

# MORMON CHURCH BRANCH FORMED LOCALLY

Three Missionaries  
Work Here, Serve  
150 In Faith;  
Began Nov. 9 1941

A new branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—popularly known as the Mormons—has been organized in the Champaign-Urbana area during the last month to serve members in this vicinity. It is the first such church to be organized locally, in the knowledge of its founders.

First service of the new branch was November 9; since that time and continuing indefinitely, services have been scheduled for between 10 a. m. and 12 noon each Sunday on the fifth floor of the Champaign city building, 102 North Neil street.

The organized branch is under the direction of J. Harold Smith as president, and Doctor Warren West and William Hoskisson as counselors and Gerold Nelson, as secretary.

#### 3 Missionaries Here

Three missionaries, Elders J. Samuel Oliver, Alvin W. Barlow and Rudger McArthur are laboring in the Champaign-Urbana area on organization work for the church. The three young men are in the midst of their two-year missionary period, one to which all eligible young men of the church are commissioned. Home of the church is Salt Lake City, Utah.

Elders Oliver and Barlow are both residents of Salt Lake City, while Elder McArthur resides at St. George, Utah. All came to Champaign during the last month from various other missionary areas. Elder Oliver had been at work in Detroit and Elder Barlow at Flint, Mich., while Elder McArthur transferred from duties at Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Elder Oliver is president of the southern Illinois district of the northern states' mission of the church, which embraces missionary work in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

#### 50 At Chanute

The three missionaries report that approximately 150 Latter-Day Saints members are located in the area and will be served by the church, 50 of whom are at Chanute Field.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is unique in that it has no paid ministry. Supported by the ancient law of tithing—giving one-tenth of one's income to the church—the Mormons, as they are commonly called, have one of the largest voluntary missionary systems in the world, with approximately 2,000 young men and women serving in this country alone.

The church is founded upon and guided by the principle of direct revelation from God. Its message is one of brotherly love, the same as taught by Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry.

Approximately 850,000 persons are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the United States.