

Melvin and Wilma Edelbach Family

"Signs" Leads Family to the Truth, by Vernon Emmerson, District Pastor Northern Union Outlook, September 28, 1954

It was in March, 1954, that the events which follow began. As district leader I was informed by one of our own Winona, Minnesota, laymen that a man had called at our church and had requested a visit from the pastor. Shortly thereafter, my wife and I visited at the home of this individual and gleaned the following facts:



**Pastor
Emmerson**

The man, Melvin Edelbach, was a farmer and the father of a family of six boys and four girls ranging in age from seven to twenty-six. Mr. Edelbach had been brought up in the Lutheran faith and had carefully trained his children in this religion. When we arrived, he had a multitude of questions for us, such as: How do you figure tithe? How should the Sabbath be kept? etc. I desired to know how he became interested in these problems and he related to me the following story. Let us continue in his own words:

"Three years ago (1951) my eldest daughter, who was married, discovered a pile of discarded magazines in her mother-in-law's home. While looking through them she found several old copies of a paper called Signs of the Times dated 1947. Knowing that I enjoyed reading religious literature she sorted out these Signs and brought them to me. I started to read them and at first I thought that they were misquoting the Holy Scriptures. I opened my Bible and began to compare the texts and it was then that I discovered that the Signs were quoting the Scriptures correctly. I knew that somewhere I had been given other impressions and so I brought out my old Catechism and it was then that I found that it was the Catechism, NOT the Signs which had misquoted the word of God."

"I noted that a free Bible Course (Twentieth Century) was offered and I sent for it. I took the Junior, Senior, and Advanced Courses. I became convinced that we had not been following the teachings of the Good Book. My wife at first thought that I had lost my mind but at last I was able to get her to look in the Bible and then she too saw the wonderful truths which appeared so plain to me. We encouraged our children to read the Signs and to take the Twentieth Century and Voice of Prophecy Bible Courses. We have also given literature to and talked to our neighbors and the pastors of the near-by churches."



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Mr. and Mrs. Edelbach determined that by the grace of God they would set an example for their children and friends by following their Lord in baptism and on August 28, 1954, they were baptized and joined the Winona Seventh-day Adventist church. In addition ... six of their immediate family took this important step with them ... Mr. and Mrs. Loren Edelbach (eldest son and wife); Mrs. Shirley Kennebeck (a married daughter); William Edelbach (a 23-year-old son); Ivy Edelbach (a 17-year-old daughter – now going to Maplewood); and Marvin Edelbach (a 15-year-old son). ... Often when we see Christian literature discarded, we say, "Oh! What's the use? They'll throw it away anyhow." But God has admonished us to scatter the bread upon the waters ...

MN SDA History Editor's Note: *Half a century has passed - Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Edelbach now rest, awaiting their Lord's return, but their love of truth lives on. Son, William (Bill), still attends Winona SDA Church (with wife Pat) where Bill is an elder. Bill and Pat also worked at Alpine Springs Academy in Wisconsin and their children (Gene, Ken, Mike, Scott, Brenda) all attended SDA academies – most now live out of state but Brenda attends the Rochester, MN SDA Church and Gene worked at LaSierra College, Union College, & Atlantic Union College.*
All this because some old magazines weren't tossed out!



Pat Edelbach & granddaughter Victoria



Brenda Edelbach



Gene Edelbach Family

Left: Bill Edelbach with sons Scott & Ken and their families



Mike Edelbach Family