

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Dorset United Methodist Church

Personal Experience

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ALBERT MELLINGER

Interviewed

by

Patty Beckwith

on

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B· This is an interview with Albert Mellinger for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on Dorset United Methodist Church by Patricia Beckwith at 2637 Route 193, Dorset, Ohio, on October 20, 1977, at 10 00 am

One of the things that we do in order to get to know you is discuss your childhood. Can you tell me about where you were born and your early schooling?

M. Here in Dorset

B. What did your father do?

M. He was a carpenter

B. And you attended Dorset School?

M. Yes. I missed one whole term on account of a sickness, that put me a little bit behind. I graduated from Dorset High School.

B. Do you remember any particular teacher? Was there any particular teacher that really stands out to you?

M. Yes, I wanted to quit school. And my father talked to the superintendent. And she talked with me about one subject, I think it was biology. I could not get anything from it. And we had this examination and I asked if I passed and I had. But I got her to thank for finishing school. She talked me into it.

B. So you consider her a pretty important person then?

M. Yes

B. Was she well liked by all of the teachers and pupils?

M. Oh yes. And Miss West, I always admired her. She taught German. And the other teacher that we had, she did not stress the declination very much. And when Miss West came and started in on second year German, and if you really did not have the first, she would put you right back, which was the logical thing to do. We got that done and then we went on with the second year.

B. She saved all of you

M. Yes, that was the thing to do

- B. Was it customary at this time for everybody to go to school and complete high school? So you think that was customary or was that something special?
- M That was customary There were several that quit. And we had seven in our class and four of them quit and three of us graduated
- B: Did you become a carpenter right after high school?
- M No, I had an aunt that lived in Greenville, Pennsylvania I went down there and worked for a year and then I came back I went into carpenter work and then I put a pitch in for the janitor work up at the school and I got that Of course, I did a lot of carpenter work on the vacation with my father I worked in the summer with him, too I started in the seventh grade working in the summer with him
- B: Oh well, then you have a lot of experience behind you Was this the training that you had for carpenter work then, was working with your father on odd jobs and things like that?
- M Yes.
- B What kind of things did your father build?
- M Houses and barns
- B Oh, big jobs Did you ever do inside remodeling work?
- M Oh, yes
- B You were connected with the remodeling on the parsonage, were you not?
- M That is right
- B How long did that take you?
- M Two months for the project
- B Were you the only one there?
- M No, my father helped me
- B Did your family attend this church all through your childhood and youth?

M No, it is kind of a long story. I was converted in a Baptist church. But the janitor that they had, they did not like too well and he lived across the road from us. They asked me if I would take it.

B At the Methodist Church?

M No, at the Baptist Church. And they had their business meeting and the one that was doing it, when they came right down to it, they were afraid of letting him go would cause hard feelings. So I went along and I heard they wanted a janitor to the Methodist Church. So I stopped and John Berger was in the store. He was one of the main ones in the church. So I stopped and asked him about the job. He said, "Well, I am awful sorry Albert, but I think Jim is going to take it, the man who lived over Rodgers there across from the school. But I do not think he is going to take it, but I will find out though." I think it was the next day or two when I went by. He came out on the doorsteps. He said, "Albert, the job is yours, start right in." At that time, they had the services of the Baptist Church in the afternoon. And my father said, "Well if you are going to take care of the church, you better be there." That worked all right until they changed shortly after that and they had services in the morning. Well, I could not be at both places. So I stayed down here and that is where I had the janitor work.

B So your family still went to the Baptist Church but you were at the Methodist Church?

M Yes

B Did you notice any particular changes between the two churches when you changed your membership?

M No

B You do not think that there was any difference?

M. There were more of my age in the class that went down here

B At the Methodist Church?

M Yes. Arthur and I were very close friends. And he went down here. He made the saying. He said, "I wish we both went to the same church." Well, it turned out when I got the janitor work.

B. That was your logical step?

- M Reverend Mayhen was pastor here then and we thought an awful lot of him And Dad said that he thought that I could be just as good a Christian going to the Methodist Church
- B: So your family supported you in going to a different church?
- M Yes, they did not say anything against it Of course they hated to lose me, but then I got transferred to janitor work and came down here and I did not want to give it up.
- B. How long did you hold the janitor's job there?
- M· I had that, I was a janitor up there for about 25 years
- B You had a pretty good foot hold in the church by then?
- M I got two and a half through the summer months and five through the winter And they put it up steady year around Of course they did not have money then, lots of times I never got it And I never asked for my money Miss Deborison was treasurer and Miss Dankey came and paid me every couple of months due time But I never asked in all the time that I was there
- B. So when they had the money they were able to pay you?
- M· Yes Of course, things got different there later on, too
- B Yes, more regular.
- M Yes
- B You mentioned that they had a bigger group or class of your age. Did you remember anything about that class and your activities that you did as a youth class?
- M Well, they had a mixed class This was when Rev Kelly was here and Mrs. Kelly taught our class And, of course, they had parties once a month They were interesting
- B So they had activities for the youth in the church?
- M Oh yes
- B· One of the trends that most people notice is that the youth are going away from the church today What are some of the reasons that you think are

the cause of this?

M Well the only thing that I can figure is that they are not church-minded

B Families as a whole?

M Yes, families as a whole I think it goes to the home life, but what is to blame I do not know. We walked up to church in the morning and walked up to the church in the evening We got ready and went to church, and I never thought of making excuses for not going We were to go and we went

B So you think it is a family situation?

M Yes, that is right Sometimes they are bringing the children to school but they do not bring them to church

B What do you think are some of the things that we could perhaps do in the future to bring the children and young adults back into the church? Is there anything that you think might help this trend?

M Well, I would go back, I think the church has got to be missionary-minded. What I mean by that, I have attended revivals and seen people converted. When they get down on that, why then, everything else starts to go They have had revivals down here When Rev Hubbard was here, they had them for five weeks He had them in the afternoon No, there was an afternoon service and the evening service I think he was the only minister that did not forget the janitor Everyday for five weeks, and those sermons in the afternoon and evening and on Sunday

B Yes, that is a lot

M Of course as janitor, I always went over in the summertime and lowered the windows in the morning before the church service so it was aired out In other words, it smelled good to have good fresh air. And he remarked about that He said it was the first church he was ever at where it smelled good And he said, "We must not forget the janitor and the time that he puts in "

B It makes you feel appreciated?

M Yes, I did

B So you think that if the church would become more evangelistic in nature, you think this would help our attendance and so forth?

M. I think so

B. You mentioned that there used to be Sunday evening services. Was this a common thing at first?

M. Oh yes

B. When did this fall away?

M. When attendance got down so that not many would come out

B. Why do you think that attendance fell down on Sunday evenings?

M. Oh, I suppose it contributed a lot back since televisions came on. If they have a nice television program, they just do not go. You do what you want to do.

B. So when there became more choices for people, they started falling away from the church?

M. Yes. It was a little more effort to get ready and go to church then to stay home, so they stayed home

B. Did they have prayer services?

M. Yes, on Thursday night.

B. And how long did that continue?

M. That continued quite a while ago, until they got so only two or three would come out. And I think that traces back to the minister

B. Throughout the time that you were going to the church, was there ever an active men's group or a men's Sunday School class?

M. Active, yes, when Reverend Newsum was here. He preached what he called the "social gospel." And he formed a brotherhood class. That took all the men that would come. And they were quite active. They put on a dinner for the men every so often. Bill Carl was the cook and he was a good one, too. They had the services in the basement of the church. That is where this other addition put on and they had a good attendance

B. Did you have any special projects or anything to raise money, or was it more of a fellowship group?

M. It was more of a fellowship

B Did it ever work with the women society group and put on special dinners or anything like that?

M Well, the women's society did. They had what they called the Ladie's Aid, and it is called the Women's Society now. But they have a bazaar, they have that once a year. That was a big thing. They would take in hundreds of dollars. And they met a lot of the expenses of the church.

B We need them again right?

M Yes.

B I think that is one thing at Richmond, that they are really thankful to have such an active women's group.

M Yes, I noticed that.

B: Overall, as you look at this church, what is one special characteristic that stands out to you? This could be good or bad.

M Well, I do not know. But I noticed if you get a good minister, you will have good attendance. But if they do not like the minister, they will not come to church. And that keeps attendance down and that affects the offering and goes back to me.

B: How long have you been the treasurer?

M. I think after your grandfather, Harrison.

B Okay, he died in 1960. Did you take it after he was sick?

M. No, this was before he died. Reverend Jones was here.

B: So you have been the treasurer for almost 20 years, right?

M Yes.

B Has there always been financial hardships in the church ever since you have been in charge of the money?

M Well it seems like it has been extra hard ever since they built this recreation room on. Of course, that made a big expense and we went all out for that and some of them forget that there are still the regular expenses of the church.



- B So do you think that a lot of people put out for that special project and they may have forgotten the regular expenses of the church?
- M No, I do not mean put out What do you mean put out?
- B. Gave more
- M Oh, yes. And then, of course, they give for that and then did not give as much to the other things They did not balance it out
- B Do you think that tithing used to be more prevalent or more important to people a long time ago then it is today?
- M Yes
- B You can tell that in your offering. Do you think that this would solve a lot of the problems, if people would return to tithing?
- M It certainly would. I will never forget our one Reverend He was a converted Jew, a pastor of the Baptist Church He was the preacher there when I was converted He used to come down to our place a lot for dinner One statement that he made, he said, "You give me a church with 16 members that will tithe and all expenses, preacher's salary and everything, will come out of that " I never forgot that.
- B. Do you think that would be a solution? Do you remember what the salaries were of the ministers? Do you remember any early salaries?
- M Let us see now I know that the superintendent argued quite a lot to raise the salary \$100 That would have been down here They keep raising the minimum salary
- B. And we do not have too much to say do we?
- M That is right
- B Who do you think is the main power behind this church? Do you think it is the minister or the people of the congregation? Who has the last say on things?
- M The minister He has charge of that church and he runs it and he can go over what the board says I would not advise it because he will just hurt himself
- B Yes, he loses support from everybody else But here you think that the

minister has the last say?

M: I know he has. I will never forget one instance when Reverend Harper was preaching That is where they had the hall And they wanted to have this chorus That was entertainment. I think they would come about four times a year When they wanted the place to have it, they wanted to have it down here at the Methodist Church. And one trustee was in favor of it I happened to be going to school and Reverend Harper was out in his garden and he walked with a cane Reverend Harper did, but he was very stern And I could not hear what all was said between them, but I did hear Reverend Harper say, "No sirl!" It will not be, and it was not But they had it at the Baptist Church up here

B: Do you think that this is the trend here that the church is not so much against card playing and dancing and drinking and so forth, do you see this as a trend of being more liberal now?

M Yes, but it is not right, though

B As a young person or as a teenager do you remember not being able to do some of these things?

M Oh yes, especially on the Sabbath. The way we were brought up on that day, we could not make any noise. Now I know these folks, they did not play any games. But now down home, we would play checkers or something like that was quiet They never said anything We did so much school studying there when Reverend Folson and he had a daughter We thought quite a lot of each other. And you can just see the different about what you are allowed to do on Sunday Now I was studying and I know she came over there this Sunday afternoon and seen me studying, she did not think that was right She was brought up that it was not right

B Now even to study?

M That is right

B That is very unusual.

M Then when I was small and we were at this minister's place, I asked her to just throw the ball, of course she could not throw it very far And he would not allow her to throw the ball on Sunday The Bible says, "Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy " Now you can draw the line on certain things And I do think that is one of the things where some of the churches will allow dancing and all of that That does not go along with the Bible, I do not think You will find that the young people will lose

respect for the church when they are allowed to do that.

- B. Yes, I think it is the same with teachers. That the stricter the teacher is, if he does not go overboard, usually the more the students learn and the more they respect him.
- M. That is right.
- B. Do you think that the church, at one time, was more the center of the community, the center of people's lives more than it is today?
- M. That is right.
- B. What do you see as the center of the community today? Or is there one?
- M. There are more things to go to now. It used to be the church was, well they had more sacred things in the church than they do now. This is a big difference.
- B. And now that we have so many more things to go to, do you not think that we are all divided up in the things that we do?
- M. Yes.
- B. I think that this is part of that whole trend, you know, in moving away from the church. Like you said, the television and everything, we have all of these other things to do, it draws our attention more away from going to church.
- M. Things like Rex Humbard, he does a lot of good. They think that well, they can hear good sermons and stay home.
- B. Yes, I think that is important, especially for people that cannot get out, though.
- M. Sure, they do a lot of good. I know my cousin's boy, he was drinking and they could not do anything with him, but he is in Florida now and is working down there. And he has changed. He has Rex Humbard's picture in his room. He just turned. Of course, that is back to the prayers, he had praying parents.
- B. In 1922, all of these churches were on our charge, Dorset, and Cherry Valley, and Richmond. How did one minister serve four churches? I think it is hard today to serve two. Do you remember how they did that?

- M Well, Dorset had the morning service and then he went to Cherry Valley and then Richmond They alternated back and forth They would have a service one Sunday in the afternoon or evening I think Richmond had an afternoon a while and then they went to the evening. They would have this one Sunday and the next Sunday they would go to another
- B What happened to the church?
- M Well, it just got torn down, what is his name, Shelton And then they would come over to Richmond.
- B So that church was kind of dissolved and just joined in with the thing under Reverend Shelton?
- M Yes.
- B Do you remember how the minister held all of these meetings and everything, or did he just have to take the time to do it or what?
- M You mean for the service?
- B Well the meetings, all the meetings that a minister has to have?
- M Oh
- B Was it just something that you had to make the time to do?
- M Yes. He would set the time to have a meeting for the Dorset board, then he would have another one for the Cherry Valley board. And he would have them separately I think he walked over to Lennox
- B Now
- M. I think that was before Richmond was here There was just Dorset and Lennox Dorset was the station then
- B Was that unusual at that time to have four churches, or was that kind of the normal thing?
- M Well, that was not unusual
- B It would seem impossible to me today to try and run four churches. I am just amazed that just one pastor could do that
- M At Richmond, the only time that they could have it was in the afternoon

and evening. Then if he had services, I do not know how he worked. I think they had to have them in the afternoon because they had services down here in the morning and evening.

B: Oh yes, so he would have to go to the four churches in the morning and afternoon and then back here for Sunday evening services. Wow.

M: Yes. That is where you alternated. One of them would have it one Sunday and then the other.

B: Do you remember any changes that came about or any discussion at the time when the Methodist church joined the EB church, was there any changes that you noticed?

M: No, not too much. I think the salaries were a little higher in the EB.

B: Yes, and we had to change our name.

M: Yes.

B: That is about the only thing that you noticed?

M: Yes.

B: How do you feel about the music program of our church? Have you seen any changes in it?

M: You got to have good music to have a good service.

B: You think that is an important part of it?

M: It certainly is.

B: Did there used to be any special quartets or duets that used to sing at our church a lot?

M: Let us see. They had a dandy quartet. Mr. Roberts sang tenor. And Ralph Bently. Those were the four. It was pretty hard to keep a choir going. Another thing that I think is just back on the song books.

B: How do you mean?

M: So many of them do not like the Methodist hymnal.

B: Really?

- M: I like the Sunday School booklet much better
- B: You like the old brown hymnals that we use better?
- M: You can take the same songs that are in the hymnal, and you can choose one out of the brown book. And you can sing one with the hymnal and the other with the brown book and you will have twice the singing. It seems something about it that they know it better and they sing it out more.
- B: There are faster songs, too.
- M: Well, they seem to know the song better from the brown book and they have the same one in the hymnal. Of course the hymnal used to be they had just the music and then the words would be in four paragraphs below. And you had to watch both of them, that was the hymnal. I know I was superintendent down here and they asked for, one of the teachers was after me to get hymnals for the choir. So I went along with him, I am not saying that I was for it, but he approached me on it, and I took action on it. And we got enough hymnals for the choir and Reverend Doich. He worked hard and he got up enough money to get the red hymnals because they came when Reverend Kaine was here.
- B: Do you think, is there any special minister that really stands out to you? In your experiences here at Dorset?
- M: Well, I liked all of the minister. I thought an awful lot of Reverend Mayhew. He lived right next to us at home there.
- B: So they were your neighbors there too?
- M: Yes. Reverend Kelley, I used to think that he preached a little bit too long sometimes, but he was very good. He spent a lot of time on his sermon. I remember Reverend Harper, Reverend Folson, Reverend Mayhew, Reverend Harman, Reverend Kelley. Now they all believed in evangelistic meetings and they had them. And I think they drifted away from then on.
- B: From who?
- M: From Reverend Keane.
- B: Do you think that before that they were more evangelistic?
- M: They would have a meeting and that church would be full. I was a sophomore in high school and my folks moved to Greenville, Pennsylvania. And they had carpenter work down there. Well, we were

gone a month and Reverend Mayhew hauled the goods up. They got the car and packed them up on that. Of course, we had a cow, Pap and I had to go with him. Of course it did not work out and Pap sold the home to Mary for \$1,000. And then we had to come back. She said about buying it back and he said he was going to have a little trouble so he bought it back for \$1,100. I did not want to come back, but I was too young to say anything, so I had to come back.

B Why did you not want to come back?

M. Oh, I got acquainted with a young fellow about my age who lived above us. I went to the church down there, the Baptist Church where my aunt went. And I knew when I came back because Reverend Mayhew was holding meetings. And I went over there at the church. And I was janitor and this furnace was in the church. They had cut off part of the joice. And I did not have any trouble. When the furnace was heating up and then when they got it up so that it was going good then I shut it. Reverend Mayhew used to take care of the church while I was gone. I do not know how he felt about me being back. But it caught fire on him. When I came back he said to me, "I do not see how you fired that."

B. He was glad to have you come back?

M Yes. And they were having meetings in that church and it was full that night. I came in and I was in the back seat.

B So you could really tell a big difference?

M Yes.

B Do any of these later ministers stand out as being really special to you?

M Well, Reverend Stevens. Now he was good. He wanted meetings. But Reverend Stevens, at that time I listened to the Fountain Program, that was good.

B That was on the television or radio?

M. Yes, radio. I said maybe we would get one from them so he wrote and he got this fellow by the name of Stevenson. Then he came and approached me about him staying here. Well we have never kept anybody like that.

B He was an evangelistic man coming to speak?

M Yes. And he came and stayed here at our place. I would not have

missed that fellowship with him for anything. One Sunday night after we came from a service down there, he was with us and we were going to get something for lunch. That was on Sunday and he did not want us to

B. He was willing to live like you lived?

M. That is right, to take what we had and that was fine. He was just one of the family, I will never forget that. And I got along with Reverend Jones. Sometimes we would be eating our lunch or our supper and he would come in and get a chair and sit right down at the side of that table. I will never forget him. He was very good, I thought.

B. So you think that the ones that were special were the ones that did not try to put on the airs, that wanted to be like us, to live like us?

M. Yes, that is right. Well, I think he also felt free to come any time that is the way that I wanted him to feel. That is what I mean, some of them you feel closer to.

B. Yes, like he was a friend?

M. Yes. And Reverend Shilling was good, Reverend Mal was good. Reverend Doich was good. I was a little bit disappointed, I think he left and the attendance started to go down and that is when he left. Reverend Rodger, I do not want to say anything against him or anybody, but I think he was more of a vocational. He was a Mazarine before.

B. Oh really?

M. But I think we paid a little more and he left the church. That is just what I think, I do not know. I know there were times there would be a little slow in getting the money and everything and I did not want to issue a check, because usually when you give them their check they are right up for the bank on Monday. And I always said that I would never give them a check and I asked them to hold it. If I gave them a check they could cash it right away. And I was not sure, until I got the offering, sometimes I would not get that amount until the middle of the week. So this one time I told him that I could not make it out. So they stopped on their way back from Richmond and Reverend Edger said, "Just have faith Albert, you will get it." I know it is alright to have faith but you need money too. Reverend Wang was very good, the only thing, I think he should have taken out citizenship papers and he would not do it.

B. What do you think the general reaction was for us having a Korean minister?



M I did not think much of it at first, but then he was pretty good so I would not say anything against him I do not think he was a very good mixer

B I think it was hard for him

M That is what I felt.

B What was the general reaction of the church as a whole? Do you remember what it was to us having a Korean minister? What people felt about it?

M I never heard anything to tell you the truth

B That was when I was still at Richmond, I was wondering what Dorset felt about it I know there were times when you could not, there were a few words when you had to sit and try and figure out what it was. But on the whole I liked him, I thought he was good. He was a very intelligent person.

M Yes, he was It was just hard for me to understand him and if you cannot understand and be a little hard of hearing, too.

B Yes, then it made it especially hard for you

M I thought an awful lot about the reverend. Now to me he had a good delivery and all and I could hear every word that he said.

B He was funny, too.

M. But I said that they would not keep him long because he was too good I said that when he first came and I thought an awful lot of him

B I liked him a lot especially One of the things that I really like about our church is that painting, Mrs Mose's painting of the disciples Do you remember her or why she painted them?

M. Well she wanted to do it in honor of her father-in-law, Hugh's parents, A.P Moses and Mrs Moses They were old-timers of the Methodist Church And she wanted to do it

B So it was just a special project that she wanted to do?

M Yes

B: Now is this a hobby of hers, painting?

M: Yes

B: Were they kits or were they free hand?

M: Free hand.

B: Oh, wow Do you remember how long it took her to do them?

M: No

B: Did you know her very well?

M: Oh, yes

B: Had she gone to this church a long time

M: Well, they did not attend church like her in-laws did. But she seemed to be more inclined toward the church after they were gone.

B: Next year is our hundredth birthday What do you think that some of the problems that we have had in the past, what do you think that we are going to have in the future? And the problems within our church?

M: Well, I think one of the things you have to have less criticism

B: Of the minister you mean?

M: The minister and the people

B: So less criticism of everybody as a whole and how they are working? What do you see as a special project that maybe our church can do for our hundredth birthday? Do you have any ideas that you would like to see done for it?

M: That is just next year is it not?

B: Yes, it is going to be here very quickly

M: Well, I do not know I will have to think about it a while I would like to see people be more church-minded

B: Do you think that this is one of the attitudes that we should work for in our church members?

M: Yes, and in supporting the church, too Our expenses keep growing and I

like to see a church that can meet her obligations on time, and in other words, keep its credit up

B. Yes, we need to do that

M It is the same as an individual You know of an individual who pays all of his bills right up but they will look at his credit, even a person who has all kinds of money. If he is going to borrow \$500 from somebody and pay back so much a month, that is what they refer to in looking up on his credit

B Yes, that is the same as our phone bill or something We have to prove that we can pay it, right?

M Yes

B. So you think that as a whole we should work towards supporting the church more, thinking of the church more?

M And meeting obligations more in a business sort

B In a business like manner. As you went through the list of ministers, one question that I meant to ask you, is there any special one sermon that stands out to you? From any of the ministers?

M. Well, I always said that if the minister preachers from the Bible, he is going to hit everybody And if the sermon does not hit, you kind of question it as to whether it is from the Bible or the truth.

B So you think that was always something that you payed attention too?

M That is the way that I always felt about it I do not know of any sermon that really was special. They all hit me a lot

B You see them all as important? What do you think about our church educations program, Sunday School and Bible School? Has this always been a strong part of our church?

M. It should be I hate to see the Sunday School where it is And of course it makes it bad for here because the minister cannot be here to run the Sunday School

B Yes, both of the churches are like that It is hard for them to know what is going on and what things need to be made and things

- M. The minister can help a lot in the Sunday School And then you got to have good church-minded teachers too
- B I think it is nice that we have Mrs Benich
- M Yes, she is very good
- B And I think that it is nice that we have a trained teacher as a Sunday school teacher, I think that is very, very good She knows how to handle and deal with the children.
- M My sister teaches a younger class up at that church And there were some of the older ones as I think back So you have a big influence on a young person's life Some teachers do not realize this, but that is why I say that it is important to have a good Christian teacher, especially in the Sunday school class
- B. What do you feel about the two churches, the Baptist and the Methodist combining on the Vacation Bible School?
- M. That is very good.
- B: I think that shows a lot of cooperation
- M: That is right
- B Do you think the kids enjoy it and appreciate it more perhaps?
- M Yes.
- B I think it makes it larger and they can do more activities
- M Yes, they have a lot of good teachers up there too It is very good and they have a lot of confidence up there.
- B All right a long time ago I have heard stories that there used to be a special town picnic or a town festival? Did the church ever play a part in these special festivals?
- M I do not know They used to have their regular Sunday School picnics They used to go up to Lake Shore Park
- B Was this an annual event?
- M Yes

B And this is one of those things that has gradually fallen away?

M. Yes.

B Do you think that was the high light of the Sunday school year?

M Yes

B Is there anything else that you can think of that you would like to say about our church? Is there any special memories that you have about it or any special changes that you would like to see come about besides the ones that we have discussed?

M Well, I would like to see more attendance I do not like this change in pulpits

B I was going to ask you that

M I am not in favor of that. Of course, naturally, I see the regular attendance of the church because it affects the offering And, naturally, I am interested to keep the offerings up But if they know that the minister is not going to be there, then a lot of them take that Sunday and go somewhere else That cuts the attendance down. And that, in turn, cuts the offering down

B. And that hurts everybody right?

M Right

B How do you feel about the whole Methodist Church changing ministers every two or three years? Do you like that or do you think that they should be able to stay for five or six years?

M Well, personally, I think if a minister feels as though his work is done that he should be able to go Of course, he would have to go the district superintendent and the pastor release is made Now it used to be that they would stay seven years Reverend Mayhew was here seven years and he had to move because that was the limit he could stay I do not know what it is now

B I do not either We always seem to get different ones every two or three years So I kind of took that as the regular pattern.

B How do you feel about having a woman minister? An honest opinion

- M: As far as that they are just choosing it for a vocation, why then I do not favor it.
- B: Do you think that maybe it is a good experience for our church to have a woman minister? Do you think it was maybe a change and a good experience for us?
- M: Well, I do not know because there are so many of them that do not believe in it. But now the women missionaries. But it seems like to me when things come up that a minister goes through, it would be hard for the women to handle it.
- B: Such as what?
- M: Well, I do not know whether I can really explain. It is a gift that the person has. Now maybe I did something and I wanted and I firmly believed in, and I could tell you about it and get it across to the next person would have the same thing and it is in one ear and out the other. Now my mother had a commanding voice. When she spoke, you knew she meant what she said, you did not argue about it.
- B: So you think that the voice has a lot to do with it?
- M: Well, yes and just the way it is said and everything.
- B: Yes, I understand what you mean. Is there anything else that you would like to add?
- M: Now I am just one who is hard of hearing so I probably should not pass that judgement.
- B: Well, that is something that affects you.
- M: Does it bother you?
- B: No, I can hear her, but I have heard other people say that. So it is something that is important to you. And if you cannot hear it clearly you are not going to be able to get out of it what you should be able to.
- M: I like her giving the children sermons.
- B: I think she does a very good job.
- M: I will tell you she did not wear that robe though. It would not take much to make me sit home and I certainly do not. A woman to get up on the pulpit.

with as short a dress that she has.

B Oh, so you are glad that she wears a robe?

M Yes, for that reason. I would rather see her wear these pants suits. It is certainly much more appropriate. But if she did not have that robe on and sat down there on that platform with that short dress then you would get some criticism.

B Is there any other people in the church that you think that I should interview that might be able to give me some different ideas? Who are some of the people that you think would be valuable for me to interview?

M Of course as I say, I was brought up to go to church and I think others should do the same but I cannot control them.

B: Right

M. In others words, if you are going to be a Christian, live a Christian life. Now that takes a whole lot of territory.

B. If you are going to say what you think and if you are going to say what you believe then you should be able to act accordingly. I think that is important. Is there anybody else that you think that I should interview? Are there any people of the community that might be able to give me a different perspective on the church? Perhaps someone that has not gone to church all of his life or anything like that, that he might be able to give me a different view of the church?

M I think that would be good. I think a lot of her.

B Yes, I know a lot of people do.

M Of course, she is strong on psychology, you will hear a lot when you talk with her very long. But I can see a lot of things in psychology that I could not see when I first knew her. I just started working as a janitor for the church.

B. So you have known her for a long time. How do you think the relationship is between the church and the community? Do you think there is a working relationship there or an anti-one?

M Well, that comes back, we would not want to live in a community without a church. And I know when one party told me, he said, "When you need money, I will help." So when I got a little behind, I went to him. And he

only gave me ten dollars, I thought he would shell out a hundred the way he talked. He could have just as easy as he gave a ten.

B Do you think that there is at least a cooperation between the community and the church?

M I think if we worked a little more

B. Oh, so you think that more attention needs to be given to that?

M. That comes back on the minister I think a minister should call Call on all of them, whether they belong to the church or not. Reverend Shulty, he is the pastor of the Baptist Church He was very close to us and I have done an awful lot with him He came down to the school house an awful lot and talked with me I know they had the farewell for him. Now this speech is what a minister can do And he was great on calling. He had a splendid delivery, he had memorized everything and he would step back from the pulpit and just kind of fold his hands and talk. Of course he reads the Bible too. And when they had the farewell for him, Mrs Kyle made this remark "Well is this the Baptist or the Methodist?" Now you can see how everybody thought of him

B. The whole community was there so if you think that is the minister would call on people and involve more people in our activities we would have a better relationship with the community?

M That is right

B That is a lot of work

M Sure it is But then I know it takes a lot of time fixing this news letter and all They have to put it every other month rather than for her to talk too much time on that She is good on calling at the hospital

B Yes, I know she does a lot of that

M That is what I always said, I would like them to call on us, but they got too much and all to call on the ones that need them

B Yes, especially the ones that are shut in.

M That is right.

B I think that there are probably a lot more that need called on in our community and people do not know about them. Like I know a Patty



Kellogg from Richmond, it is very hard for her to get out. And it is important for people to at least call her or something to make sure that she is all right.

M: I know Reverend Woodruff, he called down home. They had one motto on the wall, "Prayer changes things." And he spoke to Mom about that. And Mom said, "Oh yes." She was telling Pap referred right away to the scriptures in Hemzichiah. He prayed for a little longer to live. And God granted it. But did that not change life? And it is amazing when you think of it. My cousin's wife, she had an operation. And they are strong workers in the Baptist Church. And she told me, she said of course she had prayers and I said, "You knew it too did you not?" She said, "Yes I did." One time when we getting a new school bus down at the school from Herb. And the bodies were made down in Mitchel Indiana. He wanted the board to go down and see. They planned on it, and I took part of my vacation and I went down. And we stopped and picked up the salesman. Of course I knew Herb. I just kind of wondered what I was getting into because I did not want to do anything that was not right. I did not believe in playing cards and things like that and certainly I could get into that and drinking by all means. And if they ask me then I say no, they cannot make you do something that you do not want to.

B: Right.

M: And I prayed to the Lord and when I found out when we got there he was a Quaker. He did not believe in fighting or anything. So you can see how prayer changes things.

B: Do you think that this should be an emphasis in our church?

M: Yes.

B: And that we can bring about more beneficial changes?

M: That is right.

B: Okay is there anything else that you would like to add before we close?

M: No.

B: One question that I have for you as the treasurer, why do you think that people are always willing to give to the special building projects? Why do you think they are willing to give to those when they would not give that much money to the regular church offering?

M Well, it is just that fact that some of them are opposed to the conference claims. Whatever the conference says, now that is a has to, it has to be paid. And, of course, on the building project, that is usually borrowed money and they want to get it paid back. That is what I mean they got these regular other expenses of the church that must be met.

B And so they do not like to give to those, they like to give to the other projects?

M They give more.

B So, I understand that.

M On your building project, me what I give on the building project would be extra, that does not affect my regular giving.

B I think that is the way it should be.

M Yes, that is the way it should be, absolutely. But you cannot get all of them to see that.

B All right, is there anything else that you would like to add then?

M Nothing that I can think of right now.

B All right.

End of Interview