

MR. JERRY MORTON - (Richmond Baptist Church)

INTERVIEWED:

February 24, 1975

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1955 - Mortons owned home at 752 Foster Road. Had large garage. House up for sale, and owners approached by Reverend W. Morton on behalf of Ladies Missionary Society of Baptist Convention of B. C. Reverend Morton was looking for home and facilities for meetings.

Meetings started in this garage with a congregation - Anglo Saxon background, approximately 25 - 30 in number. Strong Sunday School. Congregation met from November 1955. Land had already been purchased on Blundell Road.

Built by Morgan Construction of Vancouver. Rectangular hall 40' x 100' - frame stucco. Large hall and kitchen with furnace and washrooms.

Materials such as books for meetings in garage purchased by contributions of members.

Building financed by W. M. S. Lot bought outright, then loan arranged through Baptist Convention on very low (3%) interest rate.

Congregation growing very rapidly - after about 3 years Sunday School reaching 200 mark.

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Ministers: Rev. W. Morton - founder
1957 - 1964 - Rev. R. Galbraith
1964 - 1969 - Rev. Gordon Forbes.

In 1961 addition put on to building, making it a two-story structure. Added small chapel upstairs, several smaller Sunday School rooms, a nursery, additional washrooms, a minister's study and downstairs added large Sunday School room.

Congregation decided on making these extensions, meeting with Deacons' Board and then decision made.

Exterior

Original frame stucco building still there and addition also of frame stucco with wooden trim.

Interior

Originally used an oil heater, then changed to a gas furnace room to four gas-fired furnaces.

Lighting

Incandescent at first, changed to fluorescent.

Flooring

Concrete floors laid on top of sand, newer addition has concrete covered with polyethelene and heating pipes laid in flooring.

Architects

No architect but plans drawn up by Morgan Construction Company as laid out by congregation. Addition drawn up by Vera Shaw, a member of the congregation.

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Financing

Addition financed by raising among congregation \$25,000.
in form of 6% Bonds.

Ministers

- Sept. 1970 - Aug. 1972 - Rev. Don Carson
- No minister until fall 1973 - until Rev. Dave Fairbrother (present)

During time of no ministers, pulpit filled by members of congregation, visiting ministers, semi-retired ministers or ministers of other churches.

Groups

Boy's clubs, girl's clubs and womens groups.

Women in Church

Ladies work with Girl's clubs choir, social committee. In early days there were Deaconesses, visiting sick and shut-ins. Strong teachers in Sunday School. Not on Board of Directors.

Church belongs to Canadian Group of Evangelical Baptists, does not belong to other Baptist churches in Richmond.

Canadian Group of Evangelical Baptists - Quite Canadian in background and very evangelical.

Background of Congregation - Basically Anglo-Saxon - about 100 in number. Few Europeans. Local residents, one or two families came from Vancouver.

Congregation helped build new addition, under a qualified contractor, a member of the congregation. Donations made mainly in form of money not items.

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Special Events

In early days, at Christmas or annual meeting, customary to hold dinners donated by members of congregation. Always had annual church dinner, annual Sunday School picnic and Christmas concert.

Upkeep

Always by free-will offerings. Oversight (Board of Deacons) does not exact funds above what people wish to give. No manse for minister.

Youth

Youth group more influential for a while a few years ago, than now.

Community

Has changed very much. Area has grown very rapidly. Congregation has remained fairly stable though.

M. NOBLE