

Report of Western Secretary

To

"Board of Home Missions
General Synod, Evan. Lutheran Church in U.S."

October Meeting 1883.

I. Greenleaf, Kansas. Having reported my visit to Greenleaf Kas. Sept 6th - I need only add that reports from there are favorable, as to the newly organized S. School, and new settlements in the neighborhood.

II. Synod of Southern Illinois.

This Synod is small in numbers and, with a few exceptions, small in earnest working ministers. Its field is a "Bumt-District" and in, not very elegant, but emphatic language it might be called a "Hefty" Synod.

I was very kindly and cordially received, and the brethren expressed appreciation of my coming through the intense heat and ten to fifteen inches of dust, to meet with them. After I had given them an outline of the work, the purposes and desires of the Board, the grand opening to us here, where the need of liberal contributions and the education of more men for the ministry, I said: "And now brethren, permit me very kindly yet plainly to say a few words on Stewardship and responsibility. I find from your minutes that your seventeen congregations and 1029 communicants have given only \$48.46 to Home and Foreign Missions and Church Extension in one entire year. I find that five pastors and 700 members gave absolutely nothing, and I want to ask you with

all the tendernefs I can command, and yet with all the earnestnefs, how can you answer God for such leadership, or such pastoral over-sight or such teaching and example? As "Insamples into the flock" over which you say God has placed you as over-seers, I ask you, as we must meet in His presence when "the Books are opened," how can you answer Him?

Calmly, I went on for fifteen minutes, when "all with one consent, began to make excuse."

Rev. D. Sprecher, who had given fifty cents for Home Missions, opened fire on the Board of Home Missions and gave their action concerning S. Illinois territory, as an excuse and a reason for the small contributions. He told, with wonderful eloquence, how in 1877 Rev. Goodlin had declined to come to S. Illinois and the Board refused aid to S. Illinois, and though S. Illinois was called Egypt, it is the very land of Goshen. "There is corn in Egypt, yes and oil and coal and beautiful and luscious fruit. Yes Sir, Mr. Secy, a Paradise &c. &c. &c. and as the Board refused to help us, Sir, we had to help ourselves &c. &c. When he got through I asked what 1877 had to do with 1881, and what the Board's action had to do with Foreign Missions, and he could tell of God's wonderful goodness to S. Illinois, and in the same breath apologize for the mean and miserable return made by those who had sworn in solemn confirmation and ordination oath to deny themselves for their Father's cause? One hour and a half I was kept standing on the floor of Synod, "hearing and answering questions," at the close of which every member, or nearly every member, confessed they had not done right, and promised greater and better things for 1883-84. The report for 1882-1883, will be better than that

of 1881-1882. I closed my "exhortation" to that Synod, by saying: And now Brethren, the Board of Home Missions will aid in planting a Mission, or two or three of them, of need be, in any city or large town in your territory north of me. You so well acquainted with the field, select a place, and I will visit it with your Advisory Board, and if there is hope and promise in it, the Board will gladly make an appropriation to it. We have stopped planting Missions in small towns, already over-churched, but if you have any place not fully or over-supplied with churches, where we have a field, mention it, and I will come. Cairo and another city of about 15000 were mentioned, and I told them to get the "facts and figures" and send them to us, and they would have no complaints to make. I concluded by saying: A reference has been made to expenses, and I will give you an account of one or two trips, that you may forever close the mouths of those who ignorantly I not talk of "the running expenses of the Board." I gave them a few specimen trips - they applauded, and Mr. D. Sprecher arose in his majesty and said: "Go on, my Bro, God keep you, in this great work, we rejoice you were here - our eyes are opened", and a lot more "palaver" of this kind. I remarked: Good Bye, Brethren, don't forget the ^{or giving is the} minimum apportionment.

III. Chicago - Corner Stone - laying &c.

Having had full accounts of this in the Church Papers, and in my letter to Dr. Hamma, I need add but little. Nebraska Synod raised \$100. for Chicago, and Iowa and N. Ills. Synod \$200. and \$500 respectively.

from the Board for support of pastor, and use that much from subscription, towards building a parsonage. They rather "feared up" on this shrewd financial scheme, but without doubt, Bro. Gearhart is an excellent man, and does need some help just now, or right away. I told him he should not suffer. I suggest the following. Resolved, that \$125.00 be appropriated to the Mission at Dalland Neb. for six months ending April 1st 1884, with the understanding that from ^{and after} that time, the Mission be self-sustaining.

Bro. G. sold out in Virginia in order to get money to move to Dalland. He must now buy furniture, horse, buggy, &c. I felt like saying give him \$150.00, but believe \$125.00 will greatly cheer him.

2. Selkama.

I am very, very sorry to report considerable dissatisfaction with Bro. Kimmel in the congregation at Selkama, and the work not going forward in the this part of the Mission.

In the country, where he is about to consecrate a new church, prosperity is reported, and men enthusiasm, but many in Selkama are heartily tired of his ministry. Old Father Ohlinger, the founder and "head and front" of the Selkama Church, said: "I am so sorry to say anything about our pastor, who has worked so hard to build up the Lutheran Church in York Co, but indeed he is doing no good here now." Another said: "he could raise \$200. more for another man, and thus be self-sustaining." I told Father Ohlinger ^{that} he as a tender and much loved "Father in Israel" must tell Bro. K. in a kindly way, that perhaps his work in Selkama is done. He promised me that he would do so. On account of new church not being ready, I did not get to that part of the Mission. Bro.

11. is a very earnest man, and his wife almost a slave to the work. He has, however, zeal without knowledge many times, and can be as disagreeable and mean as a "Spitz-Dog". (This latter sentence is a quotation from Dr. Stebbing) The beginning of trouble at Sellamah, was a "Union Service meeting".

The Union was lovely - brotherly love continued until the Baptist Bro. got a Lutheran sheep into the water and retained her in his fold. Then Bro. Kimmel preached on Baptism, and called the Baptist Bro. "a thief", and Mrs. K. had the Baptist Bro's pedigree while he was sick, & his wife, and Satan seemed to "enter in" generally. From that time Bro. Kimmel has been losing in Sellamah, his own people feeling that he made a great mistake. He is a valuable man in some respects, and deserves to be taken care of. He, however, drives too much and leads too little. We will await results of Father Ohliger's conference with him.

3. Woa and Secumseh. Mr. Lloyd Knight has entered upon work at Woa, by Mannion's request of the people there, endorsed by Synod. He will require no aid from the Board at present. Bro. Knight will also "work up" Secumseh, and other points, and make report. He seems very earnest and yet humble, evidently desiring to make a good record. In view of his going to work at Woa, &c. I told Bro. Josephman the Board would excuse him from visiting Secumseh, and that he should put in every ^{possible} moment in visiting in Lincoln, hunting up children for the S. School, and people for the Congregation.

4. Hastings. Bro. Senker says he has a field at H., & Synod made provision to look after it, until a

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suitable German American, or American German pastor can be secured.

5. Omaha. Danish.

The pastor of this church was received and ordained by synod, and his congregation will be received so soon as constitution, satisfactory is presented. These brethren need much care, and great tenderness and patience must be exercised towards them as we lead, guide and instruct.

6. Omaha. "Kontze Memorial". "Beautiful"

Our situation, and commanding in architectural design, and great in its influence on all our work in Nebraska, will be this church.

The work goes rapidly forward, and it is only to be regretted that Dr. Stelling is not in good health. He seems to be improving however, as he wrote me yesterday. I give thanks to God, for his servant Augustus Kontze.

7. Clear Osell.

Would that we had twenty ministers for Nebraska, like Rev. C. Auler pastor at Clear-Osell. Such ministers seem to build churches and develop congregations under most adverse circumstances. Bro. Auler receives no aid from Home Board, but with a little help from B.B.L. is building the finest church between Omaha and Lincoln on N.P.R.R. It will soon be ready for occupancy.

8. West Point.

All we can do for this place is to secure a good man - English and German if possible. The people are discouraged, but some of them are not ready to come up to the full measure of their privilege and ability.

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9. Lincoln. The more I see of Mr. Joseph-
-man, the more he disappoints me. At Synod
last year, he was help-ful, this year he chafed
and "blazed away" and manifested but little sense
or judgment. I trust he will do better. There
is nothing "draining" or "mining" about him.

He is a little too smart, too impatient, too "fussy"
and has too much vinegar to make a successful
missionary. A family from Cedar-Rapids will
soon move to S. thus adding to the number of workers.

If a field opens ~~at~~ P. Co. in the East,
there should be no objection to his accepting it on
the part of the Board. \$225.00 from that little
band is noble.

10. Red-Cloud. Mr. Wilhelm is much discour-
-aged on account of changes at N. Co.
by removal of members and removal of N. N. interests.
I urged him to visit Hardy (30 miles away)
and accept a call from that Church, with permission
to unite Red-Cloud with it, thus saving the appro-
-priation of the Board, and yet keeping hold of N. Co.
in case of growth by next Spring. I also suggested
that he visit Salapoua - the booming town to
which the P. & M. Shops are being taken, and
report on prospects there. He promised to do as sugges-
-ted in both cases. If he can care for N. Co. by connect-
-ing with Hardy, he will save the appropriation.

11. Grand-Island. A great work, without
missionary aid, is being done at Grand
Island and adjacent parts - towns and counties -
by Mr. Jno. N. Senter. Oh! it does seem a
pity something cannot be done to give them a
Church-Building at Grand-Island, this Autumn.

They do not ask for a gift, only a loan at 5% per cent. They can give the best kind of Real-Estate security. I enclose a recent report or pastoral letter, from Bro. Senter to his people, marked Grand Island A. Mr. Bro. Senter to my mind, has been raised up of God to do a great work for the General Synod. He deserves encouragement in every possible proper way.

12. Ohio.

A noble, self-sacrificing man is our Missiary William Thoele at Ohio. He deserves the same appropriation as last year, and ought to have it, even though he would not press his claim for it. Another year of work will, in all probability, make his mission self-sustaining. I gave him a blank application.

13. Wayne.

Dr. Seisening has been visiting in Wayne and the neighborhood, & does not think Bro. Schur "the right man in the right place". He says he is respected by every body in the community, and the country "round about"; but has not enough culture or observed or tact to cope with ministers who have come into Wayne and Wakefield, since his beginning in these places. I am inclined to think Dr. S. is right, and yet, do not see how we can improve any on him, in the great scarcity of good men. His delegate made an earnest plea that he be continued at the same appropriation. Bro. S. has, without doubt, the work greatly at heart. He loves the Church and lives right. It will amuse you, when I tell you that he applies to me to help get him a wife, or to select one for him. I told him it was "not a part of my work to select wives for the missionaries, though

I might, by so doing, impose on some of the re-
lections they make for themselves.

14. Waresly, is doing nicely under Mr. Melick.
They will reduce the amt. asked
for this next year, and after that will be
self-sustaining.

15. New Points. Many new points are open-
-ing up in Nebraska, and
1884 will bring us many more. Oh! for pastors
to occupy them.

16. Emigrant Convention. At the close
of the synod, an Emigrant Convention was
held which was full of vim and interest. I was
obliged to leave before the close, and so must refer
you to published proceedings for more full report.
I enclose Programme named Emigrant Convention B.

VIII. Synod of Iowa. This Synod had
also a great meeting, the Treasurer's Report
being the best ever presented to any Convention of
the Synod of Iowa. Several young men were ordained
- the first in a number of years. And in every re-
-spect the meeting was an improvement on any
of its predecessors. The points to be noted are as
follows. 1. Advisory Board. The new Adv.
Board of this Synod consists of Rev. O. C. Miller, Chairman
- Rev. J. W. Beigler, Nevada, Iowa, and Rev. Geo. C.
Henry, Des Moines. They will hold a meeting
som. at which I will try to be present.
2. Iowa City. I should not be surprised if
we would decide to advise the abandoning of this point,
with suggestion to sell the property and place the money

in Church Extension Treasury. It really does not seem much use to go on at Iowa City, unless we can serve it from some other charge. Bro. Prachin can be used to better advantage elsewhere. Move of this after meeting of Adv. Board.

3. Davenport. The missionary at this place will be fully discussed at Adv. Board meeting, and every effort made to find out what is the matter. He urges a visit from me, which I will try to make at as early a day as possible. He is generally unpopular with the brethren and especially so with Bros. Miller and Zeigler of the Adv. Board. He and Stough "never hit it" before and there must have been sufficient reproof brought upon S. to have him urge the same appropriation as heretofore. Snyder is a trustee at Carthage College, and Stough is now a Prof. The Davenport delegate at Synod reported increasing attendance at Church services and S. School and the work going forward with encouragement. Snyder however, would not bring a delegate who would report any other way.

4. Stoney City and adjacent points, must have a missionary, so soon as a man of the right stamp can be secured. Stoney City, and the region round about is Norwegian, and the young people demand English services. A great work can be done in Stoney Co. during the next five years, if we can put the right man at it.

5. Nevada, Stoney's County seat, is doing well under Bro. Zeigler. He will soon add to it a congregation in the country near by, and thus ask a little less appropriation from the Board, without

doing any less work at Nevada. He should not however, ask much less, as what he will get from the country congregation, will only give him with appropriation from the Board for Nevada, about what he absolutely needs. The Iowa Synod heartily approves his taking the country church. So also Mr. P.D.

6. Doublington. The synod passed a resolution asking Board of Home Missions to transfer Iowa Synod's Mission funds to B. L. C. for purchase of the lots at Doublington. I trust Bro. Richard will be able to meet me at Doublington in the early winter, and B. L. C. be ready to make the purchase then & thus make use of the subscription of Mr. Sauman and others at B. The young man you speak of might be on the ground with us, and go to work at once, or follow soon after we made preliminary arrangements.

7. Bedar-Rapids. As yet, no one at Bedar-Rapids knows anything of the overtures from St. Paul's excepting Bro. Miller himself. He seemed pleased with the idea of being called to Baltimore, and says he "could study more in a regular pastorate than in a mission! could lift that 'ground rent' debt, do a great work &c. &c." I tried to show him that he would not find it so easy as he pictured it, that it was really more comfortable to be a leader in Bedar Rapids than to be over-shadowed in Baltimore, &c. &c.

He has just enlarged and repaired his little cottage, and I was there Tuesday, for an hour, & helped to receive Mrs. Miller on her return from her long vacation. He furnished partly new, several rooms in his house, and wrote me to-day that Mrs. M. being so much improved, they were enjoying their home together, as well as the great kindness of their people.

If the urging from St Paul's is not too strong, I believe he will resist it, and remain at his post.

I am very sure Bro. Miller will not be the successor at St Paul's, that he is at Cedar-Rapids.

8. Utriville. Bro. Hills reports more money raised at Utriville last year, and more real work done, than in any year of the history of that Church.

9. Waterloo, Black-Hawk Co. "A word fitly spoken, how good it is". A little cheer and encouragement go a great way. A little showing to people what they themselves can and ought to do, often produces great results. A year ago application was made for aid for this place. It was visited, & the people told what they themselves could do, and how to do it. They have a pastor now - nothing extra either - and their new church nearly ready for consecration.

VIII. Synod of Northern Illinois.

This body also had an encouraging meeting at Polo, but to my mind has made a great mistake in its treasurer. On this point I have written Bro. Meiser fully. Rev. Mr. Dieke suggested by Dr. Stone, and with whom I have had some correspondence, by request of Board, was received, or will be so soon as he presents proper papers from Cong. denomination. The consultation with him was very satisfactory, and his reasons for wanting to come back home, strong ones. He will make a useful worker in one of our German-English congregations. He will not be ready to enter our work before April. Meanwhile Bro. Severingham will suggest a field for him.

1 Rockford. New Church will. v. v. be dedicated Oct. 14th.

2. Deepport. Corner-stone to be laid between 7th and 21st. The people encouraged.

III. Kansas. i. Morile. Am trying

to secure a man for the excellent people of this place, and hope to visit them again, on my way to Kansas Synod, if possible.

2. Ompnia. Mr. Paphael Baird is about to spend a few weeks in Ompnia, and will make a canvass by time of Kansas Synod. I have secured him reduced rates on R.R.'s. He goes at his own charges.

3. Wellsboro. Will keep an eye on matters at Wellsboro, learn what I can at Synod, and visit as soon as possible.

4. Dusella. We have met with a sad loss in this mission, in the death of the faithful wife and help-met of our missionary - Mr. W. F. Sotell. Dear fellow is overwhelmed with grief and sadness. I have no particulars, excepting that she died in confinement. Synod of Kansas will meet, D. V., at Dusella, Oct. 26th.

5. Other Kansas ^{Synod} Points will be looked after at Synod.

IV. Three Rivers Michigan. Had a talk with Bro. McLaughlin recently, having found him as a visitor at Synod of N. Illinois. He thinks a point or two can be added to Three Rivers to make it self-sustaining, if Synod of N. Indiana will consent. If I go to that Synod, or if Bro. Clutz goes to that Synod, the matter

can be arranged. The trouble with Bro. M. S. is that he "gets out" with his brethren in synod, antagonize them unduly &c. &c. He is a good and self-sacrificing brother, but has this great fault. There will be no doubt about another field for Bro. M. S. if need be.

XII. Denver. Instructions and suggestions will be carried out. It would be well also for Board to advise Denver of sympathy and help direct. I will D. V. come last after Middle-Term. Synod in Minn. to visit Aug. Comtee &c. &c. Am. to this end, arranging transportation &c. &c.

XIII. Notes. Am helping Com. of W. A. of M. Society in this matter, in every way I can. The Board last year committed this matter to them, but they leaned on me so much, that I felt like directing the whole matter. All is now working well.

XIV. The Great North-west. 1 Duluth, Minn.

Enclosed find a letter from this growing and important city. I have answered: "I will come, or some other person will come and see you"; and have urged them to start a S. School, Prayer-meeting &c. Please return letter ^{in enclosed} Duluth.

2. St Paul & Minneapolis, Lutherans in these Lutheran cities are also asking: "How long delayest thou, thy coming?" Hope to answer that somebody will soon visit them & cheer them.

XV. "Funds Falling Off" This must not be,

and will not be, when Bro. Leutz "gets to going":
visiting men of means &c. &c. I know in
answer to prayer and work, Funds will come.
He must keep up the requests, suggestions &
information in Church Papers and by special
Circular &c. &c. &c. I wish I could get in
more work of this kind, but with the amnt. of
travel and correspondence, it seems almost
impossible.

IV. Louisville, Kentucky. Another

letter from Bro. Detweiler with additional
reasons and urgings. Oh! to know, without
mistake, "the mind of the Lord". Bro. Detweiler
says he "has no other man in mind" has asked
Sawyer to hold horse subject to my decision &c.
&c. Bro. Leutz's letter and appeal are strong, and
so also are others coming from many sources.

Oh! that I may make no mistake
with "ardent love and strong desire".

As ever

Yrs. Gratefully
Samuel B. Sammitz
Kentucky.

Oct. 1883

Des Moines, Ia.
October 5th 1883

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