

A REVIEW OF A MINISTRY SINCE 1934

In re-arranging files during the recent moving the pastor came across a file in which are contained all the annual reports he has made since he began his work here in 1934. Some rather interesting things came out of a casual looking over these reports that I would like to pass on to you. There have been many changes in that time. The first year-in spite of fine leadership of Mr. George Philip Mueller as president- was a difficult one. There was much quarreling and arguing. In my first report I suggested that we have a "crusade of love and understanding." Gradually a finer spirit of cooperation developed and grew.

In 1934 the Vacation Bible school work was begun, which has been carried on since that time. Since we had only German morning services and English services at night, it was suggested that we have Junior Worship services right after Sunday school. These were arranged in spite of opposition that "children could not be interested in a sermon." We had a fine response and out of this has grown our English morning service. For a while we had three services on Sundays. In 1936 our Sunday school Hall was dedicated. In 1936 we had 58 German services and 106 English services.

In 1937 we note that Mrs. May Getz resigned as part-time secretary of the Church and Mr. Albert Schmeiser took over until 1947. Then Mrs. Elma Amrhein took over until Mrs. Grace Fader was elected at full time secretary of the Church 1960.

Almost every report the appeal was made for interest in the larger Kingdom work, in missions, etc. but silently accepted and not much done. Although we have been improving right along. No Church can live to itself alone.

Back in 1939 we had a discussion about an Assistant Pastor.

We had upheavals in 1940 and in 1947, but we passed through these. In 1947 a complete reorganization of our Sunday school took place, since some friends disagreed with the policy of our Church, as one with a Reformation and Lutheran background.

Worship services were rather loose, but the bringing of worship folders, a steady policy of having real worship services gradually improved the situation. A famous artist said; "I criticize by creating" has been part of policy here.

The name "German" was dropped from our Church name in 1945 and we are known as United Evangelical Church.

In 1945 a "reaching, preaching and teaching" mission was suggested, and the thought that we might have areas in our congregation to which key-persons might be appointed to keep track of people.

Our evening services were getting a bit of a problem by 1946 and in 1950 they were dropped and two morning services conducted. It was at this time that our German services were reduced to one a year.

So many changes have taken place and wherever there is growth changes do take place, which is all to the good. Of recent years we have been sailing in smoother waters and our building ventures have helped to create an atmosphere of cooperation and Church spirit.