



Rev. Stephen Bogdan, pastor
Home phone: 215/379-5974

Highway Tabernacle

18th & Spring Garden Sts. Philadelphia, Pa. 19130

215/563-9192

November 22, 1994

Dear Friends,

Warm Christian Greetings!

We are sorry you missed the wonderful centennial celebration of Highway Tabernacle. We also know that you would have been here were it possible. Enclosed is the program, the table card of scripture, we read before the meal, and the Evangel with a featured news article about Highway Tabernacle.

The three services had good attendance. Our district superintendent gave inspiring messages. In the morning service, a young man saved 12 years ago in the Teen Challenge program brought a representation from the church he pastors in Allentown, Pennsylvania with over a hundred members. He gave testimony to the impact the ministry of Highway Tabernacle had on his life.

Several congratulatory messages were received. The Bragg children sent greetings, Rachael (Van Meter) Baum sent regards, Thomas Trask, the general Superintendent of the Assemblies of God sent a beautiful plaque. Brother Bongiorno presented it to Pastor Bogdan. It reads:

The General Council of the Assemblies of God
Conveys Its Congratulations to
Highway Mission Tabernacle
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Stephen Bogdan, Pastor
On the occasion of its 100th Anniversary
November 20, 1994

There were 2 other presentations, one from the district office and one from Pastor Jim Rivera, formerly mentioned as being the fruit of the Teen Challenge ministry.

Albums were made up of the pictures from each Pastors' tenure of ministry. The annex walls were lined with various memorabilia. Each pastor's picture nicely framed were placed in a grouping. All day long between services, folks enjoyed the histories of past fellowship enclosed in the albums and pictures.

Brother Charles Krauss, 93 years along the way was the oldest attending member. Sister Louise Hackert, 90 years, was the second eldest. Missionaries Fred and Tess Perna gave testimony of their calling to Highway. Missionaries Robert and Evelyn



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Bolton were in attendance. Brother Howard Roberson spoke in the afternoon service and told how the church remained in the city and their move to this church in 1960. It was just 34 years ago to the day.

Bonnie Bachman, our daughter, told how the hymn..."In The Garden" was first sung in this building when it was still Fifth Baptist. Austin Miles was the minister of music at that time and he composed that hymn. Bonnie also told how the architect of this building died in the Civil war and it was the only building he ever built.

Betty Roberson and Walter McAnney thrilled our souls with the renditions on the beautiful Hilbourne Roosevelt pipe organ. The 11 member bell choir played in both the morning and evening services. They played Holy, Holy, Holy and Jesus Reigns. Other outstanding vocalists ministered.

In the evening service it was gratifying to see the local ministers lining the platform and their congregations filling the pews. A beautiful altar service followed. The singing and praises to the Lord reminded one of an old fashioned camp meeting in the downtown setting of Philadelphia.

An anniversary cake was served at the very end of the day with coffee and punch and more fellowship.

It will be a day long remembered. Lingered most in our minds was the fact that we were surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses of those who had gone on before and those of you who still support us in substance and prayers. May God bless each of you in His own special way for the blessing you have been to the ongoing ministry of Highway these many years.

There will be one reunion awaiting in glory, it won't be long! Until then our unwearied endeavors will continue to build His kingdom.

LOvingly yours,

Steve and Florence Bogdan