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From: Elders of the C of C @ Lompoc, CA

Elders of the CoC at Lompoc, CA

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John A. Chalk
Broad Street Church of Christ
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear Brother Chalk,

The congregation here in Lompoc, Calif., is in need of a minister, and your name was recently given to us by Bro. Norvel Young upon the recommendation of Bro. Frank Pack.

We are a congregation of about 150 members with an average Sunday morning attendance of 230. In April, elders were ordained for the first time. The church has been meeting here for about 25 years. In 1958, when nearby Vandenberg Air Force Base was activated, the membership increased rapidly from about 45 members. The present membership consists of over 30% military personnel. Missile contractor people make up much of the remainder.

We have a fine building which can seat about 280 persons. It has 1½ classrooms, eight of which are newly constructed and were used for the first time in the Vacation Bible School, which had an average attendance of 202. The minister's residence is located next to the meeting place. It is a comfortable, roomy, four bedroom home with two full baths. There is also a detached two-car garage. The building and the home were completed in 1960 and were built by the members themselves, as were the new classrooms.

Though the congregation has been established for some time, it is primarily made up of young members, with the average age being in the early thirties. Even the eldership was selected from among men around forty years of age. There is much potential for growth.

We are presently in the process of reorganizing around the new eldership, hoping to revitalize and extend the existing programs, especially the education and visitation programs. We plan to supplement the evangelistic/educational effort with an active cottage meeting program. We have, at least, a nucleus in all of these areas, but they do need to be revitalized, and we need the help of an able minister to weld all the members into a working body, functioning well for the Lord.

We are doing some work in the mission fields, giving full support to a native preacher in Japan, assisting in two works in Mexico, assisting the work in Ethiopia, and sending some support to...
the Herald of Truth and a children's home for the Navajo Indians in New Mexico. We feel the need to increase our efforts in mission work, but would rather concentrate mainly in one or two areas.

We are not without our problems. Soon after the eldership was ordained, a small group of our brethren began to meet apart from us. They included three of the men who had sought the office of elder, but who were not found to be ready by the congregation. This occurred about two weeks after the elders were ordained. However, we have thus far been able to maintain a good relationship with them. Other problems are numerous, though minor, and are of the types usually found in any congregation. Good sound teaching along with patience, love and understanding will, no doubt, overcome them.

Basically, this congregation has the following to offer a minister: the home with all utilities and basic telephone paid, a two-week paid vacation annually, and a salary comparable to that paid other preachers located in California.

Lompoc is a city of over 20,000 located near the coast approximately 150 miles north of Los Angeles (3 hours by car) and 50 miles north of Santa Barbara. Prior to the activation of Vandenberg AFB in 1958, Lompoc had a population of about 5,000.

Our weather picture is quite different from what you experience. The summer temperatures range from the mid 50's to the low 70's. Only occasionally does it reach into the 80's, and a day in the 90's is very rare. In the winter, the temperature ranges from the mid 40's to the low 60's. It seldom freezes here. The rainfall averages about 13 inches per year and is concentrated in the winter months. Some of the most pleasant days come in December and January. There is quite a bit of fog through the spring and summer at night and early morning, but no smog. It is also windy much of the time.

We hope that we have been able to give you an overview of the needs here in Lompoc. If you are interested in working with us here, we would appreciate your supplying us with references.

If you have any questions concerning the work here, we would suggest that you contact Brother W.E. (Bill) Decker for an objective, critical evaluation. Bill worked with us for a short time prior to leaving for Abilene Christian College to join the Bible Dept. this fall. His address is: 512 E. N. 19th, Abilene, Texas. Bro. M. Norvel Young, president of Pepperdine College, is also familiar with the work at Lompoc.

Fraternally yours,

The Elders,

[Signature]

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