

the MESSENGER



Bless, O Lord, the Fertile Future

Bless, O Lord, the fertile future,
Lying yet as white as snow,
Though our steps be slow and faltering,
Show the path where we should go.

Mark it plainly, heavenly Father,
Though the curves hide it from view.
That day by day as going onward,
We may know what we're to do.

Though the past be marred with failure,
Lord renew our faith once more.
Bless and keep the fertile future
When it's past, white as before.

—E. Reimer

IN THIS ISSUE

Letters to the Editor	2
Outpost Missions	3
Clara Jane's Problem	6
Thirty-two homes visited	8

EDITORIAL



FAITH!

Elijah is both, a challenge and an inspiration to the Christian when we realize that this man of God was, as James put it "A man of like passions". If he had been a man endowed with some supernatural, mystical power by us unobtainable, he would not be an example and challenge he is, but now we are justified in taking him for an example and challenge. F. B. Meyer writes the following about this "man of like passions".

"Weak where we are weak, failing where we would fail; but who stood single handed against his people, and stemmed the tide of idolatry and sin, and turned a nation back to God. And he did it by resources which are with in the reach of all of us. Prove to us that he acted by the spell of some secret which is hidden from us meaner men; convince us that he was cast in an heroic mold to which we can lay no claims: then we must lay aside the story: disappointment has over cast our interest; it is a model we cannot copy; an ideal we cannot realize; a vision that mocks us as it fades into the aszure of the past."

"But this is not the case. This man by whom God threshed the mountains was only a worm at the best. This pillar in God's temple was, by nature, a reed shaken by the breath of the slightest zephyr. This Prophet of Fire who shone like a torch, was originally but a piece of smoking flax. Faith made him all he became, and faith will do as much for us, if only we can exercise it as he did, to appropriate the might of the eternal God." (F. B. Meyer)

How prone we are to think only of what is "possible" in our christian experience, forgetting that, "God specializes in things thought impossible. He can do what no other power can do." "Faith, mighty faith the promise sees. And laughs at impossibilities". We could go through the Bible and list the men who did mighty exploits for God and we would see they were men of faith. Abraham, the father of the faithful! How it thrills our souls again when Paul testifies of him in Rom. 4 that "... he staggered not through unbelief!" We think of the many times we "stagger" through unbelief. May God help us to be strong in faith. Remembering that faith is the victory that overcomes the world. (I John 5:4) "But without faith it is impossible to please God".

"I'd like to have a faith pact," thus prayed a missionary to God, "Give me a lot of things to do and many burdens to carry so I can pray them through and see You work."

We remember how with beaming face a brother minister related of challenge upon challenge and blessing upon blessing that had been afforded him in that part of the vineyard where he labored. But first he had to launch out in faith, leaving home and loved ones. Leaving the peace and quiet of the home community to enter a world of lust and greed, of anger and malice, and of unbridled passions! But oh the victories that God had given. The joy of being where the fight was the thickest! There were no regrets about the choice he had made.

Letters To the Editor

In our "Letters to the Editor" column we are thinking of more than the friendly letter type of contribution. These we have asked for in the past and they have appeared from time to time (when we got them) in our pages. We thank all those who have felt burdened to write to these columns in this way. We trust that we will not discourage anyone from writing in the future because we are changing the pattern somewhat.

In the changeover from the "Family Circle" to "The Messenger" a great, and maybe bold step has been taken. Much will have to be learned to make it the paper that we want it to be. Here is where you can help. Here is where "Letters to the Editor" are in place.

Maybe there are things that you feel should be changed. Or it could be that you do not get the point that some writer is trying to bring across. It could also be that you have your own ideas on the subject. Then why not let us know!

On the other hand there might be something you feel should be included in the paper, which you do not find in it.

There are sections on "Missions", "Youth", etc. Maybe you would like to see another department added. We would appreciate your suggestions.

Maybe you have comments to make that would build us up spiritually as a conference, then include these also. Trusting that the foregoing will give us food for thought and that many will avail yourself the opportunity to write.

He came to my desk with quivering lip -

The lesson was done.

"Dear teacher, I want a new leaf." he said,

"I have spoiled this one."

I took the old leaf, stained and blotted,

And into his eyes smiled

"Do better now my child."

I went to the throne with a quivering soul

The old year was done.

"Dear Father, hast Thou a new leaf for me?"

I have spoiled this one."

He took the old leaf, stained and blotted

He gave a new one all unspotted,

And into my heart smiled

"Do better now my child."

—Kathleen Wheeler

The Messenger

Official organ, in the English language, of the EVANGELICAL MENNONITE CONFERENCE. Published biweekly under the auspices of the E. M. C. BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND EDUCATION.

Editor, David K. Schellenberg, 502 Fifth Ave. N.W. Portage la Prairie, Man.

Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

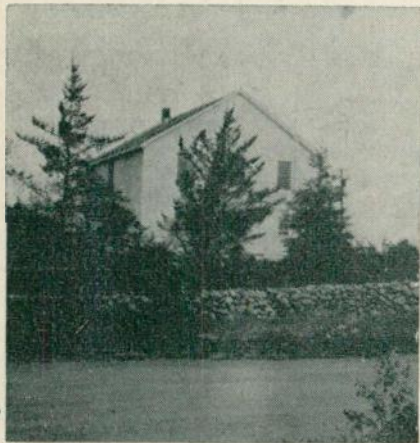
MISSIONS

OUTPOST MISSIONS

The Edwin Wrights, for some five or six years at Canora, have been transferred to Endeavour, some 45 miles north of Canora.

This is one of the newer E.M.C. mission stations. The work there looks very promising.

All services are conducted in the recently purchased building, formerly used as a Red Cross outpost hospital.



During the first week of December, 1962, a special Bible and Missionary Conference was conducted in the Endeavour Fellowship Chapel. To open this special conference we had with us Mr. Bert Warden, a personal friend of ours, and a missionary to Cuba for a number of years under the Mission to Orphans. His elucidation of conditions in Cuba and the pictures he showed, were both educational and inspirational. An offering was taken for his new work under the West Indies Mission in the Dominican Republic.

For the final three nights of the Conference we were very privileged to have Brother and Sister Ben D. Reimer with us. Brother Reimer conducted both a Bible Teaching ministry, and each night presented pictures of the new Mission work in Paraguay, with detailed explanations of the work there. The interest grew each night. Question night proved very interesting and profitable, and definite commitments are being made as a result of this meeting.

The interest grew nightly and

though the last service was on a cold and somewhat stormy night, the attendance was very good. One of the fathers in our congregation had these remarks about the services: - "They were the most informative and challenging Missionary services I have attended." If Missions had been presented when he was younger in this way, he said that he would have been on the Mission field years ago.

Now that we are living at Endeavour in the Chapel building, we would ask you to pray for us, and come visit us.

—E. Wright

RURAL SCHOOL VISITATION AT PELLY

The last week of August 1962 we were on our way to Pelly. Beginning a new responsibility took much prayer and thought. However I shall report on one phase of the work which was to be started right away, rural school visitation.

Being new in the district it was hard to know just where to start, and where to find the schools, but in a short while I acquired all the information needed.

I had to go and see the school boards and also the teachers. Their first response was not too good, but

after the second and also the third visit in some places, I had nine schools on my list which I could visit every two weeks.

We certainly praise the Lord for these open doors.

The matter of which material to use then came up. What could I use, that would be most beneficial to all the children? After much prayer and thought I felt led to use the Gospel of St. John.

The enthusiasm was remarkable. Two of the teachers even wrote down the choruses and sang them with the children during the week. Most of them were just as eager to listen to the stories as the children.

All went well until three weeks before Christmas, when a school regulation was enforced. This stated the religious instruction could be taught from 3:00 to 3:30 only which means that only one school can be visited per day. (I had visited 3 schools a day before).

Therefore I must reorganize this part of our work. We request your prayers. I will have to leave some of the schools out, but which ones is the problem.

Three of these schools are from 24 - 27 miles from Pelly, but it was in the farthest schools that greatest interest was shown. So you see why it is hard to decide.

We wish to thank each one of you for your interest and prayer support, and at the same time ask you to reinforce us with your continual prayers.

—A. Giesbrecht

Prayer

The weary ones had rest, the sad had joy
That day and wondered, 'how'?
The plowman at his work prayed
"Lord help them now!"

Away in foreign lands they wondered, 'how'?
Their simple word had power;
At home, the gleaners, two or three had met
To pray an hour!

"Yes, we are always wondering, 'how'?
Because we do not see
Someone, unknown perhaps and far away
On bended knee!"

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

—By the Editor

Luke 8:5-15

Introduction

The parable of the Sower is no doubt one of the better known sayings of our Lord. And as it had a message which was relevant to the times of the Apostles, thus it also has something to say to us today.

Too many times, I believe, we think of the words of Christ in an abstract way, as something that has no bearing on our lives. We may think of the nice language and the sentiment of a parable and leave it at that. Seemingly never thinking that maybe there is something for us to learn and apply. As far as being applicable to our age this parable could have been spoken yesterday.

Although costumes and ways of life have changed since the time of our Savior, yet basically the heart of man has not changed. Man is still ruled by selfishness, greed and lust. Paul in speaking of the unregenerate heart says, "In time past ye walked according to the course of this world." "Among whom also we all had our conversation in time past in the lusts of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath even as others."

This narrative of Jesus is in two parts. First the parable, then the explanation. We shall immediately go over to the interpretation. Bearing in mind that the seed is the word of God. The ground is, my heart and your heart. The challenge — "He that hath ears to ear, let him hear."

I. The Wayside Hearer

Shall we then, in the light of today, briefly consider the first type of hear-

er. We first have the "wayside" hearer. We understand that the hard heart is represented by the "wayside". This in Palestine was the path. A trodden path where the seed lay as it fell, uncovered and exposed, waiting only for the fowl of the air to come and devour it. And thus we have those who only "hear" the word of God. And because they do not apply it, the enemy of their souls comes and snatches it away, quickly, so that they will not believe and be saved. This may happen by a shrug of the shoulders or by a witty remark at the close of a service, or by idle, unimportant conversation. Selling the very means of salvation for a mess of pottage!

Notice again the issues. The Devil comes and takes the word out of the heart lest they **believe and be saved!** This then is his business, to hinder and block our way to God who thru His word wants to save us! Some object to the use of the word, SAVED. But we find that it is a Biblical term. Christ used it here to denote those who come to Him believing. Paul used it when he said, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved". James used it when he said, "... receive with meekness the engrafted word, WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS." (James 1:21) And here we also see that the Devil fears it because he comes and snatches the word away lest we **believe and be saved.**

This at once puts mankind into two distinct classes, the saved and the unsaved. This too explodes the theory of Universalism, that eventually all will be saved. Jesus clearly speaks of two ways and two destinies. "Broad and spacious is the road", He says, "that leads to destruction and those that go in by it are many; for small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and those that find it are few."

Again Jesus says, "Not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

II They on the Rock

We come to another type of hearer. This one is different from the first in that he receives the word. "They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while

believe, and in time of temptation fall away." Evidence of these also are already found among the professed followers of our Lord. As long as they could only follow Him, observe His miracles feed, on the bread that He multiplied, they were pretty good. But as soon as they saw that something was demanded of them, they turned back. And thus we have the sad account in John ch. 6 where we read that "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." No doubt His loving gaze followed them and He had an inward longing to call them back. But they had made their choice. The Christian life was too hard for them. They did not have the inner spiritual resources that it takes to be a follower of Christ.

They receive the word with joy. They were moved by an appeal and they go forward to stand with the rest. But they have not counted the cost! They are fair weather Christians in other words. In Luke 14 Jesus lays down the laws of discipleship. Three times He uses the term "cannot be my disciple" to designate those who are not willing to go all the way with Him.

In chapter nine of Luke we read of three would-be followers. One of them even said "... Lord I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest". But Jesus knew that he was unprepared and that he didn't know what he was saying.

And so today we have those who have found the going hard, the price too great to pay. Should there be those among our readers who have at a time like that forsaken their Saviour, we would still say that Christ is your only hope! If you fear that you have sinned too greatly we would like to encourage you with the word of God which liveth and abideth forever when it says, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out". This is God's word to you. Believe it and trust Him for your need?

(To be concluded)

* * *

Acknowledgement is hereby given to Rev. Ben Hoeppner for stimulating some of the ideas expressed in the article "Basic Principles of Christian Ethics" in "The Messenger", Jan. 11, 1963.

TRUTH FOR YOUTH

DO YOUR BEST

We have numerous instances in the Old Testament where the Israelites were reminded to bring their offerings to the Lord. Repeatedly we have the term "firstfruits" mentioned. The first part of the harvest was consecrated to the Lord, and not the tenth. "All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the Lord . . .", Rom. 18:12.

No doubt we are all agreed that the spiritual is much more important than the material. Yet how do you and I measure up to God's standards in our devotional life or our Christian service? Do we have our devotions at a time when we are unhurried and at a time when the mind is alert? Do we devote our time to Christian service when we are enthused and energetic or do we wait till our physical body is weary and the mind fatigued? Do we plan our service well or is it done in a slipshod fashion?

Just recently while leafing through a book on Young People's Programs, I came across an interesting topic. The title of the presentation was "The Mystery of the Murdered Meeting" (Or, How Not to Prepare a Youth Program). Since it presented such a good lesson, I'll relate it briefly.

Three months ago Art had been elected as one of three group leaders. He felt highly honored that the young people had put their trust in him. He promised to do his very best.

Two months have passed. One evening he receives a call from Louis the president informing him that he'll plan the program well in advance.

Time: One week before the meeting. No arrangements have as yet been made. He meets Lou in the hallway at church and the latter takes for granted that everything is planned and that he has spent a lot of time in prayer about it. But Art has been busy, however in a week's time everything will be ready.

Time: Sunday morning, the day of the meeting. Oh, he's got to get his program ready! Well, he'll call on good old Eddie to lead the singing, on a few

faithful ones who will have short messages, and on Lou to make the closing. Planning for the program isn't such a chore after all!

Time: Sunday afternoon. Art feels sleepy and admits he has been out too late Saturday night. He'll take a little nap for tonight he must be his very best. He has not had the expected cooperation from the friends he had counted on and one of them is out of town. Suddenly he awakes with a start. It's after five and the program begins at six-thirty!

Time: Tonight — five minutes after scheduled time. Art is unprepared, all confused, and ill-at-ease. There is no enthusiasm in the singing. He has a booklet from which he reads a portion then calls on two others in the audience (who've not been informed beforehand) to read the next two sections. The program is boring, to say the least. It's almost a perfect flop!

This may be an exaggerated case, but nevertheless, occurrences similar to this one take place all too often where there has been little or no preparation. Shall we remember that nothing is too good for the Lord — He deserves our very best.

J. Loewen

* * *

YOUNG PEOPLE'S NIGHT CHANGED AT KLEEFELD

Feeling that a change would be in order the Kleefeld Young People have changed their Sunday night meeting to Friday night.

Meetings will be conducted once a month as previously.

One of the reasons for the change was that the Sunday night meeting often clashed with other services. This Sunday night will now be utilized for other special meetings.

Young People's leader at Kleefeld is Henry Fast.

* * *

"If you fail to get to grips with the Word of God and apply it to your heart and life you are of no use to God".

—Elwyn Davies

WHAT IS HE WORTH TO YOU?

We would like to, in this short col-, see what Christ was worth to different people and then also ask ourselves, "What is He worth to me?"

Shall we ask the Apostle Paul first of all. "Paul, what is Christ worth to you?" His answer is found in Phil. 3:8. "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things . . ." All else had to take second place! Christ came first!

Let us ask the young convert whose father confronted her with these words, "If by tomorrow morning you have not decided to give up this foolish notion of religion you may pack your suitcase and leave this home." Her answer, "Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee!" Thank God that the father saw his foolishness and repented.

"I am a soldier of the cross, and a follower of the Lamb, and my motto from henceforth is 'I have one King, even Jesus.' support and strengthen me, O my Captain, and be mine forever." Thus wrote a 17 year old fellow on Jan. 19, 1861. God honored this pledge. The young man, Albert Benjamin Simpson, was the founder of the Christian Missionary Alliance.

In closing, what is Christ worth to you?

* * *

Brethren Youth pledge service to Church: More than 1000 young people out of 2,000 attending a youth conference of the Church of the Brethren in Estes Park, Colo., pledged themselves to one or two years of voluntary service to the denomination. Some 1,800 boys and girls have served voluntarily after high school or college since the program was launched in 1948. At present 300 brethren volunteers are assigned to 300 service projects at Home and Abroad.

—Alliance Witness

* * *

"Needed are men and women who know how to feed their souls on the Word of God."

—Elwyn Davies

"Missionary candidates today are better educated and less prepared."

—Elwyn Davies



Clara Jane's Problem

Summer camp! With twenty other girls! Clara Jane was thrilled right to her very toes whenever she thought of it! She had often dreamed of summer camp, and at last her dream was going to come true! Two whole weeks at Silver Lake, boating, bathing, hiking, playing with the other girls! And to-day—today!—she was going.

Only one thing bothered her a bit, and she tried hard not to think of that. Who were the other girls? She did not know one of them. They would all be strangers. And Clara Jane was shy. She found it hard to get acquainted with strangers.

She was all packed and ready now, waiting for the bus that would stop for her. She kept running from the kitchen, where she chatted with Mother, to the living room to look out the window. And at last—there was the bus!

"It's coming, Mother!" she called.

Mother hurried to the living room.

"Be a good girl, honey," she said. "And don't forget to say please and thank you. And don't forget to say your prayers every day."

"Yes, Mother," Clara Jane promised, and then she hugged Mother tight for a minute.

Mother watched from the window, and Clara Jane waved until the bus turned the corner and she could not see her home any more.

Then Clara Jane looked shyly at the girl sitting on the seat beside her. She

was a dark-haired girl with smiling eyes.

"I'm Lenore Perkins," she said. "What's your name?"

Clara Jane told her, and in a minute they were talking freely, getting acquainted very fast. All the other girls were friendly too. They called to each other across the aisles. The ten-mile ride to the lake seemed very short.

And how fast the afternoon went! Miss Rogers told them the rules, and showed them the camp, and then let them play till supper time.

At the big long table Clara Jane sat next to Lenora, of course. They were already good friends. And all down the table there were two rows of happy, smiling faces. Miss Rogers sat at the far end.

When all the girls were seated, Miss Rogers said, "Now let us all bow our heads and close our eyes, and we'll ask God's blessing upon the food."

Clara Jane was glad of that, glad that Miss Rogers was going to ask a blessing just as Daddy or Mother always did at home.

After supper there was singing around the fire under the stars, and games then it was bedtime.

Clara Jane and Lenore had beds side by side.

But while Clara Jane was getting ready for bed, she kept thinking of something. Should she kneel by her bed and pray, the way she always did

at home? What would Lenore think? Would she make fun of it? Would she want to keep Clara Jane for a friend just the same? Or would she think Clara Jane queer?

"I can pray on my back, in bed, just as well," Clara Jane thought. "Mamma always says we can pray any time and anywhere."

But that didn't seem right. It seemed as if she was ashamed!

Maybe—maybe Lenore was a Christian. Maybe Lenore would kneel and pray too!

But no. Lenore was undressed already. She said, "Good-night, Clara Jane. Sleep tight!" and hopped into her bed.

"Good-night!" Clara Jane said, and she put one knee on her bed to crawl in.

And then she suddenly changed her mind and slid down upon her knees instead. Why, of course, she need not be ashamed of Jesus! How could she be ashamed of Him! He was the wonderful Son of God.

Clara Jane prayed her usual little prayer, and asked God to bless the folks at home, and then asked Him to forgive her for almost being ashamed of Him.

Clara Jane hopped into bed then. She pulled the blanket up under her chin and then quickly turned her head to look at Lenore. And—why—Lenore was out of bed, on her knees! Praying!

A minute later Lenore stood up. Before getting into her bed she turned to look at Clara Jane, and then she went to the side of Clara Jane's bed.

"I wanted to pray," she whispered, "because I always do at home. But I was afraid you would laugh at me. And then—when I saw you kneel down I was ashamed."

Clara Jane reached a hand from under the blanket and squeezed Lenore's fingers.

"I almost didn't do it too," she said, "Because I was afraid. But I'm glad I did. We don't have to be ashamed of Jesus, do we?"

"No!" said Lenore. "And I never will be again!"

Then Lenore quickly crept into her bed. She smiled across at Clara Jane. They waved at each other. And then the light went out.

"See you in the morning!" Lenore whispered through the darkness.

—Selected



SHELTERED

Who of us has not looked out of the window during these cold mornings and looked at the youngsters bravely passing by on their way to school.

Scarves over their faces with only a pair of bright eyes showing; mittens on their hands and warm ski boots or overshoes they seem to be well able to take care of themselves.

Another innovation of recent years that helps to keep our children warm is the parka.

Much that is modern could be classed as superfluous, but the advent of the "parka" certainly is a blessing. Used by young and old, male and female. It has proven its worth in keeping youngsters cozy. Today we could hardly visualize getting along without it, truly a marvellous invention.

That children often do not feel the cold is evidenced by my son when you ask, "Was it cold?" and with a shrug of the shoulder he countered with, "O, I don't know!" and you wonder how to interpret his remark. At that age they are sometimes too proud to admit that they were cold.

Going to school used to be different at least for some of us. These who can recall going to school by horse and will know what I talk about. Those will be never forgotten days. Pity them who never had this thrill! I suppose poor Dobbin, standing in a cold barn all day would disagree. But his turn came when at 4 o'clock he could turn his face homeward in anticipation of hay and a warmer place to bed down for the night.

Yes, we can shelter our children from the cold blast of our Canadian winter by providing warm homes and warm clothing against elements. If only it were as simple when it comes to protecting them from the inroads of the elements of the world.

And yet there is a cloak that can

be provided here too. A garment that will to a great measure insulate them against the forces of evil on every hand. We are speaking, of course, of the blessing and influence of a God fearing home. A home where children are brought up in the fear and admonition of God; A home that has a family altar and daily prayer.

Children coming from a home like this have a chance to be kept from being influenced by the evil that surrounds them. These youngsters will in moments of testing be able to say no to temptations.

To see the truth of Solomon's statement when he says "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" by far repays any self-sacrifice or diligence that it may have cost on our part.

Yes, there is a cloak that will protect our child from this world. It is provided by the Lord through God fearing parents.

In closing I want to share with you a poem that has been a real challenge to my heart. It is taken from "Why Do Our Children Miss the Way?" and is written by Elizabeth Rosser:

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,
And storm clouds gather in the threatening west;
The lowing cattle seek a friendly shelter;
The bird hides in her nest;
The thunder crashes; wilder grows the tempest,
And darkness settles o'er the fearful din;
Come, shut the door, and gather round the heartstone—
Are all the children in?

When gilded sin doth walk about the street.
Oh, at last it biteth like a serpent!
Poisoned are stolen sweets.
O mothers! guard the feet of inexperience,
Too prone to wander in the paths of sin!
Oh, shut the door of love against temptation!
Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,
The night of death is hastening on apace;

The Lord is calling: "Enter thou thy chamber,
And tarry there a space."
And when he comes, the King in all His glory,
Who died the shameful death our hearts to win,
Oh, may the gates of heaven shut about us,
With all the children in.

* * *

EXTENSION SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. CHARLES

St. Charles, Man. is a community of about 500 homes, situated west of Winnipeg on Portage Ave. next to Kirkfield Park.

In this community we find a majority of United Church people, Catholics with their church and convent and a sprinkling of Mennonites.

It is here where the Extension Committee of Kleefeld have organized a Sunday School. Meetings are held in the large St. Charles Public School with its huge basements space and auditorium. This has been particularly handy in rendering Christmas or Easter programs.

Our Sunday School has been in operation for only a year and attendance right now averages between 20 and 25. We thank God for each one. It represents a steady growth from a discouraging beginning.

Four teachers from Kleefeld are present each Sunday afternoon at 2:30 to instruct the youngsters in the precious life-giving Word of God. Beginner, Primary, Junior and Adult classes are held.

Some children come from needy homes and this presented an opportunity to distribute Christmas hampers to these and other homes.

We also believe that the efforts of the Sunday School will be fortified by the impact of Christian literature in each home which will be distributed by mail every month.

St. Charles is a fast growing community with new homes constantly in the process of being built. This, with a steady personal visitation program being carried out by one or two brethren leads us to believe that the possibility of establishing a permanent work here is great. Pray for the work! The Word is being sown and we look to the Lord to give the increase!

NEWS

THIRTY-TWO HOME VISITED

Special evangelistic meetings at the Arden E.M. Church came to a close on Sunday night, January 13.

Rev. Arnold Fast from Wymark was the speaker. Services were conducted in the Low German language.

In spite of the extreme cold the meetings were well attended. People drove from some distance to take part.

All meetings with the exception of Saturday night, were conducted in the church. The Saturday meeting was held in the Arden Hall and was in English. A special feature here was the showing of the film, "Seventeen."

The Sunday night service closed on a blessed note, with a good testimony meeting.

In all, 32 homes were visited including one where the statement was made that no minister had called there in ten years.

Bible studies in the Arden area are also much appreciated. Meetings are held on Thursday nights alternating between homes. Up to 30 people have been in attendance coming from about four or five different denominations represented in the district. Rev. Elmer Hamm (E.M.C. MacGregor) conducts the services.

* * *

SPECIAL SPEAKERS AT KLEEFELD

A welcome guest at the Kleefeld Church on Sunday, Jan. 13 was Archie Penner of Iowa. The Penners had come for the funeral of their father, Mr. Paul Friesen.

The theme of Mr. Penner's message was taken from Phil. 3.

Also on the same day, Otto Derksen of the West Indies gave a report. Among the interesting features was a tape recording of native singing.

Mr. Derksen also showed pictures and delivered a message. One expressed it thus "It was a really good evening."

* * *

LOW-GERMAN SERVICES AT SWIFT CURRENT

Special meetings that resulted in a packed out building were conducted at the Swift Current E.M. Church recently.

Speaker for the campaign was Jake Hoeppner, Western Tract Mission, Saskatoon.

Mr. Hoeppner spoke in the low German language and crowds came to hear him. Extra benches and the choir loft had to be utilized to accommodate the people.

Ben Friesen formerly Wynyard is the pastor of this church.

* * *

Levi Reimers at Portage

Speaking at both the morning and evening service in the Portage E.M.C. church on Jan. 6 were the Levi Reimers, missionaries on furlough from Western Germany.

If anything could be underlined in their reports and messages, it would no doubt be the remarkable answers to prayer. Again and again right from the start of their last term of service, the Lord had directed in a definite way, even as to their location.

The Lord manifested Himself also in many other ways. The demon possessed were liberated; drunkards were saved and testifying to their new found faith.

When the need arose for more adequate facilities for Bible and Youth camps, etc. God again provided. They now live on a beautiful 12 acre estate equipped with a large house (formerly a castle) buildings, orchard and a small park. Adequate room for their busy round of activities.

One of the pressing needs at present is an orphanage. Foster children are almost forced upon them, sometimes caring for as many as 12 homeless.

Also possible now is short term Bible school (six weeks). This school is now in session with John Peters (Steinbach) teaching.

The Reimers plan to return to Germany as soon as possible. In the meantime they will be giving reports of their work, in various churches in California and New York. Some two months will be taken up in this way.

CANTATA AT WYMARK

Guests at the Wymark E. M. Church recently was the 55 voice choir of the Pambrun Bible School. This group of singers, under the direction of Peter Schroeder rendered the Cantata "Emmanuel Forever".

The principal of the school. Mr. Peeler brought the message of the evening. Title of the message was "Christian Attitudes."

The Pambrun Bible School has a student body of 110. It has been in operation some 30 years. John Unger (Dauphin, formerly Beatty) is a former student of this school.

* * *

OBITUARY

Alan Kent Schwartz

Kleefeld, Man.

Alan Kent entered our home on Sept 26, 1962. He was a very happy and contented baby. But Alan could not stay with us. On Dec. 11 he was admitted to the Bethesda hospital with an infection and a persistent cough. On Dec. 16 he was released as well. But on the next day he again became ill and had to go back to the hospital. Although he rallied remarkably for a while, he nevertheless passed away on the morning of Dec. 20, at 1:45 a.m. Cause of his death was a rare type of pneumonia Alan reached the age of 3 months and 18 days. He leaves to mourn his early death his sister Kathleen Joy, us as parents, grandparents, relatives and many friends. Coveting your prayers.

The bereaved family.

Coming Events

March 2 & 3, E.M.C. Sunday School Conference at Rosenort.

April 3, 4, 5, Missions Conference of Steinbach Bible Institute

April 7, 1963 Graduation Exercises, Steinbach Bible Institute

THE MESSENGER