

MR. BILL RALSTON - (Bakerview Gospel Chapel)

INTERVIEWED:

May 6, 1975

T.44.1

Mr. Ralston came to Richmond in the fall of 1961. The chapel had been constructed but was not in use.

Origin of the Congregation

Started by Mr. & Mrs. Pat Fadden at the 900 block Williams Rd. as a Sunday School group in 1958, then after a year they rented the James Whiteside School auditorium. The Assembly was formed in 1961.

They met for the celebration of the Lord's Supper and for a Sunday School in the school and continued having Gospel meetings in the evenings on Williams Road.

Purchased 2 lots at the corner of Garden City and Francis Road - as the School Board was not permitting religious groups to hold meetings any more in schools they received permission to continue because they had purchased this land and were commencing building.

Mr. Fadden continued as leader but later after moving into their own building Mr. Morning took over.

Construction

- Lots purchased for \$900.00 each.

Architect - Mr. Wilding.

Contractors - Superintendent Mr. Harry Brassington, hired labour, and volunteer labour helped too.

Dedication service was held May 1962, about 9 months after completion.

.../2

.../2

Description

Located the north corner of Garden City and Francis, entering from Garden City. The parking lot is at the back of the building. It is rectangular with a slight set-back on the left front side.

Exterior - Faced with vertical cedar siding with some stucco. The front has plywood panelling under the windows. Roof is flat of tar and gravel.

Interior - Gyproc finished. The foyer is approximately 16' x 24'. At the left is the main auditorium. At the right is the small auditorium off which is a storage room. There is a corridor leading down the length of the building with washrooms and furnace room. At the north-east corner is a small room used as a Sunday School room and opposite it is the kitchen.

Heating - Natural gas heating from one furnace.

Lighting - All incandescent.

Flooring - Tile.

Seating - In the auditorium there are chairs as it is used as a multi-purpose room, This building was put up as the Christian Education centre with the aim in mind of adding on a sanctuary. Curtains divide the auditorium for Sunday School events.

Groups Meeting

They do not rent out the building to any non-congregational groups. The groups using the Chapel are -

- Church Board
- Sunday School
- Youth Groups - Crusaders.

.../3

.../3

There was a Women's Group but it is not operating now. There are between 40-50 in the Assembly. They have a bus for picking up children but at present they have no driver with an "A" license. They have had it approximately 7 years and they intend selling it and purchasing a vehicle which can be driven by anyone.

Role of Women

They do not take any leading role of preaching or governing. They play their own vital part in Sunday School and Crusaders.

Youth

Crusaders take in 8 - 12 year olds and the Youth Group caters to 13-20 year olds. They intend splitting this group into a younger and older group.

Ministry

There is no full-time Minister as this is a Lay Ministry. Each Assembly is autonomous and indigenous. The governing is done by a group of Elders and Deacons. The preaching is done by invitation among their own and other assemblies.

Alliances

They have a fellowship with other Assemblies, but no organization governing them. There are Conferences three times a year at a location chosen by the larger Assemblies in Vancouver. There is world-wide communion with other Assemblies. There are doctrinal consultants available if needed.

Upkeep

The Chapel is self-supporting but other Assemblies will help smaller groups to start up. The upkeep is by free-will offering among the members of the church. No soliciting is done nor do they collect from any children. They contribute to Mission

.../4

.../4

work. At the moment they have 2 members of the Assembly in the Mission field, and they support them to a degree.

Background

Mostly from Richmond - one family from Vancouver and one from Tsawwassen. The ethnic background is mainly Anglo-Saxons but there have been some Orientals.

Special Events

They passed their 10th Anniversary but did not celebrate it. They have had many interesting visits from Missionaries. They have not participated in the Richmond Inter-faith services.

Plans for the Future

As well as hoping to build a chapel, they are planning to make more outreach to the growing community.

An addition was added to the existing building in the fall of 1976.

MURIEL NOBLE.