

First Baptist Church
"Holding forth the Word of Life" Phil. 2:16

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P. O. BOX 366
MISSION, TEXAS

February 18, 1963

Dear Dave,

Your letter came telling me about your going to Van Vleet yesterday. I'm sorry I have not already answered. However, I didn't suppose you would answer them before Wednesday this week or later if they called you. I feel that they probably did, but I am anxious to hear how things went.

Now, to some of the questions you asked. I rather expect the deacon situation is better there now than when I was there. "Patsy" Wells, senior deacon, and a dear friend, is not progressive. However, he would never come talk to me if he opposed a matter. But, we never had any serious disagreements. Bob Ellis, "Patsy" Wells' son-in-law wasn't very progressive either and didn't help much at times. He gave Leray considerable trouble over a dancing situation but apologized to the church, resigned as a deacon, and finally joined the Christian or Presbyterian Church in Bay City. Now, Bob was wrong in what he did, but Leray admits that he would handle a similar situation differently next time. George Bell, if he's still there, won't help much unless he's changed since I was there. However, he won't give any trouble. While I was there his wife died and he re-married about 7-8 months later which caused him a great deal of guilt feelings though he never mentioned it to me. Ira Blanchard, then treasurer, and probably

still is, is not aggressive but is the salt of the earth.

Now since I was there, two or three other fellows were ordained. James Lowery was not very active when I was there, but I understand that he is a hundred percent now. Allan Plannell is tops and will be behind you all the way. Jimmie Laird, whom I don't believe was ordained, is 100% and is good deacon material. If there are other deacons, they have moved in since my time and I can't tell you anything about them.

After we moved, several of the older members, mostly widows I think, accused Wells and Ellis of being responsible for our leaving. This is not true. Although I've tried to give you my frank opinion, and I was certainly disappointed in them at times, I still count them very dear friends.

All in all San Hock is the brightest spot in our lives so far. We cherish dearly our experiences there and will always be grateful to everyone there.

Leroy did an excellent work there in my opinion. He was able to do some things I never could have done. True, he had his problems but I personally feel that spent a good two years there.

If I were in your place and was concerned about the size, I would check into the growth of the area in general. I understand that Bay City is quite active since the river-barge channel project started. This should affect the San Hock area also. I have no doubt but that you could have a happy fruitful ministry there.

Let me hear how things went. I shall be happy to assist anyway I can.

Your friend,
Dorothy