

History of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of La Grande, Oregon

Est. August 2nd, 2014

Introduction by Bro. David Tierce

In the fall of 2009, Bro. Roger Crabtree, pastor of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Springfield, Oregon, received word that there may be some interest in having a church established in the La Grande, Oregon, area. This interest originated from a conversation that a member of a sister church had with a former member of a New Testament church that had been located in La Grande previously, but had been out of existence for nearly 20 years.

Bro. Crabtree made a visit to La Grande in early October, 2009, to try and touch base with not only the aforementioned individual, but also some other of the former members of that same disbanded church. He wanted to gauge the degree of interest in having a Scriptural church again in that town. There had been two previously that we are aware of.

After that initial visit, it was made known to the sister churches about the need of prayer to seek the Lord's guidance in this matter. Within a few weeks, plans were made for a second trip to La Grande. Bro. Crabtree invited myself, a preacher from the Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, Oregon, and Bro. Shaun Templeton, pastor of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, Oregon. Our goal was to make contact again with the former members and see how much interest there may truly be in sending a missionary on the field to start a work. We were received well, but the interest seemed hesitant and cautious at first. We went home with the intent on continuing in prayer and seeking the leadership of the Lord.

Near the end of January, 2010, another trip was planned to make contact again and to see if the interest had grown or completely gone away. Making the trip this time was Bro. Crabtree, Bro. Doug Barnett, pastor of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Vancouver, Washington, and Bro. Nathan Hocker, a member of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Springfield, Oregon, and myself. It was on this trip that it truly seemed

like the desire to have a church in the area was evident. One man in particular, Bro. Charles Dolbin, at one point in a conversation said, "I'm begging you, I need you guys to come to La Grande!" We had talked with some of the other people we had made contact with, but none seemed as desirous of a work coming to La Grande as Bro. Dolbin. For the next few months, much prayer was offered up by all the sister churches in our Pacific Northwest fellowship. Bro. Crabtree and myself maintained regular contact with those in La Grande.

In April, 2010, the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Springfield, Oregon, voted to lead out in the efforts to start a church in La Grande, Oregon. They asked me to come to be considered and examined about my interest, commitment, and calling to La Grande to be their missionary. After being questioned, I was asked if I would in fact be their missionary to La Grande for this endeavor. I was confident I knew what the Lord wanted, but I wanted to be sure. After taking about a week to pray and meditate on this, I accepted the calling of the Lord to go to La Grande as a missionary to

start a Scriptural New Testament church under the authority of the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Springfield, Oregon.

As a current member of the Albany Missionary Baptist Church, on May 15th, 2010, the church ordained me to the full Gospel ministry with our sister churches participating. An additional blessing to that particular weekend, it was the next day, Sunday, that my oldest daughter, Faith, finally accepted the Lord as her Savior after years of struggle! On June 2nd, 2010, my wife, Gina, and I, along with our two oldest children, Tyler and Faith, were granted letters of membership to the Springfield Church. On June 23rd, 2010, the Springfield Church voted to send me with the authority of Christ that comes through her to do a mission work in La Grande, Oregon, and to baptize any upon their profession of faith and a desire to serve the Lord until such time a church can be established in that area.

On July 1st, my wife and I, along with our three children, Tyler, Faith, and Raegan, moved on the field. On Sunday, July 4th, 2010, we held our first service in the living room of our home

at 2206 Washington Ave, La Grande, Oregon. We had approximately 30 brethren from our sister churches in attendance. The next Sunday, we saw our first visitor from the community for the morning service, and then another visitor came for the second service. While attending church camp in July, my youngest daughter, Raegan, made a profession of salvation. I administered our first baptism on July 25th, in our inflatable swimming pool in the backyard that was big enough to immerse in.

By early August, we were able to convert our garage into a facility that we could conduct services in and began doing so from that point on. We saw new faces fairly regularly as fliers were being passed out, radio announcements were being made, and a feature article in the local newspaper got the word out in the community about our arrival in town. It was in early August, that we saw the first soul saved from the community. As a result, on September 26th, 2010, I was blessed to baptize Sis. Tia Larkins and she too was added to the church in Springfield to work in La Grande.

By December of that same year, it became evident that using the garage for services was not going to work any longer. With the temperatures dipping below zero at times, the wood stove that we were using to heat was no longer able to keep the space warm. In mid-December, 2010, we secured space at Eastern Oregon University to hold services.

On March 20th, 2011, we had another addition. After months of visiting in services and several weeks of Bible studies, Sis. Gail Ainsworth came forward and gave her testimony of her salvation as a young adult. I was able to baptize her and she was added to the church in Springfield to work here in La Grande.

We were blessed to be able to purchase a home of our own in April, 2011. This act really went a long way in helping people see that we were not just going to be here for a short amount of time. This showed that we were committed to this area and this work for the Lord.

On Wednesday, August 20th, 2011, Bro. Charles Dolbin-Larkins, one of the first contacts we

made prior to moving to La Grande, finally surrendered to Scriptural baptism. After giving his testimony of salvation as a teenager, he was baptized, and added to the church in Springfield to work here in La Grande.

On October 16th, 2011, we were able to move to a more permanent location for services at 2620 Bearco Loop. It was a tremendous blessing to finally have a building that could be dedicated solely for services. This same month, with the help of Sis. Brenda Dodson, a member of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Creswell, Oregon, we were able to get a website going where Bible beliefs, lesson outlines, and audio sermons were made available.

On November 16th, 2011, after several months of visitation and Bible studies, Bro. Isaac Coria came forward. He desired Scriptural baptism. After his profession of faith, I administered baptism to him on November 27th.

In June, 2012, after having several Bible studies and attending services, Sis. Cathy "Cat" Penn came forward asking to be baptized. Desiring to join the church in Springfield to work

in La Grande, I baptized Sis. Penn on June 24th, 2012.

In July, 2012, while attending church camp, three of the people that went with us were saved. Two of which, had previously made “professions” of faith and had been “baptized”. On July 22nd, 2012, I was privileged to administer baptism to Sis. Raegan Tierce, Bro. Isaac Coria, and Sis. Heather Middleton. All of these professed to coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at camp the previous week.

In September, 2012, we set a goal of raising enough money to purchase a new piano. After only three months, and with a generous offering from the Albany Missionary Baptist Church, we were able to accomplish our goal. We were able to purchase a newer piano for use in our services.

On Sunday, May 26th, 2013, Sis. Crystal Dolbin-Larkins came forward asking for Scriptural baptism. Sis. Crystal testified that she had been saved as a young teenager while attending church camp. She had been a member of the disbanded church previously in

La Grande, but there were some questions concerning her baptism. She asked me to baptize her to remove all doubt to make sure her baptism was acceptable in God’s eyes.

Sunday, June 7th, 2013, marked the first Sunday in our new building, located at 2707 Bearco Loop. This building provided a bit more space, but most importantly, it was a much better location. It was more visible to the public. Having more space, we also had a desire to try to obtain some pews to use rather than the chairs we had been using. We were able to locate pews a few hours away. We had them in the building on our first Sunday service. I heard several times over the first few weeks at this new location that “this feels like what a church building should feel like”.

On Sunday, July 7th, 2013, I was able to administer the ordinance of baptism to Sis. Jade Seale. Sis. Jade stated that she was saved around seven or eight years old while attending a Bible day camp. Her desire was to follow the Lord in service.

A few weeks later, my wife, Gina, who had made a profession of salvation as a teenager, came forward and let it be known that in fact she had just recently been saved. She wanted to be Scripturally baptized since her previous baptism was based on a false profession of salvation. On July 21st, 2013, I was blessed to baptize my wife and see her added to the Lord's church in Springfield and serving here in La Grande.

Through all the wonderful things that have gone on since moving to La Grande, there are many other blessings that have come along too. My son, Tyler, who was 14 when we moved here, has jumped in to be our song leader and bringing devotionals in services. Bro. Charles and Bro. Tyler are now sharing time bringing Sunday morning devotionals. My oldest daughter, Faith, who was 13 when we moved here, seeing the need for a piano player, began teaching herself how to play the piano. We now have music in our song services. She also has been our preschool Sunday School teacher since coming to La Grande. My youngest daughter, Raegan, has been taking care of flower arrangements for our building. She has

also invited and brought more visitors with her to services than anyone else. My wife has been our sixth to eighth grade Sunday School teacher and is beginning to start up a ladies' Bible study group. I know I have probably forgotten so many other things people have done to help in the work here. I am so thankful that my family and those that have joined since then have had a desire and willingness to help out in the ministry the Lord has brought us to. I am confident that the efforts and willingness of each one has resulted in the Lord bringing not only new faces, but also regular returning visitors to us each week.

We know the Lord is working and even though Satan has won a few battles in the lives of some that have now walked away, we feel truly blessed that the Lord has moved us to this field of labor. We are enjoying the fellowship and brotherly love of those that are striving to see a Scriptural New Testament church established in this area. Knowing that once established, the desire and continuous goal is to be a great lighthouse for the Lord!

Dave Tierce, Missionary

Lineage:

On August 2nd, 2014, the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Springfield, Oregon, voted to organize an independent, local, New Testament church in La Grande, Oregon. The new church voted to be called the First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of La Grande, Oregon.

The First Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Springfield, Oregon was organized on January 9th, 1960, by the authority of the Duke Street Missionary Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon. The Duke Street church later changed its name to the Hillcrest Missionary Baptist Church. In 1962, they move to Oregon City, Oregon.

The Duke Street Missionary Baptist Church was organized on May 30th, 1958, by the authority of the Lobster Valley Missionary Baptist Church, Lobster Valley, Oregon. Bro. Elmore Harty was the missionary sent out for all three of these churches.

The Lobster Valley Missionary Baptist Church was organized by the authority of the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Sacramento, California in 1957. Bro. Guy S. Martin was the missionary sent out by the Sacramento Church to work in Lobster Valley.

The Sacramento Landmark Missionary Baptist Church was organized by the authority of the Woodbridge Missionary Baptist Church of Woodbridge, California in 1952.

The Woodbridge Missionary Baptist Church was organized by the authority of the Riverbank Missionary Baptist Church of Riverbank, California on July 27th, 1950.

The Riverbank Missionary Baptist Church was organized by the authority of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Salinas, California on May 19th, 1940.

The First Missionary Baptist Church of Salinas was organized as the Hebron Heights

Missionary Baptist Church on August 11th, 1935, by the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Caldwell, Idaho. Bro. R. Y. Blalock was their missionary.

The Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Caldwell, Idaho, was organized by the Meridian Baptist Church of Meridian, Idaho on January 30th, 1927.

The Meridian Baptist Church was organized in the spring of 1924 by the authority of the Cloverdale Baptist Church in Cloverdale, Oregon. The Cloverdale Church endorsed Bro. Blalock upon him leaving in November of 1923. Letters were later granted from Cloverdale for the Meridian Church. Bro. Blalock continued his correspondence with the Cloverdale Church throughout the 1930's showing his endorsement for missionary work to Idaho through the Cloverdale Church.

The Cloverdale Baptist Church was organized as the First Nestucca Bay Baptist Church of Christ on April 10th, 1897, by the authority of the Mt. Hebo Baptist Church of Hebo, Oregon.

The Mt. Hebo Baptist Church was organized by the authority of the Fairview Baptist Church of Fairview, Oregon, in the spring of 1893. Bro. William Bailey, then pastor of Fairview, led in the organization of Mt. Hebo.

In February, 1891, the First Dallas Baptist Church dismissed several members for the purpose of organizing the church at Fairview.

The First Dallas Baptist Church was organized in 1856 by the authority of the LaCreole Baptist Church.

The LaCreole Baptist Church was organized on July 18th, 1846, by the authority of the West Union Baptist Church. In 1845, the West Union Baptist Church voted to authorize her pastor, Bro. Vincent Snelling, to baptize and organize churches by the authority coming through that church.

The West Union Church was organized on May 25th, 1844, with Missionary Baptists that had traveled on the Oregon Trail in 1843 on the first wagon train to Oregon. Bro. David T. Lenox,

coming from the Todd's Creek Baptist Church in Todd's Creek, Missouri, led in the organization.

The Todd's Creek Baptist Church in Todd's Creek, Missouri, was started in 1837 with the authority coming through the Mt. Zion Church in Missouri.

Mt. Zion Church was organized by the authority of the Providence Baptist Church in Warren County, Kentucky. This church was in the Warren County Association of Baptist Churches in Kentucky. This is one of the first associations of Baptist Churches in the United States.

The churches of the Warren Association and the Philadelphia Association of churches were two of the first association of Baptist Churches in the new world. Bro. John Gano, worked in the churches of both of these associations. He baptized George Washington.

The Philadelphia Association of Baptist Churches started in 1707. Some of these churches were whole churches that moved from Wales to this new world. Bro. Elder H.

Roller, a pastor associated with the Philadelphia Association came from the Hill Cliffe Baptist Church of Wales, England.

The Hill Cliffe Baptist Church was organized by Aaron Arlington, 987 A.D. who was sent out by the Lima Piedmont Church in 940.

The Lima Piedmont Church was organized by Balcolao, in 812 A.D. He was sent out by the church at Timto, Asia Minor.

Timto Church was organized by Archer Flavin, 738 A.D. sent out by the Darethea Church.

The Darethea Church was organized by Adromicus, 671 A.D. in Asia Minor.

Andromicus came from the Pontifossi Church in the Alps of France. The Pontifossi Church was organized by Tellestman from Turan, Italy, 398 A.D.

Turan church was organized by Tertullan from Bing Joy, Africa, 237 A.D. Tertullan was a member of the Partus Church at the foot of the Tiber, that was organized by Polycarp in 150 A.D.

Polycarp was baptized by John the Beloved on December 25th, 95 A.D. John was called out by Jesus and worked under the authority of the Jerusalem Church, which was the first church that Jesus started on the seashores of Galilee.

NOTE: On January 31, 2016 the First Landmark MBC of La Grande, OR moved into a building located at 1812 First St, La Grande, OR. A few weeks later, a deal was finalized and we were able to purchase this building to use for the honor and glory of the Lord!

**“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
Matthew 16:18**

**“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”
Proverbs 22:28**