

CHURCH HISTORY

In November of 1961, a group of sixteen Christians were worshipping together without a pastor or a church. In answer to their prayers, Rev. Aureliano Flores was led of God to come to California. He had no idea at the time that God had chosen him to be spiritual leader of this congregation which would prove to be a vital and growing group in the Southern California area.

On November 21, 1961 the first service was held in a borrowed church on Valley Boulevard in Rosemead. There the Church of the Redeemer began as the small group of worshippers united in asking God's blessing upon themselves and their families. The founders of the Church included:

Angel Chavez	Manuel Chavez	Amy Millan
Licia Chavez	Richard Chavez	Gloria Millan
Eddie Chavez	Aureliano Flores	Abel Rivera
David Chavez	Armida Flores	Connie Rivera

The first revival was held with Rev. Roberto Loya and from the very start, souls were being saved and added to the Church. Many relatives of the founders began to attend and joined themselves to the Church. New families who found in the Church of the Redeemer a spiritual oasis, also became members.

Services continued for the first sixteen months in the building borrowed on a part time basis from another congregation. Very soon, it was obvious that a separate sanctuary was essential and the small, young congregation began to work towards the purchase of a property. It seemed an impossible dream, but there was determination and faith at work.

On March 16, 1963 dedication services were held for the building located on the corner of Pacific and Vineland Avenues in Baldwin Park. The sanctuary seated two hundred, fifty. There was an office, classrooms and a nursery in the main building and an annex with kitchen and additional rooms. Although it was by no means a new building, it was exactly suited to the needs of the young Church. The thirty-five member congregation settled in to what they thought would be their permanent church home.

Within a few months, the Pacific and Vineland property was feeling the strain of a constantly growing congregation. Afternoon services on Sundays were usually overflowing with folding chairs in the aisles and benches placed in the front for the children. The choir area could barely accommodate the forty to fifty voice choir. Chapels were crowded with children of all ages during Morning Worship. The growing pains were again being felt and the decision was made to ask God for something even bigger and better and seemingly even more impossible.

If \$35,000 had sounded astronomical when the purchase of the first church was made, the price tags of the properties now under consideration were unthinkable. Yet, again, there was faith in action and steps were taken to raise the necessary downpayment. The property that would soon be home to the Church of the Redeemer was first seen by the Pastor, his wife and a young member who all immediately claimed it by faith - demonstrated by marching around it!

On March 16, 1968 the Church of the Redeemer moved into the spacious facilities at 3739 Monterey Avenue in Baldwin Park. The beautiful sanctuary seats five hundred and the annex houses dining room, kitchen, chapels and Sunday School rooms. An added blessing is the surrounding property which provides ample parking and room for expansion. The land and buildings were valued at over \$150,000 at the time of purchase. It was truly a miracle that brought this congregation to this point in only seven short years.

This history of the Church of the Redeemer cannot end here, for we are still growing, still marching forward! Somewhere in this exciting story of God's working you fit in because God has brought you into this family that worships together. Let's all keep the vision and the faith that has brought us this far as we continue to let God work in our lives.

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER IS MARCHING.....