

Dear Loved Midland Church Family,

How we would like to be there with you for this special event!

Our memories of and interaction with Midland and the church family began long ago.

I first came to Midland as a toddler in 1928 and lived there into 1930. One day my older brother Walter and I walked across the street to the house on the corner. No one was home but we looked in the garage window. The garage was full of wheel toys – ‘kiddie’ cars, tricycles and scooters! I never forgot that! For many years I thought of it and decided must have dreamed it until one day living back in Midland pastoring, Walter and Audrey came to visit and have dinner with us. Walter and Don were visiting in the living room while Audrey and I were in the kitchen putting dinner on the table. Walter called to me, “Remember when we looked in that garage and saw all those wheel toys?”

I walked to the door and looked at him. “You remember that? I decided I must have dreamed it.” He remembered too! It was real! At that time I hadn’t yet found where we had lived in Midland. Later, when we moved to the second house we lived in while pastoring in Midland, I went for a walk one day. Imagine my surprise and excitement to find the very house we had lived in when I was just two years old!

Mama said that even at the age of two I was always wanting to go to school. One day I was missing. Mama was frantic, searching all over for me in the neighborhood. Finally she started down the street toward the school. Several blocks from home she saw me in a car with a young couple. They found me wandering around and was sure a 2 year old didn’t belong out there alone. I was going to school and, according to Mama, I led that couple on a “wild goose chase” trying to follow my directions for the way home. We were headed in the right direction when she found me!!

Mama said I would line up the canning jars to be my students. I remember putting sticks in the ground for students. When the cousins came for deer hunting season I had real students – although it was an all-girls school! Of course I was the teacher and when I called their name they were to answer, “Here.”

And then there was the time Mama found my friend, Peggy, and me on our hands and knees, looking down into a deep dark hole in the ground – an open well. Somehow a doll got dropped down that well, Lucky it wasn’t Peggy or me!!

Midland, Edenville, Gladwin and Esty churches shared one pastor so we associated with friends in the church while we lived at Esty.

A most interesting connection to the Midland Seventh-day Adventist church was that my Lutheran grandfather helped build the first Midland SDA church.

We have many pleasant memories. One from pre-pastoral days involves Chet and Violet Moore. They invited us to join them and John and Nona Crosby to have a picnic in Midland. Violet wanted ice cream for the picnic. No ice chests in those days!! How do you take ice cream to a picnic when it has to be in the trunk before you leave for

church?! I decided to call her bluff and try! We bought the ice cream. Sabbath morning I wrapped it in several layers of newspapers, towels, and quilts. Those two quart boxes of ice cream nearly filled the trunk. By the time we were ready for it, it was still frozen. Violet was surprised and enjoyed her ice cream.

Monday, December 17, 1979 we went to Petoskey church school for worship, as we did every Monday. When we were ready to leave the teacher presented us with a beautiful macramé wreath she and the children made for us. As she gave it to us she said, "We wanted to give you something to remember us by. We don't want you to forget us!" Our answer: "We won't forget you. We aren't going anywhere." Famous last words!!!

December 19, Wednesday, a friend at Cadillac called. "Is there a vacancy at the Siewert Motel? I'll be coming on Tuesdays for several weeks to take a class at the hospital."

"Sure you can come! We'll be glad to have you!"

"You'll not be moving or anything will you?"

"Not that we know of – we haven't heard anything about moving."

That very evening Elder Keymer called wanting us to go to Midland. Don told him perhaps he should run that by the committee again since that would be sending us back home again!

Thursday we were praying about it. I was in the kitchen praying and was impressed if they still wanted us to go, we should go.

The committee was meeting the very next day. How convenient!! December 21, Friday morning, Elder Keymer called – we were going to Midland.

We heard that Lottie McDonald had asked the elder when Siewerts were leaving the district. Another lady had dreamed we were moving.

On the way to church that Sabbath Don asked if we should tell the church or wait until we came back from spending Christmas with our son in South Dakota.

I said, "We might as well tell them. They all know anyway."

So Don announced it. All over the church was a shocked audible intake of breath. Art stood up, looked at Lottie and asked, "Lottie, did you know that?"

We thought maybe she had heard something from her son, Charles (Mac) who is a member of the Midland church. Lottie just sat stunned, speechless, shaking her head.

January 3, 1980 we were in Midland house hunting. The move to Midland was definitely God's leading. He gave us much evidence of that. Finding a house to live in was a miracle. Elder Keymer warned us that we might have a challenge finding housing since there was little available in Midland at that time. We lived in three houses while there.

February 1, 1980 we were officially pastor of the Midland church. During the first year, Edie Blosser was diagnosed with cancer. Edie's funeral was the last official event of our pastorate in Midland which ended that day, September 30, 1985. That was the last of 40 plus funerals Don performed in Midland.

Remember when ...

...usually after prayer meeting the wives would be in the cars waiting for the men? Then one evening the men got together and hurried out before the women, got in their cars and at the same time began beeping their horns!

...after vespers on Sabbath plans were made for activities for Saturday night? One fourth of July Saturday night Bud and Ulah took us to Bay City to watch the fireworks – what a crowd! Whenever Don and I were at a meeting and the parking lot was crowded, even at the conference office, we waited for it to clear out. Not Bud!! He was through the crowd and on the highway in less than 10 minutes – the traffic left behind.

...we had a big snow storm during the night? Pastor Don became sick in the night and passed out. I called Harold Moll to tell him pastor was sick and we were snowed in! No problem!! They would take care of things. They did!! After church they came and shoveled us out! In all of Don's ministry it was only the second appointment he missed.

That's one of the things we appreciated about our Midland family. They were always ready and cheerfully willing whatever the program, whether Sabbath School, church service, prayer meeting, Bible school, evangelistic meetings, Revelation seminars, cooking schools, etc. There was never a problem getting help. They were ready, willing and volunteering.

I was privileged to have the Junior Baptismal Classes with the young people. It is my joy to hear of their faithfulness to the Lord and that they have become workers for Him.

May God continue to bless you until we meet together at Jesus Coming. You are always in our thoughts, hearts and prayers.

With Christian love,

Elder Don and Aunt Myrtle Siewert