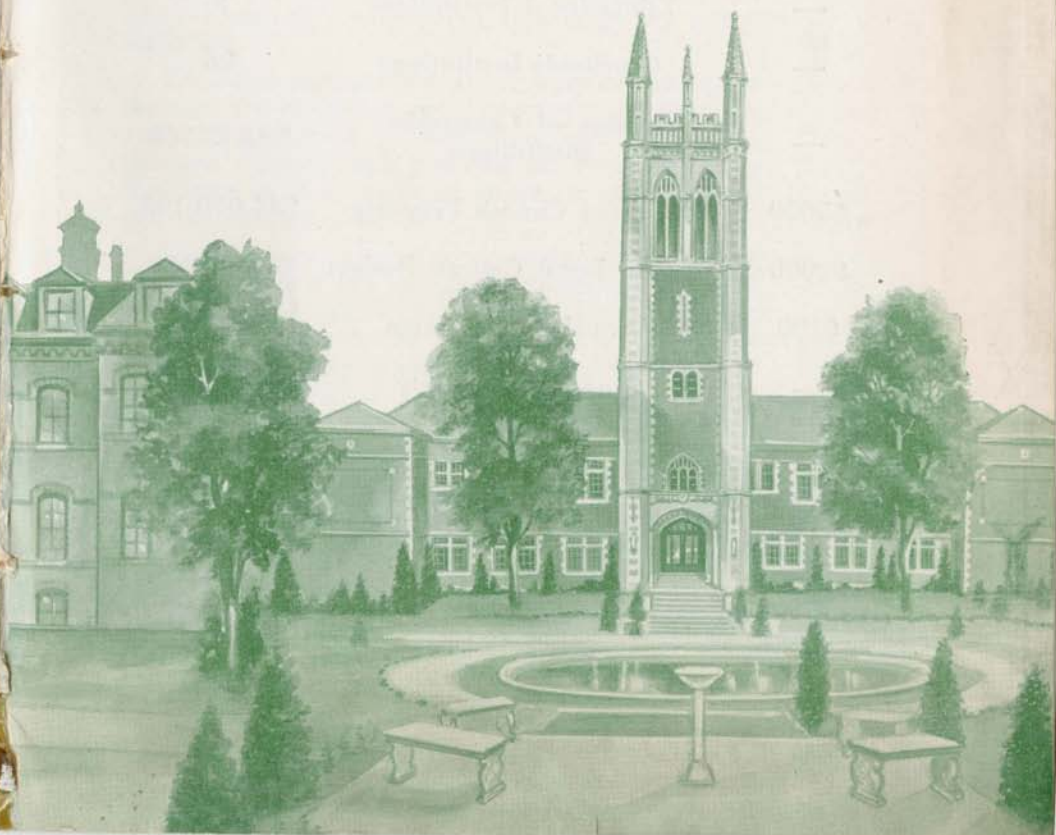


Ninety-Three Years Ago — and NOW

The Interesting Story of the
Evangelical Synod
1840 -- 1933



A Century of Progress

93 Years Ago

-- and NOW

20	Churches	1264
8	Pastors	1194
2000	Communicant Members	340,000
6	Church Schools	1160
200	Church School Enrollment	215,716
10	Home Mission Churches	120
—	Foreign Mission Workers	386
—	Educational Institutions	3
—	Charitable Institutions	26
—	Value of Charitable Institutions	\$9,272,363
\$5000	Value of Church Property	\$44,070,192
\$2000	Annual Local Church Budget	\$4,381,634
\$100	Annual Benevolences	\$717,837
—	Synodical Property	\$3,960,161



The Evangelical Synod and How It Operates

THE Evangelical Synod is a Christian fellowship bound together by a common faith to carry out Christ's compelling command: "Go ye into all the world."

Evangelical Churches in nearly every state in the Union share in the organized work of the Synod through their elected delegates and pastors who together constitute the district conferences, which meet biennially. There are twenty such districts organized to form naturally cohesive units. Each district holds in the fall of every year several regional conferences with large lay representation.

Churches support the larger work of the Synod through the budget, a regular portion of which is annually assigned to each congregation by the General Council and the district councils, as a challenge to their faith to share in carrying out our common purpose.

The General Conference, composed of about 175 clerical and lay delegates elected by the districts, is the highest authority of our Synod. It directs and controls the larger work of our Synod through its regularly elected officers, the board of directors and the administrative boards, which manage the different departments of work.

A consultative body, the General Council, composed of one clerical and one lay representative elected by the districts, coordinates and supervises the work of the boards and determines their budgets.

The following pages present a survey of the work of these boards.

Home Mission's Supreme Gift to the Nation

The Board of Home Missions

THE whole Church is in action building better lives as its supreme gift to the nation. Never content with its well defined parishes, it reaches out through Home Missions into untouched or underprivileged areas and extends the ministries of the life-building Gospel. In the great cities, it plants new dynamic centers where men learn to live and cultivate brotherhood. In hundreds of rural areas where troubles multiply for the farmer, men are redeemed and guided with a new perspective.

More than 80% of the churches of the Synod owe their origin to Home Missions. Several entire districts have been won to our church through Home Missionary efforts: West Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Pacific Northwest, and California, and the churches in North and South Dakota. Home Missions tripled the number of churches in St. Louis and more than tripled those in the city of Chicago. In other big cities the growth, while not quite as large, has also been considerable.

About ten percent of all our pastors are engaged in Home Mission work, or a total of 103. They serve 118 charges; their Sunday schools have an enrollment of more than 11,000; their church property is valued at close to \$2,000,000.00.

Home Missions has also reached out beyond the well regulated parish and established redemptive work among the neglected Back Bay fishermen at Biloxi, Mississippi, and isolated mountaineers in the Ozarks of Missouri, the thousands of small, helpless communities like Madeline Island. It is the missionary spirit of the Evangelical Synod that built Caroline Mission in a slum section of St. Louis where eight paid workers are ministering to all the needs of many thousands of unfortunates.

We ARE Our Brothers' Keepers

Federation of Evangelical Charities

EVER since Jesus set the example, suffering and sorrowing humanity has been the special charge of the church. Early in its history the Evangelical Synod recognized its responsibility to those in need and shortly after building a seminary the first orphans' home was founded. Just a few years later a home for the aged was started. Today there are seven old people's homes and five orphans' homes in various parts of the country, taking care of nearly 900 children and adults.

A still more striking contribution has been in the development of hospitals. Our eleven hospitals represent an investment of nearly seven million dollars. With staffs numbering 1100 workers they minister annually to 35,000 patients. In addition, the two Emmaus Institutions for Epileptics and Feeble-Minded at Marthasville and St. Charles, Missouri, provide unique care for some of the most unfortunate among human beings.

The annual budgets of these institutions for the care of the sick total \$1,650,000 annually. All of them receive a large number of patients either without charge or at greatly reduced rates and must depend for a large measure of their support upon the generosity of men and women who are willing to share in this work of mercy.

Finally, in St. Louis our church is supporting a social settlement center, Caroline Mission, which annually touches the lives of thousands who are living in a neglected and under-privileged part of the city, bringing them both physical relief and spiritual guidance. All of these various institutions are united in what is known as the Federation of Evangelical Charities. Together they are endeavoring to raise the standard of their service to the highest level of efficiency.

The Command of the Master "Go--Teach"

The Board of Religious Education

OVER 215,000 pupils are enrolled in Evangelical Sunday schools. For the great majority of these the one brief hour of instruction on Sunday morning constitutes the sum total of their formal religious instruction. These facts in themselves reveal the urgent need for a Board of Religious Education.

In the first place, the Board seeks to help local congregations improve the quality of their Sunday school work. By pooling experiences and sharing them through a central agency, it becomes possible for each one to profit by the successes as well as by the failures of all.

Lesson materials and teachers' guides are important teaching requisites furnished by the Board which the local group could hardly develop for itself. The training of teachers and officers is another essential task. Last year over 3,500 credit certificates were issued to Evangelical folk who completed work in the leadership training program. In addition to supervising local church and community training classes, the Board each summer conducts a series of ten-day schools, participated in annually by over 600 young people.

The Board is seeking to bring about an expansion of the traditional Sunday school program by promoting vacation church schools and wherever practicable encouraging weekday schools of religion. The Evangelical Church has a priceless heritage in the tradition of confirmation instruction which must be continually readapted to present-day circumstances.

Finally, the home and the Christian family must be recognized as basic for all adequate religious education and parents given every possible guidance and support in their difficult task.

Our Witness-- Unto the Uttermost Parts of the Earth

The Board of Foreign Missions

INDIVIDUALLY members of the Evangelical Synod have participated in foreign missions since 1844. The Synod in 1884 took over a work that had already been started in Chhattisgarh, India. An additional field of labor was opened in Honduras in 1921.

The India field comprises an area of approximately 11,000 square miles with a population of 1,250,000. The whole western part of the north coast of Honduras is the proper field of the Synod in that land. The staff of foreign workers in both fields now totals twelve in Honduras and thirty-four in India.

Associated with the missionaries in India are five native pastors, 105 catechists, 167 men and 29 women teachers and 28 Bible women. The Indian church numbers 4946 baptized members. Medical treatment has been given to 68,987 patients. The two leper asylums house 671 inmates.

The Honduras missionaries are assisted by 6 nationals and the church has 250 baptized members.

There are two sources of income—participation in the Synodical Budget and "special designations" or free-will offerings of such individuals, societies and congregations as are willing to support the work additionally, after paying their budget quotas.

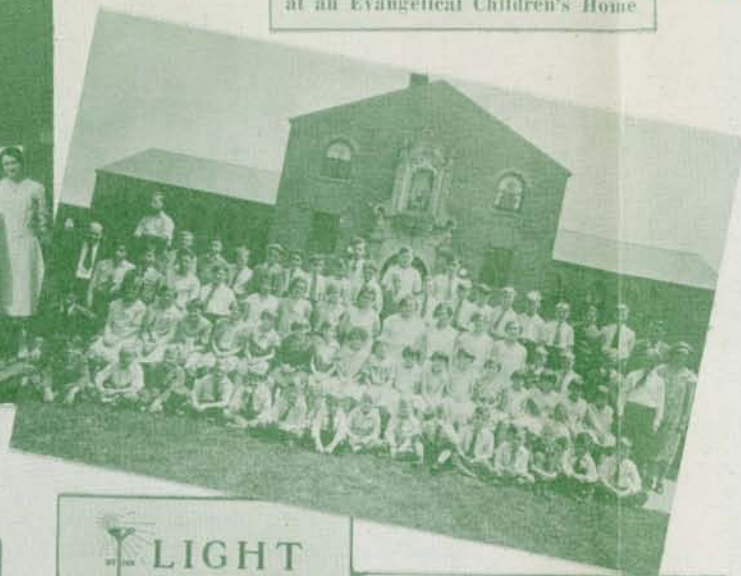
During the last decade the annual expenditures of the Foreign Mission Board have ranged between \$105,000 and \$183,000. In 1932 they amounted to \$132,000. Private and especially designated giving has experienced a remarkable growth. The largest single gift received in the history of the Mission, amounted to 37,000 for the medical station in Tilda, India.

Direction and promotion of this work is entrusted to the Board of Foreign Missions, consisting of 9 members—two women, two laymen, five pastors.

A contented group at a Home for the Aged



Growing up in good surroundings at an Evangelical Children's Home



The staff of Deaconesses at an Evangelical Hospital



THE STORY OF THE MARCH of FAITH IN PICTURES



Above—Synodical Home for retired pastors at Blue Springs, Mo.



Below—Typical couple in the Ozark Home Mission Work



Twilight Service at an Evangelical Leadership Training School

A Sunday School Class at Caroline Mission, St. Louis, Mo.



Missionary teaching native girls in India



Placing Education in the Forefront

Eden Theological Seminary
Elmhurst College

AS THE panorama of history unfolds itself, the truth of H. G. Wells' famous statement is becoming increasingly clear: "History is a race between education and disaster." But the force of another truth is becoming equally impressive. It has been stated by Theodore Roosevelt as follows: "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

The church has recognized these principles long ago and in America founded colleges long before the state recognized their need.

In the early days of the Evangelical Church, far-seeing, consecrated men and women with very limited means did not wait until the church was able to equip and endow its educational work adequately. They recognized clearly the basic need for an educated ministry as well as for an educated laity, and with tremendous personal sacrifices founded both a theological seminary and a college.

Today Eden Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri, and Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, are two institutions of which the Evangelical Church is proud. They have contributed outstanding leaders of courage and ability both to the church as well as to their country.

Eden Seminary is a recognized graduate school of theology with a faculty numbering thirteen, a student body of eighty, and physical equipment valued at a million dollars. Elmhurst College is a co-educational A.B. school with an enrollment of 214 students, 24 faculty members and campus and buildings valued at a million dollars.

Just recently the "Elmhurst-Eden Advance" completed a campaign in which over a million and a quarter was pledged toward a debt-liquidation and endowment fund for these two institutions.

Keeping Faith with Youth

Evangelical League

FOR over thirty years the Evangelical Synod has lent assistance in guiding the co-operative activities of its young people.

A church building in Raipur, India, a working fund for a Home Mission field, the Memorial Library at Elmhurst College, a Book Fund for Eden Theological Seminary, the new Evangelical Student Chapel at the University of Missouri, as well as various other undertakings, are tangible evidences of the willingness of youth to serve their church. The regular annual gifts that youth groups set aside for benevolences are three times above the cost of carrying on the youth enterprise.

The Evangelical League carries blessings into every local church. Through the activities of the several departments the varied interests of youth are provided for. Vital devotional life is stimulated, wholesome recreational activities are suggested, valuable social service is guided, helpful missionary education is directed and consecrated life enlistment is encouraged. Information and successful plans are passed on. Thirty thousand members are touched by the on-going program. In a special way contact is maintained with two thousand college students in various sections of the country.

The young people are not accountable for the kind of a world in which they have to live. The church needs to help youth to understand that world, to see through its many shams and to discover those things that have promise of lasting value.

The thousands of Evangelical young people represent a working force for the church. They represent a field to be cultivated through the church. They dare not be forsaken by the church. We must keep faith with youth.

Men in a Modern Crusade

Evangelical Brotherhood

THE Evangelical Brotherhood is the official men's organization of the Evangelical Synod. To enlist and train men in the service of the church is its aim. Already 25,000 have enrolled in nearly 500 organizations.

About one-half of our churches have men's organizations. They meet monthly and with other local organizations form federations in regional and district conferences. Thousands of Evangelical men thus gather for information and inspiration.

Brotherhoods enlist, unite, instruct, train and direct the men of the church in the purpose and program of the church locally and denominationally; secure for the congregation the co-operative man-power for the support of the church and Synod; give the men an organization in which to place their talents and services at the disposal of the pastor and church; promote church and Sunday school attendance, evangelism, stewardship, missions, financial support and family devotions; brother the boys of the church and the community; and challenge churchmen with community betterment, good-will among races, and world peace.

Within the districts the Brotherhood unites men in Christian fellowship, mutual helpfulness and cooperative service.

The Brotherhood program is two-fold—education and service. At the monthly meetings the problems of the home, the church, the community, the denomination, the nation and the world at large are studied and discussed. Between meetings suggested "monthly activities" are undertaken. Thus Evangelical men are meeting the challenge of Christ to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all men."

Women the Main-Stay of the Church

Evangelical Women's Union

THE Evangelical Synod can boast of 90,000 women members of 1,500 societies in America, Honduras, and India. They are known as the Women's Union.

Its purpose is to touch every phase of Christian development among women. Therefore it functions through the six departments of work as follows: General Education, which promotes the educational programs; Religious Work, which fosters and develops the religious life of the individual members; Missionary Education, which promotes education and information in Missions; Christian Stewardship, through which it seeks to develop a more just and consecrated stewardship life among its constituency; Social Welfare, which carries out the charitable work of the church in the community (cooperating largely with community welfare organizations); Christian Citizenship, which awakens the constituency to social service work.

The Women's Union has been organized but twelve years. It has achieved success in advancing the thinking of women and promoting activity in the tasks of the Synod.

Through the Thank-offering it has given \$41,584.85 toward various definite mission projects. Oakwood Institute, where girls were trained for Kingdom Service, has received \$39,925.15. In addition, annual gifts to local church and Synodical work total \$144,000.

Thirty thousand copies of the "Monthly Program," the most vital of all its projects, are distributed annually. Cooperation in civic and inter-denominational projects is increasing.

Through these and similar contacts with Synodical Boards and projects, the Women's Union comes to a fuller realization of its motto, "That they may all be one."

Pioneers in Protecting the Aged

Board of Pension and Relief

WE MAY be justly proud of the fact that we are among the pioneers in creating a pension system for our ministers. The world has now come to recognize the fact which we as a church sensed many years ago, that a pension system is vitally necessary to supplement an inadequate wage system. Other denominations and many industrial concerns have outdistanced us in this field of labor. But we still have our ideal and we are working until it is realized.

As a church we dare not neglect the Master's saying, that the laborer is worthy of his hire, and that he who preaches the gospel shall also live by the gospel. Provision for old age and invalidism is simply part of the wage which a Christian church owes to her ministers. To do less than we are doing now would be a denial of our faith and our obligation.

Our pension system is in part supported by the premiums paid by the pastors and the interest of the endowment fund. But a large portion of the needed funds must still come from the contributions of our congregations. Our members in the congregations need to realize their obligations in this respect. Pastors who have grown old and weary in the service of the Master, who have spent themselves unstintingly to feed others on the bread of life, who very often have given their children to the service of the church and have spent on their education what others have saved, now look at you, dear members. They have done much for you, what will do you for them now that their day is done and the sun of their life is sinking in the west? The fund supports 188 pastors, 244 pastors' widows and 14 orphans.

You want to do your share . . . to do less would be unchristian.

And Now-- The Challenge of Today

IT WAS a mighty challenge which that little group of Evangelical pioneers faced nearly a century ago. Their road was difficult, but their steady progress still stands as a memorial to their earnestness, their devoutness and their courage.

Today we face the challenge of carrying on what our pioneer forefathers sacrificed to attain. But that is only a part of our task. If the "March of Faith" is to go on uninterruptedly, we must do more than merely carry on.

We are celebrating a Century of Progress, and yet as we face the reality of our everyday world, that progress at times seems to be paradoxical. To be sure, we have made progress in things material—but progress in things spiritual alone endures.

The Christian Church of today faces a yet greater challenge than did the church of our early pioneers. For it is confronted with the task of solving some of the greatest problems that ever loomed upon the horizon of the world—and of solving them *spiritually*. This with the help of God it *can* do, but it can only succeed in so far as every individual Christian and every Christian church cooperates to the fullest extent of its ability. The Evangelical Synod is essentially a federation of individual Christians and of Christian congregations which are working together and which are cooperating with other denominational groups in the task of building a brotherhood that shall unite all mankind in one great fellowship of faith and love.

The Evangelical Synod of North America was founded upon the principle of Christian cooperation. Today—a century later—it calls upon its more than three hundred thousand members to repledge themselves to this self-same principle and to rededicate themselves to the tremendous pioneering tasks that lie before them.

Progress in things
spiritual is
progress that
endures

