



# Hawley Publications

P. O. BOX 21816 • MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN • 53221 • (414) 281-8667

April 5, 1990

Dear Vernon,

Thank you for the brochures about the Lake Geneva Encampment. We will make them available.

I will try to clarify what I wrote in the Wisconsin Challenge about the Indian mission at Oneida, WI and the Murray Hill church in Flint. The Murray Hill Church started in 1915. It built a building on Mabel Avenue and was known either as Murray Hill (Part of town) or Mabel Avenue. It later moved to a new building on Court Street, and in time merged with North Central, itself an outgrowth of Murray Hill, to form the present Carpenter Road church. Last summer my brother Roger and I revisited the old Murray Hill building, now owned by some black Baptists. It was surprising to us how much smaller the building was than when we grew up!

The Indian mission at Oneida grew very rapidly. Bro. White had a tent that he moved from place to place. One time when my father was there on a visit they returned from a trip around the reservation and the Methodist preacher was waiting for Bro. White. He said, "Mr. White, you are stealing all my people." Bro. White responded, "When you start preaching the Bible I will leave the reservation." His visitor then said, "I take the Bible with me into the pulpit every time I preach." Bro. White replied, "Yes, and then you preach from your creed." A problem encountered was that the church had no cemetery. The Indians wanted to know where they were going to be buried before they obeyed the gospel. So money was raised for a cemetery. In the early 50's I spoke at the funeral of Philp Fastwolf, Bro. White's young grandson and he was buried in the cemetery next door to the church building.

After Highland took over sponsorship, Bro. White became involved with a woman. This was not known for awhile by Highland, but the Indians knew it and it brought the church down. This was in the late 40's. Bro. White does have some children in the state. His son, James, Jr., was once a part of our congregation here. I do not have any current addresses, though perhaps could get some. If you have other questions, let me know. I will enclose some pictures for you to keep.

In Christian love,

Monroe E. Hawley