

MR. SANDY LINDAHL - (Richmond Pentecostal Tabernacle)

INTERVIEWED:

April 14, 1975

T.43.1

Mr. Lindahl joined the church on arriving in Richmond. Its name was Ferndale Pentecostal Tabernacle after the Ferndale stop of the railway from Steveston to Vancouver. It was renamed Richmond Pentecostal Tabernacle a few years after Mr. Lindahl's arrival when the station was removed.

The location of the church was as at the present time, 930 Westminster Highway at Garden City Road. The minister in 1953 was Reverend Reuben Swanson and he had been there a few years until 1956.

Background of Congregation

About 30 in number from the Richmond area.

Lot

Originally about 1/4 acre, now increased to 3 acres, bordering on Ferndale Rd.

Structure

Wood frame building, stucco on outside. Living quarters at back for minister and family - church about 30' x 20'. Duroid roof with concrete foundation over crawl space with about 6 steps leading up to it.

Heating from hot water furnace burning sawdust (replaced by hot-air furnace).

Entrance from north, with vestibule at front. Pews faced east. Lighting, electric of hanging bulbs. Flooring of wood. Piano served the congregation.

Groups Meeting

Sunday School. Young people's service on Friday evening of C.A.'s (Christ's Ambassadors). Ladies' Group met as the W.M.C. (Women Moved by Compassion).

Sunday School children were collected by a bus around Richmond. This idea was introduced by Rev. Swanson - it was enlarged to 3 large busses now and a Volkswagon.

Changes

In about 1956 they added more Sunday School rooms at the back and changed the pastor's quarters. Financed by congregation.

In 1958 made a major change: -

- Jacked up church and moved it back
- Addition to front
- Removed living quarters at the back and made it all Sunday School rooms and office
- Some of original building left where it was joined on.

Exterior

Sloping floor inside for better viewing. Church now on high crawl-space.

Entrance

Large doors at front with small roof over vestibule and wide steps leading up. Pastor's study is upstairs of the vestibule.

Sunday School rooms are still at the back and becoming crowded. Pews now facing south, built by a member of congregation.

Now have an organ and an orchestra. Congregation has now enlarged to about 120, still from Richmond area and of many different nationalities but not too many Orientals.

.../3

Upkeep

By tithes and donations and offerings. Busses are maintained by congregation.

Ministry

Now under the ministry of Pastor Gaetz with Pastor Bruce McBride as co-minister. This is the first time they have had two full-time ministers to help with the work of the church. Do a lot of visitation work.

Special Events

Have had many visits of Evangelists and Ministers from Head Office - they supported the visits of Evangelists Billy Graham and Oral Roberts.

Headquarters

In Toronto and affiliated with Assemblies of God in the U.S.A. There are Regional Districts of Provinces. Each District has a Presbytery. Each church is self-governing and choose their own Minister. There are Conventions for each Province and of Canada and also a world-wide conference each 5 years. They support missionaries through a Mission Board in Toronto.

Groups

In 1973 a group was introduced along scouting lines called the Crusaders.

The Sunday School now is in Departments to handle all age groups.

Theological College is now in the Fraser Valley, having moved from North Vancouver.

Government

Have a Board of Deacons with elected Trustees to look after the property. Mr. Lindahl for many years on the Board of Deacons. Leaders at Head Office are chosen at the Convention, presently Rev. Taitinger.

.../4

.../4

Plans for the Future

Looking forward to building a larger church. Have discussed over the years the construction of a Senior Citizens Home. Currently the ministers can buy their own home - a house was built behind the church but is now rented out. - the one on the west side is occupied by Rev. McBride and his wife and contains the office. Pastor Gaetz is in his own home in Richmond.

Ditches

One on Ferndale, but on Westminster Highway there is a large culvert so the church has a large driveway.

M. NOBLE.