

DR. STEPHEN BOND

(Steveston Gospel Chapel)

INTERVIEWED:

May 4, 1977

Dr. Bond became involved in 1961, by assisting with the Sunday School work at mid-day in the Municipal Hall, Steveston. Shortly thereafter he became involved with meetings which included a hobby group on Friday night and church meetings Sunday Eve.

Congregation

Developed from hobby group in 1958. Grew into Sunday School by 1961. Approximately thirty-five Japanese Canadian children with six or seven adults.

When the Sunday School outgrew the Green Hall (Municipal Hall) the one-hundred fifty or children moved into the Orange Hall. Stayed about one year.

Building

Thought was given to having own building in 1965. 16TH Ave. Chapel, Vancouver, purchased two acres at 1035 No. 1 Road - gave front acre to Steveston Chapel. - value of front acre \$5,000.00.

Cost of land - \$7,500.00 - Planning and mortgage started immediately. Building started fall of 1967. Church opened fall of 1968.

Construction

Foundation, walls, ceiling and exterior done by hired help.

Total cost - \$49,000.00 (including \$5,000. for front acre)

Development

Co-ordinate work began around 1974, involved Vancouver men of the Society. Younger leaders branched out to other church groups in the Vancouver and Richmond area.

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Meeting held in house fellowship groups, one on Milner Road, Richmond. Approximately fifteen people attending - April, 1977.

Small number of new people now involved at the chapel who were not involved in 1974. Meetings controlled by two men of the Vancouver Society.

Ministry

Roots of leadership are from the Plymouth Brethren. This traditionally stresses male leadership. Women are not specifically permitted to teach but are expected to be involved in Chapel meetings.

Unity

Feels that there is a definite pattern for all believers as set down in the New Testament.

Goal - Oneness of all believers in the body of Christ.

C. BILLING