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2 SPEAKERS

Earl Doyle

Speaker1

START OF TRANSCRIPT

Many churches have started because they didn't like the pastor in the old church or they don't like the change in the music. But that wasn't how Sugar Land Bible Church started. We were an effective plant. My name is Earl Doyle. I was blessed by the Lord to be part of that starting of the church, and I think you'd be interested in the story behind that. Spring Branch Community Church was noticing back in the early seventies that Houston was growing by leaps and bounds, and they planted several Bible churches in the area. Later, their neighborhood changed and they moved out of I-10 near the VPI campus, and they still exist. But they one of the churches they planted was Southwest Bible Church and a leave. And just personally for us to attend that back in those days, we had to drive on dirt roads. You know, it's hard to believe nowadays, but Southwest Bible Church planted our church. They were our parent church. And we started in 1982. Now that's the kind of the facts of the plan. But as you know, it's people who were behind the building of this church. And as I go through my presentation, I'm going to say a lot of names that you probably don't know. But the Lord knows, and I just want to mention them as I'm going through our start. Just some of the facts here. We were incorporated in March of 82. Our first service was in September.

Then in a year later, our Constitution and doctrine were implemented and the Church became independent of South West Bible Church. And we had our first board of elders. We purchased this land three years later. Yes, two years after that, in August of 85. And then oil prices cratered in Houston. Many people lost their jobs, including many of the people who were attending here. And so it took us from 85 to 91 before we got our building. Let me tell you about the initial start of the church. At Southwest Bible Church, Pastor Bill Perkins used pins to show where everybody was coming from. And there was a large group from Sugar Land. Bobby and I had a home fellowship. We met every Friday night. About 15 couples came and we had singing, prayer, teaching and of course, refreshments. Afterwards, we had a light number of children, also probably 20 or 30 children. And a guy named Dick Turpin used to take them during the teaching time into our oldest son's little bedroom. And I can't imagine what they'd all come out sweaty, I'll tell you that. I was an elder at Southwest Bible Church at the time. And looking at the growth in Sugar Land people, we decided that we were going to plant a church in Sugar Land and they elders put me in charge of that start up. Now the first thing I had to do, I felt, was to find a pastor. A guy named Stan Giles was the pastor at South Southwest Bible Church, and he had a college education. And then Bill Perkins came and he was a Dallas grad. And Stan thought, you know, maybe I ought to go to Dallas and get my advanced degree, which he did. So he and Sandy left Houston and moved up to Dallas. Now, I knew Stan was a pretty good speaker, so I went to him and I said, Stan, I got a job for him. And he said, No, I don't know. When I graduate, I want to be in the mountains of Montana, not in some sweaty place in Sugar Land, Texas. But he prayed about it. Sandy prayed about it, and they said, okay, we will be part of the startup of Sugar Land Bible Church.

So the we had an interest meeting at Bill and Donna Atkins home in February of 82. One of the big things was what are we going to call ourselves? And there were two candidates, Sugar Land Bible Church and Cornerstone Bible Church. And you can tell which one was one. Then given that name, we incorporated as Sugar Land Bible Church. I just want to point out one couple of things in here. The fourth item, we shall all be believers in Jesus Christ who agree to abide by the provisions of the Constitution and bylaws. And the one above that talks about excuse me, the one below that talks about being an elder rule. So we set the framework of this church through our incorporation. Stan came down once a month starting in February and taught a class. One of our objectives was is to get the people who were going to join Sugar Land Bible Church together and feel like they were part of a body. And so we had a Sunday school class. And as I said, Stan came down once a month until the summertime, and then he came down weekly until we started our services. And that stand on the extreme right side teaching. We had start up committees. Now my gift is administration. And that's this is an example of it. We have people involved in all the start up committees, transportation for stand and Sandy, meals for them, a car and so forth, and also for finding a place to meet. Now, we met finally at Sugar Land Middle School. We met there for ten years. But initially when we approached the school district, they said, you've got to have the chief custodian agree to meeting there. And the chief custodian was an elderly man. Mr. Stark, who was Catholic, knew nothing about a Bible church. And so the guys went over there. He said, No, I don't want to. I'm not interested in having a group meet there, but a group of our guys went over there and one of them, Bill Atkins, got on his knees and begged Mr. Stock to help or start our church. And he agreed. And so he used to stand in the back listening.

And we're pretty sure that probably the Lord knows who went to heaven. He may be one of them, but he was a wonderful old guy. But anyway, we met there for ten years, an example of one of our meetings. We every Sunday had to move the tables out of the way, but the chairs down, move the piano from one of the rooms into the cafeteria. And it was really an involvement of a lot of people, not right away. But shortly after we started, Bob Matthews and his daughter Sandy led our music, you know, wonderful job. They were extremely competent and doing the music. And we they were a great addition to our services. Now we have to put together a constitution. And we did this differently than Southwest Bible Church. And the elders there weren't real happy that we didn't do it their way, but we did it differently. The Philosophy and Statement of Faith show, if you read it, have a clear gospel and have the elements and the fundamentals of the Christian faith. If you read that and believe that you were a person that we could fellowship with who was a like Christian. A guy named Steve Porter and Paul Hartwell were the two that did that. I was responsible for writing the government, and it's the thing that has had the most changes over the years, I'm afraid. The big change we had what we call position statements, where the social issues, doctrinal issues, if you come here and you look at these positions, statements, this is what is how you will hear the interpretation of the Bible and anything that's from this pulpit in the classrooms, any place is teaching these positions govern how we do that. Now, they haven't really changed, but there's been one addition. That's the definition of marriage is between a man and a woman. And I can't imagine if Stan had proposed that 40 years ago, we would have laughed him out of the room. Just tells you the change in morality that has occurred in this country. Excuse me. Here are the 4 hours that guy on the left is who looks like he's just robbed a bank. As me. Paul Sartwell decided not to be an elder, but Dave Beckman, who was one of it, was in our fellowship group, a very mature Christian, said that he would like to also be part of our elder group.

And he was. Steve Porter was part of the first elder group. Steve and Nancy now live in El Campo, but Steve finished up as one of Sugar Land councilmen back in last year. And then, of course, Stan Giles. And I want to say more about Stan later. And here that one year after we met, the elders and pastors from Southwest came and laid hands on the elder board. And we began with being independent of Southwest Bible Church. One of the important things to us was fellowship. And there is a park right next to Sugar Land Middle School. And. Oh. You've seen the whole presentation in 2 seconds. Here we go. We had home gatherings and we had also fellowship. And as I was saying, the park next to the middle school is where we would have these fellowships. After our Sunday service, Frank Richardson had a trailer with a barbecue on it. He would start on Saturday night cooking barbecue, and you could smell it as you were coming to church. And virtually the entire church participated in these fellowships. Also we had home gatherings. Our mature elder is the one doing this withstand. I'm in the crazy Hawaiian shirt with our oldest son. I think that's my daughter standing behind everybody in the red shirt. And I don't know where our two year old is. We're like today. We still have our baptisms and home pools and occasionally back then we would go to an available church and do a baptism. But virtually all of our baptisms were in home pools, so we purchased land in 1985. That little section of concrete is Matt Lodge way back in 1985, and it looks like a desert out there and you can't tell that nowadays. So we bought this land \$3 a square foot, which we thought was, whoa, horribly expensive. That little way is behind me. Brook Street is out that way. And there were two houses off of Brook Street. They were the original. As you go down Brook Street, many of the houses were part of the Imperial Sugar when it was a company town. We tore one of we destroyed, I would say, one of those so that we could have access into our property.

And the other one we kept until about sometime in the nineties and sold that. So but that house is still there. There was a street called Terry Street that was platted to go right through our property, so we had to have the city abandon that. And while the congregation voted on this, that is not the way we ended up obviously putting our buildings here. Okay. So we back in November of 1990 is when we started our building. Our building and construction proceeded through the months. You can see our auditorium is a steel frame building. And by March, you could really see the building put together. Now, people have always asked, why is this building not perpendicular to the street? I've lost the architectural rendering. Of what? The time we sold the or presented the to the congregation to vote on the building that showed another building catty corner to this one at this kind of angle off. But that's the reason this building is not perpendicular than that which way. And you can see it's finally taking shape. And then when the sheetrock walls were sheetrock, we invited the congregation to come one Sunday after church and had a walk through everything to see, to let them know what was happening. And then finally in September 91, we had our first service. And then in February it was the last service that Pastor Giles was pastor here. So he's about ten years. Some traditions are still with us. If you were a member back then and you came today after 40 years, there are many things have not changed. We present the gospel every Sunday. Cheryl and Bible Church is still independent and elder rule. Communion service is exactly the same. We never pass the collection plate. We believe that believers purpose in their own hearts what they should be giving without obligation. We still have home fellowship groups. We still have pool baptisms. Doctrine and position statements are materially unchanged and we still use name tags. So it's basically the same church, but a little more exciting these days. Now I'm going to say something about Stan. Stan, unfortunately, went to home to be with the Lord, 1985, 60 years old.

He had brain cancer. But I wanted you to know what kind of a person Stan was. And I hope I get through this. Stan was here ten years when he first came here. He came from a military background, and he wanted to be part of that military service. And so he joined the Air Force Reserves as a chaplain. He went to when he left here, he went to Clinton, Iowa, at an evangelical free church, and he was there for 11 years. And then he applied to be to have a part in the Air War College in Montgomery. Now, this is where if you were in the Air Force as a career and you wanted to be a general, this is what you had to go through. But Stan, because he was a chaplain, was allowed to go and he had a wonderful time there. He just loved it. After that, he went to Freeport, Illinois, another evangelical free church for four years, and then joined full time the Air Force and was in an Air National Guard base in Knoxville for ten years. Now, if you interested in stand and how he talks and his humor and how he presents things, that's very easy to go to online and find out. He gave a presentation during the DTS chapel in 1992, 2007, and the title was His War Just. And it's very, very interesting. All you got to do is Google Giles DTS war and it'll pop up very easy to find. I want to highlight one ministry, that example of Stan. He had an article about him in the Air Force Airman magazine. Stan met every airplane that was headed to Afghanistan with soldiers on it. And I don't know if you know this, but everybody goes through Kyrgyzstan before they go into Afghanistan. He met every single airplane and presented the gospel to those soldiers who were about to go into combat. And it was written up in the Air Force magazine. Now Stan is buried at the Knoxville Military Ceremony Cemetery. He. The day of his funeral. I'm not going to talk about the number of generals that were there, and there were many. What I remember most about that particular day was there was a bus full of young airmen and they came and lined the street where they carried stands casket down.

And many of them were crying and just told me a lot about his ministry and in Sandy's ministry. So where are they now? Sandy is in the middle. Scott graduated from the Air Force Academy. Reached the rank of major and decided to leave. And he's now working for Microsoft in Austin. Shannon on the left is in financial services, lives in Memphis and is pregnant, about to have their third child in in July. Sandy has moved from Knoxville to the Memphis area to be close to her little granddaughters. And. Our last 30 years, they've been hills and valleys. Let's face it, those churches go through that. The valleys were all virtually all associated with pastoral changes. And that's not unexpected with churches. Our future is bright under the leadership of Pastor Andy. We're headed not just a hill, but a mountain. We're doing extremely well. You could see some of the reports. And we do have a problem, though, and that's where is everybody going to sit. So I thank you for your attention.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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