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Clare, Michigan
304 E. Wheaton
June 16, 1958

*FREED
MICHIGAN WORK.*

Clare, Michigan

Church of Christ
7350 Chase Rd.
East Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Brethren:

No doubt my name is new to some of you, so I will briefly introduce myself and then pass on to my business. My name is Harley O. Worstell, of 304 E. Wheaton Avenue, Clare, Michigan. I have been an employee of Socony Mobil Oil Co. for the past twenty years, and associated with the Chippewa Street Church of Christ at Shepherd, Michigan, for about thirteen years.

By this time I'm sure you have seen the little article Bro. Fred Dennis ran in the May 15th issue of Gospel Advocate. But so far I haven't received a single donation from Michigan either individually or church, except a few I have contacted personally. So I thought perhaps it would do better by appealing directly to congregations.

The Lord has provided a sonderful opportunity to establish a congregation of the body of Christ at Clare, the cross roads of Michigan. The Baptist denomination is building a new church building and have put their old one up for sale. This older building is located on the corner of Sixth and Pine Sts., one block off U.S. 27 or U.S. 10. As you know, these are main highways and they will be more popular since the completion of the Straits bridge.

Through the encouragement of Bro. Fred E. Dennis, I submitted a bid last year for \$5,100. This bid was rejected as too low. The building has been appraised all the way from \$12,000 to \$20,000. This spring they reconsidered their decision and offered to accept my bid because they wanted a sound religious group to occupy the building. With the financial support of Bro. Dennis, I mortgaged my home and we made a down payment, agreeing to pay \$100 a month on the unpaid balance plus interest, or about \$125 per month in all. The only way we can hope to meet these payments is through the support of the brotherhood.

The church as a whole has been wanting to migrate north. This could well be a stepping stone in that direction, due to its location.

There are about seventy able congregations in Michigan's boundary. If each one would contribute \$50 to this worthy cause, we could manage to pay the balance. Some congregations are not able to meet this donation while others could pay more. It might be more convenient for some to send monthly payments, though this would not cut off as much interest—which is a sizeable thing.

I don't believe it would take long to build a self-supporting congregation here. The field is ripe with golden grain, and the laborers few. Like most other places denominations have gone off into modernism and society, and they are fed up with it. There are four faithful members and a few who lean toward the church here.

I know your desk is all cluttered up with pleas for help, but I hope you will give this request special consideration. Any and all help will be appreciated.

For reference you may contact the following parties: Mr. Dean Thoroman, Mr. Gordon French, Mr. E. Maynard, or the elders of my home congregation, Mr. Clarence Buchanan, Mr. C. P. Poole, and Mr. R. P. Cuff or Mr. Fred E. Dennis of Marietta, Ohio who is helping to promote this work. May I have your prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Harley O. Worstell
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