

PASTOR SAM TAETZ - Faith Evangelical Church

INTERVIEWED:

June 26, 1975

T.42.2

Pastor Taetz was Pastor for fourteen years.

Origin of the Congregation

Originated out of Richmond residents attending Grace Evangelical Church which had outgrown its capacity. There was also a need for an All-English speaking church as against a bi-lingual German-English church. The area on No. 5 Road was considered good for access over the Fraser Street Bridge (now closed).

March 1958 they rented Mitchell School and started a Sunday School under the leadership directly responsible to Pastor Taetz at Grace Evangelical, of Rev. G.T.Froese. There were approximately 53 in number the first Sunday. Pastor Taetz was appointed Pastor in June the same year.

There were 20 charter members that year who moved from Grace Evangelical to form Faith Evangelical in Richmond. Though there is a German Catholic Church in the same area, the language in use was English.

Pastor Taetz rented a house on Thorpe Road and stayed there while the congregation was building a manse at 1186 Montego Road. They commenced August 1, 1958 and was ready at the end of November.

Architect: - Mr. Kelly

Drew up plans for whole complex -  
first phase only in detail.

Four lots purchased on Montego for \$18,000 - \$20,000 from Mr. Harvey Merke. They had purchased property in 1957 on Bird Road but due to re-zoning to industrial they sold it. The lot

.../2

was a swampy corner on the south side of Montego at the corner of No. 5 Road.

Continued using Mitchell School until mid-1959 when they moved into the church. They were also meeting in the rumpus room of the manse in the evenings for mid-week meetings and Sunday evening services. There was a nominal cost for the rental of the school.

### First Church

Multi purpose building costing approx. \$24,000 less furnishings.

In an L-shaped form for worship, Sunday School education and social activities. Auditorium on the west, running north and south could hold about 200 people. A kitchen was behind it and classrooms ran eastward. Wood structure with rough cedar siding. Roof of tar and gravel.

### Interior

Linoleum on floor. On a crawl space with heating ducts for forced air furnace from two gas-fired furnaces - story told of furnace installers.

### Construction

Both manse and first unit done under guidance of one foreman and two helpers plus volunteer labour of the congregation.

### Donations

Public Address system donated by Mr. Houser and Pastor's office completed on the inside by the Britannia Insurance Co., their insurance company.

### Seating

No pews but stacked chairs as room used for social activities.

.../3

.../3

### Groups

Youth Fellowship first group formed shortly after moving into the manse. Then the Women's Missionary Society was formed early 1960. The Sunday School continued right through.

### Opening

First service held July 1959 and dedication in September 1959.

### Special Events

Women's Missionary Convention from across Canada held there.  
Salem singers from Salem, Oregon.

By 1963 - 1965 they had outgrown the first building but there was a delay in starting the next phase due to a denominational problem. Explanation of merger given.

In 1968 Conference of the Northwest Canada Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the United Church. In 1970 the Evangelical Church in Canada was formed and Faith Evangelical is one of that Conference.

Building plans were undertaken in 1970 and costs had greatly increased. - e.g., manse had cost \$12,000 in 1958 and new building cost \$80,000 and would have cost \$150,000 if done by contractors. Construction the same as the first.

### Addition

Put on east extremity of first building.

### Architect:

Mr. Wolfram - Engineer missionary on furlough.

.../4

.../4

### Building

- Of brick and block with sloping cement floor.
- Hot water heating from a furnace added in furnace room.
- Roof panels of plywood insulated panels.
- Pews came from a congregation in Winnipeg.
- Seats about 500 people.
- Have a glassed in training room for mothers with young children.
- There is an upper room for meetings. Pastor's study is at the other side above the platform.
- They are receiving an assistant pastor in a few weeks (mid-July, 1975) and a room will be available to him.
- Centre aisle plan inside sanctuary.
- Platform is V-shaped.
- Pulpit is central and one of the largest around, with a large baptismal tank for immersion baptisms.

### Lighting

Old Sanctuary - large incandescent lights with reflectors - windows three panel of different colored glass.

New Sanctuary - three stage lighting with spotlight focussing on pews - windows smaller horizontal, about 14" x 3'-4'. Extra groups were formed - a youth group and young marrieds group and prayer groups.

### Bus Ministry

Had one in 1966-7 purchased a bus but was discontinued after 1972, when the bus was sold.

### Role of Women

Have as much right and voice as men - different organizations named where they are serving.

..../5

Government

Council of administration:- Congregational meetings meet once a year. Title to Lands held by Denomination and they appoint ministers. Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is responsible for relations of congregation and pastor.

Faith church started a Chinese Evangelical church holding Chinese language services after English services and then moved to renting a church on 58th and Fraser. They ally with churches in B.C.

They run a camp, Charis Camp 10 miles east of Chilliwack. Alliances with certain Canadian Provinces and certain American churches. Headquarters are at Medicine Hat, Alberta, also the location of a college.

Pastor Taetz is presently Executive Officer of the Haven of Rest Broadcasting system for Canada. The present minister at Faith is Pastor Stickel and Pastor Taetz is still a member but stays out of policy meetings.

One of Pastor Taetz's plans had been to get perhaps an assistant or Director of Youth Education. The assistant Pastor is coming this summer.

MURIEL NOBLE.