

Church activities & spiritual growth: We started Sunday School at Creston Christian Reformed. When I was in fourth grade my folks sent us to Berean Baptist. They had gone to Calvary Reformed to be taught by Dr. De Haan. But the split church in state of transition while meeting in a downtown theater, caused them to continue having us go to Berean because of walking distance and easy participation in all church activities.

Some teachers I remember...Nellie Van Westenbrugge and Mrs. Martin in Junior BYPU, Mrs. Spencer in seventh grade, who taught by having us draw "Little Jetts" teach the lesson taken from the International Sunday School lesson in Sunday School Times. Jean Lybart was leader of our high school group which was meaningful. I learned to lead a meeting and had a turn once or twice a year at being speaker (10 minutes). We were given suggestions and helps by our sponsor. She helped us get into daily Bible reading, prayer, and attending prayer meeting and knowing God personally in daily life. This prepared us for the Senior Group which was active and gave experience at prayer for one another in the pre-group session, standing before a large group in some form of participation (these times made me sweaty and nervous but gave a feeling of gratification afterward).

It was through Sunday School classes, youth meetings, Vacation Bible School, Bible Conference Meetings, and later teaching Sunday School myself that my faith was nurtured. The Lord was very real and precious to me.

I must have been taught Bible Stories at an early age and become aware of God. My Dad would talk of the Lord and salvation while we were sitting, walking, eating, and riding. I believed personally what he said about Jesus dying for my sins--probably about fifth grade age, but cannot pinpoint a date. These truths were built upon in Sunday School and Summer Bible School which I loved. At age seventeen I was baptized and joined the church. After high school graduation, I felt honored and happy to be asked to help teach in Summer Bible School and also to teach a Sunday School class.

OF ROBERT P. HOFFMAN

Relationship with parents, discipline: Disciplined by good example mostly. Spanked a couple of times.

Health: First memory of hospitals was visiting Grandma Hoffman in the hospital when Mildred was born. Ate soda crackers with honey on them. No health problems. Remedies were cod-liver oil, aspirin, Vicks, cough medicine.

School: No problems academically. Feel I missed out socially being two years younger than my peers.

Memories of the good ol' days: Always had an automobile. Liked to go for rides, picnics, scenic areas, small grocery and meat markets. Food usually bought in small amounts, usually enough for only one meal. Often as a small child I went to the bakery, meat market or grocery store alone to get food.

Religious training: The radio introduced us to Dr. De Haan. Parents left Christian Reformed Church to attend Calvary Church. On Sunday evenings we attended Calvary or Open Bible or City Mission. Heard many famous preachers--Ironside, Phillpott, J.C. O'Hair, Buswell, Dr. Walter Wilson, H. H. Savage, etc.