



## *The History of Movella Assembly of God*

The Movella Assembly of God church began in the home of Tommy and Mackie Vee Slay in the summer of 1951. It was an outreach ministry of the Christ Ambassadors (CA's) of the Hurley Assembly of God, now Magnolia Springs. In the fall of 1951, a tabernacle was constructed for the purpose of revival meetings sponsored by the youth of the Hurley Assembly of God. These meetings closed during the winter months and were held until 1953. On July 4, 1953, Sunday school was organized and began that day. Sister Olga Rubino of the Hurley Assembly of God was one of the first Sunday school teachers that helped to establish Sunday school for the new work. A building fund was established, and the work continued to progress. On December 13, 1953, services were held for the first time in the new sanctuary. On January 2, 1954, Tommy and Mackie Vee Slay deeded approximately 1-1/4 acres of land to the trustees and their successors in office. Those first trustees were Luther Hinton, Tommy Slay and Murray Cowart. Rev. Andrew "Boss" Danley was elected as the first Pastor of the Movella church on February 27, 1954. At this time, the church was not affiliated with the Assemblies of God. On November 19, 1954, Rev. James F. Ballard Superintendent of the Assemblies of God came to set the church in order, and it was on this night that the church became affiliated with the Assemblies of God, thus becoming the first Assembly of God church in George County MS. A charter membership roll was established, and a total of twelve charter members were on roll. The church held its first business meeting as an Assembly of God church on Saturday night June 4, 1955 with eighteen active members. Rev. Danley was retained as pastor, and a deacon board was elected for the first time. The men elected to the deacon board were Tommy Slay and Claude Todd. The trustees elected were Luther Hinton, Winkle Caraway, and Murray Cowart. The church has had fourteen different pastors with two men serving two different terms. Current Pastor Rev. Alan Hinton came to the church as a fill-in the month of August 1999. The church was under District Supervision at this time, as the church had only seven active members on the roll. Bro Alan became the official Interim Pastor in November 1999 put in office by the Mississippi District and Superintendent W.L. Davis. In April of 2002, the church was moved out from District Supervision and held its business meeting this particular month with Rev. W.L Davis presiding. Rev. Alan Hinton was unanimously elected for an indefinite term as pastor of the Movella Assembly of God, and a Deacon/Trustee Board was elected. In 2002, as a sovern body, the church purchased the one-acre parcel adjoining the current property for future expansion. In April of 2004, the ground was prepared for the construction of a new building, consisting of a Sanctuary, Sunday school classrooms, offices, and a fellowship hall. In July of 2004, concrete was poured, beginning the construction process. In December of 2004, the walls were received and construction continued. From January 2005 through July 2005, the work progressed with the goal of moving in September 2005. Hurricane Katrina changed things for everyone as the events of the storm took precedence over the finishing of the church. On September 18, Rev. Tommy Slay informally dedicated the church as a house of worship. The Movella Church Family moved into the new edifice on December 5, 2005. Movella Assembly of God became an incorporated business in 2010.