

VICTORY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Halltown, W.V.

The Victory Church was started in an initiative to re-introduce Free Will Baptist Churches into an area rich in Free Will Baptist History (*which had long since passed off the scene, after merger of Free Will Baptist with the Northern Baptist, back in 1911 - This note was added by the W.V.F.W.B. Historical Committee*).

Brother Russell Wright came to the Eastern Panhandle and started Heritage Free Will Baptist Church in Inwood, West Virginia, which was the first of three planned for the Eastern Panhandle. Victory was the second.

Victory was organized as a self supporting Free Will Baptist Church November 3, 2002, and in 2004 the new church building was constructed in Halltown.

On November 23, 2002 the congregation of Victory, along with friends from the Heritage FWB Church, and State Free Will Baptist officials, gathered for a ground breaking ceremony on the recently purchased property where the new Victory Free Will Baptist Church would be built. It was a cold and windy day, but enthusiasm was high.

Rev. Richard Nethercutt led the invocation accompanied by Bro. Sam Collins and Home Missionary Russell Wright.

Leaders from both Victory and Heritage Churches gathered as Bro. Sam Collins, A member of Victory Church and general contractor for the new facility, gathered round for the ceremonial turning of the shovel of soil. Those who participated in the shovel turning were: The Associate Pastor of Victory, Thomas "Huffy" Hoffmaster; Craig Heironimus a minister of Heritage; Keith Powers Music Director, and now Deacon of Victory; Jim Williams, a minister of Heritage; Sam Collins, Deacon of Victory and general contractor; Richard Nethercutt, current pastor of Victory; and Russell Wright, Home Missionary and founder of both Heritage and Victory churches.

Following the ground breaking service, the congregation gathered at Victory church's rented facility on Luther Jones Road for a time of food and fellowship. At 6:00 PM the organizational service began with Bro. Russell Wright, Home Missionary and founder of Victory Church, presiding.

The following is an outline of that service: Hymn - Keith Powers; Prayer - Sam Collins; Welcome - Russell Wright; Special Singing - Tressa Collins; Message - Ivan Asbury; Presentation of Bible, Treatise, and Church Covenant - Rickie Holstein; Dedication Prayer - Doug Burdette. At that service a list of charter members was presented; Rev. Richard Nethercutt was elected as Pastor; Sally Huffmaster was elected as Clerk; Tressa Collins was elected as Treasurer; Keith Powers was elected as Director of music. The service was closed in prayer by Thomas Hoffmaster.

Charter members of the Church were: Daniel Bridenfeld; Sam Collins; Tressa Collins; Frances Custer; Ray Daly; LeRoy Davis; Kenneth Davis; Brenda Davis; James Davis; Robert Hankins; Beverly Hankins; Thomas Huffmaster; Sally Huffmaster; Richard Nethercutt; Cathy Nethercutt; Elizabeth Nethercutt; Zachary Nethercutt; Patricia Olive; Harold Olive; Keith Powers; Theresa Powers; Stevanna Sigler; Dennis Smith; Pamela Smith; Kimberly Smith; Robert Sowers; Bennie Whittemore; Rosemary Whittemore; and Nannie Whittemore.

In a special service on February 9, 2003 Victory FWB ordained Brother Sam Collins as its first Deacon. Bro. Collins was installed into the office with his wife Tressa by his side.

The Church belongs to the Eastern Panhandle Conference of Free Will Baptist, the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, and the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

***NOTE:** This information was given to the Historical Committee of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist, in an email from Richard Nethercutt (10-28-2010); I (Rickie Holstein) have also added some information I had concerning the ground breaking and dedication service.*
