



*Pentecostal  
Pioneers  
Of  
Auburn &  
Lewiston*

*-by Rev. Daniel J. Rideout  
-2010-*

## **DEDICATION:**

**This book is 'Lovingly Dedicated' to the Life & Ministries of: Rev. Charles Sweeney, and his Dear Wife, Rev. Mabel Sweeney. (Affectionately called "Ma" & "Pa" by all those who loved them dearly.)**

**Ma & Pa Sweeney traveled extensively in their day, up and down the coast of Maine & across the state, as well as in Canada & as far as Florida, etc., Preaching The Blessed Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**One of their frequent stops was in the "Twin Cities" of Auburn & Lewiston. Bro. & Sis. Sweeney were certainly two of 'The Early Pioneers of Pentecost,' here!**

**Some of the local present-day Pentecostal churches in this metro area, are the results of the seeds they planted, way back in those early years. This great man & woman of God were originally Trinitarian preachers. But, in September of 1936 they received The Light of The Jesus Name Message.**

**We 'tip our hat' to their Memory & This Legacy!! ...**



Rev. Charles Swinney

L. M. R. Hunt 3-6-10



Rev. Mabel Sweeney Lisa M. Riebout 3-7-16

## **AUTHOR'S NOTE:**

The purpose of This Writing is not to offend any person anywhere, but To EXALT The NAME of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

If any person is offended by seeing their name mentioned within these pages, please Forgive the offense. As Our intention is ONLY to 1) GLORIFY God; and; 2) Honor those who have Labored for Our Precious Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.

I TRUST & Pray that someone will ONLY be Encouraged and or Edified, For The GLORY of ALL-Mighty God. Amen.

# *Part One*

## **THE EARLY CHURCHES**

### *Chapter One* – “The Berean Mission”

It is recorded that in the early 1900s, a Work flourished on Main Street in Lewiston, called “The Berean Mission.”

This Work may have been in existence, for several years prior to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, however, it is mentioned frequently in the area City Directories & local Newspapers, more in the early 1900s, than before. A Mrs. Lottie Alden was President, in those days.

Ma & Pa Sweeney visited & Preached at This Assembly, somewhere c1949 or '50. During that time, This Work was located at 407 Main, and next door (in the same building), was The Assemblies of God Church. (You can read a note about this event in “*Prevailing Westerlies*,” a book on Pentecostal History in Maine, by Rev. James Peters & Mrs. Patricia Pickard.)

In research, it is found that Rev. John B. Bergstrom was Pastor of The Assemblies Work, at that time, & it is very possible, that Mr. Wilfred Pelletier was Minister of The Berean Mission.

After all these years, not many records confirm what Denomination or persuasion of Faith This Work actually was of, But one things for sure, God visited that little place, and she made History.

Apparently, the Pelletiers, along with Mrs. Alden, ran a Rooming House upstairs over the church, in some of their locations, over the years of her existence. (The Work moved several times, during her Tenure.)

There is not much recalled of her after the early 1950s to 1960s era.

## *Chapter Two*

# **“The Assembly of God”**

The Assembly of God Work at Lewiston was started by Rev. William Shamp. He began holding Services in 1946, (on the second Sunday of August), at ‘The Townsend Club Hall,’ on the third floor. This Hall was located on Lisbon Street. That first Sunday, his congregation consisted of 6 people. (3 couples).

After a season, they moved to the said 407 Main Street. (This location is where the ‘trinity catholic school,’ now stands.) After 2 years in that location, they acquired the old church building they worshipped in at 19 High Street.

After that building burned in 1954, a new building was erected in that location, under the then Pastor Hugh Snow’s leadership.

In the fall of 1979, the Present Pastor, Rev. Donald Cogle moved The Work, to her present location at 70 Hogan Rd.

Rev. William Johnson of Minnesota, Rev. Grant G. Grann also of Minnesota, & Rev. David E. Siriano of Pennsylvania, also were Pastors here, at separate times, in between Pastor Snow & Pastor Cogle’s Tenures.

The rest is History there. . . .

## Chapter Three

# "The Church of God"

The local Church of God was begun in Auburn, Maine.

c1930, Ma Sweeney was asked to come & open up a Work in this City. A group of people rented a local hall and after "Prayer was wont to be made," she agreed & became the first Pastor. She, along with the Help of her Dear husband, stayed on for approximately three months.

During this time, folks were Saved, Baptized & Filled with The Precious Holy Ghost. Among those Candidates to receive The Blessed Baptism of The Spirit, was a Dear Christian Missionary Alliance Preacher: Rev. George Rix.

Through research, apparently this man became Pentecostal after that, of course, and later, became Pastor of This Assembly. He must have joined The Church of God Organization, at some point, after as well, for we see "The Church of God" spring up here, I Believe, as a result of this. The Church of God Worshipped for a season at 146 Turner Street. The next Pastor recorded, at that time, (c1934), was Mrs. Pauline Williams. A building was acquired apparently by Bro. Rix, at 3 Pleasant Street, where the Congregation moved to & remained at, until at least c1946. Around 1935, Rev. Roland Lear was Pastor, for a while, as well. Eventually, this Work faded out until the late '70s, when a Bro. Weston was said to re-establish a local Church of God here. Apparently, The Congregation acquired a building at 27 Spring Street. This Work remained there for several years. Some of the Pastors that have graced the platform of this Assembly, in that location were: a Rev. Como-?, Rev. Johnny Bishop, a Rev. Carter, & Rev. Marilyn Bradley. There were probably others as well. Finally, Rev. Robert Derocher, Jr., a Pastor with a TRUE Shepherd's Heart, came & took over The Work at Auburn. Under his leadership, The Congregation moved to a store-front location, for a while, out at 'The Auburn Plaza' on Center St. Then, The Work finally acquired another building at 40 Strawberry Ave., in Lewiston, their present location.

(It is Believed, that The Sweeneys had returned to make several visits to this Work, after turning it over.)

The rest is History there. . . .

*This church was closed a few yrs ago, unfortunately,*

*\* (Note: The Church of God first Worshipped at 24 Chestnut St. before acquiring the building on Spring St. in the late '70s. )*

## *Chapter Four*

# **“The Old Auburn Full Gospel Church”**

In the late '50s, Rev. Bernard Elliott felt a Burden to start an Independent Pentecostal Holiness Work at Auburn, Me. He, along with his Dear wife, Rev. Evelyn Elliott came to fulfill That Call.

During their first Meeting, The Vision “came to pass!” (“Without a Vision; the people perish!!”) Souls were Saved, Filled with The Holy Ghost, Baptized, Healed & even some got their “Call” into The Gospel Ministry, through That little Work.

They began by holding their Services in rented halls. The first place was possibly on the corner of Turner & Rowe Sts., then they were at 10 Court St. Next, they moved to Center St. (There may have been other spots, as well.) Finally, they moved to Broadview Avenue, where Pastor Elliott had built a nice new edifice. (That building still stands today, and is operated as “Harvest Hills Church.”)

Bro. & Sis. Elliott were both Graduates of Zion Bible Institute, in Rhode Island, where Sis. Christine Gibson was President & Founder. Now, Bro. Elliott had Pastored & Pioneered a small Work in Thorndike & at Edgecomb, before coming to Auburn.

While in Auburn, Pastor Elliott went to N. Monmouth & With God's Divine Help, Rescued a fledgling Work. That Work was turned over later to Bro. Clayton Alward, who Pastored there for over 46 years.

Bro. Elliott, also With God's Divine Help, opened up The “Apostolic Bible Institute,” at 20 High Street, while there in Auburn. This School has since closed and the building torn down, but most of its Graduates are still in The Gospel Ministry, Today.

The Elliotts lived at “9” Broadview Ave., and their ‘parsonage’ is still a residence, to this date.

The Work at Auburn has changed its name several times down through the years. The Auburn Full Gospel Church was also known later as: “Pentecostal Assembly,” then: “The Full Gospel Tabernacle.” It was much years later, under Pastor Robert Beumier's leadership, that its name became known as: “Harvest Hills Church.” They even run a Day Care at the church, presently.

Bro. Elliot used to have old "Uncle" Eugene Kimball, (known as such to all those who loved him Dearly), come up from Portland & Preach on Saturday Nights. The Meetings were powerful! God used Bro. Kimball Mightily in The Spirit. One night he cried out, while Preaching, "There's a man by the name of Campbell here tonight, who better make himself right!!" (With God, of course!) That man was Bro. Martin C. Campbell, Sr. He was GLORIOUSLY Saved that night, Hallelujah, and became a Minister of The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in his latter years. He relayed that instance to me, personally. Bro. Kimball didn't know him from Adam!

Oh! To see God move again, as He did in Yester-year, Oh! He said: "I AM God; AND I change not, therefore ye Sons of Jacob are not consumed!!" HALLELUJAH!! Well, Glory!!!! God wants to move, but who will LET Him?? "God is The Same, yesterday, today & forever!" (I'm Serving a God that's alive, not dead, Hallelujah, WE NEED 'The Fear of God' back in The Church of The Living God to reveal the secrets of men's hearts, & Help us!! Oh! Yes INDEED. Praise God from whom ALL Blessings Flow! Amen. "Grant it Lord, is my plea, my humble plea!!"

Eventually Pastor Elliott moved on to Pastor a Full Gospel Work in Biddeford on Hill Street, that is now known as "The Victory Chapel," Pastored presently by Bro. Joel McLain, Sr. (Who has been there, a number of years, currently.)

The Work at Auburn fell into the hands of a few other Ministers, before finally being taken over by Bro. Beumier, as stated previously.

The Elliotts finally felt The Call to one more Work. Their 7<sup>th</sup> Work. They have Pastored The Arundel Christian Tabernacle there on Rote # 111, in Arundel, for over 27 yrs. now. Before closing This Chapter, I would like to take a moment if I may, "If The Lord Wills," and mention that Bro. Elliott, as I said before, had Graduates from The Bible School, that remained in The Gospel Work, To This Date. Of those included, but not limited to are: Rev. Arthur Torella, of New Hampshire, who has done a great Work for God All-Mighty, & Rev. William J. Cote, Sr. Bro. Bill Cote, (better known as: "Wild Bill Cote," by those who knew him well & enjoyed his "wild" Preaching in his early days), did extensive Evangelizing for 20 years, all over Maine, In Canada & in other states, even Florida & also in The Bahamas. He also had many Miracles & Healings in his Ministry, for God's ALL-Mighty Glory!!

Bro. Bill has since passed on to Glory, and laid his armour down. But, although he has gone on to his reward, he too, along with Bro. & Sis. Elliott, Ma & Pa Sweeney & these few others mentioned here, have TRULY left us a GREAT Heritage in Our God!!

*Rev. John Canning; Rev. Laura Shattuck &  
Rev. Bill Hiltz pastored this work, as well, before Bro. Beumier.*

# *Part Two*

## **THE PRESENT-DAY ASSEMBLIES**

There may be a vast more number of Works that you the reader of This Writing, may remember, that have impacted this area. However With God's Divine Help, & I Believe His Leading, He has Helped me to unearth & recover The Memories of Some of the GREAT men & women of God that Through The Holy Ghost, have touched Auburn & Lewiston, Maine for His GLORY!!

I don't want them to be forgotten!

In this Part of my book, "If The Lord Wills," I want to just briefly mention if I may all The "Pentecostal" Churches & Works, still afloat & active Today, in this area. Thank You. My 'Special Thanks' To God ALL-Mighty, for without Him, This Work (Writings) would not be possible AT ALL!! "Thank-You, Lord Jesus!!" Amen.

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1. **"Christ Temple Church of God In Christ"**

Pastor: Rev. Jackson

Location: Route #4 (Turner Rd.) Auburn

2. **"Harvest Hills Church"**

Pastor: Rev. Robert Beaumier

Location: Broadview Ave. Auburn

3. **"Church of God of Prophecy"**

Pastor: Rev. Esdras Solis

Location: (Presently Worshipping @ The Advent Christian Ch.) Auburn

4. **“Apostolic Lighthouse Church”**  
Pastor: Rev. Ray  
Location: (To be at) 575 Minot Ave. Auburn
  
5. **“The First Assembly of God Church”**  
Pastor: Rev. Donald Cogle  
Location: Hogan Rd. Lewiston
  
6. **“Spirit of Fire Evangelistic Ministries”**  
Pastor: Rev. Jerry Begin  
Location: 241 Bartlett St. Lewiston
  
7. **“The Apostolic Church of Lewiston”**  
Pastor: Rev. Steve Taylor  
Location: Lincoln St. Lewiston
  
8. **“The Jesus Party (The Pentecostal Kids’ Church)”**  
Pastor: Rev(s). Douglas & Sonia Taylor  
Location: 291 Bates St. Lewiston  
“Celebrating 15 yrs. of Ministry”
  
9. **“The L/A Church of God”**  
Pastor: Rev. Robert Derocher, Jr.  
Location: 40 Strawberry Ave. Lewiston
  
10. **“First United Pentecostal Church (UPC)”**  
Pastor & Founder: Rev. H.E. Churchill  
Location: 715 College St. Lewiston  
“Since 1972”
  
11. **“Vineyard Christian Church”**  
Location: Foss Rd. Lewiston

12. "NewLife Community Ctr."

Pastor: ?

Location: 134 College St. Lewiston.

Note: There may be others not mentioned here, that I am not aware of.

The "Vineyard" & "Spirit of Fire" are more labeled: "Charesmatic / Non-Denominatinal," than Fundamental / Traditional Pentecostal.

# "2" & "12" are more likely referred to (now) as "Non-Denominational," than Traditional Pentecostal, as well.

Also: The Church of God in Christ was apparently Founded by Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. And their "local Assembly" was apparently founded by Bishop Richard D. Williams, in 1950. Elder Arthur Lee Hull was one of the local Congregations' earliest Pastors, to serve there.

**ENDING:**

- A. There are more interesting thoughts on "Ma" & "Pa" Sweeney, recorded in the book: "Pioneers of Pentecost," by Joyce Macbeth Morehouse. (A book on The Pioneers of The Maritimes)**
- B. "Ma" Sweeney wrote her own book on their personal "Journey," entitled: "From Egypt to Canaan." This book is out of print, apparently, however most of her important "Memories" are recorded in "Prevailing Westerlies," The book on Some Maine Pentecostal History, by Rev. Jim Peters & Mrs. Pat Pickard.**
- C. The drawings in this book of Ma & Pa Sweeney, were drawn by, My Loving Wife, Mrs. Lisa Rideout.**

1-30-88

EST. 1946 #85

Lewiston

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST ASSEMBLY

1986 MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH IN LEWISTON. ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF AUGUST, 1946, THE REV. WILLIAM SHAMP AND WIFE, CLORINDA, CONDUCTED THE FIRST SERVICE IN A RENTED 3RD FLOOR HALL ON LISBON STREET. THE SERVICE CONSISTED THAT FIRST SUNDAY OF TWO COUPLES, MR. & MRS ARNOLD FIELD, MR. & MRS CLARENCE BROOKS, ALONG WITH THE REV. SHAMP AND HIS WIFE.

SERVICES CONTINUED IN THAT LOCATION FOR TWO YEARS AND THEN THEY MOVED TO A STORE FRONT BUILDING ON MAIN STREET IN LEWISTON. AFTER TWO YEARS THERE, THEY ACQUIRED A LARGE HOUSE AT 19 HIGH STREET, WHICH BECAME THEIR PERMANENT PLACE OF WORSHIP UNTIL IT WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1954.

THE CONGREGATION, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PASTOR HUGH SNOW, LATER BEGAN BUILDING NEW FACILITIES THAT WOULD SERVE AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP UNTIL THE FALL OF 1979. AT THIS TIME THE CONGREGATION, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF IT'S PRESENT PASTOR, THE REV. DONALD R. COUGLE, MOVED TO IT'S NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PLACE OF WORSHIP ON 70 HOGAN ROAD.

SINCE THAT TIME, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO ADD A 96 x 32 ADDITION TO ACCOMMODATE A CONGREGATION OF 400.

**EDIT NOTE:**

"My Apologies" for an Honest mistake in my information on: "*The Berean Mission.*"

The Sweeneys ACTUALLY did preach here c1924.

The Mission was, at that time, located at '204 Main,' led a considerable amount of the time by Mr. A.(Albion) S. Prescott. The Mission at that time ALSO neighbored another Assembly located at 202 Main. That Assembly was led by Elder Charles H. Bedford. Bro. Bedford's Work was called "The Gospel Mission."

[I had been thrown off by the fact, that at both in 1924 & 1949/'50, The Pastors names of The Berean Mission both began with the letter "P," (seemingly), & also concerning The *Other Works*, The Pastors, at both times, (seemingly), began with the letter "B."]

However, the TRUE name of this Mission was: "The Berean Mission." As, this Mrs. "Lottie" B. Alden, was a "worker in"/the president of The Mission at that time.

Another interesting note to point out, is that there was a Bro. Harvey & Sis. Winnie Robinson living in Auburn as well, c1924, just as Sis. Sweeney had mentioned.

( Most of the men & Ministers, mentioned here at that time, worked in shoe factories, or the such like. )

The Mission was forced to close as "one too many fires," demanded the building it was located in at the time, be torn down. They were located in Auburn on Main Street then, apparently. That was in 1954.

*"The Berean Mission,"* was established about 1887 or '88, as in May of 1900, they "celebrated" her 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!

- Fri. March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

[This information is to accompany My  
book on "Pentecostal Pioneers of Auburn  
& Lewiston."]

*Rev. Daniel C. Rideout*