

Cabinet file

August 9, 1960

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Please add to BP of August 8, 1960, "Spokane Church Cited As 'First of 30,000!'"

As a mission, Northtown was sponsored in 1955 by the Driscoll Boulevard Baptist Church of Spokane. In a year's time Sunday school attendance grew to 100; and a church was constituted with 44 charter members and a full program.

Located in one of Southern Baptists' fastest growing pioneer areas, Northtown has added three missions of its own to the 30,000 Movement, selected a site for a fourth, and taken steps to begin a fifth. The missions, located at Cheney, Milan, and Medical Lake, Wash., began in various ways, according to Tommy C. Adams, pastor since 1957 of the 225-member church.

A young couple moving into Cheney found a town of 2400, plus 1800 college students, with no Baptist church. After driving 23 miles to Northtown for church each week, they began prayer meetings in Cheney. Interest mounted; a mission was started; property was purchased, and a mission pastor was called.

A Baptist family found no church in Milan. The mission which they helped start, and which Northtown sponsored, is the first in 41 years to hold services in its own building in Milan, just 25 miles north of Spokane.

Two student summer missionaries of the Home Mission Board surveyed Medical Lake for prospects for Northtown's Cheney mission in 1959. They found more Baptist prospects there than at Cheney. Consequently, Northtown started a mission with a vision, but no members, in that town of 1400. The mission has grown; a pastor is on the field, and a building site has been purchased.

The young people are responding to the missionary zeal of the Northtown Church, according to Adams. Kenneth Schmidt, one of Northtown's young men who surrendered to the Christian ministry as a high school Senior, said, "God used no special circumstances to call me into his service. He just spoke...he called me to preach Jesus Christ...I can do no other."

Kenneth, a student at Eastern Washington College of Education, plans to enter theological seminary after college. He says, "It took quite a bit of urging from my father and sister before I came to Northtown Church. I had been saved when I was younger...but I felt the Holy Spirit calling me to come closer to God and to other Christians. This was possible because Rev. Adams was sound in doctrine and faithful in presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Roland P. Hood of Portland, Ore., associate executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, recounted the accomplishments of the Northtown Church in accepting the recognition for the church at Glorieta Baptist Assembly.