

MBC History

Updated: March 2009

In 1977, a number of families living in Martensville were attending Ebenezer Baptist Church in Saskatoon. After some discussion about the feasibility of having their own services in Martensville they acquired a large classroom in the local school and began to meet. Twenty-five people attended the first Sunday morning worship service in August 1977. Soon Sunday school was inaugurated with three classes welcoming the students.

Martensville Baptist Church was officially organized in 1978. Ten individuals gave testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ, signed the Charter of Faith and became the chartered members of the church. Baptisms were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church and Redberry Lake the first year.

Throughout 1978 the attendance grew and it became feasible for the congregation to have their own church building. They elected a building committee in March. In April of that same year, Walter Boymook (Lyla) became the full-time pastor. In July of 1978, Ebenezer and Fairhaven Baptist Churches of Saskatoon were represented at the sod turning ceremony. Two generous brothers who were part of the Martensville community had donated the land. The next day, construction began and the people worked together and did most of the construction themselves. In November, the church opened its doors for worship with Rev. Bill McLeod encouraging the congregation from God's Word.

Through the rapid growth, difficulties arose and in 1979, Walter Boymook resigned as pastor of Martensville Baptist Church. Several families left with him and met in another location in town.

This was a difficult time for the church but God proved faithful and Henry Gossen (Frances) was called as pastor later that year. The church went through a time of healing and rebuilding. They struggled financially and at one point the debt almost became overwhelming. After calling on the conference for help, a large amount of the debt was forgiven and the church was freed to go on with ministry. Henry Gossen had a fruitful ministry and remained as pastor until illness forced his resignation in December of 1992.

In April of 1993, Denis Brooks (Leona) was hired as an interim pastor for a one-year term. He was sixty-six years old and retired from ministry when he was asked to come and help the church. After the completion of that year, he became the pastor and remained in that position until his second retirement in June of 1999.

Barry Friesen (Becky) served as Youth Pastor from September of 1998 until June of 2000.

In September of 1999 Scott Tulhurst was hired for a six-month term to lead the

church through a time of refocusing. He remained until July of 2000.

Without a full-time pastor, and filled with uncertainty about the churches direction, many of the younger families left. This left the church in a difficult position. Numbers were low and finances limited.

In September of 2000, Walter Boymook was asked to return to take the position of interim pastor. In September of 2001, Bob Thomas was called as half-time pastor to join Walter Boymook who moved to a part time position. Though the church was happy with Bob Thomas, his ministry was short. Because of personal struggles over doctrinal differences Bob Thomas resigned in April of 2002. Walter Boymook remained on to help the church until May 26, 2002 when he retired. Walter was strong at visitation and called on many families in town.

MBC History *Since August 2002*

In August of 2002, Harv Sawatzky (Sharon) was called to pastor Martensville Baptist Church. His mandate was to help the church head in a new direction and become focused on winning the people of Martensville for Christ. Pastor Harv's gifting is his relational style of leadership and in a loving, humorous way he challenged the church to change. With godly character and hands-on ministry, he led them through a transition towards a healthy, vibrant church.

In the spring of 2006, the Baptist General Conference District of Saskatchewan called Harv to be the half-time District Coach. He remained the Lead Pastor at Martensville Baptist on a "supposedly" part-time basis. This allowed the church to bring on Tim Braun as the Associate Pastor September 1, 2006. Pastor's Tim's gifts led him to be responsible for the area of music and small groups. He also was able to help fill the pulpit during the times that Pastor Harv was required to "change hats" to District Coach at another church.

Building for Eternity Campaign was held in the Fall of 2007. It was a 6 week campaign teaching people the scriptural principles of giving. At the Celebration Event, the people of MBC committed \$380,000 to a new building program that began in the spring of 2008 and was nearly completed by October 2008. Along with the pledges and gifts regularly on Sundays, the church borrowed the extra needed from Faithlife Financial.

Jared Brandes joined the staff as on a 4 month internship for Bethany College in September 2008 to work with specifically with the youth. In January of 2009, he was hired as the second Associate Pastor with responsibilities in the Youth area and others as needed.

Through all the changes God has shown His faithfulness and He is working in the hearts and lives of people. This is evidenced through our continual climb in

attendance. The average attendance on a Sunday morning in 2002 was 53 growing to 163 in 2008.

The history of this church is not complete. God is at work and continues to call us to lead people to becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus.

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Phil 1:6