

Bemidji Church Dedication

The Scriptural account of the building of Solomon's Temple states that it was seven years in the building and then was dedicated. The building and preparation of the Bemidji Seventh-day Adventist Church parallels exactly the Biblical account in the time span. Surely the dedication of Solomon's Temple was done with no more planning and precision than was that of the Bemidji dedication. When the members and guests arrived they found the grounds perfectly manicured. The parking lot proudly displayed new paving and sparkling lights. The inside of the church showed that everything was in readiness for this long-awaited occasion. All of the Minnesota Conference officers were present. The Mid-America Union Conference was represented. Members, guests from far and near,



Lyle Jewell, Sabbath School superintendent, introduces Conference Treasurer, Dwight Hilderbrandt.



Mrs. Dwayne Wohlfeil, building committee chairperson, with other committee members, burns the mortgage. Pastor Lighthall, immediately behind Mrs. Wohlfeil, looks on approvingly.



H. G. Crowson, OUTLOOK Editor, delivers dedicatory address.



Bemidji Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Earnest E. Lutz, Conference President, challenges the congregation during the worship hour.

and influential townspeople were in attendance. Sabbath School, under the direction of Lyle Jewell, was interspersed with music, stories and special features and moved with the precision of a well drilled platoon of cadets. Dwight Hilderbrandt, Conference treasurer, taught a most interesting lesson.

During the divine worship hour Earnest E. Lutz, Conference president, challenged the worshipers with an inspiring message from the Bible. Everyone was invited to have lunch in the fellowship hall. Here again the planning precision was quite evident. The cafeteria-style meal was served in a most orderly and expedient manner.

The afternoon program of dedication was under the direction of the pastor, Byron Lighthall. Lyle Jewell directed an outstanding variety of music which was followed by the formal dedication. Also participating in



Lee Barcenas, left, congratulates David Larson as the oldest Sabbath School member in Bemidji. David was raised a Seventh-day Adventist in Denmark, and came to this country in 1917 at the age of 23. Mrs. Larson stands between her husband and Lee. Vera Johnson told the Larsons' story and introduced them during Sabbath School.



Former pastor, Phil Young, relaxes in the church lobby following the noon meal.



Bemidji Church School teachers, Leah and Clinton Anderson, provide special music.



Conference Treasurer Dwight Hilderbrandt makes a point during the Sabbath School lesson study.

the program were Conference President E. E. Lutz, who offered prayer; Conference Treasurer Dwight Hilderbrandt, Scripture reading; and P. S. Young, former pastor, made the offering appeal for the new piano fund.

Mid-America Union Communication Director, Halle G. Crowson, gave the dedication address followed by the act of dedication by Pastor Lighthall, and the prayer of dedication by Minnesota Conference Secretary Lee Huff. The program was interspersed with exceptionally good music. The highlight of the afternoon came when Mrs. Dwayne Wohlfeil, building committee chairperson, led in the burning of the mortgage.

The Bemidji Church was formally organized in October of 1918 with twelve members and has shown a steady growth to a present membership approaching two hundred, and supports a two-teacher school.