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THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

The ENCOURAGER
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50 YEARS OF MONDAY NIGHTS



By Eunice Gorman & Lucas Griffin

Monday Night Bible Hour has been an outreach of the Highway Gospel Hall in Westbank, BC for over 50 years! Every Monday night, we enjoy spending time with children from our community. We sing Choruses, memorize verses, play Bible quiz-games, and learn stories from God's Word! Attendance peaked in the 1980's with over 100 children every Monday night. God has blessed many children through this outreach and it is our prayer that many more will be blessed!

A brother in Westbank once remarked that "the assembly is the nursery of the church." If that is true, this Assembly has been the nursery for many children and young people.

A Friday night children's meeting was begun in 1951 in the Highway Gospel Hall by Gordon Hussey and Ross Gorman. It continued for many years. Later, Fred Griffin carried on this work on Friday nights.

Concurrent with this, a number were going to Peachland 10km S) on Friday nights to conduct children's meetings. We met first in the basement of the 8- sided church, and later in the present Peachland Baptist church which was not being used at the time. Among those going were Alex and Renee Stewart, John and Marjorie Milroy (Marjorie had rounded up the contacts to begin the meetings and had been bringing them up to the Westbank children's meeting), Chris and Evelyn Stutters, Ross, Eunice and Marjorie Gorman and Ferne Jean. All were busy picking up children (Ross Gorman had 15 in his car one evening), keeping attendance, buying prizes, etc.



In the early 1950's a Sunday School was carried on in North Glenmore (15km NE in Kelowna) Bill Lef-trook was the organizer helped by Isabel Griffin, Alex Stewart and John Gorman. The first teenage meetings began in the early 1960's & were held every second Saturday evening during the winter months in the Ross Gorman home.

In the 1970's Fred Griffin conducted Gospel meetings on Sunday nights and Children's meetings on Monday nights in the "Mobile Gospel Messenger" (MGM) trailer belonging to Ed Billingham on a lot on Scottstown Road. In 1973 Gerrit Bergsma had children's meetings in the mornings in a tent in Peach-land. Some of our children biked down the Highway to the meetings!

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In the 1980's there was an outreach at the Green Bay Bible Camp (2km from the hall). A Sunday school was carried on then. (John and Sharon MacDonald, Ruth Koehl, Ron and Jen Gorman and others).

Over the years both the Sunday afternoon Sunday School and the Monday night Bible reading spilled over into the house next door, which Ross and Eunice Gorman had purchased from the McCardon's with a view to the property being used

when a new Hall would be built.

Recollecting these meetings brings to mind children, young people and parents who were saved because of them. Some of them are/were in the Assembly -- others are serving the Lord in other places. Eternity will tell the full story.

The next paragraphs are added to the original at my request and might help you understand a little of the blessing they have experienced.

There are several recent examples of fruit resulting from children and teen work seen in Ian Whitehead, Melisa Lavallee and Catherine Lauzon. They are currently in fellowship in Highway Gospel Hall. They came to Monday Night Bible Hour as children and Teen Night as young people. All were saved in their teen years, continued to come to Teen Night every Friday night, were baptized and then received into assembly fellowship. All of come from non-Christian homes but have been a real testimony to their parents and siblings. Ian has seen his sister saved and his atheist mother

*The Goal
of every
Children's Worker
should be
to make sure
they understand
what God
says!*



admits that "Ian has the real thing!" Melisa us a 'rock' to her mother and brother and holds her troubled family together with her prayers and strength. Cathy has seen at least one of her brothers saved and has had a strong impact on her devout Catholic family. We are so thankful for these dear young believers who are now pillars in our Monday Night Bible Hour and Teen Night outreaches.

HIGHWAY GOSPEL HALL TEEN NIGHT

by Marvin Griffin, Westbank, BC

Teen Night started about 20 years headed up by Gordon and Gloria Goodfellow with the help of Marvin and April Griffin, Colin Abernathy, Stephen and Denise Griffin, Mark and Kandace Marton. It fills a need for good clean fun for our own teens as well as an outreach to other teens in Westbank. This has been carried on every Friday Night September to May except for holidays. For a few years we took the teens to Marysville WA for a weekend to wind up the year. We called it our 'Barn Bash' at the Val-Lee Farm. Each Friday we have a fun activity followed by a message from the Word of God and refreshments. This has been a good recipe so never felt the need to change it. Some activities have included sports, car treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, games nights, pumpkin carving, crafts, mall fugitives and many other things. Many teens have come and gone over the years with some professing faith in Christ.

Keep watching The ENCOURAGER as we are working on further details for future issues on TEEN NIGHT in Westbank.