



HOPE

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

125TH ANNIVERSARY

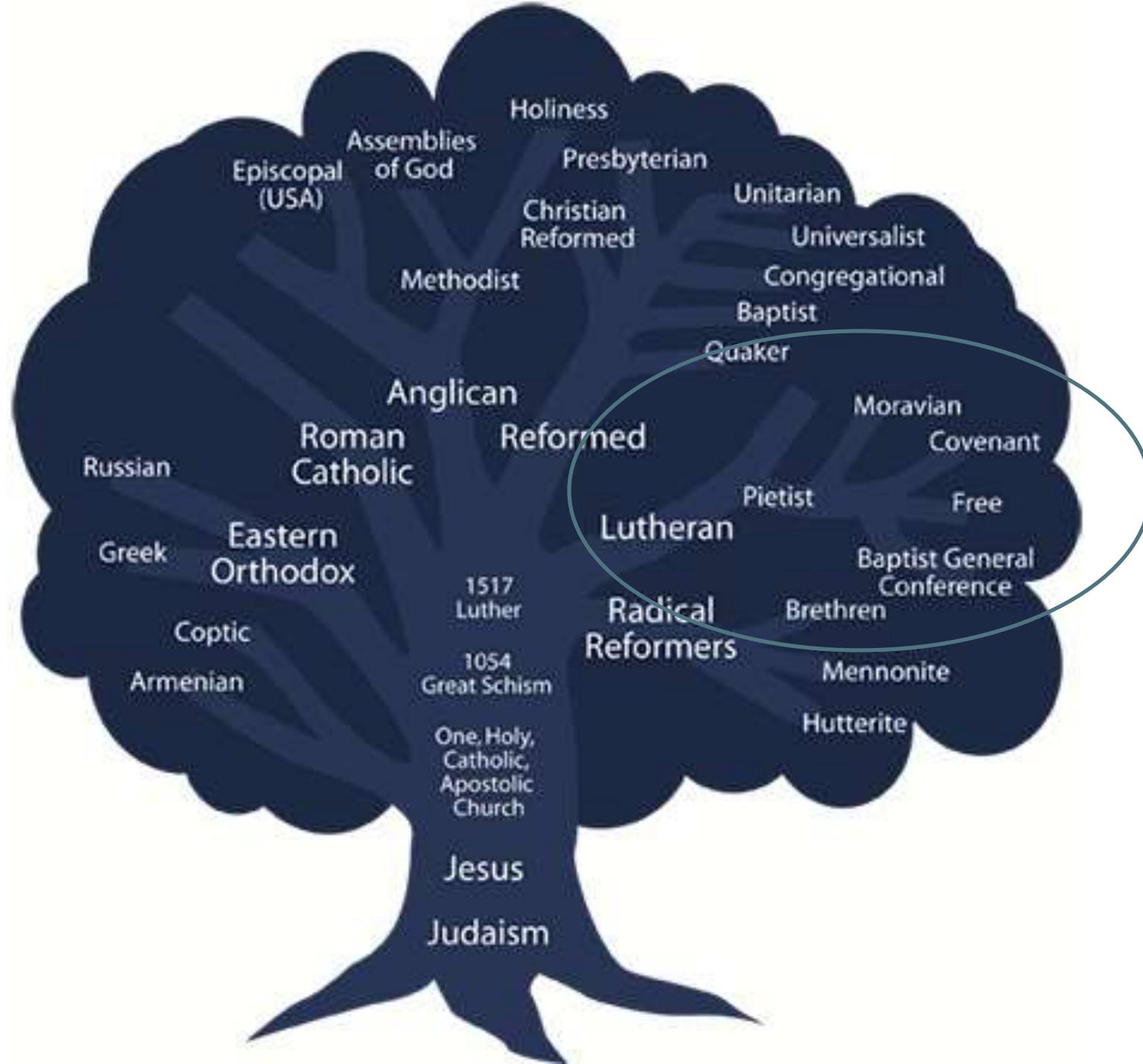
1901-2026

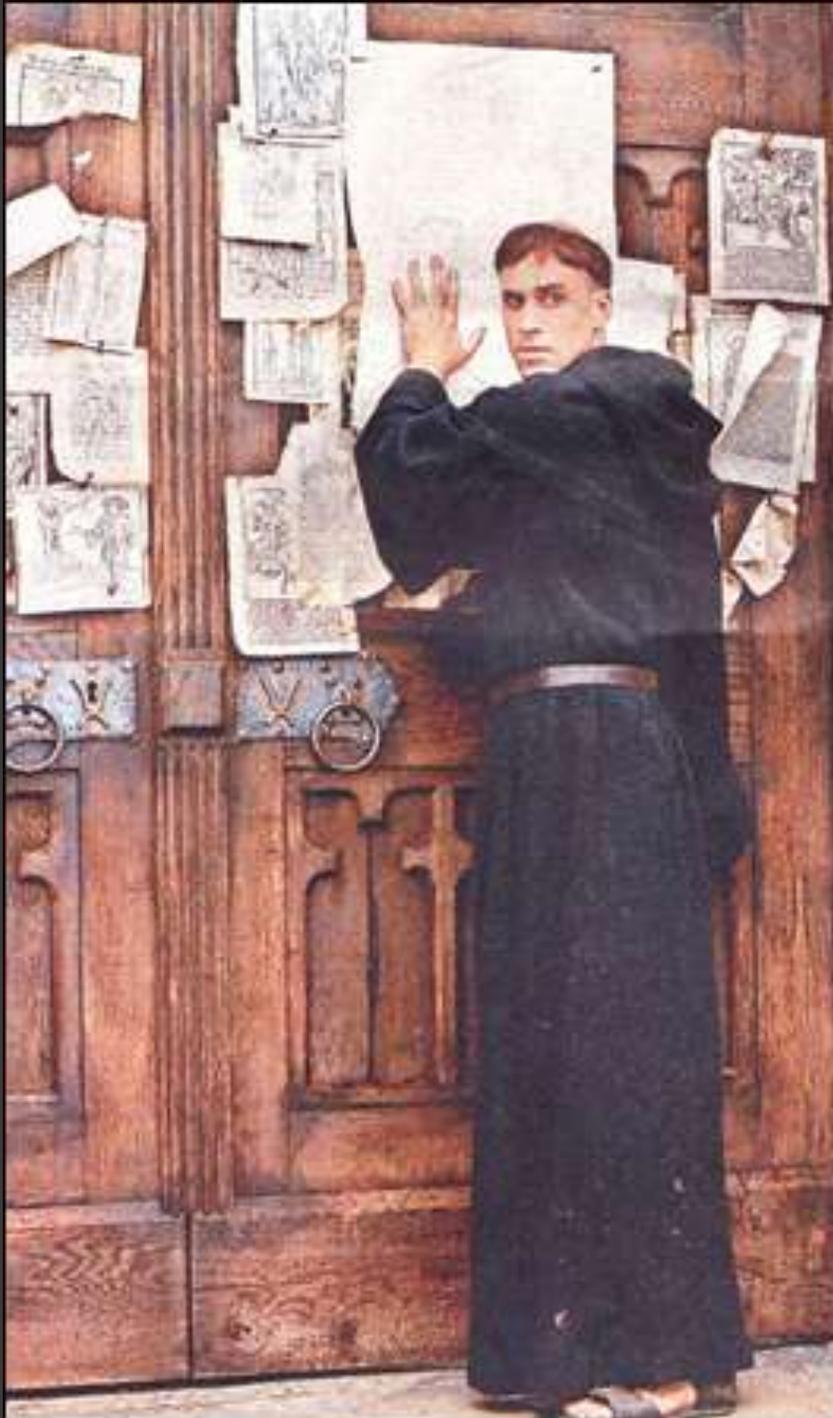


1901 SWEDISH FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDED
IN OLD CENTER GROVE, 8 miles NE of Alta in Scott
Township of Buena Vista county, Iowa.

Articles of Incorporation of the
Free Swedish Christian Church.

This Certificate of Association,
made this 1st day of March
One Thousand Nine Hundred and
One, by and between the persons,
whose names are hereto subscribed,
Witnesseth -



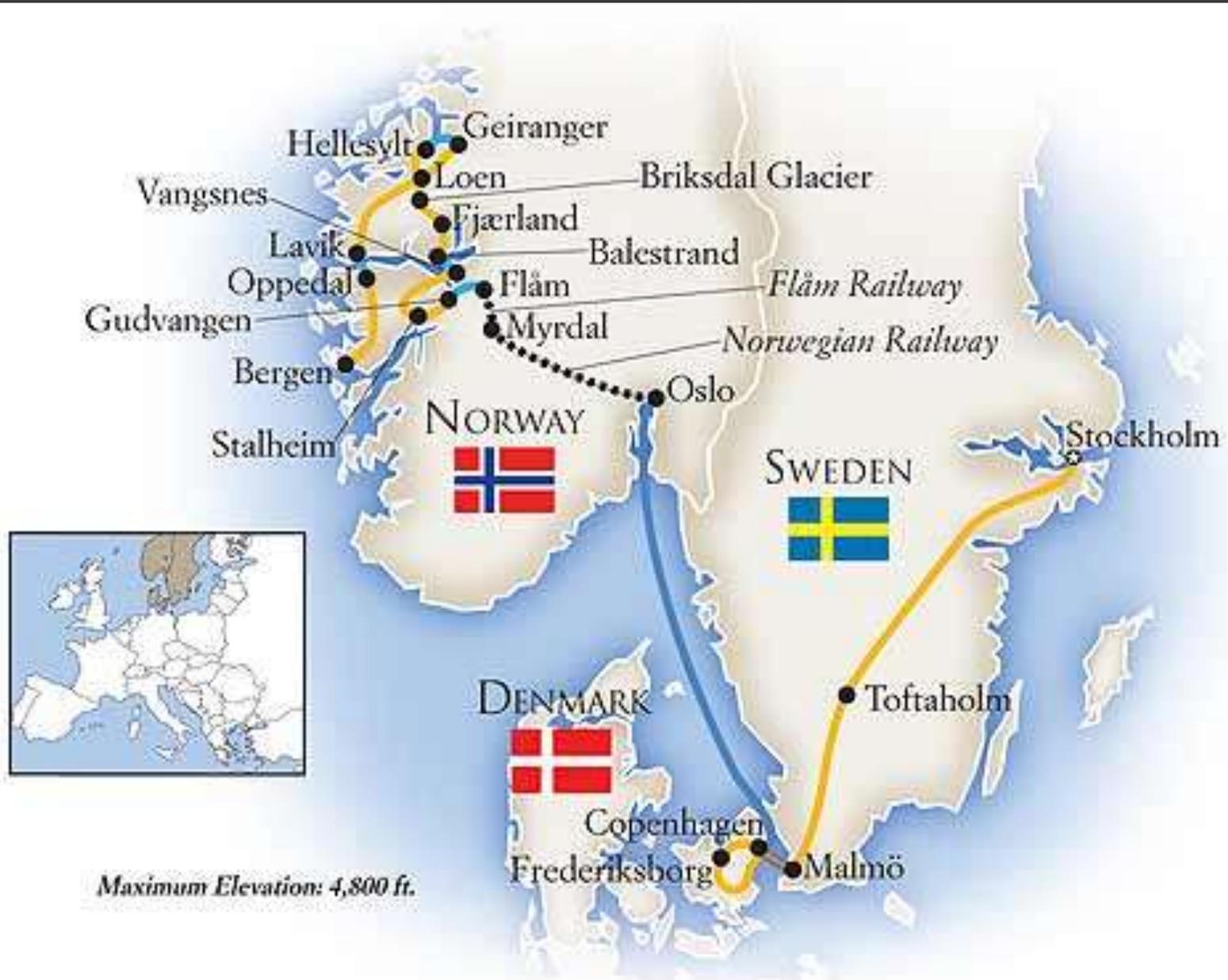


16th Century Protestant Reformation
October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posting his 95
Theses at the Castle Church, Wittenberg,
Germany.

Sola Scriptura ("only the
scriptures")

Sola Gratia ("only by grace")

Sola Fides ("only by faith")



Maximum Elevation: 4,800 ft.

19th Century “Free” Church Movement

1. *Dominance of the Government and the deadness of the Lutheran Church*

2. *Personal piety vs. corporate ritual*

*Ch. Membership of "believers only, but all believers" Baptism
& Lord's Supper for those with personal faith*

3. *A Biblical basis for belief--"Where stands it written?"*

4. *Local church autonomy, local churches govern themselves
Active Involvement of lay members, not just clergy*

5. *Missionary activity to reach people with the Good News Christ*



"Service in a Norwegian Country Church" by Adolph Tidemand

fineart
america



"The Fanatics"
by Adolph Tidemand

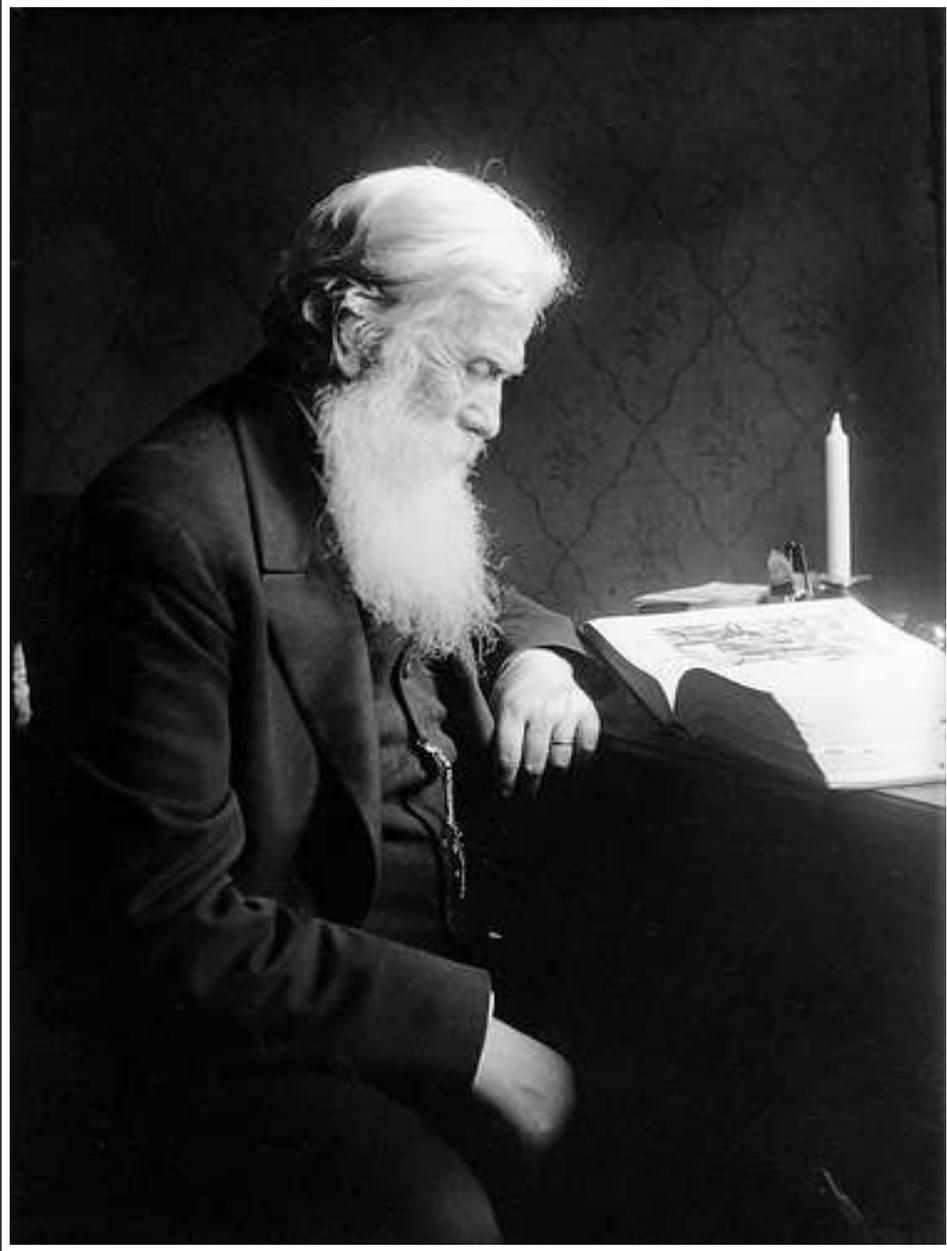


Adolph Tidemand 1851





Long-term relationships



People of the Bible

Severe famine in
1860s





In total, from 1870 to 1914, about 1 million Swedes immigrated.

Four years after the Civil War, in 1869 the state of Iowa encouraged immigration by printing a booklet entitled *Iowa: The Home of Immigrants*.

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

MILLIONS OF ACRES

Map of the Big Blue, Johnson, Cass and State Reserving Entry and Selling Private Land in Missouri



IOWA NEBRASKA

LANDS

FOR SALE ON **10 YEARS CREDIT**

BY THE

Burlington & Missouri River R. R. Co.

AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.
Only One Sixtieth of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase.
SIX PER CENT. DEDUCTED FROM 10 YEARS PRINC. FOR EACH.

LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD
and Cost allowed in First Installment paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket.
When the Price of Payment is \$1000, a \$1000 Ticket is the same as buying the Land. Amount remaining
When the Price of Payment is \$500, a \$500 Ticket is the same as buying the Land. Amount remaining
EXCHANGEABLE TICKETS IN ADVANCE AND TAKEN UP AS SOON AS THE LAND IS READY TO BE TAKEN UP.

Address **W. B. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER,**
or **T. H. LEAVITT, Ass't Land Comm'r., Burlington, Iowa.**

Or apply to

THE BUREAU OF LANDS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D. C.

1870

The Chicago-Illinois Railroad expanded a line from Fort Dodge to LeMars, through Storm Lake and created the town of Alta.



Scandinavian immigrants soon purchased land in this part of rural Iowa and began the work of building new homes and towns.



1884 MISSION CONFERENCE HELD IN BOONE, IOWA

Several churches from the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Ansgar Synod and the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Mission Synod, along with some independent congregations, organized a voluntary fellowship or association to cooperate in mission work.



Christian Corneliussen emigrated from Norway to the New World. Writing from Alta, Iowa, in 1884, he expressed his view of the world's destiny:

“The times are bad,” he wrote the Norwegian Mission Covenant, “but the Lord will come soon to fetch His own and protect them in His abode until the tribulation is over.”

Morgenrøden (The Dawn), (journal of the Danish Mission covenant) October 15, 1884.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19).



Clockwise from top left: A Chinese pastor baptizes a young believer in Hong Kong; A group prepares for baptism in Venezuela; New believers are baptized in Zaire; A baptismal service in Japan.





MISSIONARIES

EFCM missionaries employ mules and pack animals about in the country.

Alford Bjurlin, longtime EFCA missionary, traveled many miles on a mule to share the gospel in Venezuela. His wife, Ruth, bids him farewell.

Rickshas transported missionaries through the narrow streets of Canton, China, circa 1895.





*Sv. Ev. Frikrykans Missionshem
i Kanton Kina.*

Women's Missionary Society



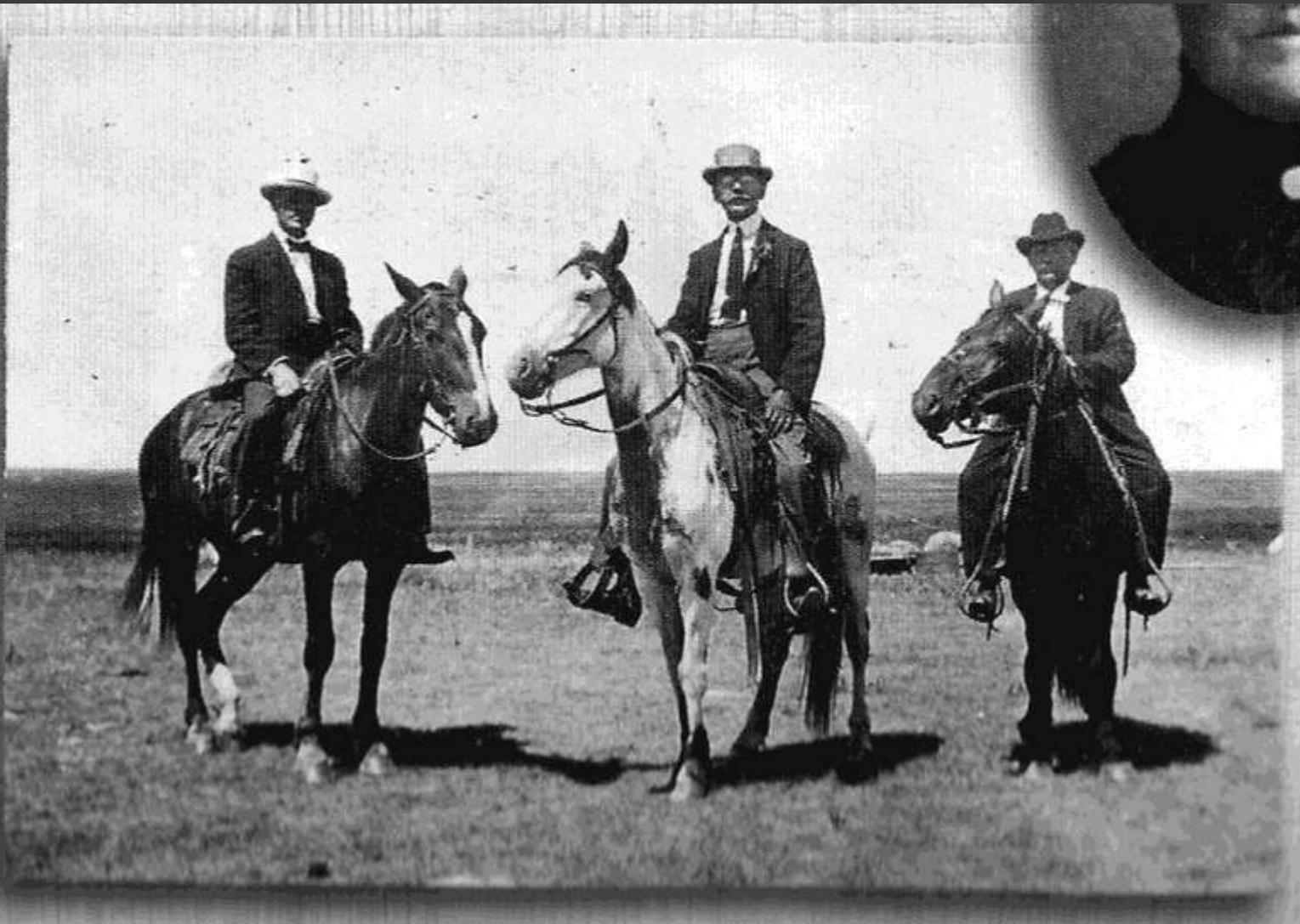




Doris Ekblad, at right, EFCM missionary to Hong Kong for 40 years, leads a small-group Bible study with Chinese girls.

Ruth Sundquist is photographed in 1957 with Chinese orphans in Hong Kong in front of the Evangel Children's Home which she helped to establish and direct.

Older evangelists/pastors would often mentor younger men by traveling alongside them. Here O. C. Grauer, at right, assists two apprentice pastors in their pioneer evangelistic meetings. Grauer served as superintendent of the Norwegian Congregational Home Missions from 1907 to 1930.



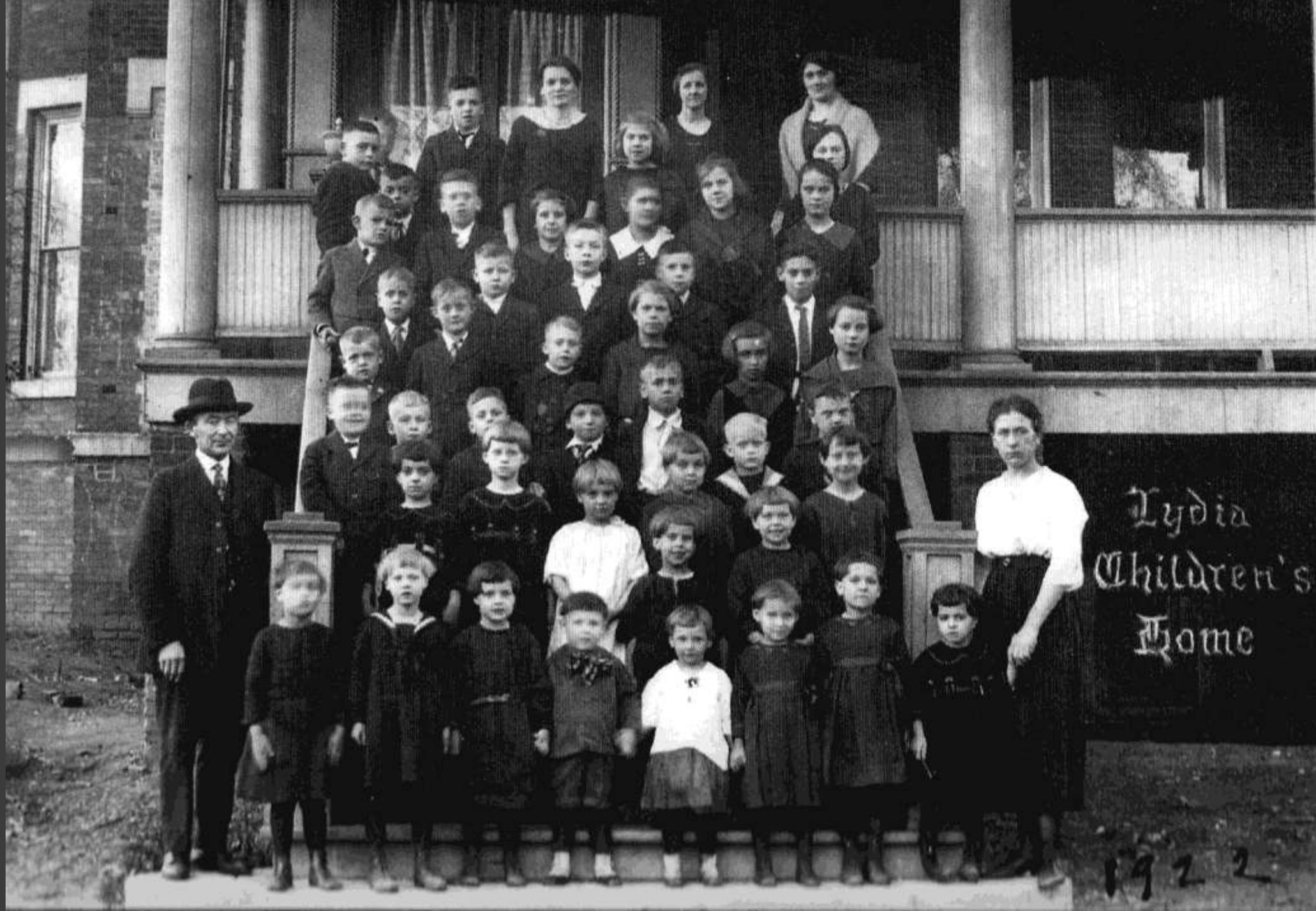


T. A. CARLSON

PHOTOGRAPHER.

HOLDREGE, NEB.

CHRISTIAN ORPHANS' HOME,



Children's Home. In 1920 property became available on Irving Park Road in Chicago which enabled the home to relocate to the site of its present campus. Today's ministry includes residential and foster care as well as extensive counseling, and shelter care units in other communities.

Lydia
Children's
Home

For 12 years Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Varland were engaged as director and matron of Lydia Children's Home beginning in 1920.

1922

SWEDISH OLD PEOPLES HOME





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IN OLD CENTER GROVE, 8 miles NE of Alta in Scott
Township of Buena Vista county, Iowa.**

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Free Swedish Christian Church.

This Certificate of Association,
made this 1st day of March
One Thousand Nine Hundred and
One, by and between the persons,
whose names are hereto subscribed,
witnesseth -

Article 1.

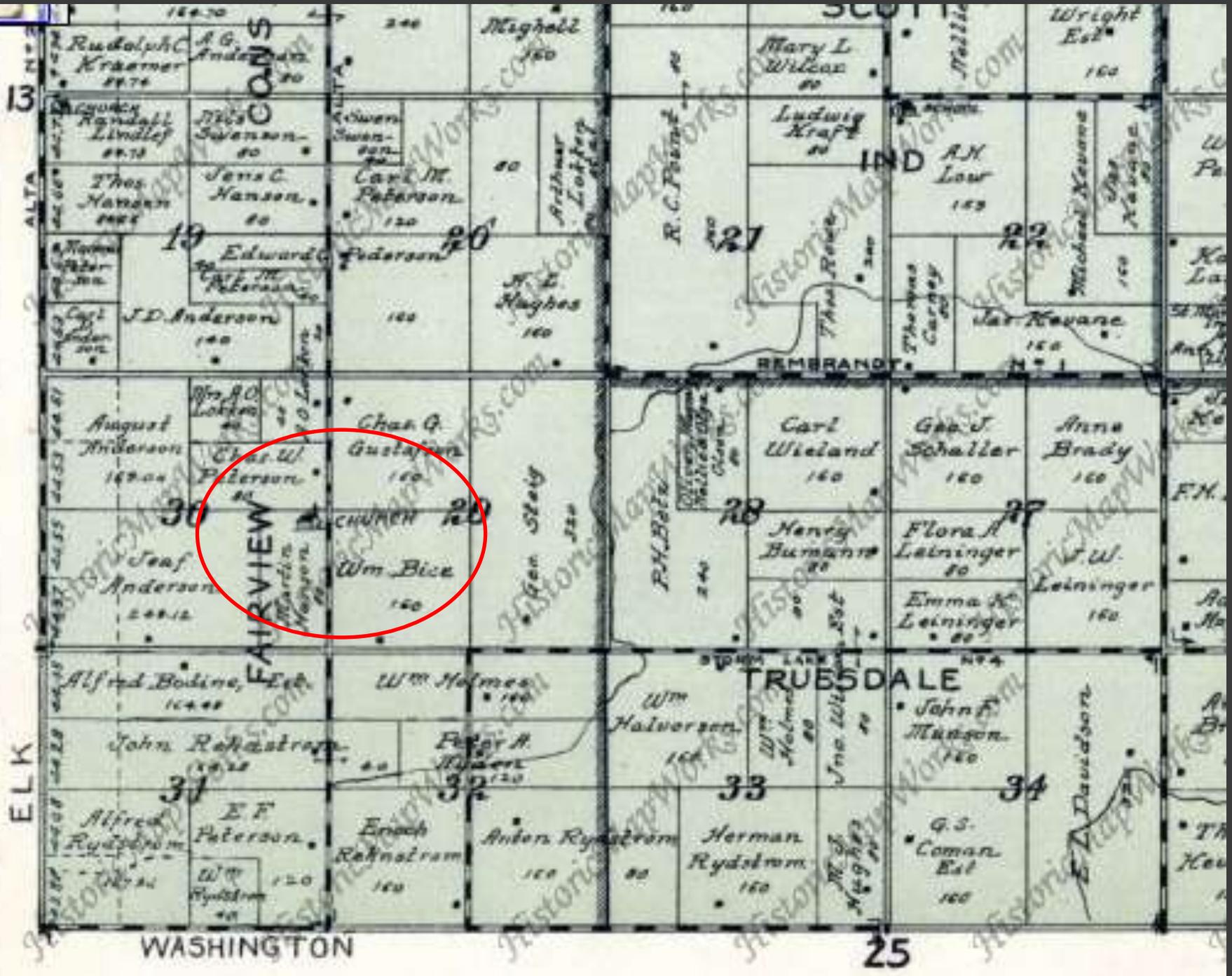
The name of this Incorporation
shall be called The Free Swedish Christian
Association of Scott Twp. Buena Vista
County Iowa.

Art. 2.

The object of this Association shall be the promotion of Religion in our midst, and to all mankind.

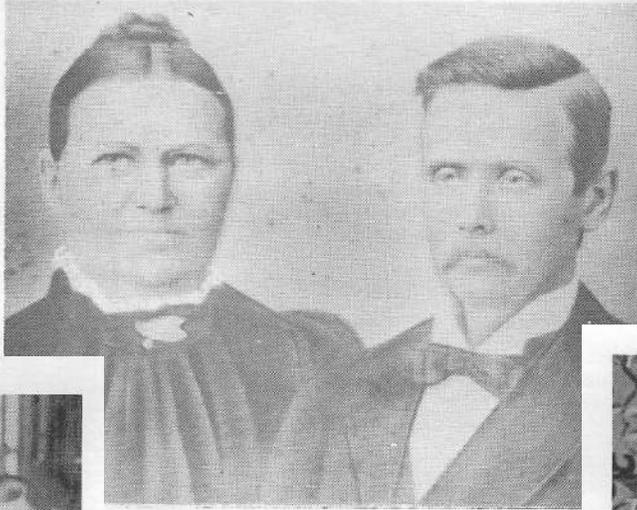
I witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands the day and year above written.

Aug Lindberg
Gustaf C. Peterson
Alfred Gustafson
J. M. Rehnstrom
John Janson



WASHINGTON

25



Alfred and Josephine Gustafson



August and Alma Lindberg Family

Founding
members of
the Free
Swedish
Christian
Church



Gustaf and Anna Peterson



John and Hannah Anderson



John and Augusta Rehnstrom



Swan and Gustava Johnson



August Anderson



E. A. Floren

Free Mission Church -- Center Grove.



E. A. Floren



SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH



Jacob M. and Annie Olson and Bernard 1902-1904



Frank Lavine 1912-1913

In 1902 this autonomous, country church shared ministers with the Free churches in Alta and Storm Lake. It also had ties with Free churches in Linn Grove, Marathon, Oakdale, and Albert City.

The group of original families spent the rest of their lives in the church.



Gustaf and Anna Peterson

Iowa Free Church Couple Celebrate Golden Wedding

Despite a rainy, disagreeable day, the open house on June 12 in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf E. Peterson's Golden Wedding proved a happy occasion. About 200 relatives and friends from far and near signed the guest book. While advanced in age and not in good health, the couple appeared younger than their years and greatly enjoyed the day.

The following Sunday afternoon, members and

friends of the Center Grove church gathered at the home to honor the couple. A program of music and talks was given, refreshments were served and a gift of money given to the honored couple.

This gathering also served as a farewell to Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Olson, who are leaving Storm Lake this week to make



Gustaf E. Peterson

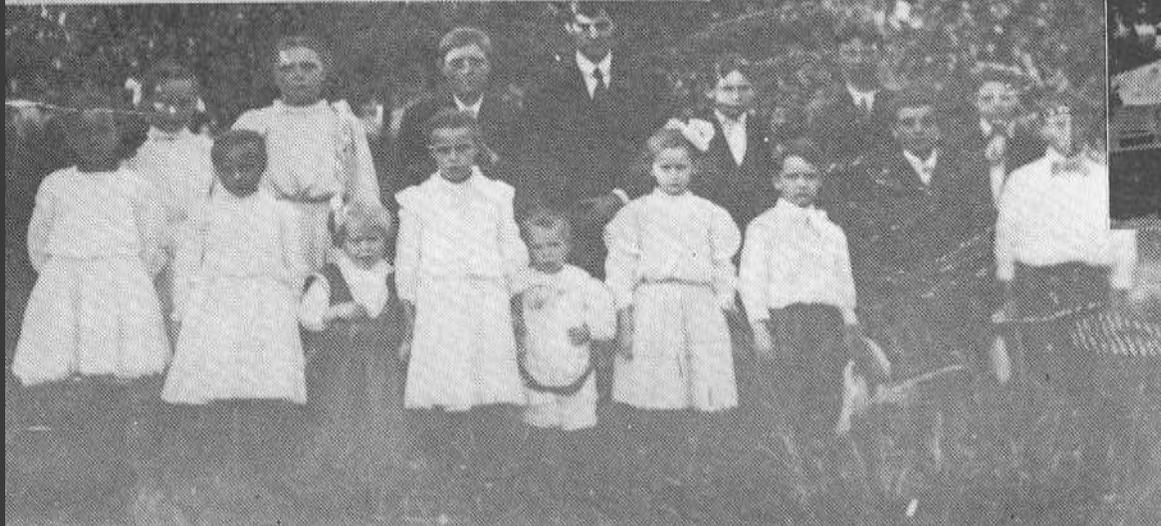
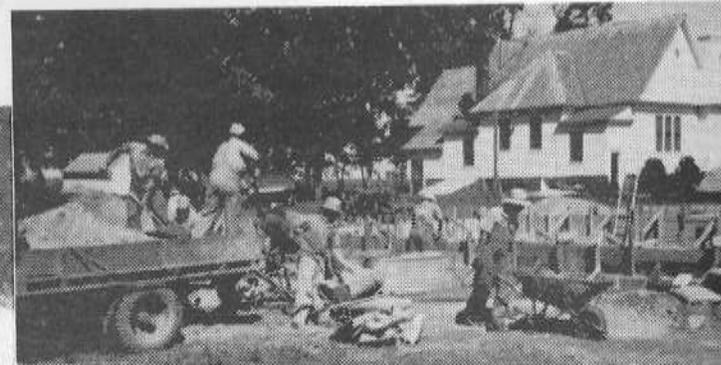
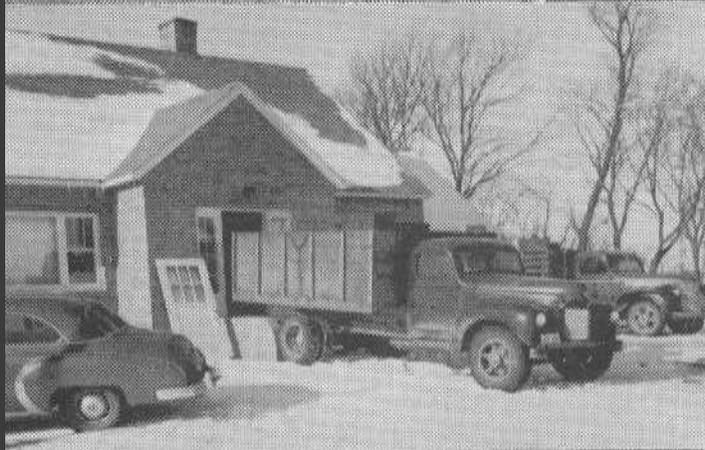


Mrs. Peterson

their home at the Old People's Home in Boone. They will be greatly missed in this community.

The Petersons wish to express their thanks and appreciation for the many letters, cards and telegrams received during the week of celebration.







MAY 1957

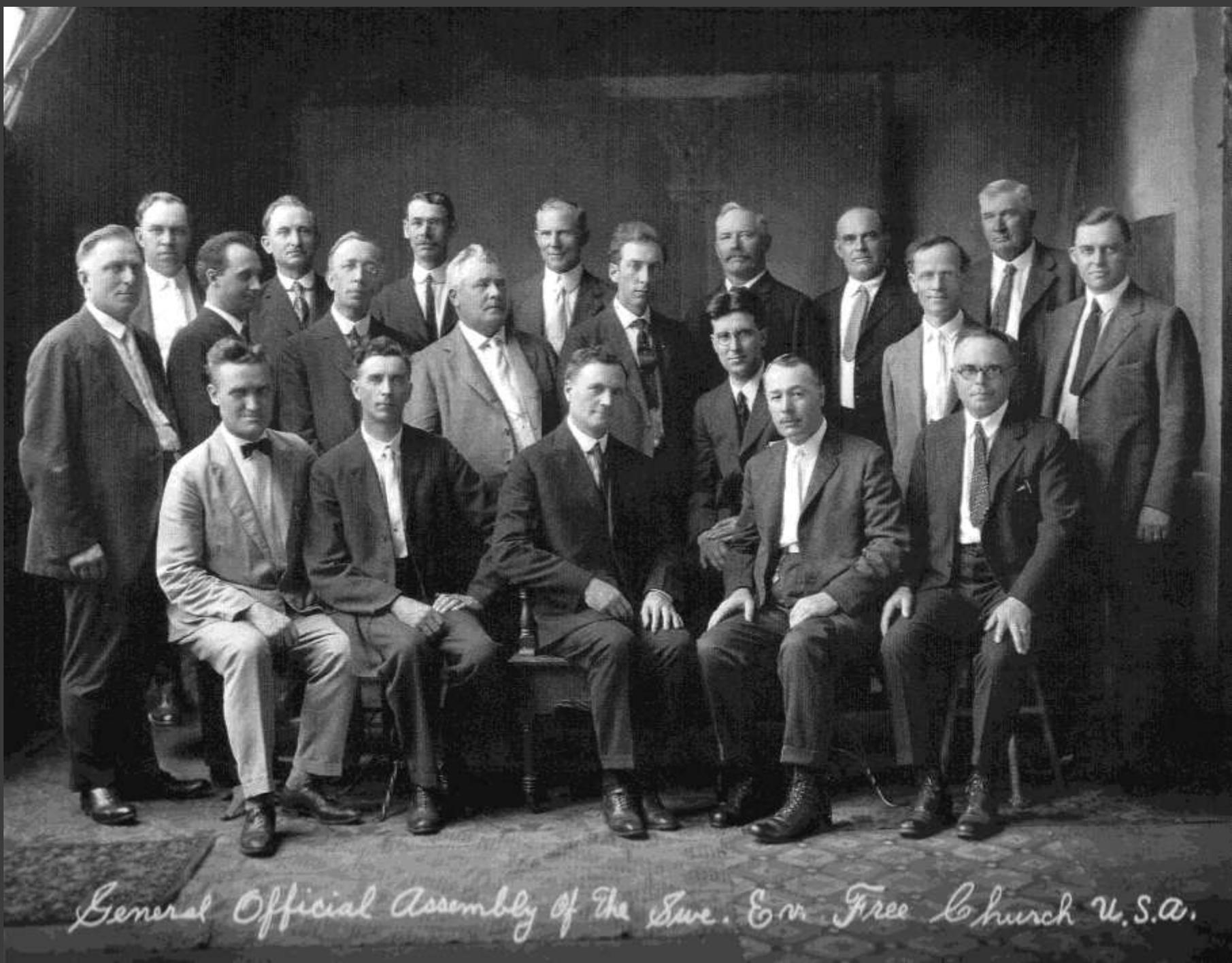
Timmy J.
Garry H.
David R.
Anni C.
Jolene H.
Susan C.
Deanna H.
Valerie P.



APR 1957



Clintonville
Oct 15
1873



General Official Assembly of the Swed. Ev. Free Church U.S.A.



Even this little girl enjoyed the early conferences.



Conferees dine at the Norwegian-Danish Convention in Milwaukee, circa 1917.

The Young People's Society and Sunday School Convention assembled in 1929 at Franson Memorial Park in Buffalo, Minnesota.



1950 Merger of Norwegian-Danish and Swedish Free Churches to become Evangelical Free Church of America, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



In 1981, they celebrated 80 years of ministry in
Scott Township



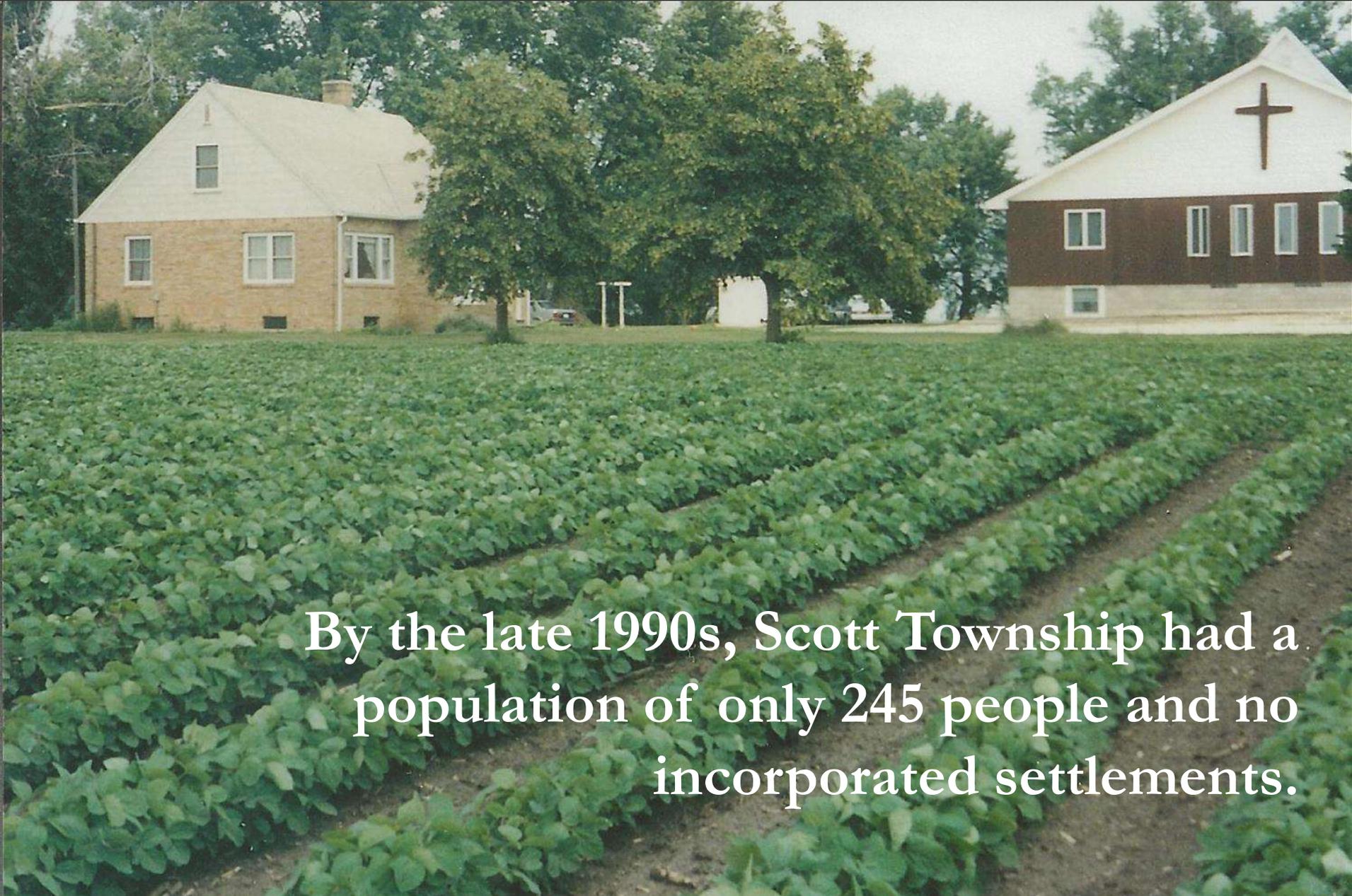
A Church Family



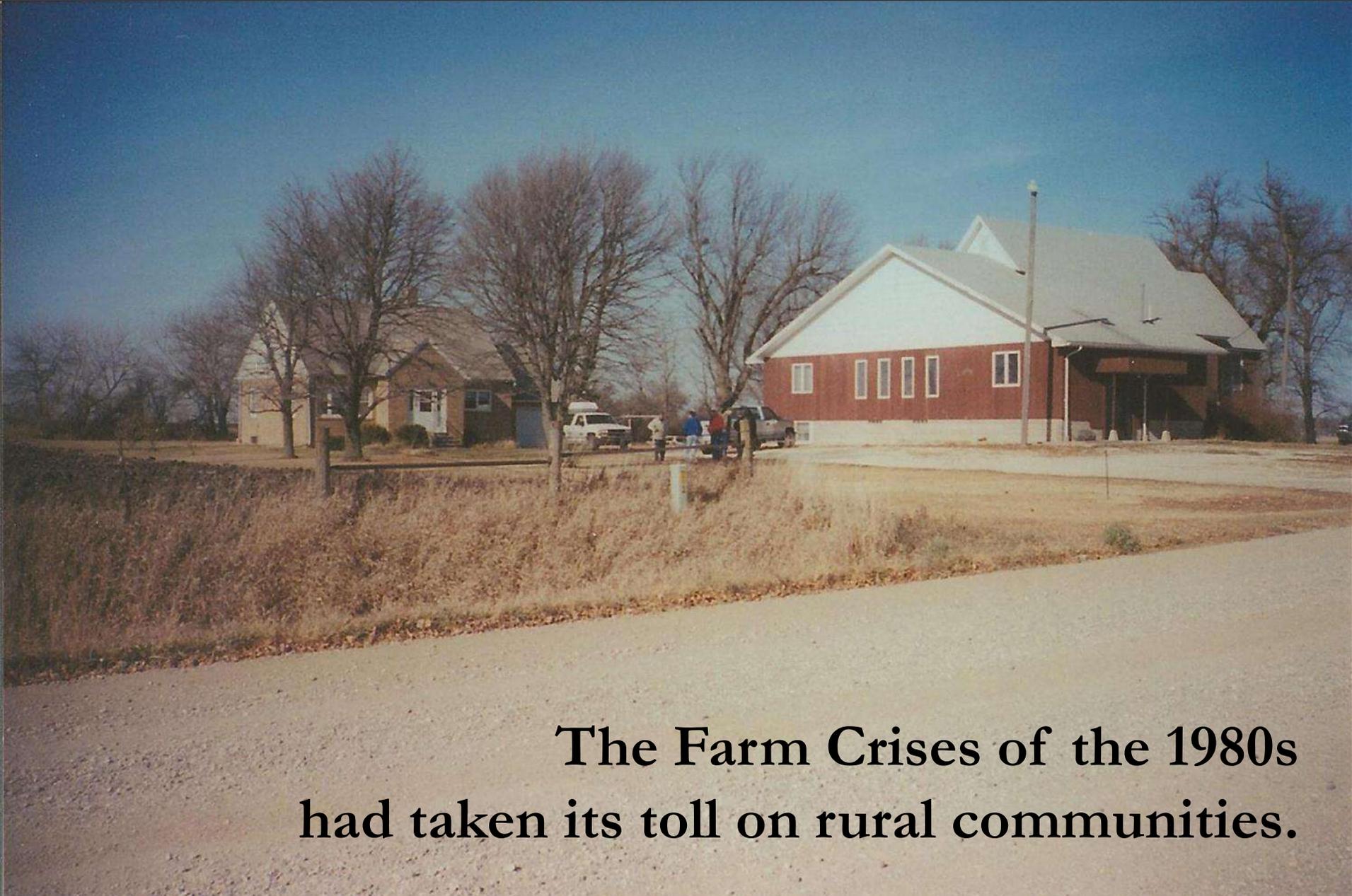








By the late 1990s, Scott Township had a population of only 245 people and no incorporated settlements.



**The Farm Crises of the 1980s
had taken its toll on rural communities.**



"Believe in the Lord Jesus
Christ, who died for the
sinner" (JAMES 2:1)

The Evangelical Free Church

STORM LAKE, IOWA 50588
712-732-2887

July 2, 1978
Charter Members

Gates, William C.
Johnson, Wendell V.
Johnson, Charlotte A.
Johnson, Patricia C.
Monson, Clifford R.
Monson, Helen L.
Peterson, George E.
Peterson, Linnea H.
Pewsey, William C.
Pewsey, Barbara L.
Robbins, Glen
Robbins, Edith E.
Traylor, Joseph G.
Traylor, Joan G.
Wolf, Glen
Wolf, Bonita
Remme, Karen Associate

1978

STORM LAKE EFC
IS FOUNDED.

The congregation
met above the Ben
Franklin store on
Main Street.

THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF STORM LAKE
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
December 23, 1979
6:00 p.m.

A SPECIAL TIME OF SHARING...

"Ready for Christmas"	Linnea Peterson
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"	Gary Burkhalter
"What Child Is This?" (Piano)	Jennifer Pewsey
"Greatest Gift...The Gift of Self"	Barb Pewsey
"Joy To the World"	Daniels Family
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	Jim & Tom McKinnis
Poem	Tom Potter
"What Child Is This?"	Gregg Menning & Diane Appleseth
"Birthday of a King" & "O Holy Night"	Pastor Bailey & Jennifer Pewsey
"A Most Special Christmas"	Karn Monson
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"	Monson Family
"God's Gift"	LuAnn Ridout
"Ring the Bells"	McKinnis Family
"The Eternal Light"	Edith Robbins
"Wise Men Still Adore Him"	Traylor Family





SWEETHEART BANQUET
February 14, 1980
Ken-A-Bob Restaurant





1982 purchased 3 and a half acres along Hwy 7 with the dream of someday building their structure.



FUTURE HOME OF
STORM LAKE
 *Evangelical*
FREE CHURCH



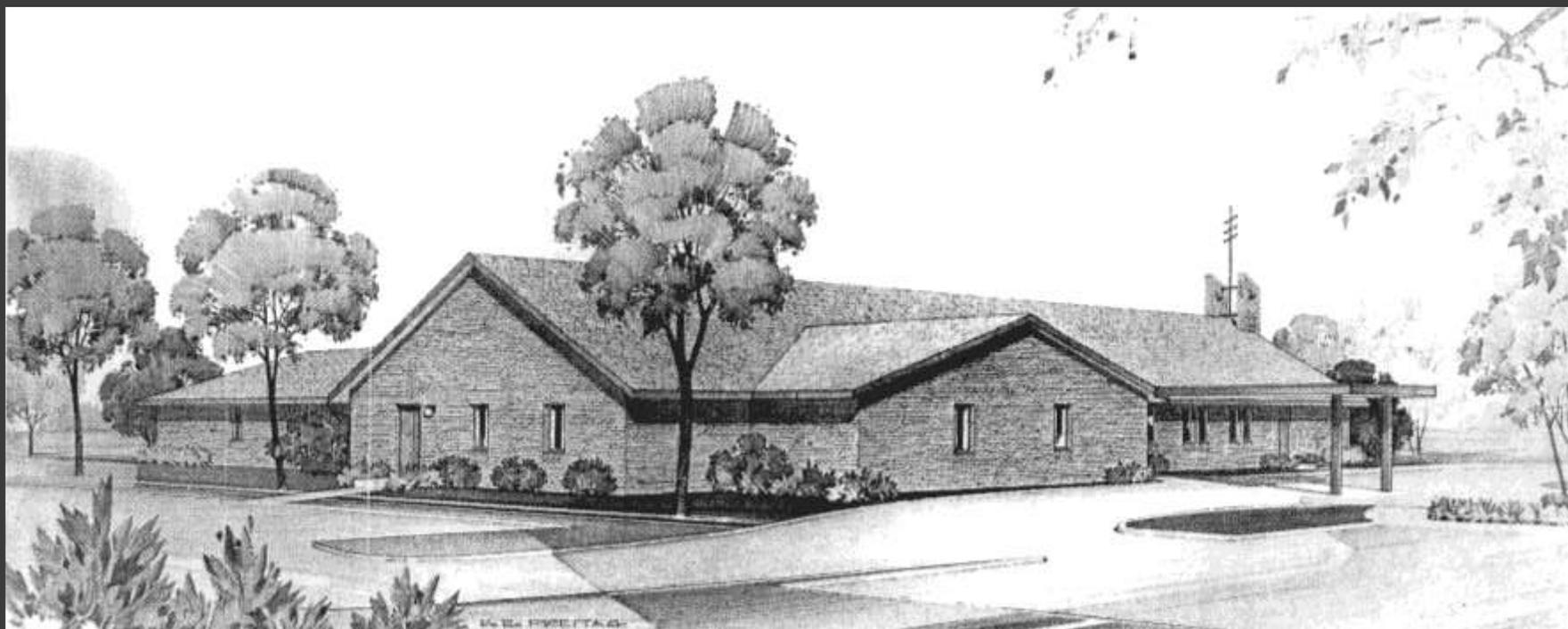
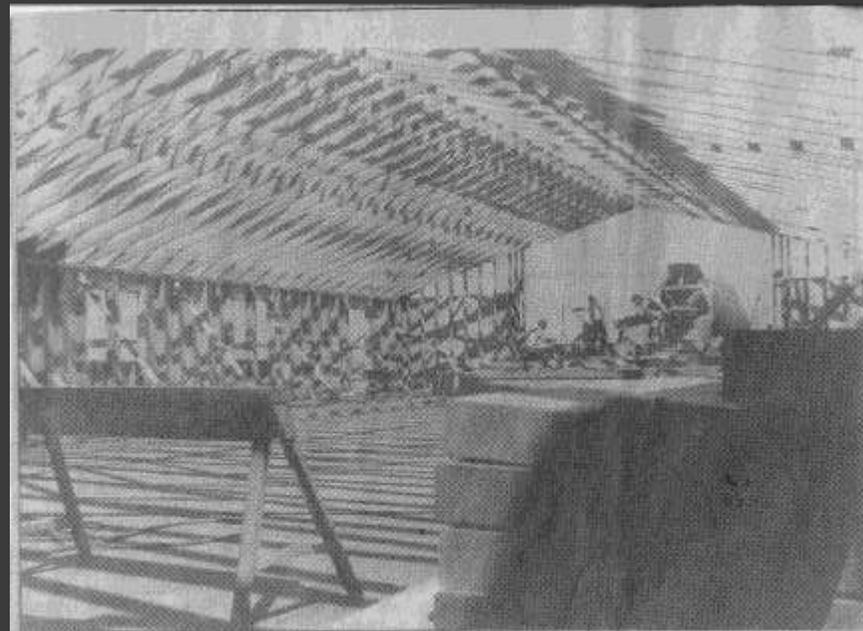
MEMORIAL DAY FAREWELL POTLUCK FOR CLAYTONS 5/26/80







**1990 Storm Lake EFC
builds new building
(\$350,000) on 3 acres along
West Milwaukee Avenue**



After 101 years, rural church is razed

Bill Titus' Christmas wish realized

BY DOLORES CULLEN

Center Grove Church, a rural Evangelical Free Church built in 1902, is no longer. Drive past its former location at the intersection of M36 and Hwy. 3 and there's no trace of the structure.

Friday, starting about 11 a.m. the church was knocked down and then burned by Curt Brau of Early and Larry Miller of Storm Lake. By evening the area was smoothed over with dirt.

Throughout the day former parishioners came by and took their last look at the old church. Some out-of-towners around for Christmas reminisced about Sunday school there.

Everyone agreed that tearing down the Center Grove Church was all for the best. The building was vacated in 1999 and the congregation merged with Evangelical Free Church in Storm Lake.

The property was auctioned off by Kevin Cone and landed in the hands of Bill and Loree Titus. A house behind the church became their home. "Bill was not a member of the church but had always wanted to own an acreage and did enjoy the time he got to spend out here," said Loree.

Bill came down with metastatic renal cell carcinoma in 2000 and fought the disease for 14 months. He passed away peacefully at home February 2, 2002.

1999 Center Grove Church building demolished



1997 UNDER THE JOINT PASTORATE OF BOB SPILGER,



CENTER GROVE

EFC AND STORM

LAKE EFC MERGED



TO BECOME

HOPE

EVANGELICAL

FREE CHURCH



1 TIMOTHY 4:10

“WE HAVE OUR

HOPE SET ON

THE LIVING GOD,



WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY OF
THOSE WHO BELIEVE.”



**Celebrating 125 Years in the
Body of Christ!**



HOPE

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

125TH ANNIVERSARY

1901-2026



A scenic landscape featuring a valley with a forested hillside in the foreground, leading to a range of mountains with snow-capped peaks under a cloudy sky. The text "GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS" is overlaid in a bold, dark blue, serif font.

GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS

Mike Shields, Central District Superintendent





Pastor Doug
Corlew
Summit Church
Alta, IA

Dear Friends at Hope, Congratulations on this great milestone of 125 years as a church! It's remarkable to think about all the generations of Christ-followers who have been touched by your ministry since 1901. Many faithful shepherds have guided your flock in the past, and we are so grateful that God led Pastor James and Heidi to continue His work among you in more recent years. Under their Christlike leadership, we know that the ministry of Hope continues to bear lasting spiritual fruit, to the glory of God. As your brothers and sisters in Christ, and partners in His gospel, we wish you all the best and pray for God's blessing upon your ministry in the coming years! Warmly in Christ, Pastor Doug

Pastor Kiboko
Kiboko

United
Methodist
Church
Storm Lake, IA



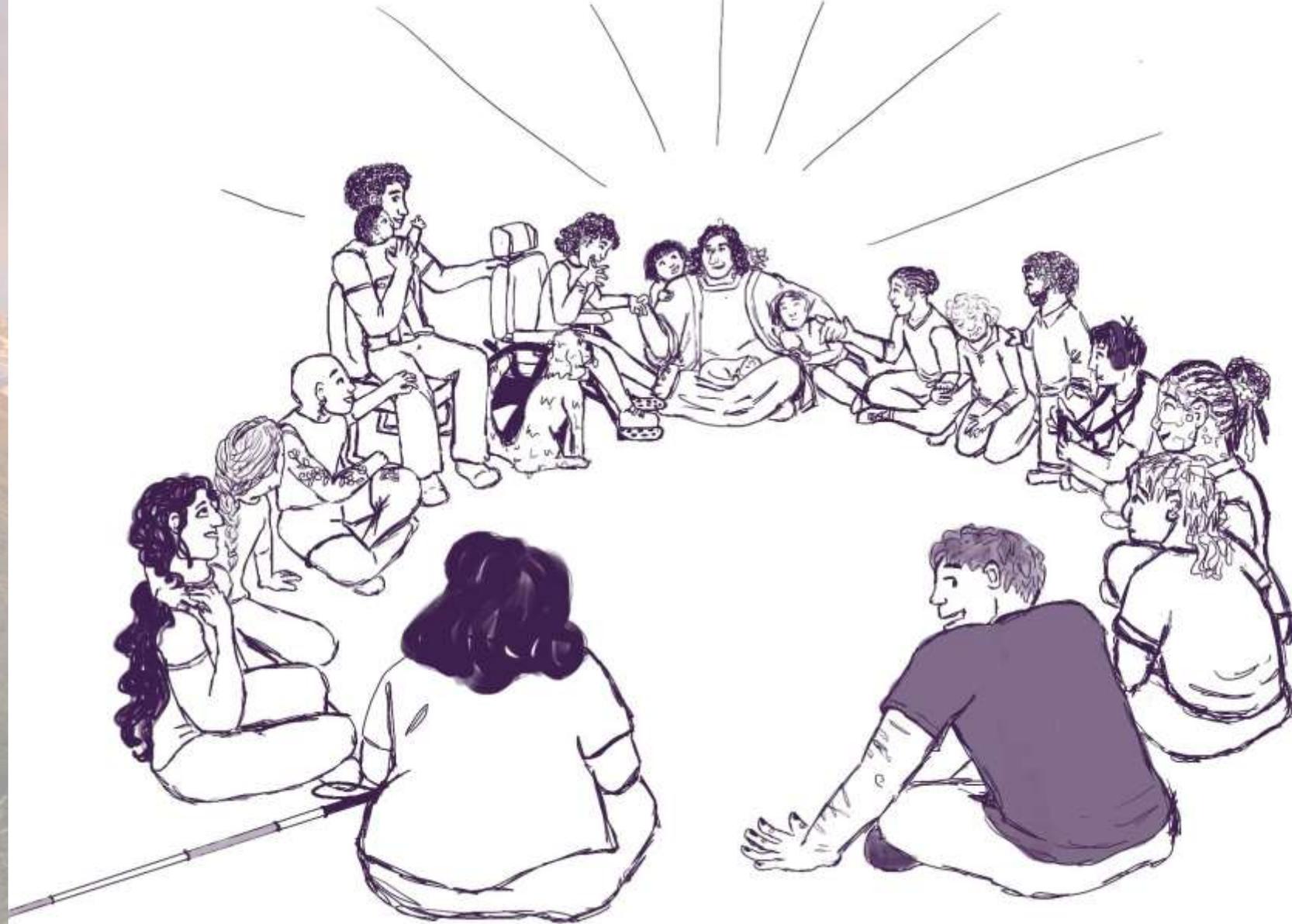


Ryan
Brandenberger
Former Pastor
of First Baptist
Church

Pastor Ryan Brandenberger



Maria Roland - Time Capsule Art





Rom 15:5-7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.





**Pastor Randy
Anderson
Former Pastor at
Center Grove EFC**

I came to the Center Grove Free Church almost exactly 41 years ago – I arrived in the final days of February of 1985. Though I only stayed there for 4.5 years I remember those years with great fondness. It was my first church. The people at Center Grove were patient and kind to a novice like me – they gave me the opportunity to learn and study and take my first pastoral steps in a loving and safe place. I am so thankful to the Lord for sending me there right out of seminary to a place like Center Grove. I can't imagine a better place to attempt to learn the ropes. The memories of the people there are precious beyond words – many of the friendships lasted for decades and decades, as one by one many of those people went to be with the Lord. Congratulations on such a momentous milestone – 125 years – doing the math, I showed up in year 84 and remain very thankful to have done so. Thanking the Lord for Center Grove (Now Hope EFC), Pastor Randy

Dear Friends, we're still in Elbow Lake, Minnesota and doing great. We have 6 grandkids and are enjoying retirement. We're involved in a church nearby here where my wife is using her gifts of music, piano and organ regularly, and I'm a proud doorkeeper, a greeter at the front door. I like that Psalm 84:10 says, I'd rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. That's my verse in retirement. May God bless your efforts there and *may He get all the glory and praise at the special 125th Anniversary!* Because of Jesus,
Don Trulson



Pastor Don Trulson
Former Pastor at
Storm Lake EFC



**Pastor Bob Spilger
Former Pastor at
Center Grove EFC
& Storm Lake EFC**

Dear James and the saints living and serving our Jesus near and in Storm Lake, you have been on our hearts these last several months. I want to thank you for your words of comfort and love expressed to our family at the home going of Paula on January 3rd. The last several years were difficult as we walked down the Alzhimers road, God has been so faithful to us. Congratulations on reaching the 125th anniversary of Hope Church. Paula and I were always thankful for the years God allowed us to serve as your Pastoral couple, we were always thankful for how you taught us how love and serve you. I trust that Sunday will be a special of memories especially of God's faithfulness these last 125 years. God bless and thank you Pastor James for allowing me to share this greeting. Love in Christ Pastor Bob Spilger - Marshalltown, IA

Dear Hope Church Family,

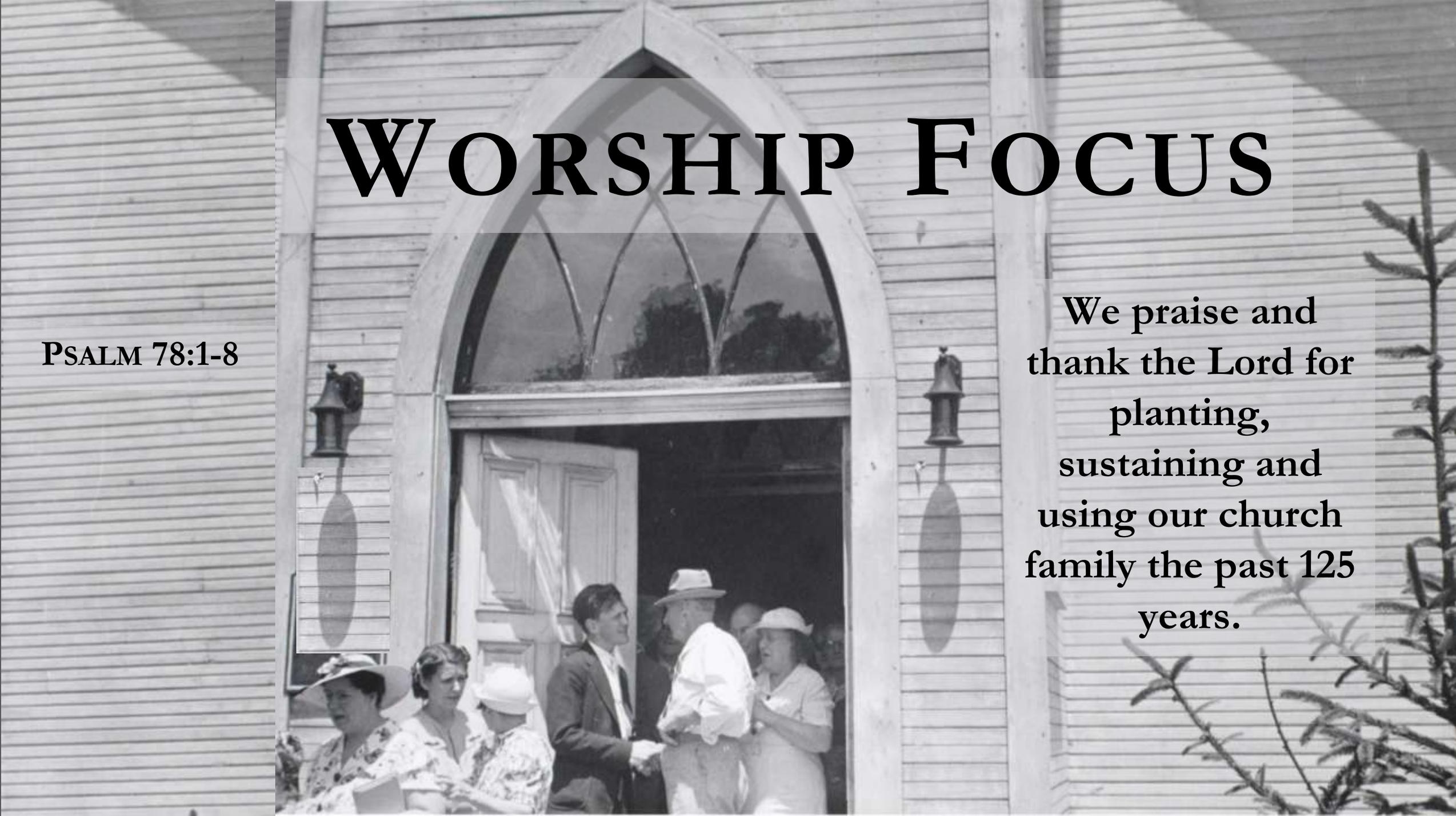
Greetings from South Dakota.

Congratulations on 125 years of Gospel Witness in the Storm Lake area. It was a privilege to represent Christ among you all for 5 and a half years. We pray God will deepen your relationship with Him and each other as you continue to be a Lighthouse for Christ in the Northwest Iowa region.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Jim and Tammy
Josh and Rebecca



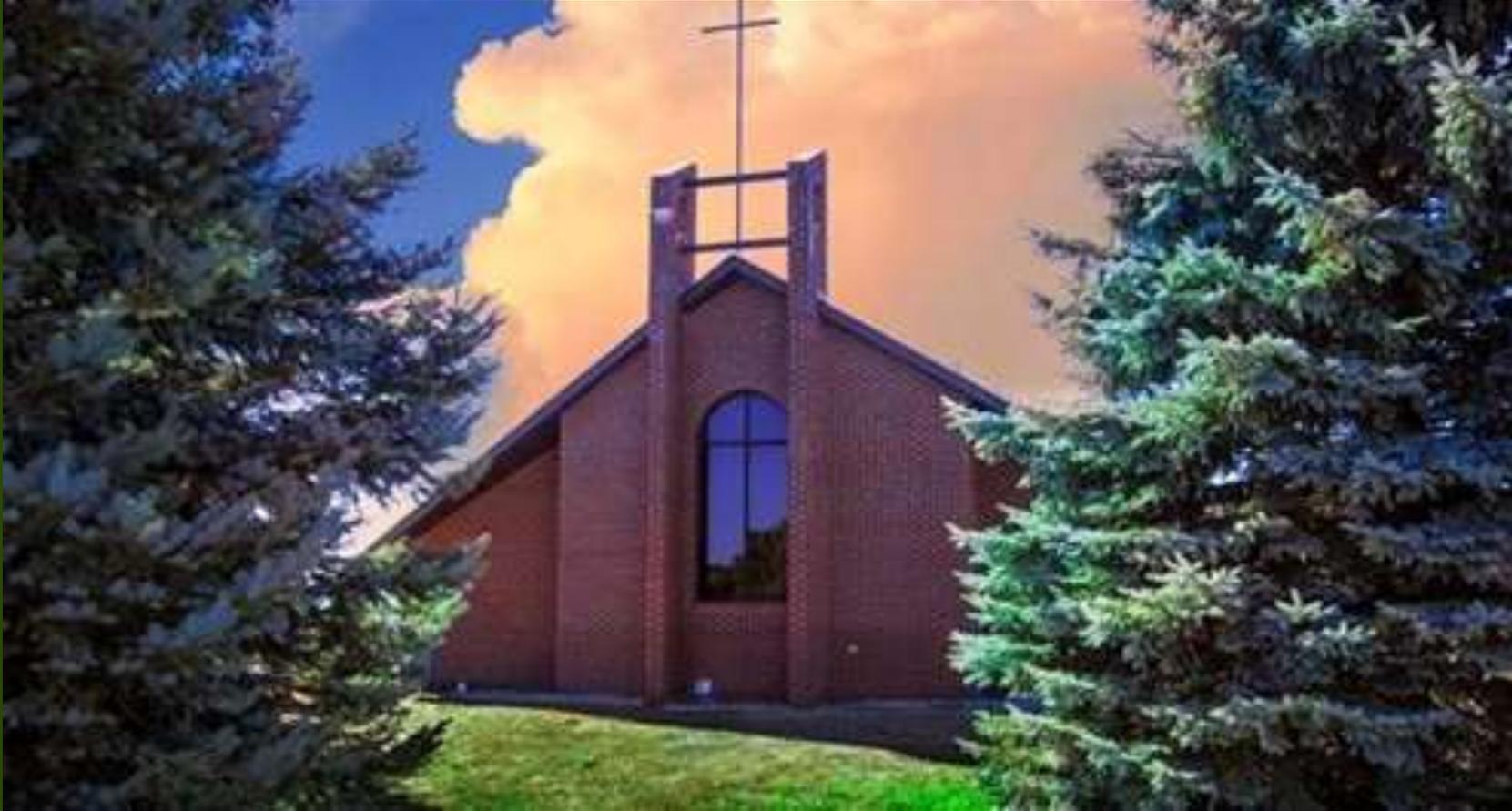
Pastor Jim Hofman
Former Pastor at
Hope EFC



WORSHIP FOCUS

PSALM 78:1-8

**We praise and
thank the Lord for
planting,
sustaining and
using our church
family the past 125
years.**

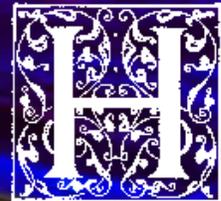
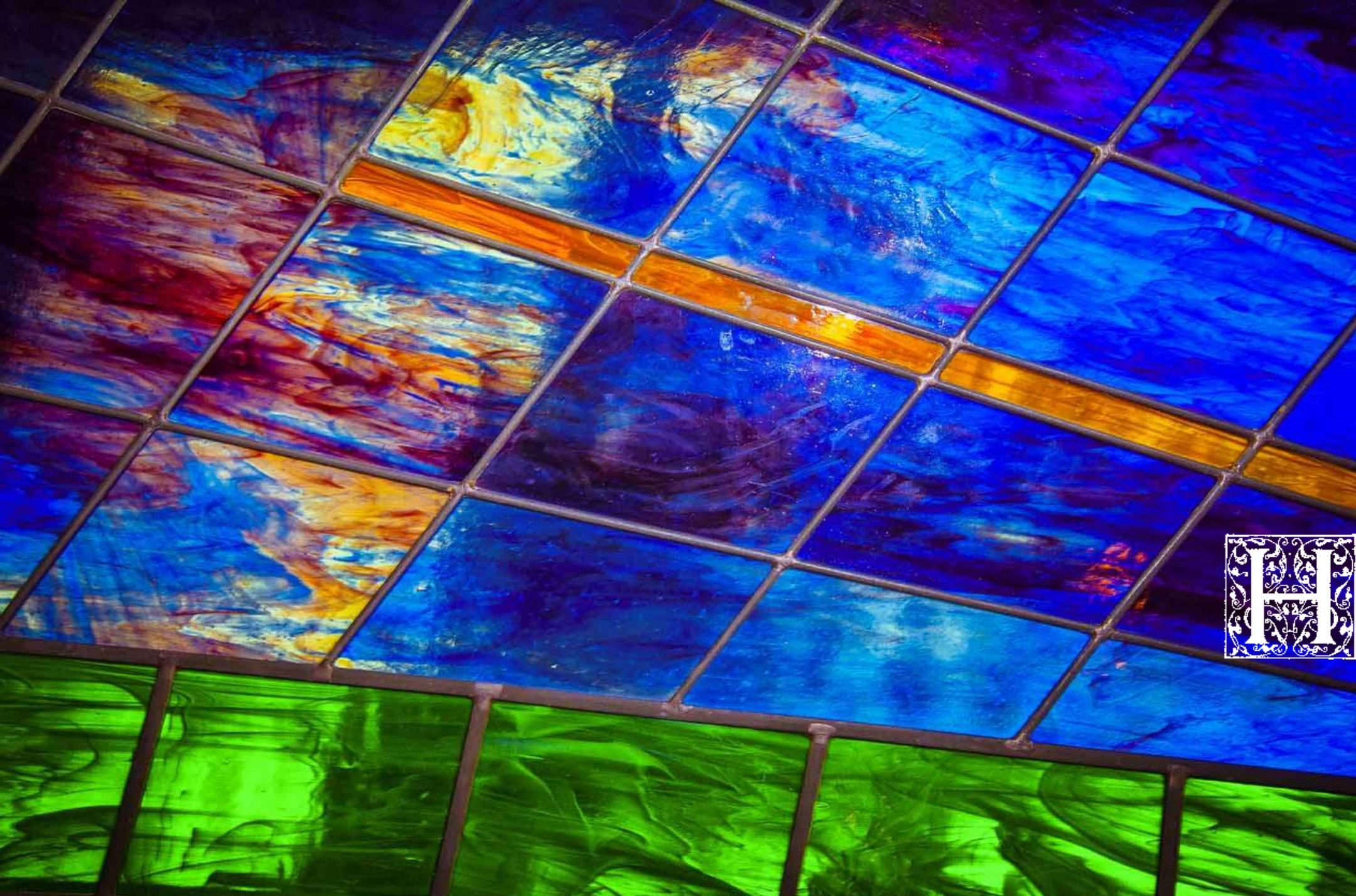




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