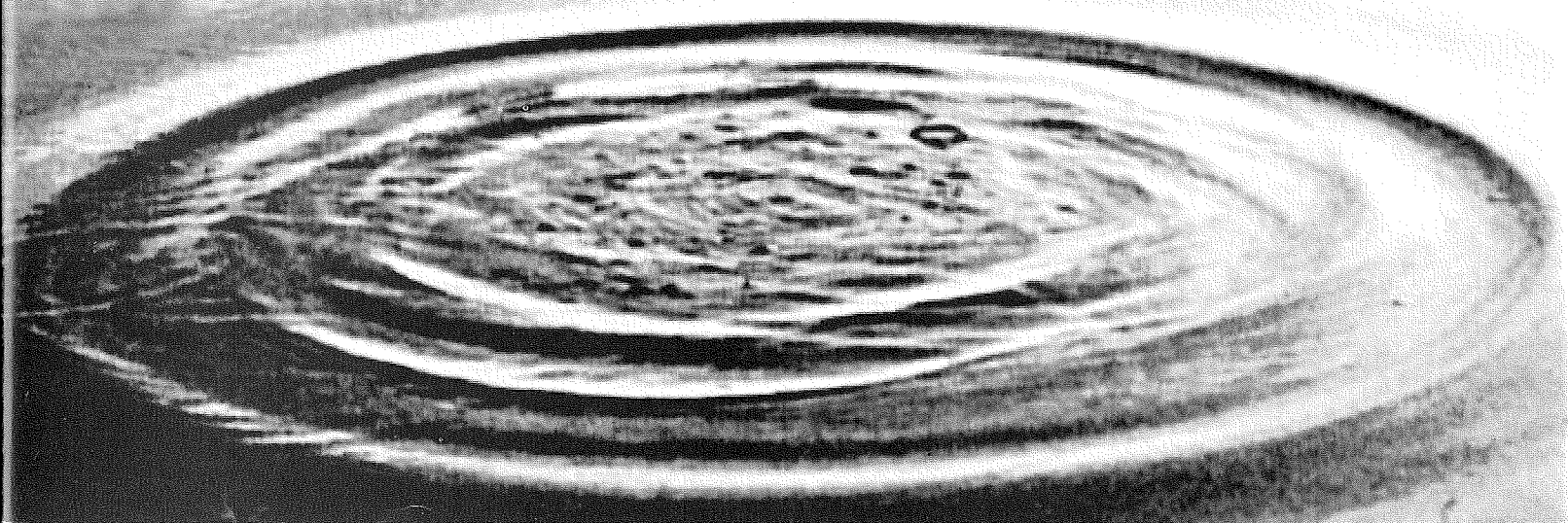


A
Stone's
Throw

PENINSULA BIBLE CHURCH
1948 TO 1998





This publication is dedicated to the Only Rock on Which We Stand, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

If Jesus is my King, then my husband Rob is my prince, for all his encouragement and 'technical' support with the computer end of this book. To Becky, Billy and Mark, for enduring with Mommy's hours at "The Book," for Elaine Stedman, Tracy Bunce, Bev Forsyth, Peg Connell, Roy and Maxine Bradford, Paul Winslow, Doug Goins, GERALYN GIESE, Carl Gallivan and countless others, without whom none of this could have ever happened.

*What a gift to take on this burden
To relive the dreams of the saints before me
How many lives have been touched through this humble fellowship
How many hearts changed*

*Oh Lord, let me write in a way that honors You
Yet frames Your work in the lives of Your body*

*How blessed I am to read these accounts
To see the effects of Your work through the decades,
through the miles, through the hearts healed, hopes offered
You have taken Your word, fleshed it out
and sent it spiraling to a hungry world*

*You truly are an awesome God,
To use us to speak the Truth of the Ages
And as I look over these notes, I see now how loud and clear
and full of Your Spirit it has been*

*For Whom else could have changed so many, for so long
None other than the Rock of Ages,
And to think, it all began with a stone's throw.*

Joanie Burnside

The following pages reflecting PBC's past 50 years is a compilation of notes from those who lived through it. However, as is the case in our humanness, and memory of times past, not all details could be included. We trust that you will be inspired to read about God's work at Peninsula Bible Church, with the understanding that He knows the complete story...even if these yearbook memories pale in comparison!

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September 1998

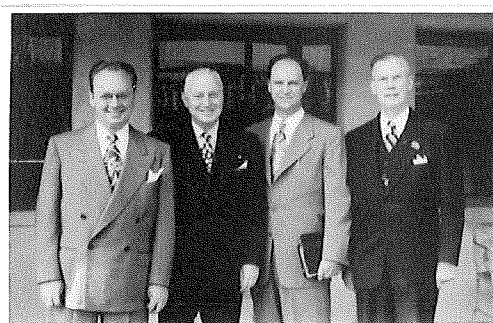
Cover art: Kristine Taylor

CHAPTER 1 FIRST BEGINNINGS

PBC--Peninsula Bible Church. What is it? What does it mean? It started from very humble, small beginnings. Originally, it was named Peninsula Bible Fellowship. Five men with a heart for the San Francisco lower peninsula. Little did they know how their prayers would be answered in global proportions.

Like a stone thrown into water, the ripples that were meant for the Peninsula would someday reach out to the perimeters of the globe. The impact of Christ would be far reaching as He used the body of believers to reach the world. The call of these original five men was defined simply, "to know Christ and to make Him known."

The original five businessmen, Gustaf Gustafsen, Cecil Kettle, Harry Smith, Robert Smith and Edward Stirm, met frequently in the



Four of the five founding members; Ed Stirm, Gus Gustafson, Bob Smith, Harry Smith



Cecil Kettle

home of Pearl and Bob Smith at 6:30 AM over breakfast to pray and discuss a possible ministry in the Palo Alto area. Their primary target was the student body of Stanford University as they knew of no gospel witness there at the time.

Their discussions turned into Bible study, prayer and fellowship. From that came outreach home Bible classes, and eventually enough people to seek a suitable meeting place. The clerk at a local large hotel let them know she couldn't help them but that they should try the Palo Alto Community Center.

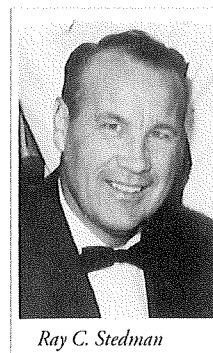


Fall '50, PBF meeting in Room "R" of Community Center

On September 12, 1948, Peninsula Bible Fellowship held its first meeting at the Palo Alto Community Center. This first meeting was a Sunday evening service. Initially, preaching was done by friends of the five men, teachers like Dr. Jack Mitchell of Portland, Dr. J. Vernon McGee from Los Angeles, and Dr. John Walvoord, president of Dallas Seminary.

Over time, the fellowship grew, a post office box was obtained, and Peninsula Bible Fellowship became incorporated in order to receive necessary funding.

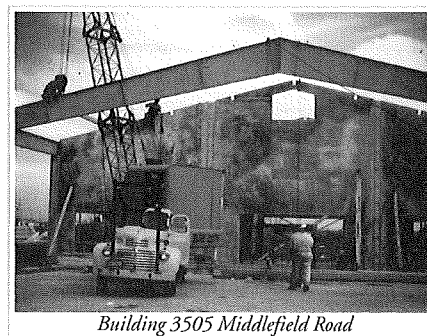
As the five men were preparing the hearts of many here in the Bay Area through supplication, God was preparing the heart of one seminary student in Dallas. The most frequently told story is that three letters arrived one day in the mail. The authors being Drs. Mitchell, McGee and Walvoord. All three letters recommended a young man graduating from Dallas Seminary. Ray Stedman was awaiting appointment and had been led by God to the vision of God's Word as the centerpiece of authentic New Testament Christianity.



Ray C. Stedman

Bob Smith needed to make a business trip to Texas, so was sent to interview Ray. Their hearts were quickly knit together by the Holy Spirit as they had a common vision for ministry. Bob let the Stedmans (Ray and his wife Elaine, and two young girls) know that his group was very reluctant to start a church, but were interested in having Ray come for an interview following graduation. After Bob's return home, Ray was offered the position of Executive Secretary of Peninsula Bible Fellowship. There was no mention of salary, only the promise that "all your needs would be met." Ray had never preached before, nor met the PBF attendees but he accepted and began what became a 40 year legacy.

Ray, Elaine and their two daughters, Sheila and Susan, arrived in Palo Alto on September 2, 1950. Ray preached his first sermon the next day from Ephesians 4:12, 13; "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." This was to become the mainstay of his teaching as he felt this was the church's work, to equip the saints through expository preaching to do the work of the ministry as ministers of a New Covenant in their own daily contact with people.



Building 3505 Middlefield Road

In February of 1952, a three and one-half acre lot was purchased. Architectural plans for 3505 Middlefield Road were presented in May

1953. The architect was Donald Powers Smith and the project co-chairs were Charlie Luce and Max Tatman. The ground breaking ceremony was held on November 7, 1954. On June 15, 1955, the Wednesday evening prayer meeting was held in the new building. June 19, 1955, Dr. J. Vernon McGee spoke at the first Sunday Service held in the new building. It was an evening service where two dedication hymns were sung, *To God Be The Glory* and *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. Over a year later, August 6, 1956, the work began on the new Sunday School building.

So, the ripple effect continued on, as the Fellowship that *didn't* want to be a church, now had a building and a future secured for Sunday School rooms.

According to notes written by Ray in 1960, he spoke of the signs of health in the body, that there was growth and development without

drives and professional fundraisers, and that there was an increase in staff and summer interns. The two primary points were the unity and influence the church experienced. People were honestly concerned about each other and there was not a 'head count' but 'heart habits' of quick response to needs, frank discussion and forgiving attitudes.

Ray felt the church modeled Bible-centered ministry, again from Ephesians, the ministry of the body and their seeking of the Lord with unanimity. Each man was a servant, uniquely and individually responsible to his Lord, the head of the church. So the church expanded as Christ, the only true Head, was followed and the staff held to the teaching of Christ, "...that the greatest among you shall be your servant."

CHAPTER 2 CULTURAL CHANGES

Next we entered the turbulent years of Vietnam, beatniks turned hippies, flower children and the drug culture. How would the church respond? Would the doors be

open to this new life that was emerging in our once quiet, serene community? Jesus himself asked for refuge for these bearded escapees from the kingdom of darkness. We opened the doors with fear and trembling. They challenged our self-righteousness and our

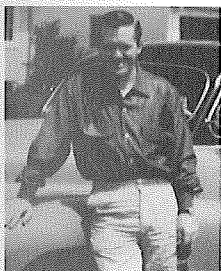
to match their gifts. There was 'Ernie the Prophet' who did his preaching at Palo Alto High School and 'Lloyd the Teacher' who was leading Bible studies among his peers.

John Fischer was asked by Ron Ritchie to join the High School Ministry when he and Ron met up at Mount Hermon in the summer of 1969. They were discipling kids but felt more like they were directing traffic as the ranks swelled. These were rich times of fruit bearing in the kingdom, always with an eye toward the Maker of it all. The "Sweet Jesus Roll Away the Stone or Rock" concert was a good example of this.

These were days of baptisms at Lake Lagunita at Stanford and surprise guest teachers at Body Life. Some well known speakers were pulled in to teach without any forewarning to the congregation -- two famous names such as Hal Lindsey and Eldridge Cleaver.

The church was also sending teams of people to teach beyond the walls of PBC. Led by the Spirit they were having an exciting impact on places like Muhlone and Wheaton College. They were dependent on program, but fully dependent on the Spirit's filling. There was a sense of immediacy and risk involved, a willingness to live and teach on the edge for the sake of the Word going out. To quote John Fischer, "There was a reality of relationships. No one let you get away with being a 'nice spiritual guy.'" There was modeling of concrete living through the Spirit's power.

I came to Stanford in the fall of 1968 when the campus was in the midst of a revolt. But brooding over the visible chaos, which came like a whirlwind and vanished with the dawn, was an invisible revolution of a deeper kind that seized me unawares and touched me.
--Brian Morgan, pastor & elder at PBC Cupertino



First PBC Youth Pastor,
Dick Woodward

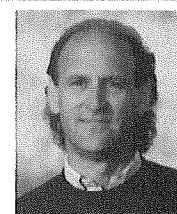


Youth Pastor
#2, Ted Stone

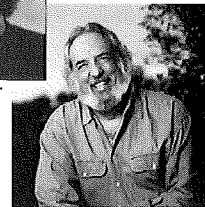
body was infused with new life and vision. Our welcoming environment allowed the youth to flood our gates and marked the inception of "body life." Ray eventually wrote a book on this subject, *Body Life*, to spread the news of God-at-work in His people.

These services were joy filled evenings of worship, teaching and sharing of needs. John Fischer and Pam Mark Hall were two great leaders in this era. The excitement could be felt each week as the auditorium was filled with people who had come to sing praise, learn, share and meet needs. The Jesus Movement was alive at PBC and we were spectators to see His Spirit lead the youth to standing on the Rock without the Roll.

The High School group swelled from about 30 kids to 300. Some of the kids that came arrived fully gifted and nicknames sprouted up



John Fischer



Ron Ritchie

CHAPTER 3 THE 'DISCOVERY' CHANNEL

There were a multitude of 'Discoveries' at PBC: Discovery Foundation, Publishing, Counseling, Art Guild, Seminars, Tapes, and Books. There was gold for any who chose to hunt it out. The 'Discovery' of what God taught us, could now go on to teach others.

In the latter part of 1970 and early 1971, Paul Winslow from Tran Service Company was hired to create an accounting system for housing interns and the publishing ministry. Ed Stirm, Ray Stedman, Bob Smith and Paul Winslow met for months as Paul gathered information from these three men. He saw their hearts, heard their dreams and caught the vision of the far reaching plans these men had in mind. Thus came the birth of Discovery Foundation, Inc. Now,

Peninsula Bible Fellowship officially became Peninsula Bible Church and Discovery Foundation, Inc. was organized as a church. The two groups now coexisted on one site. Ray wanted "foundation" in the naming which humorously led to years of people thinking it was a foundation that was distributing money through grants. Had they only known that something much more valuable than gold was to be

distributed through this source!

Ray's sermons were already being published under the ministry of many faithful volunteers who transcribed them from tapes, edited them, typed them on stencils, and ran off mimeographed copies. Later under the direction of Bob Smith, Peter Irish joined this ministry and it was expanded to become Discovery Publishing ("DP"), and an offset press was bought to publish the messages more formally.

In the mid 1970s, about 35 books were published jointly with larger publishing houses such as Word and Regal, while DP kept the copyrights. Many of these books are Ray's classics such as *Spiritual Warfare*, and *The Servant Who Rules*. Others were works by Bob Smith and Dave Roper.

An intern program was begun for seminary students to attend during their summer months. It was in the early 1960s when Chuck Swindoll and Bill Lawrence tasted what the Lord was teaching through Ray, Bob, and others. Around 1969-70, this program then changed to year-round. The next year, 14 students were in the program to train for college, high school and single ministries. For the next few years there were 25 students year round in the intern program overseen by Dave Roper. Jack Crabtree then came in as director and the name was changed to Scribe School. Paul Murray and Bill Tankersley were other leaders during these years. The interns were heavily involved in the Body Life service and youth ministry as

the Jesus Movement came into full swing in the Bay Area.

Discovery Art Guild, led by John Fischer and Mike Johnson, was a clearinghouse of Christian artists from music composers to

pottery makers. There were recitals and art showings, full scale dramas and one-man concerts. It was a wonderful setting to allow creative expression of the Lord's gifting to overflow onto the body.

For eight years, there were two pastor's conferences per year as conferees came for two weeks, were hosted by the body and taught by the staff. This format then changed to one where a large portion of the teaching staff would travel abroad, and to Christian colleges stateside to hold pastor's conferences. Around the globe they circled - - Poland, Indonesia, Australia, Singapore, Israel (and nearly losing Ted Wise to a stomach ailment in Africa). Those were great times of



Pastor's Conference at Camp Koinonia, about 1963.

training for the pastors and students, as the elders were mentoring the younger staff. Some say the travel with Ray and others provided some of their fondest life memories. The trips were rich with laughter and camaraderie.

In parallel with all of the above, beginning in 1975, Discovery International was launched by Carl Gallivan as an entrepreneurial outreach that pioneered ministries into the prisons of Colombia, Mexico, and universities. Later DI took on other ministries, most notably the creation and launch of the PBC internet web site.

Another 'Discovery' that was not under the umbrella of Discovery Foundation was the Discovery Seminar Program. Still ongoing, it has provided a great depth of learning for the lay person on topics such as counseling, church history, even Greek and Hebrew.

To say "There's gold in them thar hills!" would be inadequate to describe the depth of gemstones God has allowed PBC to offer to the world through the 'Discovery' offerings. To claim it as our own, would be ludicrous. These gemstones were all created by the Master, led to their discovery by His hand and unveiled by those that love Him and took the time to reveal them to others. To Him alone be the glory and praise for allowing us to share in the process.

I am most thankful to PBC for the discovery of the New Covenant and how radically it has affected my life. From guilt to grace to glory!! My prayer is that I may live out God's life in me as He provides all of the resources I need. To God be the glory!

--Pearl Smith
wife of founder, Bob Smith

CHAPTER 4 OUR "NOTE" ABLE OUTREACH

Peninsula Bible Fellowship was gifted from the onset with its own worship leader in one of its founding fathers, Ed Stirm. His background included nightclub performing as both a vocalist and a pianist. His infectious love for the Lord, great sense of humor, and boundless energy are gratefully remembered from the 1950's.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Bill and LaVose Newton led the congregation in worship as Bill shared the backgrounds of hymns and LaVose accompanied at the piano. Thelma Dodd served as organist, managing a small organ that saw several years of service till the mid 1970s. She was a wonderfully gracious servant with a terrific sense of humor and a great laugh. However, the organ began to die out, becoming unreliable and emitting "less than worshipful" music, and on one occasion, stopping altogether. One Sunday, Ray Stedman mentioned that, "The elders have decided to replace the old wheezer," then hastened to add, "Not you, Thelma!" She laughed as heartily as anyone in the congregation!

After the Newtons, came Joanne Barczy, a young woman who had grown up at PBC and gone on to get her degree in music. Along came the "Jesus Movement" which greatly influenced the musical flavor of PBC. Marj Snyder, John Fischer, Mark Spoelstra, and Pam Mark Hall all

served here and then went on to national recording and concert ministries.

For 30 years, PBC music was led almost exclusively by volunteer leaders. Men like Terry Bates, a hallmark of those times, who has gone on to fulltime worship ministry. Somewhere in the all these years there were other avenues of musical outreach as PBC performed several special concert-musicals; *The New Covenant*, written by John Fischer, *The Witness* with Terry Bates as "Peter," *Jubilate, We Are Called*, and *A New Creation*, a children's musical by Wendy Witham. Many blessings from many creative hands.

The elders felt led to hire a fulltime shepherd to lead the flock of lay musicians and in 1978, Doug Goins was hired as Pastor of Worship and Arts. Doug's background was in music performance and not music ministry, so by 1985, Doug knew our congregation needed someone with greater technical musical abilities. Greg Schaeffer came a few months after PBC Cupertino opened and for three years helped build up the choral and orchestral program. Greg moved on in 1988 to a

Music Minister position in Deerfield, Illinois.

1989 ushered in the "Pickett line" as Glenn Pickett took over the combined PBC choir from both Palo Alto and Cupertino campuses. His wife, Julie, was a gift to both the choir and the children, as she sang with us, and eventually became a Preschool Director for PBC. Glenn called us to excellence and led us with his great enthusiasm.

Reggie Coates came on board in October of 1990, and led the PBC Cupertino congregation while Glenn focused completely on the Palo Alto campus. Reggie has since moved on to a far reaching ministry through several tapes, CDs and training sessions of his own music singing, composing, directing and worship leading.

Glenn's leadership of the One Accord choir and orchestra had an impact statewide as the choir did local Christmas outreach

concerts as well as tours to southern California. A smaller band of singers and players named Pryzm also ministered inside and outside our PBC walls at various concerts and on five different tours.

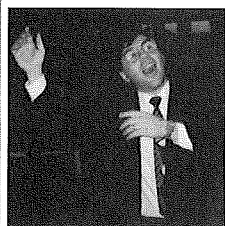
The music pastors have also done their share of ministry training with Sue (Novy) Bell, Ross Lehman, and Brian Wo under Glenn's wing, and Brian continuing on with our newest worship and music pastor, Jeff Dodson.

Glenn left in June of 1996, as One Accord tearfully sang *No More Night* at their final concert performance. Under Glenn's servant leadership the group had grown together as a family, one of the greatest gifts of his ministry.

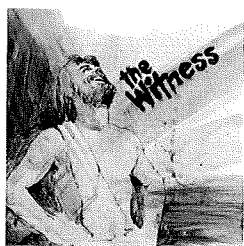
Raymond Hebert graciously stepped in as interim music pastor and led One Accord for a season. Miraculously, he kept up with his fulltime job, his family duties, and his fervent love for Christ.

In January of 1997, Jeff Dodson, a friend of Glenn Pickett's from college days, became our newest Pastor of Worship and Music. He brings with him great technical skills, a depth of love for Christ, and a beautifully gifted wife in Vonnie. The congregation has been doubly blessed again with a worship leader in Jeff, and a singer and composer in Vonnie.

In the late 1980s, two Easter services were held at Shoreline Amphitheater combining both the PBC congregations from Cupertino and Palo Alto. Over the years, concerts by guest artists have been offered for outreach and upbuilding ministries. PBC has desired to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and encourage personal worship in the hearts of the congregation. Through all these years that desire has hopefully been fulfilled.



Glenn Pickett...at work!



HERE COMES
THE
SON

A CELEBRATION OF
DEATH, AND RESURRI
JESUS, THE CH

8:00 p.m. - Friday, Apr
7:00 p.m. - Saturday, Apr
7:00 p.m. - Sunday, Apr

Peninsula Bible Church, 2006 N
Palo Alto, California 94301

It's anyone in Christ, let's
sing!

A teaching musical for children
by
Wendy Witham

TEMPORARY MUSICAL
CANTON BASED ON
"LIFE EVER LIVED"

April 2 6pm
April 3 7pm
April 4 7pm

CHURCH 3625 W. COLLEFIELD RD. PALO ALTO



Pryzm at Arroyo Grande Strawberry Festival

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE & PIONEER GIRLS PROGRAMS

Brigade started as a midweek teenage boys club in a church basement in Illinois led by two Wheaton College students who had a vision of the needs of boys beyond Sunday School. The goal was to minister to all areas of their lives. Sixty years later it now includes preschoolers through age 18, mentoring both boys and men.

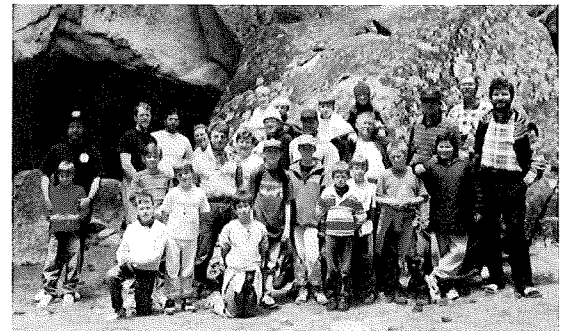
This year marks the 40th year at PBC and what a ministry it has been! Elaine Stedman had the vision and many lives have been profoundly affected through this midweek program.

Boys were paired with their dads or surrogate fathers and the goal was to set an example for the boys to emulate. One of their catchwords is “knowbedo,” that boys want to *know*, to *be* and to *do*, not just hear. This is lived out through projects and activities all year long, culminating in the Father/Son Team Day at the end of the school year.

PBC’s Pioneer Girl program was to carry out the goal of “every area of a girl’s life relating to Jesus Christ.” The girls were each paired with a “Prayer Pal,” a mature woman who prayed for her and met with her over the course of the year. It was never a replacement for Sunday School, but a way to minister in their daily lives. The girls were incorporated into the body as part of the family of the church, letting them know they were vital and a real part of the Christian body.



Christian Service Brigade activities include the annual car rally, camping, and outings...



A recent Pioneer Girl Gathering



*Early Pioneer Girl Leaders
Front: Carole Bradley, Elaine Stedman, Betty Whitney
Back: Liz, Marian Dengler, Joan Verbag*



1958 Pioneer Girls Gathering

One of the greatest blessings of our church history was the bringing together of the first couple wed at our church, Roy and Maxine Bradford. They served faithfully for many years as Brigade and Pioneer Directors.

We have Elaine Stedman to thank for allowing God to see the vision into form, and for the Bradfords and countless others for supplying the leadership to keep it in existence.

Now we are blessed with the leadership of Joe Roche and Kathy Moore. This is a ministry that has a far reaching impact as exemplified in the lives of John McWilliam, one of PBC’s missionaries, and Michael Roe, Bob Roe’s son and head of the psychology department at Seattle Pacific University. The ripples of ministry in the lives of our young people continues to have in impact today.

CHAPTER 6

FAMILY CAMPS & GATHERINGS

In the early 1980s, our PBC family decided to start a new tradition, camping together! Many families went year after year and due to its popularity, the trips were held twice a year in order to accommodate the enormous numbers wanting to participate. Doug Goins had worked at Calvin Crest campground while in seminary. It was there that he met his wife, Candy, whose dad was the camp's executive director. PBC had held on-site Family Fairs at the church and brought in speakers, but traveling to an actual full-fledged camp was a new adventure.

Calvin Crest offered a wide variety of accommodations, from cabin rooms to tent sites for the more adventurous. The church provided its own program and it was such a success that there was a waiting list of 200! The decision was then made to split the camps, and offer identical programs with different staffs, one on Memorial Day weekend, the other at the Labor Day weekend. There was a planned schedule for teaching, but also fun times and a great emphasis on inter-generational family activities..

Ed and Linda Donohue headed this twice yearly ministry for many years after Ed casually mentioned to Brian Morgan one day that he'd "like to get involved." Singles from the church often went up to provide the childcare programs and the afternoons were spent as a family together in the water.

Eventually Calvin Crest had to take back the weekend slots for their own programs. Not to be undone, PBC Palo Alto has been vacationing together at Birney Falls and then Lake Siskiyou Resort since. These camping times together have provided great relaxation and bonding between people who normally only see each other at church. Carol Lind, our Junior High pastor, has taken on the leadership role and does a great job of providing a buffet of fun activities from which to choose — evenings together around a campfire singing, and day activities ranging from sunbathing to cliff jumping. The camaraderie that occurs between mosquitoes, no makeup, marshmallows and McCloud Falls has been great — an opportunity not to be missed.

Mount Hermon has been a home away from home for many years of Men's and Women's Retreats. At the beginning of each year, PBC has offered a weekend each for men and women to gather together, enjoy the beauty of the redwoods and the gift of teaching from many different speakers. Over the years, we've benefitted from the biblical insights of Dave Roper, Michael Green, Jill Briscoe, and Pamela Reeve...to name a few!

PBC's youth have also basked in the relationship between us, as they've attended both the Mount Hermon Redwood Camp and ponderosa (Pondy) camp. Our youth pastor for 10 years from 1988-98, Nick Vleisides, came to PBC from Pondy, and years earlier, Doug Goins, who worked on the staff at Mount Hermon, came to be part of the PBC staff.

What a wonderful God we serve to provide a chance for us to experience His creation in a beautiful setting and the creation of His people in a more relaxed atmosphere.

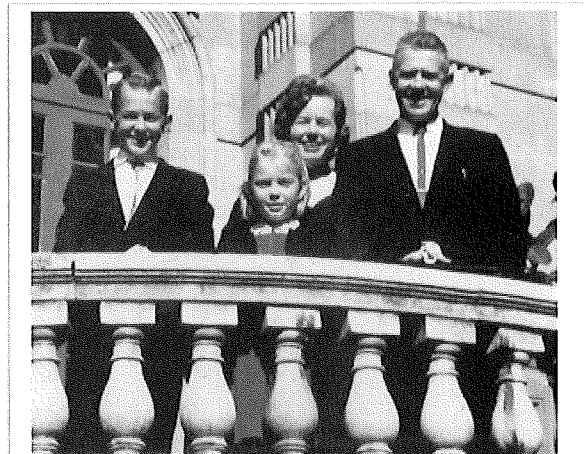
CHAPTER 7 MISSIONS: FROM THE INSIDE OUT

This chapter is titled 'Missions-From the Inside Out' because it seems a fitting description for an extremely quiet, yet powerful arm of the PBC outreach. Years ago there were mission conferences held for the congregation to be exposed to individual missionaries and learn of their specific needs. Booths lined the walls of the auditorium wings and people could interact one-to-one with these special servants from around the world. The church's role was that of exposing people to the needs, allowing them to become personally involved in the missionaries' lives, financially and otherwise. There is not a missions budget, but a platform from which the Holy Spirit leads those that are called to stay and serve here, to support those that are called to serve full-time in outreach. Therefore, "inside out," means people's hearts are stirred from within to be involved, rather than by formal church-wide adoption of particular workers.

From the very beginning with Paul and Ellen Carlson with Wycliffe, and Eric Sackman in India, PBC has been very supportive of carrying God's message to the world's corners. Countless others have followed over the decades. Many short term trips have been carried out, from our high school group's annual treks to Mexico to lifelong journeys like that of Marjorie Cook, a woman who grew up in the church's first home at the Palo Alto Community Center.

PBC has always tried to keep missionaries in the forefront, even hosting a "Joy to the World" missions support awareness extravaganza last year.

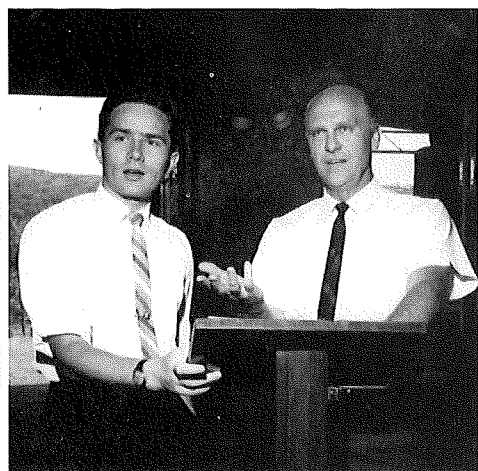
Hundreds of trips have been taken and testimonies shared to encourage personal involvement in the lives of these humble servants. The ripples to the world from Palo Alto have been profound, as God's Spirit moves His people to go out and to send, that the world might learn of His good news.



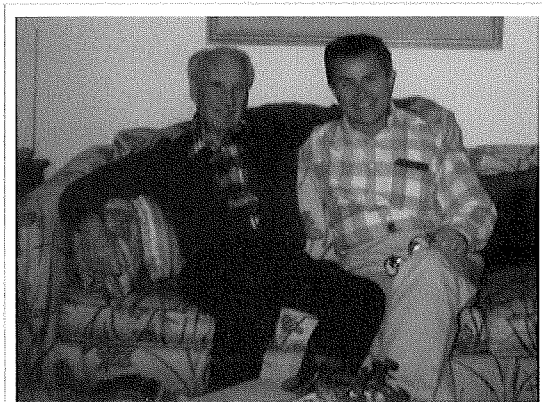
*First PBC missionaries -- Paul & Ellen Carlson
with children, Roy & Christine*



Ray with Gus Marweih



*Bob Smith in Central America -- Luis
Palau is translating*



Luis Palau & Ray..a few years later!

CHAPTER 8

GREEN PASTURES & CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER: VENTURING OUT

In 1977, a home opened that was the dream of a special woman named Stephanie Strom. She, along with a small board of directors, believed in the value of a home setting to provide for the needs of children with disabilities. The home was to allow kids to live and grow in a place that was warm, nurturing and safe, so it was named "Green Pastures" -- the epitome of that concept. The administrative role has been held by several from our body, Jean Marks, Carolyn Sedillo, Denise Salin, and currently, Jeff Marks.

Over the years, 25 children have been served there and PBC has been their church home. The kids participate in our Sunday morning worship and Sunday School classes. PBC has helped financially through fundraising concerts presented by Pryzm, and by alerting the body of specific needs.

We are blessed by the children's presence. Our Lord's example of compassion has been lived out through their acceptance of us, and our welcoming doors to them. We have much to learn from their response to life's challenges and having them in our midst has been a lesson for the able-bodied in dealing with unique life situations.

In 1981, Marion Recine, Bill Garaway, and a small band with a heart for the unborn met to plan to bring the ministry of Crisis Pregnancy Centers to the West Coast. Spurred by the Frances Schaeffer film series in Oakland of "How Should We Then Live," and the Recines' own personal testimony, the idea of the Center was born.

Marion sought support through local churches, many of whom turned her away as they were supporting Planned Parenthood and felt there was a conflict of interest. Some said that though their pastors were pro-life, they as individuals were not and she was met with much rejection.

Muriel Thompson of PBC had been asked to be director but there were no funds yet to pay her nor a place for the center to meet. Marion went to Brian Morgan and literally cried on his shoulder from discouragement. Brian asked her to speak that coming Sunday at PBC and asked if she wanted to take up a special offering. Fellow supporter Jay Grimstead went out in the middle of the night to have special offering envelopes printed, and they ran about the church early Sunday morning placing them in the pew racks.

The body of PBC graciously gave \$3,000 that morning and Marion set out to find a place to open the center. Walt Fagan, a believer



Green Pastures founder, Stephanie Strom and friend.



Carolyn Sedillo, former GP administrator



Current GP Family!



Present GP administrator, Jeff Marks, with Speedy

who was on the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, was approached regarding possible meeting places. Coincidentally, he had a small office complex that had not been rented for months. In faith, with PBC's funds and \$800 that had previously been raised, Marion and the board opened up the CPC on Castro Street in Mountain View.

Over the years PBC has been involved in fundraising, support and counseling at the center. Eventually Tom Recine joined the board in order to spend more time with his wife and many others from our body, including Connie David and Peg Young who have helped direct and counsel at the center.



*Current CPC Board Members
Peter Lu, Patty Gash, Tom Recine, Connie David, Bud Alexander,
Marion Recine, Kip Farmer, Irv Parolari, Larry Bonaldi*

CHAPTER 9 STARTING A NEW "CAREER"

One ministry that affected virtually thousands of lives from the Bay Area was that of Careers Alive. This was a new venture for PBC -- starting a class for a particular age grouping. It was to be held offsite, in hopes that people would be more inclined to come if it was held in a neutral setting.

Several from the PBC Ambassadors (seniors) class wanted to start a ministry for the single, post-college group. Ed Carlstone, Lloyd Multhauf, and Bob Smith formed a steering committee that included Dave Lewis, Bev Forsyth and Grace Weins.

Ed had attended a class in Chicago with a speaker and discussion format that seemed to fit what they wanted to try. The first meeting was held in the spring of 1969, at the *Menu Tree*, a local restaurant with a large, second floor auditorium.

After it was up and running, Ed and Lloyd presented it before the PBC board that summer and it was met with great support. At this point, about 50 folks were attending. Lloyd did the initial teaching and Ed headed up the skits, music and organization. The teaching continued on with nonpastoral staff -- like Bob Smith and Bob Connell -- until about 1974, when Ron Ritchie was assigned as their pastor, supported by Ted Wise.

At the end of one year the attendance ran to about 120 and

discussion leader training was an integral part of the ministry. Tom Williams and others came along to provide great leadership and later Jerry Nicolet joined as head of the steering committee for about 10 years.

Round table discussions were held weekly and many came to Christ through this outreach. The numbers swelled through the years and often people came who would not have attended a church, but would be willing to come "check things out."

For a few years, after the *Menu Tree* closed its doors in the late 1980s, Careers moved to a meeting room in the Radisson House Hotel in Sunnyvale, and was co-led by pastors John Hanneman and Walt McCuiston, still reaching out to the community with the truth of God's Word.

The vision of the initial founders led to one of the longest and most impactful Sunday School classes. Another chapter in the PBC legacy, a chapter He used to draw unchurched and churched, seekers and knowers, unschooled and well-versed, a deep well that ran for years. What an awesome God we serve.

Our adventure in PBC as a family was primarily about relationships, encouragement, great teaching and very exciting encounters with the pagan world.
--Lynn Bernison,
former PBC elder

CHAPTER 10 OVERFLOWING LEADS TO NEW CAMPUS

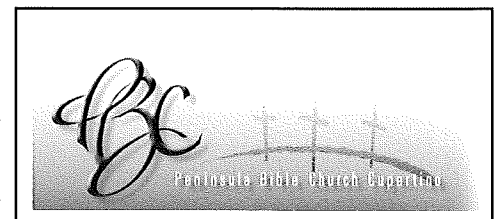
Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their neighborhood . . . well, we tried. PBC was overflowing and spilling out onto the highways and byways of Palo Alto. Neighbors had signed petitions because of the congestion and the church needed some plan to find a way to "love thy neighbor" and still accommodate the growing spiritual needs of the community.

Attempts to buy other churches nearby were blocked. Plans to share a facility with Hewlett Packard failed. There was even an idea of some structure going up in the foothills. But no solution was found.

The staff had an all-day meeting in Cupertino and Mike Tracy called Paul Winslow prior to the meeting to say there was a church up for sale nearby. Paul and Craig Duncan were carpooling to the meeting and Paul suggested they run by beforehand to check on the property. There were weeds in the parking lot and it looked abandoned. Nevertheless, the site was discussed over lunch and they all decided to go over and look at it. While there, the entourage heard Paul's spontaneous idea of subdividing the current PBC staff in order to

serve two campuses. The idea was conceived to keep one elder board, have some pastors serve at the south location (Cupertino) and some at north (Palo Alto). This plan would allow for four services instead of only two on Sunday mornings.

Looking further into the matter, they found there were 14 offers on the property, one at \$1.5 million dollars, and others for nearly a million. The congregation that owned the church was going to decide in 10 days and PBC had nowhere near that amount in its coffers. Paul and some of the elders explained their plan to the landholders, and they asked what PBC was prepared to give. The small band of believers remaining in the congregation was committed to their missions program and so were not concerned about their own needs. By faith, PBC offered them \$320,000 even though they had but about \$15,000



in their account.

In that week two people came forward who knew nothing of the plans and offered the combined sum of \$300,000 to PBC in giving through gifts and property. The decision by the Cupertino landholders was delayed giving PBC time to sell the property given them in order to come up with the needed funds. PBC now had the amount they had offered and miraculously, it was the offer that was chosen.

The cost of renovating was more than \$200,000 and Ed Stirm Jr. was offered the job. Escrow closed in November 1984, and the body of believers provided the labor. It was almost like a party as they met to rip up carpets, paint and reconstruct.

PBC Cupertino was dedicated in March of 1985 and for five years shared the same elder board, but split the staff between the two campuses.

Again, the ripples of the pond continued to send out its rings as the city of Cupertino now had its own PBC campus. Ray had a vision of five churches in the Bay Area springing up from PBC in order to maintain smaller, more personal congregations. And so, other churches that came out of PBC or were heavily influenced by the church's modeling were Valley Church in Cupertino, Valley Community Church in Pleasanton, South Hills in San Jose, and Central Peninsula Church in Foster City. Beyond our state borders there are at least two other fellowships stemming from our body, Emerald Bible Fellowship in Oregon, and Valley Bible in Spokane.

The impact of the stone's throw was vast, moving through hearts that were ready to be stirred.

BRIAN MORGAN

I came to Stanford in the fall of 1968 when the campus was in the midst of a revolt. But brooding over the visible chaos, which came like a whirlwind and vanished with the dawn, was an invisible revolution of a deeper kind that seized me unawares and touched me. It was at Stanford, I came under the shadow of that quiet man, David Roper. Every Tuesday at 2 p.m. his little red Volkswagen would pull up to my frat house, where he would prepare me to teach a Bible study in that pagan setting. Those early years studying John, Romans, 1 Peter and Timothy and using the Scriptures as a platform to share my faith shaped me for a lifetime.

Then there was Ray. Hearing his sermons on Leviticus, Romans, and Genesis. His prophetic voice, wild imagination, ringing clarity, and piercing application. Traveling with him to pastor's conferences and conventions where you went to hear him teach, but in the process he birthed your soul into full sonship, and then lifted you up to the equality of brotherhood.

Body life -- I remember coming once, Emily and I, right from the beach, barefoot and cutoffs, and felt totally at home.

There were the elders, Bob Roe, Bob Smith, Dave, Ray, Paul, Jim, Dale, and Craig. Sitting with them, hearing their lively debates giving

preference to one another in honor, seeking the lead edge, it was a worthy seminary.

Evangelism -- what more did you need than Ritchie, who taught you how to seize every waiter and passerby unawares and with a meal could make them feel like royalty. Walking with him was like being with Philip in Gaza.

Church government -- it was Paul Winslow who crystallized what Ray had taught. And if you were brave enough, he would give you a private tutorial while simultaneously rappeling you down some cliff in the Sierras. If you survived, the passionate lecture would continue for another 8 hours on the drive home in the church van - one hand on the wheel, one wildly gesturing with every point.

Education -- the gift of languages with Bud Ortland, and first hand exposure to the finest scholars, John Stott, Bruce Waltke, J. I. Packer, Walter Kaiser, who could ask for more?

A world view -- the joy of traveling the world with these brothers to Nigeria, Indonesia, Israel, and Australia. We went to teach, who knows if we had any impact, but we sure had fun! Joyous, riotous laughter, it kept you from thinking too much of yourself.

PBC Cupertino -- a new work on a time tested foundation.

PBC what does it mean to me? Everything! I came to Stanford in 1968 to be a stockbroker, instead I got a PBC education. And now I can't believe I get paid to do what I do -- to study the fabric of ancient texts whose every letter rivals a Van Gogh; to wander with Hebrew sages and prophets whose ephemeral dreams forged history; to be captured by the narrative stories of poet-kings and then be shaped by them as if they were your own; to open a window to heaven through the power of the poem and, as time stands still, to touch the face of all that transcends; to laugh in our tears and weep in our joy. Nothing like it! But if that were not enough, to behold the multiplication of the mystery as it moves beneath you and tracks its way around the earth; to behold those moistened eyes as they sing it in the remote Island of Timor and Rote, or that penetrating gaze of the Romanian poet in the Carpathian mountains who embraces you as if you were a lost son now back from the dead. Is this what I do, or am I in a dream?

GARY VANDERET

I have served here at PBC for over 22 of my 26 years of ministry, so PBC is certainly home. I was on staff at PBC Palo Alto for 10 years before coming to PBC Cupertino. I served there in a number of roles, Children's Pastor, High School Pastor, Host Pastor and one of three preaching pastors. Those were very formative years for me, establishing Biblical principles of ministry that have been so foundational to everything I do: the importance of mature, loving men in leadership; our emphasis on life related Biblical exposition; the freedom and joy of a new covenant lifestyle and ministry; the understanding that ministry belongs to the saints, and therefore taking the time needed to disciple and build community. Whenever I travel, I always feel so blessed when I return that I have the privilege to serve in a

place with such a rich heritage.

There are so many great memories of the years there at PBC Palo Alto: our travels together ministering to pastors in various places around the globe; the fun times and wild discussions we had together on Wednesday mornings in pastoral staff meetings; our family faires and family camps during the summer; the pastors conferences we hosted at PBC; our lunches in the patio; the numbers of folks who were taught and equipped in Discovery Seminars; Scribe School; the times we cried together in times of loss and failure; playing basketball around the corner at the YMCA; our "70 men retreats;" our monthly all-staff meeting with Mildred Crosby's home made cakes. I could go on and on but I better stop.

Before I do - When I think of what PBC has meant to me I can't help but reflect on Ray and his influence on my life. Here is part of a letter I wrote to him back in 1990:

Dear Ray,

What can I say to a man who has so greatly touched my life?

It was in the spring of 1972, as a junior at Pacific Christian College, that I read a new book for a Christian Education class, entitled *Body Life*. I was deeply stirred inside in a way that I never before experienced and for the first time my eyes were open to the nature and function of the church. I was then very excited to later listen to you speak in our morning chapel, and to host you as you spoke at our "Body Life" service at the church where I was serving, the West Covina Church of Christ. As I look back on my life, those were very significant occasions in my growth!

Back then I would never have dreamed that one day I would have the privilege of serving together with you in the same body. Ray, there are some wonderful memories of times together that I will always treasure: Our trip to Switzerland together (I look at that photo daily on the wall in my study), the week we shared at Wheaton College (this was our first chess game, and one of the only times I ever beat you. Remember you wouldn't let me go to sleep until you beat me?); a stimulating and refreshing evening in Australia, our weekly staff studies in your home, and many others.

There have so many aspects of your life and ministry that have left their mark on my life:

- Your deep love and submission to our Lord Jesus is evident in so many ways.

- Your unpretentious manner has been such a healthy model for those on the staff. You are a rare breed in this respect and I pray the model you set of servant authority will continue.

- Your knowledge of the Scriptures and dependence on the wisdom of God has been such an inspiration to my own study.

- Your deep commitment to practical and relevant exposition has been faithfully communicated to another generation. Thank you for your encouragement and your constructive criticism in my preaching. I greatly value your insight.

- Your ability to accept and desire to encourage pastors from various denominations and backgrounds has affected the kingdom around the world.

- Your warm hospitality always makes others feel welcome and loved. I always have enjoyed coming to your home on Wednesday mornings because it truly felt like home.

- Your love and care for Elaine, the girls, and your grandchildren encourages me as a husband and father.

I think this is what I gained the most from PBC—this sense that Christ is personal in our lives... that He is sovereign no matter how it looks...that people are interested in knowing Him when He is represented truly through the brokenness of our clay. He is absolutely our only hope of glory, and His glory fills our lives with light today...For me PBC was a taste of that glory.

--Bill Lawrence,
PBC intern graduate

CHAPTER II RAY'S PASSING

October 12, 1992, was a day of very mixed emotions for those who had been blessed by the life of Ray Stedman. On that day Ray passed over that threshold from the temporal to the eternal. He had retired as pastor and elder on April 30, 1990, and moved to Oregon, surrounded by his four daughters and their families. He had been diagnosed with an inoperable kidney tumor in June of 1992.

As his daughter Linda read I Corinthians 15 to him, he lay surrounded by his family in the Stedman home in Grants Pass, Oregon, and passed into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The memorial service was an amazing time of reflection on this great life. Many tears were shed at his passing, there was joyful singing of his favorite hymn, *And Can It Be*, and the service closed with a bagpipe solo of *Amazing Grace*. What better way to send off the Scotsman?

O Ray,

you were the good scribe
who took out of your treasure,
things old and made them new,
as glorious as Emmaus!

You were the loving disciple
whose warmth could disarm,
the most awkward legalist; and rebuild
from that ancient rubble a heart of flesh.

You were our bright illumined star,
the Luther of our generation,
with earthy genius removing the papal scepter,
and fearing none, returned it to the saints.

No rank of man was able to stand,
before your penetrating eye;
nor was there a garrison strong enough
to protect one's heart from your piercing gaze.

You were the orphan of old
who sang in Adullam,
and in that cave gathered
the outcasts of a new age.

You transformed us
by the simplicity
of the Sacred page
into a multitude of Royal sons.

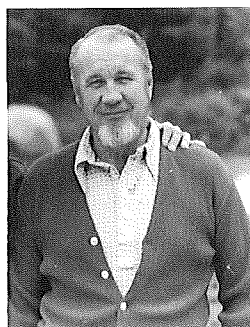
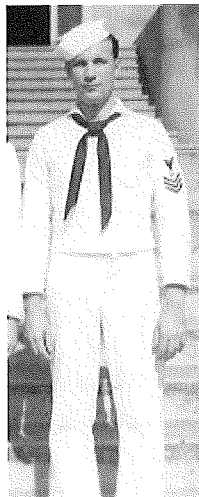
Now we say, "Everything from Him,
nothing from us!"
Yes, any clay pot will do,
but it first must be broken.

And in the end, when you could have had it all,
when all others were playing the role of King,
you arose and said, "It shall not be so among you."
And taking your towel, sat down as a brother.

Now the dream of life is over,
morning of eternity doth succeed,
away the shadows of time
to eternal substance - Yeshuah

And while we remain our tears
shall bear constant witness
that it was you who faithfully taught us
The New Covenant.
We love you, Papa.

brian morgan



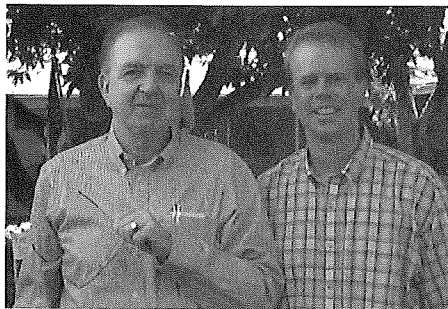
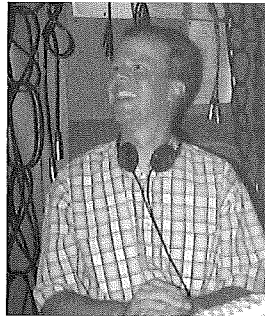
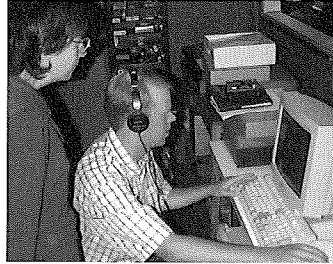
PBC's outreach has now ventured into cyberspace with live broadcasts on the Internet. Lambert Dolphin, Bill Rust, and a team of volunteers under the direction of DP now enable people to hear Sunday morning services as they occur on their computers. The Forum Sunday adult elective class has joined the broadcast schedule, and in the future other events may also go online. Those people who are abroad or confined to their homes may now join alongside those of us on the PBC campus through this newest of outreach modalities.

Through the vision and guidance of Discovery International, a website for Ray Stedman's sermons was created by Mark Verber and

Lambert Dolphin in April 1995. Since then, thousands of hours have been donated expanding the website to include all the printed works of Ray Stedman, Doug Goins, Ron Ritchie, Steve Zeisler and many other who have taught at PBC. Many of the original sermons may be listened to in RealAudio. A CD is also available that includes almost all of the text messages from the Discovery Publishing catalog along with many of the audio messages.

The PBC website (<http://pbc.org>) has grown quickly and continues to grow. Now attracting over 3 million visitors from over 70 countries annually, it brings biblical exposition to a combined numerical and geographical distribution previously beyond the imagination of conventional Christian publishing.

"YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN..."
"YOU ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE."



Bill Rust & Lambert Dolphin working on the weekly broadcast

CHAPTER 13 REFLECTIONS FROM THE POND

Several dear friends who passed through the doors of Peninsula Bible Church were asked -- What has PBC meant to you? What are some personal anecdotes you might have to share from the era in which you were involved? Some wrote back. Some felt overwhelmed by the prospect of writing down all that this place has meant to them. I now offer these to the reader as stories straight from the heart. They are responses from some within our body now, and others who have moved far away but still carry much of PBC with them. Enjoy the feast!

CHARLIE LUCE

For me and Roberta PBC has been a privilege to be one in the Body of Christ worshipping at PBC for 37 years...

-To participate in what God has done in and through PBC from its beginning with a simple Bible class in the Palo Alto Community Center 50 years ago.

-To be given by the Holy Spirit through Ray Stedman the freedom and fulfillment of the New Covenant: "Christ in you the hope of Glory."

- To be appointed to serve my Lord as an elder in His church here these many years.

- To thank our Lord for giving us Ray Stedman as pastor-teacher and for using him to expound the truth

of the scriptures in ways that have resulted in proclaiming it all over the world today by Internet.

- To see that God's hand is upon PBC leadership today and its pastor-teachers to continue in glorifying Him during the next generation.

--In Him Who is our life.

BOB & MARYLOU ROE

What does PBC mean to us? By far the most important thing for us and our family was to grow up in Christ under the expository teaching of the Word of God. Mary Lou and I had recently come to know the Lord under this form of teaching at Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena, which was the home church of the then fledgling Fuller

Theological Seminary. We had their professors preaching in the pulpit and teaching in the adult Sunday School classes and were being fed big, thick, steaks every Sunday and Wednesday nights.

In fact, in 1951 when Standard Oil Co. promoted me to the home office in San Francisco, I was seriously considering resigning from the company in order not to leave Lake Avenue Church. But our pastor there told us there that two of their former leaders -- Ed Stirm, then co-owner of a steel fabricating firm in San Francisco, and Cecil Kettle, then a traveling salesman for Alice of California, a Christian owned dress manufacturing company in Oakland -- had formed a Bible teaching fellowship in Palo Alto called Peninsula Bible Fellowship with three other Christian businessmen. PBF had recently called a new graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary to become PBF's pastor since the five founders traveled a lot in their occupations, thus not being available to the people during the week and also needing a consistent Bible teacher for both the morning and evening services on Sunday. So we moved to Palo Alto.

We discovered that Peninsula Bible Fellowship met in the Palo Alto Community Center in the corner room nearest the juncture of Embarcadero Road and Middlefield Road. The group was made up of about 75-100 people ranging in age from babies in arms to senior citizens. Another of the founders, Harry Smith (a senior vice president of Bank of America) was master of ceremonies and Ed Stirm (who had his

own dance band before becoming a Christian) played the piano and led the music.

The remaining founder (one was transferred to Seattle before we arrived), Bob Smith, was Ed Stirm's chief engineer in his steel fabricating firm. Bob was the prime mover in getting Home Bible Classes established on weeknights up and down the Peninsula aimed at reaching non-believers through expository teaching of the Scripture. I was soon drafted into leading a class and discovered I had the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. These classes resulted in a reverse arrangement from most of our neighboring churches wherein the kids were started in Sunday School to get a religious foundation and got their parents interested in coming to church as a



Maxine Bradford, Roberta Luce, MaryLou Roe, June Lazier, Virginia Coleman



Roy Bradford, Charlie Luce, Bob Roe, Dave Roper

result. In our case, PBF reached parents in weeknight Home Bible Classes who when they came to know the Lord, brought their kids with them to the Sunday services at the Community Center. PBF began to grow steadily because people on the Peninsula were really hungry for expository Bible teaching in both the Home Bible classes on weeknights and on Sundays at the Community Center under Ray Stedman.

A couple of personal observations from those early years. We had attending PBF a young music major who was getting his masters degree at Stanford. His name was Leonard Weeks and he had a marvelous voice. In fact he sang Handel's Messiah with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra on one occasion. He took a personal interest in Elaine Stedman and MaryLou Roe and began giving them voice lessons. Soon Elaine and MaryLou became our special music on some of the Sunday mornings.

Ed Stirm became my spiritual father in Christ and began mentoring me, leading to my becoming an elder. Since we both worked in San Francisco, we began having lunch together every Tuesday at New Joe's Restaurant in North Beach. After a lunch consisting of humongous hamburger steaks and mixed vegetables sautéed in butter, we would drop down to the yacht harbor to look over the larger sea-going yachts. One of our early missionary visions (by Stirm, Stedman, and Roe) was for Ed Stirm to buy a yacht; I would then sail us to the South Pacific (where I had experience as a naval officer in World War II) and Ray Stedman would pass out tracts to the natives-particularly in Tahiti and the surrounding Society Islands. While I became an elder under Ed's tutelage, for some reason the Lord never let us carry out our missionary vision for the South Pacific, even though Ed Stirm and I kept our missionary vision alive over humongous lunches at New Joe's for a considerable period of time.

One of my visions did come true however. Ever since I discovered in teaching my first Home Bible Class for PBF in those early years that I had the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher, I wanted to be a full-time pastor at PBF. When Bob Smith had his severe heart attack and couldn't continue being the pastor of counseling, the elders asked me to leave Standard Oil and take his place. MaryLou and I both knew that this was the will and timing of the Lord and I've been pastoring and eldering at PBC until my retirement in 1990. But as the old saying goes, "Old ministers don't retire, they just go out to pastor," so MaryLou and I have been teaching, discipling, and counseling the younger generations in our home ever since, and plan to do so until the Lord calls us home. And with 50 years of marriage together, we have lots of experience to draw from.

PAUL SPATES

PBC had been my home church since my conversion in 1969. I brought kids there when Body Life was in full swing and nothing I've ever seen has duplicated that. I was greatly affected by the ministry of Dave Roper and Ron Ritchie. It's the only time I could be in church for two hours and not get the wiggles. The informality was made for me,

there were no trappings. The ministry was relational and incarnate. Ron Ritchie came and spoke to our Young Life group and I'll never forget his personal encouragement in the midst of the insanity of Young Life. PBC has meant a great deal to me in my walk with Jesus.

GERALYN (CARACCILO) GIESE

My involvement with PBC began in the mid-1970's. Historically, society was in turmoil. We'd come out of a decade of losing friends to war, the rise of Eastern mysticism, the appearance of illegal drugs on campuses and musicians declaring they were more popular than Jesus. It was now common to distrust anyone in authority. As teens, we were disillusioned, apathetic and lacked focus for our lives. The stage had been set for both a spiritual awakening within the world and a revival within the church.

Personally, I was raised in a faith that emphasized the externals. I was motivated to do "good works" by the fear of an angry God. I had been

taught that God had a giant blackboard on which He "kept score" of my behavior. (Personal computers weren't invented yet!) My prayer life consisted of begging an impersonal deity to pay attention

to me by manipulating Him with my "good behavior," as if I understood what that concept meant. Although I was truly loved by my parents, they were in bondage to generational sin. Theirs was a love based on fear, superstition, condemnation, and humiliation. This childhood environment coupled with my belief-system produced a neurotic and performance-oriented young woman who desperately needed Truth.

Then in God's perfect timing, the early 1970's, came the "Jesus Movement." I was among those who entrusted my life to a loving and personal Savior. During that time the Spirit of God was moving in a way that hadn't been witnessed for decades. There were daily accounts of dramatically changed lives: spiritual blindness healed, people in bondage released. There were quiet conversions and dramatic confessions, all having found the Truth they had so hungered for.

I recall so many faithful pastors, teachers, musicians, artists, songwriters and evangelists who were serving God tirelessly. One of the most influential places in the country (and many parts of the world) was Peninsula Bible Church.

I first visited PBC in 1974 with some friends. I remember walking



PBC Staff, circa 1985

in and seeing wall-to-wall people. Some were in shorts! Some were barefoot! Guys had long hair! There were musicians playing guitars! (In church of all places!) What was going on? People were allowed in and accepted regardless of how they looked. The emphasis seemed to be on the spiritual changes in these folks' lives; about how Jesus was real and personal and was actively changing them!

As if that wasn't enough, up walks this sort of cool guy with bell bottoms, a very wide belt and cowboy boots. This was a pastor? He was directing that the offering plates be passed and saying "Drop in a donation if you are led and if you're in need, go ahead and take some out." (My eyes were quite wide at this point...) This pastor then introduced the "Pastor/Teacher" for that service. (Which by the way was called 'Body Life.') An older man with twinkly blue eyes walked up and began to teach with such authority and humility I was stunned. He taught right out of the Bible! At the end of the teaching time he said, "Don't believe my words, check out the Word of God for yourself!"

At the end of the service I vacillated between exploding with excitement because my hungry soul finally had hope and falling over in a dead faint because everything was so foreign and unconventional. I chose to return the following Sunday with a very wide grin on my face and peace in my heart. I also had a deep "knowing" that I would spend many years among this Body of Believers...how true!

I began as a volunteer for Discovery Publishing in 1975 and was hired in 1977 where I remained until 1985. I find it impossible to list my involvement, emotion, or the number of people that impacted my life. May I just say that God used the gifted men and women at PBC to help restore my soul and explore the possibilities He had for me with my gifts and the most foundational of all—finally believing that God wasn't mad at me anymore; that He loved me with an unconditional love and there was no point-system. There was a gift called grace. I was released from bondage to the fear I had grown up with! I now had the freedom to pray and say "Help, Papa!" I had unspeakable joy in my heart.

This was a part of Ray's vision, "equipping the Saints for the work of the ministry." I was one of thousands touched and externally impacted by the ministry of PBC. It was within that Body that I met lifelong friends, my husband of 15 years and dedicated my two children to the Lord. In 1994 we moved and are now attending a small Bible church. We now find ourselves as the older ones teaching the younger. It is a very exciting time. My heartfelt thanks go out to the many servants of the Lord that gave themselves so faithfully to ministry. God's riches blessings upon you all.

JOANIE TANKERSLEY

The first Sunday I attended PBC in the summertime of 1971 I wandered into the Fireside Room where someone named Bob Roe was teaching an adult Sunday School class. I had been a Christian only a short time and had never heard anyone make the truths of Scripture come alive like he did! He talked non-stop about the Lord Jesus! I was hooked!

After that I stayed for the 11:00 service and heard this amazing man, Ray Stedman open God's Word with such clarity and insight, I knew God had brought me to a place where my hunger and thirst for the Lord and His Word would be satisfied. How marvelously true that was! Very particular points of Ray's sermons still spring to mind on a regular basis and along with them, a clear picture of Ray teaching with his own unique gestures. It was with such joy that I was taught deep truths of the faith that formed and shaped my walk with Christ and for which I shall ever be eternally grateful.

My husband, Bill, and I were married at PBC in 1972 while Bill was directing the Intern Program. I had the great privilege of attending several of those classes and enjoyed the fellowship of staff and interns during a time of great revival in the community and especially on college campuses. It was thrilling to experience the work of the Holy Spirit through Ray's vision for Body Life, the priesthood of all believers, discipling others and walking in the New Covenant.

Moving away for a number of years, we returned to PBC in 1985, where I was privileged to work as Pastor to Children right at the time when PBC South came into being. The miracle of seeing God birth this new ministry and especially all the ministries to children that came out of the efforts of so many adults at both PBC North and South. It was my great joy to minister alongside so many women and men who gave themselves fully to the Lord's work in reaching and teaching children and their families.

To serve with my most esteemed brother and elder in the Lord, Charlie Luce, was a blessing beyond words. The godly influence of Elaine Stedman in her devotion and unfailing commitment to follow the Lord Jesus was profoundly valuable to me. At PBC I experienced the true call of discipleship in relationship with several women with whom I shared a growing and deepening love for the Lord and His supernatural power to open and transform lives. It was a rich time in our lives to share in the powerful work of God's grace in the fellowship of faith at PBC. May He continue to be glorified in all that happens at PBC.

GARY & AMY MARCHETTI

How do you describe the impact that PBC has had in our lives over the past 25 years? Impossible in a short few paragraphs, but I'll try. . .When you are in the midst of the body at PBC, you hardly realize how much you are soaking up. But once you gain a bit of distance, you are struck by how much you have been changed and formed by the preaching of God's Word and the fellowship of believers. There are not many places like PBC that seek the truth and give God the glory for their successes.

Whenever we have been given the opportunity to address a group of people, whether it is in the church or in the secular arena, we are struck by how many of our ideas and even direct quotes come from pastors at PBC. As I listened to Gary address the technical crew at Perimeter Church in Atlanta, I heard him say, "After we leave, I would hope the people around us will say, "I feel like I've just been with Jesus," not, 'Jesus, who have I just

been with?" Direct quote from Ron Ritchie. When Gary responded with a remarkable answer to a pastor's question in Romania, I asked him how he knew the answer. He said, "Steve (Zeisler) said that in his last series."

Doug Goins encouraged us many times in our trips to Romania, and often kept us on track and walking forward. So many people gave generously to our mission trips, and were a source of prayer and emotional support. We are grateful to you all.

A few poignant moments I'll never forget:

--Body Life days in the early seventies, with the Holy Spirit sweeping through the auditorium like a fire. John Fischer, Marge Snyder, Pam Mark Hall, etc.

--Touring with Doug Goins, Terry Bates, the LaPoints, etc.

--Sitting at the feet and learning from incredible women - Elaine Stedman, Joanie Tankersley, Carol Lind, Grace Rhie, Vickie Powers and others.

--Sitting at the feet and learning from incredible men - too many to name, but suffice it to say that our spiritual food from pabulum to meat came from you.

--Brian Morgan, the ultimate shepherd (this side of heaven) and all the wonderful trips to Romania. Amazing grace that we were never caught by the secret police.

--Standing at the front of the auditorium alongside Ray Stedman, Bud Hinkson and Luis Palau, sensing the angels around these three men and savoring the moment with the prophet, the visionary, the evangelist.

--Working with Glenn Pickett, joking with Glenn Pickett, traveling with Glenn Pickett, eating with Glenn Pickett, crying with Glenn Pickett, growing with Glenn Pickett (OK, not in stature, but in spiritual strength)

25 years on one page? Impossible. A book maybe. A life definitely.

TUVYA ZARETSKY

When I became a believer in Jesus back in 1970 I was basically all alone in Southern California. I thought I was the only Jew in the world crazy enough to believe in Jesus. Within a few weeks I left the United States and moved to Israel. When I returned to the United States almost two years later, I visited briefly with my non-Christian Jewish parents. It wasn't long before I was disowned and disenfranchised from the family.

I started to attend Peninsula Bible Church in late 1972. Every weekend I drove down from Marin County where I was living, working and volunteering at the start of the Jews for Jesus movement. PBC was a body of believers who were enthusiastic about the Bible, in love with the Lord and walking with Him through thick and thin. I found real people who had struggles just like me, and yet who were ready to encourage one another to press on in the faith.

From observing Ray Stedman, I studied how to investigate the Bible and to apply it. From watching others in the congregation, I learned that it was important to be real, no masks here! That allowed me to be comfortable both as a burden person and as a servant of the Messiah who could encourage other people even though I am struggling just like them.

Although I've lived and ministered in Chicago, New York, New England, San Francisco and now in Los Angeles, I still consider PBC my home church. It was there that I learned to love the Word of God, to expect to be accountable for the way that I live it, to be courageous in my faith and to have some theological moorings.

When I first was attending PBC, Ray Stedman was teaching through the book of Romans. My life had been thrown into havoc when I trusted Christ in December of 1970. Family and friends were upset and turning against me. My pre-Christian career was long behind me. I was considering what God wanted me to do next and feared that it might be to enter into full-time service as a missionary to my own people.

One Sunday morning, I was sitting in the second to the last row, in the back on the right side. Ray was just concluding his study of the book of Romans. In particular, he focused on Romans 16:25 & 27, "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my Gospel and preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past... to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen." He exegeted the words "who is able to establish you." I have never forgotten that lesson. In the midst of havoc and turmoil, I met the God who has been my rock and my fortress ever since.

In 1980, I was living in San Francisco while temporarily assigned to a Jews for Jesus training program there. I was also dating Ellen in a pretty serious way. We both knew that we were courting and headed toward a possible engagement. I was just too frightened to take the plunge at that point.

Right after the morning service, during the Sunday school hour, there was a time to meet the pastors. It was a period when folks could talk to the pastor about the sermon in sort of a free flowing exchange.

Ron Ritchie was helping out that morning as Ray had given the main message. I can't remember if I raised my hand to ask a question. I do remember Ron Ritchie asking me and Ellen both to stand. In all his affectionate exuberance, he announced to everybody in the sanctuary that we were engaged. I had to publicly ask if he was speaking prophetically, to get me off the hook as Ellen was glaring at me as if I might have put him up to doing my dirty work. Anyway, it was enough to push me to action as if God was talking about the next step.

BILL LAWRENCE

It's just about impossible to say what PBC meant to me when I was twenty-five years old, just finished my ThM at Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS), and arriving for an internship in 1965.

My first impression wasn't all that positive. I arrived and looked at the auditorium while I was waiting to meet someone—probably Bob Smith—to find out where I was going to live—with John and Helen Edrington on Creekside in Palo Alto. I had done an internship with J. Vernon McGee at the Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles three years earlier—a church of 4,000. I was surprised at how small PBC was until I learned how to measure things much more realistically. Then PBC took

on immeasurable value in my life. Here in bullet fashion are some of the things that come to mind.

--I met my wife, Lynna, in 1964 at PBC where she had grown up under Ray Stedman's ministry and influenced greatly by Dave Roper and married her there in 1965.

--I found my model for ministry, both in Ray Stedman and in the way PBC was structured around spiritual gifts with multiple elders and focused on the ministry of the new covenant.

--I learned the spiritual life at PBC, and all that I teach now in the Spiritual Life course at Dallas Seminary can be traced back to that time.

--I saw the Bible in action; Dallas Seminary had taught me the core theoretical truth well, but PBC showed me the meaning of inspiration by demonstrating how a church applies the Bible in every area of its life.

--I defined major parts of my approach to leadership through an understanding of spiritual gifts, the significance of all in the Body of Christ, the absence of hierarchical values in leading others, the responsibility of leaders to develop other leaders.

--I gained many of my core character values at PBC, including the idea that leaders are accountable to followers as I saw this modeled in Ray's response to the staff and the board (he didn't always listen, but he never cut off even the most unfair criticism).

--I saw evangelism work for the first time in my life and learned much of how to reach the "Stanford" type of person.

I came to PBC from Dallas Seminary for a summer internship in the summer of 1964. In that time I remember sitting in board meetings where men prayed and acted in concert together or they didn't act at all. I saw men who had been developed by a pastor who loved them and whom they respected in profound ways. I saw a staff that studied and worked together. I learned the ministry of the new covenant, meeting with the staff for study each week under Ray's leadership. I went on the Stanford Campus and saw five people come to Christ that summer—two of them later came to DTS for a time. I taught the college class and was amazed by what God did in the lives of several people in the group. All of this was life changing in virtually every way I could think of.

I also came face-to-face with some needs in my life that I was completely unaware of and that I have worked to face throughout my pilgrimage, sometimes with growing success and sometimes with discouraging failure. I returned to PBC after I finished my studies at DTS for one year as the first one-year intern with the title Resident Associate Pastor (Ray borrowed this from the medical model—I had advanced from intern to resident). It was during this time that Ray invited me preach several times in the morning service—what a risk taker he was. I also taught an adult Sunday School class that resulted in contacts with people from San Jose, and this led to the development of South Hills Community Church.

Ray also invited me to participate in a leadership development group in Gerhardt Dirks' house in Los Altos Foothills. That was an interesting experience for me since I had never been around businessmen nor

participated in such a setting. It was my first step toward the ministry I now have among entrepreneurs, executives, and professionals here in Dallas and elsewhere. It was also my first step toward moving from being a loner to becoming a relater. We were a very diverse group, and I know now that I did not fit at all. I worked in day camp as part of my ministry since people seemed to feel that a seminarian with a doctorate needed to be exposed to children. That was a good time. The year was a good year of exploration as we determined the Lord's direction for us to start a church in south San Jose when it was nothing but unfinished houses and thousands of people were pouring into that area. I had never seen anything like it!

We started South Hills Community Church out of PBC. We began with a home Bible class following the model I had seen at PBC and then started with a Sunday morning service on September 14, 1969. I continued in a relationship with PBC across the remaining twelve years we were in the Bay Area from 1969 to 1981.

I was part of the initial start up of Discovery Foundation with its Bible teaching ministry to all of the body of Christ. We met quarterly upstairs in somebody's office up there and made many significant decisions. Back then Pete Irish was heading up the publishing ministry, and we were in the process of developing the mailing list—or it was developing itself as people heard of what was going on from all around the country. This led to the publication of Ray's books—still going on—and, of course, to the Internet ministry of today.

I was also involved in times with Discovery Center, both in teaching there as well as in the pastors conferences which we sponsored. Although my time was limited, it was a good experience of working with some very talented and committed young men and women.

I went to the Philippines as part of a six-man team with Ray and Bob Smith and Ray Benson, Jr., and Ron Ritchie, and two other men. This occurred in 1972 at a time when I wasn't ready for such responsibility. The Lord used it in my life, although I don't see what He could have done through my ministry at the time. I regard the experience as the very first time I was broken—one of the most strategic events in my walk with God.

Because of my time at PBC, I met people from Overseas Crusades and later ended up on their board where I have now served for over twenty-six years (for a while Ray and I were both on the board at the same time). Because of my involvement with OC, I have had ministry or travel in over forty countries around the world. This is unbelievable for a person who never was away from home overnight even one time until he was twenty-one years old.

Just as I was transitioning from South Hills to the faculty at Dallas Seminary, Ray invited me to be part of COBE (The Committee on Biblical Exposition). We sponsored and held two national conferences on expository preaching in an effort to encourage pastors and lay teachers from all over the world to focus on the exposition of God's word as the primary means of reaching and building men and women in Christ. It was a challenging and visionary time for all involved.

Today I have been married for thirty-three years (August 14, 1965—1998) and have three sons, two in ministry/seminary and one a senior in college who directs the campus improv comedy group known as Freudian Slip. Ray would love all my sons, Kent for his heart and Joel for his inquiring mind, but he would be drawn especially to the independent and creative Kyle (our actor and comedian who likes to live outside the lines).

How can I describe what PBC means to me? My marriage, my family, my ministry, the introduction of the world to me in so many ways. I came an urban kid from Philadelphia with no sophistication of any kind and no sense of the world and what it is all about. Through PBC I was introduced to Christ in me (I had never met Him in that way before) as well as Christ in the world, alive and powerful and truly making a difference despite the resistance of Satan and the arrogance of man.

I think this is what I gained the most from PBC—this sense that Christ is personal in our lives (not just collection of facts) and that He is sovereign no matter how it looks. I also learned that people are interested in knowing Him when He is represented truly through the brokenness of our clay. He is absolutely our only hope of glory, and His glory fills our lives with light today. Think of what it will be like to be filled with His glory forever. For me PBC was a taste of that glory. I learned that the size of a church is not nearly as important as the glory that fills it.

LYNN BERNTSON

Our adventure in PBC as a family was primarily about relationships, encouragement, great teaching and very exciting encounters with the pagan world. 96 Hawthorne was a circus, a 24 hr day, 7 day week, experience. My first encounter with a PBC pastor was not an invitation to work in Sunday School or help purchase a new organ. The pastor simply said, "We notice your circus and wonder if we can help?" I said to Della, "probably a new scheme to get us involved in some program, pretending they really care about us!" The teaching did surprise me and I started taking notes. As a corporate "lower executive" I always struggled to understand the balance between buildings, programs, staff, budgets and my personal stewardship to widows, orphans, the hungry, lonely and the least among us. PBC allowed total freedom to work that out without any pressure or subtle suggestions of how I should manage my time and funds. They were spiritually mature, secure to leave that to God.

A delightful memory was watching Bob Barnett explain an Apollo moon flight to a group of Nigerian men not yet acquainted with the telephone. After an excellent message with great graphics Bob asked the group for questions. After some silence two questions emerged. "Why did you do that?" and "How much did it cost?" Bob struggled to convert billions of dollars to cows and sheep. The interpreter simply kept staring at him.

Ted Wise followed with great courage and vision explaining what the real Christ was like. On the wall was a very old silk painting of the last supper, similar to an Elvis painting in Las Vegas. The disciples and

Jesus appeared similar to a rock group in the 60's. Ted struggled to not offend their very valuable painting and in his unique style presented the real Jesus. He also exhorted the men to allow women to join our studies (contrary to that culture). After showing them the biblical principle, they opened the doors.

Paul Winslow and I retraced our steps the next summer to survey effects of that first trip. I did not go to jail for taking a picture in the wrong place during that second trip. PBC meant many experiences such as this, at home and other places.

TED & ELIZABETH WISE

My wife and I met and married in college. I had just returned from a four year enlistment in the US Navy. Our beatnik sentiments lead us to San Francisco in 1960. Our life on the outside looked like the coolest life anyone could have. Friends from beats to yachtsman, jazz musicians, artists and poets, Olympic sailors, sea faring adventurers and America's Cup captains. Dedicated Yogis, Buddhists, Anarchists, Communists and right wing extremists. The notorious and the famous.

Inside, known only to a small circle of friends, was our real life. Both of us and a few others were supremely disappointed; we found ourselves part of an alienated group that fell through the cracks of post-Korean War American society. We called ourselves the Interstitial Culture. Eventually, one will experience a brutal revelation of the poverty of one's soul or psyche. Some free will choice. That's what happened to me. While on my way to my own Damascus, (to become a genie I think), I found it necessary to cry out to God to save my life in every sense of the word. Jesus knocked me off my metaphysical ass. I could choose Him or literally suffer a fate worse than death.

Fortunately my wife, suffering the same devastation of her own spiritual ecology, had begun to attend a small old fashioned Baptist church. Like a tiny island in a sea of sensual nonsense, this church had managed to survive in what was the most fleshly indulgent county in California. The folks who attended it reminded my wife of her family church and of her 11th year acceptance of Christ. She started to attend church for our children's sake and perhaps to run into her long lost spiritual friend Jesus. She also asked some elderly saints to pray for me. They did and I was soon reading the New Testament.

Apart from going to church once with my grandmother and forced attendance at a couple of all purpose chapel services in the Navy, my first exposure to

Christianity was reading the New Testament.

My second Christian encounter was my confrontation with Jesus and the third was when I went with my wife and children to the small Baptist church in Marin and made my first in-front-of Christians profession of my faith in Jesus as my Savior, much to the surprise of the pastor who later baptized me. This is also where I first met my brothers and sisters in Christ. I didn't like church much but I sure liked Jesus.

Before long, we began to sell our possessions: houses, cars, etc. and to



*PBC Pastoral Staff 1979 -- Back row: Ron Ritchie, Ted Wise, Kim Anderson, Paul Winslow, Doug Goins, Kent McClean, Ray Ortlund, Steve Zeisler, Gary Vanderet
Front row: Brian Morgan, Bob Roe, Ray Stedman, Bob Smith, Jack Crabtree, Walt McCuiston*

call nothing our own. We rented a large old two story farm house in northern Marin County, first just four couples and seven children. Within a month or so another couple from Los Angeles joined us. Then we proceeded to offer our hospitality to as many others as we had room for. Meanwhile, the pastors provided some of the means and all the respectability we needed to rent a storefront in Haight Ashbury so that we could feed people and preach Christ.

At first it worked fine. We were out of their hair (believe it or not, hair was a moral issue in those days) and we were able to preach the gospel to several thousand people. Mostly one-on-one over a bowl of soup, but sometimes in the park at free concerts we would ask if we could make an announcement about how the world was coming to an end and what to do about it. Like my friend Ron Ritchie says, "Just show up, God will do the rest". The Lord has gotten me past the most elaborate security systems just so I could give my testimony as a witness for Christ or to quietly whisper in someone's ear that Jesus is Lord. All doors are open to Him.

Soon though, the press found us and the gospel hit the fan. First, Christian Life magazine, then Time and hundreds of other publications. We became a "for or against" issue. Our welcome to the Church At Large was a lot of hate mail. It had not crossed our minds how the rest of Christendom might respond to our living arrangement. We naively thought that they would see that we were simply doing it right: living out the New Testament in 3D. Slim chance, fat attitude.

Eventually thousands of people came to Christ and we had a great time. But much to our surprise, instead of being able enjoy the fruit of our fellowship in an even more rural setting, we were soon dispersed, just like the early church. We had become too utopian.

After closing down the house, I briefly went back to sailmaking in Sausalito but was soon asked to join the staff (if you could call it that) at Peninsula Bible Church. They wanted to start a drug rehabilitation program so they invited my wife and I to move to Palo Alto with our

children and become a part of their church. That was in the early 70's and since then it has been so-far-so-good. Over the years we have been able to help jump start a number of other counseling outreaches, including two full fledged psychiatric clinics, and I teach semi-regularly at PBC.

I already knew a number of leaders at PBC and had spoken at Body Life service on several occasions. I had been traveling with Dr. Ray Stedman as part of a team of men ministering all over the world. For instance one Christmas Lambert Dolphin and I went to India to give our testimonies in a number of odd venues. Ray Stedman became my mentor and teacher. I learned that in the beginning I had indeed read the New Testament rightly. What the Bible taught me on that first reading was that Christianity was something that was supposed to happen to me, not something I did to myself.

It was wonderful to have my original faith restored, to hear from Dr. Stedman that what I thought I read in the first place was actually true. No wonder they called it good news. We had found, at least for now, our church home. Same old difficulties over appearances and the usual "for and against" issues. With one big difference though, there was and is a consistent effort being made by the elect to learn what the Apostles truly believed and to have a like minded faith. This is literally the foundation of authentic Christianity.

Over the years, we have noticed that other Interstitial Christians are drawn to PBC, outwardly grooving on whatever is happening for them. Privately, known only to a small circle of friends, we are still trying to live out what began in the Book of Acts, believing that Jesus taught us to totally depend on the Father. Everything from Him, nothing from us. I'm sure you know the old road apple, "The world has yet to see the good that a man fully yielded to God can do". This is not true! The world has seen a man fully yielded to God. Jesus was a man, fully man, fully God, and fully yielded to God. He said that everything He did and said was the Father. In fact He told His disciples that if they had seen Him, they had seen God.

For the most part, I think that the evangelical church's triumphant entrance into these last days is pretty much a parade of hot air balloons. We like to salute the passing banners but we prefer not to carry them into the fray. I have found that PBC is refreshingly involved on the front lines of our nation's spiritual battles (this time without the nuisance of the press).

STEVE ZEISLER

It has been more than thirty years since I have recorded a note in a yearbook (La Canada High School class of '67).

It is a privilege to write in a book of appreciation for the work of God at Peninsula Bible Church. This congregation has been my home for those same thirty years - as an undergraduate, intern, pastoral beginner, and on to a deeply rewarding (to me) ministry as a pastor and elder

among Jesus' people here.

I have met the best people I know in this church; have been discipled and encouraged by some of the finest Christian leaders of the generation that preceded my own. The Lord has done works on a grand and intimate scale during my time here. He has always been at the center.

In 2 Timothy 1:3-5 Paul wrote to his spiritual son about the faith that nourished Israel's forefathers (and Timothy's foremothers). It was Paul's faith in his time and would sustain Timothy in the generation to follow.

The glorious treasure that is the gospel has been believed, expounded, acted on with courage, and passed on faithfully in PBC's fifty years. That is what I appreciate most about this place: here I have experienced the great, eternal river of God's presence and God's truth. It has been my immeasurable privilege to spend most of my life, and all of ministry in a church that is committed to integrity, love, serious reflection, and joy.

To God be the glory.

DOUG GOINS

In 1968 I joined the program staff at Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center. During six years of ministry there I was introduced to PBC through the pastoral staff who spoke at Mount Hermon - Bill Dempster, Bill Lawrence, Ron Ritchie, Dave Roper, Ray Stedman and Ted Wise. Ray served as well on the Board of Trustees at Mount Hermon. I saw in all those men an attractive freedom in Christ, and a passion for the Word of God.

A watershed time for me was hearing Ray teach 2 Corinthians 2:14 - 6:13 at a Mount Hermon Pastor's Conference. The revolutionary message of the possibility of living a new covenant lifestyle of authentic Christianity was liberating for me. The spiritual reality that I'm not adequate or sufficient to accomplish anything for the Lord - only He is through me - was life changing.

Personal friendship with Ray and later with Ron Ritchie and Ted Wise drew me into the life of PBC. While still on staff at Mount Hermon I regularly attended the Sunday evening Body Life services, eventually singing and leading worship there. Ray invited me to sing on Sunday mornings at PBC as well. During those years I worked with Ron and Ted in sponsoring Christian rock concerts in the bay area. And, served on the

board of directors of Discovery Art Guild, PBC's training center of Christian artists in the early 70s. Through the DAG, I was privileged to serve with Dan Collins, John Fisher and Mike Johnson.

I spent four years in Los Angeles, 1974-1978, serving first as a Youth Pastor, and then attending Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Through those years Ray Stedman, Ron Ritchie, and John Fisher were faithful to maintain the relationships the Lord had forged among us.

Before my graduation from Fuller in 1978, the PBC elders, through Ray and Ron, asked me to join the pastoral staff here as the first full time Music Pastor. Twenty years later, I'm deeply grateful to the Lord for bringing me to this place of service. Candy and I began marriage together here. Our children have known no other church home. And to this day I still am attracted to the aromatic freedom in Christ this place exudes and to the passion for the Word of God which is still strong here.

SCOTT GRANT

Including PBC, there have been four churches in my life. At the other three, PBC always seemed to be hanging around, so to speak. In high school in the mid-1970s, I came to Christ at the Union Presbyterian Church of Los Altos. The youth pastor there, Conrad Hopkins, had grown up at PBC. After college, in the early 1980s, I attended PBC. Later on in the 1980s, when I moved to the East Bay, I ended up at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton, because that's where Conrad was. Again, in a sense, PBC was there. When I decided that I wanted further training in the scriptures and in ministry, I moved to Boise, Idaho, in 1990 to be an intern at Cole Community Church. There I was trained by the likes of David Roper, a former PBC pastor; Kris Rudell, a former PBC intern; and Bryan Fischer, who had attended PBC earlier in his life. So I suppose it should have come as no surprise that when I began looking for a church to serve in, the current of God's grace swept me to PBC in 1994. In a sense, I was coming home. In another sense, I had never left. PBC gave me the scriptures, and it gave me some men who invested in me. It gave me the word of God and the people of God.

PENINSULA BIBLE CHURCH

To leave a church home is a difficult thing.
To this haven of comfort and friendship, we cling.
Still, god had a plan which took us away,
Where new friends awaited, where we would stay.

God's Word, the foundation, revered and sought.
Through men who loved god, Truth was faithfully taught.
The pastor, by God's grace, was humble and wise.
When he taught verse by verse there was not compromise.

Week after week, as Truth was expounded,
People were coming, their faith being grounded.
Friendships were formed, activities flourished,
And all of the while our spirits were nourished,
By faithful and godly men of great mettle,
Stedman, Roper, Roe, Smith and Kettle.

A feast of God's Word each time that we met,
Shaped our lives then and are guiding us yet.

A place for our children where they could go,
To be nurtured and loved so their faith could grow.
Young people blessed with leadership ample.
Role models teaching, by their example.

All that we valued suddenly changed.
The world in rebellion, gone mad and deranged.
Into our midst came, with no preparation
A movement they called, "The Love Generation."
Kids in rebellion with sad empty faces.
Looking for love in all the wrong places.
Wanting answers to what they could live for,
Seeking direction and needing an anchor.

"Body Life" was born, with Christ at the head.
Some who were wand'ring found a church home instead.
While "free speech" and "free love" reigned 'cross our nation,
Lives were changed by Christ's new creation.

Lost souls were finding love and acceptance.
People race about to share their abundance.
Hearts hungry for meaning were satisfied,
As they learned in the Savior, they could abide.
Fruitful years of revival,
For some meant survival.

Every message, to life, was relevant.
We learned to live by the "New Covenant."
Scribes and interns disciples and trained,
A new generation of leaders was gained.

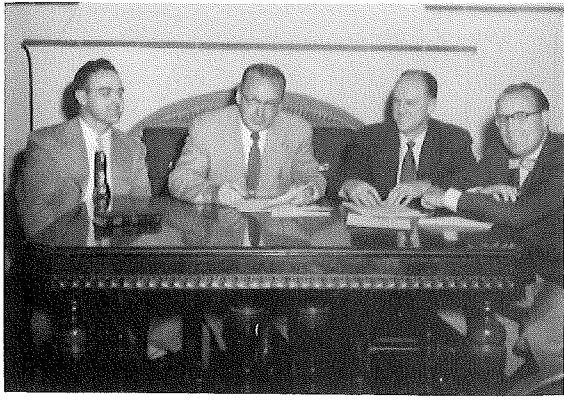
God's Word still proclaimed. It won't return void.
Though the enemy lurks and seeks to destroy.
The work God began, he will complete.
Though the world remains evil, His saints He will keep
through the pressures of life, some children have strayed,
But we trust in God's promise, foundation was laid.

Affectionately known as PBC,
Now approaching half a century.
Faithful men who were led by God,
Started a ministry, spread here and abroad.
We pray to continue to be salt and light
In a world that continues to live in the night.

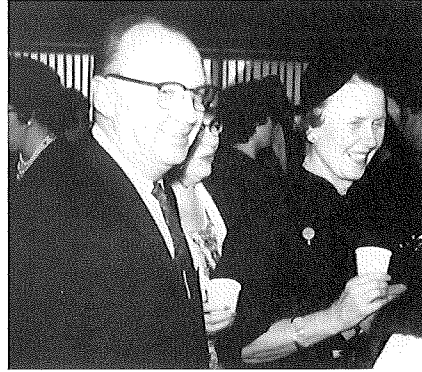
"Where evil abounds, grace much more abounds."
We thank You, Lord.

Colleen Coleman, June 1996
(wife of Bob Coleman, early PBC elder)

EYE ON PBC



Max Tatman, Ed Stirm, Bob Smith, Ray Stedman, 1956



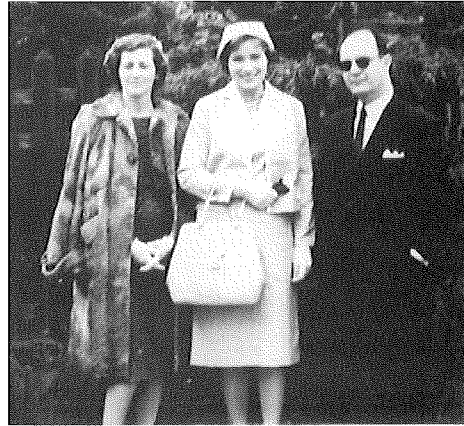
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Stirm



Harry & Marjorie Smith



Ray & Elaine at Ray's graduation from Dallas Seminary.



Elaine with Jeanne & Howard Hendricks



Elaine with Pearl & Bob Smith



Staff & Elders, circa 1962

Front: Max Tatman, Roy Bradford, Ed Stirm, Charlie Luce, John Edrington, Bob Coleman

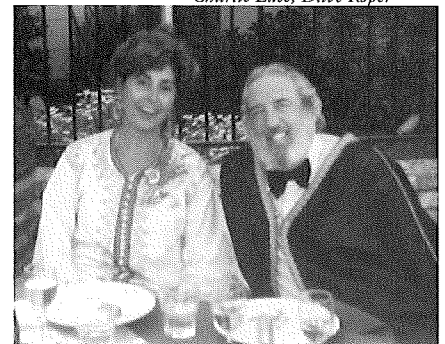
Back: Paul Lind, David Roper, Bud Lewis, Fred Rudell, Dale Cook, Bob Roe, Ray Stedman, Cecil Kettle, Bob Smith



Charlie Luce, Dave Roper

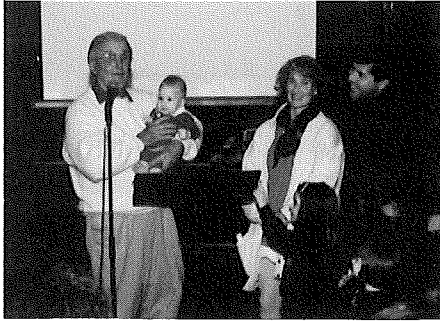


Bob & Pearl Smith, Elaine Stedman, Jeanne & Howard Hendricks, 1990



Ron & AnneMarie Ritchie

EYE ON PBC



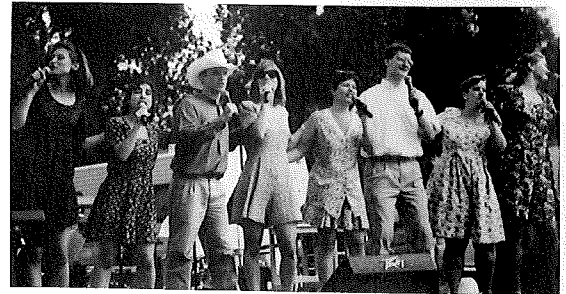
Pickett Family Dedication at Camp Hammer



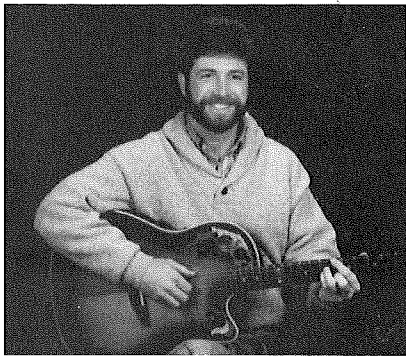
Pryzm at Christmas



One Accord performance at Nordstrom, Stanford Shopping Center



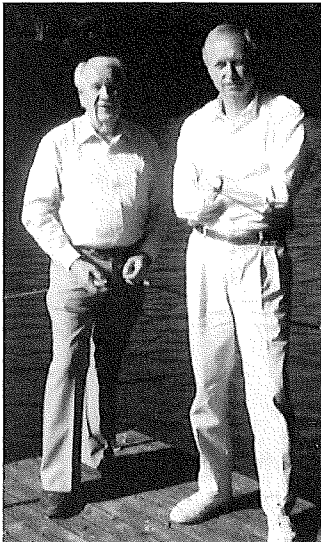
Pryzm on tour in Arroyo Grande



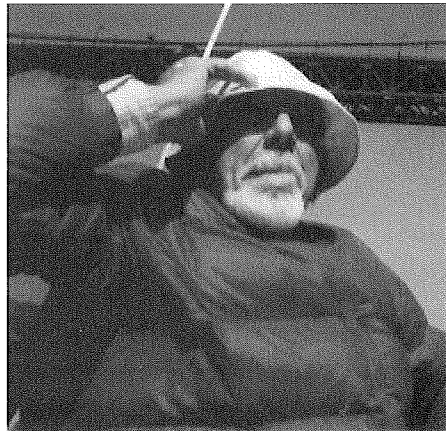
Reggie Coates, former PBC Cupertino music pastor



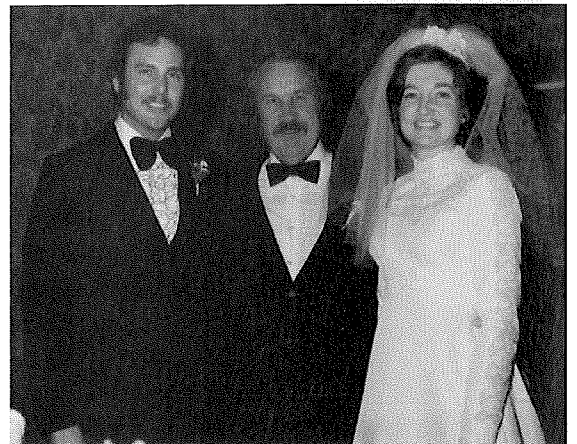
Children's Choir performance



Ray & Ed Stirm, Jr.



Jack Bradley



Ray performs Dick & Jan Patterson's wedding