

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91129

JOSEPH W. TKACH
PASTOR GENERAL

November 12, 1991

To Concord, the pioneer 20th century church of God in New England:

CONGRATULATIONS on your 25th anniversary! Susan and I wish we could be present at this time.

My short time in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, from June of 1969 till April of 1970, was in so many ways an experience that shaped the rest of my life. I was fresh out of Ambassador -- young, inexperienced, lonely. I found in you early members of the Concord church a warmth and love that really thrilled me. Through you I grew to have an earnest conviction that yes, I truly wanted to serve and work among such splendid people whom God was calling, in whatever way I possibly could.

The church's layoff in April, 1970 -- including some dozen or so of us -- was a traumatic experience for me. It was a terribly dark day when I set off with all my worldly goods packed into my old Chevy for Florida and then eventually Colorado. Two other brief periods of employment by the church, both ending in similar layoffs, followed.

But through it all the memories of Concord and you brethren were present with me. They kept alive in my mind the fact that God indeed was working with people and, despite the ups and downs of life, Romans 8:28 is a fact: all things do work together for good if God has called us and we respond.

I found other wonderful church people to live among in Colorado, and fortified by happy memories of working with the people of New England, I, along with Susan, set about to be of whatever service and good God could use us for, thoughts of the ordained ministry gone. Ordination as Local Church Elder followed in 1978, and then in 1987 hiring back into the full-time ministry and pastorate of the New Haven and Norwich, CT churches in 1989. Being back in New England is an additional treat.

It's a fine accomplishment to have endured a quarter of a century as a living, growing church congregation. God makes the enduring possible, but you, after all, still have done the enduring! Never sell short how much God has used you as individuals and as a congregation -- and will yet in the future -- to be a light in a darkened area of this world. Think of how much good will have come out of the Concord church, affecting wide areas of this world, when all of you take up your opportunities of service under Christ in the future! God is pleased with the Concord church and will be then even more so.

Concord church anniversary

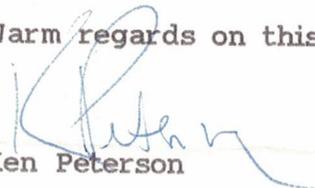
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I want this letter to convey how much the Concord Church of God has been a part of me through all these years. God used you people to keep me, for one, going. Never underestimate the power of your positive compliance with God's way of life. He can use your good example in ways you least suspect.

NOW ON INTO THE FUTURE!

Warm regards on this anniversary celebration,


Ken Peterson