

Resume of Rev. Larry H. Griswold, Mascoutah, Illinois

General Statistics

Larry H. Griswold, born August 8, 1946
Coleen M. Griswold, born February 3, 1946
Two children, Todd (6), Terri (2)

Education:

Larry:

Northwestern University (Pre-Law) 2 years
North Central Bible College 2 years
B.A. in Bible and Pastoral Theology

Coleen:

North Central Bible College 2 years
Bethel College 1 year
McKendree College 2 years
B.A. in Music Education - Illinois Teachers' Certification

Ministry

Assistant Pastor, Bethel Assembly of God, Minneapolis 2 years
Evangelist, including 4½ month tour under Home Missions appt. in Alaska - 2 years
Pastor, Ottawa, Illinois 3 years
Pastor, Mascoutah, Illinois 1973 ---
Ordained May, 1970

Statistics from Meeting with Candidate on Saturday, October 29th:

Relocation

Question: What is your thinking on the relocation of this church?

Answer: I don't think I could answer that question until I am here - I am 31 years of age. We have had pastorates in 2 churches - some of the things we do in Mascoutah in program, approach and ministry are different from the other church. I understand your question but I feel that to answer I would have to be with you folks, seeing the direction of the church. Whatever direction God wants us to go in as a church, once the decision is made, the members of the Board would have to face it with unity. I have had the privilege of working with some Boards and have had a good relationship. We have had disagreements in approach, policy, etc., but once a decision was made, all stuck with it.

Tithing - Missionary giving

I would not be preaching the gospel if I did not preach tithing. At this particular church that I am with now, the strength of the church has been its tithing. 4 years ago there were 40 to 50 people; our yearly budget was \$18,000; it was \$60,000 this year with a congregational attendance of from 80 to 100 people. Churches that are niggardly about giving never grow, but I think the giving needs to be approached in a judicial way. I am a missions pusher. The church needs to invest in the kingdom....I preach a series of messages on tithing and stewardship; if the people are tithing, the storehouse will have something to manifest in various ministries.

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(Finances - continued)

Question: Do you have any campaigns where you beg for money? What is your thinking on special endeavors?

Answer: The church that I am now pastoring is well trained in giving. I don't make a lot of appeals because I try to teach the people to tithe and give. I don't limit the people to where they cannot be moved upon. I don't set a policy of how much to give but I do set a minimum; if not enough comes in, we keep the minimum commitment; if more than that comes in, we give the evangelist or missionary the entire amount.

Question: Do you operate on a budget?

Answer: Yes, we have a working budget; there are some very common expenses and we work within a basic working budget.

Youth Group

We have grappled with the problem of ministry to young people. One church we pastored in Ottawa, Illinois, a city of 80,000, God gave us a real impact among the young people. I went to a school once a week and got permission to sit down with the young people - I would go to an office to see a business man, on the job with some other man, so felt I should go to the school to see the young people. Out of that contact we had a Young People's Bible Study with 85 attending once a week. We had a down-town coffee house, rallies, etc. In Mascoutah (where he is now), the attitude of the young people, raised in the church, was - "show me something new." We have an assistant who is working with us full time in Mascoutah ... he also fills the pulpit when needed.

Question: Would you be able to minister to the Youth Group here?

Answer: I would have to decide that when I came. I would have to assess the potential that you have for leadership in the laymen.

(Brother Griswold was advised that he probably would have an Assistant)

Question: What kind of activities would you allow?

Answer: Both of us (Sister Griswold and I) have been raised in A/G ministers' homes, but I don't consider myself a legalist. I have standards and convictions that are mine personally but consider the fact also that I don't want to impose them on other folks. We have found in our travels that you can cross a county line and the activities in the churches are as different as night and day. We try to be sensitive to where we are but I am not sure that I would allow one personal opinion to rule. We have had roller-skating parties, hayrides, the camp ground is accessible to us; we have a full gym available, ping pong tables, basketball, volley ball, swimming (mixed). I think that the Scripture teaches us to admonish the weaker brothers rather than to be pharisaical. I believe in providing positive activities. Kids want action - you work the kids, and I operate under that principle. But as a pastor, I am responsible for everything that happens. I am conscious of the testimony in every department of the church. We work for spiritual growth, have activities. You have to keep plugging. I would have no objections to church-sponsored sports activities as long as they are kept in perspective. The people involved in the way of leadership must keep their spiritual tone. I don't think I am a negative preacher and I hope I am not lax and loose.

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Sunday School - Children's Churches

Question: Do you recommend busing?

Answer: I am not against it but I don't believe it is a panacea. You will find now and then there are "fads" in the churches and for a while busing has been so. I take the advice of Brother Crabtree - "I will add one bus for every 150 people."

We presently function with a Children's Church. I have two married couples working it now in Mascoutah. I like it as long as it is not a baby-sitting job.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

I believe that the initial physical evidence is the speaking in other tongues - but I notice what some people get is the "Blabtism." If Jesus Christ is the Baptizer, then let Him do His work. I believe that if I preach the gospel and get the people into the Word, and the body of Christ shares love, Jesus is going to sanctify everybody.

I try to get the people to want, to manifest interest and participate. The gospel is never neutral - we have to provide opportunities for the people to participate and to respond. I believe in the ministry of prayer around the altar.

(Upon being notified that our Manual required that a Board member must have the Baptism) Brother Griswold had read our Manual, having asked that it be sent to him along with yearly reports, and he stated that he would require it, with reservations. "I would have to work within the framework of the church, of course, but your manual says they can be actively seeking the Baptism and be a member of the Board, and if they are actively seeking, it won't be long before the member comes into it."

Question: How large is your present Board?

Answer: I have four .. because there have been some vacancies. We have a total Board of seven.

Women Ministering

I would be glad to have women ministering in the church if they have a call of God on their lives. I just finished a campaign with a lady in our church and she was a lady in every sense of the word.

Question: What would you say to women wearing slacks?

Answer: I am going to answer you squarely. I may be way out in left field, but I believe that these things are not the real problems. Sister Griswold wears slacks on certain occasions - not to church - but if I felt it was not the thing to do, she would not wear them. I believe when the spiritual areas are taken care of, a lot of things like this will "lay down: and love will minister. There are church spats, for instance, and other things come up that usually have a deeper problem underneath. We don't have unanimity, but we must have unity.

Music

Brother Griswold would back up the choir and orchestra.

When asked about having vocal groups in - "I have to know the groups. I am glad to have some and not so glad to have others. My father was connected with the Blackwood Brothers and we have come to know a lot of the lives behind the scenes, and I guard that - I go into that when I invite vocal groups in."

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Visitation

I would probably limit my visitation but I don't closet myself.

General Information

"I have always been involved in ministerial associations, the A/G sectional, district affairs, General Councils; I have worked with Campus Crusade on their "I Found It;" there is a "Beer Bust" (which is exactly what it is) in our town once a year when everything closes, including the churches, for the event. I felt it was a time to work - we felt we must go beyond our four walls, do something about sharing Christ, so we missed a Sunday night service and moved in the midst of it, doing just that. I have an Air Force base near and we have worked in that."

Sister Griswold does not hold offices in Women's Ministries, but helps sponsor the Missionettes, teaches in Nursery and is used in music.'

Brother Griswold said he would not be absent from the pulpit much and have a lot of specials in. "I am very strong in planning and program in that sense."

He stated that he would give his church 30 days' notice if he was voted in. "If they elected a man sooner or felt that my assistant could capably fill in, I would be here earlier. We would have to schedule a trip back here to begin house selection."

The Board then questioned if he would be willing to live in a 3 bedroom apartment in the suburbs at first and then find a house. Brother Griswold felt that would be up to his wife - and Sister Griswold was non-committal, going over the picture concerning school for their little boy but stating that if the Lord wanted them here, they would make every effort to come in as soon as possible.

They were also asked if it would be a hardship to come in before the holidays and again Sister Griswold was noncommittal, not making a definite decision. The Griswolds are now living in a parsonage but would prefer buying their own home.

Upon asking the Board, he was advised that we had changed our views on divorce, along with the outlines of the recent General Council adjustments.

One of the Elders advised the Griswolds that we need a healing ministry - an aggressive leadership - and that this church is used to good, solid, deep ministry in the Word. He was advised also that we have a great tradition at Highway - and a spirit of worship and praise that people miss when they leave the church.

Remarks from Brother Griswold

One of the things I was interested in having out of this meeting this evening was a sense of the attitude of the leaders of this church toward their church and towards the pastor that will come in. Sometimes in coming out of a situation like that from which you have come, there is a reaction in which the Board decides that they let things get ahead of them and are now going to take hold themselves - and they do not trust God to send a man that could love and minister to the people. The attitude of you folks will greatly determine how the next pastor will lead.

I would like to share some thoughts with you. The ultimate thing that I have to come to is the direction of the Lord. The Scripture says, "It seemed good to them and to the Holy Ghost.." I am interested in the spirit of the people and the reverence for the work of God.

If God should so direct us to come, we will seek a sense of direction from the Lord and will look to you for the kind of strength that this church needs to make the ministry which it needs. I believe in a shared ministry. Those whom God selects from the body and those whom God sends in the ministry, working together as Eph. 4:11-13 states. If it is the will of God for us, it will seem good to you, to us and to the Holy Ghost.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk

Membership Meeting Sunday,
Nov. 6th, after Morning
Service.