

50 years of change

The highlight Sunday of the 50th anniversary of the Bethel Baptist Church founded as the Bible Institute Baptist Church in April 1929, was the burning of the mortgage on the current building at 3325 49th St. S.W.

Rev. William Laing who has been pastor of the church for some 30 years, said when the congregation moved from the house of worship on 7 Ave. and 8 St. S.W. in July of 1977, the debt was \$500,000.

While some property on which the church stands was sold providing the wherewithall to reduce the debt,

Mr. Laing said "you the people of this church in the last year paid \$100,000 of this debt which makes this part of the 50th anniversary. . . ."

Rev. Cyril Hutchinson traced the "roots" which first sprang up in Westbourne Park London. Here a church mission heard of the struggling church in Calgary. Worship services were held in a building on 2 St. W. and 13 Ave., and later in 1920 the worshippers moved to the red brick building on 4 St. E. and 13 Ave.

Here they encountered a high school teacher, William

Aberhart who was also a Bible teacher and who founded the Prophetic Bible Institute from which he, Pastor Laing and Senator Manning (all on the platform) had graduated.

Mr. Hutchinson, president of the Berean Bible College, noted there had never been a dull moment in the history of church which began in the Institute and finally is now Bethel Baptist. "There have been many changes, pastors have come and gone since that day April 18, 1929 . . . but there have been no changes in the Holy Bible"

He used the stone set up by Samuel who has called it Ebenezer in commemoration of the victory of the Israelites, with the cry: "Hitherto has the Lord helped us."

Senator Manning who had been Pastor Laings mentor gave the charge to the church beginning on its' second half-century emphasizing, knowing first God's assignment.

The congregations from Ambassador Baptist and Mayland Heights Baptist churches came to celebrate the anniversary in the mother church. There was a splendid musical program.



PARTICIPANTS IN 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAPTIST CHURCH

. . . left to right are: Rev. William Laing and Mrs. Laing; Senator and Mrs. E. C. Manning; and Rev. Cyril Hutchinson.