

SCHOOL FIRE AND MOUNTAIN BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

An early morning phone call is seldom a good sign! David Key, associate principal of Crestline Elementary School, recognized the teacher's voice; "David, do you know anything about a fire at the school?" Key walked outside his house and smelled the fire immediately. He rushed to the school to see that an arsonist had set fires in the library, auditorium, cafeteria, and several classrooms at the school.

Word spread quickly in the Mountain Brook community. Dr. James D. Moebes, pastor of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, immediately called the school superintendent to offer the use of the church for school classes as long as needed. The offer was accepted. The time was December 1985, two weeks before school dismissed for Christmas holidays.

In a recent interview, David Key stated, "Twelve classes of students moved into the Mountain Brook Baptist Church educational building. These included students in the third, fifth, and sixth grades. Students brought their lunch from home and ate in the fellowship hall. The school provided a custodial staff each afternoon to prepare rooms for the next morning."

Repairs started immediately and continued during the school holiday, allowing most of the classes to return to Crestline in January. Third grade classes however, remained in our educational building for six weeks because the damage to their classrooms was more severe.

It is interesting to remember that Mountain Brook Baptist Church started in April 1944, and met for Sunday afternoon worship at Crestline Elementary School and continued there for four months. Hosting the school in 1985 was payback time.

Mountain Brook Baptist Church has always tried to be a good citizen of the community. There has remained a strong feeling among our members that our church facilities should be used as fully as possible for our use and the needs of the community. This belief was behind the large and successful weekday children's program at our church. This sense of stewardship has also provided regular meeting space for many different groups. Some of these have included: the weekly meeting of Birmingham Boys Choir, grief support groups, family counseling groups, the Barbershop Society of America, ceramic classes, aerobic classes, community basketball league, fitness room, open gym, morning Bible study for Mountain Brook Junior High students, and the daily use of our lower parking lot for student drop-off and pick up at the Junior High. And then there are special occasions such as school sports awards banquets, school choir concerts, and many, many more occasions that cannot be listed in this space.

It is a privilege of Mountain Brook Baptist Church members to be a vital part of the Mountain Brook community. Providing meeting space is part of our ministry!

Hoyt R. Wilson

Note: Britt Adams Redden was a fifth grade student at the time of the Crestline School fire. As a member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church, she could show her visiting classmates their way around the building. She was among the few who could lead her class along the maze from their temporary classroom to the gym and other facilities. The Crestline School holiday program was held at Mountain Brook Baptist Church that year. As the program began, Dr. Moebes welcomed students and parents to the building. His invocation prayer was addressed to "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," to include people of all faiths who were present.



APRIL 7, 2019

FAMILY MISSION TEAM

The creative concept of sending our young families out on mission arose from the missions committee in 2009. The objective was to involve all-age families together in hands-on missions. The team considered safety for families, meaningful ministry to our field partner, affordability, the chance to raise children who want to give to missions and do missions, and the opportunity for fellowship among families.

The first team of 39 went to Massachusetts to serve two churches in the Greater Boston area. These churches had never attempted holding a Vacation Bible School or other weekday teaching; their buildings needed repairs. Our church was convinced to try another year of family mission effort, with greater advanced communication with the partner prior to our arrival.

We have found that families of all ages can accomplish a mission together by hosting a sports camp or Vacation Bible School, or by helping with community ministries. Unchurched people are likely to send their child to learn a sport but they may or may not send their child to "Bible School." We have daily Bible study and present the gospel during our teaching. The Lord has blessed us immeasurably by seeing children and their families come to Christ. Usually, 50-70 Mountain Brook Baptist Church members are able to make this trip annually.

The family mission experience is affordable thanks to the generosity of the Mountain Brook Baptist Church mission offering through our church's mission initiatives, family contributions, and a fundraiser. In the beginning, all the needed money was raised by providing "Christmas House" meals in the White House (a missionary house adjacent to the church). Some massive yard sales brought in more. Lots of volunteer workers and "customers" were generous in the efforts.



Photos from last year's Family Mission Team experience in Wellington, Colorado, where the team partnered with Trailhead Church.



The Cooks On A Mission group came out of the dedicated White House cooks. They continue to support many mission endeavors, including the family mission teams.

Currently, we raise the balance of the money needed by an annual golf tournament. Contributors sponsor a hole and teams play in the tournament. We are grateful for the opportunity to share Christ and make a difference together, and we are thankful for a mission-minded church.

Our own children and parents have been greatly blessed by participating. Some of our own have professed faith in Christ, even this past year. Some children who started out are now in college. We keep an eye on the mission churches we have served in five states. It is not easy to establish and sustain a church in these places where people are resistant to the gospel and to churches. It is a privilege to serve, and we continue to pray for fruit from the seeds we planted.

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| 2018 | Wellington, Colorado — Trailhead Church |
| 2017 | Wellington, Colorado — Trailhead Church |
| 2016 | Seattle, Washington — Reliance Church |
| 2015 | Castroville, California — Fuente de Victoria |
| 2014 | Castroville, California — Fuente de Victoria |
| 2013 | Castroville, California — Fuente de Victoria |
| 2012 | Gilroy, California — First Baptist Church |
| 2011 | Gilroy, California — First Baptist Church & Iranian Christian Church of San Jose |
| 2010 | Gilroy, California — First Baptist Church & Iranian Christian Church of San Jose |
| 2009 | Swansea, Massachusetts — Bay Community Baptist Church
and South Swansea Baptist Church |

*Sharon Howard
Director of Children and Family Ministries*