

## 1959 MARKED FIRST TIME

# Church Spreads Gospel Behind Curtain

ROCHESTER, Mich.—November 2, 1959 was the first time that the "Messenger of Truth" pierced the Iron Curtain.

The elders of the Rochester church stated, "We wish we

could adequately tell you just how much our heavenly Father has done . . . through the continuous six years of broadcasting the gospel of Christ. We believe that thousands, if not

millions of souls have been reached with the message of salvation."

The "Messenger of Truth" is a broadcast designed to proclaim the gospel in the Ukraini-

an language. This program which originates at the Rochester church building is presently on the air three times a week, once from Monte Carlo—and twice from Inchon, South Korea. The program is under the oversight of the Rochester elders.

**Bilak Speaks**

The speaker on the program is Stephen Bilak, a native of the Ukraine. Since becoming a member of the church in 1946, he has been concerned with sharing the good news of the gospel with his own people in the Ukraine and with the whole Slavic world. His dream of preaching behind the Iron Curtain has come true. "God has opened the door through radio. Radio enables us to preach where we could not go otherwise," Bilak said.

Since the fall of 1959, Bilak has—through the air waves—brought the message of truth to thousands of hearts in the Soviet world.

"The results have been wonderful. Many letters have been received. Tracts, Bibles and New Testaments have been sent to many listeners," Bilak continued.

Just how much they have pierced the Iron Curtain is probably best expressed in a report

from Arthur Williams to Bilak: "While in Russia (summer of 1965) we asked if the believers there listened to the radio. They do, and not only do they listen, but they would mention Stephan Bilak's name without us asking about him."

**'Needs Pushing'**

And from G. C. Lockwood, who visited the USSR at the same time, "Your work on the radio needs to be pushed and expanded. It is hard for us to realize how important it is. You can influence congregations as well as individuals—and even a whole movement."

Lockwood, who is a missionary in Sweden, summed up the present need in these words, "Yes, radio is very effective, but we have hardly begun to use it. We need to increase our work. Programs need to be in all the Iron Curtain languages. Programs need to be on daily. Brother Bilak needs to be on daily. We can evangelize now or wait until the Russians come to us; but then it will be too late."

For further information on this work, write to the elder, Church of Christ, Box 132, Rochester, Mich.