

Resume on Rev. Lloyd Christiansen, Pastoral Candidate from Wyckoff, New Jersey - July 10, 1977:

General Statistics:

Age: "In the fifties"

Family: Mrs. Christiansen, a married son and daughter, both Christians. Pastored previously in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, California, Washington, D.C., and Paterson and Wyckoff (present church). Period of ministry in each church from 5 to 8 years. Has been eleven years with the Bethany church in Wyckoff - this church was moved five years ago from Paterson to Wyckoff, seats about 700; the average church attendance is 300; 240 in Sunday School, and there are bigger crowds at the times of special meetings.

Recommended by: Thomas F. Zimmerman, G. Raymond Carlson; ministers who would recommend if asked: C. M. Ward, William Robertson, Supt. of Southern California District, and Rev. Joseph Paproski, Supt. of New Jersey District.

Brother Christiansen stated .."For your information I think you as a Board would like to know I preach the Word of God, stick to the Bible."

Why would he consider Highway and coming to Philadelphia?

"My wife and I have felt for a number of months that we would be moving in the future and we have been looking to the Lord, and I think He can open doors and make it clear what He wants. I have had a few opportunities to move and did not feel led of the Lord to accept them. We have been praying about Highway."

Concerning the 4-Candidate attitude of Highway's Membership

It was explained to Bro. Christiansen that the other candidates did not favor this procedure ...

His statement: "I am not going to tell the membership what to do. I am satisfied to let you proceed as you want to."

Location and re-location

Has had experience in a Building Program. Is willing to relocate if it is the mind of the Lord and the Membership. "My ministry has had this pattern. In every church we have had growth; we have never had mushroom growth, doubling or tripling except in one church...but a steady growth. Location isn't everything but one-half the battle is won if you can locate where you have a chance for growth. I discovered in house-to-house visitation in Paterson that we could not get to first base with the inner-city people. But we lost only two people (one member and one non-member) in moving from Paterson to Wyckoff.

Youth

Bro. C. believes a Youth ministry is a necessity and there would definitely have to be a Youth Minister; he could not bring his present Youth Minister with him. His present Youth Minister (also assistant pastor) offers a variety of program for the youth. At the suggestion of one of the Board that we did not have a well-rounded program for our youth in recent years, this statement: "The youth are not going to be like older people. They have needs peculiar to their age. I like them to have wholesome recreation, fellowship, etc., but we are living in a day of extremes and when you go off into wild music, rock and roll, I don't like that - I don't think it is spiritually good for the youth. I think, without compromising the Bible, you have to be understanding with the youth. If you use wisdom, they are not going to



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rebel. I have found it easy to relate to the Youth.

Matter of slacks: Feels it is more modest to wear slacks at some times. Would not approve of it in the church, but outside of the church, would leave it up to the individual conscience.

## Sunday School - Busing, etc. - Children's Churches

Busing depends upon the area in which the church is located. "I would do it in some places but I know of other places where you would be beating your head against a wall. For instance, in the area of well-to-do people and the affluent, they do not seem to want their children bused. I don't think you can say that busing succeeds everywhere."

"We had to build a different kind of Sunday School when we moved; we have one small bus. The children in Paterson (about 150) were underprivileged; there is a different group in Wyckoff. I had a large Sunday School in Colorado Springs...."

We have a Children's Church in Wyckoff. Some people want to sit as a family but many parents feel the children get more out of a service suited to the needs of the ages of the children.

Doctrine (questioned particularly on his views about the Baptism and the requirement for speaking in tongues):

Bro. C. encourages the need for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. When questioned about needing "tongues" to go in the Rapture, he replied that there would be a lot of saints that wouldn't make the Rapture then. "I believe we must be very earnest, but I believe we must not judge people."

### A. The Official Board - and the matter of the Baptism, etc.

Bro. C. prefers a large Board; he has ten members in Wyckoff; he has no "Trustees" as the Deacons double as Trustees. In every church he has had the Baptism has been required for a Church Board member. Believes that women have a place on the Board.

## Missions

Believes in missionary-giving; in his church in Wyckoff in the last ten years the missionary giving has gone from \$4000 to \$26,000 in 1976. He believes a church must have a missionary vision; however, he also believes that it is possible for a church to spread itself too thin. "I think a church can have its fingers in too many pies and thereby doesn't focus enough on its own needs and doesn't grow in its local base, so I am a great believer in making the home base strong; I give a great majority of my time to the church."

"I hold a couple of offices (one of them as Presbyter) but they take a minimum of my time. My time and effort belong to the church."

## General Program

Question: "How do you feel about using films on Sunday nights? How about the selling of tapes, records, etc."

Answer: "I have used a few films; I don't feel a film should become a crutch. The problem for every church is to get a good Sunday night crowd but you have to have vision and without doing anything wild or offensive, push the Sunday night service. It doesn't grow by itself. I am



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afraid of extreme or bizarre things - but a good live evangelistic program, good music and singing - these are a must; the service has to be sound and developed.

We avoid selling tapes and records on Sunday in Wyckoff because our people don't like it. There are still a lot of people who don't like Sunday sales."

Has dinners and receptions - many out in restaurants.

Visitation

"If a man has a large membership he must plan his visits wisely. Since there are so many needed visits to be made, I do very little social visiting; my visitation is pretty well confined to the people who need it or the people I am trying to get into the church .... but not just for socializing except as fellowships are arranged by the church, etc." Bro. C. has found that phone visitation that numbers into the hundreds each week, pays off; he believes the deacons and deaconess should also visit the sick.

Salary

It was explained to Bro. Christiansen that other candidates have asked for certain financial stipulations and have reached an understanding of what they should have financially. Brother Christiansen states that he considers Highway as a church of long-standing, that he doesn't have any idea what the pastor is paid, but if the Board is fair that suits him. "I am not one to wrangle over salary or money. The LORD has always treated me good. I would never make the salary a basis for any agreement. My church in Wyckoff is good to me and I suppose Highway Tabernacle would be good, too."

Further General Statements of Interest

Mrs. Christiansen is active in Sunday School, active in the church but doesn't preach, active in WM's both on a local and sectional-district (?) level. "On telephone follow-up and evangelism, she is the best I have ever seen."

Statements from Bro. Christiansen: "I would like to encourage leadership. I like to feel a part of each department, to have an "input" in suggestions from time to time; I have ideas that I like to suggest. I believe the church must have confidence from a man's past experience - that he adapts to conditions in each church and as he sees conditions and opportunities, he aggressively works for growth and improvement, but until one gets on the scene and surveys the situation, it is hard to say what the first step will be. Whoever you get will have to learn local conditions and go ahead from there.

"I still believe in this day, when methods and gimmicks and a lot of programs are put forth, I still believe that there is no substitute for much prayer and from the pulpit, the Word of God. If there are going to be permanent results, you must have prayer and there must be the Word of God. Every church is organized differently, but you can't get away from these basics."

Brother Christiansen asked: "Do you have faith that Highway is going to grow in the future? I think you would expect your pastor to constantly put something before you in the way of goals....."

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk  
HIGHWAY TABERNACLE.