First Missionary Baptist Church of Moultonborough
Church History 1960—1994
History of the
First Missionary Baptist Church
Moultonborough, New Hampshire
July 29, 1962
June 1, 1994

Because of the interest of Clyde and Verna Foss of N. H. they approached their son Fred Foss and Arthur Melancen who were Ordained Ministers to start a Missionary Baptist Church here in this area. Elder Fred Foss was at this time pastor of the Baptist Church in Jacksonville Arkansas and did not feel the Lord was leading him to leave. Elder Arthur Melancen had been Ordained by the Butterfield Missionary Baptist Church and working in a small place called Rockport out of Malvern, Arkansas.

Elder Melancen told of his desires to go to New Hampshire preach and work to establish a New Testament Church. The Butterfield Church in their regular business meeting on August 3rd 1960 voted to endorse Elder Melancen as missionary to N.H. and to give him authority to baptize and receive members in their name. Some had a hard time seeing how they could be a member of a church they had never seen.

When the Butterfield Missionary Baptist Church lost their pastor and they called Elder Hoyette Johnson as pastor. The Mission grew and so did the Butterfield Church. There were seven children in the Melancen family but only four of the children came with them. Three sons were already married and stayed in Arkansas. When the preacher and his family of six came there was no place to stay. Brother Foss and his wife took them into their home. They had prayer meetings with songs and lessons in their home for the months they stayed until they bought a house on Route 25 about a mile from Center Harbor.

The property had a workshop known as the Davis Garage. The garage was cleaned out and was used to hold services. Elder Melancen worked as a machinist for a company in Laconia to support his family. In his spare time he worked on the garage adding on three rooms to be used as Sunday school rooms. They were having twelve to fourteen in the morning services. The Butterfield
Church recommended him to the American Baptist Association for salary but it was not enough to support his family.

In 1962 Elder Melancen and the congregation decided to organize into a church. The Butterfield church gave their approval and their blessing. July 29, 1962 was the time set to organize. Notice was sent out to all the other New Testament churches asking all Preachers and deacons to come. Each person in the mission had requested a letter from their home church to take part in the organization. Some wondered how they could be a member of a church they had never seen and a pastor they had never met. Elder Hoyette Johnson being the pastor of the Butterfield church in Ark. came so they could at least meet their pastor one time before they organize.

On the 29th of July 1962 the little converted garage building was full. A presbytery was called to order and the jobs were given as listed below:

Clerk —— Elder H.S. Lawrence
Moderator ——— Elder Hoyette Johnson
Covenant ——— Elder Fred Foss
Articles of Faith ——— Elder Roy Blankenship
Organization prayer —— Elder Hoyette Johnson
Organization sermon — Elder Robert Melancen
Elder Robert Melancen opened in prayer.

The clerk read the letter of each given to organize

1. Elder Arthur Melancen
2. Emma Melancen
3. Marion Melancen
4. William Melancen
5. Christel Melancen
6. Phillip Melancen
7. Jean Melancen
8. Mabel Nudd
9. Attie Berry
10. Richard Young
11. Marilyn Clifford
12. Malcolm Proux

13. June Young came on promise of a letter

At the end of service Margie Nudd came for Baptism, the first to be baptized by the new church. A motion was made and seconded that Elder Arthur Melancen Sr. be the church Pastor. The motion was carried unanimously. Sister Mabel Nudd was elected as the church clerk. The right hand of Christian fellowship was given to sister Margie (Nudd) Hannett. Bro. Richard Young made a motion to adjourn and gave the closing prayer. The church made a motion and seconded to having services Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Tuesday evening.

Rae Marie Davis came August 1st and Althea Perkins came on August the 2nd. Elder Roy Blankenship and Family came from Ayer Mass. Nov. 25, 1962. He was stationed at Fort Devens Army Base. Elder Blankenship was an ordained minister from the church in Hawaii. He was given the authority to receive members and to baptize.

The church voted to have Elder Hoyette Johnson to come and hold a revival effort in Aug. 22-29, 1963. The church began to grow not only members but with many preachers. Richard Young was licensed to preach. William Farris came as a deacon with his family.

Elder Blankenship wanted someone to take over the mission in Ayer Mass. Elder Clyde Clark from Texas contacted him and plans were made for him to come. Oct. 15, 1963 letters were granted to members that attended in Ayer to organize into a church in Ayer. In Nov. 1963 Pastor Robert Melancen Sr. died of heart failure. Elder Johnson and Elder Young came from Ark. To conduct the service.

Arthur Melancen Jr. was called as missionary pastor. In May of 1964 the church set a time to call a pastor. The vote was to be by ballot. Elder Hoyette H. Johnson from Butterfield Missionary Baptist church in Arkansas was elected unanimously. He accepted the call if he could come in July. The church voted to authorize Elder Dick Young to purchase a church building in Lakeport, N. H. in the church's name. Elder Young was ordained and sent to Lakeport as our missionary.

On July 12, 1964 the church received the Johnson fam-
ily on promise of letters from Butterfield Missionary Baptist church. The church had been discussing a new building. Pastor Johnson said a vote was needed to start building a new building. They voted to accept plans to build and gave the men the green light. The building fund consisted of Four Hundred Fifty Dollars. The first thing that was needed was a deed that was free and clear. Bro. Lee Huston and Pastor Johnson managed to find some old culvert pipe in different dumping grounds and put them in front of the building spot. The deal to dig the foundation with Avery fell through so Dock Mallard donated the use of a dozer, backhoe and dump truck and Bro. Lee would furnish the fuel. Bro. Lee operated the backhoe and Pastor Johnson operated the dozer and the foundation was dug. Because a spring was found well tile had to be used. Sand, gravel and cement for footings were purchased and was mixed with a half bag mixer. Bro. Clyde Foss had gravel delivered and Wool Wakefield had load of cement delivered. Cement blocks cost 26 cents a block but Dell Gilbert Block let the church have them for 18 cents. Bro. Lee and Elder Johnson laid the blocks with Elder James Melancen laying a few. Framing for the floor was purchased from Prescott Lumber Co. And the floor was framed. There were just a few men in the church and most came from Pease Air Force Base in Newington N.H. on week ends. Mr. Anderson of Prescott Lumber Co. gave enough five inch tongue lumber to put down the sub floor. Pastor Johnson cut the flooring and placed it but Sister Huston and Sister Johnson nailed every board. The floor was covered with a heavy poly for the winter.

Oct. 18, 1964 A motion was made to endorse Elder James Melancen to do mission work in name of the church. Walter Nave gave to the church enough logs, still standing, to frame and close in the building. Larry and Ron Davis cut the trees back in the summer. Bro. Huston had a Scout service truck with a wench that He and Pastor Johnson used to pull the logs to a loading yard. The snow was between 30 and 36 inches deep. Elder Johnson worked for Burlie Moulton to pay for hauling the logs to the mill and the lumber back. Sister Alice Mullen paid to have the lumber sawed. The men worked in the basement all winter pouring concrete floors. When the building was back-filled the long block walls bowed in and the women of the church took shovels and dug out the fill. It was replaced with a better grade of sand.
The frame work began to go up and the walls were put on. Pastor Johnson again cut the boards and Sister Huston and Sister Johnson nailed every board. The trusses were designed and made. The men from the Air Force Base gathered to help put them up. Mr. Peter Krain donated the windows for the entire building.

Early in 1965 Elder Young and Bro. Bill Farris started a work in Newington, N.H. Bro. Farris borrowed the brown song books for their services. It was at this time the church raised the pastor's salary to $35.00 a week. June 27, 1965 the church accepted sponsorship of the mission in Rensselaer N. Y. Elder Howard Lawrence, Renona Lawrence and Helen Salem was accepted as members and Elder Lawrence as missionary with authority to receive and baptize members. July 7, 1965 the church set aside Elder James Melancen to be ordained. In July 24, 1965 the churches and missions met for there first youth rally. In January 1966 the church voted not to purchase building at 34 Belvedere St. Lakeport, N.H.

On May 15, 1966, the time came to put up the ceiling and to finish the floor but this would take a larger sum of money so the church obtained a loan for $3000.00 dollars. The work was being accomplished, the walls were being painted, the ceiling was being finished, the oak floor was being finished. The inside was looking very good.

Dec. 7th, after much prayer, the church withdrew fellowship from Roy Blankenship on grounds of non repentance.

The light fixtures were purchased in Manchester. The church moved into the new building in 1966. It was not completed but was enough to hold services. The church voted March 1, 1967 to grant letters for the Farris family and the James Melancen family to unite with Grace Baptist church in Bowie, Md. And also Bro. Farris as an ordained deacon and Elder Melancen as a regular licensed minister.

The men were asked to find the best company to put in the septic system and get it done. April 1, 1969 Bro. Malcolm and Marion Proulx and Elder James Melancen and wife Paula came on promise of letter with Elder James Melancen requesting to be Ordained. A motion was made to hold the ordination service Saturday May 3, 1969 at 2:30. May 4, 1969 Elder James Melancen was endorsed as our missionary to Pennsylvania with full authority to baptize and receive members. Wednesday, May 21st Richard
Young returned his Ordination papers to the church. July 6, 1969 Pastor Johnson was call as pastor but he declined due to five negative votes. Sunday July 27, 1969 the church called Elder Johnson as pastor unanimously. The church purchased 14 oak pews from the church in Ayer Mass. Mr. Krain donated new doors for the entrance (we had installed used doors). The men were asked to check on culvert to finish across the front. The culvert was purchased and installed. The parking lot was black topped July 14, 1971.

In July 1970, Pastor Johnson resigned as pastor to go to Arkansas for hip surgery. He was away from the church eleven months. Then in July of 1971 the church called him as pastor. Aug. 28th an arm was extended to Bro. James Fillieo (Who was a member of the Moultonborough church) to start a mission work in Brandon, Vermont.

The members of the church desired a steeple for the church building. Pastor Johnson drew up the plans for it, and work began to build it. Mr. Peter Krain donated all the materials for the project. (and was very pleased to see it in place before he went South in October)

The men built the first stage on the roof of the church and Pastor Johnson and Arthur George built the next two stages in his barn, (note pastor Johnson was still on crutches because of hip surgery). When finished, all sections were hauled to the church. Mr. Don Dockham came with a one-hundred forty foot crane and raised the next two stages and also installed the bell.

The bell for the steeple was a gift from Mr. And Mrs. Wally Grey of Georges Mills. They owned a chapel that was converted into a gift shop. Though we tried to buy the bell, they gave it to the church. Wally said that it would bring more glory to God in the steeple.

In September of 1972 the church added a twelve foot addition, the full width of the back of the building, with a basement. Bro. Bob Holopainen rented a backhoe to excavate for the foundation. Mr. Larry Davis donated two loads of gravel before the footings were put in. We had a hard rain and the foundation hole was turned to mud! The women of the church took shovels and removed the mud so that the forms for the footings could be built. The work of building the addition was under way! Part of this addition would be used for an office space and a Baptistery.

Sister Doris Dwinneis, an elderly member of the church,
volunteered to paint the mural in the Baptistry. The walls were covered in Irish Linen. The Mural is of the Jordan River. Before she began on the wall, Sister Doris painted it on a canvas and it hangs in the church office.

June 3, 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore Donated $1,500.00 dollars to pay off the mortgage on the church building. $100.00 be set aside for Bibles for new converts the rest to be used in the building fund.

Mr. Peter Krain contacted Bro. Lee Huston desiring to do something to help with the building of the baptistery. He paid the entire bill. The baptistery was completed with water and heat. Also two dressing rooms were added at one end of the addition. A church office was at the other end. All was finished and occupied on Dec. 5th.

When Fort Devens, in Massachusetts, closed the church in Ayer, they lost most of their members. Elder Clyde Clark, the pastor at that time, gave notice he was leaving and offered Moultonborough church the opportunity to purchase the parsonage for $28,000 and the church building free of charge. This was acceptable with the church. Pastor H.S. Lawrence, a missionary from the church in Moultonborough, was working with the mission in Round Lake N.Y. felt led to take over the work in Ayer. The church accepted Pastor Lawrence's desire and recommended him to the American Baptist Association for salary. The property in Round Lake was sold and the money was used to pay on the property in Ayer.

Just a note here to give credit where credit is due. These things could not have been accomplished if not for our Lord Jesus Christ! Only through His Grace did the church do what was done. He gets all the credit!

In 1975 work was begun in the basement of the mission in Ayer. Floors were poured and the walls finished. Pastor Johnson built the Baptistry in his shop and transported it to be installed in Ayer.

In February 1977 Ralph Allen, a member in the mission in Ayer, surrendered to preach. Bro. Allen was licensed by the Moultonborough church. He moved to Florida where he was ordained by the Moultonborough church. He accepted the pastorate of Michigan Avenue Baptist Church of Pensacola. The church in Moultonborough had already built kidney
shaped tables for the Sunday school rooms and now they were purchasing chairs of different heights to go with each table. At this time they were nine rooms to be fitted with tables and chairs.

1978: April was a month to finish the baptistery. Sister Doris Dwinnels, an elderly member of the church, said she would paint the mural in the baptistery. Her teacher recommended to use Irish Linen on the walls but to round out the corners of the room. Mr. Frank McIntire again furnished transportation for Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.).

Brother Conrad Glover, pastor at Sheridan, Arkansas, was invited to come to preach a revival effort at our church. He was an old Missionary Baptist Preacher intuned with God! The church enjoyed not only his preaching but the joy of fellowship with him. He has gone on to be with his Lord. Greatly missed by all who knew him.

Our mission, in Ayer, has now grown enough to organize and the date was set on Oct. 21. The church voted to deed the buildings and land over to the Ayer church when it organizes. In 1979 the deed to the property in Ayer, Mass. was transferred from the Moultonborough church to the Immanuel church in Ayer.

Immanuel had purchased a chapel from the Army base and sold us some of their pews. February 20, 1980 the church purchased the rubber and fabric to cover the pew seats. Immanuel church in Ayer gave two more pews which they did not need to our church. The church also had the parking lot resurfaced.

The Northeast Landmark Missionary Baptist Association (NELMBA) was organized in September of 1981. The NELMBA included all the churches and missions of like faith and order in all the New England states. We met at designated churches every three months as quarterly meetings and also annual meeting in July.

Nov. 1981 Signed quick claim Deed to Foss, Lively and Lively the North East corner of the land originally given to the church for consideration paid by Foss, Lively and Lively.

Over the years there has been much mission work that our church was involved in. Immanuel church asked Elder Hoyette Johnson to take charge of building their mission building in Maine. Our pastor and some of the men of our congregation traveled to Dover Foxcroft, Maine to help in building a church house
for the members there. People from as far away as Fort Smith, Arkansas came to help in the building of this mission point. Elder George Wakefield was the missionary there at that time.

1988 was a slow year as far as construction work was concerned but the church still carried on their support of missions. They never gave less than 10% to missions since the day they became a church.

1989 Bro. Tim Cahoon and Pastor Johnson spent a full week in Foxcroft, Maine closing in the mission building. The roof is next but they must ask for a lot of volunteers. There is a lot of stairs and ground work.

From 1989 to 1991 there was only the regular work of the church. In August of 1991 it was time to purchase a new furnace. Again the Lord led the hearts of the people and the money came in for the furnace. The total collected was $2,645.00.

Another run of just regular church work until April of 1992 when Bro. Hugh Robinson resigned the church in Rome, New York. He planned to go back to Arkansas after surgery and look for work. He asked if we as a church would resume the responsibility of taking care of the building when he leaves.

May 20, 1992 the church had finally got insurance for the pastor and his family.

D. S. Madden, Secretary Treasurer of the American Baptist Association (ABA) will be with the NELMBA meeting in July. The meeting will be held in Dover Foxcroft, Maine with Elder George Wakefield hosting. Sunday morning July 12th Elder D S Madden preached for Moultonborough church on his way to the NELMBA meeting in Maine. Elder George Wakefield went on salary from the ABA as missionary to Maine for the years 1993 to 94.

August 8th Pastor Johnson helped in the ordination of Bro. Paul Brennan in Ayer Mass. The church in Ayer is the sponsoring church for the work in Dover Foxcroft, Maine.

Bro. Jackson of Fort Smith, Ark. is bringing eight carpenters to help finish the work on the building and put down the carpet. They are also bringing $4,350.00 to do the rest rooms. They will pick up the pews in New York and bring them to Maine.

What God wants done can be done if the people will follow Him. It is only by the Grace of God that the Church is here
today. We pray that this history will not only be interesting but help you to put your trust in the Lord for Salvation.

Elder Arthur Melancen Sr. in front of Davis Garage with the new entrance built on the front, see below:

The garage was built right down on the ground, see picture below. When a good rain came, the water would run in the front door. In the winter the water would freeze and the ice would be cut in small pieces and carried out.
A concise history of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Moultonboro. This history is of the starting of the church the buildings, missions, and the preachers. It was written to show the handy work of God and not the people. God did not open heaven and pour out money or opened gold mines; but opened the hearts of the people. Many non members gave freely of their money or materials to help us build. The church or the pastor did not ask for one dime to build the building. Yes, the opportunity was given to any who wanted to help with spreading the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Elder Hoyette H. Johnson