

"JOIN THE WORLD" IS PREP-CLASS THEME

Normally the youth Preparatory Class is built around the goal of gaining knowledge about the Church, its history, its message and its mission. The emphasis is heavy on "content material" and the end in view is acquiring a certain amount of knowledge "about" the Christian faith and Christ's Church.

The 1967 Preparatory Class in the Barrington Methodist Church is built around the thought of "joining the world" and living in it as a follower of Jesus Christ. Our young people have therefore been given a broad introduction to "the world" in which they live with the hope that they will see the world as not just this island of beauty and affluence as Barrington.

Built on the assumption that this year's group of 8th and 9th graders has had adequate exposure to "the facts about" Christianity through their Church School experience we are now trying to help them to "be the Church in the world." Matters of practical Christian living in the face of personal and social problems and conditions get major attention.

As a part of their experience this year's Class visited several expressions of the Church's Mission in the Inner City of Chicago. They were exposed to the "living slums" and to people who carry on the Christian Mission there. They visited the Urban Training Center where community action leadership is developed and trained and sent back to cities and towns all over this nation to help groups meet problem situations as Christians. They visited the West Side Christian Parish where a wide variety of programs is being carried on to help the poor, the disadvantaged and the racially excluded. They visited the Newberry Center, one of Methodism's finest social service agencies located near the new Circle Campus of the University of Illinois. They witnessed "picketing" of the West Side Christian Parish by a rival group working from a different point of view; the Garfield Community Organization.

The pictures below are just a few of those taken on a recent Field Trip which ended with dinner in Chinatown.

