

During the Thanksgiving Convention of 1919, Pastor Reel invited Rev. Ernest S. Williams to replace him as Pastor of Highway Tabernacle, since Brother Reel was now in his seventieth year and was planning to retire from the service of the Reading Railroad and also to retire as Pastor of Highway. After much prayer and seeking the will of God, Brother and Sister Williams felt led to accept the call, and took up their position in Highway on June 1, 1920.

God signally blessed the work under the ministry of Brother Williams and the congregation began to increase to the point where the building at 22nd and Oxford Streets could no longer accommodate the people. Although the building had been enlarged to its limit, it was found necessary to seek larger facilities. The members of the Official Board were led to investigate the availability of a former Presbyterian Church located at 19th and Green Streets. The property was acquired and completely renovated, providing a main auditorium which would seat 1100 persons, with a second auditorium seating about 200.

When the dedication service was held, every seat in the main auditorium was filled, the crowd overflowing into the adjacent auditorium, and great was the rejoicing as the Glory of God filled His house.

Under Brother Williams' ministry, the young people of the church began to increase in numbers, and as they were filled with the Holy Spirit during the special revival meetings, they began to respond to the call of God to do service for Him. A church orchestra of about 45 pieces sprung up, as well as a Choir of 35 and the young people started to hold outside services on street corners, jails, hospitals, old folks homes, down and out missions, etc.

New missionaries were commissioned and sent forth to the various foreign fields to carry the Gospel to those so greatly in need of a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Williams was called to Springfield, Missouri in 1930 to serve for twenty years as General Superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Under his consecrated guidance the Movement grew by leaps and bounds. In 1950 he left the office to become a professor of Systematic Theology at Central Bible Institute. Today, Brother Williams is semi-retired, writing an effectual ministry in the *Pentecostal Evangel*.



**Rev. Ernest S. Williams**  
**1920 - 1930**