

REV. A. CLAUSER SUCCUMBS TODAY AT NURSING HOME: Retired Pastor Dies at 12:20 P.M. at Age of 84

Rev. Alfred M. Clauser, 84, retired minister, died at 12:20 p.m. today at the Berne Nursing Home where he had been staying for the past two months. Death was attributed to a cerebral thrombosis which he suffered this morning. Rev. Clauser had been in failing health for a number of months and spent two months in the Adams County Memorial hospital during the past summer. He would have been 85 years old tomorrow.

Rev. Clauser suffered a stroke early in the summer and later a mild heart attack. After leaving the hospital he stayed with his children in Fort Wayne for a few weeks before entering the nursing home. His condition gradually weakened and this morning he suffered the fatal cerebral thrombosis.

A minister of the Missionary Church Association for many years, Rev. Clauser had not held a regular charge for some time but as long as he was able he served as supply pastor for different churches. He held many pastorates, including the local First Missionary and the West Missionary churches. He was pastor of the First Missionary church in 1905 and 1906 and pastor of the West Missionary church 21 years. He also pastored Missionary churches at Groveland, Illinois, Archbold, Ohio and other places. A native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, he pastored several churches in that state before coming to this community.

For a number of years he served as a district superintendent in the Missionary Church Association and also was a member of the general committee and for some years served as assistant secretary of that committee.

Rev. Clauser began his ministry under the Mennonite Brethren in Christ church at North Hampton and Coopersburg, Pa., and came to Berne to work with the Sprunger Orphanage and the Light and Hope organization.

Rev. Clauser also was in business here for a few years, operating the Clauser Candy Company on North Jefferson street. He was widely and favorably known and held several positions in the Missionary Church Association.

He was preceded in death by Mrs. Clauser in 1953, whose maiden name was Fanny Gehret.

Surviving are the following children: Norman and Edgar Clauser and Mrs. Arley (Ruth) Wulliman of Fort Wayne, Warren of St. Joe, Myron and Alfred of Berne; sixteen

grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. Surviving also are four brothers, Robert of Coopersburg, Pa., William of Allentown, Pa., Rev. Edgar Clauser of Berne and Harry of Auburn. Three children preceded him in infancy.

The body was taken to the Yager Funeral Home, however arrangements for services had not been completed at press time.

Obituary from the November 1956 Missionary Worker (newsletter for the M.C.A.)

REV. ALFRED M. CLAUSER WITH THE LORD

Rev. Alfred M. Clauser passed to his reward in Berne, Ind., Oct. 15, 1956, just one day before his 85th birthday. Services were conducted in the First Missionary Church, Berne, Ind. with Rev. C. H. Wiederkehr and Rev. J. J. Klopfenstein in charge.

A gospel minister since 1895, Rev. Clauser served as pastor, evangelist, missions representative, general committee member and secretary, district superintendent and in the later years as supply minister. He pastored churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. His longest service being for 21 years in two pastoral terms at the West Berne Missionary Church.

In 1901 and for three years he was pastor of the Groveland, Ill., Missionary Church. Then followed a pastoral ministry in Berne, at first to both churches, at which time his brother Edgar was his assistant, then he gave his full time to the West Church and his brother gave his time to the town church. In 1910, he was in Allentown establishing and organizing the Missionary Church there. In 1912 he returned to Indiana to do field work. In 1914 a call came from the German speaking congregation in Cleveland, the First Missionary Church.

Ill health caused his return to Allentown where he and his family remained from 1916 to 1919. A short ministry was conducted in Archbold, Ohio. Then in the fall of 1920, upon receiving the call from the West Berne Missionary Church, he began an extended ministry, lasting until 1935, when he retired from the pastorate. Following this for some years, he spoke in many pulpits as occasions presented themselves.

Contributed by Sandra Clauser Culp