

THE WORD OF GOD IS BROUGHT TO MICHIGAN

The word of God Having been preached Throughout the world, finally was brought Michigan, and in particular to the Flint area.

In the early nineteenth (19th) century what came to be Known as the "Restoration Movement" was sweeping America. It was an appeal to go back to the bible in matters of religion. A conscious sincere effort was made to restore New Testament Christianity to the present day.

Two principle leaders in the Restoration Movement were Barton W. Stone and Alexander Campbell. Stone's influence radiated from Kentucky throughout the great Mississippi Valley, and Campbell's influence spread from Virginia throughout the Ohio Valley.

People who had come under Stone's influence first brought the gospel to western Michigan, prior to Michigan Statehood. Not long after the planting of the gospel in the western side, Campbell's influence was felt in the eastern side of the state.

In 1840, Thomas Hawley, was converted by Alexander Campbell , and he moved to Detroit. The six Christians in his home began church services in their home the next year. Soon six members of the Linn family from Scotland were added. This little band of disciples continued to meet in private homes for a year. One of the number, Alexander Linn, began to preach boldly the word of God. Linn had a great influence in establishing the work of the Lord in Detroit. The Spirit of the Lord moved mightily and the church grew spiritually and increased in numbers and was greatly multiplied.

HISTORY OF THE PLANTING OF THE LORD'S CHURCH IN FLINT 1911

In November of 1911 Mr & Mrs Charles Carpenter moved to Flint from off a farm near Harbor Beach, Michigan. Mrs Carpenter tried to locate a true church but failing to find one she wrote to C. F. Whitty in Detroit to inquire of the possibility of establishing the true church in Flint. At this time Mrs. Carpenter was the only member living in the Flint area.

Early in 1915, J.N. Heironymus of Fairbury, Illinois conversed with H. H. Hawley of Ludington, Michigan with regard to a church in Flint as his daughter was planning to move to a farm near Flint. Mrs. Carpenter's address was given to Brother Heironymus. Brother Heironymus wrote to Claude F. Whitty of Detroit giving him this information. Finally J. N. Heironymus agreed to pay part of Whitty's expenses if he would come to Flint begin the work of establishing a church in Flint.

On July 22, 1915, the first sermon in Flint by Brother C. F. Whitty. He visited Flint every other week and preached in Sister Carpenter's home, located at 2219 Lewis Street. There were five people, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carpenter, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, and Mrs. Parker. Brother Witty made several trips to Flint accompanied by Brother Heironymus who thought that the work would have to be dropped for the present, but Mrs Carpenter insisted on continuing. Brother Witty made the trip every two weeks for about three months. Brother A. W. Hastings, who was beginning to preach came with him a couple of times.

The following document written, April 2, 1916, explains this very well

The work began to progress rapidly and by October it was deemed advisable to continue with brother Hastings taking charge of the work, under the direction of the Warren Avenue congregation of Detroit, later known as the West Side Central congregation. He came every other Lord's day, preaching morning and evening. Additions by baptism was reported on nearly every trip.

E. M. Carpenter was building a house on Fairview Street and agreed to let the church meet in the lower half if the members would lath and plaster it. James Nash, who was living upstairs temporarily, he finished the walls, putting on the plaster. Mrs Nash and Margaret Carpenter mixed the plaster for him. This gave them a 14' X 28' room and a 6' x 6' hall to use as a meeting place. Baptisms were frequent and a tub was made which measured 42" x 98" x 36" to be used for baptisms. This was set in the corner by the back door, when needed for baptisms it was filled with water

hauled in by a tank wagon drawn by horses. In 1917 water and sewers were put in on the street. The builder had the water and sewer laid as far as the house, because there was no basement under the building, the church had a water meter put in making it much handier and easier to fill the tank.

The first business meeting was held February 7, 1916 with twelve members present. It was decided that a permanent meeting place of their own was needed.