

Master Plan

EXODUS / NEW JERSEY

PROLOGUE

Exodus/New Jersey is a creative adventure in faith planned for some 100 or more self-supporting families -- vocational missionaries -- who will make a permanent move in August of 1966 to Somerset County, New Jersey, to establish a strong, nondenominational church patterned after the doctrine of the New Testament

Both the inspiration and organizational impetus for the new work came from Exodus/Bay Shore, the pioneering effort among churches of Christ in this bold approach to evangelism. Eighty-five families made up the original Exodus/Bay Shore group and moved in August of 1963 to Suffolk County, L.I., New York, to begin a dynamic church on the south shore of Long Island. God has wrought amazing results through this dedicated missionary church, now meeting at 600 Montauk Highway in West Islip, L.I. Her faith and works are esteemed by a grateful brotherhood to be a marvelous re-enactment of New Testament Christianity.

In July of 1964 the Golf Course Road Church of Christ in Midland, Texas, in response to an appeal from the Exodus/Bay Shore church, sent five families and 34 young Christians to Long Island to participate in a census-taking program. Impressions of this young and vigorous mission church were indelibly imprinted on the workers from Midland, who in only ten days were able to set up 114 home Bible classes and enroll 168 persons in a Bible course to be administered by mail.

Returning home, the group decided to conduct a similar census in Midland after only one week's rest. Four of the men involved

with the group -- Tom Yates, an elder of the church; Johnny Thompson, the minister; and Don Davis and Gene Partain, deacons -- began to reflect on whether God may have had more in mind than simply leading them to aid the Long Island church -- whether, in fact, the Lord wasn't speaking to the Midland church through the stirring experiences they had shared. The Golf Course Road church, which was to observe her first anniversary on August 11, 1964, would soon be ready for a missions program of her own. The New York trip was believed to have been providential in more ways than one.

Meanwhile, the faith of the five families and 34 young people that had been fired in New York continued to burn -- and the flames were to grow. Following the October 18, 1964, presentation by Yates and Davis, proposing that the Golf Course Road church support an exodus movement, the entire Midland eldership began to share the vision, the spirit, and the excitement of the proposal. Dwain Evans, dedicated minister of the Exodus/Bay Shore church, flew to Midland to encourage the elders in their final, prayerful deliberations before making a decision.

On the Lord's Day, November 1, 1964, the elders unanimously made their commitment . . . pledging the faith and full resources of the Golf Course Road church toward the organization and mobilization of another exodus-type church that would be established -- in a city to be selected -- in the northeastern part of the United States.

During the past ten months -- since the exodus missionary program was approved -- the following progress has been made:

- (1) Selection of a specific area: Somerset County, New Jersey.
- (2) Determination of the exodus date: August, 1966.
- (3) Purchase of a ten-acre tract of land in Bridgewater Township on which the physical plant of the church will be constructed.
- (4) Selection and appointment of three full-time ministers to serve the church:

C. Larry Roberts, formerly minister of the Travis Street Church of Christ, Sherman, Texas, who began his new ministry July 1, 1965;

Winston Bell, associate minister and educational director for the church in Glendale, California, whose work with the new church began October 1, 1965;

Tom Yates, elder for the Golf Course Road Church of Christ, Midland, Texas, who will serve as minister of new members with the new church.

(In addition to these three men, a fourth full-time worker will be sought to direct the program of personal evangelism for the new church.)

- (5) Publication of this Master Plan and the "Exodus" promotional brochure.
- (6) Public announcement of Exodus/New Jersey planned to highlight the Midland Missions Conference September 4-5, 1965

It is interesting to note the site of the future church home in Bridgewater is exactly 40 miles southwest of New York City, whereas the first exodus church is 40 miles east of the city on Long Island.

The decision to organize Exodus/New Jersey was preceded by thought, study, and much prayer. We are confident our Father in Heaven is leading us.

In attempting to outline the sections of this Master Plan, we came to realize that this mission warrants a fresh view of the church's philosophy of missions, as revealed in scripture, and at least an attempt to describe something of the ideological fibre of modern life and thought. This particular material, covered in Part One and Part Two that follow, should help sharpen our perspective and intensify our concern for relevancy.

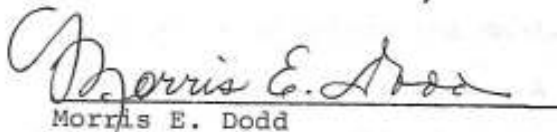
To each person who receives this Plan -- especially church leaders and prospective exodus families -- may we urge that you give this material a careful and thoughtful reading and then make a decision in accord with your ability and the eternal will of God.

Faithfully yours,

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