



Stanley Road Baptist Church

WHAT A GIFT!

Douglas Smith was a Michigan farm boy. Born in Muskegon in 1934, all he remembers after the age of seven is moving to Fremont and working with his father on several farms that his father bought at the end of WWII. While Douglas' father struggled to raise cattle, asparagus, pickles, and beans (for Gerber Baby Foods), Douglas developed perseverance and stamina—admirable character traits that would help him overcome challenges, endure setbacks, and withstand adversity in the years ahead.

The one respite that punctuated the hard work of Douglas' teenage, no-nonsense years was his regular attendance at the Fremont Baptist Church where Christianity was thriving under the capable leadership of Reverend Paulson. The result was an exciting, engaged youth group which participated in a voluntary lunchtime Bible class in the local high school. Strong preaching produced dozens of solid Christians and, ultimately, seven preachers (no small feat for

this modest farming community).

A shift in attitude changed the Smith home dramatically when Douglas' father came back to God at age 46. Sixteen-year-old Douglas watched his father get a heart for missions. Every year his dad set aside the profits of a specific portion of his fields for world evangelism. His was a gesture Douglas never forgot.

After high school, Douglas spent nearly fifteen years working in many ministry capacities including teaching Bible classes for the Boys Club of America and working as an associate pastor in Charlotte, North Carolina. His life's work was solidified when he planted the Stanley Road Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1969.

"Those were glorious years," Pastor Smith recalled. "We rented the Grange Hall, knocked doors, and brought people to Jesus." Consequently, for the next fifty-five years, Douglas and his wife Joan continued to serve the community of Greensboro with the same steadfastness and perseverance that Douglas had



Pastor & Mrs. Smith

learned on the farm as a boy.

The years have passed. Pastor Smith has turned ninety, and his wife Joan is eighty-eight. Understandably, the work of the ministry is too strenuous for Pastor Smith to continue, particularly since he is the sole caretaker of his very sick wife. Most of the congregation has died. The few remaining could not financially sustain the ministry, so the difficult decision to close the church and sell the building was made. And where would the final funds be disbursed? To the missionaries that the church had so faithfully supported through the years!

CRI is a recipient of a portion of those funds. The Stanley Road Baptist Church will live on in multiple countries including South Africa, Uganda, the Philippines, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Argentina, Peru, and the Middle East. Fifty-five years of faithfulness in North Carolina is a legacy that will produce fruit in multiple countries across the globe. Souls will be saved and churches built with the sacrificial funds of this faithful congregation.

A faithful pastor—a faithful church—a faithful God!
What A Gift!



IRAQ *Baghdad*

Testimony from Pastor Maher

New Testament Baptist Radio is now the largest media presence in Iraq. Our five stations in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul/Dohuk (ancient Nineveh), Al Hillah (ancient Babylon), and Erbil (Kurdistan) cover 60 percent of the country with about 4 million daily listeners. We will soon add stations in Ur of the Chaldee (Abraham's hometown) and Al Ahmara. Two churches have been established from converts in Dohuk and Erbil. Recently 15 converts were baptized.

A young man found 103 FM (Baghdad) and was so thrilled to hear how Jesus died for his sins that he prayed that day to receive salvation, and he persists in listening to the station despite his family's anger. He travels 28 miles to faithfully attend our church.

Channel 1 News contacted Protestant religious leaders to discuss the significance of Christmas. Other men talked about celebrations, cookies, and gifts, but Pastor Maher told the entire Christmas story, pointed out how Jesus was the culmination of hundreds of Old Testament prophecies, and gave the plan of salvation to the entire country of Iraq.

IRAN *Iran Alive*

2024 Report From Hormoz Shariat

(Iranian CRI broadcaster Michael Germi is on this station.)

Hallelujah! People across Iran are breaking the spiritual shackles of Islam and finding Jesus through satellite television, social media, and underground churches. Since 2001, we have recorded 104,848 salvation decisions, which is an average of 12 people per day for the last 24 years! Our goal is to reach 1 million people in the next decade. With faith, nothing is impossible!



BURUNDI *Bujumbura*

Missionary Gregg Schoof

My family and I had just returned from furlough when I had to make an emergency, twenty-four-hour trip to Burundi. Lightning had damaged the transmitter and the Furman power filter on our new radio station. We added more lightning protection and installed a backup transmitter that we had salvaged from Rwanda when the government closed our station several years ago. During our furlough, both computers running the station died. I changed the hard drive in one and gave the staff two more. We now have three iMacs, and the station is running very well. What a great tool for the dissemination of the gospel!



SEND YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE ETERNAL INVESTMENT TO

CRI ChristianRadio
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 3132, Munster, IN 46321
Online Giving: cri-media.org/support

Email: georgeazarris@yahoo.com (502) 817-1001