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Oldham Baptist Church, 13 County Road 255, Iuka, Mississippi 38852
Directions: Just north of Highway 172 East

Oldham Baptist Church was organized in 1932 at the Snowdown School. The first pastor was A. W. Jackson. Church services were first held in a brush arbor just across the road from the church's present location. There were six charter members: D. H. Curtis, Mrs. Pearl Curtis, Mrs. Nora Yarber, J. W. Thomas, Mrs. Adele Curtis, and Joe Curtis. In November 1932, the first two deacons, D. H. Curtis and J. W. Thomas, were ordained.

In 1933, work was started by the members on the first church building. This building, which stood for 16 years, was a regular frame building. In April 1949, the frame building was torn down, and work began on the present building. For a year or so, members worshiped in the building with dirt and gravel for a floor. Blocks for the new building were laid by O'Neal Bonds, who was helped by Henry McAuley. J. A. Jackson wired the building and plastered the inside walls. W. Herbert Robinson bought water-proof paint for the outside and helped paint. The property on which the church was built was donated by P. H. Wadkins. The church sat on one-half acre of land that was valued, along with the building, at about \$5,500 when the building was dedicated on August 23, 1953.

Throughout the years, the church has continued to grow. The building stayed much the same as when it was dedicated in 1953 until August 1981. At this time, a restroom was added. In August 1982, a steeple was built and donated to the church. Also, carpet was installed throughout the church.

On August 15, 1982, the church celebrated its 50th anniversary. There was a delicious dinner served at noon followed by former pastors sharing their memories of Oldham. Former pastors who attended were: W. C. Gann, Woodrow Horn, S. C. Wilbanks, Jerry Smith, and Chris Burrows. Tim Pittman was pastor at the time.

In October 1982, a central heating and cooling unit was installed. In April 1984, new song books were purchased. Work began on a back fellowship hall/classroom in November 1984, with members digging the footing and preparing for the concrete to be poured. Work was completed

on the addition in December 1985. From 1990-1992, the church was bricked, vinyl trim was added, new entrance doors were added, storm windows were installed, and a vinyl floor was installed in the back addition. Also in 1992, the parking lot was paved, and the sanctuary was painted, as well as the Sunday School rooms and the restroom. The church had new pews installed, a new pulpit was purchased, and a beautiful lectern was donated by Mrs. Willard Robinson in memory of her husband, Mr. Herbert Robinson.

In 1993, an additional ½ acre of land was donated. Also in 1993, a basketball goal was donated and installed by Steve Smith; and in 1994, a church sign was built from brick with planters on either side. A sound system was installed in 1995, and later that year, construction began on a new sanctuary. That was also the year that the church first began passing the offering plate in the morning worship service. Prior to that, most people gave using the Sunday School attendance envelopes.

A beautiful stained glass window depicting the ascension of Jesus was commissioned and installed in the new sanctuary in memory of Morgan Allison Stanford in 1997. At that time, the new sanctuary was still under construction. A central unit and a refrigerator were donated. A baptistery was purchased and installed, and our first baptism in the baptistery was held in July 1997.

In 1999, a gas stove was added. The Wadkins family donated a television; additional pews were purchased and donated; Bob and Juanita Vess donated sound equipment, lights, a mixing board, microphone and cable; and Bobby Johnson made and donated a choir rail and a beautiful communion table.

In March 2000, the church purchased a baby grand piano and new song books. The move was made into the church's new sanctuary, and the old sanctuary was converted into a kitchen/fellowship hall. Later that year, the parking lot was expanded and paved. A new steeple was donated in 2001. Also that year, a new church sign was completed.

Many more new changes came about in 2002. The church completed remodeling its classrooms and the fellowship hall. An ice machine was purchased. Chandeliers were donated by Doc and Joetta Cornelius and installed in the sanctuary. It was voted to begin planning an expansion by building a new fellowship hall and using the old one for additional classrooms. A new church sign was installed at Oldham Road and County Road 172. In November 2002, children's church began to be held for ages 5-8 during the morning worship service.

In 2003, an organ was donated anonymously. In 2004, Bradford pear trees were planted around the perimeter of the church property. A second gas stove was donated. Fencing was installed for a playground. Additional blessings came about in 2005. Playground equipment was installed. One acre of land adjacent to the church property was donated by John Riley. Merle Nelson agreed to donate some property across the road from the church. The foundation for a new fellowship hall was poured.

There have been many professions of faith made at Oldham over the years. The church has participated in many outreach programs and community activities. The congregation has shared Christ with the people around them and let them see His love through them. Their prayer today is to continue to do God's will and show His love to others.

Pastors of Oldham

| Pastor | Date |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A. W. Jackson | 1932-1933 |
| M. C. Roland | 1933-1938 |
| R. R. Downing | 1940-1941 |
| R. E. Woodfin | 1942-1946 |
| Fred Willingham | 1947-1949 |
| W. C. Gann | 1949-1950 |
| Hansel Russell | 1950-1951 |
| Lamar Boothe | 1951-1953 |
| James Brown | Until 1954 |
| Armond Taylor | 1955-1956 |
| S. C. Wilbanks | 1957-1962 |
| Ralph Culp | 1963-1965 |
| Woodrow Horn | 1965-1968 |
| Edward Hill | 1968-1971 |
| Jerry Smith | 1971-1976 |
| Chris Burrows | 1977-1981 |
| Tim Pittman | 1981-1983 |
| Charles Wooten | 1984-1987 |
| J. A. Blunt | 1989-1990 |
| Travis Tramel | 1996-1999 |
| Bobby Johnson | 1999-2001 |
| John Bray | 2002-Present |