

Berea Church

Township:	T-48-N	Organized:	1910
Range:	R-19-W	Disbanded:	Unknown
Section:	30	Active:	No
Latitude:	38.86700	Longitude:	-92.78000
Map:	Click Here	Updated:	October 6, 2004

Cemetery: There is a cemetery associated with this church.

Area: Northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the section near the Pettis County Line. Road Directions: From I-70, at Blackwater exit, take Rt. Z, west for three miles then turn south (left) and go over I-70 and about four to five miles. The cemetery is visible from the road, on the east (left) side on a curve. There is a sign marking the entrance.

Records: Not many records are extant for the church because of a fire in a member's home which destroyed them. The present secretary treasurer is Mrs. Russell King and she has the present records. - Probably written in the mid-1970s.

History:

Berea Church is located in Cooper County near the Pettis County line. Its one acre site was a family burying ground for the family of Isaiah Cornine since 1854, the date on the oldest stone. It was known as Lost Corner because it was "lost" from the original surveys, overlooked by accident. Thus, when the church was built it was called Lost Corner Church. Shackelford School, directly west across the road, was likewise called Lost Corner School.

This acre of land was donated for a church in 1910 by Isaiah Cornine. It had been used for revival meetings before that time, probably the old time arbor type, the forerunner of the modern tent meetings. The arbor was man made with branches for shade was laid across a framework of poles.

The church was built in 1910 through the efforts of the first pastor, Dell McLaughlin, and area residents who desired a place of worship close to their homes. Rev. McLaughlin preached there for many years, followed for a while by a Rev. Lawyer, the Rev. Ira Griffis. While Rev. Griffis was preacher, there was a split in the church and he and most of the congregation left the church and began services in Shackelford School across the road. The remaining church members soon allowed their services to dwindle to nothing and the church stayed empty for several years, deteriorating in structure, while church was held in the school. Around 1945, Rev. Griffis took it upon himself to try to regain possession of and restore the church. Finding no opposition from former members, he sent out envelopes containing each \$2.00, asking for donors to help make the donation increase, much as Jesus did with the three talents. With the donations received the church members dig a basement directly south of the church and moved the structure onto its new foundation. They restored the interior to be a fit habitation for the Lord.

Rev. Gilbert Pearson preached for several years around 1960, followed for short periods of time by young men, students of the Bible College: Paul French, Don Strong, and Cramer Smith. In 1966, when the church again had no pastor, W. A. McVey, Sedalia, a retired railroad man and lifelong student of the Bible, offered to be the lay-preacher. This offer was gratefully accepted and Rev. McVey was ordained by Berea Church several years ago. He is the present pastor.

The church is independent and not affiliated with the national association of Christian Churches. The average Sunday attendance is between ten and twenty. Both Sunday School and Worship Service are held and the Lord's Supper is offered each Sunday. An annual homecoming is held the first Sunday in October.

Mrs. W. D. Cornine

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