

BISHOP BUZUNIS  
MRS. BETTY LARSEN

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

INTERVIEWED:

May 7, 1975

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Bishop Buzunis arrived here in Richmond early in 1970 through his employment. He joined the church and served as Counsellor under Bishop Anderson and was later appointed Bishop.

Mrs. Larsen came to Richmond in 1956. She became a member of the church in 1962. At that time they were meeting at Cook School from 1959. They met until July 1959.

The group then moved to 510 Blundell Road (Church of Christ), renting the property.

#### Description

Composed of two buildings - one wood and one stucco. In the Chapel part there were two rooms off the Altar. The group divided the Sunday School building, putting in dividers. There were a kitchen, washrooms and eight classrooms upstairs and downstairs there was a large cement-floored area, a furnace room and another classroom.

(Description of the parking facilities).

With the move into Blundell, they were a fully-fledged ward under Bishop Aubrey Amos with two counsellors, Harvey K. Oxspring and Carl J. Johnson. There were about 50 in the ward, breaking 100 for the first time September 27, 1959.

#### Groups

Relief Society - women's group  
Prayer Group  
Primary Group  
Mutual Improvement Association for Youth  
Seminary (held in homes at the time).

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There was a Baptismal Font but it was not used.

Bishop Buzunis was appointed Bishop in January 1974:-

-After Bishop Amos	July 1959 - May 1965
-Bishop Adrian Toolson	May 1965 - Oct. 1967
-Brother Richard C. Anderson	Oct. 1967 - Jan. 1974

The two counsellors of Bishop Buzunis are:-

S. J. Michelson & Richard C. Bulpitt.

### Construction of Own Church

The church is run under Leaders with the Bishop responsible to the Vancouver Stake, and in turn responsible to the President in Salt Lake City. They support their church by tithing. Application to build a church is done through the Stake to the head of the church. The ward must raise 30%, the Headquarters providing 70%. The land was purchased here, at 844 Williams Rd., for \$10,000. for 2½ acres. They used one of the standard plans available.

Architect - Frank Tofin adopted standard plan to meet Richmond by-laws.

Contractor - Bethlehem Construction. Undertaken in 1970, construction in 1971, completed 1972. Overall price of \$133,000. First phase has 3,200 sq. ft. Dedication service October 1974 - building paid for.

### Description

Entry from south of Williams Road. In a T-shape. Has multi-purpose room as Chapel. Hallway in a T-shape leading to kitchen, library, furnace room, office and small classroom. On other side of hall are washrooms and Baptismal Font and Relief Society Room.

### Exterior

Masonry, reinforced concrete block. Roof of oak with pre-stressed trusses.

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### Heating

Natural Gas.

### Lighting

All fluorescent, save in the multi-purpose room of incandescent.

In next phase, multi-purpose room will be Sunday School.

Music supplied by organ. Old one in Museum of Richmond.

### Flooring

Of tile and some carpet. Second phase will be carpetted.

### Groups now Meeting

Groups continued. Have Scouts and now Priesthood organization, "Seminary". No congregational groups meet.

Present congregation approximately 335, including children. This ward covers No. 9 Rd. south to Tsawwassen and Point Roberts, north to Vancouver. Boundaries are flexible and determined by size of ward. There are 10 wards in Vancouver Stake. There are no paid officers or leaders in the church. There is no collection plate, upkeep by tithing and donations.

There are about 18,000 missionaries in the field giving 2 years of their time at own expense. Richmond's first missionary was Ross Leo Oviat. There have been others, including a woman, Marlene Wright.

### Role of Women

Is a Patriarchal order so men have the priesthood. Women share this as wives and mothers. Women lead in organizations and Sunday School.

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### Tenets of Faith

- Believe they are the Restored Church
- Divine guidance from God through James Smith receiving guidance as a boy in New York State. The church moved to Salt Lake City in Utah. Description given of "Mormon" the Prophet and his Book.
- Describes the set-up of the church and the standards set up by the church
- Music plays a large part in the church services.

### Special Events

Have had many fund-raising events. They are very active in church groups and sociable, - games and dances and plays.

### Plans for Future

#### -Expansion plans:

- Phase II - building a 300 seat chapel to the east of present building, costing \$250,000.
- Phase III- Opening end of chapel into a gymnasium plus additional classrooms.
- Phase IV - If enough land.

M. NOBLE.