

# Southside Church History



The Bakersfield Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church dates back to 1934 when 16 “colored” believers were organized into a church. Pastor G.N. Banks was sent to shepherd this group from 1934 to 1936. After his transfer, the church went without a pastor for six years. During this time, some members moved away, some fell away, and after the church was disbanded, the remaining members attended the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1942, Pastor F. Jenkins came to Bakersfield and conducted a series of evangelistic meetings in a tent pitched east of Highway 99. A number of individuals accepted Jesus Christ, and the group was reorganized as the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor R. Berry was appointed to pastor the church from 1943 to 1945. From 1945 to 1947, in the absence of a pastor, the local elder, Alvin Jackson, took the responsibility of holding the church together.

Pastor Victor Joseph was the next pastor and he served from 1947 to 1949. From 1949 to 1951, the church was again without a pastor and was blessed under the faithful leadership of Elder Alvin Jackson.

In 1951, Pastor Penick was sent from the Central States Conference to pastor the church, and he remained until 1957. During his pastorate, the small church building was remodeled. The members raised the needed funds by picking cotton and gathering potatoes. In 1952, a very lovely building was dedicated to the service of God. The Church was renamed the “O” Street Seventh-day Adventist Church. By the time Pastor Penick was transferred in 1957, the church membership had grown to over 90 members.

Pastor Earl Canson, Sr. was called next to pastor the church in 1958. By this time, the church building had become too small to meet the needs of the church. Under the direction of Pastor Canson, Sr.’s leadership, a church building on the corner of 10th & “L” Streets was purchased. The congregation changed its name to the Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1962, the church was remodeled, and in 1963 it was dedicated. Succeeding Pastor Canson, Sr. pastorate were: Pastor Ted Jones (1963 – 1967); Pastor Byrel Rivers (1967 – 1973); and Pastor E.A. White (1973). Each pastor made significant

contributions towards the progress and growth of the church.

After a few months, Pastor James Jones, Jr. came from Michigan to pastor the church. On July 9, 1975, the Southside members tragically lost its church building to a devastating fire. The Bakersfield Adventist Academy was gracious enough to open its doors to allow the church to use its chapel. Under Pastor Jones, Jr.’s administration, the church purchased the present property and built a multi-purpose building with several classrooms. The first of two phases was dedicated in 1978. Pastors Edward Harvey, Sr. (1978 – 1983) and Arthur Bushnell (1983-1985) succeeded Pastor Jones, Jr. During those years, the church had a dream to complete phase two of the building project with a sanctuary.

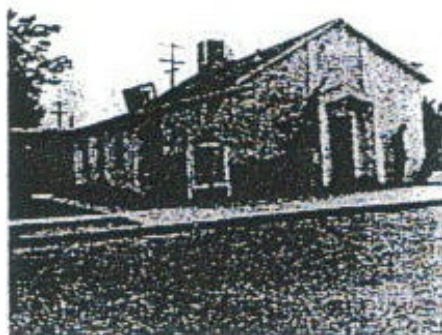
After much prayer and fasting, Dr. D. J. Williams was called to pastor Southside in 1985. Under his prayerful leadership and vision, Southside’s dream was finally realized, and phase two of the building project was completed with the present sanctuary in 1987. To God be the glory!

1988, the church continued to grow with the leadership and evangelistic spirit of Pastor Melvin Warfield, Sr. Many members were baptized and their membership grew to 342. Pastor Earl Canson, Jr. (the eldest son of Pastor Earl Canson, Sr.) came to Southside in 1994. He used his unique technology skills to update the church with computers, the Internet, and a satellite. During that time, “Boys to Men” and “Girls to Women” was born, and a tutorial program was started. Through many evangelistic endeavors, including satellite evangelism, the membership grew to 420.

In 2000, Pastor Kevin Rhamie, Sr. was called to lead Southside into the millennium. Under his leadership, the church has added over 170 members through several innovative and traditional evangelistic meetings. With the addition of community mastermind, Elder Ray Patrick, Sr., Pastor Rhamie, Sr., has led Southside to make bold advances into the community by adding ministries that reach out to heal and deliver the broken, addicted, and paroled. Ministries include: weekly Christ-centered alcohol and drug recovery / deliverance meetings, free tattoo removal, and a sober living home (the Griffin House) to house parolees and those recovering from addictions.

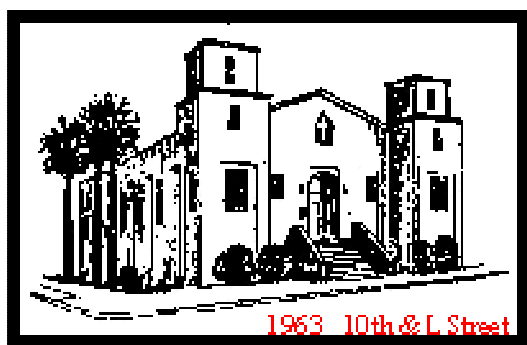
With the church membership just under 600, the mission of the Southside Seventh-day Adventist church through the grace of God and the authority of Jesus Christ, is to be a Spirit led church that is trained to evangelize and disciple others into a loving fellowship that is open to all in the community. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Southside seeks to be a dynamic part of God’s remnant people by preaching, teaching, and reaching, with the everlasting Gospel and the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14, so that the church sanctified will indeed become the church Glorified. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

## Southside Seventh-Day Adventist Church Pastoral History



“O” Street Church

Pastor G.N. Banks: 1934 - 1936  
 Pastor F. Jenkins: 1942 - 1943  
 Pastor R.E. Berry: 1943 - 1945  
 Elder Alvin Jackson: 1945 - 1947  
 Pastor Victor Joseph: 1947 - 1949  
 Elder Alvin Jackson: 1949 - 1951  
 Pastor W.E. Penick: 1951 - 1952



10th & “L” Street Church

Pastor W.E. Penick: 1952 - 1957  
 Pastor Earl Canson, Sr.: 1958 - 1963  
 Pastor Ted Jones: 1963 - 1967  
 Pastor Byrel Rivers: 1967 - 1973  
 Pastor E.A. White: 1973 - 1975  
 Pastor James Jones, Jr. 1975



3rd & “L” Street Church

Pastor James Jones, Jr.: 1975 - 1978  
 Pastor Edward Harvey, Sr: 1978 - 1983  
 Pastor Arthur Bushnell: 1983 - 1985  
 Pastor D.J. Williams: 1985 - 1988  
 Pastor Melvin Warfield, Sr.: 1988 - 1994  
 Pastor Earl Canson, Jr.: 1994 - 2000  
 Pastor Kevin Rhamie, Sr.: 2000 - present