

Resume and statistics concerning Rev. John D. Castellani, Pastoral Candidate, after meeting of the Official Board with Brother C. on Monday, June 13th:

Age - 40; married, with two children, Darlene, 16, and Sondra, 11.

Brother Castellani is a graduate of Highschool, NBI (now Valley Forge Christian C.) and Management Training School.

He is now pastoring Bethel Assembly of God in Carlisle, Pa., where he has pastored for nine years (now in his 10th).....when he took the pastorate in 1968, the average attendance was 86, with a gross income of \$8,900. The average Sunday School attendance now is 603, the total income for 1976 was \$131,000.

Previous positions .....

Ellwood Assembly of God in Ellwood City, Pa. for 3½ years

Glad Tidings Assembly of God in Nanticoke, 3½ years.

He was Sectional Dir. for the Sunday School in the Eastern District for 5 years; CA Sectional Dir. for 2 years; Dist. Youth Advisor to D-Cap for 3 years and is now serving in this capacity; is also now Sectional Presbyter.

Secularly he has been a Public Relations representative for Agway, Inc., for 5 years; is now School Board Director in the Township where he is living.

Question: Since Bro. Castellani's present church is evidently flourishing so, why would he want to leave?

Answer: Several years ago when Bro. C. was on vacation, at which time he regularly reviews his ministry and gets his future objectives clear, he felt impressed that he would be pastoring a metropolitan church. He is highly promotional and a strong soul-winner and believes the people should be soul-winners. He has an altar call every Sunday morning and a very strong soul-winning program.

Highway's location, etc.

Feels that whatever pastor comes in, our present situation will be a handicap to work with; is not afraid of a building program as he has built churches himself; however, feels a job could be done in the City of Philadelphia in evangelism. States that whoever comes in as pastor must get the confidence of the people before he does anything in the way of moving the church.

Youth, Sunday School, Children's Churches, etc.

Strong for the youth. They have a topnotch spiritual and social program in the church he is now pastoring.....

He has a Youth Pastor (29, married, 3 children) whom he would like to bring with him if he came as pastor. The Youth Pastor can fill the pulpit in Carlisle they have a Youth Sunday night when the Youth take charge of the entire service; they have a Family Night during the week when all groups meet.

He is not against girls wearing slacks for social times, but does not approve of any one wearing slacks to the church services. Their groups have roller-skating parties, bowling parties teams (both groups made up of adults and young people) - they rent the places for the night, have a period of devotions during the evening, etc.

Sunday School - Believes in a lot of promotion for the Sunday School; Bethel (had 1100 on Easter Sunday) is constantly in contests with other churches; he believes in Leadership Banquets, etc. Constantly motivates the children by awards for good behaviour and achievements, etc.

Bus Ministry - presently has eight large school buses with an average attendance of 200 per Sunday. Would recommend a bus



ministry as it is a tool of evangelism. (His Youth Pastor has charge of this ministry). States that the Bus Ministry can either make or break your church, so there must be strong discipline among the children. The children he buses are not ghetto children. (Brother C. is a strong disciplinarian and does not hesitate to do so from the pulpit). Suggests that if Highway goes into a Bus ministry, that we rent the buses, thus saving the cost of insurance, place for keeping the buses, etc.

Has five Children's Churches in Carlisle. Mrs. Castellani is Director of the Children's Churches and the Day Care Center which they have. (The Day Care Center now pays \$100 a week into the church treasury.)

#### Doctrine

##### A/G doctrine

Healing - believes in this - has prayer for the sick (James 5:14,15) in almost every Communion service.

Holy Spirit - believes in the initial evidence of tongues - in controlled worship, i.e., maximum of 3 messages, 3 interpretations, 3 prophecies; does not believe in either extreme liberalism or extreme control in gifts administration but feels that the Pastor keeps control, not the congregation.

Does not feel "tongues" is a requirement for the Rapture; he allows men on his Board who have not spoken in tongues as long as they evidence the born-again, committed-to-Christ life of the Spirit.

##### Tithing - Missions - Finance

Very strong for tithing (Brother C. does not have on his Board any member who does not tithe - this is a requirement for Board members). Encourages Missionary giving above the tithe and also encourages pledges. Believes in giving 5% out of gross income to Missions - that is, the Carlisle church does this.

Doesn't make strong appeals for money, but has a budget, speaks on stewardship, takes Faith pledges for the General Fund. Believes we must take care of our own needs at the home base as well as those on the Mission field.

##### Visitation

If people are ill and call, Bro. C. will visit; if they are in the hospital, he will visit. He is available but he does not believe in "babying" people. He tries to visit everyone's home one time. His associate, his Deacon Board, S. S. teachers, etc. help with the visitation. He sets up certain hours in the Church Study for counseling as he believes this is preferable to the people.

##### Miscellaneous

Has no Radio Program in his present church, but feels that if he went into radio, he would do spot broadcasting, from wherever he was at a certain time, speaking to the people informatively and more casually (folksy), bringing in spiritual truths. Feels there is enough preaching on the radio, that this type would be better and states that a lot of pastors are going into this type of radio ministry.

Brother Castellani has only eight members on his Board - Deacons and Trustees - no Elders and no women. He is not adverse to women being on the Board, but only if there is no man available. He feels that no two members of one family should be on the

Page three - Castellani

Official Board - there should be representation spread over the church. Bro. C. conducts his Board meetings after his Bible Study, which lasts one hour or perhaps 1½ hours.

He believes in having a good many musical groups (such as the Couriers, the Eastmen), five or six gospel groups during the year, several good films, etc. He will allow the sale of recordings on Sunday, but not in the Sanctuary ...in the Annex, for instance.

Please note - Brother Castellani will come to speak to us as a Candidate on June 26, but he feels very strongly about being one of four candidates. He suggests that we have the Presbyter in, have a Membership meeting, and vote in this way: take one man at a time, vote on him, if he does not make it, take the second, etc. He would prefer to be No. 4 man. He will wait to find out what the Membership will do concerning this, with the option of removing his name from the candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk  
Highway Tabernacle