

The Official Board held a short meeting Sunday night, October 23rd, immediately after the Evening Service. Present were: Bros. Cook, Davis, Gerhart, Luff, Sakash, Sampson; Sisters Sampson and Muir; Bro. Reginald Stone, pulpit speaker.

Brother Sakash stated that the meeting was called because so many people from the congregation had come to him - about twelve had gone to Bro. Stone personally - requesting that he become a pastoral candidate. The elders (Bros. Gerhart and Sakash) had discussed the matter with Bro. Stone.

At the request of Bro. Sakash then, Bro. Stone spoke to the Board, mentioning that two years ago he had felt his work was about finished in Uruguay and that six months ago he had felt strongly that he was finished, that he had notified Springfield of his conviction, that a human element entered in and that is that he has two teenage children and feels they should be in the States (and he feels at peace with this decision); he has had invitations from five or six foreign countries to come to minister but has not felt any confirmation in his spirit. His commitment at the Valley Forge Christian College is until April of next year and he would be committed Monday, Wednesday and Fridays of next semester; this would allow him to minister in Highway Sundays and Thursdays.

He continued to state that he had been invited in July to take the pastorate in Spring Valley, New -York (where Bro. Christiansen went) and that he had replied he would call back in 48 hours if he was interested - but he was not.

(When Brother Stone was contacted to come as Pulpit Speaker, Sister Stone remarked to Sister Muir that she wondered if the Lord was trying to tell them something about a new direction in their lives; Sister Muir then stated to both Sister and Brother Stone that she had no authority to call Brother Stone as a candidate, but was calling him for pulpit speaker, but that we would be glad to have a resume from him; Brother Stone then said he could not send in a resume, that he would come and speak and get the feel of the people and the reaction of the people to him). He continued to say that this at Highway had been totally unexpected and unsolicited - and that he always wanted the Lord to take the initiative. He is now open to the will of the Lord.

He further stated that a big Official Board would not bother him, that if he were to come, he would expect the members of the Board to move with him and function with him by the move of the Holy Spirit...that he was not a one-man show; that the responsibility of Highway is so big that one man could not do it. He continued to say that if you were to ask him some questions concerning relocation, etc., he would not have the answers right now. "One of the first things I would do would be to emphasize the fact that we as leaders would have to get on our knees, seek the will of God and discern what it was for Highway..... that might not come in six months or a year." He advised that we should listen to Brother Griswold (pastoral candidate coming in on the 30th, and give him every opportunity, as he may be God's man for Highway.

Brother Luff mentioned that we might not be fair to Brother Griswold or the congregation in having Brother Griswold in under the present conditions, since so many of our people wanted Bro. Stone to be a candidate. Brother Stone said he wondered if it would be fair to the people.

The Board discussed the matter at length, and it was the consensus of opinion, after listening to Brother Sakash, who felt our word (given to Bro. Griswold) really constituted us and that we should keep our commitment, Bros. Davis and Sampson strongly feeling the same way that we should keep our commitment to Bro. Larry Griswold, have the election on November 6th, as already planned - and pray much and trust God that He would have His way.

Brother Stone continued to state that human nature being as it is, someone on the VFCC campus is sure to say to him, "I hear you are going to Highway." He stated that if he were to come, the decision would have to be made as fast as possible for he would have to notify the Foreign Missions Department - the people who have sacrificed in churches for him to have a ministry in Uruguay. He is totally committed up to December 11th - he would not feel to cancel with any pastor unless he gave four weeks' notice. He has a commitment on Dec. 11th, but this could probably be cancelled to come to Highway.

He further stated that he may go back to the mission field some day. "I would hope that if I came as pastor, there would be an opportunity for me to go back to the mission field, doing it discreetly and not abusing the privilege... Highway would be no picnic. I would expect a year or two of hard work - but there would be a day that I would say I feel led in my heart to go back and minister overseas for a month. I would want to make that clear. But on the other hand, I would not want to move away from the church too much."

After much discussion, it was decided that if Brother Griswold is not elected on the 6th of November, it would not be necessary for Bro. Stone to come in and speak as a candidate, we would go ahead and have an election on the 13th. Bro. Stone would meet further with the Board on Monday, November 7th. Some announcement will be given to the membership concerning Bro. S.'s candidacy.

Brother Stone then left the meeting and the Board discussed the matter further. Sister Muir explained her contact with the Stones and that she had notified Bros. Gerhart and Sakash that Bro. Stone might be a pastoral candidate when he came as a pulpit speaker.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth C. Muir
 Ruth C. Muir, Church
 Clerk

Accepted by Synops
1/30/78