

THE VOICE

Broadview Missionary Baptist Church

Do you have a relationship with God? God loves you. The Scripture plainly says, "And God so loved the world (so loved sinners, and that means you) that He gave His Only Begotten Son (gave Him up to the Cross, for that's what it took to redeem humanity), that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life," (John 3:16). Call the church office at 708-343-3700, Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. for more information.

Interim Pastor
Rev. Christopher C. Robinson, Sr.



VERSE OF THE MONTH

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Church Anniversary
- Civil Unrest
- Church Reopening
- COVID Today
- Top 10 Gospel Songs

**BE WELL
BE SAFE**

BMBC 51ST ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Eugenia Curry



Again, the Lord has blessed Broadview Missionary Baptist Church to celebrate another year - it's 51st,

As a congregation, when we look back over the last 51 years we are truly blessed. Just look where God has brought us. From a rented church on 15th avenue to a remodeled building on 17th avenue to our present edifice on 25th avenue. That is just the physical blessing. But, look at how he has blessed so many souls to accept Christ. From roughly 30 members on 15th avenue to a high of nearly 3,000 on 25th avenue. That is the real blessing.

Although our current membership is less than 2,000, as the mother church, BMBC has given birth to several new churches who are under the leadership of preacher/pastors who were trained at BMBC. These ministers have started congregations in other suburbs closer to the homes of some of our original parishioners and have added others in that community. What a blessing.

God has truly blessed us to be led by God fearing men. Our first pastor was Rev. Otis Anderson, who served for 2 1/2 years; our second pastor, and longest serving Pastor Emeritus Clarence W. Hopson, served for 35 years; our recently retired pastor, Rev. Marvin G. Parker, served for 12 years as pastor and 16 years as assistant pastor with our Pastor Emeritus Hopson. Rev. Christopher C. Robinson, Sr (former assistant pastor) is now serving as Interim Pastor. They have all taught the Word of God without adding to or subtracting from the true Gospel.

As a congregation we were always taught to obey and thank the Lord. We were trained to always pray and seek the Lord in all our endeavors and lean not to our own understanding. We are told in scripture "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and has built goodly houses, and dwelt therein: Then thine heart be lifted up and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage." Deut. 8:11-12, 14.

When we look back over the last 51 years we see that God has allowed us to now live in any of the suburbs our money can afford. We are grateful and thankful. 51 years ago African Americans were limited to where they could live. God has blessed us that we are not limited to Maywood, Bellwood and Broadview, as the only near western suburbs to live in. What a change. To God be the glory. This is foreign to this new generation...but those of us who are older know only too well about the limitations...but God. However, that is why the above scripture is so important. The Lord does not want us to forget.

This expansion on where we could live gave us the opportunity to witness to many more people, many of whom accepted Christ and joined BMBC. The more members we had the more we could witness to and spread the Gospel.

During these 51 years our Mission Ministry grew from 2 missionaries to more than 300. Many missionaries served locally, while others served around the world. Just look at what God did with the little church on 15th avenue. Who would not serve a God like that. BMBC's strong teaching ministry has always been its greatest asset along with its prayer life. We cry out to God to give us guidance in making decisions and to thank him for his many blessings to us.

We are assured by his word that he will never leave us or forsake us. Even during this pandemic we can continue to have Sunday School, Tuesday School, & Prayer meeting via Zoom using the technology that the Lord has allowed us to have. The method may change, but the message remains the same. We can rest peacefully knowing that God is still in control. Praise the Lord!

As we move forward we are to remember to "Remove not the old landmarks which thy father has set." Proverbs 22:28

To God be the glory!



PROTESTS, UNREST AND THE GENERATIONAL DIVIDE

Written by Kristine P. Scott

Recently, my family and I had dinner as we watched the 7pm news on CNN. The news was covering the recent murder of Mr. George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

As discussion ensued it became clear to me that the way my children view the protests around racism, police cruelty towards minorities and bigotry are far more radical than those of people my age. The Millennials, Gen-X and

Gen-Y folks in my family and those of friends voice opinions that reflect beliefs that more should have been done by the "Baby Boomers" (my generation), and had we done more, things would be better for them now!

I lived through the 1960's as a teenager and I know how much was done. I watched the news as Dr. King marched in the South and water hoses were being sprayed on the protesters while dogs attacked them. Dr. King lived in slums to highlight deplorable living conditions in urban areas. He had a brick thrown at him in Cicero, Ill. and was spit on by hostile crowds of people who didn't want Blacks in their community. That was the 60's, but today, Blacks live in Cicero and Berwyn. The point is, that change takes time. Sustentative change often comes about gradually.

The current culture wants immediate change. We hear cries to defund the police forces across the country. The climate right now indicates that the change we as a people have long wanted is due now!

Today's African American youth don't understand why they have to wait for racism and police brutality to be over with. They have an urgency to these issues and rightly so.

Racism should not exist. For the young people who are raised in church, they are taught faith is the key....the Bible is clear that there is no room for racism in God's plan for His people. Each person you interact with, every man, woman and child is a unique creation of God Almighty. He loves them—and you—with a divine love so strong we can't possibly comprehend it.

While our imperfection, our rebellion and our sin creates a divide between us and the One who created us—and therefore a division between us and others—God formed a plan to close that gap and draw us back to Him. That plan is Jesus Christ, who heals and changes our hearts and gives us the ability to love others and God as we should.

Billy Graham once wrote in his book, *World Aflame* "In Christ the middle wall of a partition has been broken down. There is no Jew, no Gentile—no black, white, yellow, or red. We should be one great brotherhood in Jesus Christ."

However, until we come to recognize Him as the Prince of Peace and receive His love in our hearts, the racial tensions will increase, racial demands will become more militant, and a great deal of blood will be shed. The race problem could become another flame out of control!

This is so true! Look at what's happening since the senseless killing of Mr. George Floyd in Minnesota. The boiling pot of racism and injustice spilled onto the streets of America. People have had enough!

In the past, we have seen civil unrest rise up and result in protests aimed at changing racist behaviors in America.

In 1967, and again in 1973 amid civil unrest in the United States, Billy Graham preached on social injustice.

"The closer the people of all races get to Christ and His cross, the closer they will get to one another." —Billy Graham

I ask you, is the answer to true and sustained racial justice in America, directly related to what is taught to Christians early in life - the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior?

An excerpt from one of Billy Graham's books stated, "Jesus was not a white man; He was not a black man. He came from that part of the world that touches Africa and Asia and Europe. Christianity is not a white man's religion and don't let anybody ever tell you that it's white or black. Christ belongs to all people; He belongs to the whole world."

Accepting and believing this enforces the thought that God made no race is superior to another, and that we should all live together equally and without prejudice.

Can or will this ever come to pass? The answer to all the unrest brought on by senseless killings and other acts of brutality, racism and bigotry can be help by praying and asking our Lord to set his people on the pathway to freedoms and equality that were meant to be from the beginning. Somehow we've gotten way off track. Despite the generational differences of opinion collectively, can we agree that Jesus is the way back?



REOPENING THE CHURCH

THE CHURCH REOPENING PLANS

Written by Darlene Price

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22 NIV.

As the church plans to restart in-person services, the Reopening Committee led by Bro. Terry Murphy, is seeking the advice of professional healthcare providers, guidance from the CDC, and researching federal and state mandates on group gatherings as it develops and recommends a reopening plan to the Church Board. The Committee will also be surveying the membership to determine their comfort level in returning to church, precautions they plan to take, and their expectation of church safety protocols for corporate worship.

Now that we are in Phase 4 of the state's reopening plan, many churches have begun limited corporate worship service. However, with social distancing, PPE requirements, and group restrictions, worship service during this phase will resemble that of a bygone era for Broadview Baptist. Instead of assembling inside the building (which will be closed until further notice), the Reopening Committee is recommending that we have drive-in worship services in the church parking lot. Those attending will have the option of remaining in their vehicles. Social distancing and facemasks will be required for those who chose to sit outside of their vehicles. Drive-in services could possibly begin as early as August.

During Phase 5, the final phase of the state's reopening, Broadview Baptist plans to return to indoor services, with some restrictions and stringent safety precautions. Temperatures will be taken on everyone entering the building and a log maintained for contact tracing, masks and social distancing will be required, and the church will strictly follow government sanitizing mandates. Services will be available via hook-up for members who chose to worship from home and the online transmission of information and giving will be encouraged. This phase will unfortunately see a reduction and/or elimination of some services, meetings, and ministry activities. Phase 5 is not expected to begin until a vaccine or treatment becomes available.

Bro. Murphy wants the congregation to know that in recommending a reopening strategy to the Board, the Reopening Committee wants to ensure the congregation is comfortable in returning to the building, a safe environment that complies with government protocols is established and maintained, and we, as a baptized body of believers, are doing everything decent and in order to the glory of God.

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Wash your hands
often with soap
and water for at
least 20 seconds.



CDC
RECOMMENDATIONS

COVID-19 PREVENTION

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 AND WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Written by Tamela Harris

Well BMBC, we've had to adapt to many new changes as what's considered to be the "New Norm" over the last few months. Although irritating to many, the safety habits that are developing and the boundaries that have been set forth until a vaccine can be developed to eradicate the human destruction of this pandemic are currently all that we can rely on. Even then, to a degree, some safety measures that have been put into place could still be expected to be followed as an overall standard.

Within the US, there are over 2.6 million confirmed cases and over 127,000 deaths. As testing is now more prominent and readily available, there is still currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 but continued research and clinical testing is a major focus to achieve this goal and to cure those affected.

As of June 26th, Illinois moved into Stage 4 – Revitalization, in which gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, health care providers are open instead of virtual appointments, the opening of child cares, non-essential businesses, bars and restaurants, entertainments, theaters, gyms, and retail stores.

We've seen a decline in the number of cases with people following the guidelines set forth by the CDC, due to the practicing of safeguards that are not limited to the wearing of masks, cleaning, sanitizing hands and social distancing. However, we've also seen increases within those once declining numbers throughout various states. The tactics the CDC requires us to practice are being relaxed based on the individual state's requirements compared to the country as a whole during each state's re-opening stages. With the weather becoming warmer, people wanting to be outside to enjoy the warmer climate and the activities Summer allows, we have seen many become relaxed in their practices of safety.

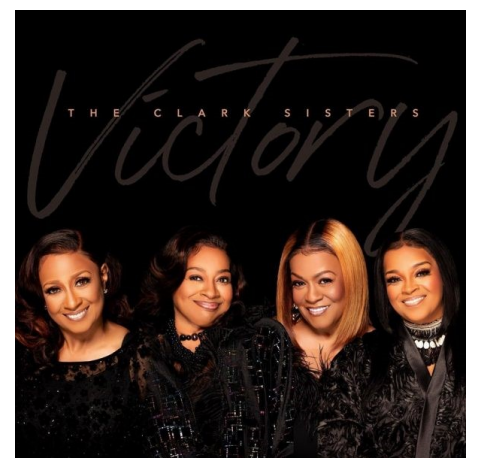
BMBC, let's continue to keep ourselves and our families safe. Let's continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC, use our common knowledge for safety and pray as God continues to protect us and guide us through this pandemic's journey. We look forward to being within our sanctuary to fellowship and enjoy our BMBC family and praise the Lord as one again.

TOP 10 SONGS – JULY 2020



List courtesy of [Inspiration1390.iheart.com](https://www.inspiration1390.iheart.com)

1. Victory – The Clark Sisters
2. Alright – Fred Hammond
3. Won't Let Go – Travis Greene
4. Open Door Season – Deitrick Haddon
5. I'm All In – Maranda Curtis
6. Pull Us Through – Jermaine Dolly ft Maranda Curtis
7. All In His Plan – PJ Morton feat. Le'Andria Johnson and Mary Mary
8. Oh How Good Is – Byron Cage
9. So Good – Keyla Richardson
10. This Week – Anthony Brown and group therAPy



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Joshua M. Hicks

Co-Editor: Dr. Beverly Jordan

Layout & Design: Joy Harris

Staff Photographer: Mel Jackson

Staff Writers: Tamela Harris, Larry Lee, Darlene Price, Sonja Williams, Kristine P. Scott

Broadview Missionary Baptist Church 2100 South 25th Avenue Broadview IL 60155

www.broadviewbaptist.org

Rev. Christopher Robinson, Sr., Interim Pastor