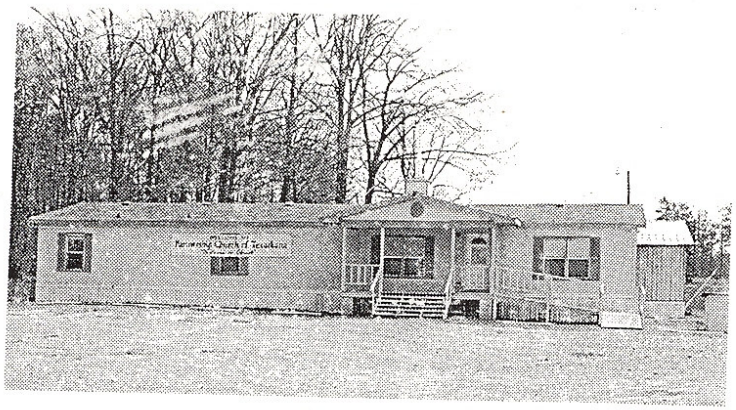

HOW WE WORSHIP

"The thrust and desire of Partnership Church is to reach people who have given up on the church establishment."

—The Rev. Blain Markham

Partnership Church of Texarkana

1760 Farm to Market Road 4128
Texarkana, Texas

Partnership Church of Texarkana began meeting in April 1999, at Oaklawn Opry but it didn't take long for members to realize their need to have a building and property of their own for room to grow.

Despite the obstacles that stood in the way, a site was soon discovered that the congregation believed was to be the new home for their church.

"God opened the doors for us to obtain this property," said Markham.

"We were almost finished with the final paperwork on the purchase when we discovered that there were liens against the land. Our attorneys told us it would probably be several years before the property would be available for purchase with a clear title," he said. "That proposed a problem since the building we were to put on the land had already been purchased and was ready to be moved.

"At that time, the congregation really began to pray about this situation, because we believed this was the location that God had for us," he said.

Undoubtedly, they were right, as the church was able to purchase the property with a clean title after only about three months, instead of having to wait several years.

With the pastor and about 40 members who had a heart for hurting people, Partnership Church moved to Farm to Market Road 2148 and began reaching out to the community. In nearly three year's time, the congregation has tripled and has completed expansions to the building for Sunday school rooms.

"We want people to be comfortable enough to come as they are," said Markham, "Our goal is to provide a place and an atmosphere for them to come together to worship, regardless of who they are."

The praise and worship aspect of the service is led by Markham's son, David Markham, and is accompanied by the praise team Alabaster Box. They are supported by several instruments, including keyboard and drums.

Markham has been in the ministry for about 25 years and said that many of the people who come to their church for counseling and to be ministered to have been hurt in previous church relationships, and a vast majority of these have been out of church for at least five years.

However, once someone has started down the path of spiritual and emotional healing from things in their past, they in turn have some insight on how to minister to others who are also hurting emotionally.

This is evident in the congregation's desire to offer healing and comfort to hurting individuals. The fruit of their labor is the conception of two full-time prison ministries through which inmates can hear the gospel of Christ.

Markham said many former inmates to whom the church ministered through the prison outreach now attend worship services at Partnership Church because they don't fear being rejected by the congregation with regard to their past.

In addition, a benevolence ministry has also been established that has been able to help families emotionally and financially during their time of need or loss.

Plans entitled "The Jabez Project" now hang on a wall in the church for a new sanctuary that will seat about 350 people.

"We know that it won't be long before the new sanctuary will also be filled to capacity. This is our faith in action," said Markham.

Services
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning worship 11 a.m.
Evening worship 6 p.m.
Adult Bible study, youth and children's programs 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

Pastor
The Rev. Blain Markham

Members
120

Affiliation
Non-demonimational

How We Worship, written by Rhonda Morrow of the Gazette staff, runs every Sunday and features profiles of local and area churches.