



Afton's First Presbyterian Church in its heyday  
Built in 1905, picture circa 1923.



## Des Moines Group Breathes New Life Into Old Church

If you were in town this past Saturday morning, you couldn't help but hear the buzz on the corner of Kansas and Dodge Streets. Pastor Kenney Linhart and ten or so of his staff and parishioners from Life Church International in Des Moines and Osceola attacked the brush and garbage growing up around the old Presbyterian Church.

Anyone venturing near was greeted by Ministry Administrator Emily Dahlby,

who could hardly get any work done for the number of visitors checking things out. Others helping were Children's Pastor Josh Loomis (son of Dean Loomis who worked at the bank here in town in the '80s) John, the Youth Pastor, and church members from Des Moines and Osceola. Locals Dave McNeill and Dennis Chenoweth even hauled a load of debris to the tree dump for them.

"We hope to plant a church

here," Pastor Kenney said. "At first we thought we would move the building to Des Moines to use with our church there, but we have decided otherwise."

Pastor Kenney has worked in missions in thirty nations, but has spent some time in Iowa recently, planting a church in Osceola nearly two years ago.

LifeChurchInternational, also known as KLM International, has been in the Des Moines news lately for their renovation

work on the old Kingsway Cathedral in downtown Des Moines.

Their immediate plans for the Afton church are to clean up the exterior (DONE), put some temporary patches on the holes in the roof, and get the basement dried out. Eventually? They might even replace the original steeple.

Will they be up and running within a year? "Oooh, yes!" stated Pastor Kenney.