

Special meeting of Official Board was called by the Pastor immediately following the morning service on April 8, 1951, pursuant to announcement by the Pastor at the morning service on that date.

Rev. Wallace S. Bragg, Pastor, presided.

There were present: Rev. W. S. Bragg, Bros. Krause, Hollahan, Alexander, Day, Heintz, W. Hepworth, MacPherson, Lanham, Zehner, R. Lafferty, A. Clark, McAnney, and Sisters M. Nethery, M. Griffin, C. Clarke, E. Zehner, and Payne.

Bro. Harry Valentine was also present.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

The Pastor stated that the meeting had been called to consider the matter of opening a West Philadelphia church, and he appreciated the fact that the members had come to him before going ahead. The Pastor called on Bro. Harry Valentine to give the Board his thoughts in the matter.

Bro. Valentine pointed out the need of a church in that section, and said he did not feel one church could meet the demanding needs of the present day, but he felt the need of a branch church, there being no Pentecostal Assembly from Highway to Chester, a distance of 18 miles. Thousands of new homes are being built in that section. The Catholics are already in. Something should be done and he would like it to be done through Highway. He spoke of a church for sale, with parsonage and some ground, where the hub of the utilities seem to come together, from Upper Darby, Drexel Hill, and others. He said he believed they could purchase the property for \$55,000, and while it might seem large he believed God could do it, if we would sacrifice and pull together. He went on to elaborate the need and the advisability of taking hold of the situation now. Said he had spoken to Bro. Lazar, who stated he had \$2,600 in the fund that had not yet been turned over to the Bible School, and part of it could be used for the forging of other works. Bro. Lazar said he was having special meetings but as soon as they were over he would look into it, and get in touch with Bro. Chase.

Bro. Krause said that his idea of a branch work would be for members who live out that way would be to have prayer meetings in their homes, and not for the members of Highway just to leave and start a church.

Bro. Bragg stated that he felt the distance factor should be eliminated, as Highway people had for years been coming the same distance, passing other churches, and coming to Highway. The thought is that it is a needed area.

He stated there was a quarterly Board meeting of the District coming up within ten days time, and I will be glad to take it up with the Board.

Bro. Day stated that the idea was very commendable, and it has been considered over the years. He asked if a pastor who might be chosen would be an accredited Assembly of God man.

Bro. Bragg stated that in a new work when there are ten or 12 dependable persons the Assembly would set the church in order and then call a Pastor, and will send one for 30, 60 or 90 days.

Bro. R. Lafferty stated there was a prayer meeting started at the house and about 9 people from Grace Chapel have received the Baptism according to Acts 2:4. He said he believed that a work of this kind should be born in cottage prayer meetings. As far as branching out, I am for it, but let's be led of the Spirit of God.

Bro. Heintz stated that the project sounded very good, that we have been talking quite a bit about branch work, but it is hard to get an answer, and he thought we should pray about it.

Bro. Bragg stated that right in this area we ought to try to find something for a negro mission, and asked if something was found in the neighborhood would the Trustees go along with him. He said he would be willing to preach for them at times.

Bro. Krause said he thought it would be a problem for the District for a home missionary project.

Bro. Valentine said that he wished the Board would give a little more consideration to the matter, what when he saw this church for sale he just felt it was a real opportunity. He said we can pray, but there comes a time when we must act. He said it takes enthusiasm and it takes sacrifice. He asked some of the Board to go out and look at the locality and the church building.

Bro. Bragg asked the condition of the roof, the kind of heating system, etc. and said if Bro. Valentine would get these for him he would take it up with the District if agreeable to the Board.

Bro. A. Clark said that if the ones living out there recognized the need he did not think there was any need to worry about people leaving Highway, and that he thought in that general direction there should be something. Some people out there don't go any where. He said he did not feel we would have to worry about Highway being hurt if God was in it.

Bro. Day suggested that a committee be formed to see the property.

Bro. Bragg said he would announce the committee later.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Clara M. Payne