

W. Herbert Klopfer

November 6, 7:15 p.m.

10th Ward Chapel, 420 South 800 East, Salt Lake City, Utah



Our guest for the November meeting was W. Herbert Klopfer. He is a truly remarkable individual as well as a multitalented and valiant servant of our Lord.

The account of his family's exit from the grips of the Third Reich left us full of awe at the trials he and his family endured, as well as appreciative of the hand of the Lord in their lives. He related how his father had become a member of the church when he was 12 years old, served a mission when 17, married, then worked in the East German Mission office as an interpreter knowing the English, French and German languages. When the

war began all of the non-german men and women of the mission were taken out of Germany and his father became the President of the East German Mission, then in a while he was by law drafted into the German Army and had to run the mission on the weekends. In November 1943 they sent his father to France then Denmark and that was the last time the family saw him alive. His mother became the "acting" Mission President in his absence. It was not until the March 1945 that the family learned from a man who had been in a concentration camp in the Ukraine that their father had died there, and that man on being released had walked 1,000 miles to bring the message to the family. An article in the June 1990 Ensign Magazine tells the story of his father wanting to attend church while in Denmark, and how that story unfolded. The family had not known anything about that until the article appeared in the Ensign.

President Klopfer also shared the story how he and his brother and mother escaped East Germany after the war while it was under Communist rule, and some tender mercies in that process. Then after they had come to the United States, and when he was serving a mission in Switzerland and assigned to the Swiss Temple, the saints in East Germany were able, by miraculous means, to obtain permission to go to the Temple, where his three living grandparents and he had a joyous reunion, neither knowing the other was there, after many years of separation.



Thank you, President Klopfer

(we customarily give a one year subscription to the Pioneer Magazine)



Some of the church service of President Klopfer: Currently President of the Salt Lake Ensign Stake 3rd Branch (Family Search Missionaries), formerly Stake President of the Salt Lake City Eagle Gate Stake, Bishop, High Councilman. He has been on the General Music Committee since 1983. He is a gifted organist, pianist and composer; for example, he and his wife created the beautiful hymn, "Home Can Be a Heaven on Earth".

Two articles in church publications:

June 1990 Issue of the Ensign Magazine - *Enemy Soldier at the Pulpit*, about his father who was in the German army during World War II, president of the East German Mission, and attended a church meeting in Belgium.

January 2012 Issue of the Ensign Magazine - *Worship the Lord by Singing Hymns*, about the value of church hymns for 30 brethren waiting to be interviewed by President Monson in Leipzig, Germany in 1984.