

1940 - 1950 - Oakland years

Rachel & I were most happy during our first two years of married life as we served the churches in Elkholt and Walker. We lived in the building in Elkholt for the first few months of our marriage. We lived as mostly all others did in northern Minnesota without any indoor plumbing or electricity. Rural electrification was to come into the area after we had left. So often thru the years since as I have listened to some challenging message with a missions emphasis to it have I inwardly thanked God for the Minnesota years. We were not disobedient to what we believed to be God's will for us at the time, and we stayed at the work until we were led elsewhere. We were in missionary work while we were young and could do it.

(#over) One of the four great joys of our lives came to us in April of 1940 when God gave us our first son, David. Rachel went to the ^{Walker} hospital ~~at~~ for delivery during the night before and David was born in early morning. I remember going to the post office at mid-morning and being the post mistress congratulate me on David's

Birth - News labels fact in sometimes. David
(Walker)

⑦ When we knew that our first child was on its way to share our home and life with us we found a small home in Walker. It was owned by the owner of the hardware store in town, Mr. Bailey. He also owned & operated the lumber yard in town. We paid a monthly rent charge of \$14. He offered to sell us the house for \$1400.00 and agreed to apply the 1st years rent to the purchase price. Had we continued in Walker we would no doubt have owned our first home there.

was born a healthy child, His weight - 7^{lb} at birth. He was quite lively, always in motion in his waking hours.

It seems as tho we are asked in life to do many things for which we have had little experience. One of those things is parenting. When we look back over the years and marvel at our naivety as we

adjusted first of all to marriage and then to parenthood.

We know now that we could have done so much better than we did. But we are thankful for the years and of how our best-intention efforts have been used in both our ministry and our family. ^{for good} Our children - each of them - David, Paul, Betty and Tom - have each been the joy and ^{the} strength of our lives. They have caused us no sorrow. We are conscious of many times when we failed. That is true in every area of life and in every life. But we tried always to do our best and have looked to the Lord for guidance & strength as we have needed it and for forgiveness when we have failed.

It was on a lovely ~~sun~~ mid-summer morning that a letter was received which was to change the course of our lives. Rachel was working that morning, a young student from Bible School in Chicago ^{W. E.} had come up to ~~our~~ care for the Whitcomb field during the summer while we gave ourselves wholly to the Walker church. He had brought his laundry ~~in~~ and was sharing the lovely day with us. The mail that morning brought a letter from the F. E. C. of Oakland, ^{et} extending us a call to become their pastor. The call came without our being asked to visit the church. The salary: \$200 per month. We prayed for guidance, but not for long. We instinctively felt we should go. So it was that we accepted the call and promised to be in Oakland December 1st.

We purchased a trailer, thinking to haul what few earthly possessions in that manner to California. The day we were to begin our journey west was the day of the great snow storm which covered so much of the mid west - November 11, 1940. Our departure was delayed a few days but finally getting on our way we had a

most thrilling trip. The Rockies were wonderful to behold. Ice on the road in Wyoming gave us a few anxious miles till we arrived in Casper and found a motel. Donner Pass was an exciting experience. We thought of the pioneers who fought the weather, the cold and snow a long time ago, and some of whom perished in the struggle. Crossing the Sierras and finally dropping down into the Sacramento Valley where the sun warmed the earth and the roses were blooming — it was thrilling.

Dining in Oakland in the evening, five days after the start of our journey found a large part of the congregation gathered at the church to welcome us. What a welcome! The majority of the congregation were about our own age. We began that with to form friendships which were to enrich the next ten years as we ministered and shared their lives. David who had been so good a traveller was an instant ^{delight & attraction} favorite of everyone.

Everyone has a list of values, but our lists have a way of rearranging our values as the years slip by. Many things which seemed

important to us in years past have now lost their value for us, and other values have climbed to the top of the list. One of the values that now holds a top place on our priority list is that of loving & understanding friendship. We have thanked God so often for the friends we have been given and for all they have contributed to our lives of comfort in times of need and for the inspiration in the ~~to~~ time of low moods. Loneliness is a common malady of the human heart, ~~and~~ when we are thus afflicted it is good to recall the names of those whom we have loved in days, and to whom we are still bound in the ties of love, tho we are at present separated from each other. The friendships we formed in the Oakland Church have been a constant & strong inspiration to us, and this is true of friendships formed in our subsequent churches.

We had been in Oakland for a year when the world shaking event of Dec. 7, 1941, occurred - the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We received the news via radio when we returned from the morning worship service. Those who lived thru the events of that day will never forget what they were, what they were doing, and how every one's life was changed from that day onward.

The Bay Area with its many military installations seemed to be a likely target for air raids, or even invasion. Air raid sirens were installed to warn the population of danger. Blackouts were imposed and often called when unidentified aircraft approached the coast. American Japanese were evacuated ~~in the fear of~~ far fear of where their allegiance would lie in case of invasion. The American fleet had been so damaged at Pearl Harbor that the populace was informed that no adequate ^{military} deterrent was available for the protection of the West Coast against an invasion from the Pacific.

In retrospect, the danger was not as great as feared. The Japanese military did not press their advantage after their

initial successes at Pearl Harbor. Industry and the community leadership and the military worked cooperatively to make the West coast from Seattle to San Diego a great arsenal of men and military might. The country seemed to unite in one great effort to win the war - in Europe and in Asia. A great feeling of confidence prevailed. There were many setbacks before final victory came to the Allies in 1945 but the outcome was never in doubt.

We carried on our ministry in The Oakland Church for the next ten years as faithfully as we knew how. They were in many ways the most difficult of all our years in the ministry. The Oakland church did not grow during those years. Our salary from the church never seemed to be adequate for our growing family. Yet some of our greatest blessings came to us during those years. Paul came to bless our home in June of 1941. Betty was born in November of 1943. And Tom arrived in April of 1945. Our children have repaid our lives unspeakably. We have thanked God for them daily since they came.

In the days following Pearl Harbor I seriously considered enlisting ~~for~~ as a chaplain in the armed forces but never felt the inward permission to go. Yet our service to men in the service was one of our happiest activities during the war years. Being in the Bay Area, service men were constantly shipping out. There was seldom a Sunday but what we had some servicemen in our audience. So many of them were welcomed into our home and the home.

of our people for the Sunday meal and for relaxation on their off duty days. Often our home was the last home they would be in before leaving for the vicar in the far Pacific, he took it one of the greatest privileges of our lives to have been in Oakland during the war years.

While in Oakland it became possible to take Summer studies at B.B.D.S. The school awarded me two degrees: B.D. & M.Th. Having attended M.B.D. I was so very conscious of the breach between ^{the} liberals and conservatives. Because of my Moody training I was of course committed to so-called conservative theology and constantly on guard not to be influenced by so-called liberal thought. It was not altogether a healthy frame of mind. B.B. ~~was~~ could not be characterized as either liberal or conservative when I attended the school. Both sides of theological problems were presented and discussed and the student was to make up his own mind on the matter. I think this educational principle is faulty. I saw several students graduate without

having ~~any~~ no conception of what they
believed only to make ship-wreck of their
future ministries. Christianity is not only
a life to be lived but is also a body of
historical + doctrinal truths to be believed.
Indoctrination must a dominant form
of teaching in the church. ^{So often} I felt deep
gratitude within me for the Bible training
I received at NBS.

It is difficult to evaluate a ministry.
~~It~~ For ten years we held forth as
Pastor of the Church, but it seemed as tho
we accomplished so little. The church did
not grow appreciably those years. There was
no revival movement accompanying our
work as had been the case in w/w. We did
carry on a satellite work in the airport
area but it never developed into a church
as we had hoped. Yet the Gospel was preached,
hearts were nourished and fed and
we ourselves matured. We left
Oakland in 1950 with many happy memories,
leaving a host of friends behind, and with
our four children to take up a rural
work in South Dakota.

Our home

Our home life during the Oakland years were, I think, quite normal. Our parsonage was a five room home adjacent to the church. We did a great deal of entertainment, especially on Sundays, and there were few Sundays when we did not have two or three remainees around the table for our noon meal. Rachel was wonderful as a hostess and a Queen of the House. My mother & Mary or the children called her, lived with us for several months of the time. We think now of how crowded we must have been, but it did not seem to be so then.

We think now of some of the stresses and strains of these days. One of the nagging frustrations was our lack of adequate finances. We were as well cared for by our congregation as the average pastor but it was not the policy of churches to provide a proper living for pastors. I think the seeming stagnation of the spiritual life of the church bore heavily upon us. We longed for growth and fruitfulness but were denied the pleasure of seeing it. Years of war are ~~no~~ never revival times in the lives of people.

Our young family was a great strength to us. We have long since forgotten the little rivalries that have sprung up every time we were young children are lively and healthy and happy with each other. It seems now in retrospect that we were perhaps too rigid in ~~the~~ our treatment of the children. We should have been more relaxed and outgoing. Our only alibi would be to say that life seemed very serious - too serious - and we took ourselves much more seriously than we should have.

When leaving Oakland we had most of our belongings on a large trailer which we had borrowed for the trip. We had bought a good tent and planned to camp along the way which we did - Rachel & I and our four children. We took the ^{short} route, visiting Zion Nat' park and the Grand canyon on the way. It was in mid-summer when we journeyed - a delightful season in mid America. We enjoyed each other and the trip - and finally arrived in Beauford S. D. which was to be our home for the next five years.

California

The State of California captivated us. We liked the weather — so predictable for most of the year. The rains came in the winter season and were not unwelcome. The rest of the year gave us what we thought of as perfect weather: fog from the ocean ~~at 10 to 11 AM~~ ^{in the morning}, sometimes burning off the fog by mid morning, and cool evenings.

Our favorite vacation spot was Yosemite Park with its unmatched beauty. The Ocean was never far away. The high hills surrounding the Bay Area were always in sight. The fascinating city of San Francisco lay just over the Bay bridge and the beautiful Golden Gate bridge seemed always a structural marvel. — to us the words of a popular song: We left our hearts in California.

The fellowship we enjoyed with the District churches, their pastors and people, was especially helpful to us. Most of the pastors were our own age. District conferences and pastoral gatherings were always a delight; socially and spiritually. For a year we knew our Bay Area well.

Church of the Holy Cross, conducted a
 radio program broadcast from a room
 on Sunday afternoon, 10:30 o'clock in P.M.
 "Prayer Service" by an English priest, and
 there was also a recitation of the rosary. Radio
 program was a good program, which was
 broadcast, it is understood that the
 whole was broadcast in an excellent manner
 from the office of the magazine of "The Church".