

# Centennial for Brownsville Baptist



### Anniversary speaker

Dr. Gerald D.A. Benn, president of the London Baptist Seminary London, will be the guest preacher at the 100th anniversary services of the Brownsville Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 28, through to Oct. 1.

On Sunday, September 28, Brownsville Baptist Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The guest preacher will be Dr. Gerald D.A. Benn, president of the London Baptist Seminary, of London, Ontario. Special music will be provided at the 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services by a male quintet from Bramalea, but internationally known as "The Melodaires," and a ladies' trio from Courtland.

It was in 1879 that a group of Christians living in the Brownsville area gathered to conduct divine services in a log cabin, which was situated on the Townline Road, west of the village and south of the Tenth Concession. The small

congregation was known as the Faith Baptist Mission. Later, at a duly advertised meeting, the members of the Mission gathered on the evening of January 28, 1880, to organize the Mission members into a Baptist Church. Dr. J.B. Moore was called upon to be the Moderator of that historical occasion. By unanimous vote they chose to be known as a Regular Baptist Church. They continued to meet in the log cabin for some time following their organization. There were 13 charter members. The two deacons were Mr. U.A. Elliott, church clerk, and Mr. R.W. Hawkins, treasurer.

Then on February 9, 1880, at a specially called business

meeting, they unanimously agreed to erect a church sanctuary of their own. Following this decision these pioneer members were surprised and encouraged when a very suitable piece of land in the centre of the village was donated to the Church by the late Mr. Brinton P. Brown, for the site of their sanctuary. (The village of Brownsville was named in honor of this venerable gentleman.)

A building committee of seven was chosen, and also a financial committee of three. On May 25, 1880, a recognition service was convened, when messengers from eight neighbouring Baptist Churches formed a council, who voted to recognize the congregation as a full-orbed Baptist Church.

It is evident that the building and finance committees had done an excellent job, for the present church building was completed, fully paid for and dedicated on November 14 of the same year, 1880.

The present pastor has compiled an Historical Brochure that makes interesting reading. It will be on sale at cost price during the four days of anniversary services. The village Baptist Church is a member of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada, with the head office at 74 Sheppard Ave. West, Willowdale, Ontario.



L.to R.

- Peter McFarlane
- Bill Pengilly
- Dr. Dick Fraser  
(Nephew of Pastor Fraser)
- Don Cassel
- Front
- Bill Bannister
- Rev. J. Fraser  
(Pastor)

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The Melodaires — gospel quintet, Toronto