

Resume of Rev. Reginald A. Stone

Age - 43

Wife - Rose Pierce Stone

Children - Kent (19) , in January he will be senior in Evangel College
Regina (15), Junior in high school

Education

Graduate of EBI (VFCC) - 1955

Graduate of United Wesleyan College, Allentown, 1958, B.R.E.

Attended Appalachian State University, North Carolina , 1960-1963

Graduate of Spanish Linguistic Institute, Mexico, 1966

Graduate of Villanova University, Master of Arts, Major in Guidance Counseling-1972

Ministerial Background

Ordained, Eastern District, 1958

Pastorates:

Hellertown - pioneer work

Newton, N.C., - built new church, enlarged same again

Bristol, Va. - built new church

Missionary to Uruguay - 1966 to 1977

Pastor, Evangelistic Center, Montevideo, capital city

Founder of 6 churches in Montevideo - 90 preaching points

Founder and instructor of Bible College in Uruguay - 8 years

Supt., A/G in Uruguay - establishing indigenous A/G organization

Professor at Valley Forge Christian College

DETAILS FROM MEETING WITH OFFICIAL BOARD, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 13th:

(Please note: The Chairman of the Board gave to Bro. Stone the choice of speaking to Board first or having the Board question him first concerning matters of importance; Bro. Stone felt what he had to discuss might answer some of the Board's questions and so he spoke to the Board; there were relatively few questions asked of him) Following are remarks from Brother Stone:

The picture I now have of Highway after being with you is not the picture painted to me from the outside! You have gone through some deep waters and I am very aware of that.... but there were 250 people in this morning's service; Highway is not dead - Highway has a great future.

Working relationship with the Board

To give you an idea of how I have worked with my Board, in one church I pastored, we wanted to have a revival meeting; the evangelist could not come until the first week of December. One of my Board members said, "Do you think it is wise to have an evangelist here so close to Christmas?" I felt it was of God and so they went along with me. We had a very good meeting. Sometime later we were having District Council in our church and we had scheduled an evangelist for the last week in April. One of the Board members said, "Do you think it wise to have him so close to District Council?" I listened to my brother and felt it was good advice and advised the Board that the member was right and we would not invite the evangelist.

In other words I will come to you with ideas but I am not capricious - I do not feel that I have the only word from God and you have to listen to me; that is not my attitude. In the years I have had serving in official capacity, I have found I am not infallible! - so you would have to be compassionate with me.

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Let me say very openly that I have heard some things about this Board - I see that they are without foundation. But I would like to feel or have your reaction as to your responsibility as a Board. If I were to come here as pastor, the fact that you have a large Board does not bother me. I kind of like a large Board. But if I were to come, I want you to know that the Board must function and not be figureheads. You have gone through difficult times this year and you Board members have stuck with it; however, if I were to come, I would not want anyone to say, "Now Brother Stone is here, I will sit back..."

Question - What do you think about women being on the Board?

Answer - I would very much need you and want your help and you would have a very vital ministry in the church; in other words, I will work you just as hard as you can take it.

One of the most discouraging things is to see the pastor as a dictator - or on the other hand, when the Board feels it has to keep the pastor in line ... but if I were to ask you to go out and visit with me, would you come?

I use the word "Body" quite a bit. In the Body here you people have been placed as leaders. I would be calling on you to come together to pray - we must be motivated spiritually. The spiritual ministry comes as we seek God together.

Situation concerning Valley Forge C.C., etc, missionary commitments...

I have a present obligation to Valley Forge Christian College until the end of April. I don't believe in not carrying through my obligations and I could not leave my brethren in the lurch. I have an obligation and I intend to keep it.

I am on loan from the Foreign Missions Department to teach at V.F.C.C. If I were to come as pastor, to guard my credibility, I would immediately resign (resignation as of the end of the year) and begin to cancel my commitments to the Missions Department and my mission salary would be cut off (Brother Stone is a volunteer teacher at VFCC - he is not paid for his services there) and for a few months I would be doing two jobs on the salary of one. The best time for me to begin if I came in as pastor, would be January 1 - a New Year and a new pastor. The week before I came here in October, the College asked me to go on permanent staff - and that invitation still stands, but I feel I am here in the will of God. Highway needs someone to give himself full-time and I would have to work it out to be in the Study (Church) and to be in Highway perhaps daily, (Brother Stone was advised in a later meeting that he would not have to be in Highway daily while he was teaching at VFCC).

I am aware of the tremendous history of this church and it is something to be proud of. All of these men stayed for long periods of time and that speaks well for a church; if I came here I would be aware of the rich history of the church and would be proud to be pastor.

Projects to be initiated if Bro. Stone came as pastor

1. One-to-one witnessing
2. Daily five-minute broadcasts around 6 or 7 a.m.
3. Outreach
 - Support of Teen Challenge
 - Charismatics

We must be aware of the contemporary moving in the Pentecostal church today. We must have a progressive attitude and adapt ourselves to the times. Being a Southerner, I am quite reserved, but I believe the charismatic movement today is a move of God. I had a Catholic brother in Villanova who was genuinely born again and filled with the Spirit. I am not gullible but I am very open to this movement and would feel

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that Highway would have a lot to offer in the way of leadership in this hour. Experience is not the only criteria for judging. There has to be a Biblical foundation. The Catholics have much in the way of experience but lack teaching. Let us do something to correct this deficiency. I would hope there would be a strong teaching ministry from this pulpit if I came here. I also hope the charismatic visitors would feel a warmth from the congregation. I spoke in a restaurant in New Jersey a few weeks ago and God came down in that restaurant. We must give them guidance, we must court their confidence. How does the Board feel about this?

Answer - BROTHER Stone was assured by a Board member that we agreed with the charismatic movement and felt that Highway has not been open to the movement but that that failure did not come from the people or the Official Board.

Brother Stone also stated that he would be in fellowship with the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship.

3 Outreach continued - Spanish speaking people

There are around this church thousands of Spanish speaking people - I don't think it would be wise to open up this church and flood it with these people but at the same time I am aware of the burden. I teach Spanish at the College - I would be reaching out to these people here in this area in some way. Perhaps Sunday afternoon services, or a Sunday School class..

(Brother Stone was advised of a question from a member of the congregation who wondered about this very situation - if Highway would be flooded with the Spanish-speaking people and would cease to be "Highway" - and he also was advised of our experiences with the Spanish children in the past, etc.)

He continued - There is a class of these people in the city who do not live in the ghettos - they have lifted themselves up. For instance, my secretary at the College is a bi-lingual (and evidently Spanish). I would go after the higher class. I realize there are problems with the others who could come in - and that the two classes don't mix - we have had that experience in Uruguay...but there is a Spanish Bible School here in Philadelphia - perhaps I could sit down with them and give them some ideas. But my first obligation would be to Highway. This church has a mission to fulfill.

4. I don't know how long it would take for the healing of the Body, and I would not come to you perhaps in over the next year, but I want to mention beforehand that I hope you would be open to sending me overseas to minister about every two years. Question - For how long a period? Answer - For a period of probably 3 or 4 weeks.

RELOCATION

Brother Stone was advised that the membership has come to an agreement to move the church - that it is the desire of the people and the Board to do so and was asked what would be his intention.

Answer - Maybe the answer, brother, is for Highway to move. My advice, whether or not I come here - I feel first you must have a healing of the Body. I would shelve the moving for 6 months or perhaps a year. Then as a Body, you could pray about this.

He was further advised then of the number of improvements that have to be made to the building, of the expense involved if we stay in this location, etc.

Youth Pastor and Youth

From Brother Stone - Not very far out in the future we must bring in a Youth Pastor.

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(Youth continued)

There is a student at the College - very high scholastic background and very well thought of by the administration and faculty, age about 21 or 22, single. If he was brought in, he would know that he was not at Highway to fill the pulpit, altho he would be able to at times....

(After discussion on the merits of bringing in a couple for the young people..)
Brother Stone advised that he had been thinking of a single young man of this caliber also from a financial point of view not knowing what the Church might do.

Question - How do you feel about sports activities and young women wearing slacks?

Answer - That is scratching where we itched five years ago!

Miscellaneous

Brother Stone felt like the outside of the church needed some face-lifting
Was advised of our parking situation

If he comes as pastor, desires to go with the Trustees to choose desk, etc.,
for the study

Was advised that the church will send their minister to District and General
Councils, and Ministers' Retreats, etc.

Concerning buying a home, Brother Stone ^{said} that if he came, he did not know just
what he would do concerning this. He owns a home in Richmond, Va. He is now
paying \$130 rent on his apartment at VFCC. He would stay in Valley Forge while
he is teaching there since his daughter is in highschool there.

Concerning Sister Stone's ministry

I have a very wonderful wife; she respects me as the head of our home. I
appreciate the advice of my wife; she never tries to run me; she knows when
to give me advice and when not to - when to lift me up and when to let me
down. If it were not for my wife, I would not be where I am today,...she has
a burden for the work of God - she does have a ministry. She has refused cre-
dentials and does not want to be called a preacher, but she can and is an
effective preacher. I may ask her to minister periodically from a woman's
standpoint...she is very active in WMs. I would probably put her in the pul-
pit when I was away.

Concerning other speakers ...

Just because a man carries a card with the A/G doesn't mean he comes to my
pulpit. I am A/G and love our movement and have served in an executive
position as a leader in our movement, and I would want to protect it and this
church because this church has a rich history. I may bring in other men who
are not A/G but I would have to check them very carefully.

Closing statement - We want to move on and accomplish the purpose for which God
raised up Highway (in the event he comes in as pastor)

Brother Stone then met with the Elders and Trustees concerning details of his salary,
benefits, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk