REV. OLIVER M. ADAMS

First=Plymouth

Congregational Church

THE FIRST CHURCH IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

October 11, 1926.

Rev.Benj.F.Wyland,D.D. Worcester,Mass.

My dear Dr.Wyland: -

As acting clerk of the First-Plymouth Congregational Church, I have the pleasure of conveying to you the official announcement of action taken by the congregation at a meeting held September 26th.

Mr.C.Petrus Peterson moved the acceptance of the following recommendation:

"The committee of Eighty recommend to the church that a call be issued to Dr.Benjamin F.Wyland on the basis of \$5,600 per year salary, with an additional sum not to exceed \$400 for moving expenses, and an annual vacation of six weeks."

Several seconds to the motion were made. A rising vote was taken and the chairman announced that the motion was carried unanimously.

The lateness of this notification is due to the inexperience of the acting clerk who received no instructions and took for granted that the committee had taken care of this formal part of the proceedings. Pardon the delay, and blame it on me.

We are sorry that you will not be here during the week of the Training School, and during the coming strenuous campaign to keep our shows closed on Sunday. Mr.Peterson's speech at the mass meeting yesterday will do much to mould public opinion, and the prophets say that if we can get every eligible voter to the polls we will win, otherwise we stand to lose. The task is mine to recruit from among the prominent church women a thousand or more who will "get out the vote". That will be easier than finding five hundred women to solicit for the Community Chest Oct. 18-22.

If you have any instructions for the clerk-secretarydirector of religious education pending your arrival, do not hesitate to command me.

Very cordially yours.

Eleanon T. miller.

Provided Multiplicate of under FRANK H. WOODS Hucelu Fulance lower unch. Channes Friday of Journey Unich. NEBRASKA Source 100,000

Lincoln, April 8, 1931.

Mr. J. C. Seacrest, Toastmaster, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Seacrest:

I sincerely regret my inability to be present with you on Thursday night to join with the other members of the Congregation who are fortunate enough to be present, to celebrate the successful consummation of the great project that we have been working on for more than two years past.

When two or three years ago, Doctor Wyland had a vision of the new Church and presented to us the marvellous architectural designs, we were all greatly impressed, but the size of the task was so stupendous that it somewhat bewildered us as it seemed almost impossible of realization. The opportunity to do great things however, appealed to us. I am glad that the members of the Church had the courage and faith to grasp the opportunity and to ride on. The result obtained has I am sure, exceeded the expectations of all. We now have a united and enthusiastic church; the project has been entirely financed and we can go forward with our work in the future knowing that we have fully provided for the payment of the large obligations which the undertaking required.

For the small part that I have had to do with the matter, I want to express to all members of the Church to whom I appealed, my sincerest gratitude for the hearty co-operation which I received from all, without exception. The spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice on the part of all members of our Church will ever be a source of inspiration to me and I am sure to all members of the congregation.

The members of the Church owe a debt of gratitude to our beloved pastor, Mr. Wyland which can never be repaid. Except for his unbounded faith and enthusiasm, his grit and determination which would not admit defeat, and the inspiration that it gave to all of us, the magnificient result would never have been accomplished. We should not however, glory too much in the material results which we have obtained but should realize the responsibility which has now We are entrusted with equipment that is all been placed upon us. which could be desired and we must use it to the best advantage. We must be good stewards and return the proper accounting to Him from Whom all blessings come. Hard work is the only secret to success in any line, in any undertaking. It is up to each member of the church to put his shoulder to the wheel and to help realize to the fullest extent upon the opportunities which are ours. The Pastor of the church cannot do it all, and he must be supported to the fullest extent by an enthusiastic, and

devoted hard working congregation.

I trust that this duty will be fully performed and that when the time comes for each of us to unswer the final roll-call, we will truly merit the commendation "Well done, good and feithful servent."

ayain I wish to extend to each of you my sincerest congratulations and rearet that I cannot participate with you on this happy occasion.

Frank Homes



CINEY OF LIDNCOTAN

CHARLES W. BRYAN, MAYOR OREN S. COPELAND J. CASS CORNELL WM. SCHROEDER COBE S. VENNER COUNCILMEN

OFFICE OF MAYOR

CHARLES W, BRYAN

April 29, 1937

times or rebranka

Reverend Ben F. Wyland, 320 8th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Mr. Wyland:

I have thought about you almost every day and I feel sure I have intended on the morning of every day to write you before evening and to express my appreciation for the splendid service you rendered to this city during your few years stay among us. Our appreciation of your ability as a leader of thought, your business ability as an organizer and director of public opinion, and the moral courage that you have to lead a fight without regard to personal consequenses, looms larger each day as we realize that no one has arisen yet to take your place since you left here.

We are now approaching another city election. I declined to stand as a candidate for re-election because the new form of government takes away all the Mayor's authority and dubies and enables a miscellaneous council of seven to select some appointee to act a administrator where neither the council individually can direct him nor the people got at him. In other words, we are to be governed by an invisible government, or by remote control and the control is already demon-strating itself. Our candidates for Mayor and council have not said where they stand on anything. In fact, they appear to have joined the sit-down strikers when inquiry is made as to what their candidacies represent. The oil, coal and power mononpolies are taking a very active part here and have drafted a set of candidates, their intention being to kill all our municipally owned public utilities if they can do so without getting caught. Some of those making a campaign are promising all the various elements of law violators that they will be more liberal with them during the coming two years than I have been in the past two years. We have another group of candidates that are being supported by the various kinds of gambling and racketeers and by the former city employees who were discharged for the good of the service so we could have law enforcement and clean up the city. So we have not much to look forward to her other than a general letting down because we are going to be governed by the same system that they have in Kansas City where they have already, as you may have noticed, started 39 people toward the penitentiary with another 100 ih line, for disfranchising all of the voters of that city.

Do you see either of the Lincoln papers? If you do you have noticed, no doubt, with interest, some of the unpleasant things that have been unearthed in connection with one member of our city council and the employees in some of his departments. He has, however, stood, uniformly back of me for all the law enforcement policies including the limiting the number of licenses for taverns and package liquor stores, confining them to a close-in business zone and all the Ben F.Wyland - Page 2

other many rules and regulations I have put through to take as much of the debauchery as possible out of the liquor business under our law. Two other members of the council got offside at two different times and said they were going to override me and issue some more new licenses but when I called on the representatives of all the good government forces to come to the council meeting to be present when the matter was voted on, they withdrew their intended plan and voted to uphold the policy of not granting any new licenses.

I believe if you could look over the city and inquire from all classes of people, both church members and non-church members, both the drinkers and total abstainers, all the taverns and package liquor stores, W.C.T.U., all civic groups, you would find all elements are unanimous in their endorsement of what we have done here in Lincoln during the past two years and how we have done it. The ministers and W.C.T.U. and other organizations wanted me to stand as a candidate for Mayor to uphold the policies that I have established here and all the taverns and liquor stores urged me to stand as a candidate for the purpose of upholding and enforcing all the rules for fear some new crowd of officials might let down the bars and then the taverns and other wets feel they might be voted out of business by an outraged public. So it has been both amusing and gratifying to find I was petitioned by all elements including the extreme wets and the extreme drys to continue as Mayor for the purpose of upholding what has been done here and what has been accomplished in this city in the way of removing as many of the evil effects of the liquor business as can be done under our laws and also in ridding the city of the gambling of all kinds including the church bazaar violations in the way of punch boards, wheels of fortune, turkey raffles, marble machines, slot machines, etc.

I retire as Mayor on the 10th of May and I am doing so with more satisfaction as to what has been accomplished to give Lincoln the kind of government and the kind of an atmosphere in which to rear and educate the youth, than any previous administrative work that I have carried out.

Today I have suspended other kind of business with the determination of writing to you to acknowledge the splendid part you took and without with I do not believe I would have had the opportunity of accomplishing what has been done in the capitol city of Nebraska. I hope you are satisfied and happy in your new field. I have noticed with interest and administration the newspaper mention of the recognition you have already received since you have been in your new territory. I also want to thank you for you kind and generous reference to me in the letter which you wrote the Journal as a former citizen.

If a letter from me to anyone in New York, from Governor of the state or Mayor of New York City on down the line, would in your judgment be of any service to you, let me know immediately as to what you want and I will forward it this time without delay as I will consider it a real pleasure on my part to aid your work in any way I can and I will feel that I would be doing some community a service at the same time.

With expressions of high personal esteem and with kind personal regards and best wishes to you and yours, I am

former Jooernon 4 time

Sincerely your friend,

harles MAG

CHIEF JUSTICE

State of Nebraska Supreme Gourt March 21, 1944

Dear Ben:

Here it is coming Easter, and your thoughtful Christmas greeting has been on my desk awaiting those few spare minutes when it could be properly answered--but time has not been heavy on my hands this winter.

Anyway, may we face the trials and worries and burdens of this summer with the well-grounded faith and eternal hope of the Easter season--that by Christmas time of this year, we are well on our way to completion of the war job that is ours, and our youngsters coming home, and cheery greetings be ours again from good friends, and so I now greet you as against that time.

ncerely,

Rev. Ben F. Wyland Liaison Chaplain 9 East Franklin Baltimore, Maryland

9 E. Franklin Street - 2

Council of Churches

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY TO SERVICE MEN

to the

Board of Directors

for

November 1, 1944 to April 27, 1945

1,500,000 SERVICE MEN REACHED IN THREE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS

111.092 service men slept free in 15 church dormitories to date a. 991 of these were service women

- b. 4248 of these were Negro troops
- 1,096 wives of service men placed in church homes
- 98 ships furnished victrolas and records, recreational and religious supplies
- 425,000 entertained in five church clubs
- 325,000 at five church information desks
- 122,000 meals given free
- 80,000 through work of Federated Music Clubs and church choirs
- 60,000 New Testaments distributed
- 250,000 pieces religious literature given out
- 13,400 (yearly) lay volunteers used
- 600 pianos, victrolas, radios and 20,000 records distributed
- 18,500 through furnishings for 65 company houses
- 400,000 popular magazines collected for transport service 695 pounds of cookies furnished for cookie jar

SOME EXTRA ACTIVITIES OVER THE HOLIDAYS AND TO APRIL 27, 1945:

5,200 Christmas packages given service men in hospitals

15 Christmas trees with gifts to service men in 15 church dormitories

- 97 wounded men placed in homes for Christmas dinners
- 150 albums of new Red Seal records received from Firestone for distribution
- 50,000 copies Fun En Route for troop trains received and distributed
 - 100 boxes Coca Cola games received and distributed. Each good for 100 men.
 - 18 truck loads popular magazines collected for service men.
 - 15 Navy chaptains and ships being supplied now with religious and recreational materials.
- 10,000 lenten booklets distributed
 - 30 marriages arranged
 - 15 special counselling cases
 - 12 chaplains entertained at Dobbie luncheon WAC Glee Club and basket ball team secured churches in which to practice.
- 26,548 slept since November 1, 1944
- 1,475 largest single night April 14, 1945.

U. S. S. CEBU, CHAPLAIN BERT L. DUNCAN

"I was in your city long enough to recognize the real and enduring value of the Christian Service the Council of Churches of Baltimore, under your leadership, is performing for service men in that area. The religious literature which we received from you is of high quality and usefulness. In the past few weeks we have supplied approximately 1.558 pieces of religious literature (included in this number are about 768 New Testaments) to other ships and craft than our own. The need and the demand for New Testaments and other religious literature is great here. Your cooperation in making available to us this literature and the other very useful equipment is indeed appreciated."

> Respectfully submitted, BEN F. WYLAND, Limison Chaplain.

REV. BEN F. WYLAND, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The United Churches of Greater St. Petersburg

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100

January 16th, 1912.

My Doar Holon:-

Thursday night late it was a vory dark night and I was trying hard to sloop. It was so quict I could hear the softest broczes in the palms. Gradually a small voice stopped out of the night's sound's saying aplease sir, can you hear me?" "Yes succhicary," "hat is it?" "I an look-I said, "I can hear you. ing for a Nommy - a de r sweet Morray. Do you know where I can find one?" "Yes Dear, there is one where I can find ono?" waiting milos and milos away from here. Oh, its over a thousand milos- away off in a strange northern land called Oneida. I'm afraid you will-get lost and then she will feel so bad." "Oh, no I won't, kind Sir, a Good Angel will tuck me under his wings. near his heart and we'll soon bo there. I hopo sho will be waiting for me." "Yos, Sweetheart, she is waiting. Hurry along and don't bo late or you'll make Normy feel, very bad. Bofore you go, Sweetheart, toll me your name." Sho said, "Frances." "Cl' how boautiful. You must be beautiful too, although I cannot soo you. But herry along- quick now and don't miss the way. Toll me before you go, how will you know your Mommy.you are looking for?" . 'Ch, that's easy, kind Sir, I go whore they want me most. That sets lullaby music going that I can hear and it will load me right to the right Mommy. I can hear her now calling mo. Its getting late. I must no. Thank you, kind Sir. I think I must bolong to you too, because I can hear music in your heart too." "So lon", Sweetheart, 1º11 be seeing you." And so Frances found hor mother that night and we love her already very mich.

Lovo from Grandfather

To Frances and her mother.

Rev Ben Wyland

THE STREPT STORE

N. A. A. C. P. LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

107 West 43rd Street, New York 36, N.Y.

JUDSON 6-8397

January 5, 1956

Rev. Ben F. Wyland The United Churches of Greater St. Petersburg 512 First Federal Building St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Rev. Wyland:

I have been out of the country since the time of the wonderful news concerning the commutation of Walter Irvin's death sentence and therefore have not had the opportunity to express my appreciation and highest regard for the marvelous work you did in the Irvin case. Your initiative persistence and great sensitivity to the moral issues involved and your wonderful ability to convey the moral importance of the case to others were some of the most important factors responsible for the great victory.

Let me thank you once more.

Sincerely, Thurgood Marshall

Director-Counsel

TM:arw

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HERBERT HOOVER

The Waldorf-Astoria Towers New York 22, New York January 6, 1956

My dear Reverend:

You have successfully proved that the right and truth win out, even if slowly.

With all good wishes for the coming year,

Yours faithfully,

Verturo T.

The Reverend Ben F. Wyland
The United Churches of Greater
 St. Petersburg
512 First Federal Building
St. Petersburg, Florida

FROM JOE W. SEACREST 2-28.72 Dear Ben. A few tear sheets -Keep up the Gast Work Bestever Querreachet