald's restaurant. (built in 1997).

On August 1, 2002 the Shiloh Housing dream of becoming locally managed became a reality with Harvest Group Management a minority owned company of Columbus, Ohio assumed responsibility of all twelve Licking and Knox County properties. Also Shiloh partnered with Union Baptist Church of Zanesville, Ohio and opened Pollock Apartments for seniors in circa 2007

Dr. C. W. Noble, Sr. served as the president of the Ohio Baptist General Convention and Shiloh hosted the OBGC state convention in October 1984. It was at that state convention that Dr. Noble was appointed to serve as the first National Baptist Housing Commission which has sponsored over thirty (30) housing projects across the nation.

On August 25, 1988 Shiloh Missionary Church in Newark, Ohio held the first chapel services and classes beginning at 9AM for the Par Excellence Learning Center at Shiloh. Dr. C. W. Noble, Sr. was the founder and his wife the retired Colonel Nora M. K. Noble served as the first Administrator. On August 18, 2005 Par Excellence found its new home at 96 Maholm Street in Newark, Ohio and began operations under its new name of Par Excellence Academy. Currently due to the school's growth and new leadership of Principal Gisele James for the past two years Par Excellence has received the state of Ohio's highest ranking for private schools.

On Christmas day December 25, 2011 Rev. Dr. Charles W. Noble, Sr. preached his final sermon as pastor of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Newark, Ohio . His sermon was entitled "The Christian Family and Fighting to the Finish because 'Jesus is the Answer' based on Matthew 11:1-6. It is the same theme as when he preached his first sermon for Shiloh on July 11, 1969 which was also entitled "Jesus is the Answer" based on Matthew 7:3. He emphasized that the emphasis to all the questions in the past, present and future is "Jesus is the Answer!"

At the December 31, 2011 Watch Night Services Rev. Dr. Charles W. Noble, Sr. spiritually and physically passed the baton on to our new Pastor the Reverend Dr. Michael A. Noble, Sr. At midnight everyone closed at the altar in prayer and thanksgiving! Shiloh was on one accord! On Sunday January 1, 2012 the Lord blessed Shiloh with our new Pastor who preached with great knowledge, energy and enthusiasm the Word of God.

Pastor M.A. Noble's first watch word for Shiloh was "God Loves You and I am Trying". The sermon theme was Divine Adoption based on Romans 8:12-23. He declared that God wants us close and that God is not hostile toward us. Adoption is a decision of the will and God has chosen to bring us into his house. With that first sermon many accepted and rededicated their lives to Christ!

Pastor Michael Noble delivers the Gospel for morning worship and prayer meeting with such deep passion and conviction whereas the church has had tremendous growth on a weekly basis from 2012 to the present! The first person of three to be baptized after Rev. Michael Nobles first sermon as Shiloh's Pastor on January 1, 2012 was Shayne Morton. The following persons were the first to complete their new member classes in 2012 and were fellowshipped into the body on the first Sunday March 4, 2012: Margaret Crumpton, Brooklyn Griffin, Beatrice Hawkins, Brad Jones, Lynette Jones, First Lady Louise Noble, Kristi Saunders, Maya Saunders and Cheyenne Woods. In January 2012 Shiloh thanked Deaconess Eddie Mae Scott for 41 years of service with an appreciation dinner. On January 23, 2012 the former Newark mayor's secretary Sister Linda Dacus-Parks became Shiloh's full-time

secretary. The first homegoing service performed by our new Pastor Michael Noble was for the late Janet Marie Johnson-Powe on Thursday January 26, 2012.

On Wednesday March 28, 2012 Pastor Michael Noble served as the master of ceremonies for the Columbus Simultaneous Revival day services! On May 8, 2012 the Shiloh Holistic Opportunity Programs Corporation founded by Rev. Dr. Michael A. Noble, Sr. opened the Second Chance Barber Shop and Unisex Salon to assist ex-felons with barbering and mentoring opportunities in Newark. Retired Newark Police Detective the Rev. Cliff N. Biggers serves as the Executive Director. On April 30, 2013 Shiloh partnered with the Stand Up for Ohio Access to Opportunity Bus Tour and was one of seven cities statewide to host and house for an evening bus travelers standing up for improving job options and communities in Ohio. The Newark event included a grand welcome rally and a unified march through the community. The event was closed out with the beautiful voices of the Shiloh Praise team. Many on the tour were inspired to inquire about the worship services of Shiloh. On May 26, 2012 Rev. Dr. Michael Noble graciously accepted the invitation for his first out-of-town preaching engagement at the Mt. Period Baptist Church as Shiloh's Pastor.

In March of 2012 Shiloh had a music workshop for all choir members. The event was well attended and all participants left with a deeper appreciation for gospel music. In March of 2013 many choir members participated in the Simultaneous Revival Choir where it performed at the annual kick-off with over 500 voices at Mt. Herman Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio.

As a result of a severe county-wide storm and two week power-outage that came through Licking County on June 30, 2012, God allowed Shiloh as a multi-generational unit to rise to the occasion and serve hot meals and water to the local senior communities and families from everywhere in Newark. On Saturday July 14, 2012 Shiloh hosted Newark's first annual Unity Festival. It featured FREE food, music, games which included a dunking station and wonderful prizes for all the children and their families of the neighborhood. According to our annual 2012 theme and God's faithfulness all who attended were amazed at the beautiful spirit of cooperation and sharing that the Shiloh Family had toward one another and the community.

In June 2012 our pastor the Reverend Dr. Michael A. Noble was bestowed with the distinguished honor of being appointed the President of the Eastern Union Bible College in Columbus, Ohio.² On May 4, 2013 the Bible College partnered with the Isabelle Ridgeway Nursing Home which is the oldest minority run facility in Columbus to co-sponsor a commemorative worship service honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The messenger was the Reverend Dr. Taylor T. Thompson, Pastor of the historical St. Paul AME Church in Columbus. His powerful address about "Living in the Shadow of Greatness" inspired all of those in attendance to share the dream of Christian service wherever the opportunity arises.

In September of 2012 at the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia Dr. M.A. Noble was one of only three Ohio Pastors that was recognized for fiscally sharing in the conventions international mission of building a hospital in Africa! On June 18, 2014 our Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. C. W. Noble will be honored as the founder of the National Baptist Convention -USA, Inc.'s Housing and Economic Development Commission in Dallas, Texas.

On Sunday October 14, 2012 Shiloh witnessed the extraordinary installation and first anniversary service of our pastor the Reverend Dr. Michael A. Noble. The morning worship service messenger was the Reverend Dr. Joseph B. Felker, Jr. of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Felker served as a mentor and deeply inspiring friend of our Pastor. His brother in the ministry the Reverend Dr. Keith Troy of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio gave a challenging and welcoming afternoon message. The culmination of our pastoral transition was when the Eastern Union Missionary Baptist Association closed out the service with the charges under the leadership of the Moderator Reverend Dr. John S. Little and the Columbus and Vicinity Baptist Ministerial Alliance President the Reverend J. Mathew Carter, Sr. and the Ohio Baptist General Convention President the Reverend Dr. Oltha Gilyard. And finally like Christ at the cross the Shiloh pastoral baton was officially passed from the father to the son!

² The Eastern Union Bible College was founded in 1980 by his father the Reverend Dr. Charles W. Noble, Sr.

2012 was closed out with much celebration with the annual candlelight dinner and Christmas and watch night services. The Lord has mightily blessed Shiloh in 2013 through 2015 with a significantly growing church body! Pastor M. A. Noble has enthusiastically lead us into a heartfelt understanding and appreciation of what "true worship" and "prayer" and the "Holy Spirit" really means to us on both a personal and congregational level every week!

In January 2013 Dr. M.A. Noble delivered the Martin Luther King Convocation for his Alma Mater Denison University and the Shiloh Mass Choir inspired the crowd under the direction of our First Lady Sister E. Louise Noble. In March of 2013 Shiloh was encouraged by both the Simultaneous Revival and Easter Celebrations!

Dr. M. A. Noble, Sr. has shown a great passion for the youth of Shiloh. In March 2012 he spearheaded a special treat for the youth and their families with a paintball fun day in Columbus, Ohio. On May 4, 2013 the Esther Jean Noble Scholarship Luncheon was held for the first time in two years and incorporated a delightful Youth Style Show and Silent Auction at the Licking County Heritage Hall. In August of 2012 Shiloh sponsored a community Saints vs. Sinners softball game with the Saints being victorious! The members and community anxiously await the annual Saints vs. Sinners softball game.

In conclusion, Shiloh through the dynamic leadership of our new Pastor Reverend Dr. Michael A. Noble, Sr. and Pastor Emeritus the Rev. Dr. Charles W. Noble, Sr. and many others who have made even more contributions too numerous to mention; the church's motto taken from Proverbs 29:18 which declares "Where there is no vision the people perish" and with the inspiration of God and the vision of Sister Rendy Murray through and to this present day, Shiloh would not be at the magnitude of inspiration and service as it is represented here today!

Prayerfully and Sincerely Submitted through the Power of Our Savior Jesus Christ by,

Sister Michael L. Tarver

2015 Shiloh Historical Ministry Chairperson

2015 SHILOH HISTORICAL MINISTRY MEMBERS

Michael L. Tarver, Historian

Luevoka Powe * Yvonne Bell * Stan Ford

Tirrel Jackson * Aaron Michael Finklea * Minister Charles Finklea * Rev. Mario Randell Williams

Sister Shelaine Glover, Past Historian in Memoriam

Rev. Robert Weaver, Esquire, Past Historian in Memoriam

Deacon Aaron Brown, Videographer in Memoriam

5-17-2015