

Church Profile for

Bible Fellowship Church

www.bfchemet.org



Dennis Anderson, Photographer

An Overview

Bible Fellowship Church is located in a beautiful valley in sunny Southern California. To the east one can see the powerful backdrop of Mt. San Jacinto, snow-capped in winter with a blue-green timber-lined view in summer. The mountains provide a great place for hiking, fishing and hunting; and the ocean is only an hour-and-a-half to the west where one can enjoy the waves and great beaches.

The San Jacinto Valley has an old and varied tradition. Beginning in the 1700s, there were Spanish land grants to the Pico and Estudillo families which covered territory previously occupied for hundreds of years by Cahuilla Native Americans.

The famous Ramona Pageant is celebrating its ninetieth year in our valley and is the oldest outdoor play in California. The storyline is set during the time of the Spanish and illustrates some of the early difficulties that existed between the settlers and the Native peoples.

In the late 1800s and throughout much of the twentieth century, the San Jacinto Valley was a productive agricultural valley, offering up apricots, olives, wheat, barley and cattle. Today there are still thousands of acres of thriving citrus. In fact, Bible Fellowship Church was first called "The Grapefruit Grove Fellowship" before it was incorporated under its current name back in 1977.

The area is now a diverse community composed of people from Caucasian backgrounds as well as many Hispanics and a growing African-American population. There is a large percentage of seniors on one end of the spectrum and, on the other end, over 22,000 teenagers who need Jesus.

We are searching for a Pastor who is seminary trained, outstanding in biblical studies and skilled in the teaching of Gods Word. He must also be a visionary in missional service to our community and to the world. Initially, this pastor will work closely with the current Senior Pastor to provide oversight for the various ministries of Bible Fellowship Church as outlined in the more formal job description at the end of the profile. The current Senior Pastor will be available until December of 2015. The man who accepts this position would need to be qualified for the role of Senior Pastor.

We recognize that this job offering is a bit unusual, but it comes from the deep conviction that leaders should grow into their position within the local church. If this job description interests you, we invite you to take some time and get to know us by reading this profile and visiting our website at www.bfchemet.org.

After a season of prayer, if you sense that God is leading you to apply at Bible Fellowship Church of the San Jacinto Valley, then please do so.



Our Values

Since 1976 when Bible Fellowship Church began, the leadership has stressed the idea that we exist for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph 4:12). Our teaching style has always been expositional, usually alternating between Old and New Testament books. Most recently, we have undertaken a chronological study of the entire Bible which we are calling "Route 66." This journey is destined to take us through the end of 2015 and has already proved to be a lot of fun as well as very spiritually stimulating.

In order to make our mission memorable, Bible Fellowship has adopted three simple core values to guide us: **love God, love one another and serve the world.** We stress these values in a number of different ways within the Body: through preaching and teaching, through our ministries, through visuals, on our website and using other media means.

Loving God

The first and greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being: heart, soul, mind and strength (Mk 12:30). We believe that loving God with all our heart and soul is best expressed in worship on Sunday mornings and that people who are going to be involved in this church need to be worshipping the Lord regularly. To love God with our minds, we have committed to studying the whole counsel of God's Word through expositional preaching and daily devotions that

encourage the worship of God on a daily basis. We are known in the San Jacinto Valley as a "teaching church." We also look for creative and celebrative ways to worship the Lord with all our strength on Sunday mornings as well as being active in our community in various ways.

Loving One Another

A portion of the New Commandment that Jesus gave to his disciples is that we would love one another: "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35). Small groups are stressed at Bible Fellowship Church because we believe that this is the best way to learn to love one another. Our church has been known for small-group ministries since its inception. It is in small groups that people care for one another, learn about their spiritual gifts and have an opportunity to exercise them. Small groups also find ways to reach out to others who are not part of the Body of Christ. Our Women's Ministry finds many creative ways to love others by caring for the lonely, sick, new mothers, widows and shut-ins. We also have two other churches meeting in our facility, a Slavic church and an Hispanic church. We fellowship together and show love to one another in cross-cultural ways, sharing food, fun and music.



Serving Our World

Serving our world is one of Bible Fellowship Church's greatest strengths. We want every member to get involved in a ministry to our community in order to be salt and light in the San Jacinto Valley. Community outreaches that found their genesis within our church and remain viable include a crisis pregnancy counseling center, Youth for Christ and the hospital chaplaincy. Other ministries we support regularly are the Community Pantry, The Valley Restart Center which cares for the homeless, and Calicinto Ranch, a ministry to children of incarcerated parents. We participate with other churches in the valley in The Big Serve which involves taking a Sunday to go out and work in our cities once a year. In addition, we have stressed that each of our homes can be a Lighthouse of Prayer, praying blessings for our neighbors and sharing the gospel with them (Mk 12:31).

Serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the world also involves reaching those who do not have the Gospel message readily available. We are seriously committed to the support of missions in other parts of the world, especially in the 10/40 Window where most of the unreached peoples live. In 1993, we adopted the Buryat people group and have worked each summer in Siberia so that a previously unreached people now has a viable indigenous church that is reaching other Buryats in that vast land. We have a motto of "Pray! Send! Go!", providing everyone in our church a way in which they can be involved in mission-

al pursuits to a world that is waiting to hear the Good News (Lk 10:2).

A Great Commission Church

Bible Fellowship Church is a "Great Commission Church." We believe that all who have put their faith and trust in Christ must be obedient to the "making of disciples of every nation" (Mt 28:19). Disciplemaking has always been a goal, and we seek in all our ministries to create people who can "pass it on." We encourage ministries that not only make disciples but that also create disciplemakers, whether it is in the San Jacinto Valley or in Buryatia.

We are now beginning to pray for the Lord of the Church to direct us to adopt another unreached people group in the near future! Our goal is to devote one-third of our overall income to missional pursuits, and we come close to that every year.



Our History

In the spring of 1976, several Christian couples gathered together after it became evident there was a need for a Bible-teaching church that embraced small-group individual growth where people could study God's Word, have the opportunity to dialog and pray for one another. As the group quickly outgrew the living room, they moved to a carport at a local grapefruit grove. So began what was originally termed "The Grapefruit Grove Fellowship."

The group quickly resolved to be an elder run church and changed the name to "Bible Fellowship Church of the San Jacinto Valley," the name under which it is currently incorporated.

Frank Tichy, an ordained minister and missionary, was selected to be Bible Fellowship's first pastor. In September 1976, the group rented space at Ramona Elementary School in Hemet where they held Sunday services until 1983. Frank and his wife, Nancy, were called back to the mission field at which time Gil Olsen was asked to become the full-time pastor, accepting the position on November 6, 1976.

Burdened with the substantial volume of work involved in a "portable" church, Bible Fellowship Church began to diligently pray for a home. In December 1977, prayers were answered and we purchased five acres of land between Stetson Avenue and Johnston Avenue. Congregation members loaned the

money needed and building began shortly thereafter with completion and dedication in January 1983. Since then, Bible Fellowship added a two-story education wing, a multi-purpose room with a kitchen, a youth house and office space. All building was financed solely by the generous loans and tithes of Bible Fellowship members. In the fall of 2011, Bible Fellowship celebrated with a "burn the mortgage" gathering because the final payment was made on the loan.

In 1989, Bible Fellowship Church planted a sister church in west Hemet, sending off ten percent of our congregation along with our assistant pastor. West Valley Bible Church continues to meet on Sanderson Avenue in San Jacinto, CA.

Bible Fellowship Church is currently a medium-sized congregation with a Sunday attendance of approximately 300. We seek to reflect God's eternal grace as He extends it to everyone and strive for transformed lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As of 2013, Gil Olsen continues to pastor Bible Fellowship Church and plans to remain through December 2015.



Our Community

The area in which Hemet is located was first inhabited by members of the Cahuilla Indian tribe. Then in the early 1800s, it became a cattle ranch for Mission San Luis Rey and was called Rancho San Jacinto. When the missions were broken up by the Mexican government, a Spanish land grant was awarded to Jose Antonio Estudillo in 1842.

The City of Hemet owes its inception and initial growth to two iconic events and the dedication of two wealthy men. The first event was the visit that Ramona author Helen Hunt Jackson made to the San Jacinto Valley in 1883 in order to gather material on the Sobobas, a group of Mission Indians living on the east side of the San Jacinto River. From her scholarship came a book and subsequently The Ramona Pageant, which has become a very large community play each year. Since 1923, with only brief interruptions during the Depression and World War II, the people of Hemet and San Jacinto have joined together to stage this outdoor pageant each spring. Several in Bible Fellowship's congregation are involved in the play each year.

The second significant happening was the

building of a dam in order to provide a continuing supply of water to the valley. The two men involved in the water project were Edward L. Mayberry, who purchased 3000 acres from Estudillo in October 1886 and William Whittier who purchased another 3000 acres adjacent to and east of the Estudillo tract. These holdings led to the formation of two companies; and on January 27, 1887, the Lake Hemet Company (water) and the Hemet Land Company were formed. The Great Hemet Dam was finished in 1895.

In 1888, the Santa Fe Company brought railroad access to Hemet and San Jacinto. Mayberry built his three-story brick Hotel Mayberry on Florida Avenue. Whittier built a warehouse, an opera house and many shops on north Harvard Street as Hemet began to prosper. Farmers profited from the irrigation water on their alfalfa fields, fruit orchards and row crops, particularly potatoes.



Despite a severe drought from 1898 to 1900 and a major 1899 Christmas Day earthquake, the town of Hemet continued to thrive. In 1910, the City of Hemet was incorporated.

Hemet was also home to the Ryan School of Aeronautics which trained

about 6000 pilots for the Army Air Force between 1940 and 1944. Hemet Ryan Airport exists today at the site of the original Ryan Flight School.



The character of Hemet began to change dramatically in the early 1960s with the development of Sierra Dawn, the country's first mobile home subdivision to sell individual lots. Other mobile home parks and retirement housing developments followed, and Hemet became well known as a senior community.

Hemet today is becoming home to significant numbers of younger families and a growing population of those who are fleeing the more urbanized areas of Southern California. The economy is based primarily on ancillary services such as schools, financial institutions and health care providers.

Hemet is home to numerous beautiful golf courses and Diamond Valley Lake where one can find hiking and mountain bike trails, and where, at times, the fishing can be off the charts. The Western Center for Archeology and Paleontology is located in the southern end of Hemet near the lake. It features a charter middle school along with wonderful exhibits of the creatures that roamed this area in past ages.



Our Ministries

Children's Ministries

Our children's ministry program is well staffed with a director, two staff workers and wonderful volunteers. There is a constant attempt to provide parents with resources that will help guide the children into a deep and abiding faith, and family devotions are provided each week to encourage worship at home. Various outreaches to children occur during the year with a view to evangelism and growing the ministry.



and lighting. The Youth House provides an engaging spot where kids feel comfortable, and the addition of foosball and ping pong tables gives the students opportunities to unite in healthy interaction. Not only is the Youth House a home away from home for our youth body, but it is also an appropriate place for spiritual growth.

Teaching is biblically based, focusing regularly on the gospel message. Each week, a short message introduces the topic and the scripture passage to the larger group; but a small-group approach is the primary application method as it allows for deeper questioning and introspection. Groups are led by volunteer adults, and students are encouraged to relate to and share with the whole group as they apply the Bible to their lives.

Youth Ministries

The Youth Ministries of Bible Fellowship Church exist to help students (grades 6-12) grow in loving God, loving others, and discovering their gifts through serving others. Reach (Junior High Ministries) and Impact (High School Ministries) provide Bible-based teaching, local outreach events, service opportunities, camps and other enrichment activities for students. Weekly programs run on Sunday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings and serve a community of at least four high schools and numerous middle schools.

Reach and Impact have a dedicated meeting place, the Youth House, built for weekly and special events. It is an inviting environment complete with stage, sound



Ministry and service are important aspects of Bible Fellowship Church's Youth Ministries. Opportunities to serve the community locally and abroad are provided for the students in order to help them grow spiritually and gain confidence in their faith. Reach and Impact students can serve the immediate body through worship, greeting, game and snack shack ministries--or they can serve the community through Feed the Homeless, Calicinto Ranch and other local opportunities. Mission trips are also strongly encouraged. Both Reach and Impact provide a variety of activities including summer camps at Hume Lake Christian Camps.

Small-Group Bible Studies

Bible Fellowship Church believes that Bible study is an important factor in individual growth as a disciple of Christ. People are strongly encouraged to attend small group Bible studies on a regular basis. These study groups are offered throughout the week at the church facility and in individual homes. The format involves the study of a particular subject or book of the Bible, prayer for one another and fellowship. Approximately one-third of the congregation participates in these groups, but our goal is always more!

Community Ministries

Many of our members are actively involved in various community outreach programs: Youth for Christ, Life Choice Services, Calicinto Ranch, Community Pantry and the Valley Restart Center. We also involve ourselves in The Big Serve and work alongside other churches in our Valley to improve our cities.



Adult Ministries

Top Crust is a 50+ age group which provides social opportunities and fellowship through special events. On Sundays, there is an Adult Bible Class that meets in the Multipurpose Room. This group is led by enthusiastic people who are an invaluable resource at Bible Fellowship Church. They love and serve one another with great joy.

Connect is a fledgling ministry that strives to bring people of all ages together, but the group is mainly composed of 20- and 30-somethings with children. They meet for fellowship and desire to get to know one another better.

Baja Outreach

Baja Outreach, a ministry within Bible Fellowship Church, leads teams to Tecate and San Quintin, Mexico, a couple of times each year for the purpose of distributing food and clothing, building micro-businesses for families, and above all, sharing the love of Christ with those in need. These trips serve two purposes. First, those who receive are blessed; second, those who give are impacted greatly by their experience. We encourage families and youth to participate.



The Buryat Mission Team

Bible Fellowship Church adopted the Buryat people of Southern Siberia in 1993 when they were considered to be an unreached people group, and we sent a research team to Buryatia in 1997. Since then, every summer Bible Fellowship Church sends a team of people to Buryatia for the purpose of encouraging growth in the very young church that has sprouted up amongst the Buryats in just the last few years. Our pastor has also provided leadership training for the Russian and Buryat pastors in Siberia.



Worship Arts Ministry

The worship arts ministry is composed of technical arts, worship, drama, and visual arts teams, and seasonal choirs. These teams provide the body of BFC with engaging, creative, and artistic expressions of worship that help facilitate a transcendent experience with our Heavenly Father. We offer a blended style of worship music that highlights the new and upholds our past. The ministry is made up of multiple generations from high school students to retirees, some serving consistently for 15 years or more. The foundation of these

artistic expressions is experiencing and sharing the love of God with one another. More than a ministry, we're a family (literally in some cases). We hang out, camp, potluck, pray, and serve together. We enjoy spending time with each other!

Welcome Ministry

The Welcome ministry fulfills a vital role in creating a warm, encouraging, and loving environment for our guests and church family, which honors our Lord, the community, and one another. The welcome team members realize it's not about going to church, it's about being a church. Our team is full of committed members who faithfully use their smiles and sincere handshakes to share the love of God. This ministry is significant in maintaining BFC's friendly reputation, because people matter.

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries is a vital assembly of women who volunteer from the membership of Bible Fellowship Church. These women commit to serve for a one year period in various capacities. The executive leadership team consists of a Women's Ministries Chairperson, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Prayer Leader. Approximately twenty additional women bear responsibilities for a variety of services to our church and community. Examples of Women's Ministry responsibilities are the Wedding Coordination Team, a small team of women who are responsible for managing weddings, the Beautification Team, a group of women who coordinate floral arrangements for those desiring to honor and/or remember a special loved one with a gift of flowers, the Church Greening Team, a crew of women who coordinate the

Christmas season decoration and beatification. The Historian maintains a photographic record of Women's Ministries and Bible Fellowship Church events. These teams hold a monthly board meeting to encourage, pray and hear reports from each area of service. All women who attend Bible Fellowship Church are welcomed at the meetings.

Men's Ministries

Bible Fellowship Church recently re-established the Men's Ministry, in hopes of providing openings for men to plug into church ministries. Through the Men's Ministry, we encourage and provide avenues for men to offer hands-on assistance to the needy of our Church through service. This Ministry provides assistance of two or more men to widows, single women, and the elderly who request help with basic tasks like home maintenance or moving. Every other month, the Men's Ministry provides activities such as breakfast for men to further build relationships in a social atmosphere, and as above.



Our Church Governance

Bible Fellowship is an elder-run church. Our Senior Pastor serves as an elder on the board which governs and proceeds on a consensus-only basis. The pastor is one voice amongst the others on the whole board whose job it is to work together for the benefit of the congregation.

Bible Fellowship Church Organizational Chart



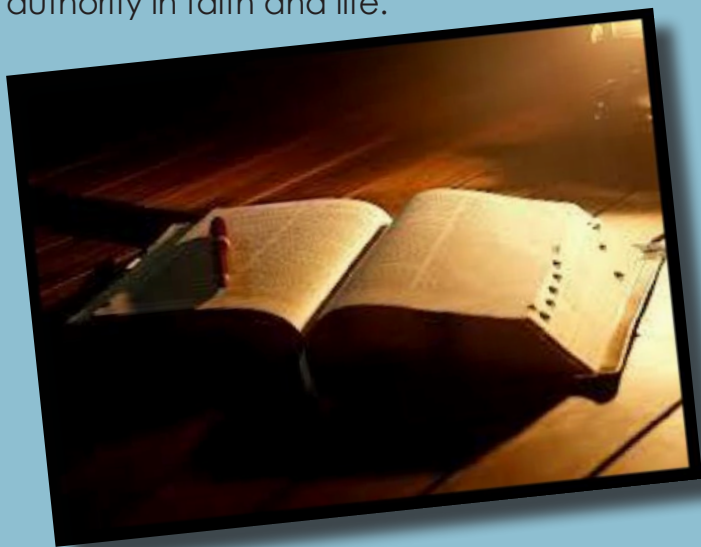
What We Believe

Bible Fellowship Church is an independent, nondenominational body of believers established in the San Jacinto Valley in 1976.

Our Doctrinal Statement

The Bible

We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God which reveals the complete will of God for all mankind through every age. Inspiration may be defined as the inward work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of chosen men who then wrote the Scriptures as God directed. The Bible in all of its parts constitutes the written Word of God to man. This Word is free from all error in its original writings. It is wholly trustworthy in matters of history and doctrine and is the final, supreme authority in faith and life.



God

We believe in the one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God is the absolute and sole creator of the universe.

The Father

We believe that the Father is the first person of the Godhead and is the Original Source of all things. He is the source of grace, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Father of all men as the Source of their being. He is particularly the loving Father of all those redeemed by the blood of His Son.

We believe that the Father is the Author of the plan of salvation, that He sent the Son into the world, that He is the disciplinarian of His children.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and man; that He was miraculously born of a virgin and lived a sin-free life, being fully God and fully man. He is Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

We believe that Christ died on the cross for the sins of mankind, was raised bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven there to intercede for believers and from whence He shall come again to receive believers unto Himself.

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are justified through His shed blood, being declared righteous.



The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, possessing all the distinctively divine attributes. He is God.

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration, He baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ and comes to indwell him/her permanently.

Mankind

We believe that man is created in the image of God; however, after the fall of Adam and Eve, all people are by nature separated from God and responsible for their own sin, but that salvation, redemption, and forgiveness are offered as a free gift to all by the Lord Jesus Christ based on His grace alone. When a person repents of sin and receives the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, trusting Him to save, that person is immediately born again and sealed by the Holy Spirit. All his/her sins are forgiven, and that person becomes a child of God, destined to spend eternity with the Lord.

Salvation

Salvation is initiated, attained, and procured by God through the death of Christ on the cross for our sins and His resurrection from the dead. The salvation Christ offers is available to anyone, who as an act of his/her will, receives freely, by grace alone, and through faith in Christ alone, apart from good works, this salvation. The person is then justified and sealed once and for all.

Eternal Life

We believe that every true believer is assured of eternal life with God.

We believe that every believer looks forward to the hope of Christ's coming when each will receive a resurrection body, whether through resurrection from the dead or translation while still living.

We believe that all believers will share in the eternal state after Christ's millennial reign.

The Church

We believe that people and not buildings are the Church, for the local church is a coming together of believers.

We believe that Christians are to commit themselves to the local church with an attitude of love for one another as they carry out the activities of Bible teaching, fellowship, prayer, the Lord's table, and water baptism, seeking to build up one another in love as a witness to unregenerate people.

Human Sexuality

We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities, such as, but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, and bestiality are inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and efforts to alter one's gender, are incompatible with the biblical witness.



We believe that marriage has been ordained by God. This church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment.

Because the whole counsel of God's Word indicates otherwise...

We reject any philosophy or theology which denies that human free will can be exercised in the receiving of Christ's free gift of salvation. Specifically, we reject the belief that Jesus' atonement was limited in its extent. Instead, we believe that He died for all unrighteous people and that any perceived limitation rests in one's free rejection of Christ's finished work of atonement. We also reject the assertion that God's wooing grace cannot be resisted or that He has elected some people to go to hell. Instead, we believe that anyone who wills to come to Christ may do so freely as a result of the Holy Spirit's conviction and wooing persuasion of the heart.

We reject "positive confession," also known as the Faith Movement, which teaches that faith is a force to create one's own reality and that God can be commanded to heal or work miracles according to man's will and faith.

We reject human prophecy that supersedes or is contrary to the Scriptures.

We reject any psychological or philosophical teaching which is contrary to scripture and is in substance "according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ".

We reject the "Emergent Church" and its postmodernism, insofar as it departs from the historic orthodox Christian doctrines. .

We reject the overemphasis of spiritual gifts and experiential signs and wonders to the exclusion of biblical teaching.

We reject any "spirituality movement" that incorporates into a believer's communication with God any alien eastern philosophies of religion, pantheism, and/or panentheism and results in the "emptying" of the mind and the vain repetition of words.



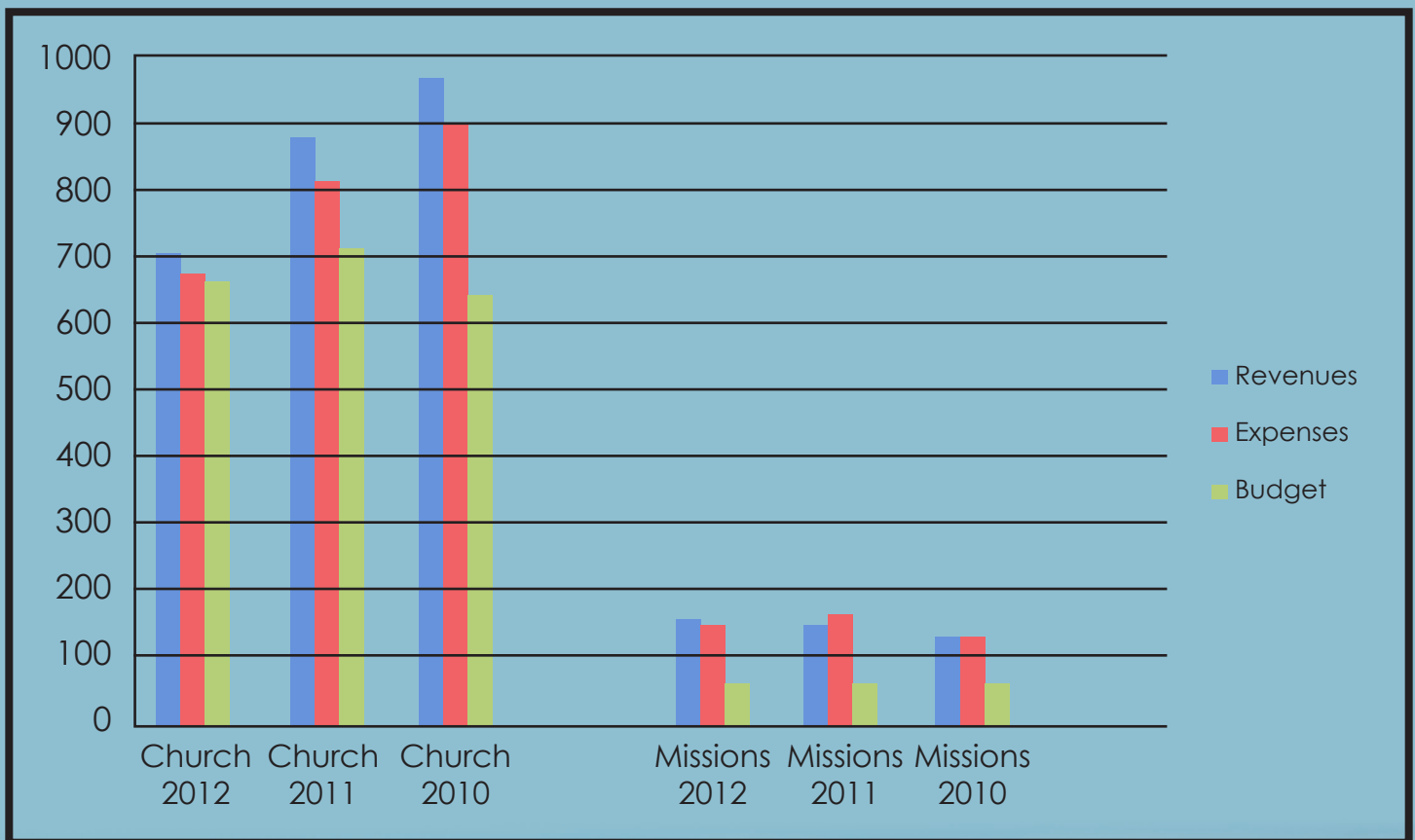
Our Numbers

BFC Financial Summary

Bible Fellowship Church has ended the calendar year with a positive revenue flow for each of the previous three years. While the Valley experienced an economic downturn, the staff of the church has carefully controlled costs, and the congregation has remained faithful to their financial responsibilities. Bible Fellowship Church has always maintained a passion for missions, consistently growing our contribution to various missionaries and

organizations, both locally and around the world. One-tenth of the general fund of Bible Fellowship Church is tithed to missions.

Our facilities at Bible Fellowship Church have been completely paid off and no outstanding debt remains on any of our property. The church was able to pay off the remaining donor loans for the kitchen and Youth House additions in January 2012, and we celebrated with a fun ceremony burning the mortgage.



Our Campus

Our most recent building project added a large kitchen area as well as The Youth House to the multipurpose room.

The buildings are paid for and well maintained through the tithes and offerings of BFC congregants.

