

PASTOR'S REPORT - 1985

When God reigns fully in us there are no impossible problems, our help comes from the Lord.

Our year started out with a song and though Satan contested, we are still assured, the battle is the Lord's. We are reminded in Isaiah 54 to "Sing, oh barren, thou that didst not bear..."! How marvelous to know God is a God of His Word and will bring it to pass as we continue to labor faithfully for Him.

In January Dr. Ashcroft of Valley Forge Christian College spoke in Morning Worship. February found us in neighborhood prayer meetings in the Jorge Gonzalez home and Jerry Nendel, among others. Out of these prayer meetings eventually a new ministry was born in the Spring Garden Towers across the street. Brother Dan Langan heads up this ministry with our young adults ministering in turn on Tuesday evenings. Sisters Jamison and Davis act as hostesses. We have many visitors from the High-rise in our services. Brother and Sister DeMasi also reside there.

In March, Bob Wittik, Northeast Area Chi Alpha Representative, ministered in Morning worship. Tim Shawl, Hahnemann medical student, ministered in song with his twin brother, sister and mother who were visiting Philadelphia.

We began a new ministry in March. The College Luncheon program, endeavoring to reach the students at the Philadelphia Community College across the street. We thank God for the mission field this presents us of young lives from every part of the city and world. A report of this ministry is elsewhere.

A Jewish Seder demonstration was conducted in April by Bill Pankey from Beth Emmanuel. Missionary Duane Henders, Portugal, spoke in May. Dr. Paul Emery ministered while we were on vacation. Bonnie Dalaba presented a Sacred Concert, and Missionary Dan Bogdan, Malaysia, ministered on the last Sunday in May.

In June the Sectional Youth Rally, with the Son Life Singers of California, ministered. "Crisis in the Home" was shown, featuring Billy Graham and James Dobson.

The Festival of Praise Singers began worship in the month of July. Rev. Rennie Wallen spoke; Mission America Film was shown depicting Home Missions efforts throughout the United States. Home Missions Pastor Richard Smith and his congregation joined us for an evening service. Climaxing the month was a film entitled, "More Than Winning."

Teen Challenge Day has become an annual event in Highway. Rev. Reginald Yake, Teen Challenge Training Center Director, ministered in the service with many former students giving testimonies. A film was shown, "No Longer Alone." Beginning their third year, the International Fellowship served a roast beef dinner on a Sunday afternoon and Rev. Wolowec ministered in the evening service.

Brother Brent Osgood, Speed-the-Light Director from Springfield, Missouri, spoke in September, along with Professor Ott from Valley Forge Christian College, who ministered in our absence.

A Stewardship Seminar was conducted in October by Rev. Clayton Sheridan. This resulted in a projected future endowment of \$60,000.00 to Highway Tabernacle.

Celebrating Highway's 90th Anniversary, Rev. Wesley and Earline Steelberg ministered in three days of services. On one of these evenings Rev. Peter Chong of the Korean Assemblies of God translated the service for the delegation of Koreans in attendance.

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Dr. Ashcroft ministered on Thanksgiving Day with Rev. Howard Roberson filling in for me due to acute illness. While I couldn't be in the service, I was greatly blessed and surprised to see clips on Channel 6 TV. We appreciated our dear Korean brethren and sisters who ministered in the service also.

I appreciated Brother Roberson ministering in my absence. Your prayers, love and expressions of kindness were so supportive, and my recovery so rapid, it all seems like a dream.

The year ended with our veteran missionary, Sister Rosa Reineker returning home at the death of her sister, Emma Ewald. The International Fellowship at Christmas was a joyous occasion. Sister Mae Wallen presented a beautiful Christmas program with the children.

This summarizes the year as far as special speakers and programs go. In preaching emphasis, studies were given in the book of Joshua and studies on Prayer and the Second Coming.

Quite a few of our elderly saints and former members went home to be with the Lord this year. I attended or conducted or assisted in most of them: Myrtle Lester, Harry Caskey, Bob Lafferty, Ernest Nagy, George Griffin, Clara Payne, Isabelle McKittrick, Doris Luff, Marie O'Donnell, Leon Grzybowski, Helen White-marsh, Hobart Grazier, Mary E. Wright, Emma Zehner and Emma Ewald.

We had two baby dedications this year - Joshua Ragodo and Stephen Matthew Bachman. The new members taken in this year: Daniel A. Langan, Emma Ewald was reactivated, Myrtle Anderson, Robert C. Baker, Maria Bonilla, Dorothy T. Davis, Parvez and Margaret Gill, Shelley C. Roberson, Jr., and Carol terMeulen. Baptized in water: Carol Lee TerMeulen, Dolores O. Willie, Robert C. Baker, Bruce Coleman, Chris Dander, Randy Gurley, Robert Pierce, Joseph Rose, John Remer, Dwayne Jones, Donald Lawrence, Sharon Oberholtzer, Charles Hannum, George Merolli and James Daniels.

A new work has been started among the Koreans with Brother Chong To Kim as pastor in Highway Tabernacle on Sunday afternoons. Rev. Kim was ordained in the Korean Assemblies of God last month. Already their church averages 37 in attendance.

Visitation, counseling, phone calls too numerous to mention, studying, prayer, are the abounding work of the Lord which He promises will not be in vain.

I have served on the Board of Directors of Teen Challenge, entailing monthly trips to Rehresburg. Also, as Sectional Secretary to the Ministers' Fellowship and on the Home Missions Committee, as well as the Credential Review Committee. My wife has served as Representative to the Greater Phila. Area Women's Ministries.

Outside speaking engagements consisted of Chapel speaker at the Teen Challenge Training Center, Anniversary services at Taunton, Mass., and First Assembly in Edenton, North Carolina. My wife and I attended District Council in the Pittsburgh area in May.

WE appreciated every gift given to the ministry of Highway Tabernacle, every hand extended in the ministry of helps and every prayer prayed for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God thru Highway Tabernacle.

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I would like to record in passing the great loss we suffered with the death of our Brother Leon. He served Highway so devotedly for so many years and I mourned his home-going as a friend. We thank the Lord for sending Brother Les Lauf to fill his place with the same dedicated service.

My special thanks to the Board for their helps and consideration and to all who serve in any capacity.

In these closing moments of time may God's grace rest upon us to do an even greater work for the furtherance of His Kingdom in the days to come.

Respectfully submitted,

PASTOR STEPHEN BOGDAN