

Local Elder Leaves for Pasadena!

Our well known and respected local Elder Joseph Tkach (known to many as TK) is being sent to Headquarters to take special training at Ambassador College. Those old timers in the Chicago Church might well have predicted this, for since he was baptized in 1958, he has been a zealous and dedicated servant of the church brethren.

It was soon recognized that he had God-given abilities and a degree of maturity that could be used. Before an "official" visiting team was established in Chicago, both Mr. and Mrs. Tkach were requested to visit among the brethren to help where they could. When the first Spokesman Club was formed in Chicago he was among those chosen to be a club officer.

He was a pearl in the rough when it came to giving speeches. Because he was born and reared of foreign-born parents, he developed what became known as the Chicago "slanguage." Yet through perseverance and the help of his wife, he overcame this handicap until he qualified to give sermonettes and later sermons in many churches of the Chicago District today.

It was January of 1961 that Mr. Tkach was ordained as a Deacon. He fulfilled this office so well that he was actually doing a job of a local elder. This was recognized and he was ordained to that office Pentecost of 1963.

Mr. Tkach will quickly tell you that the successful life he has enjoyed so far, began with the rough but helpful training his Russian born father gave him. His father allowed him to join the Navy at age 17. He saw action through many Naval battles in the South Pacific while serving on a destroyer during World War II.

Long before he was called into the church, Mr. Tkach was serving his employer with the zeal he is serving God's people today. Starting as an machinist apprentice, he became a skilled tool-maker and later a foreman over his own crew. Even then he had the respect of his men so much so that even two years after leaving his employment for the ministry, some of the old crew heard of his leaving for California and came by to say Good-bye! This certainly indicated the voluntary respect given him by those without as well as those within the Church.

Whatever can be said about Mr. Tkach, a truth is that behind a successful man is a successful woman. His constant aid, confidant, counselor and devoted wife Elaine is as much responsible for his achievements as he is. She has fulfilled successfully the office of Deaconess, being ordained in December of 1962.

As every good tree bears good fruit, the Tkach children Joey, Tanya, and Jennifer, are well on their way to following their parents footsteps. Joey earned a double promotion in grammar school and was a straight A student. Both the girls have done outstanding

work in school. Tanya was an A student while Jennifer received awards for her science projects.

Because time allowed, the people showed their love and respect for the Tkachs' in a tangible way. First the Chicago-LaGrange Choir which they served, honored them with a party at the home of Mrs. Vance. They presented them with a pair of beautiful silver candelabra. They also were given a picture album containing memorable candid shots from the two Choir Concerts and many Church socials.



Mr. Joseph Tkach



These two pictures were taken on the morning of July 17 during the moving process for the Tkach family. In one picture are several men of the church who "lent a hand" in this difficult task; the other photo shows the very fine Ambassador College semi-trailer which is driven by Mr. Archie McNair. This truck is kept busy moving ministers' possessions and church supplies.



Left to right: Tanya, Mr. Tkach, Jenny, Mrs. Tkach and Joey.

At the recent Church picnic the Tkachs' were presented with a multitude of beautiful and truly exceptional gifts. They received a full set of silverware including silver meat platter, gravy, and butter dishes. Now they may serve dinner at the zenith of elegance. They also were given a 12 place set of white bone china with silver rim. In addition, each of the children were given personal gifts.

Though they will be missed, the Chicago District people do not regret that the Tkachs' are leaving. It is with the understanding that they both may grow further to be better equipped to serve God's people in even a greater capacity. Through their years among us the Tkachs' built strong enduring friendships and personal love among many of the brethren, so on your leaving us for a while, we simply say to you—We love you and God's speed.