

The West Michigan Herald.

"Watchman, What of the Night."

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Labor Report For 1904.

At the meeting of the West Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held at Charlotte, January 8-14, 1904, I was assigned District 3 as my field of labor, embracing Calhoun, Eaton and Barry counties. I began work at the Maple Grove church, an appointment being made for a two-days' meeting, January 23 and 24, at which time we expected to dedicate their little school house. But owing to the severity of the weather, it was postponed one week. After closing the meetings here, I went to Bedford on Sabbath, and upon my return home found a letter awaiting me from Elder A. G. Haughey, requesting me to change my field of labor to District 5, embracing Muskegon, Oceana, and Newaygo counties. This change took me a few days to make the needed preparations, as I had a horse and cutter to dispose of.

On Feb. 26 I started for Shelby. On my way I stopped off at Rothbury, where I learned they were not having any meetings as they were repairing the church. Roth-

bury being a branch of the Shelby church, and they having Sabbath-school and meeting there, I remained and started my work in District 5. The deep snow and the severity of the weather hindered very much in the progress of the work.

Our congregations at first were very small, but continued to increase until we had a full house. Finally in the early part of April, I suggested that we organize a church and build a house of worship, believing it to be the right thing to do, and that it would give character to the work. The members all fell in with the plan; and I corresponded with Elder A. G. Haughey in regard to the matter and made an appointment with him for a two-days' meeting at Shelby, April 23 and 24.

There was a good representation of the members at Shelby and Rothbury both; and it was there settled to organize a church at Rothbury, and all who were present voted to give the members of the Shelby church residing at Rothbury letters when they had organized. May 1 was set for the organization of the church, but owing to the severity of the weather only a few were out and it was postponed one week. May 8 was a fine day and all were present. As Elder A. G. Haughey could not be present at the organization, he advised that I occupy the chair and effect the organization, which I did, of nineteen members. Thirteen of these were members of the Shelby church. There was a full corps of officers elected and ordained. All were unanimous in the choice of Rothbury as the name of the church.

I started a subscription list to purchase a lot and material to erect a church building, and nearly \$475.00 was pledged in money and work. This was very encouraging.

May 14 four were baptized, three uniting with the Shelby church.

June 25 I baptized four more. These had been taken into the Rothbury church subject to baptism.

Having learned that there had two Adventist families moved in the vicinity of Holton, Muskegon county, I went there soon after the organization at Rothbury. And upon arriving there I found Brother Klose who moved from Wisconsin, and Brother Wm. Reefman who had moved from Fremont. Brother Hofstra was here at work, and I felt very favorably impressed with the work, and told him I was certain a church could be raised up there and encouraged him to work with that end in view. My last words to him before taking the train for Rothbury were that if the committee called him from that field, I should put a tent there after Berrien Springs Conference.

At a workers' meeting at Berrien Springs Elder Haughey announced the report of the Conference Committee on the distribution of labor, which was to the effect that Brother Hofstra had been assigned to labor with Elder R. C. Horton in a tent effort at Bangor, and that Brother W. H. Heckman and myself work together in a tent effort at Holton.

I arrived at Holton to begin work June 14, and Brother Heckman one week later, and June 26 we began meetings. The interest was quite good from the start. One very encouraging feature was that there were a few we could look for every evening, unless sickness hindered. Sister Heckman joined us June 28 and helped very much in the work. Miss Mumbroe kindly assisted as organist, which we appreciated very much, and we yet look for her to take her stand with

us in the message. Miss Nina Parkhurst was with us about one week and her help was greatly appreciated by us all.

Another very important feature of the work was the children's meetings which were conducted by Sister Heckman, assisted by Miss Parkhurst during her stay. At the first meeting there were twenty-six out. I was not present at the opening, but returned when about half through. It was a most glorious sight to see their bright intelligent faces light up and their eyes sparkle with interest, and I could not keep from praising God that we were able to help both old and young, and also in giving me a part in proclaiming the third angel's message to the world.

But Satan is always on hand to hinder the work as he sees any becoming interested. And here a few of the leading Methodists of the place opposed our work, especially the children's meetings, advising them not to attend the meetings nor have anything to do with us. This caused a falling off, not only at the children's meetings, but as the testing truths were presented from the desk, it caused a falling off at the evening meetings also.

From the first the Sabbath meetings and Sabbath-school were held in a tent, and a few from the outside attended.

August 29 we moved the tent three miles north in the country, and our attendance from the first was better than at Holton. But the cold and rainy weather at the last hindered the people from coming and necessitated our getting a stove for the large tent, which made it quite comfortable.

Sabbath, October 8, we all drove out to a very beautiful lake where six willing souls followed their Lord in baptism. These were to unite with the Fremont church until the organization of the church here. We had been working to get each one to laboring for souls and at our next Sabbath meeting we introduced the special Signs for

November, and money was raised to purchase fifty sets. To me this was very encouraging. As one of old has said, "they all had a mind to work."

October 29 we broke camp, though with sadness of heart, as at our last meeting we had a full tent. There is a growing interest there, and if all our brethren and sisters fully consecrate themselves to God and continue to work for souls, they will soon have a very strong church.

The matter of church organization was fully discussed by all the brethren and sisters, and I corresponded with Elder Haughey in regard to the matter and he favored it and requested me to make a date, giving him two or three weeks' notice, which I did. But after all we were disappointed. But the Conference Committee sent Elder Fred Brink December 1 upon the date named for organization.

Brother Brink gave a very interesting talk from John 15:1-9, after which Brother Brink, being sent by the committee, was invited to occupy the chair, and the organization was effected through the seven members belonging to other Seventh-day Adventist churches. Sunday the election and ordination of officers took place. The name chosen for their church was the Holton church of Seventh-day Adventists, and a resolution was passed that I present their request for membership at the next session of the West Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to be held at Grand Rapids January 20-25, 1905.

I must briefly mention the faithful labors of Sister Clara Crothers who rendered efficient help as organist and leading soprano, and it was greatly appreciated by all.

I received a letter from Elder A. G. Haughey in regard to assignment of labor for the week of prayer. This I attended to as requested.

Now a few words in behalf of

the Review campaign. I can say all the resident members in the following named churches are subscribers to, and receiving the weekly visits of our beloved paper: Shelby, Rothbury, Holton, Fremont, Denver Center, and Hesperia; Muskegon being the only church in the District I have not visited in the interest of this work, Elder Haughey in his letter having said that Brother Prescott would report for Muskegon. But just about this time Brother Prescott was taken down with a severe attack of pneumonia, which resulted in his death. This has been a serious loss to the cause and work at Muskegon, and I hope the coming committee will do something to have the work so well begun carried forward in harmony with God's mind.

There are some other places in the District that seem very favorable for future labor in tent work. And whoever is assigned to this field for the coming year, I will do all I can to help by way of counsel or anything else in my power to push the work, for I feel a deep interest in this part of God's great vineyard. And my greatest desire is to see this message carried to earth's remotest bounds, and that I as a faithful hunter and fisher of men may hear the well done in the end.

W. C. HEBNER.

Object of the Sabbath-school and Its Relation to Other Branches of Our Work.

(To be continued)

Through the prophet Hosea, God has made the startling significant statement, "My people is destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hos, 4:6. The vast number of perishing souls about us brings forcibly to our minds the terrible consequences that follow ignorance of God and His word. To impart knowledge of the gospel in the mind, and foster the love of Christ in the soul is the grand object of all christian work. The Sabbath-school is a most important factor in this work

of soul-saving. Some one has called the Sabbath-school the nursery of the church. It seems to me that it should be much more than that. No Christian can outgrow the Sabbath-school. It should be as a table spread with spiritual food suitable for people of all ages and conditions of christian growth, where young and old may in sweet communion feast on the living bread, and drink deeply of the water from the wells of salvation.

Too often we forget the real aim of our Sabbath-school, and allow the general exercise and class study to be conducted in such a lifeless way that but little good is accomplished. Never should the genuine object of the school, the salvation of souls, be permitted to get any where in our mental vision except straight ahead of us, for if we do we shall fail to lead the pupils to salvation.

It is said that the only way to hit anything high is to aim high. Therefore we must aim definitely at soul-saving in our Sabbath-school work, and make all other things subordinate to this great purpose. The Sabbath is the day on which God comes nearest his people, and the Sabbath-school presents to the earnest, devoted worker the very best of opportunities for fastening the truth upon the minds of seekers after God. I cannot see how any soul-winner can willingly pass by the responsibilities for doing good offered by the Sabbath-school. The wide-awake Christian will be wide-awake on Sabbath morning, and at his post, whether he be pupil or teacher, unless he has a good REASON for absence—not simply an excuse.

Christ says, according to our faith be it unto us. Supreme confidence in our Master and unbounded love for our work will bring grand results. Sometimes we are too timid to expect great things from God, and go at our work with an air that says plainly that we are not expecting much. But some one says; "I have tried so many

times to lead my class to Christ and can see little change in the lives of my pupils." Here the aim is right, but why does it fail? Perhaps there is not enough powder (power) behind the ball! Things go down with very little help, but it takes power to lift them up. Then too, many people do their fighting against the devil with blank cartridges. Let us see that our shells are loaded with truth, to be sent home to the heart by the power of the spirit of God, and there will be less lack of results in our work.

There are two phases of this subject to which I wish to call your attention. Christ in speaking of His mission said; "The Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost." Sometimes we forget that as Sabbath-school workers we have a work of seeking laid upon us. The most thorough preparation for carrying on our work will have little effect in saving souls if we never get near them. We do too much firing at random. If we have gathered our pupils in by diligent search, and know something of their character and environments by coming in actual contact with them, we can reach them more directly and easily, and will have accomplished another grand object of Sabbath-school work,—brought the pupils into personal touch with a live Christian. Too much of our work is done at arm's length, indeed we may hold it farther away and touch it only with a long pole. The gardener who wishes to nurse a tiny sprouting seed to the full perfection of a fruit bearing plant, gets down on his knees as soon as the little sprout appears above the soil, and with his hands loosens the earth, and roots out any weeds that may be springing up to choke his tender plant. The Sabbath-school falls far below its privileges and duties if it fails to encourage and strengthen Christian sympathy and helpfulness among all its members. It is the work which, more than

any other, gives opportunity to all. Old or young, whether educated, or with only the native ability that God has given, may find ample opportunity of cultivating his gifts and becoming a bearer of fruit instead of a cumberer of the ground. The ideal Sabbath-school is one in which every member is a worker, and every worker is a helper. It holds before us the grand goal of Christian experience,—unity of faith, unity of purpose, unity of action.

B. F. KNEELAND.

Are You a Leader, or Only Being Led?

This question should strike home to every heart that is working for the Third Angel's Message. What God wants and what this cause needs is a band of strong men and women. Men of strong individuality and who have courage to stand for truth and right under all circumstances. We are not bid by our Lord to fight for our own glory, nor our own name, nor our own reputation, but to fight for the Third Angel's Message, and to leave the result with our "Advocate" "who careth for us." This takes courage and especially at this time when so many spurious notions are coming to light, and that is the very reason the cause needs strong men—men who can be tied to so to speak—men who have courage for Christ's sake to express their opinion and let their influence be felt. In every issue that comes we must choose sides, and while we are choosing we must have the good of the work in view, and base every argument upon the bible—the only true guide and rule of faith. Every true Seventh-Day Adventist believes that we received the Third Angel's Message direct from God through the Bible and that that message has made this people what it is. Therefore as I hear from one place or another of changing the message, or of some such work, I boldly declare that this message needs no changes. By the Spirit of

Prophecy we are told that the Third Angel's Message is just what we have presented it to be and therefore always must be, and what we want then is a change—not of doctrine that is based upon Bible, but of hearts and minds to stand firm to the old ship that has brought this far. One great question that is asked to day, as we need a man is, "Is he SOUND in the faith," and the question must be decided by the attitude he takes toward the Third Angel's Message, the prophecies, and in short the truths that have made this people. And in this light are you a leader.

And if you ask me where I stand
In this great world's reform,
'Tis where my precious Saviour stood
And faced earth's sneer and scorn.
My prayer is that I faithful be,
In heart and mind and all,
For an hour with my Lord in heaven
Will pay me for it all.

ELD. CARL A. HANSEN.

News and Notes.

Miss Mildred Wilson is teaching the spring term of school at Maple Grove.

General Conference begins May 11. Let all of our readers pray for this important meeting.

One of our subscribers writes as follows: "We appreciate our little paper very much. It is a welcome visitor from week to week."

Elders W. D. Parkhurst, W. E. Videto and the editor attended a meeting at Carlton Center Sabbath and Sunday. A report will appear later.

Miss Lillian Smith, who has been connected with our office for the past year, went to Battle Creek last week, where she expects to remain for some time.

From Samarai, British New Guinea, Pastor Irwin writes as follows: "We feel surprised at the burden our island missionaries manifest for these people, and how anxious they

are to get back to their field when once they are called out of it for a time. But one only needs to mingle with these people for a short time, and he will feel the same burden. Somehow they draw on our sympathies in a way that is inexplicable. I feel like stopping and remaining at every place we have visited. We ought to be in a position to send out a score or more of missionaries to these island fields each year. If we had the qualified, consecrated workers, I believe we should have little trouble in sustaining them."

Medical Report For March.

Examinations, 46.
Bible Readings, 11.
Prescriptions, 204.
Consultations, 228.
Medical and missionary letters written, 87.
Testaments, 418.

Some time ago it was decided to enlarge our work so that we could give treatments to gentlemen as well as to ladies. This plan we have been carrying on during the past few weeks. The first of April we took possession of the entire house which we had been partially occupying for the past two years. This gives us seven rooms, besides bath-rooms, which we are using for office and ladies' and gents' treatment rooms. In the eighth room we have a depository for health foods, for the accommodation of our patients.

We have with us Mr. W. W. Goss, a graduate nurse from the Battle Creek sanitarium, who has been giving treatment to several patients ever since he came to us. Our lady nurses, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Lemons-Martin, and Miss Parkhurst, are kept busy in the ladies treatment rooms. Our patronage is increasing each month, as the above partial report will show.

We are putting in several medical appliances, electric light baths, different forms of electrical currents, and a complete vibratory outfit, and hope to have them all set up and working by the first of

next month. These will be of great benefit to the patients.

We all feel of excellent courage in the work.

PATIENCE S. BOURDEAU, M. D.

March Tithe Receipts.

Allegan	\$ 89 91
Agnew	1 00
Battle Creek	1925 96
Berrien Springs	18 20
Bushnell	39 86
Bangor	22 20
Belding	11 44
Cedar Lake	91 00
Eaton Rapids	06
Glenwood	2 90
Grand Rapids	181 70
Grandville	6 54
Grand Ledge	38 43
Hastings	48 00
Individuals	25 67
Mecosta	2 07
Medical Dep't.	10 00
Mendon	24 56
Otsego	9 31
Odessa Church School	10 00
Pottersville	7 50
Shelby	50
Trufant	57 36
	\$2624 17

March Receipts.

Tithe	\$2624 17
On account	90 85
Merchandise	26 68
R. L. Offerings	23 66
Southern Field	3 40
Haskell Home	6 68
Annual offering	6 75
Oakwood School	2 84
China Mission	5 00
Mission Board Offerings	3 00
Nashville Sanitarium	26 25
Washington Fund	3 83
Berotsland Mission	1 00
Watson Fund	1 57
Holland Tent	8 25
Weekly offerings	21 89
S. S. offerings	154 16
West Michigan Herald	4 25
Property (sale of old type-writer)	30 00
	\$3044 23