

January 6, 1961

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH IN OSCODA, MICHIGAN

From information from Bob McCormick, who was a member of the local congregation longer than any other present member, it is believed that the local congregation was established by S/Sgt Fred Clouse and his wife Bonnie approximately two years ago.

Meetings were held in a house located behind Dobson Moving Co on south US 23. Rent was \$50.00 per month.

It is not known when Ralph and Carol Harrison became part of the congregation. They were here when Bob arrived nineteen months ago. Jim and Mary Horn moved here in Feb. 1960. After the Clouses were transferred in 1960 meetings were held in the Horn home at 6177 Loud Drive, until the present arrangements for the Masonic Hall was made.

June 1961

Prior to 13 June 1960, five members and four children met in the Horn home. They were Jim and Mary Horn with their three children. Civilians from Pheonix. Ralph and Carol Harrison and one child and Bob McCormick . All with the Air Force.

On June 13, 1960 this group met for the first time in the Masonic Hall on State Street. The Masonic Hall was above the pool hall. On that day Earl Beasley, Robert and Mary Windham, George, Freeda and Kareen McElroy placed membership.

The membership has now grown to 29 members with 21 children . Each week new members arrived as SAC transferred people to the base here.

The first gospel meeting was held in August of 1960. Meetings were held in 1961 and 1962 with Carson Spivey of Walled Lake, Michigan doing the preaching.

In 1961 Part of the Masonic building was torn down and our meeting area was cut in half.

When meeting in the hall services consisted of bible study and communion. Then the men added reading of the scriptures, From there to reading sermons from well known gospel preachers. Then some began to prepare their own talks.

Ladies bible classes were held in different homes. Much personal work was done.

EARly in 1962 property on Cedar Lake Road was purchased and plans for a building were drawn by Sgt. Thompson (not a member of the church).

Men active in the work at this time were Robert Windham, Earl Beasley, Barnie Daniel, Sammie Morris, George McElroy, Azil Tipps, Wallace Nesmith, Otis Thomanson, Joe Tyler, Wayne Holmes, James Harper and Bill cunningham.

There was enough money in the treasury to pay cash for the property.

Several of the families listed above secured personal loans from Oscoda State Bank in the amount of 10,000.00 for construction of the shell of the present building. When the shell was completed a mortgage was secured on the building and the personal notes paid. As finances permitted more work was done on the building. Most of it by members. The church met in the classroom part until the fall of 1963. The ceiling was installed in the auditorium and services held there in the fall of 1963.

At about this time an additional lot was purchased south of the building.

Several men from the Detroit area supervised and did much of the work installing floor tile in May 1964. Pews were installed in the fall of 1964.

Capt. Jack Merritt (not a member of the congregation) built the rostrum and brother and sister Higgins gave the communion table.

Very little financial help was received from other places during this time. The Sixth and Izard congregation in Little Rock, Ark. gave baptismal garments. Bill Cunninghams father sent several hundred dollars while Bill was stationed here. Other small gifts were received, but no regular support.

In 1965 the Strathmoor church in Detroit began supporting a minister, William Towery. This support continued until about 1971. Then the church was self supporting. A home for the minister was purchased in 1972.

William Towery worked with the church until 1973. Ray Caudel from 1973 until 1975. From 1975 until 1977 there was no minister. Ed Glotfelty began work with the church in 1977 and worked full time until 1983.

From 1983 ~~1985~~ 1985 Otis Lang worked here. From 1985 until 1987 Larry McCoy was the minister. From 1987 until the present time Bill Burgess has worked with the church here. He is partially supported by the church in ~~Trenton~~ <sup>ES</sup> Trenton, Michigan.

ALLEN PARK, GARDEN CITY & WALLED LAK