## AGAPE BIBLE CHURCH

### TEACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD CHAPTER BY CHAPTER

#### **HISTORY**

Agape Bible Church traces its roots back to a humble beginning in September 1986, when a weekly Bible class commenced in the home of Ms. Rosie Johnson in Covington, Georgia. From its inception, the focus was unwaveringly centered on the transformative power of the Word of God. Initially gathering each Friday night, the group flourished in spiritual growth and unity, prompting a celebratory banquet at Jacqueline's in downtown Covington on the third anniversary in 1989.

As the group expanded both spiritually and numerically, the leadership responded to the call to initiate Sunday morning church services. This marked the birth of Agape Christian Fellowship Church International, with its inaugural service held on December 3, 1989, at the Comfort Inn in Conyers, GA. The sermon, "God is doing a new thing," delivered by Pastor Bryant, set the tone for the journey ahead.

Throughout the early years, the church's commitment to community service and outreach was evident. Events hosted by Deacon Bobby Cooper and his wife Geraldine in Rutledge, Georgia, fostered fellowship and goodwill. Initiatives like the monthly Fellowship breakfasts and the free car care Fellowship demonstrated a dedication to serving both the spiritual and practical needs of the community.

In the early '90s, the church expanded its footprint, establishing worship services and Bible studies at the Hub Junction in Covington. As the ministry continued to thrive, milestones such as conducting weddings and sponsoring educational projects for youth underscored the church's holistic approach to ministry.

In 1999, Agape Christian Fellowship Church International was officially incorporated, marking a significant milestone in its journey. Over the years, the church's commitment to fostering spiritual growth and community engagement remained steadfast. The transition to Agape Bible Church in 2014 reflected an evolution while maintaining the core values and mission.

The church's impact extended throughout and beyond its local community,

The church has been instrumental in supporting many individuals and ministries in the community.

In December 2004, a 46-year-old single female parishioner, facing declining health and the looming threat of losing her home following the loss of her parents and brother, reached out to us for assistance. She requested help to clear the lien against her house and maintain the taxes and insurance. In response, she was granted a life estate. Through the collective efforts of the pastor and the congregation, we ensured she could remain in her home until her passing in March 2017. It's important to note that the church did not seek profit for providing this vital service.

In August 2013, a 64-year-old female parishioner, also struggling with declining health, faced the imminent loss of her home to the county tax commissioner. Despite the church's offer to cover the taxes, the Tax Commissioner declined the proposal. The homeowner expressed her inability to manage the taxes, insurance, and ongoing expenses. Consequently, the church entrusted the property to a property management company, granting her a life estate. This arrangement enabled her to reside in her home without financial burden until her demise in December 2019. Once again, it's worth highlighting that the church did not pursue financial gain in facilitating this service, aligning with the principles outlined in 1 Timothy 5:3-4.

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Some of the local and national ministries supported are listed below:

Billy Graham Evangelical Association Moody Bible Institute

Moody Radio

The Newton County Ministers Union

Samaritans Purse

Agape Bible Church sent a delegation from our Church to Washington DC in 2022 to support and participate in the National Day of Prayer.

Grounded in a commitment to teaching Scripture chapter by chapter, Agape Bible Church continues to nurture personal relationships with Jesus Christ and a deep passion for God's Word.

Helen M Chaney

Secretary