

Planted in East . . .

In 1984 while Guyana was experiencing some of its darkest times as a nation, a small community in the South of the city of Georgetown,



Bro. Leonard Marks

called East Ruimveldt, was about to experience what the Prophet Isaiah foretold “The people that sat in darkness, hath seen a great light. “Isa 40:

During the 1980’s the Central Assembly of God church had

established what is known as “Cell Groups or Covenant Groups” all over the city. A cell group had as its primary purpose to evangelise the inhabitants of a particular area through weekly Wednesday meetings. Stemming from this, another purpose would be fulfilled, that is, the establishment of an outstation. Ultimately, a bona fide organised congregation would result.

When the leadership of the Central Assembly of God recognised the need to have an outstation in the East Ruimveldt area, they found a group of people (some young and others, not so young) ready and perhaps too willing, to leave the comforts of the

Unknown to many, the Lord had spoken to Leonard Marks (fondly called Lennie) since 1980 impressing upon him to go and teach at the East Ruimveldt Secondary School. Leonard himself a member of the Central Assembly of God did not know that this move would open a door of ministry to the East Ruimveldt area. Leonard was obedient and when he presented himself to the leadership of Central A.O.G and made known to them his willingness to oversee the work in East Ruimveldt, he found that God had prepared a Gideon’s army in this group of 25. These are the names of the soldiers



Pastor Phillip Walcotte handing a baby to Pastor Simon Harris

established “Mother’ church to go labour in the Lord’s vineyard. This eager group of thirty (30) persons, soon became twenty-five (25) determined, strong labourers.

that went out to do battle in East Ruimveldt:-

Leonard Marks, Urma Chalmers, Cyclene Fordyce, Sis. King, Pamela

Wharton, Joyceline Simpson, Sis. Sampson, Pearl Harry, David and Hazel Wilson, Harold Jordon, Simon Harris, Denise Dodson, Allison Chalmers, Leslyn Leigh, June Ann Warde, Paula Smith, Debra Smith, Annette Kissoon, Sandra Lawrence, Patricia Munroe, Norma Norville, Sis. Pere, Sis. Enmore, and Sis. Ross. These persons formed the core of the outstation and soon-to-be organised church.

It is recorded that the outstation held its first service on September 09, 1984, however, on June 2, 1985, there was a historic meeting which convened at 10:30 a.m. at the East Ruimveldt Secondary School. The focus of this meeting was the selection of the first committee of leaders for the outstation. The group of believers met under the auspices of the Central A.O.G, with direction and guidance from Deacon Kenneth Marshall of the Central A.O.G.

Growth of a church is not necessarily inevitable and as such, much hard work must be done for growth to take place. The numerical growth of the East Ruimveldt church has shown, over the two and a half decades of its existence, an increase, although the church has suffered from its fair share of transfers and emigration.

A clear sign of the church's spiritual maturity came in the election of its first Assistant Pastor. At a General Members Meeting held on January 18, 1991, Bro Simon Harris (a founding member) was unanimously elected to hold the position. Pastor Simon Harris successfully held this position of Assistant Pastor until 1997 when he was elected as the Senior Pastor of the fellowship; a position he holds to date.



Church service in the East ruimveldt Secondary School



Church service in the East ruimveldt Secondary School

The leadership believed that spiritual growth would be encouraged and enhanced with the institution of Bible Study and so Covenant Groups were abolished and on June 26, 1992 the first Bible Study session was convened.

ACTIVITIES

It is without doubt the church clearly understood its primary role to evangelise and disciple others. To that end, open air meetings, crusades and one to one witnessing were the high points of the church's calendar of events. In order to reach the children, several afternoon Sunday Schools



The 'pink' house.

were also held in the East Ruimveldt area.

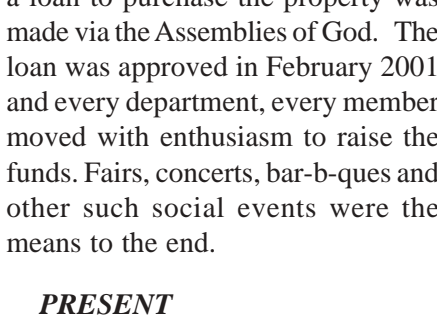
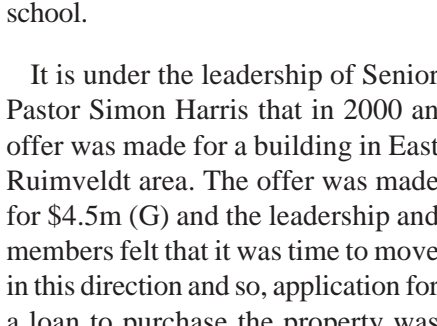
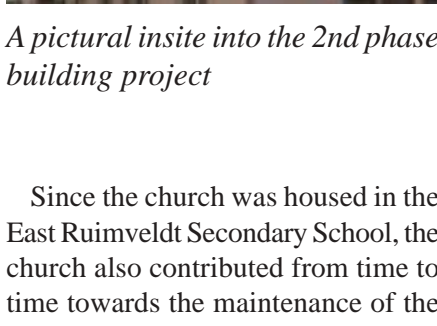
Discipleship took the form of Deeper Life Meetings, regular prayer and fasting sessions and Bible Study; training for leaders and church camps became fixtures on the calendar as the church developed.

The church's outward look would not have been a balanced one if by some means it did not become involved in the community in a very tangible way. Several community projects were planned and executed by the church with the involvement of the community. One such project was an environmental clean-up campaign.



1st phase of the church building.





A pictorial insite into the 2nd phase building project

Since the church was housed in the East Ruimveldt Secondary School, the church also contributed from time to time towards the maintenance of the school.

It is under the leadership of Senior Pastor Simon Harris that in 2000 an offer was made for a building in East Ruimveldt area. The offer was made for \$4.5m (G) and the leadership and members felt that it was time to move in this direction and so, application for a loan to purchase the property was made via the Assemblies of God. The loan was approved in February 2001 and every department, every member moved with enthusiasm to raise the funds. Fairs, concerts, bar-b-ques and other such social events were the means to the end.

PRESENT

In March 2000 the church’s name was finally ratified to be “Ruimveldt Life Improvement Centre Assembly

of God.” The Church has come a long way and surely the lines “through many dangers toils and snares, we have already come. Tis Grace that brought us safe this far and grace will lead us home.”

At present the membership is approximately one hundred and five (105) with regular attendance of one hundred and twenty (120). Several departments have members who are working to see their various departments grow and develop. These departments are: Christian Education Department (CED), Women’s Activities Ministries (WAM), Men’s Fellowship, Arts which includes Dance, Drama/Pageantry, Music and Worship/Singing. The others are, Protocol, Missions and the Youth Fire Ministries.

After eighteen years, the church has become a responsible Young Adult. It owns and meets in its own building at 717 Avocado Place, East Ruimveldt Housing Scheme; the purchase of which was effected in March 2002. The first service held in the building was Bible Study on Wednesday, June 5, 2002. The study was conducted by Assistant Pastor Denise Harris from Acts 9. Nevertheless, a glorious time awaited all as they gathered on Sunday June 9, 2002 to have their first worship service.

In 2006 the “pink house” was taken down and replaced by the first phase

of the church building. The people gave and worked to the glory of God. Rev. John O. Smith dedicated the building charging us to go out and “win souls for Christ”

Rev. Harris said “we will take a two years rest and then move to the second phase of building because the space is too small for what God wants to do in the Ruimveldt area.”

Just as the word of the Lord was spoken by the man of God, we added not only a balcony but a Training Centre to the structure in 2008.

The vision lives on and the Pastor and members are following the commandment of the Master... *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Mat 28:19 (NIV)*



The new look of RLIC AOG Building



The worship team sing praises