

# SALEM SIDELIGHTS

BI-MONTHLY NEWS OF  
SALEM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
FOR THE HANDICAPPED

VOLUME I NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY, 1961

## MINISTER'S COLUMN

Rev. M. Gritters  
Bellflower Protestant  
Reformed Church

*"Wagons for Your Little Ones"*  
(Gen. 45:19)

God was keeping His promise to Abraham. He was saving His people. They were in Canaan, but to be kept alive they had to go to Egypt to come under the protecting care which God had recently set up under Joseph.

In saving His people God pressed Pharaoh into His service. (What a great God we have!) Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Go to Canaan, get your father and bring him here.

But it is a big trip to make. Pharaoh was opening the way for Joseph to get his father and family and bring them here to Egypt. In that family were the wives. To that family belonged also the old man Jacob. They could not walk that great distance.

And to that family belonged also the little ones. How will they travel that great distance?

Pharaoh said: "I will give you horses and wagons for your wives, for old Jacob and for your little ones." How wonderful! Then the entire family would be provided for. The whole family would be caught up into the gracious process of salvation.

Pharaoh likely had political reasons for sending these wagons to Canaan and fetching the little ones. But the important thing to see is that God, Who always cares for His people, cares especially for the little ones. And God presses His claims even upon Pharaoh, in behalf of His frail people.

God's little ones have to get along.

Then there must be wagons. God concerned Himself about them. They could never walk these many miles from Canaan to Egypt. No doubt Joseph reminded Pharaoh about it and God directed his heart.

So the wagons came to Canaan. And they loaded the little ones on the wagons and off they went . . . they, too, got along. How could they leave them behind?

God has put the concern for our little ones into our hearts. By the grace of the Covenant God we are covenant-minded. We Christian people think of the old folks (at our Christian Home), we also think of the little ones. Our little ones must get along. God's covenant is to "thee AND thy seed". There must be wagons.

God has sent out wagons. Among them are our Christian schools, lower and higher. It costs money

to pull these wagons, but the God Who can work even in Pharaoh's heart works in ours, and we share the cost. Scores of teachers, board members, janitors, helpers of every sort, all helping the parents to pull the wagons.

But some of our children cannot ride on these standard wagons.

They are the handicapped ones.

Shall we let them behind? We do not have facilities for these handicapped in our regular Christian schools. But God will have all our little ones get along in the process of Christian instruction.

So God has put it into our hearts to have a Special School for our handicapped. And so there is a Salem Christian School for our frail ones who need special attention and special equipment.

We are grateful that the Lord has made this possible. Through the diligence of the Mothers' Club the School has been able recently to purchase a vehicle to transport these children.

Our two teachers diligently carry on not only the daily work at Salem Christian School, but also on the playground and on the highways fetching and returning the children.

Wagons for our little ones. Special wagons for the frail ones.

Isn't God merciful? And we will be thankful, and work and pray.

## SALEM SIDELIGHTS.

Salem is a new school in our community, and along with this comes our official publication, "Salem Sidelights". We hope to make this an interesting source of news, learning, and information for all interested people in the immediate area. The issues are intended and planned to be distributed bi-monthly, consisting of two or four pages.

Our intent in this publication is to keep you informed of the activity of Salem. Also from time to time informative articles of special interest will appear which will be of help to many. We are interested in making this publication interesting to you.

After you have read your issue, we suggest that you send it to a friend or relative back east, in Canada, or Europe. In the event there is a family with a handicapped child that wishes to come to California, they will know that Christian educational facilities for handicapped children are available.

- SALEM SIDELIGHTS -

A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION SPONSORED AND MAINTAINED BY THE MEMBERS OF SALEM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THE HANDICAPPED, 10345 HACIENDA AVENUE, BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA.

STAFF

EDITOR .....
ASSISTANT EDITOR .....
BUSINESS MANAGER .....
TYPISTS .....

COME ONE COME ALL

On Friday, March 3, a meeting of all those interested in Salem will be held at the Valley Christian High School Auditorium at 8 P.M. This is not just a society meeting to conduct business, etc., it is a program designed and arranged to acquaint you with Salem Christian School For The Handicapped, the people who are active in it, and its activities.

INTRODUCING SALEM

Salem is a biblical name meaning "peaceful", and it is an abbreviation of the word, Jerusalem. It is found first in Genesis 14:18 and again in Psalm 76:2

"Salem Christian School For The Handicapped" was the name chosen for our school at our society meeting held on September 1, 1960. Also, at this same meeting, a Board of Directors was elected, and sixty-five men and women signed the membership roll. The next evening, on September 2, the Board of Directors met to organize, elect officers, and appoint committees. Miss De Hoog was retained as a teacher, and Mrs. J. Goematt was hired as a part time assistant.

Classes for eight children are being held in two of the unoccupied classrooms of Bellflower Christian School. One room is used as a classroom, and the other room is used as a playroom.

We invite you one and all to visit Salem. Come when you can. The teachers and the children will welcome you. Or if you prefer, contact the Board of Directors and they will make arrangements to have a speaker sent to your society to acquaint you with Salem.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Salem Christian School For The Handicapped needs your help. You will probably ask, "How can I help Salem?" Well, there are many ways you can help. Many projects too, simple or complicated. short term or long term, can be done in your home or or in your societies. And as Salem continues to operate in this community, more projects will come to the foreground.

Here are some examples. The children must learn by means of visual aids which are entertaining to them. Your hobby may be just the thing. Do you know anyone who can manipulate puppets? Or, are you an amateur sand artist?. Think of the delight and enjoyment that would be exhibited by these children upon seeing the "Three Bears" take shape in sand! Or perhaps a dramatic reading of "Little Red Riding Hood". By this time you have probably thought of a few more ideas.

The teachers, Miss De Hoog and Mrs. Goematt need help at times too. Can you spend an hour or so at the school once or twice each month in order to relieve one of the teachers?

Some projects for individuals or groups of people are - making doll clothing, with large buttons and buttonholes, making apron strings on frames which are used as aids in teaching the children to tie bows, or bringing in your portable record player and play children's records.

If you feel you can help Salem in any way mentioned, or some way which was not mentioned, be sure to call the secretary of the Board, Mr. Andrew Verkade, HA 9-7241.

And, of course, you can help Salem by helping with this publication. See our "Help Wanted" column on page four.

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\* We have forgotten the gracious Hand which \*
\* has preserved us in peace and multiplied \*
\* and enriched and strengthened us, and have \*
\* vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our \*
\* hearts that all these blessings were pro- \*
\* duced by some superior wisdom and virtue \*
\* of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken \*
\* success, we have become too self sufficient \*
\* to feel the necessity of redeeming and pre- \*
\* serving Grace, too proud to pray to the God \*
\* that made us. \*
\* - Abraham Lincoln \*
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## A Letter from the family of Carl Molendyk -

"Upon the advice of several competent individuals who are well acquainted with Children's Retreat in Michigan, and after much prayer, we the family of little Carl Molendyk were led to the decision that Carl, 6½ years of age, should be admitted to this institution. After consulting with our pastor, Rev. Van Peurseem, Carl's teachers at Salem, Miss Christine De Hoog, and the president of the board of Pine Rest, Rev. J. Holwerda, arrangements were made to have Carl admitted to Children's Retreat.

We received word very soon that Carl was adjusting very well, and that he was happy and content. Two weeks later we were notified that Carl was very ill with virus pneumonia and that he was taken to Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, where he was believed to be at the brink of death.

Besides being handicapped because of cerebral palsy, Carl is also afflicted with a blood disease which lowers his resistance and consequently cannot combat infection. Periodic blood transfusions and the miracle of modern medical research which produced the wonder drugs are factors which we believe were used and blessed by God to prolong his life.

At the time of this writing (1-25-61) Carl is on the road to recovery and we would use this means to thank all our Christian friends for the many fervent prayers that have been sent up to the Throne of Grace on our behalf. Your concern is deeply appreciated. The bond of Christian fellowship is keenly felt in these very trying times."

Thank you so very much,  
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Molendyk and  
and children

A recent report from Mrs. Molendyk indicates that Carl is beyond the critical stage but is still quite ill. We hope and pray for a quick recovery for this little one. While we cannot always be near to our dear ones, we must remember that God is always with those that love him, and he will preserve all those that love him. Psalm 145.



*Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion  
Most slow to anger, plenteous in love  
Rich is His Grace to all that humbly seek Him,  
Boundless and endless as the Heavens above  
His love is like a father's to his children,  
Tender and kind to all who fear His name,  
For well He knows our weakness and our frailty,  
He knows that we are dust, He knows our frame.*

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

After the Board of Directors of Salem Christian School for the Handicapped was elected by the membership, we found that we had no official place to meet. Rev. J. E. Hibma suggested that we meet in his study at the Artesia Reformed Church, 18523 So. Arline Avenue, in Artesia. We have been meeting there ever since on the third Monday of each month plus a few special meetings in between. For the use of Rev. Hibma's study we do sincerely thank the consistory and the congregation of the Artesia Reformed Church.

At our very first meeting organizational business was conducted and a date was set for the opening of our school. Committees were formed for tuition, finance, property and transportation, education, and development and propoganda. Many problems arose in the course of events, but with the help and guidance of our God in heaven, we have been very successful in the operation of Salem thus far.

The articles of incorporation and by-laws for Salem is now in its final stages and we are waiting for official notification from the Secretary of State of California of our incorporation. The franchise tax board has already notified us that we are permitted to receive donations and that these donations will be deductible by the donors in arriving at their taxable net income.

In the near future we hope to have a Salem representative in each of our local churches. Many churches have already appointed these representatives, and for this we thank you. We have not worked closely with them as yet but we will be in touch with them very soon. One of their helpful tasks has been getting this issue of Salem Sidelights to you.

We do thank all of you who have helped Salem thus far. Many tasks and duties have been and are being accomplished by volunteer help. Also, we wish to thank all those who have made donations. We trust that we are assured of your continued support.

Respectfully yours,  
The Board of Directors

## MOTHERS' CLUB NEWS

The Mothers' Club of the Salem Christian School For The Handicapped organized on the twenty-ninth of September, 1960. Officers were elected, and are Mrs. H. Molendyk, president; Mrs. M. Vander Vies, vice president; Mrs. G. Anema, secretary; and Mrs. J. Schoneveld, treasurer. One of our major projects was to work toward the purchase of a vehicle which would serve as a school bus for the children. In order to raise the necessary funds, we held a luncheon at the Silver Saddle, - later had a bake-sale, and on Thanksgiving Day of last year we collected Blue Chip stamp books which were converted into cash. With the added help of several cash donations we were able to realize enough funds to buy a Greenbrier Chevrolet equipped with safety belts.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped us reach our goal of a vehicle for transportation of our children. We trust that you will continue to remember us in your prayers.

Mrs. Dorothy Anema  
Secretary

*Gen. 45:19 And these are my orders for you to carry out: Take wagons from the land of Egypt for you, for your little ones, and for your wives; bring your father and come.*

Berkely Version

## THANK YOU

Prior to the time that an active Board of Directors was functioning for Salem Christian School, the preliminary business and activity was carried on by what was called a "steering committee". The committee members were Rev. M. Gritters, Mr. John Schoneveld, Mr. L. Simmons, Mr. H. Tubergen, Mr. P. Vanden-Bosch, and Mr. A. Verkade. A total of six meetings were held in the school room of the Bellflower Christian School formerly occupied by Elim Christian School.

There was very much work to be done such as preparing a budget, availability of funds, employment of teachers, establishing a tuition, formation of a constitution and by-laws, and many other items. Men and women outside of the steering committee were asked to help in the performance of these tasks and we take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted in any way, by contributing their time and talents. Also, a note of thanks to the Bellflower Christian School Board for permission to use the school room for our steering committee meeting.



## HELP WANTED

There is no salary for the positions listed below, no application to fill out, and no fees to pay. If you are interested, call Mr. A. Verkade, HA 9-7241.

EDITOR - for Salem Sidelights. A real opportunity for Kingdom Work.

ASSISTANT EDITOR - for Salem Sidelights. If you're looking for a project this is where you can be of service.

BUSINESS MANAGER - For Salem Sidelights. Involves working with the editors and managing all business for the publication.

TYPISTS - For Salem Sidelights. One, maybe two evenings a month, work in your own home.

## BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There may be a question or two about Salem which is as yet unanswered. Please feel free to call on any of the board members, or write them a letter. For your convenience, the names and addresses are listed below:

Rev. M. Gritters, President - TO 7-2271  
10348 East Monterey  
Bellflower, California

Mr. John Schoneveld, Vice Pres. UN 5-2725  
16701 So. Studebaker Road  
Artesia, California

Mr. Andrew Verkade, Secretary HA 9-7241  
4322 Petaluma Ave., 5176 VERNON ST  
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Mr. L. Van Noord, Treasurer, TO 7-8323  
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Dr. Roger Slater, GE 1-8457  
521 Riviera Drive,  
Seal Beach, California

Mr. P. Vanden Bosch UN 5-4096  
12036 E. 186th St.,  
Artesia, California

*And he took them up in his arms, put  
his hands upon them and blessed them -- Mk. 10:16*