

# Markham Twp. Sunday School Assoc. Presents Visitation Reports

During the past year, various members of the Markham Township Sunday School Association Executive conducted visitations to a number of church schools throughout the district. Their reports were presented at the annual Convention in Markham Village on Thursday, Jan. 21st. Portions of these reports were as follows:

**Brethren-In-Christ S.S., Helse Hill** — Mrs. Percy Bennett  
On June 14th I visited the Brethren-In-Christ Sunday School at Helse Hill. As the Superintendent, Mr. Lewis Helse and several others were away at a conference, Mrs. B. Vandenberg, the Junior Superintendent, was in charge. In this Sunday School all meet together in the Church with the Junior Classes going to the basement for class period. It was children's Sunday and the boys and girls very capably read the Scriptures, recited memory verses and sang. It is always a joy to any Sunday School teacher to see the children talking part. The teachers and Superintendent are giving the children here a real start in taking their places in the work of the Lord. In the primary classes, where I sat in, the teacher gives each child printed verses from the Bible to memorize for the next Sunday. One verse pertaining to the lesson and the other taken from some other chapter. The boys and girls are very earnest in this task. We all re-assembled in the Church for the closing hymn and prayer. It is always a benefit when one can learn how others carry on and the various ways of teaching a lesson from God's word.

**United Church S.S., Stouffville** (Mrs. Percy Bennett)  
On November 1st I visited the Stouffville United Church Sunday School. This is one of the largest Sunday Schools in our Township and they hold two sessions — the Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors and Adults meeting at 10:00 and the Nursery, Kindergarten and Primary Classes meeting at 11:00 during the Church Service. Mr. S. Stouffer is Superintendent, with Departmental Superintendents assisting. At 10:00 I started in the Junior Room under the very capable leadership of Mrs. DeWitt. During class period we sat in the Adult Class where Doctor Crouch was teaching an excellent lesson.

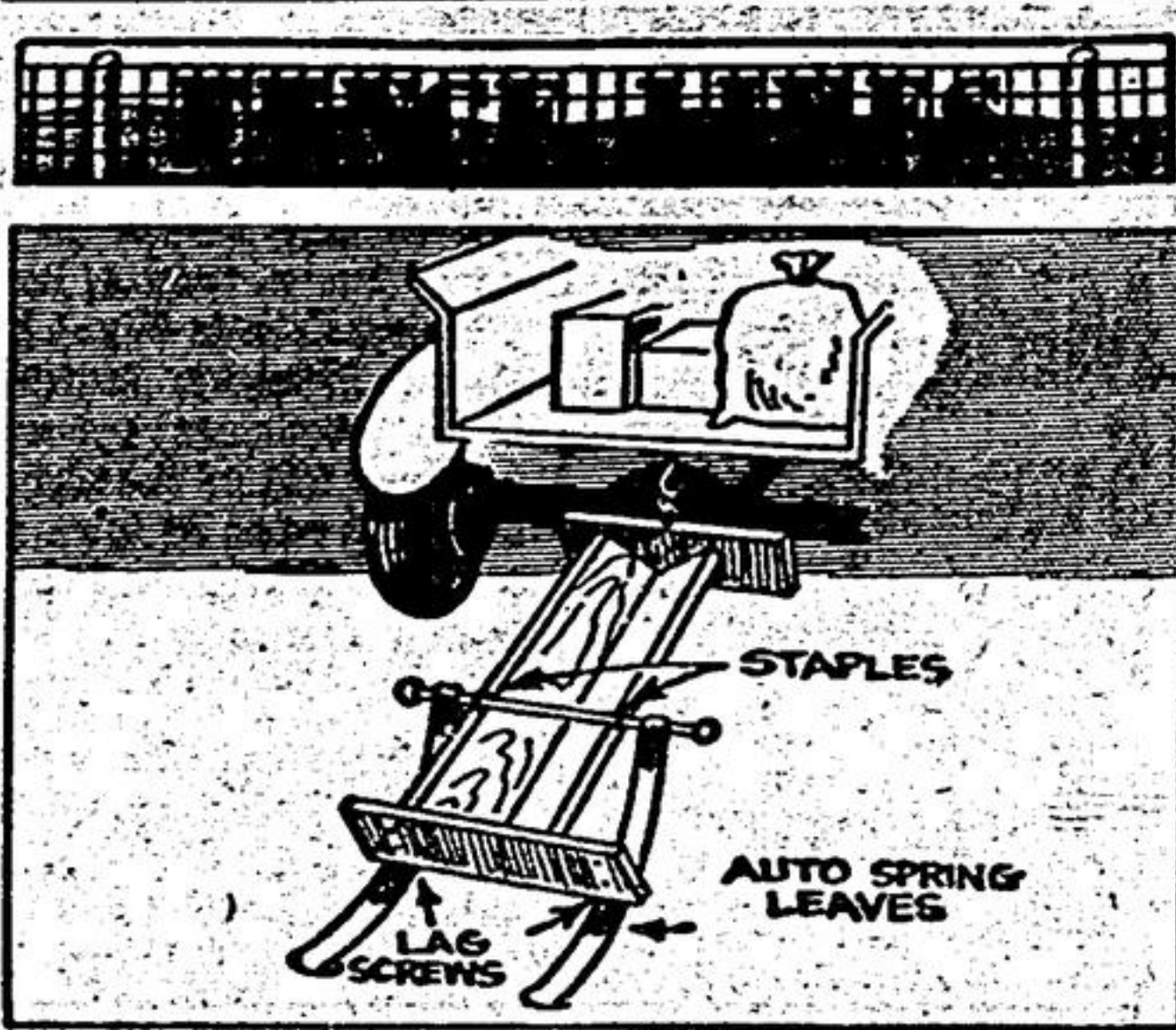
Then on to Mr. Stouffer's room for closing exercises. Then, at 11:00 we watched the little folks gathering. Here Mrs. Harris and Mrs. W. Winn are doing a very wonderful job. There were 67 little ones from two and a half to six years. There was never an idle moment. Each age group sat together with their teachers near and formed a large circle. They sang choruses, had a brief prayer, which all repeated. Birth-day bank was used when little boys dropped in their pennies while others counted them as they fell. While I was telling a story and doing finger plays with them, it was a real thrill to see every little face watching so intently. When they broke up for classes, there was one little table surrounded by 2 1/2 year olds ready for their Bible story. I then went into the Primary Department where all were learning to memorize the 23rd Psalm. Mrs. Mercer is the Department Superintendent. There were 30 boys and girls present.

**Hagerman Mennonite Church** (Mrs. H. Rutherford)  
In June I visited the Hagerman Mennonite Church Sunday School, where Mr. E. Byer, the Superintendent, extended a very warm welcome. The Sunday School has an enrolment of 109, with an average attendance of 75 to 80, each Sunday. The Girls' Work Department consists of the "Willing Helpers Club", a group of twenty girls, between the ages of six and twelve years who meet every Friday afternoon from 4 to 5:30, in the Sunday School room. The group begin with a devotional period, followed by handicraft. Scrapbooks have been made and sent to the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto and also to various Mission Fields.

The girls enjoy needlework very much and they have embroidered tea towels to present to their mothers as Christmas gifts, and have worked quilt patches, which are made into quilt tops by the W.A. Society. This active group of girls occasionally hold an open meeting, to which the mothers are invited, to see and share in this good work, followed by a short social period.

There is also the "Faith, Hope and Charity" group, which meet the first and third Tuesday of each month. This is a mixed young people's group, with an average attendance of fifteen. These young folk do considerable sewing for Ontario Missions, particularly Quilts and Baby Clothes.

**United Church, Victoria Square** (Mrs. H. Rutherford)  
In October, 1959, I visited the Victoria Square Church Sunday School. Mr. P. Bennett, the Sunday School Superintendent, ex-



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tended a very warm welcome. The Sunday School has an enrolment of 90 members, with an extremely large number of small children in attendance. There is a Junior Girls Sunday School Class, with an enrolment of 8, between the ages of 9 and 11 years.

The Explorer Group have 28 members. Victoria Square being a three-point charge, some of these girls come from Headford and Brown's Corners Churches. This group follow a program consisting of Devotional periods, Handicraft and Social periods. Each year there is a six-week Mission study and money collected last year was forwarded to Africa for Mission field work. There is also an arrangement whereby Sunday School papers are sent to isolated areas by mail and air, where no Church Schools have yet been established.

Annually, the Explorer group hold a Bazaar, and sell many of the handicraft articles which have been made throughout the year. Two beautiful Biblical pictures were purchased from the funds raised, and hung in the Sunday School room.

A CGIT group of fourteen members is held every Monday evening between 7 and 8:30.

**Melville United Church** (Mrs. Harold Knights)  
This Sunday School assigned to me was found to be an eager, well working group of young scholars. Each one was keenly interested in their missionary project. This enthusiasm, I feel, was due to their energetic superintendent, Mrs. Forrester. This being a rural Sunday School, has a commendable number of 63 on the Roll, with an excellent average attendance.

The scholars in this Sunday School are found mostly in the Junior and Intermediate classes. As the young people graduate from their Bible class, they take the responsibility of teaching the younger children.

There is an active Girl Guide group which combines with the Victoria Square group from this community.

**Melville Sunday School** (Mrs. H. Forrester)  
The Melville United Sunday School is not large in numbers, only 60 names on the roll, but we are thankful for our faithful and interested scholars and teachers. We have been using the Duplex envelopes for some time now and have found this way of raising missionary money very satisfactory. Our Missionary gifts for the year 1959 including \$17.20 raised on Rally Sunday was \$87.85. For White Gift Sunday our Intermediate Boys' class (numbering 7) raised over \$15.00 and as well as a good supply of material gifts. Over \$33.00 in monies was sent to the Fred Victor Mission. A project was started about two years ago by a Jr. class of girls to sponsor a child from another country. The whole school decided to co-operate and every Sunday our pennies, nickels and dimes are put in a box, and with a little assistance from members of the congregation (the cost was to be \$50.00 a year) we are starting on our third year and have had several letters from our sister Franca in Italy. I think, for a small school, our Missionary effort deserves to be recognized.

**Markham United Church** (Stewart Stouffer)  
On Sunday, January 10th, I visited Markham United Church Sunday School at 10 o'clock. This is one of our largest Schools. They are well organized with plenty of teachers and large accommodation for Classes for lesson period. They have a general Superintendent over all the School, then each Department has its own Superintendent or leaders. School is divided into five or six departments, each one having their opening exercises of devotion periods.

I was in the Intermediate Department for opening and Bible

departments, each department with its own Superintendent. I was very much impressed with the large adult class. Once a year a collection is taken up and the money raised is sent to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clubine, who are serving in Jamaica, and who call the 2nd Markham Baptist their home church. Also once a year an offering is taken for the Canadian Sunday School Mission.

**Phillips Anglican S.S.** (Mrs. Harry Forrester)

The opportunity not presenting itself for a visit to St. Phillips Anglican Sunday School at Unionville, I contacted their Superintendent Mr. Frank Cribbet by phone, and procured some information from him as to their missionary work. They have no concerted effort but the Junior W.A. (composed of the children up to 12 years old) have helper boxes given out once a year, also Lenten boxes are given out early in the spring, and are collected before Good Friday. This money is turned over to the Synod office of the church and is sent from there to the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. This is a uniform graded school and growing fast. They now have 130 names on the roll and space, or the lack of space, is becoming a problem. This is certainly a very encouraging sign in any Sunday School, and our good wishes go to schools which have this problem and perhaps it behooves the rest of us to work harder to bring the children into the Sunday School.

**Wideman Mennonite S.S.** (Hugh Boyd)

I visited Wideman Mennonite Sunday School. They had good attendance of 129 and good singing. Sunday School started promptly on time by Superintendent Mr. John Reesor. This is a very good school with good accommodation for classes. The whole family goes to Sunday School and they enjoy studying the Bible together.

**Zion United S.S.** (Hugh Boyd)

I visited Zion United Sunday School at Cedar Grove on November 28th. Superintendent, Mr. Bert Tapscott. They have 105 on roll, there were 98 on Sunday. They have the young people in the Basement, adult classes in the church. This is a fine school, so glad to see these Sunday Schools are increasing each year, especially the adults bringing their families to church.

**Cedar Grove Mennonite S.S.** (Mrs. Nelson Smith)

I visited Cedar Grove Mennonite Sunday School in November. Mr. Paul Burkholder was the superintendent; they have an attendance of about 60. This is a very active school. I especially enjoyed the singing led by Mr. Art Burkholder. The teachers in this school certainly teach the Bible.

**Stouffville Christian S.S.** (Mrs. Nelson Smith)

I also visited the Stouffville Christian Sunday School. This is a very active school with Mr. Ken Wagg as superintendent. I liked the idea of all joining in the singing of one verse of chosen hymns while waiting for time to begin the service. This school is very fortunate in having a returned Missionary Family minister also spent some years in their interest in missions is very active. I must say I really felt the warm hand of welcome in this Sunday School.

**Anglican S.S. at Markham**  
I visited the Anglican Sunday School at Markham and found a flourishing Sunday School indeed. It is at least ten years since I had visited this School. Then they were down in a small Sunday School room by the Church. The numbers were small, and the equipment not the best. Since that time the Anglican Sunday School has outgrown those quarters and this winter are occupying their new Church Hall. This is one of the most efficient Sunday School buildings in the Township.

Service started at 9:45 a.m. Those pupils under 9 years met downstairs, over 9 years met upstairs. Each room had its own worship service and did not assemble at any time. There were numerous classes, each seated around a table with their teacher. This is a Sunday School of young people. The teachers were young men and young ladies who were interested in the work.

Mr. Wm. Williamson was Superintendent of the whole School and took charge downstairs while Mr. Jack Howard was in charge of the senior department. The writer remembers Wm. Williamson and his sister, Miss Elizabeth Williamson in the old building on a former visit. They are to be commended for their long and faithful service to the Markham Anglican Sunday School and so are the many young teachers who give so generously of their time to make this Sunday School so successful.

**Second Markham Baptist S.S.** (Mrs. Harry Forrester)

I had the pleasure of visiting the 2nd Markham Baptist Sunday School on Sunday, November 29th, 1959, and found a very flourishing school. There are 166 names on the roll with an average attendance of 135. This school is now divided into

report no Home department in Sunday School but various organizations are responsible for church calendars to the shut-ins. Christmas hampers to the Morgan House, also regular visitations are made and now they are planning Communion in the homes for these folk:

McVillo, Peach's, Markham 2nd Baptist, Cedar Grove Mennonite report no Home Department but they, too, see that no shut-in is forgotten.

**Markham Presbyterian S.S.** (Elva Kirk)

Visited the Markham Presbyterian Sunday School one rainy, icy Sunday and found a good attendance of boys and girls. The senior school (Intermediates) was held in the church with Mr. Leishman as superintendent. Here he had the interest of the scholars in the singing and scripture reading. Downstairs the superintendent

for the younger classes was Mrs. Meharg. I was greatly impressed by the rapt attention and interest taken in the lesson by these smaller children. Mrs. Meharg said that was one encouraging factor to the teachers. Would also like to commend the good order and quietness of the whole school. A teen-age class is held in the afternoon conducted by Mr. Thomas. Enjoyed my visit and received a very warm welcome.

**Box Grove United S.S.** (Myrtle Hamill)

I would first like to say that I enjoyed visiting the two Sunday Schools. I found both very sincere in their work. Box Grove United is a small school, 35 being present the day I was there but every adult had a position to fill and every boy and girl seemed to be there for a purpose. I felt the sincerity of the whole school.

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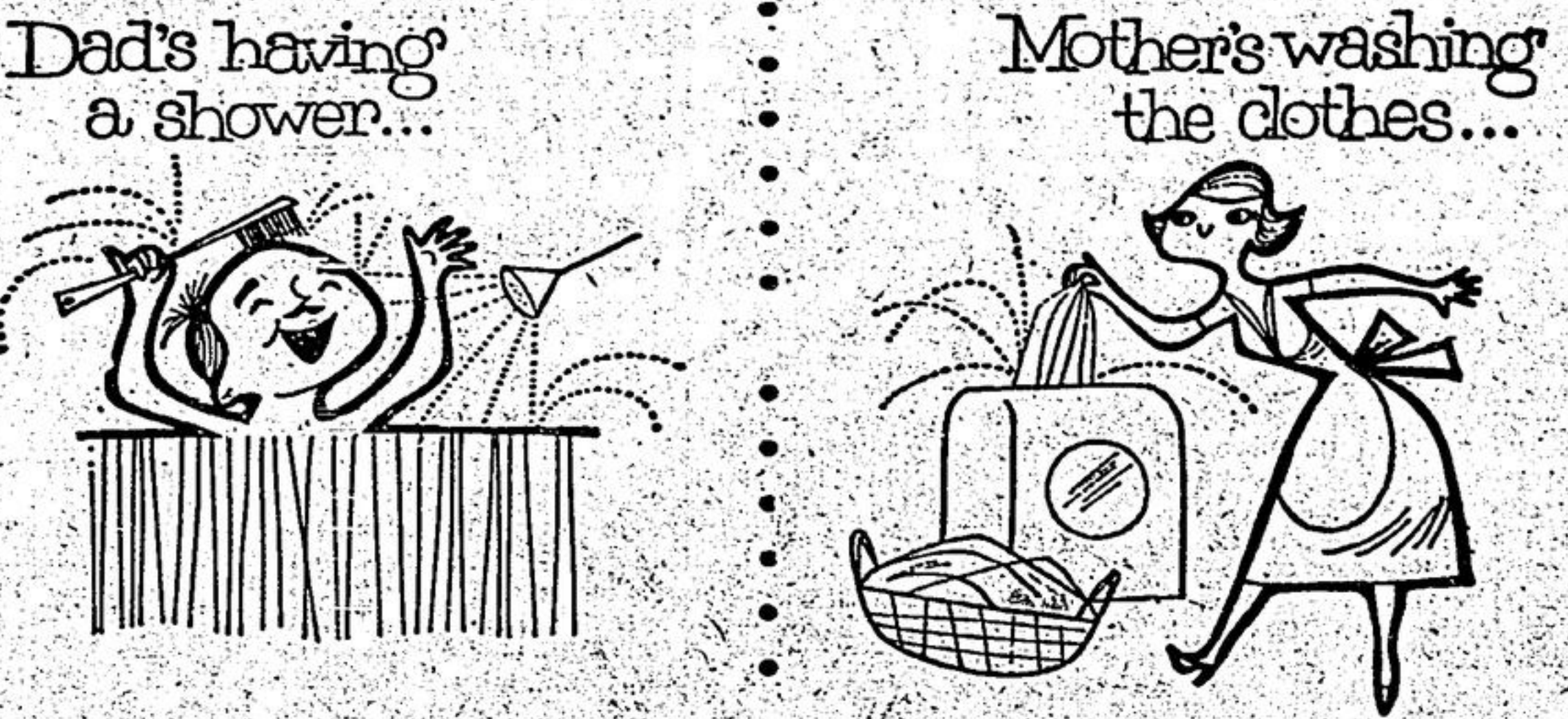
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