

had an average attendance of about 30. The congregation is spread over a large area, too far for most of the children to walk, so the Sunday School has to be held one hour before the morning service.

Within the bounds of the congregation are several children living at a distance of from two to three miles from the church. These children never or hardly ever got to Sunday School. Some of them were in homes where the parents were indifferent, and where we had reason to believe no portion of God's Word was ever taught to them. How were we to reach these children, especially the very little ones? That was our problem. The superintendent, teacher and pastor met, and having examined the Departmental Lessons as published by our church, decided to use them in part. We had no children of Beginners age in the School, so we decided to use Primary material for all our little ones up to Junior age. The Junior material is being used, and the International Lessons are retained for the classes above the Juniors.

Our School did not open until May,—we had to get our supplies by the Quarter, which meant that the supplies were on hand for April. We asked the Primary teacher to take charge of the supplies for her Department and through the parent or neighbor coming to church, or by mail, or otherwise, to put one of the Leaflets, with the Bible story, in a child's language, into every home where there was a little one of the Primary age or under. This was also done with the Quarterlies for the Juniors. From the pulpit the pastor called attention to this change in Lesson Helps, and earnestly asked for the cooperation of the parents. It was pointed out that, whereas in the past when their little ones came to them and asked for a story the mother too often did not have the Bible stories in such a form that she could make it interesting to them, these Helps gave her just that material. It was hoped that in this way, a little preparation might be made at home for our School when it opened in May.

The cooperation and response to this effort were gratifying indeed. We have reason to know that parents are reading these Bible stories to their children,—and in some cases in homes where the Bible is a closed book.

When School opened, the number of children already interested and apparently just waiting for the School was unusually large. There are still some too young—or whose parents are too indifferent—to come to the Schools. We have continued to send the Helps to every home, either through the little ones themselves or otherwise.

There has been one specially gratifying and unlooked for result from this effort. Parents whose connection with the church has been merely nominal, are beginning to take an interest. They feel some ties to a church that is sufficiently interested to send a paper to their child. When the pastor calls in the home, he has a channel already opened up into which he can lead the conversation.

Parents who have been notorious for their indifference, pushed on by their children, no doubt, are quite concerned when, through any mishap, the Leaflet does not arrive. There are indications that these same parents will be coming to church, if for no other reason, than that they may get the papers for their children, and thus the church, the School and the home are being united together.

Esquemes, Ont.

Graded Lessons in Australia

Rev. William Goyen, Melbourne, Victoria, Director, Welfare of Youth Department, Presbyterian Church of Australia, writes to the Editors as follows regarding the Lesson situation in that Commonwealth:

The complexity and cost of the international graded scheme made it impossible to us, with our small country Schools in a chaotic and impoverished condition. Had we possessed a departmental graded scheme, I think we should have welcomed it heartily and avoided the immense labor of selecting a scheme of our own. I deprecate the multiplication of courses, and hope that before long we shall discover a course that will win widespread approval and allow us all to get into a common stride.

In Victoria, our Schools are falling into line more rapidly than we expected... but whilst we are fairly of one mind in our State Assembly [The Presbyterian Church of Australia has an Assembly for each state and