

SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

The Cleveland Avenue Church of Christ

November 28, 1965

Keith Stotts: It is previously been announced this is a special service. By the word special we are not thinking of sensational. You who are here this evening, as visitors for the first time, we in no way, want to apologize for the special service, but rather to call attention to the fact that this is not an ordinary evening worship service that we normally conduct. The service will be different, but it will be most important. As hearers, each of you have a grave responsibility to listen very carefully. You have this responsibility of listening carefully that you might know the facts and not assume the facts. You have the responsibility of listening that you might be optimistic and that you might know the reasons and not be critical for the assumption of the growth of the church at Cleveland Avenue. These words are said to call our attention to the tremendous importance of doing things decently and in order, and that we might, in reality, bring before the congregation information that will make Cleveland Avenue a growing congregation because she is an informed congregation.

Speakers this evening will be Brother Fenn, Brother Watts, Brother Estep, Brother Flannery and myself in this order. After I have spoken, we will have an invitation song, the Communion for those who have not been able to be here this morning, and then a lights-out devotional if these men don't talk too long. These men will speak on various subjects. They do not have any distinct one that they will talk about, but all relating to the future of Cleveland Avenue and mainly and directly in relation to the building program at Northland. At this time, I present these men in this order. They will announce their subjects and their ideas of discussion and present them as they feel they should-- Brother Fenn.

Brother Everett Fenn: I am trying to bring you something this evening, we hope that will be educational to most of you inasmuch as very few now meeting at this place were here at the start of Cleveland Avenue. As best I could figure we've got approximately twelve families that were here with us in the beginning. I may be over or I may be under. Some have gone on to their reward, and others have moved out of town, to other congregations within the city or surrounding areas. This congregation at Cleveland Avenue, of course, was not here in the beginning.

During the Second World War, I came back to Columbus to work in February of '42, moved back the first of July in '42, and later on you know, we were stuck with the gasoline-rationing problem. Some were able to get all the gasoline they wanted and others were just merely able to get enough gas most of the time to get to the store. I remember when I used to make trips down home once or twice maybe in a three-or-four-month period. I would have to save those stamps for quite a period in order to buy enough gas to go down home. Of course, I was lucky, I had some friends down there that I was able to get back.

But anyways, this congregation, the outset of it, was during gasoline rationing of World War II. The brethren living in the Linden area met at 28 E. Seventh Avenue. Later on we talked with the elders down there regarding starting a church in the Linden Area. Twenty-three years ago today, being the last Sunday in November, the first service of Cleveland Avenue was at the corner of Hudson and Cleveland, the number being 2293. Of course, the date at that time on the last Sunday was November 29, which is tomorrow, in 1942. This congregation had a small start under the direct leadership of the late Brother Ray Elerick. The first sermon at that time was delivered by Brother Leslie Ward of Seventh Avenue. About fifty persons attended the first service and the contribution was \$38.35. It was decided to set aside as of July 1, 1943, in the building fund--\$150.00

Brother Elerick was working at a secular job and preaching for us on Sundays until January 6, 1944, when he felt that he wanted to do full-time work. At that time, we were unable to get enough support for him to stay with us and he went elsewhere preaching. Seventh Avenue sent us speakers from time to time up until later on in the summer of 1944, Brother Carl Findley, who now preaches for the Whitehall congregation, located with us during the summer of 1944--spoke to us on Sunday and did secular work through the week.

November 1944 Business Meeting with much discussion took place relative to the welfare and betterment of the church. We started looking for a lot someplace for the building. In April of 1945, Brother John Gaskalla was given permission to purchase these lots, being Lot No. 22 and 23, which the church sets on both lots which was later transferred to the church after trustees were appointed in August of 1945. In May of 1946, this congregation was forced to vacate the building at 2293 Cleveland Avenue. We went up in the old American Legion Hall which is now gone, in back of the Shell Station between that and where the Ohio National Bank is at the corner of Weber and Cleveland. We met there until June of 1947. Much against our wishes, of course, to meet there that long on account of conditions that we had to meet under. We would have to go into the building a half hour or better before services and open the windows and doors in order to stand it in there before the services.

So about June 1946, plans were under way to start this building--the basement part of it. The first service was held in the basement part of this building in June 1, 1947, which would be the first Sunday in June. Bro. Carl Findley continued working with this congregation until October, 1947. At that time, Brother Raymond Norris of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, worked with us for the next two years. Then our membership at that time was approximately ninety to one-hundred. In late 1951, talks and plans were being made to erect the auditorium on top of this basement. The work was, of course, started in the summer of 1952. Many of you at that time will know what we were up against because many of you spent until midnight most every night working on this building. The building was completed in the Fall of 1952, when the first service was held, I believe, the first Sunday in October of 1952. However, I didn't have any way of checking this for sure.

Under this building program when the auditorium was built, Brother Harold Hill was working with us at that time. In October 1952, Brother Horace Taylor came and worked with us one year. Then during 1953, Brother Harold Stanley came to us from Athens, Ohio, and worked through until the last of May, 1958. During this time, Brother Stanley was here, we assisted the congregation at Tiffin in building their basement, furnished with a preacher and then furnished them speakers two or three times a month for approximately three years thereafter. Then Brother Stanley left the last of May, 1958, Brother David Myers, who is now at Westerville, came to us in July, 1958, and worked with us. Much growth was accomplished over these years. It was slow growth but we hope it was steady and we hope it was lasting growth.

And during this time, Brother Myers was with us, of course you know, we bought lots in April of 1962 in Westerville where the congregation of Westerville is now located at Spring Road. At that time, we paid \$6000.00, for the three acres or better of lots. Plans and contracts with the Payden Construction Company was given in August and they started the building around the first of September. Then we released Brother Myers the last Sunday in January of 1963, at which time the first service was held in the Westerville Building. Cleveland Avenue supported Brother Myers full time the first year. The brethren at Westerville accomplished a lot. They made the payments on the loan, and now they are down to where we are supporting them to the extent of one-hundred dollars a month.

In July of 1963, Brother Stotts moved here from Ashtabula where he labored there with the brethren for about eight years. We feel at the present time that this congregation has much potential and growth with the assistance of Brother Stotts and each one of us working together in harmony that we can accomplish a lot more in the next years than we have in the past. However, I might say this--that in the future, of course, each year we shall try to

work harder, grow a little more in the Lord's Vineyard, be able to do more.

Then in April of 1964, we purchased about six acres of ground at 4581 Cleveland Avenue, which has a house, for the amount of \$35,000.00, for which brethren loaned more than \$10,000.00, in May of 1964. At present time, we had an indebtedness as of January 1st, of \$39,017.99. Additional \$3000.00, was loaned in 1964, which made \$42,017.99. We paid on this loan in the amount of \$12,825.00, during 1964, up through October 31. The balance as of December 1, will be \$29,192.99. I have a statement partially prepared which I didn't get completed, which I was going to have for this evening. But inasmuch as the time is slipping away, I will leave the future to the next ones.

Brother Melvin Watts: It was interesting to hear Brother Fenn go back to the beginning and to come to the future of the present day. Now the little item that I have is figurative and a running graph, which Bro. Fenn just gave you the complete figures which I have on a board that will be to your right in the future. This you can see in red is the debt that we started with when we purchased the land. At the present time this is what we owe, with the purchase of the land and the loan on our hand at this moment. As each month goes by, the money that we add to the debt, and to the savings of escrow, the future planning will be shown each month and each one will have the privilege of looking to the right and knowing what we give, what we pay on our debt, and as each figure goes down the running graph will go up which should be right there at this month. And May 15, 1966, we have set aside as completion of payment for our land. It will be to everyone's benefit. We have to give, we have to love and with God Almighty, we will complete this. So from this day forward and as each month goes by our contribution will go forward and the graph will go up and when the explosion date is there then we have greater plans in the future. We all have to work together to support this. I know everyone is curious at the moment. I had fun making this and there have been quite a few who have seen it and this is something that goes with the love of each and everyone and help of the Almighty God that we have to love each other and we have to support each other so that at this moment I am happy to present and show what can happen in the future. This, like I said, with the love of God and with the love of each and everyone, this is what can take place on the land of Morse Road.

This is a little pie-shaped church--is something that we have not set our minds to. We have no definite plans but this is a small model. "My old heart is just pounding at this moment, but I hope everyone's, everyone else is, too." But it is something we can--the Church of Christ has gone forward, we have supported Westerville. That is beyond. We have to work for the future. This is our future--this will be here on the table until the explosion date of May 15, 1966. This little church will seat a thousand people, and if you will, note the little cars. This is the front, this will be facing Cleveland Avenue. We have exits on either side, exits in the rear, and we were happy to get the little cars to really show it up. Now, like I said, this is just a small model that with the help of the congregation and the support here, we may look to the future, plans are indefinite on what size or what type of building. Everybody was thrilled to have seen this and wish it was up and now so do I. And that's just about all I have to say. I would say on the side is the little flat building. These are classrooms, that has 30 classrooms, four nice-sized rest rooms. And there is no basement. As you know, the Church of Christ buildings are completely different from what they used to be. They are going strictly future. With the help of everybody and his pocketbook and the love of man and God, we can accomplish this.

Brother Roy Estep: Well, I'm like Brother Watts, my heart is beating real fast. And I with to take this opportunity to commend Brother Watts on this outstanding job. He has displayed quite adequately this skill and if we can display ours in support, maybe we can see something like that very shortly.

It has been given me, as my part this evening, to discuss with you a questionnaire that is being prepared. Back four or five years ago, as Brother Fenn mentioned, and when Westerville congregation was in the planning stages, a questionnaire was given to the congregation to voice their opinion on various phases on the work of the Westerville project. Included in

that was, also, the opportunity of volunteering your service in aid in constructing this building. It is time now for another questionnaire. And this questionnaire will be concerning the Northland project. The elders and deacons have unanimously decided to go all out on the Northland project. The elders and deacons will not be doing this alone. We all will be doing it. Thus comes the need for the questionnaire. It will play a most important part in our Northland project, which I hope, is in the near future. And in this questionnaire, like the other, each will have the opportunity of expressing his opinions and also give his preferences on the various stages of this work.

I would like to give you a couple examples of what kind of questions you might expect of this questionnaire. Such as, should we have two water fountains in the new building, or should we have a balcony in the new building? These are just samples of what this will be. We know it will be more detailed and you will be aiding us a lot in the information that you will be giving us. We also want you to know that we want you to come to us at any time with any questions or any suggestions, but this questionnaire is going to be the big thing that will aid us all in getting this project under way and constructed as fast as possible. I would like for us to stop just a moment and ask ourselves a few questions. Are we happy with two services? Is it an ideal situation to have eighteen to twenty students jammed into an 8 X 3 classroom for a Bible Class? Or is it an ideal situation to have thirty first-graders, or thirty second-graders, or thirty third-graders, whichever the case may be. We have all three of them jammed in a classroom designed for fifteen. I suppose I just as well may stop now because most of us realize that we have many other things in our present building that are inadequate and our facilities must grow. We realize that. Our congregation is growing and it has grown in the past, and the future growth that is expected for Columbus will surpass any figure that has been in the past, thus we know the congregation, the Church, is going to grow much faster. And of course, a lot of that is left up to us and I think most of us realize this challenge and are ready to step in and start going.

In our plans for the past buildings, many of us have been in on various plans in our different buildings and this one as well many years ago. The elders and deacons realize that we need help in making plans for the building that we need for the future. So you see, this is the reason that Brother Earl Stevens, from Parkersburg, who is termed an authority on curriculum and religious education will be coming in here next Sunday, Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon, and Sunday evening, to tell us just what we need in this new building. Now all of us have lots of ideas, and we have been thinking about this for months and we're ready to go. But we want to be sure that when we do, that we have the facilities or the plant if you want to put it that way, and will do the job that we want to do and that will do the job that is expected of us by the Lord in the new area, because we have certainly put ourselves in the position and we are certainly challenged.

The area that we are moving into is already beginning to grow. Supposed to have been 107,000 increase in population in the 10 years, and two years have already gone by since I checked on that so it may have increased but you can see in just that area alone. I noticed just the other day, the area is already being lined-up for the new streets, etc., to go in immediately behind where we have purchased our property. We need to get in there, and I think we're already to go. And I think Brother Watts has shown us just what we want to go in there with. And one thing I would like to stress; the great importance on this questionnaire and your opinions that you will giving us and that we will all be using on constructing this new building. Now many of you say, well, I see the figure and I see the indebtedness and we have five months; we want to pay this off. How are we going to do it? I have an idea I would like to show you tonight. And this by no means, means it is the one we will use, but it is one that could be used and it is also quite a challenge. So I would like to show you that in just a moment. Most of you can see this is something that we came up with very rapidly, because we felt like we needed to, and like Brother Melvin said his heart was beating very fast and I am sure most of us are ready to go and maybe a little look into just how we might get there, and how quick and how we might go about doing it.

After having received the information concerning our indebtedness, I would like for you to notice--I'm taking this in round figures and not accurate--\$29,000.00, is our total indebtedness, and \$16,000.00, is what we owe in notes to our own people that we have borrowed for purchasing of the property, etc. And the property, the amount that we owe the man for the property up on Cleveland Avenue is \$13,000.00. We have \$6000.00, in the bank that should be applied against this debt here on the property, which would bring it down to \$7,000.00, that we owe on the property alone between now and the explosion date. All right, we'll come out here. How could we take care of it? How could we make that thing explode very fast. We could take twenty weeks that we have left before the explosion date and divide it into \$7000.00, and come up with a total of \$350.00, increase on the week. Then we can go over here and I have taken a rough estimate of the number of families in the congregation which I know we have more, about 85. Take eighty-five families that we have in the congregation here and take the \$350.00, and we come up with the figure of \$4.00, increase per family per week. Now this is a real challenge. Can we do it? Are we wanting that explosion date to explode as planned? This is just one suggestion of how it can be done. Now someone says what about the money that we owe these people-- that of our people here on the note? Well, this explosion date being set, as was shown there, we could have this property paid off, we could borrow money then to start building, we could borrow money also to pay off the amount we still owe to our own people here. Now this is one means of doing this. This is quite a challenge and we have met various challenges like this before and why not meet it this time and make that thing explode by the explosion date. Be ready to pay off and start building a building such as. This concludes the comments that I have. There are many others that I could make but I think I have said enough.

Brother Arnold Flannery: Looks like we had better get our shovels and go up and start digging. This doesn't leave us much choice from the way these comments are rolled out here. I think it's time to go to work. This is overdue. We're actually a year or two years behind in our progress on this program here. It's never too late to start, but we are behind. We're dragging our feet.

I noticed our contribution the last two or three weeks is slipping, and whose fault that is we won't know, but it is everybody's fault, I suppose. So let's tighten our belts a little and get a hold of this thing. And we don't have any definite day or definite plans for a building but that's what we're working on now. We are getting this in our minds ~~and~~ and we want everyone to have a part in this, so you will receive a questionnaire, in the near future.

We would ask you ~~or~~ invite you to parade up here to take a look at this little, miniature building that Bro. Watts has prepared. This is a nice piece of work. One thing I noticed-- that tree just does not look like the tree I saw up there on the lot. This one is sunburned, Melvin. The ~~new~~ building is beautiful and the layout and this parallels or is similar to a blueprint we looked at some months ago. It is a nice design. This doesn't mean this is the one we will have at all, but this may promote some thought and we may even get into one we would like better, maybe. So you come up and look and see the layout of it,

Brother Penn got me real interested in some of these dates he went back and dug up and I guess the older we get, the more we like to reminisce. Some of you young folks, Brother Stotts, wouldn't understand this, of course. When you get old and gray-headed you do like to reminisce. I know sometimes I hear a song or tune on the radio and if it's one I knew back when I was eighteen or twenty years old, it sounds much better than these modern ones, much better. So when he was up here talking about 1946, or along in this area, --why, this is real interesting. It brought back many thoughts and one I'll mention. I'll tell one on John Gaskalla. He still owes me for caving in the trunk of my car. He and I came down here and cut brush off this lot, right where we are right now. In piling it on the trailer, he punched a log up in the trunk of my car and he never has paid that yet. I'm still going to collect that. I got up here to talk about the Ice-Lake Program that we had in front of us a while back. five or six weeks ago, and it looks like quite a transition to take your minds off this onto that program, but I want to say a few things yet

about this. I would like to just--if I could just--wave a magic wand in front of your face, and say 'Let's look out to years ahead. Let's just think about ten years from now.' He took our minds back a while ago, back ten or fifteen years ago. Thirteen years ago we were in this building, so look how fast that has rolled around to some of you that were here. This has just rolled around in a short time. And to me this building still seems new and it's been thirteen years ago. Let's just look through the eye of imagination now at ten years ahead, and let's look up there on that piece of property and think about such as this or similar to that, a building that will accommodate a congregation of six hundred to a thousand people up there. This wouldn't be any more of a growth for us than the normal growth for the city of Columbus. This wouldn't even parallel the growth of our schools. The public schools in the city of Columbus have exploded and grown. I would suggest twenty times faster than the Church of Christ in Columbus. That means that we're just not keeping up. It can't mean anything else. If it's necessary for the schools to grow this fast, why isn't it necessary that we would keep up and grow this fast. I mean the church in general--in Franklin County, all the congregations. This is just a thought that we might hold in front of us. Let's think about a congregation up there, maybe with thirty elders and deacons; thirty to forty. A thousand people, why not? We need leadership. The church is starving to death for leadership, and we must have it. It's got to come. And if we do the proper teaching starting today, tonight, this is where they have got to come from--right out of this audience--right tonight. Some of these fifteen, eighteen year-old boys will be deacons and elders of the congregation up there in ten or fifteen years from now. This is the way it will have to be. And we don't hope to go out here and convert a man to the gospel of Christ and put him in next year as an elder. This never did work and it won't ten years from now. So where is our leaders coming from? Right here out of this congregation. This audience tonight should furnish the leadership in the years ahead. We're looking ten years ahead, right now. Let's think about it in that light. We must have leadership. If we don't have good, sound spiritual-minded men in the leadership of the Church, then we should fold up and quit now, because it will fail if we don't have good spiritual-minded leadership. It will fail if we don't have it. So it behooves us all--the Bible class teachers and everyone else concerned in the work here at this time. We should have this in mind. We shouldn't have a study, Wednesday night, or Sunday morning Bible class, or the preaching service or any part of your work here, without this thought in mind that we must develop leadership.

And to some of you that haven't been taking an active part, you have been staying in the shadows, you have been holding back, you're reserved, you're not coming out with what you know, that you should do, you may be a real good teacher with just a little bit of experience and practice. Don't let your job or your neighbors or some personal habit hold you back and make you useless in the work of the Church. Whatever it is that's driving you down, or a weight on your feet, shake it off and move forward. This is what we have to develop leadership in this ten years from now--we're looking ahead. There are many things that we've got to look to.

We would like to have a Bible class for every age--every year. If a child is six years old in the first grade of school, we should have this parallel right in the Church. If we settle for anything less, we're dropping behind. The school systems have seen fit to handle the public school in this way and it works. Now why wouldn't we do as well? We should do better maybe. Maybe even we would have to sub-divide this program if our number was great enough. But we would like to have at least this. A child every year should graduate into the next class. It just doesn't work too well when we have to group them up, when the age limit--the span is too great. It's overlapping at this rate. So we must cure this. We possible in ten years from now, with all these facilities and this much membership, if we could all go to work at it, maybe our contribution would be \$2500.00. A thousand people--\$2.50 a piece. That would almost be a sin to ask God to bless us, and give less than that. I don't see how we could even think about giving less. If we had a thousand people and couldn't have a figure of \$2500.00, a week, and with \$2500.00, a week, maybe we could have two or three elders work full-time for the Church--working for the Church, supported by the Church--right out of that \$2500.00, the support should come.

Maybe have two preachers, two or three, maybe have one preacher preach for the deaf, and two or three others working in counseling--all the things that has to be done in the work of the Church. All this is not imagination; other people have done it--denominational people have done it, and larger Churches of Christ have done it.

And sometimes we're prone to look at a large congregation of the Church of Christ and we see so much activity and we want to label it sinful and wicked because it's big. And because it's big and got a thousand members or thirty elders or one-hundred Bible class teachers, this doesn't make it bad. If you teach the right doctrine it can be just as true to the gospel as if you only had fifteen members. Being small, or insignificant, or helpless doesn't make you any more righteous. So with this thought, I would like to wave it aside; this has been too long the policy of the Church of Christ. See how small you can stay and feel like in your smallness and your weakness that you are more righteous. naturally, you will see more frivolity--the more people you get in one collection, regardless of what it is. You will see more sin the more people you have. So it being large doesn't make the congregation any more liberal or any more less righteous, or any closer to the Bible. We would like to do many things, and these things may seem wild,

Now we might ask where do we get a thousand members of the Church. This sounds big, and to us it does, yes. Where do we get a thousand members? The city of Columbus is full of people and over half of them don't belong to anything. They say this area where we have bought land up here is just about the choicest or the hottest piece of property in Franklin County. Columbus, Ohio, is one of the fastest-growing cities in the state, and this square that we have purchased ground in up here, is the choicest and liveliest spots in the whole of Franklin County. So we're very fortunate to have a piece of ground. Fifty years from now that will be downtown Columbus, so look what we have--seven acres in there. We can push people back away from us. This will be good the older it gets really. We got seven acres there and the further the city goes north, the more there will be around us. So we do have a real choice spot there. We might say where do we get the \$2500.00. Well, we talked about that.

Now the thirty elders and deacons. This is a good one. I would like to just stand here and talk all night about that, if I had words to reveal my inner thoughts on this subject. We might even look at some of the ten, twelve, and fifteen-year old boys and think now what do we do. If your ten-year old or twelve-year old boys are being taught Bible lessons through the classes and all this, what are they learning towards growing into maturity, and just how much preparation will they have when they become eighteen or twenty years old, as to what you are giving them now. Will they have a desire, and don't think these boys have to become forty-years old to have a desire to become an elder or deacon in the Church. This is just not true. I think about five or six years ago, a boy in my class was about nine-years old, said he wanted to be a preacher and he was so timid and meek and bashful, that he would hardly speak out. He would hardly tell me his name. But when I began to get acquainted with the boy--here he sets--won't even answer a question hardly from fear of his own voice. The sound of his own voice scared him. He finally told me that he wanted to be a preacher. He's not in this congregation now, but the last report I heard of him, he's on his way. He still has this thought. So these boys have thoughts even when they're very young. Even when they're teenagers, they have these thoughts. They may get into a lot of mischief and have a lot of energy, but some of them are sincere in their inner thoughts. This is what you have to build on. We will need leadership. If the Church doesn't have leadership, we might as well quit today. Without leadership, it will stay like it is and some little congregations you may know of out in the rural areas, fifteen or twenty people and no bigger than it was fifty years ago, and no hopes, or no plans and no progress and that is because of lack of leadership. There are probably exceptions and I don't say that all these small congregations are like that, but we have been fortunate in the city of Columbus. We have--we see here young folks who have moved here from smaller congregations and have placed membership with us. We have had some real sincere and real good folks do that. We are proud of everyone of you that have done that, and you have swelled the attendance here, and you are part of the congregation. This will continue to happen in a city like Columbus. This will go on. This will continue to happen.

We must be prepared to place these people and give them a job to do. Some of them will become elders and deacons and leaders and preachers. We need this. We must have them. And I'm pleading with every Bible class teacher to have these things in mind and for everyone who isn't a teacher, any Christian should be a teacher after a while in the Church. You just can't get around this. If you have been a Christian and declared yourself to be in harmony with the Gospel of Christ, and you want to tell this story. If you're a Christian you should be a teacher. If you don't develop into a teacher, then you're sick--spiritually sick. So let's just come out of our shell and as I mentioned the other night in the Bible class, about a man writing an article--'The Leap of Faith.' You have the faith, but you haven't made the leap. Now let's make the leap and go to work and we will develop all these other things. Well, I'll tell you now what I got up here to say. So much for that.

A few weeks ago, Brother Brody Harold came to this area telling us his need in the Manitula Island in Ontario, Canada. He has been a preacher there for about three or four years and I happened to be in his audience the first sermon he preached in the little congregation there, and watched him launch his program there. Someone said he is about the most converted man that they've ever seen. They have only known him for a few weeks and I have known him for three or four years and I had already had that idea. He would like to get support from this area as well as from other areas, and a lot of you people have said that you wanted to help him on an individual basis, but still on the other hand you expressed a desire to let the Church handle it here, so we have worked out a little program and if you want to send something to that work in that area, you have that privilege, of course, that is your business, but if you want to turn it in, any amount that you want (someone said a dollar a week they would give.) They wanted to wait once a month and write a check for \$4.00, and turn it in to the treasurer here. If you want to do that, we want to know how many of you plan to give toward this work in the Ice Lake area, and I'll tell you. I want to get your name and the amount you're saying you are going to give. We'll total that up, and if it's \$50.00, or \$60.00, a week, we're going to add a little to that from the treasury and we will have a part in that work. Now this is a very small amount. But several of you have expressed a desire to help Bro. Brodie Harold in that work there.

In case you are a member here and you didn't get his story the night he showed his pictures and made a talk, I will tell you what he is pleading for. He wants preachers to live on the Manitulan Island. He wants you, if you're a preacher, to move there and help convert the island. Here are 12,000 people living on this island--10,000 whites and 2,000 indians. He has already converted a few of the indians on the island, and I think about 25 white folks have been added to the Church since he has been there. Nearly all people there are poor people and they don't have a lot of money and they are good people and need to be taught. He wants personal workers to live on the island, if you can just come in the summer and work as a vacation for you. He wants Christian school teachers to come and take jobs in the schools. There are jobs available. Your interest is needed in this respect. They also wanted money to enlarge their building and he was raising money for his personal support. Now here are the results to date. We got this letter on the 12th; it's a little old now. One preacher plans to move there next summer and possibly another the following summer, and a few more seem seriously interested in moving there. About a dozen student teachers are interested in moving there in the future. He doesn't mention any names on this, because it is very vague, I suppose. He has in his trips through the states, he has raised \$195.00, additional for his support.

I talked with him long distance on the phone a few days ago, and he said that winter had already set in and he has two automobiles, and one of them is an old Dodge and he said already there was 14" of snow and he couldn't get the last 300 yards up to his house in his Dodge, and he had to use his Landrover. It is a four-wheel drive vehicle and this was what he was battling up there some two weeks ago. I have a letter from Bro. Broidy and he said, 'Dear Mr. Flannery: Last week I waded through slush ice on the Ice Lake and baptized a young mother. This brings to a total, 26 baptized and ten restored since we came here in September. You have had your part in saving these souls and I thank you and God will reward you. The baptism was a result of the meeting we had last week with Bro. Tom Wiles from Marysville.' The rest is personal. This Tom Wiles is a young man

that was, a few months ago, or a year or so ago, was converted over to the Church of Christ, and he had been a preacher in a denomination for a while, very sincere and honest young man and he does a good job of preaching and he went up and held a week's meeting in Ontario, Canada, in this place where Bro. Broidy is, and he plans to move to the town of Little Current. Now to you most of this doesn't mean anything. But the island is 100 miles long, and Ice Lake where Bro. Harold is, is right in the middle on the eastern end, and Bro. Harold is in the middle and now we're looking for one to put on the other end.

I want to get your name and how much money you expect to give toward this work and there are several of you who expressed your desire to contribute something. If you haven't thought about it, this would be a good chance to give something, and you may feel like you haven't done enough. You may feel like you can't do just everything or anything in the work of the Church but you do have a few dollars that you could put into the work of the Church and we're going to add a little to it out of the treasury. He will, at least, get \$50.00, or \$75.00, a month from this area or from this congregation. This about concludes what I have to say. This work and I would like to re-emphasize that we have got a big job to do and we just can't afford to slow down or do what the contribution indicates in the last two or three weeks. This, I almost turn my head when I walk by to keep from looking at that. I don't like to even think of it in this way. And again, I ask you to come and take a look at the little miniature building that Br. Watts has prepared, and get some idea of what a new modern church building would look like.

Brother Keith Stotts: As I think of Cleveland Avenue's future, I think of it depending upon at least the following five things:

First of all--more challenging plans. I think tonight that very plainly they have been revealed to us. About six weeks ago, I sat in a meeting with all the elders and deacons with the exception of one who had to work, with 100 percent approval of adoption of these plans to go forward were voiced by everyone. These plans are not just average plans. These plans are with quality and with quantity. They're concerned about not just having a crackerbox with a few outside doors to it. They're concerned about a plant. A plant where God's people can be taught and directed and edified and built-up in the most holy faith. They're concerned about quantity. They're concerned about being able to do something, and do it in a great way. And the word great is not a bad word, it is not an ugly word. It is a scriptural word. 't is a wonderful word. Next Sunday, Brother Earl Stevens will direct us in thinking that we have never begun to comprehend in Columbus and most of the United States and I hope that you will take advantage of this great filling.

The second thing that aids in the dependence of our future at Cleveland Avenue is positive thinking. There is a very definite idea that roams throughout the world, and that is that you are guilty until proven innocent. Guilty until proven innocent. Everything is bad 'til proven good in the Church of our Lord. We want to change some earthly, physical custom and it's got to be bad because--'til someone--because of time--proves it right. That ought never to be. We ought to have as much grace toward Godly people as we have to gross sinners, murderers, and that is--innocent until proven guilty. As you think about changes, as you think about advances that will come. People will get on the telephone and, 'Do you know what' and on and on the story goes. Gossip beyond gossip of women that ought to be nuturing their children instead of blabbing their mouths in regard to things they know nothing about. You're angry, Brother Stotts. No, I'm deeply concerned about why we have to be so negative about a great change that's taking place. Brother Williamson a few years ago, almost now, made a statement that went something like this 'Don't say that something cannot be done that is already being done.' Those aren't the words, but it's the idea. This is being done and I think that we ought to all be aware of the fact that is going to be done because God wants progress. Mistakes will be made. Your opinion, but not just your opinion, will be weighed in relation to what will be done. Not just one person's opinion, but everybody's, in the light of knowledge in the light of expedience, will be carried out.

A third factor that determines our future is dynamic enthusiasm. Are you aware that many of us go around doing the work of the church with our veins filled with tired blood. That's the way we even move physically. Or we may be shiply(?). I'm not talking about this type of movement. We may be able to go only at a snail's pace, but some of the greatest leaders in the church today are men that have to walk with canes, have to be pushed in a wheelchair but have the greatest motivation in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ today. We need to be concerned about the fact that we need dynamic enthusiasm. Some have gotten the idea the word enthusiasm is an immature word. If someone gets excited we say he is childish. You know, I get excited about going on a vacation, don't you? You know, I'm going up in the mountains to spend a day or week and you know I just can't hold myself, but my wife doesn't come around and say, 'Keith, grow up' because she is just as excited as I am. We're ready to go; we're ready to do something and do it excitedly. Enthusiastically. Can you imagine the apostle Paul going to Rome, going to preach for the brethren of Rome and saying 'Well, we're going to get there, or I'll just as leave go----'. The apostle Paul was so anxious to go, but he had to write to them and tell them that first I have got to go to Jerusalem, to convince the brethren to accept the benevolent money. Enthusiastically. That was the leader of the first century, and that's the kind of leadership we have got to have today in the hearts of all of us: mothers, fathers, elders, deacons, and preachers. Not just membership. We need to be above average. The average, I doubt seriously, will ever make it to Heaven. It's going to take someone that exceeds the norm. It takes someone that goes beyond the mere daily chore of life. It takes someone that's converted. Someone that can't sleep at night because someone is dying and going to Hell and we're responsible.

The fourth and very definite factor will be energetic service. Not just dynamic enthusiasm, that's just how you feel. Then there comes the energetic service. The word service carries with me the idea of labor. The idea of physical work and the idea of money. This is service. In--thus, these two areas. There are many other areas, but these are the two we are talking about tonight. And then there is what is called energetic. This means effort. It means putting forth dynamic action. And secondly, it means liberality. Being liberal. Going above what you really can afford. And giving what you really don't know for sure, whether you can get along without. Sacrificing--that's called liberality, and that's when we really give and give with great purpose. Lastly, it depends upon a great measure of fervor in our devotion. This is how we think before God by ourselves. This is how we think before God when no one is around, not even our wives, even our children. This is what is called fervor in our devotion. Everything we do, we can see under it a spiritual reason. We see behind it and there has to be behind it, a spiritual angle or everything we will do will be in vain. There has to be also, an appreciation to God for the fact that we can give, the fact that we can work, the fact that we can be an elder, or a deacon or a Bible School teacher or the fact that we can be a parent. There has to be an appreciation. Not that we have to be, but that God gives us the strength and the ability to be what we can be. No one should look at the increase of \$4.00, a week as being something that has to be, but something that we can thank God in our fervor of devotion that we can do and we're thankful to God that He has given us the ability to do this.

And lastly, there is a happiness, a real joy that wells up within us, for the fact that now we're going to do something. Now we're going to get busy in the work of the Lord, and we're happy about it, really happy. We're not going around sad and pessimistic. We're realistic. Oh, we're going to count the cost. We have been counting it for five years. We've been counting it for fifty years. We've always counted the cost. The Lord taught us to. At the same time, he said 'When you're counting the cost, be happy.' Blessed or happy are Christian people, Matthew the fifth chapter. And in conclusion, what can I do?

The story is told of a man that had a laboring job of doing nothing but marking a straight line in the middle of a brick or block, a concrete block. And this man, day in and day out, year in and year out, did nothing but make a straight line in the

middle of a block. And this was so monotonous to him and he didn't understand why-- what was the value of this? And all of a sudden he was walking down the street one day and he saw a beautiful building--a unique building. A building he had never seen equalled before. As he approached it, he found out that it was built by the blocks of their company. As he got a little bit closer, he found out that the thing that made it unique was that straight line in the middle of the block. Little things. We're looking for something spectacular. Why, I want to put the spiral on, I want to swing the doors, want to mow the grass. Maybe you should just pray. Maybe you should convert half of Linden. Maybe you should become a preacher; maybe you should work toward becoming an elder or a deacon, or one of their wives. Maybe you should increase your contribution. Or maybe you should put the spiral on. But maybe you shouldn't. The little things mean a lot. The story is told of a man who was walking down the street and he met a laborer. As they were stopped--talking, the rich man, being an executive, looked to a great gigantic building, a skyscraper. He said, 'Boy, I'm proud of that building.' He says, 'Do you know that I own that building, lock, stock, and barrel?' The laborer looked at him and said, 'Do you know that I'm as proud of that building as you are?' The man said, 'What do you mean--you don't own a single block or a single brick in it.' He said, 'Yes, but I mixed the mortar that holds the bricks together.' The apostle Peter said that we are all lively stones, fitted together in the building-up of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are all lively stones. As you walk by a building, the first thing you see are the bricks. The beauty of the building is in direct ratio, with the beauty of every single brick. Someone said that a chain is as strong as it's weakest link, and a congregation is as beautiful as it's ugliest member. It's as strong as it's weakest member. It's as valuable as it's most inexperienced member. How beautiful is the Church where you attend? How beautiful are you and then you can tell. Someone handed me, and I don't know why they did this, just prior to the service, a little poem titled, "The Art of Success". Will you listen carefully?

There are no secrets to success

Success is doing things you know you should do

Success is not doing the things you know you shouldn't do

Success is not limited to any one area of your life, but encompasses all of the facets of your relationship, as parents, as wives, as husbands, as citizens, neighbors, workers or all the others.

Success is discovering your best talents, skills, and abilities and applying them where they will make the most effective contribution to your fellowmen.

In the words of Longfellow, 'It is doing what you do well, and doing well whatever you do.'

Success is 99% mental attitude

It calls for love