

The Official Board held a meeting Friday night, August 5th, with incoming Pastor and Mrs. Lloyd Christiansen. Present were: Bros. Ambrose, Cook, Davis, Gerhart, Luff, Massucci, Sakash, Sampson, Spuler, Weinacht; Sisters Huff, Manor, Sampson and Muir; Bro. and Sister Christiansen. (16)

Brother Sakash spoke briefly concerning our pleasure at having Pastor and Sister Christiansen with us and then turned the meeting over to Bro. Christiansen, who led in prayer and then took charge of the meeting.

There were many matters brought up that Pastor Christiansen felt should be discussed, i.e.:

The Active Membership (approximately 173 - 9 Juniors); the CA group (someone stated that it was about 15); the Wm situation - Sister Christiansen and Manor have already discussed this; Highway's relationship with Teen Challenge:

Relative to this matter Bro. Luff advised us that the Philadelphia Teen Challenge has been dissolved; the Boys' Home will be sold and the boys will be moved to Rehresburg; Duane Henders is now Director of the present group; the Girls' Home will be kept, etc.

Concerning relocation, Brother Christiansen stated that we couldn't at this time get into specifics, that a building program is both a blessed and a trying time; that normally it is a 3 to 4 year proposition with many steps in the building program. Bro. C. has been through two building programs. He was advised that our present church building would be put on the market for 1/2 million dollars, that we would probably realize 1/4 million dollars in the sale of it. When he asked if the Board thought the city would be interested in acquiring the property, Bro. Luff stated there were three good possibilities - for the Union next door, to expand or for parking purposes; the Phila. School Board wanted it at one time for Day Care; Springfield is interested in a Black Pentecostal church in the city. (At this time Bro. Luff was advised that Calvary, Wyncote, has already established a black church in the Germantown area.)

Brother Christiansen continued - "Sometimes we think in the present financial situation but a building program is not worth all the effort and energy unless we are looking forward to a much bigger congregation. We must have a vision --that a proper location and another building will produce a bigger congregation. One-third of the cost of the program should be raised to start with, then you are all right."

Pastor Christiansen spoke of the rich heritage of Highway and that those who had gone before would surely be thrilled to know that Highway had become a great church in numbers, as well as spiritually. "I would never try to drive a program through that did not have good common sense. We don't want to go in over our heads; at the same time a large step of faith is certainly required. These are things that we will want to pray about in the future."

When he asked the Board what they would say are the chief problems and areas of concern of the church at the present time, it was stated that

- (1) The congregation is so spread out (the majority of them live in the Northeast but some of them come from quite a distance)
- (2) The parking problem

It was stated that though we had lost many families, there is a good possibility of getting some of them back to Highway.

Our Missionary program - at the time we are supporting 14 or 15 missionaries. Our indebtedness on the present building is \$25,500; the sale of the parsonage brought \$46,175, after the pay-off figures were deducted. Our annual income is over \$100,000.

The Church pays the Pastor's expenses to the District and General Councils. Re the Here's Life campaign, Highway was not active in this; it had a limited success in Philadelphia.

Re our working relationship with Valley Forge Christian College, we have not used the choirs, etc., and Bro. Christiansen thought it would be a good idea to have their musical groups in; he will be thinking about a radio broadcast.

He spoke of one thing that has been successful in his churches, the mailing of a bulletin about ten days in advance, to a large mailing list. He suggested the use of a Scriptomatic (costing about \$1200), to get out such a bulk mailing.

He has every intention of having good crowds on Sunday nights and will move in this direction.

There will be advertising in the papers for his coming in on September 18th - he will send in the copy.

Concerning the important matter of Youth Minister, Bro. Christiansen stated that he had two in mind as of this date and he would keep looking when he attends General Council; that he would like to get a "workaholic" since he has had experience with some Youth Ministers who do not work too well. He will bring the Youth candidate in, and have him speak to the membership and the young people, at which time the Board can talk to the young man concerning the details of his ministry at Highway.

Bro. and Sister Christiansen will come back into the city on the 8th of August to spend Monday and Tuesday looking for a house to rent. It was decided that to rent a place would be the best thing to do at this time.

Bro. Christiansen stated: "I do not come in to be a dictator but to give leadership. I hope that most of what I suggest will meet with your approval but if I propose something that doesn't seem workable, I will work with you from that angle!" Bro. Christiansen continued: "We must never eliminate the preaching of the pure word of God. Methods of doing God's work will change from time to time, but His Word will go on forever."

The Trustees then advised him of what to expect in the way of salary and they reached an agreement.

Brother Sakash then took charge of the meeting and assured Pastor Christiansen of our satisfaction of having him come in as Pastor and our desire to work with him.

Before adjourning, the matter of gifts to Pastors Roberson and Waggoner (from the sale of the parsonage) was discussed. It was decided to table the matter until the membership can vote on it. This was put in the form of a motion by Bro. Davis., i.e., a motion that the balance of money left from the sale of the parsonage (\$46,175.16) be transferred to Hamilton Reliance Savings and Loan until such time as a meeting of the membership is called to decide upon the disposition of the funds to Brothers Roberson and Waggoner, whether in the amounts of \$4000 to Bro. Roberson and \$3000 to Bro. Waggoner (as had been suggested) or whatever amounts. The motion was seconded by Bro. Cook, put to vote and carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

*Accepted - See Action Oct. 4, 1977
By Synapses*

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir
Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk