

PASTOR GAETZ - Richmond Pentecostal Tabernacle

INTERVIEWED:

May 5, 1975

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Pastor Gaetz arrived in Richmond to the Richmond Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in March, 1974 from Edmonton, Alberta.

The church was located at 930 Westminster Highway, its original location.

Description

The building is facing north. The exterior is of California stucco with a roof of shingles. There are four doors at the entrance from steps leading up. There is a large neon lighted cross at the front which can be viewed from quite a distance.

It is on a crawl-space. There is a study upstairs from the entrance hall. The church office is in the house next door which was purchased in 1973, closing in the garage for a study and also making Sunday School rooms.

The large foyer leads to the main sanctuary. Behind this are rooms used for Christian Education and upstairs for Sunday School rooms.

The aisles and foyer are carpetted and under the pews are tiles. These pews were made by a member of the congregation. The choir loft and pulpit are on a raised platform. The choir pews can be moved for Baptismal services to expose the font. The sanctuary does not double as an all-purpose room.

Heating is supplied by an old oil-burning furnace which was converted from a coal-burning furnace, having been given by another Pentecostal church in Vancouver. They are in the

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process now of converting to gas heating.

Lighting is being changed now too in certain areas to make it more accessible. The lighting is all incandescent.

Groups

There were regular Pentecostal services on Pastor Gaetz's arrival. There was a Ladies' Group which met twice a month, for mission work. There was a Crusaders Group and a Young People's service on Friday evening. Now there is an Orchestra practice for the Sunday night practice. Crusaders has been changed to Christ's Delegates and the Christ's Ambassadors group meet too. The Ladies' Group now meet once a month. There is also now a Sunday School Teacher's meeting. Every Saturday morning there is a Bus Ministry meeting. There are no non-congregational groups using the facilities at the moment.

Bus Ministry

There are 3 buses and a V.W. mini-bus. They are averaging 130 children and adults using these buses. The buses service most of Richmond and Sea Island. They are maintained by qualified members of the congregation.

Background of Congregation

Primarily of Richmond residents and of all ethnic background.

Upkeep

Tithing is encouraged, as well as free-will offerings.

Parsonage

The church owns 2 houses, one of which is designated as the Parsonage. Pastor Gaetz's predecessor did not use it nor does Pastor Gaetz who has purchased his own home in Richmond with the assistance of a housing allowance.

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Ministers

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| Pastor Matheson | 1945 - 1948 |
| Pastor Frank Dyck | 1948 - 1950 |
| Pastor Allan | 2 months |
| Pastor Ball | 1950 - few months |
| Pastor Reuben Swanson | 1950 - 1956 |
| Pastor Roy Davies | 1956 - 1961 |
| Pastor Leroy Lebec | 1961 - 1966 |
| Pastor Les Halliwell | 1966 - 1970 |
| Pastor McBride | 1970 - 1973 |
| Pastor Gaetz | 1974 - present. |

Ministry & Tenets of Faith

Church belongs to a Fellowship known as the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada with Headquarters in Toronto, Ontario. Each church is autonomous and indigenous, working together. Each church elects its own Board, selects its own Ministers, and has its own goals. The Missionaries are sent out from Headquarters and supported by each church.

Tenets of Faith - Most obvious distinction is the manner of worship and the service. It is not highly programmed, allowing members of the Assembly an opportunity to declare their thanks. A detailed description of the services and tenets of faith are given.

The usual form of address among the Assembly is Brother and Sister, stemming from a fundamental belief of belonging to the Family of God. The ministers are ordained. Each Province in Canada is a District and each District meets once a year and ordain ministers are ordained at that time, having come through Bible colleges. The College for B. C. is in Clearbrook.

Pastor Gaetz has noticed an increase in the size of congregation in the short time he has been here.

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Plans for the Future_

As property has already been purchased for extension, part of it was paved a month prior to the interview. Four lots to the south have been purchased and plans are underway for expansion - an Architect has been engaged to prepare plans - enlarging the Christian Education Facilities, the building of a new Sanctuary, and further extension of Educational rooms.

MURIEL NOBLE.