

churches in the foothills of the West Virginia Allegheny Mountains. Elias remembered that he only had to prepare two sermons monthly, as he visited each church every other week. The churches were located in such towns as Maysville, New Creek, Antioch, and Keyser West Virginia. Elias related well to these people. Like the people in Deep Creek Valley, they they were hard-working mountaineers and farmers.

While in West Virginia, they had a second boy and their last child, Charles. He was born on April 23, 1938. Charles was joyfully welcomed to the world as an answer to fervent prayer since Harry's death.



*Charles as a growing boy*

Emma, who was a fascinating storyteller, would tell stories of their ministry in West Virginia. In these West Virginia churches, it seemed, there were no outhouses like were common in Pennsylvania. The people simply used the "bush", and Elias and family were expected to follow suit. People there were very poor, and Elias' salary was fully dependent on the offering. Emma said that one Sunday, the total offering was a nickel.

As World War II raged, Elias and Emma moved themselves and their four children (Arlene, Betty, Charles, and Joan) to the Southern Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky on October 1, 1944. They rented a home near the county seat, fifteen miles from the largest of 3 churches in the charge. They remained in Kentucky for about 4 years. During this time, Elias was placed as head of an aggressive church building program. Elias struggled greatly with the politics of church building, and felt mostly failure when he left Kentucky.

However, this also appears to be the peak of his career, as his services were in demand by a number of churches. He accepted a charge infinally settled for a four church charge in a growing, suburban area of Pennsylvania. He was there between 1949 and 1953. This was a different charge; no longer the montaineers of central PA or West Virginia. Elias started to have health problems, and asked to be reassigned to a rural charge. From his books, it seems to be at this point that Elias began to understand his calling as a Country Preacher; he was never fully comfortable in a city / suburban setting or in the endeavor of church building.



*Elias in about 1940*

From 1953 until about 1970, Elias served in a variety of churches in western Pennsylvania. At one point, he preached in the Johnstown area. At other