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From: C. Brodie Harrell

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Ice Lake, Ontario  
Canada  
February 8, 1966

*Copy*

Elders  
Highland Avenue Church of Christ  
Abilene, Texas

Brethren:

Your help is desperately needed! We have nearly 12,000 souls on the world's largest fresh water island - Manitoulin Island (Lake Huron), and only a little over fifty Christians. Will you please help us reverse these figures?

Manitoulin in the Indian language means "God's Island." We expect to make it just that in truth as well as in name by 1967 - BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE! At the moment we are only a handful of "snipers" surrounded by the enemy. We want an all out war that will completely rout the devil and his forces. HERE IS THE PLAN THAT WILL DO JUST THAT! A HUGE campaign in 1967 that will end in August with a month's meetings featuring Mid McKnight, Kenneth Reed, John Allan Chalk, and Jimmie Allen - each speaking for a week.

Before the meetings - for several months - we will feature these men on radio, television, newspapers, and direct mail outs. I have asked Roger Fisher of Cookeville, Tennessee to take the responsibility of raising the money necessary to pay for this. He has agreed.

The Island is made up of farmers on small farms, several towns and villages, and Indians on their reservations. (We had our first Indian convert last August thanks to Herald of Truth - radio). There are hardly any jobs here, and in fact the Federal government has declared the island an economically depressed area. Due to this situation I can't ask for an exodus of Christian families to move here. Although we have just been approved to receive three to five Faith Corps workers this coming September.

Ice Lake is the oldest church in the Canadian North Country which still worships. We can date it back to 1880 for certain and feel quite certain it goes back much further than that. Just a month ago we established a second congregation on the Island at the Indian Reserve - one member. This summer another preacher is supposed to move to our largest town, Little Current, and establish another congregation.

My family and I moved here in September, 1962 from Birmingham, Alabama. Since then 26 have been baptized and 10 restored. The contribution has gone from \$15-\$20 per week to nearly \$130 each week now. The attendance has moved from around 15 on Sunday mornings to about 70 or 80 as a rule. The best part of this is that most of these things have happened within the last year. This means that much of the "dirty" work has been done and the people are ready to

respond in mass. WE JUST NEED YOU TO GIVE US THE FINALL PUSH.

Much of this "ground work" has been done by brother Kenneth Reed and students from the Universities of Alabama, Auburn, and Tennessee. They put on campaigns for us in 1964 & 1965. They have made an excellent impression on the islanders, and many of them are anxiously awaiting their return. By those experiences and other gospel meetings we have held I believe we can produce more visiting non-members at the meetings - percentage wise - than you will find most places.

What is the church at Ice Lake doing to help? We have started already. I took every name out of the telephone book and divided them among the members. Each is responsible for about 37 homes. Each member is responsible to send his people a letter of invitation to the regular services, special meetings, encourage them to take the correspondence course, and remind them of all radio, and television broadcast. In addition they are to make at least two visits on their people during the year. They are to send various tracts and literature which will have their names on them - signed. Of course the idea is to establish a personal contact between a member and non-member. Each week the Christian is to take his list and name them to God in prayer and ask for their souls.

Each member is also to sign a card with the name of one person that he is going to make a special effort to convert in 1966. He is to pray for that person each day.

Our slogan for this year is, "We Shall all Die the Last Sunday in 1966." The idea is to remind us that we only have this year in which to learn more love for one another and to bring others to Christ.

We hope to have about four gospel meetings this year aimed mostly at the members. Lessons that will help us to become more spiritually minded - prayer, Bible study, home devotions, etc. I have asked one lady to come and spend a week with our women - teaching them just what they can do in the kingdom.

Brother Ira Rice is supposed to come as soon as we can schedule the date and spend five days teaching us our responsibilities to spread the gospel to others.

Each member is taking our correspondence course and is responsible to get at least ~~three~~ non-Christians signed up. We will be studying other lessons, too. Our young people are being given a series of studies concerning moral conduct, and they plan to start Bible discussions groups in two of our three high schools.

People should start coming here in June, 1967 to campaign. I am hoping for a group from Tennessee to put on an Island wife VBS for us the last week in July. The gospel meetings can run through the month of August with students from several colleges campaigning during that time.

I am told that the weakness in campaigns is that too many are baptized without being properly taught. BY THE TIME YOUR PREACHERS GET HERE WE SHOULD HAVE HUNDREDS AND MAYBE THOUSANDS WELL TAUGHT AND ON THE VERGE OF BAPTISM! The preachers can then feel free to apply all the pressure they want to take them that final step.

Religions on the Manitoulin range from the Indian witchcraft to the most modern trends, but likely the greatest god of them all is Indifference. Won't you help us "call fire down from heaven" and slay the priest of this false gods?? Will you please take the oversight of this whole campaign?

Personal date: I am 37 years old, and have a wife and two sons. I am a graduate of the University of Alabama majoring in Personnel Management. We will keep the preachers while they are here.

If you wish further reference contact Kenneth Reed  
University Church of Christ  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

or

John Allen Chalk.

May the Lord love you and protect you.

For the King,

C. Brodie Harrell  
Minister

P.S. We have no elders.