

June 6, 1972
Lagrange, Indiana

Mr. Larry Mitchell
P.O. Box 227
Du Bois, Penna. 15801

Dear Brother Mitchell;

I read your letter earlier and then put it down and I haven't gotten to it since. We are well into our VBS this year and as you know that is a pretty demanding assignment. We had 112 this morning, so it keeps us going just to keep on top of the situation. Transportation is somewhat of a problem, but between all of the teachers, we manage to get them here near 12 o'clock each day.

You asked some questions in your reply letter which I'll try to answer. Lagrange has approximately 2000 population. It has a history of being a farming community, however in the last ten years, several small factories have moved here. It is the county seat, so it does boast of a sizeable shopping district, for the size town that it is. The schools here are very good. The high school is a recently built consolidated school and another school which takes care of the first four grades has recently been built. The older Lagrange high school building takes grades 5 thru 8. There is a large Amish settlement in the area as well as Mennonite, both of which lend a conservative influence to the area. Besides these two religious groups, there are several churches in or around Lagrange. The Presbyterian, United Missionary, Nazarene, Methodist, Church of God, Lutheran and Catholic, as well as Baptist and Evangelical in adjoining towns, all of these are the usual you'd expect in a county seat town. It seems to me that there are some 20,000 in the county but I can't put my fingers on anything right now to verify it. Nearly everyone that comes here from the big cities remark how friendly the community is, which is quite noticeable and the church here has in it a number of young families that have this trait naturally.

You asked about a garden. Brother Gieseke had a small one back of his home adjoining the church building. There is a large back yard there. If this is not enough, we have several acres which anyone can use if they want it. In fact I had plowed up some extra, for our tenants to use but I don't think that anyone has used it yet.

I would like to get this letter in the mail before I leave, so I'll close for now. Perhaps I've answered the questions you asked. After talking with Paul, you might write us again. God bless you and yours,

Dean Hoggatt

Church of Christ

ORIENT at DIVISION
Du BOIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15801

G. Larry Mitchell, evangelist

Phone: 371-8188

May 27, 1972

CHURCH OF CHRIST
407 South Townline Road
Lagrange, Indiana

Dear Brethren;

We appreciate very much your letter of inquiry and the information about the work there.

First, time is short for me to give a detailed answer this week. I will say that we are interested and will want more information. Brother Ditoro will be here the first week of June so we can perhaps find out some things about the Lagrange area from him.

We have three children rangeing in ages from three months to six years and we definately want a good invironment for them to grow up. Your community seems fairly small and rural. This appeals to us at this time. We would especially like to be in this kind of area till they finish High school. This brings up the question of schools--perhaps you could send us informatbn along that line. Also, would it be possible for us to have a garden? We like to grow our own vegetables aside from the fact that I grew up on a farm and have it in my blood.

What is the actual population of Lagrange and the county? What are the major religious organizations?

Brethren, we will be in touch with you again in a week to two weeks. We trust that you have a man in mind who will preach the Word.

Sincerely Yours,



Larry Mitchell

May 22, 1972
Lagrange, Indiana

Mr. Larry Mitchell
Box 227
Du Bois, Pa. 15801

Dear brother Mitchell,

Your brother-in-law, Paul Ditore, gave me your name as a possible lead for a preacher here. I thought that I would write and give some information regarding the work here and if you were not committed, you might be interested in writing further about it.

The church here is approximately 19 years old. Within the last two years, although several have moved away, we have had several conversions and have grown steadily. Our Sunday attendance is averaging slightly more than 100. Most of the conversions have been young married couples with children, and without seeming prejudiced, we have a wonderful prospect toward growth. Two years ago, a new classroom addition was built onto our building and even now we are being cramped for room. A very definite reason for the growth here is an active personal work program. It is wonderful to see the converted taking their place along side those older in the faith and winning souls to Christ.

We are near the threshold of a full-time man, but it seems that with the commitments of outside work in the budget and the other fixed expenses, that we could not do it yet. This is the reason that our present preacher is leaving, because he has been wanting to go into full-time work. He has been here eight years and has been teaching school locally. He is going to fulfill two appointments next weekend, one of them, based on a former telephone conversation, he feels will make a commitment to him. He expects to move the first week in July. He has done a good work and we appreciate his efforts.

Last November the appointment of elders was made, brother Devon Hostetter and I, and we would like to appoint deacons before too long. We have men who are qualifying themselves rapidly to take on this responsibility. The outlook for the church here is bright.

We have a three bedroom home adjoining the church building, it is relatively new but for a family larger than four, it might have to be added on to. We have plans in this direction anyway however. Perhaps this will give you enough information to consider. We would like to hear from you. May the Lord bless you in His work.

In Christian Love, Dean Hoggatt

