3. Evangelical Fellowship/Evangelischer Gemeinschaftsdiakonieverband/ Fellowship Deaconry Inc.

Introduction

The Fellowship Deaconry Ministries have a rich history with roots in Pietism, a movement founded by Philip Jakob Spener in the 17th century that emphasizes personal transformation through spiritual renewal and birth; a believer's goal was to follow a religion of the heart and not just the intellect. In the late 19th century this revival swept across Germany. Founding pastors, often Lutherans, established a Deaconess Home in Vandsburg, Prussia, and a new order of deaconesses was established and founded on the principles of Spener's pietism. Driven by the economic and political chaos in Germany in the 1930s, many members of the movement came to America, and a Deaconess Home was established in Liberty Corner, NJ in 1933. The Sisters helped meet the social and spiritual needs of these German immigrants. They found opportunities for private nursing, for distributing German gospel tracts and for leading neighborhood Bible studies. The Tract Missions called for the distribution of tracts by deaconesses and tract missionaries, gatherings for prayer, Bible study, Sunday School, evangelistic meetings and camps for vacation, relaxation and spiritual renewal.

In Alberta, the movement followed a similar path, with Edmonton being the focus point for members of the Evangelical Fellowship. It was essentially founded by two Sisters, Sister Tatjana Doclaw and Sister Marie Klee (see below).

Doclaw, Tatjana, deaconess, was born of German parents in Poland; came to the U.S. in 1936 and worked there for four years before arriving in Canada; served for over a decade in Tisdale and Luseland, two small farming communities in Saskatchewan; came to Edmonton in 1952 to serve the many new German immigrants; at first stayed with relatives in Westlock where she started Sunday evening meetings in their residence and a small Bible study and prayer group; in February 1953 Sister Marie Klee arrived from Lemförde, Germany to assist Sister Tatjana. The two Sisters soon decided to buy a house that would accommodate a large group of people for their meetings in 1953 at 10542-83 Avenue in Edmonton – and so they did with the help of many generous donations. Soon the Sisters provided Sunday evening service and a Wednesday evening prayer meeting to which they invited children and young people, started a guitar choir, and later encouraged the formation of a brass band. In 1957 the Sisters' involvement with the group that they had founded came to an end as they were called to serve in Regina, and in 1960 to Toronto. From there Sister Tatjana returned to Regina in 1962 until her retirement in 1970. She then moved to Kelowna and other localities for a while and finally ended up in the Deaconess Retirement Home in Bernardsville, NJ where she passed away on February 5, 1987.

Gaertner, Elfreda, deaconess, arrived in Edmonton in 1970 to succeed Sister Hilde Trumpf with establishing the Evangelical Fellowship Church in Edmonton, then led by Pastor Plaum (1970–1973).

Klee, Marie, deaconess, arrived in Edmonton from Lemförde, Germany to assist Sister Tatjana in February 1953 to help build the foundations for the Evangelical Fellowship movement; initially the two Sisters bought a house large enough to accommodate sizeable groups of members (see above); in order to pay off the mortgage they rented out the basement and upper stories of the house in Old Strathona; Sister Marie's salary, trained as a nurse like many others deaconesses, helped to discharge the Sisters' financial obligations. The number of participants steadily increased, and so by October 1958 a new house was built and

filled to over-capacity at its dedication with about 600 people in attendance. Before, in 1957, Sister Marie had been called to Regina.

Kürschner, Manfred, took over the German congregation in Edmonton's Evangelical Fellowship Church after Pastor Plaum left in 1986; served until the end of 1998 when he moved to take over a Lutheran congregation in Frontier, SK.

Mueller, Josh, has served as Senior Pastor for German Services in the Evangelical Fellowship Church in Edmonton (April 1999–).

Plaum, Heinz Erhard, born in Hartenrod (now Bad Endach near Marburg, Germany) in 1930; parents: Hermann and Lina née Deutsch; worked as a cabinet-maker, studied at Tabor Seminary, Marburg, Germany (1949–?); had a vicarage at Herzberg im Harz and Aschaffenburg; served Kitchener, ON; married Elisabeth née Vormwald (1958); served Evangelical Fellowship congregations in Forest Park and Chicago IL (1961–1973); Evangelical Fellowship, Edmonton, AB (1973–1986).

It was during Pastor Plaum's ministry that English services started; children's Sunday school classes, initially in German, were simultaneously held with the German service on Sunday mornings; in December 1976 English Bible Study for adults and later adult English services were added; a camp in Evansburg was purchased and renovated; in the early 1980's the Elders were asked to change the rules to allow the English congregation to grow. After Pastor Plaum's departure in 1986, Joachim Poetzsch was called as a full-time English pastor (1985–1993).

Subsequent to his tenure in Edmonton Pastor Plaum served the Christian Fellowship Church, Waterloo, ON (1986–1995); retired but preached (mostly in German) when called upon, serving Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Kitchener, ON for four years while retired; died on October 13, 2007 in Kitchener, ON with the funeral service taking place in the Christian Fellowship Church in Waterloo October 17, 2007 and Pastor Kurt Fischer officiating; interred in Parkview Cemetery, Waterloo, ON.

4. Evangelical Missionary Church

Introduction

The original theology of this Church was Methodist. Initially, it did its work primarily among German-speaking people in Canada. The church underwent several mergers: Evangelical Association, then Evangelical Church, then Evangelical United Brethren, then Evangelical Church in Canada, now Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada. In 1982 the Evangelical Church of North America and the Evangelical Church in Canada merged; this changed with the merger with the Missionary Church in 1993 to form the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada (EMCC).

The Evangelical Church in Canada had its origins in Pennsylvania among German immigrants in the 18th century. It stressed evangelistic fervour, the practice of spiritual disciplines and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit that had characterized John Wesley's early Methodist teaching. The Church was especially successful in gathering and organizing rural congregations with German speakers in the south of the Prairie provinces. Many were established before the first World War, but the Church's missionary work continued well into the inter-war period and into the present.

Canada's West was recognized as a mission field for the first time in 1899, and pastors were sent out to Manitoba and subsequently to Saskatchewan and Alberta. By 1932 there were 60 preaching places in western Canada and 38 churches with a membership of 1,429. Based on Canadian census data, a renowned expert in German-Canadian history reported 1,240 German Evangelicals in Alberta, 1,308 in Saskatchewan and 164 in Manitoba.

In Alberta, the Church had its beginnings in 1902 when Rev. C. G. Kaatz was stationed in Didsbury. Over the six years of his mission there he organized a church in the same year, Zion Evangelical Church, and supervised the building of a church in Siebertville east of Didsbury. He and his successor, Rev. C. S. Finkbeiner, reached out into the surrounding area over the subsequent years. Preaching took place in Sunnyslope, Westcott and Mayton in 1903 and 1904. The Bethel Church in Carstairs, part of the Didsbury field had its beginnings in 1902 and a church was built in 1907.

In southern Alberta, Warner Evangelical Church was erected in 1908. Services were held in Medicine Hat for the first time in 1906, and Medicine Hat Memorial was founded in 1908. Little Plume Church southeast of Medicine Hat was organized in 1911 and a church was built in 1921. Hilda Salem was erected in 1917.

In Calgary Rev. Finkbeiner conducted services with a group of German people in 1913. In 1933 Salem Evangelical was organized and in 1934 a church was built.

In central Alberta, a church was erected in Hanna in 1916, the Spondini Evangelical Church. A congregation was founded in Holden in 1917, and a church —Holden Evangelical Church— was built south of Vegreville in 1922. In 1929 services began in the Three Hills area, and ten years later Three Hills Evangelical Church was erected. Torrington Evangelical Church was built in 1942. In the same year the Philadelphia Evangelical Church was dedicated in Vulcan. Zion Evangelical in Castor was initiated in 1942 as well. Grace Church in Beiseker followed in 1944.

A mission was established in Edmonton in 1914 with former members of the Evangelical Church in Germany, and in 1917 a church was dedicated. In 1917 preaching services began in Bruce and Bethany southeast of the city of Edmonton. Services were held for the first time in New Sarepta in 1916, and in 1926 New Sarepta Zion was organized. In the 1930s preaching took also place in Thorsby. In 1934 occasional visits were paid to Barrhead.

In 1993 the Evangelical Church in Canada merged with the Missionary Church of Canada into the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada. Among the Church's many congregations in Alberta, Calgary's Centre

Street Church with its several campuses probably has the largest church attendance of any church in the city at present.

Amacher, A. M., served Didsbury, AB (1941–1945).

Amacher, Louis P., appointed by the Canada (Ontario) Conference in 1911–1914 to serve the Medicine Hat Mission; served Tabor Church, Little Plume (AB) and Bethel, Wisdom (AB) (beginning in about 1912).

Becker, Fred, served Castor, AB (1951–1956).

Bock, H. H., served Hillcrest Church, Medicine Hat, AB (around 1956–1957).

Brandt, G. W., served Salem, Calgary, AB (1970s–1980s?).

Braun, S. F., of Rosthern, SK, visited the Medicine Hat area (1905).

Brown, Arthur H., served Torrington, AB (1952–1954); Bethel, Hanna, AB (1958–1969); Memorial, Medicine Hat, AB (1969–1983).

Brust, E. M., served Hilda, AB (1949–1951) and Bethany, Edmonton, AB (1957–1966).

Burkhard, J. M., served Hilda, AB (1928–1930) and Mayton, AB (1931–1932).

Burn, J. S., served Melville, Konigsburg, SK (1906–?); Neuburg, Little Plume, AB (1912–1914); while serving Burstall, Mendham, SK he held services at Hilda, AB (before 1916); served Ebenezer (later renamed Albright Memorial), Winnipeg, Morse, MB (1925–at least 1927).

Busenius, G., served Three Hills, AB (1935).

Caughell, A. S., served Didsbury, AB (1936–1940).

Conner, M. J., from Pierson, IA; served Warner, AB (1907–?); Sunday schools were organized (1908–1909) at New Dayton/Milk River/Bethel/Good Hope along with church services in these localities.

Deimert, R. F., served Hanna, AB (1969–1972); Salem, Calgary, AB (1979–1985).

Doerksen, J.; served Vegreville, AB (1935).

Domm, John S., born on July 23, 1869 in Ayton, ON; academic and seminary education at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, IL; married on June 25, 1907 to Sophia née Fisher from Elmwood, ON; served Medicine Hat, AB city and country, which also included Neuburg, Gros Ventre, AB (1907–1911); Memorial Evangelical Church was dedicated on November 1, 1908; served as city missionary in Edmonton, AB (1914–?); this congregation was disbanded around 1931; also served Vegreville (Bruce), later called Emmanuel, Holden?; served New Sarepta as of 1916; served Ellerslie (now Edmonton) (1916–1921); appointed as Conference Evangelist (1921); served Bethany (17 miles SE of Edmonton) as well as Thorsby; served Macoun, Lang (SK) in the late 1920s when he also served Yorkton, SK at times; served Regina, SK (1927); in 1934 occasional visits were made to Barrhead, AB by the pastors serving the other congregations near Edmonton, and John S. Domm may have been one of them; served Chilliwack, Abbotsford, BC (1941–1942); served Grace, Vancouver, BC (1943–1944); died on August 8, 1951 Vancouver, BC; buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Vancouver.

Eidt, L. K., served New Sarepta, AB (1921–1925); Medicine Hat, AB (1927–1929).

Finkbeiner, C. S., born in Crediton, ON on May 14, 1860; entered active ministry in 1886; was licensed in 1888 by the Canada Conference; married to ?, née Maunders; served Didsbury and surrounding congregations (1908–1911), which included Hanna AB (1912–1915); he first started work in Spondin, AB (1911–?); held services in Calgary on a monthly basis (1913); served Hanna, AB (1927–1929); he was also a judge in

the juvenile court in Hanna for 12 years; served Three Hills, AB (1929–1935); died on October 7, 1951 in his home near Spondin, AB; buried in Hanna.

Gauerke, A. G., came from WI; entered the ministry in 1925; was licensed in 1926 by the Canada Conference; served Siebertville (Siebert), Mayton, AB (1927); was in the Northwest Canada Conference for 27 years; returned to WI.

Ginther, H. T., served New Sarepta, Edmonton, AB (around 1953–1960).

Gishler, E. M., served Edmonton, New Sarepta, AB (1927–1930) and as supply; Bruce (Vegreville, Holden) in 1927.

Grams, August J., married to ?, née Hausch; served Three Hills, AB (1936); also served Vegreville, AB (1937–1945); Didsbury, AB (1946–1954) and Three Hills, AB (1955–1961).

Gretzinger, Karl, served Bethany, Melville, Konigsburg, SK (around 1913) and also held services in Yorkton, SK; Medicine Hat, AB (around 1919).

Hartfield, Ernest, served New Sarepta, AB (1960–1963).

Janetzki, W. E., served Salem, near Hanna and Castor, AB; Torrington, AB (1942); Castor, AB (1943–1948); New Sarepta, AB (1949–1953); also Didsbury, ?, AB.

Jesske, Theodore E., born in Burstall, SK (1913); married to Ella née Eslinger; farmed and then entered the ministry; served Salem, Calgary, AB (1936–1947); served as Conference Superintendent for Northwest Canada (1947–1978); the head office was moved to Medicine Hat, AB (1947); author of *Pioneers of Faith: A History of the Evangelical Church in Canada.*

Kaatz, C. G., born in Russia on August 7, 1898; commissioned for work in Didsbury, AB and area (April, 1902) by the Canada (Ontario) Conference; served Didsbury (1902–1908), which included Sunnyslope (1903–?), which became Bethel west of Carstairs, AB (1903–?); served Westcott, AB; Siebertville and Mayton, AB; visited the Medicine Hat, AB area (July 1906) and, together with S. F. Braun of Rosthern, SK, visited Medicine Hat again in December 1906 (Neuburg and Josephburg); returned to Ontario (1908).

Kallis, E., served Hanna and Spondin, AB (1949–1952).

Knopp, A. G., born in Russia on August 7, 1898**;** entered the ministry in 1925; was licensed in 1927; completed studies at the Great West Bible School in Edmonton and completed two years at Concordia Lutheran College in Edmonton; married; served Neudorf, SK (1927); Melville, SK (around 1931); New Sarepta, Bruce (Holden), AB; served Vancouver, BC (1944–?) and also groups in Vernon and Kelowna, BC; Richmond Park Church, Edmonton, AB (1953–?); died on November 12, 1972; buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Edmonton, AB.

Koepke, C., commissioned in 1906 by the Canada (Ontario) Conference and stayed to 1907; entered ministry (1920); was licensed in 1922 by the Canada Conference; Edmonton and surrounding churches (1930–1940), which included Holden (1933) and New Sarepta (1930–40); served Medicine Hat (1940–1942); returned to Ontario.

Krotz, W. F., entered the ministry in 1920 and was licensed by the Canada Conference (1922); served Edmonton and surrounding churches (1930–1940), which included Holden (1933) and New Sarepta, Edmonton, AB (1930–1940); Medicine Hat (1940–1942).