

## **THE BIBLE CHURCH OF CABOT ([www.cabotbible.com](http://www.cabotbible.com)): CHURCH HISTORY AND PROFILE**

The Bible Church of Cabot is an elder-led, non-denominational body of believers established in 1979 in the homes of Cabot families seeking in-depth, Bible-centered worship. This group held to the Bible as God's inspired Word and that salvation was found only in Jesus Christ, through God's grace and His election of the saints. Many of those original families are still active members. John Main, an Associate Pastor at the Bible Church of Little Rock, was called as the first pastor and services soon shifted to a storefront on 1st Street. John and his wife Clarice were elemental in shaping the form, function and foundation of the Bible Church of Cabot, using first century churches as their model and being keenly aware that this is Christ's church.

Within five years the church had grown to nearly 100 members and the elders recognized the wisdom of procuring a permanent place of worship over continuing to rent. Their prayerful examination of Scripture led to the conclusion that precluded committing to debt to purchase land and begin construction. The present property was purchased and the building constructed entirely through member contributions. This examination of Scripture further established fundamental operating principles which continue to shape perspectives of the Bible Church. The elders affirmed that God's abundant grace will meet the needs of God's people, with a commitment of 30% of contributions or 30% of budget, whichever is greater, to support the mission field. This commitment started at a lower percentage, but has been at this level for 10 years. Contributions are also made an unobtrusive aspect of worship, being placed in a collection box on a table in the rear of the church, not by passing a "collection plate" or establishing annual pledges. Every year God has abundantly blessed the Bible Church by providing much more than budgeted expenses. That excess, wisely shepherded over the years, enabled the Bible Church to purchase the land and construct the existing facility at 1400 South Pine completely debt-free. The church continues to be free of debt and maintains reserves to meet special ministry needs.

John and Clarice Main were called to a ministry near Indianapolis, Indiana in 1998. God provided for His people by placing Lesley Wolfe, a wise and discerning sister currently on the mission field in Ivory Coast, in the congregation when John announced his resignation. Lesley contacted Jim Ehrhard, a former pastor at a neighboring Bible Church, regarding our need. After getting to know Jim, the elders asked him to become our full-time pastor. He agreed to serve as interim pastor—a position he held for nearly a year. As Jim's wife Debbie entered the later stages of a 12-year battle with cancer, and after much prayer, they recognized God's providence offered in a loving church body and the stability of a permanent pastorate. The Bible Church has always placed the highest value on sound doctrine and teaching and encouraged Jim to continue what he has always considered his primary calling, his ministry to overseas seminaries conducted through Teaching Resources International. The Spirit has been urging Jim to devote more time to his primary calling and Jim has honored that by announcing his resignation as our pastor.

With an excellent Children's Education Department, a variety of Women's Ministries, and a vibrant Youth Group, it was obvious to both Jim and the elders that the needs of the Church justified a call for an Associate Pastor to provide shepherding, counseling, administrative guidance and to promote a long-term vision for the church. In 2002 Chris Pixley and his family arrived. After a short two years Chris accepted a call to his own pastorate in a church outside Tampa, Florida. Hunter Goff and his wife Amber joined the Bible Church in 2008 as a Pastoral Intern. Hunter has rendered great assistance in his role as pastor-shepherd and has also provided sound teaching from the pulpit. Amber is providing a fresh and energetic role in Women's Ministries.

The Bible Church of Cabot, approximately 65 families, is made up of over 200 men, women and children, ranging from infants to "seasoned" citizens. There are many young families (some second generation families) and a very healthy Youth Group of 12-15 young adults. Most people live in Cabot, a small city of 25,000 about 25 miles northeast of Little Rock, but some families drive from surrounding communities (McRae, Romance, Jacksonville, Ward, Vilonia, North Little Rock, Austin, Sherwood, Beebe), some of which require a drive lasting 30 minutes or more. The church body is middle class, with both ends of that broad spectrum represented, and is well educated in God's Word. Reflecting our proximity to Little Rock Air Force Base and Camp Robinson, there is a high percentage of military/retired military individuals and families.