



Church of Christ

407 SOUTH TOWNLINE ROAD
LAGRANGE, INDIANA 46761

Preaching Christ and Him Crucified

TELEPHONE 463-3571
AREA CODE 219

Lagrange, Indiana
March 14, 1972

Mr. Norn Herren
Lunestian Ga
Oslo 6, Norway

Dear Brother Herren,

On returning from a trip to Michigan Christian College where my son attends school, I happened to stop at brother Ben Sherfield's home to inquire about some leads for preachers for Lagrange. He told me about you and some of your background and that you would possibly be returning here sometime in July or August, he thought. He said that you would like to locate somewhere in the southern Michigan or northern Indiana area when you return and preferably work with a smaller to medium size congregation. From what all he said, I think Lagrange would be in the range in size and area of what you had in mind, and also he spoke very highly of you because he had worked with you some years ago in Garden City and thought that you would work well into our program here. I was very interested and decided it was best to write you, as he also advised.

The congregation in Lagrange is approximately 19 years old. Last October over, elders were appointed (Devon Hostetler and myself) but as yet, we have not appointed deacons, but hope to before the long. It had taken several years to get things rolling in this mission area but it seems now that we have a solid basis for growth and the future looks bright. Our attendance has gradually increased, and we average somewhere around one hundred or better now (we had 122 present last Sunday, which is our record). We have placed a strong emphasis on personal work through filmstrips and open Bible study and have been blessed with some forty conversions in the past year. Most of those converted have been young married couples with children, so it is very rewarding to see them actively take a part and see the growth in their spiritual lives. We have some 21 members involved in a follow-up series with new Christians, which adds much to the overall program in keeping the church involved.

Less than two years ago we built a new classroom addition on to our building and just in time for the growth experienced. Right now, or before very long we will need to launch into further expansion, for our present facilities are being crowded. We have a modest 3-bedroom home on a lot adjoining the church building. We probably would have

Our Plea

A RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TO ITS ANCIENT PURITY IN AUTHORITY,
DOCTRINE, NAME, UNITY, WORSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND CHRISTIAN LIVING.

*Norm
Hanson*

to add another bedroom or two onto the house to accommodate you, for I understand that you have five children. At this point, we thought it best to find the man, then determine his needs, and go from there.

Our present preacher has been here nearly eight years (will be in June) and for some time he has had the desire to go into full time work. We have given part support during this time and furnished his home. He has taught school in the Lagrange and Westview corporation for these eight years. Brother Sherfield said he thought that you might be able to keep some of your support and if so, we could make up the difference. We are getting close to the point where we could support a man full-time, but it doesn't seem that we can right now with other commitments that have been made. A new congregation is being started in Angola (a town 25 mile east of us) and we are helping in this effort. Also a commitment to Herald Of Truth and the India work. At the first of the year when we planned the budget, brother Giesseke had not made the decision to give up teaching, so the picture will have to be changed quite a bit to effect a change. We do believe however that if we seek to get a good man, one who is grounded in the truth, one who appreciates and supports an active personal work program (Ben recommends you highly in this), that the congregation will rise to the challenge. Your experience in missionary work should create a greater vision in this important area for the members here in Lagrange, who think ~~less~~ of the church in the local sense. Even though many of the congregation here are young in the faith, they are a wonderful group of people and help to make up out of the friendliest congregations anywhere.

It might be that you have some particular questions which you would like to ask, and if so, please feel free to ask them. I have tried to give you an overall picture of the church here, but I'm sure that I must have forgotten some important things - all this is rather new to me, but I do feel a great responsibility in securing a man, and his family, who would be well suited for the work here. I really believe you would enjoy the fine group of Christians here and would like for you to consider working with us to the building up of the Lord's church in Lagrange and to other areas as the Lord opens doors of opportunities to us.

Spending for brother Hostetler and myself, we are happy to have become acquainted with you through brother Sherfield and hope that you will abide us in regard to your thinking regarding this work. In any case may the Lord bestow His richest blessings upon you and yours as you continue to serve Him in love.

Your brother in the Lord,
Dean Hoggatt