

Feast of Hope: Baltimore 2009

BALTIMORE, Md.—Who would have known that the first Feast of Tabernacles observance for Destiny of Hope Ministries would have been so awesome?

By faith in God and with much passion, Pastor R.F. Woodland and his wife, Beverlie, along with the support of the Church of God International, launched a Feast site in Baltimore to facilitate those who desired to attend a nearby Feast.

Brethren from Maryland, Washington, D.C., Vir-

ginia, Florida, New York and other neighboring states attended, as well as brethren from Ohio, Chicago and Jamaica.

It was a small gathering of about 33 in attendance and sometimes 25-28 on weekdays. The organization was professionally structured, with the characteristics of a large Feast site.

Brethren were here who had visited Feastgoer.org and chosen Baltimore as their site without knowing for sure what it would be like, since it was the first



HOPEFUL IN BALTIMORE—Eighteen of the brethren attend the first Feast of Tabernacles observance sponsored by Destiny of Hope Ministries in Baltimore, Md., in October 2009. They are, **No. 1**, Jim Timmons; **No. 2**, Daphne Roberts; **No. 3**, Sheri Faulkner; **No. 4**, Pastor R.F. Woodland; **No. 5**, Rashida Curtis; **No. 6**, Minister Stanley DeVeaux; **No. 7**, Dovella Isaacs; **No. 8**, Maurice James; **No. 9**, Jean Marie DeVeaux; **No. 10**, Byron McKoy; **No. 11**, Yanina Drawbaugh;

No. 12, Deacon T. Woodland; **No. 13**, Sharon Woodland; **No. 14**, Annie James; **No. 15**, Sandra Curtis; **No. 16**, Beverlie Ramocan-Woodland; **No. 17**, Malina Mahundasingh; and, **No. 18**, Pastor Ray Curtis. Also among the founding members of the Baltimore Feast but not pictured are Jemal Countess, Al Nelson and Elder George Ramocan. See Destiny of Hope Ministries' Feast report on this page. [Photo by Todd Drawbaugh, courtesy Ray Curtis Photography]

time for Pastor and Mrs. Woodland.

The brethren from Chicago came by faith and fell in love with what they saw and heard and immediately gave of themselves and their resources to make it the success it was.

The energy of the praise-and-worship sessions brought enthusiasm that inspired the participation of everyone.

The rich presence of the Lord throughout the week and the love that was almost tangibly felt among the brethren were outstanding.

Another wonderful memory was made on the Last Great Day when Pastor Woodland called on two other pastors to join him in ministering to the needs of the brethren.

This was for physical healing, comfort and strength for those who had experienced the passing of loved ones and for those who were undergoing the threat of home foreclosures.

That was a solemn moment. Everyone was moved by the presence of God. What a moment!

As a result, victory testimonies were received after the Feast on improved health issues, financial breakthroughs and the experience of God's strength and comfort by those who heard of the passing of loved ones.

The family dance, seniors' luncheon and reggae social brought so much joy it was hard to believe this was not a Feast site with a long history.

A highlight was the singing by a "group" comprised of just Pastor Woodland and Beverlie. They called themselves The Group because they had plans to invite others to sing with them but did not quite complete the process.

The great talents of special music from Rashida Curtis and Deacon Al Nelson were superb.

The Feast in Baltimore was a tremendous success. The testimonies speak to that end.

Pastor Woodland announced that this would be an ongoing Feast site for Baltimore and that the contract

was already signed for 2010 for the same location.

"This inaugural year saw the eclectic fusion of top-notch scholarship, upbeat worship and energetic preaching in an intimate setting," said Todd Drawbaugh of Rockville, Md., who was here with his wife, Yanina.

"In my 40-plus years of Feast-keeping, this Baltimore native was excited to see the Destiny of Hope Ministries step out in faith with hard work to make it happen."

"Who would have known that this was the first Feast put on by Destiny of Hope Ministries?" marveled Pastor Raymond Curtis of Chicago, Ill. "You would think that they had been at this festival thing for years."

Though of a modest size, Mr. Curtis continued, the Feast here "was filled with all of the things that make for a memorable and Spirit-filled Feast of Tabernacles. The Church of God International has done well in partnering with Pastor Woodland and Sister Beverlie Woodland in sponsoring this Feast site."

Mr. Curtis mentioned that thought-provoking sermons came not only from Pastor Woodland but also Dr. Tom Roberts, minister Gary Staszak, Elder George Ramocan and Mr. Curtis.

"It was a stupendous week of worship, praise and gratitude to our awesome God and our Savior, Jesus Christ," wrote Stanley and Jean Marie DeVeaux of New York. "We also appreciated hearing from the community youth leader, Brother Jeremy Vickery, during his tribute to Jesus Christ."

Commented Al Nelson, also of Chicago: "I am grateful for your warm reception and hospitality. Your love and Christ-like personality make me feel like a member of your family."

The Feast of Tabernacles will be in Baltimore 2010 at the same location. The Web site will be updated as we move forward. *Beverlie Ramocan-Woodland, Baltimore, Md.*