

Mennonite Observer

Ex. Mennonite Life
Bethel College

"For I decided to know
nothing among you
except Jesus Christ
and him crucified."

I Cor. 2:2

★
YOUR CHRISTIAN
FAMILY WEEKLY

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A Word of Farewell to India and Bethany Bible Institute

By P. V. Balzers



Dear Praying Friends:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Psalm 103:1).

Our hearts are full of gratitude and praise as we write you today. It has pleased the Lord to permit us to finish the 1960-61 year at Bethany Bible Institute with its eight-month course. The closing exercises were held February 28. Quite a few of the friends of the Institute and alumni had come to visit us at this occasion and to attend the programs. Six students completed the regular three-year Institute course. A seminary course

was also offered this year, which was for high school graduates.

Looking back we can only praise the Lord for His great love and mercy toward us. This is the 11th year we have had the privilege of leading the Bethany Bible Institute. We have great joy in the study of the Word as well as in teaching the Word of God. It was delightful to watch some of the students grow in grace and in the understanding of the Word. The need of the field has been a great burden to us all these years. In the 38 years of our work in India we have seen the work develop into a large work. But there

(Continued on page 5-3)

Special Effort Made in Brandon

Brandon, Man. — March 26 to April 2 were days of special activity and blessing for the Mennonite Brethren Church at Brandon. These were days during which Rev. Art Martens from Hepburn, Sask., conducted evangelistic services in our midst.

During the weeks preceding the services, the blessing and will of God were sought in a special way. Earnest efforts were made to contact and invite unsaved friends. We were reminded of the words of Christ when He said, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). Many

people responded to the invitation, especially those parents whose children sing in our Junior choir or attend our Sunday school.

The Spirit of God first worked in the hearts of His children. We were blessed, challenged and reoriented in our Christian walk during these days. We believe also that God worked in the hearts of many unsaved.

The Alexander M. B. Church choir, the Justice male choir, our two church choirs, and several other singing groups shared in the ministry of song. Of special interest was the children's feature, which took the form of a contest.

We are thankful to the Lord for the ministry of His servant and for the outreach which He enabled us to make. We want to continue in the work of the Lord, so that many more might hear the Word of God here in Brandon. Will you pray with us that many more might yet experience His saving grace and that His name may be uplifted in our midst?

Henry Funk

Where are we going?

By J. A. Kroeker, Winnipeg

When I am using the word "we," I am speaking in a broader sense than our M. B. Church. I am speak-

ing of our Mennonite people, our way of life, our habits, our language, our peculiarities, our principles, our clothing, our identity. A Mennonite is not hard to identify whether it is on the streets of Winnipeg, Asuncion, Chihuahua or Alma Ata. If it isn't his dress or his demeanor, there is something in his appearance that gives him away.

We may be identified by our cooking, by our clothes (?), by our family reunions, by our churches which are different in appearance from others, by the architecture of our houses in some countries.

(Continued on page 10-1)

New Wing at Bethesda Dedicated

A tangible expression of faith and dedication to the relief of human suffering without regard for race or creed, was the dedication on Saturday and Sunday, March 11 and 12, of a beautiful new wing and a female staff residence at the Bethesda Home for Mentally Ill near Campden, Ont.

The English service on Saturday afternoon and a parallel service in the German language on Sunday afternoon were held on the occasion of the semi-annual meeting of the All-Canada Board of Bethesda

Home, owned and operated by the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Canada. C. J. Rempel, board chairman of Kitchener, was chairman at both services. In his remarks, Mr. Rempel spoke of the reasons for the building project, the hospital wing costing \$64,000 and the staff residence \$52,000. He paid tribute to those who had donated to and assisted with the enlargement of the facilities at Bethesda for the treatment of the mentally ill.

(Continued on page 4-1)



Left to right: Dr. H. D. Latham, medical doctor; Mr. Gerhard Friesen, business manager; C. J. Rempel, chairman of the Bethesda committee; Isaak Block, supervising the male patients; Dr. F. C. Peters, moderator of the Canadian M. B. Conference. They are viewing the articles made by the male patients.

EDITORIAL

A Legitimate Compromise

Guest Editorial by Rev. J. A. Toews, Winnipeg

In most of our Canadian churches today we are face to face with the language problem. The inability, or perhaps better, the unwillingness, to find a satisfactory and realistic solution to this problem will cost our churches dearly. May I propose that a desirable solution can be found only by way of compromise.

The term "compromise" is not popular in evangelical circles. It has a rather sinister connotation, since it is so often associated with liberalism in doctrine and laxity in Christian ethics. An uncompromising, firm stand in these vital areas of Christian faith and life is proper and Scriptural. When we deal with questions of culture and language, however, compromise is not only a practical necessity, but a legitimate principle. This is a plea for patience and tolerance, and for a legitimate compromise.

An unyielding, uncompromising attitude will have disastrous consequences for both the English-speaking as well as for the German-speaking groups in our churches. Since the younger generation is generally found in the first group, an uncompromising position on the language question on the part of our young people will lead to a break with our older brethren and sisters whose wise counsel and wider experience is desperately needed for guiding our churches through the crucial times in which we live. For an effective witness in our present world our message must not only be "geared to the times," but must also be "anchored to the rock" of our historic past. As young people we should remember that it is not easy for our older brethren and sisters to give up a language in which they have grown up, and in which they have prayed and worshipped God all their life. We should not expect them to make rapid changes and quick adjustments in this matter.

On the other hand it is just as important for the older generation to maintain the fellowship with the young people, and to retain their services for the progress and expansion of the Church. A Church which loses its young people has no future. An unyielding insistence on the exclusive use of the German language in our Sunday schools and worship services constitutes a grave threat to the harmony and unity in our churches. Tensions mount, and all of a sudden a serious rupture develops. It is almost impossible to heal such schisms after both groups have committed themselves to an uncompromising position. Here, too, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this matter we should learn from the experience of other groups. Only a gradual transition from one language to another makes it possible to preserve cultural and spiritual values within a religious group.

During my student days I served a small country church as pulpit-supply. Before I came to this church, all the services had been conducted in the German language. During the year that I served this congregation as interim pastor, the morning services were held in German and the evening services in English. Within one year the church changed the medium of communication and expression completely. Such rapid change is bound to result in spiritual losses and casualties. Possibly the change had been resisted too long by some of the older people in the church.

This is a plea for bi-lingualism in our churches. By using both languages in our worship services, the needs of both groups can be met. Both groups can experience the joy of sharing the same spiritual blessings. The mental and spiritual horizons of both groups will be widened and their understanding and sympathies for each other will be deepened.

Multiplication by division may be a legitimate principle for church expansion, but it should not be on the basis of language. Division on the language issue will lead to a spiritual impoverishment of both factions. Anyone that takes a long-range view in dealing with this delicate problem will have to admit that concessions will have to be made on *both* sides if a satisfactory solution is to be achieved. May the Lord give us the patience, grace and wisdom, to effect a legitimate compromise, which will be acceptable to young and old. If we fail in this attempt a later generation may hold us responsible for the lack of vision and moral courage.

DEVOTIONAL

Action Motivated by Faith

Rev. J. P. Suderman, Winnipeg

"... but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son" (I Kings 17:13).

These words were directed to the widow at Zarepheth and spoken by the prophet Elijah. This woman was in great need. Both, she and her son, were at the brink of starvation. All she had was a handful of meal for herself and her son. At this time she was called upon to feed the prophet as well. "And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah; and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days" (Verse 15).

Her action was a reach into the dark. There was nothing tangible this woman could rely upon when she moved to do what she was told. It was against the law of nature and sensibility to believe that the supply of meal would not decrease. If she took enough meal to prepare a cake for the prophet, it would become less. Her state as a widow responsible for her son made the situation still more crucial. Her son could have blamed her later on for giving the last bit of meal to a stranger in the event that the promise of the prophet did not materialize. She did not know what would happen, but in faith she reached out and acted as she was told to do.

This action was based upon spoken words only. As far as we can gather from the Scriptures, this woman was not one of the people of Israel. She knew very little about the dealings of God with this people. She spoke about God as "thy God." Her knowledge about God she had received by word of mouth. Her action is outstanding since she responded upon the spoken word of God. These words were directed to her by Elijah. She accepted the spoken words of the prophet as God's message to her.

This woman is teaching us a lesson. Our lack of faith is the reason for so few actions for the Lord's cause. We often do not move because we want to see. This widow acted because she believed.

This action led to a wonderful experience. This is expressed in the words, "... and he and her house did eat many days." That her need was looked after is reason enough to rejoice. Her experience, however, exceeded the mere receiving of a supply of food. She had the deep satisfaction to know that God had manifested His greatness unto her. She had learned to know the God of Israel better.

Our lives would also be enriched with many more experiences if all of our actions for God and His

cause were motivated by faith. A new world would be opened to us. Many new experiences would become our very own.

Evangelism and Bible Conference at Domain

Domain, Man. — A three-night series of evangelistic meetings was held in the Domain M. B. church, March 24-26. Rev. J. J. Toews was the guest speaker. His final message, stressing the fact that people are spiritually dead unless they have a genuine relationship to Jesus Christ, challenged believers and unbelievers alike to investigate their relationship with the Lord. The church is deeply grateful to God for a number of conversions.

Rev. H. H. Redekop and Rev. J. H. Quiring, both of Winkler, conducted a 3-sessions Bible Conference in the church during the weekend of March 11-12. The expository messages were based on Hebrews 11, and dealt with faith and the Biblical heroes of faith.

A group of students from the M. B. Bible College in Winnipeg is regularly in charge of the Sunday evening services at the Domain church, under the Christian Service program of the College. The inclusive programs of music, children's items, and Bible messages are highly appreciated by this relatively small congregation. This joint enterprise represents an attempt to increase the outreach of the gospel witness.

Wm. Schroeder

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CHURCH NEWS

A Small but Active Church

Beechy, Sask. — The group of the Beechy Mennonite Brethren Church may be small, but it is active. Recent activities have centered around the choir, the Ladies' Auxiliary, the Christian Endeavor, and the Young People's. On March 10, a Library Shower, sponsored by the young people, was conducted at our church. A good variety of books from a Christian book store was displayed. Thus about thirty books were purchased directly and placed in our library. Enthusiasm was created by this new project and, as a result, the reading of library books has increased four-fold.

In the meantime, the ladies were spending every spare moment in preparation for the Mission Sale on March 24. Proceeds of over \$170 exceeded expectations. For this we are grateful to the Lord.

Yes, it is Easter season again. The community choir, conducted by Mr. Dave Guenther, rendered John Stainer's "Crucifixion" to a capacity audience. Soloists were Mr. Henry Braun of Herbert, Sask., and Mr. Cliff Nickel of Beechy and the choir was made up of all in the community who were interested.

We cannot forget to mention the fifteen-minute play, "On the Road to Emmaus," directed by Miss Maria Willems, as a feature of the Christian Endeavor on March 26. In three scenes a cast of eight young people told of knowing we have a risen and living Saviour.

Mrs. P. G. Willems

Evangelistic Services at Vineland

Vineland, Ont. — During the week of March 12-19, our church was privileged to have Rev. H. H. Epp, who conducted evangelistic meetings here. Every evening before the service began, a prayer meeting was held. The services were well attended by the children as well as by the adults. Of great interest to all were the object lessons and stories told by Rev. Epp. A special choir provided the music every evening and proved to be one of the many blessings which we experienced that week.

Through the messages we looked at Abraham as an example of faith. We were impressed by God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, and therefore realized that He knows all our sins, but we also learned that He will forgive all our sins if we confess them. We saw the seriousness of the danger of losing our first love to Christ and were shown how to regain it. We marvelled anew at the God's provision for the justification of the lost. We were challenged to take up our

crosses daily and follow Christ completely. We learned that man is appointed once to die and after that the judgment. These two appointments are not optional but each person has a choice of accepting or rejecting Christ's sacrifice for us, and therefore has a choice in being caught up with Him at His second coming.

All Christians rejoiced to see

God's Bounties Received in Various Ways

Broadway M. B. Church, Chilliwack, B.C. — "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

We wish to share with our many readers the blessings of God at our Missionary Conference which took place on March 24 and 26. We had four sessions. Our guest speakers were: Rev. Henry Brucks and Rev. Abe Esau, Congo missionaries, H. K. Warkentin, Mission Board member, and Rev. M. B. John, India. Various groups provided music at the services.

Rev. Isaak Tiessen opened the conference by reading and commenting on Luke 4:45-49.

Rev. Henry Brucks spoke on God's faithfulness, basing his talk on Lamentations 3:23. He gave a short report on the political situation in the Congo. The doors are closed, the Congo is without a government, the economic situation is deteriorating. But God is unchangeable. We as Christians can pray, and especially for the native workers and those who have their relatives here and are carrying on the work in that strife-torn country.

The film, "Miracles of Grace" was shown.

On March 26, Rev. Brucks read Isa. 53:11. His theme was, "The Cost of Missions." In his talk he stressed the following points: 1) the price of the Lord Jesus, 2) the price of the church, 3) the price of the individual. Our second speaker, Rev. Abe Esau, having read Zech. 9:9 and Luke 10:24-44, presented a timely Palm Sunday message. He spoke on Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The people wanted the blessings Jesus could give, but they did not want to open their hearts to Him. Jesus came to serve, and his command is to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

On Sunday afternoon our first speaker, H. K. Warkentin, gave a report of the work in South America. Sister Henry Brucks gave a testimony based on II Cor. 12:9. It was indeed a joy to have Rev. M. B. John with us and to hear his testimony. "If someone had not brought the news of salvation to India I

many accept Christ's sacrifice on the cross, also to see many come to regain their first love to Christ. The evidences of the Holy Spirit's working in this week were many. It was truly a week of self-examination and of blessing. The chorus which Rev. Epp taught us became the fervent prayer of many: My desire to be like Jesus, My desire to be like Him. His Spirit fill me, His love o'erwhelm me, In deed and word, To be like Him.

Anne Wiebe

would be an idol worshipper today," he said. He quoted John 3:16 in his native tongue. The theme of his message was, "Why the Lord Jesus came into the world." The answers were: 1) to save sinners, 2) to minister, 3) to reveal His Father, 4) to do the will of God, 5) to give eternal life.

In the evening service Mrs. A. Esau gave a stirring testimony. Are we willing to sacrifice?

The film, "Chaco Mission Frontier," was a challenge indeed.

The closing message by Rev. H. Brucks was based on Romans 12:1-2. God has a plan for each one in winning souls for Him. All present were challenged to do their task. May the Lord help us to do so.

The Gospel Hour Radio group visited our church on March 19. Many souls are reached through their ministry. They solicit our prayers and gifts. They are sponsored by the M. B. churches of B.C.

Brother John Boldt conducted special song sessions March 7-11. It was primarily for the choir, but anyone interested was welcome. Sessions opened with Scripture reading and prayer. There were warming up exercises, and breathing, tone and articulation were emphasized. The time passed too quickly. On March 12 the songs were rendered. The girls choir conducted by Mrs. Adeline Epp and a trio favored us with songs. Brother John Boldt gave a brief outline on sacred music. His text was Romans 12:6-7.

May God bless our singers as they serve Him.

Mrs. Kay Isaak

Ladies Hear an Illustrated Report

Winnipeg, Man. — On Tuesday, March 21, Miss Sara Peters, returned missionary from the Congo, gave an illustrated report to the ladies of the South End Mennonite Brethren Church.

This was a special evening as it was a joint effort by all three ladies' mission groups of the church. Mrs. Helen Doerksen of the "Missionskraenzchen," who was in charge of the evening, welcomed the guests.

Mrs. Annie Peters of the "Schwesternbund" made the opening with Scripture reading and prayer. The ladies of this group also sang a very suitable song. The most important feature of the evening then followed. In an organized and interesting way with the use of slides Miss Peters portrayed her work as missionary nurse among the women of the Congo. She stressed the hardships and the tremendous need of these women as well as the fruits of the mission endeavors and the change that is wrought by the gospel. A duet rendered another song. After Mrs. Dyck of the "Frauenverein" closed the meeting with prayer, coffee and pie with ice-cream was served.

It was an evening of blessing and fellowship for all present.

Mrs. Elfrieda Duerksen

Palm Sunday and Easter at Hepburn

Hepburn, Sask. — The local choir under the direction of Herb Wiens rendered an Easter program here on March 29. After quiet organ music the program began with the choir singing the delightful song, "All in an April Evening."

Psalms 96 was read. Then followed more choir numbers, trios, solos and male chorus numbers. As we heard the cantata, "Hallelujah what a Saviour!" we were again reminded of Christ's intense suffering and humiliating death in our behalf and of His glorious resurrection we some day will share.

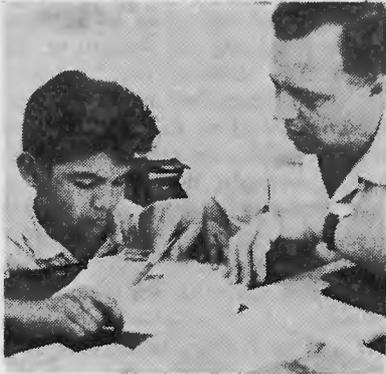
The students and teachers of Bethany Bible Institute rendered a program in the evening of Palm Sunday. We enjoyed several organ selections, after which the choir sang 13 hymns.

Then followed a message by Mr. C. Braun. (Matt. 21:1,17) He stated that the incident of Palm Sunday was a story of contrasts. There was still the recollection of the joy from Mt. Olives and it was also the prelude to the sorrow at Calvary. Jesus was cast out by His enemies. He was honoured and praised by His disciples. He was forsaken, denied and betrayed. Some had an eagerness to honour Him; others despised and mocked Him. Some spread out their clothes before Him and others took away His clothes. Some spread palm branches and flowers before Him and others placed a crown of thorns on His sacred head. He rode into the city of Jerusalem like a king and He had to carry His cross like a criminal. Pilate wrote on the cross, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews," yet in Isa. 53:2,3 we read, "... he hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Mrs. Joe Klassen

Asuncion Work Growing

(Miriam Jantzen, who has recently arrived in Asuncion, Paraguay, to serve in the school for missionary children, shares observations here regarding the work among the Paraguayan nationals.)



Albert Enns, in charge of the work among Paraguayan nationals in Asuncion, assists a Sunday school student.

It has been my privilege to become acquainted with the mission work which is being done among the Spanish people in Asuncion, Paraguay. The work, directed by Albert Enns, shows spiritual depth as well as growth.

Friday evening is prayer meeting night. The small group of believers which met showed an ardent spirit by joining devotedly in the prayer session.

Saturday evening four baptismal candidates gave the church their personal testimony. This was followed by choir practice. A four-voiced choir performs very pleasantly.

Sunday morning the small chapel was crowded with the children who came to Sunday school. Additional space was used in a nearby building. Most of the instruction was done by national members of the church.

Then followed an impressive morning service when four adults followed the command of the Lord by submitting to the ordinance of baptism. A neighbouring church was used for the service, which was attended by a large gathering. Sunday evening the chapel was filled once more as the Holy Communion was observed.

A vital and thorough work is being done among these people. We would commit it and its further development to the prayers of our friends at home.

By Miriam Jantzen

3-Year-Old Son Run Over

A St. Boniface father sat helpless in his car Sunday afternoon as he watched another car run over his three-year-old son on Tache Ave.

Young David Harder of 426 Goulet Street, was crossing Tache Avenue about 12:15 p.m. after attending Sunday school at St. Philips Church, when he was involved in an accident with a southbound car driven by Mark Feltrin, 38, of 230 Kitson Street, St. Boniface. David was running to meet his waiting father, Peter Harder, when the ac-

cident occurred. It happened so quickly that Mr. Harder could do nothing to prevent it.

David was given emergency treatment at St. Boniface Hospital for a skull fracture that was depressed to the brain. He is reported by hospital authorities to be in "fair" condition.

In Honour of Two Seniors

The M. B. Church at Boissevain, Man., had a time of fellowship on March 27 during which special recognition was given to the two brethren, Rev. H. B. Dueck, 84, and Rev. D. D. Derksen, 80, for their sacrificial service in behalf of the church and in the kingdom of God. Rev. H. P. Toews of Winnipeg was the guest speaker. The present leader of the Church is Rev. A. J. Froese.

OBITUARIES

Peter Decker †

Peter Decker was born March 14, 1881, in Wernersdorf in South Russia. When he was nine years old he moved to Samara with his parents. In 1914 he married Anne Fenner of Prangenau. The Lord blessed them with twelve children. Five sons and one daughter predeceased their father in infancy. In 1926 the family moved to Canada and settled near Macleod, Alta., where they farmed for 18 years. After having lived in Pincher Creek for two years they moved to Kelowna.

Mr. Decker accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour at the age of 37. Later, in 1934 he was baptized and became a member of the M. B. Church. He died as a member of the

M. B. Church with all differences cleared up. Mr. Decker died of cancer in his own home at Kelowna on March 20. The funeral services were held from the local M. B. Church on March 24. Left to mourn are: his wife Anna, three sons: Peter, Henry, David; three daughters: Helen, Annie, Sarah; twenty-two grandchildren, and four sisters.

Jakob Janzen †

Jakob Janzen was born in Winnipeg November 13, 1926. He accepted Jesus as his Saviour in 1947 and was baptized in the same year. For five years he lived in happy fellowship with the Christians in Kelowna. Then he moved to Canim Lake to work in the sawmill. Early in the morning of March 15 he was murdered in his own home in the absence of his family by a nineteen-year-old boy who had worked at the mill for 1½ months. Two cars with people from Kelowna went to the funeral at Horsefly. On Sunday, March 26, a memorial service was held for him in the M. B. church at Kelowna, B.C.

Mourning Mr. Janzen's early death are: his wife, two children, his parents C. A. Janzens of Kelowna, his brother Frank and family, who are serving as missionaries in Panama, and three sisters.

Mrs. A. H. Voth †

Mrs. Voth, 63, wife of Abram H. Voth, deacon at the Morden M. B. Church, died on March 23. Funeral services were held from the Winkler M. B. Church on Sunday, April 2. Left to mourn her early passing are her husband, four children and many relatives and friends.



This is the new residence of Bethesda which was dedicated to the Lord on March 12.

New Wing at Bethesda

(Continued from page 1-4)

Reeve Delby Bucknall of Clinton Township and Clerk Oliver E. Tallman represented the municipal corporation. Dr. H. D. Latham, Beamsville, psychiatric and medical officer for the Home, and Donald Mathieson, representing the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, spoke briefly. Dr. F. C. Peters, instructor at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Winnipeg, represented the Canadian M. B. Conference and gave the dedicatory address and prayer.

Music for the German service on Sunday afternoon was provided by

the Kitchener Mennonite Brethren Church choir.

Enlarged Facilities

Accommodation for 17 male patients is provided in the new wing, bringing the total bed-capacity of the hospital to approximately 100. At present there are 89 registered patients, 35 men and 54 women, of whom four are at home on probation.

The upper floor of the new wing provides sleeping quarters for 17 men in single and dormitory rooms. Downstairs is a large recreation room, adjoining which is a completely-equipped occupational ther-

apy room. Bright and cheerful decor adds to the attractiveness of the surroundings, where the male patients spend their time from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except for time spent outside. On Saturday occupational therapy work was displayed, which included models, painting, and other crafts.

A barber-shop, Dr. Latham's office, treatment and consultation rooms complete the lower floor.

A somewhat similar wing for women patients was completed in 1955. These two wings make up the arms of a "U," the central portion of which, opened in 1950, contains the kitchen, men's and women's and staff dining rooms, storage rooms, and administration offices.

Began 30 Years Ago

Bethesda Home traces its beginning to the days after World War I and the Russian Revolution, when many Mennonites emigrated to Canada rather than live in the land of the Communists. They came to make new homes here during the years 1923-30.

True to their religious faith, the Mennonites regarded the problems of the mentally disturbed their personal concern. There was a devoted couple, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Wiebe, who took the lead in looking after their less fortunate fellow emigrants. They began looking after folk at their farm home near Kitchener. In 1937 they moved to Campden and bought the first of the three farms now comprising the 180 acres owned by the hospital. Mrs. Wiebe had been a graduate nurse in Russia and Mr. Wiebe had had experience in handling and caring for mental patients. They looked after patients on their own and many of those who came to them recovered and went to their new Canadian homes. Others remained, helping with the farm work as they were able.

As the work of the Wiebes became to be recognized, Mennonite Brethren congregations in Ontario and Western Canada rallied to their support with contributions of money. Thus Bethesda Home was established and built up.

Conference Takes Over

In 1945, the Canadian Conference of the M. B. Church took over the project, and the home grew. The present value of the hospital is estimated at \$400,000.

Large Full-Time Staff

Forty-seven full-time staff members operate the hospital. Rev. G. J. Epp, Vineland, is superintendent and Mrs. Epp is a full-time worker. Gerhard Friesen is business manager and secretary of the Ontario Conference, which is co-owner of the property. There are 11 nursing personnel for male patients and 16 for female patients. Other staff members include: occupational therapy 2, kitchen 5, laundry 2, sewing 1, cleaning 1, general maintenance 3, farm staff 2.

The well-equipped farm includes
(Continued on page 12-1)



The Cause of Foreign Missions

Bethany Bible Institute Trains Christian Workers for India

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2: 15).

The above verse is the motto of Bethany Bible Institute—the Bible-training institution of our India field. Training the young people of India in the Word so they would be able to teach that Word to their fellow men has always been a major emphasis in our conference work in India.

In the early years of the work when our mission did not have its own Bible school, the young people were sent to the Baptist seminary at Rampatnam. However, it was soon felt that we must have our own training school. After careful deliberation a Bible school was started at Nagarkurnool by D. F. Bergt-hold assisted by J. H. Lohrenzes. Later, the school was moved to Shamshabad where it remained until 1945, then for seven years it was at Deverakonda. Then it was moved back to Shamshabad, where it has remained.

The main course has been a three-year course. The following classes have been taught in Telegu: Old Testament, Exegesis, Life of Christ, Epistles, Church History, Personal Work, Theology, Homiletics. Recently we have sought to raise the requirements for enrollment in the main course.

The main course runs for eight months in the year. This year 15 were enrolled in the first year, 14 in the second year and six were graduated in the third year.

Then there is the intermediate class for those who have attended one of the elementary Bible schools. This course prepares them for admittance into the regular three-year course. Fifteen students were enrolled in the intermediate class this year.

We also have a class in elementary Bible study for the wives of Bible students who have not had the opportunity to learn to read and write. Nor have these women even learned the very simplest Bible stories. This course is to enable them to do the minimum service of teaching Bible stories to the children in the villages and to prepare them for enrollment in the intermediate and regular courses.

This year a class in English for students who have passed the 11th class was again started. They are taking the first year of a regular

seminary course modeled after the Ramapatnam course. There were one lady and 10 young men.

Altogether 68 students attended. They came from the following stations: Kalvakurty 17, Shamshabad 14, Gadwal 9, Narayanpet 8, Deverakonda 6, Hughestown 5, Mahubnagar 4 and Nagarkurnool 1.

Teachers in the school included the following: P. V. Balzer, V. L. Benjamin, Mrs. N. J. Deevahamma, Paul Hiebert, N. P. James, Mrs. K. B. Leelavathamma, R. Murti, and Henry Poetker. Some of the brethren from other stations have also helped along in the work, which has not been without fruit. J. J. Kasper lectured to the English doctrine class and Ted Fast taught visual aid to several classes.

During the course of the year we have had many blessings in the work as well as in the study of the Word. Fellowship with the teachers and students has been a blessing, although work with the students was not without problems and difficulties.

Several students were converted which was a source of great joy to us. Then, to see some of the students grow in grace from day to day is a great reward for one who works among them.

Teachers' quarters were erected and teachers moved into them, which made for better quarters for students. Other living quarters have been enlarged. The main building is under construction with the walls upto the height of the doors and windows. May it please the Lord that the main building may be completed this year so that the work can go on more effectively.

We also pray for more trained Indian staff members. There is the possibility of Mr. and Mrs. Paranjothy, now studying at Yeotmal, teaching here next year. One of the present teachers, N. P. James, would very much like to attend a seminary for further training.

The work of Bethany Bible Institute must be strengthened. May it please the Lord that the Institute will develop into a seminary that will not only serve our immediate needs, but also a large part of Andhra Pradesh. We again commit the Institute to your continued intercession so that it will develop into a powerful influence to the glory of God for the training of many young men for the ministry.

P. V. Balzer

Missionaries in Mexico



Brother and Sister Dan Petker and children Arlene, Janice, Norman and Howard of the Corn Church in Oklahoma should have established themselves in Durango, Mexico, by this time. They are pre-

paring to open a new gospel outreach in the city of Durango and will be assisting our national churches in Mexico. Much undergirding prayer is needed for these historic days of the new outreach in Mexico.

A Word of Farewell

(Continued from page 1-2)

are still many villages crying for pastors, evangelists and Bible women as well as for strong elders and helpers. May it please the Lord to thrust forth laborers into His harvest.

We have rejoiced with the believers in their victories; we have wept with them when they were defeated in their life of faith; we have pointed them to the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Where we have failed, we humbly ask Christ's pardon. Where we have been able to lead a soul closer to Christ, we pray that that soul may still continue in intimate fellowship with his Redeemer.

Now we have come to the time when we are pulling out the stakes rolling up our tent in India, not with a feeling that we have completed a work, but rather that we have had opportunity to continue in this phase of the building up of the kingdom of God. There are younger and stronger servants of the Lord to carry on this work. May the Lord bless them in this work. We cannot forget Bethany Bible Institute and those for whom and with whom we have labored. May God bless them as they carry on. They will have many disappointments, but there is nothing impossible to the Lord. Our part of the work shall be to regularly and fervently continue to pray for this institution.

Our home in America for the present shall be at 315 South Lincoln, Hillsboro, Kans. Your letters will reach us at that address. We shall be delighted to hear from you from time to time.

May the God of all grace be with you all.

Wishing you God's best,

P. V. Balzer, Principal
Bethany Bible Institute

Brother and Sister P. V. Balzer are returning to America after 38 years of missionary service in In-

dia. They were scheduled to embark on April 7.

The Balzers have been in charge of the Christian training program at Bethany Bible Institute, now located at Shamshabad, for 11 years. Their contribution in the Bible training ministry as well as in field administration and church during these 38 years has been enormous.

God in His providence will know how to reward them. The fruit of their labor in India will continue. The entire conference joins the Board of Missions in a most sincere expression of appreciation for their life contribution for God in India.

A. E. Janzen, India Secretary
Board of Missions

The Bible Today

Sometimes people with no formal education acquire phenomenal spiritual insight and wisdom under the tutelage of the Scriptures. The Rev. Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotez, President of the American Lutheran Church, relates how he visited a congregation at Old Moshi in Tanganyika, where the oldest member of the congregation made a presentation to him. Barefoot and dressed in tattered clothes, the man carried in his gnarled hands a baton carved from ebony wood. Ebony, normally black, sometimes has light spots where branches have grown from the trunk. The baton had a sizable light spot at one end. The old man, gripping the baton in both hands, tellingly said, "Here I stand, a black man created by God. There you stand, a white man created by God. In this baton is a light spot. It is not of different wood, but of one piece, so that black man and white man are one in Christ."

In these words the African elder had expressed the central teaching of the Scriptures, lifting all to the rank of nobility; men redeemed by the same Christ.



Hello Girls and Boys,

Are you enjoying your Easter holidays? I hope you have a wonderful week. The exams are over. In fact, school books are forgotten for a short spell.

Easter is a church holiday. Most churches observe the holiday with special services, music and flowers. Churches are often decorated with Easter lilies. It is a beautiful plant, which has come to be a sign of Easter because of its large, fragrant, waxy-white flowers—a symbol of purity and light. Just as the earth is dressed in a new cloak of greenery, people often wear new clothes for Easter. The idea of Easter eggs came to us from ancient Egypt and Persia. The eggs are a sign of new life.

Several countries have the custom of rolling brightly colored eggs on the lawn at Easter. The most famous egg roll is possibly the one at the White House in Washington, D.C. The President of the United States lives at the White House. Thousands of adults and children gather on the lawns. The custom was started in 1878 by President Hayes and has been kept up ever since except for the time of World War II.

Perhaps you didn't observe all the customs mentioned. Perhaps you were up especially early to search for an Easter basket. The customs are not really important, they are just the frills. The important thing is that you remembered to walk with the Lord just as the two travellers on the way to Emmaus. Their hearts burned within them, and they said, "Abide with us."

May the Lord abide with each and every one of us as we continue to enjoy this Easter season.

Love, Aunt Helen

Little Deeds for Grandma

Pearl and Pat leaped from their beds to greet the beautiful morning sun. "Our first day of holidays!" shouted Pearl, lustily.

"And what are we going to do?" Mother asked, as she sneaked in, surprising her eight-year-old twins.

"I think we will run around the world," Pat announced, forming a circle with her arms.

"Well, when you've done that," mother said smilingly, straightening the bed linens, "I have a job for you. I'll tell you what while you eat your favorite dish of shredded wheat."

During breakfast, Mrs. Dilworth packed a basket with food. "Grandma Finmore is quite ill and she's hardly able to be up. I wonder if you two will pay her a visit for me. You'd like to be missionaries, wouldn't you?"

"Oh, yippee, Mummy. She always gives us cookies and things," Pearl flashed, wiping her mouth with the cloth.

"What's in the basket?" Pat questioned, getting a stool to stand upon so she could see for herself.

"A loaf of bread, noodle soup and a custard pudding. That sounds all right for someone sick, doesn't it?" Mrs. Dilworth remarked. "Now remember this," the mother continued, "you are little Christians and maybe you could do something nice for her today. Don't you ask for any cookies either. She might need her garbage taken out; maybe

she'll need her sidewalk swept and the dishes rinsed."

"And maybe we could sing a song for her," Pearl spoke as though bit by a sudden idea.

"I should say you could. Goodbye now and give Grandma my love."

Pearl and Pat began their trip down the street, both holding on to the basket. The light summer breeze played with the pink ribbons tied to their long shiny black hair. Setting down the basket on the porch, Pearl knocked at the door of Grandma's small three-roomed cottage where she had lived ever since Grandpa had gone to heaven.

"Come in," said a high thin voice from inside.

Slowly the girls walked in, both giggling happily. "Mother sent some food and her love," they said, looking curiously at the old, grey-haired lady wearing a blue knitted shawl around her shoulders as she rocked slowly in her chair.

"Well, my dear little friends, how kind of you and your mother. What could I give you? Now, let's see." Grandma began to raise herself.

"No, no, Grandma, nothing at all. We don't want anything today. But may we do something for you?" Pearl questioned, coming closer to the old lady, whom everyone in the small town called their Grandma.

"Well, I do need a few things done," she admitted. "Do you girls know how to do dishes?"

"Oh, yes, we always help Mummy," they said in unison.

The twins knew where Grandma

kept her things and soon the dishes rattled in the soapy water. "You could sweep the floor," Pat suggested, as she scraped hard at the porridge pot.

"Grandma is asleep in her chair," Pearl whispered as she came for the dust pan.

"Let's go out then," Pat said, taking a package of garbage with her.

Outside the twins swept the sidewalk and watered the flowers that grew beside it.

"This is so much fun," Pearl said, picking a few marigolds for Grandma's vase.

"She should be awake by now," Pat mused, starting up the back steps.

When they tiptoed into the living room with the flowers, Grandma had wakened. "Oh, I wondered where you'd gone," she said, looking surprised. "I see you've done my dishes and carried away the garbage. What makes little girls so sweet?"

"We're Christians, Grandma," they said smiling at one another.

"Well, you certainly are. I could tell when you first came in," Grandma replied with a shaky voice.

"May we sing for you before we go?" Pearl offered, placing herself beside her sister.

"I would love that more than anything else, girls," Grandma answered with a smile.

Together they sang the chorus of "God will take care of you." They saw Grandma wiping tears from her wrinkled cheeks.

"Just what I needed. Just what I needed," she cried. "God will take care of me . . . through every day, along the way."

Slowly and quietly the twins backed to the door, saying, "Goodbye, Grandma. We'll come again."

"Please do, girls. Please do, and soon. Thank you, thank you!"

"Oh, it's fun to be missionaries, isn't it?" Pearl said as they skipped down the street looking at every house and waving at all the children playing outside.

By Lillian Giesbrecht

Shine for Jesus

Mbundi wanted to make his little body shiny. All little boys in Africa have shiny black bodies. But none of the boys Mbundi knew were as shiny as the missionary's cook boy. He wanted very much to shine like that.

Often Mbundi hid in the tall grass by the river and watched as the missionary's cook boy cleaned the pots and pans. Mbundi longed to get his fingers in the grease and rub it all over his body, but he was afraid the cook boy might catch him and take him to the missionary. And did not the missionary eat one little black boy for dinner every Sunday? The people of the village said he did! Mbundi did not want to be eaten on Sunday, or any day.

One day, as Mbundi watched, he saw the cook boy lay one of the pots behind his back while he cleaned the grease out of the others. This was Mbundi's chance to get some of that grease on his own body!

Slowly, slowly Mbundi crawled. He did not make a sound in the soft sand. One hand went inside the pot. How good the warm grease felt!

The cook boy kept on cleaning out the grease and rubbing it all over his body. As he worked he sang a little song. It was something about shining for Jesus. What queer noises the cook boy makes, thought Mbundi.

Mbundi began crawling back to the bushes. He held his hands up so the sand would not get mixed up with the grease. Suddenly he felt someone grab his ankles and hold them tight. It was the cook boy.

"Please, let me go," Mbundi cried. "I only wanted to get a little grease to make me shiny."

"Grease is only for cook boys," he said. "Wipe off every bit in the sand. Then you may go."

Mbundi wiped off the grease.

"Now get out of here," the cook boy said, "and don't try this again!"

Mbundi ran all the way back to the village. How disappointed he was. Then he got an idea! That cook boy was nice and fat, thought Mbundi. If the missionary could get a skinny boy like me to cook for him, perhaps he would eat the fat one and I could cook. He could almost feel that nice, soft, warm grease all over his body as he thought about it. Very slowly Mbundi walked up the path to the missionary's stick-and-mud house.

"Good morning." The missionary clapped his hands. "Are you well? Is your mother well? Is your father well?"

Mbundi clapped his hands as he answered, "Please, white man, may I cook for you? All I want for pay is the grease from the pots and pans."

The missionary turned and said something to the fat boy which Mbundi did not understand. The cook boy grinned and showed his big white teeth. He nodded his head. Mbundi was hired. He was to learn to cook, and always he was to clean the pots and pans.

So it happened that Mbundi was the shiniest, greasiest little black boy in that part of Africa. He learned how to cook, but best of all he learned what it meant to shine for Jesus. He learned the happy song which he had thought was just queer noises when the cook boy sang. He learned to know the Lord Jesus as his own Saviour. And he learned that the missionary never, never ate a black boy for Sunday dinner nor for dinner at any time—not even fat ones!

From Salvation Army's publication "The Young Soldier"

Strait is the Gate

By MARJORIE BUCKINGHAM

(31st Installment)

In the midst of those "successful" years came love, or at least the semblance of it. "He was a singer too. We played leading roles together with great success, and then I fell in love with him, with his beautiful voice, his handsome face, his personality and charm. And my cup of happiness was full when he began to court me, when he told me that he loved me, and asked me to marry him."

There was a pause in the story while the old lady tried to master the emotions which these bitter-sweet memories evoked.

"I married him," she went on, "and we were very happy for a time. We had a baby, a dear little son, and I left the stage to give my life to the role of wife and mother. I felt so secure in my husband's love that I devoted myself completely to my home and family, never dreaming for a moment that he would be unfaithful to me."

Then the tragedy of broken vows, a broken heart, a broken home. "I knew then that I should never have married him. That was my second great mistake, but of course, I found out too late. He wasn't a Christian. He had no reverence for God, and I soon found that he had no respect for me."

Her voice trailed away into silence. The heartbreak of that terrible disillusionment was too deep to be put into words. "Eventually he left me for another woman. And it was then, in those dark days, that I turned back to God and He became my refuge and strength. I knew that I was only reaping what I had sown, that I was paying the price of neglecting God and disobeying His will for my life. All my parents' earlier opposition had been God's way of calling me to a life of consecration and service, only I wouldn't listen!"

The story went on. "I clung to my faith in God, and to my baby, trying to hide the awful hurt that was in my heart. And then I lost my baby!" Sobs choked her words, and the tears that she had restrained streamed down her cheeks.

Nancy felt a lump in her throat. "Did he die?" she ventured huskily.

"No, a thousand times better if he had! I would have known then that he was with the angels in heaven. No, his father took him from me when he was just a little fellow, when my whole life was wrapped up in him. It was too much. My health gave way, and all that I had went into paying for treatment, treatment that has left me where I am today."

"But what about your son, Granny? Where is he? Don't you know?" That was the one dominating question in the girl's mind, stunned as she was by the tragic story she had heard.

The old lady shook her head. "I never saw him again. I believe his father took him abroad, and I suppose he was reared for the stage. My plans and hopes for him were different."

Nancy felt awkward, inadequate in the face of such a situation. What could she do, what could she say? The stark tragedy of it all had left her dazed and numb.

"But, Granny, don't you think you will ever see him again?" she faltered.

Granny Weston's face radiated faith and joy. "Yes, of course I shall, my dear!" she said with conviction. "I have committed my son to God these many years, and I know that I will meet him again, before I leave this world, maybe, if God so wills it. Certainly I shall meet him in heaven, for I know that my prayers for him will be answered, and that he and I will stand together with the redeemed in that great day before the throne of God."

The tears were streaming down the girl's cheeks, too, for her heart was overflowing. "Oh, Granny!" she whispered, as she rested her head against the snowy white one on the pillow. "You will see him—you must! The Lord couldn't let you down, Granny."

"I know that, dear," returned the old lady with quiet confidence. "The Lord has been very good to me, far more gracious than I deserve, and I know that He will never fail me."

It had grown late while they had been talking together, and the sun was sinking low in the western sky, making a golden pathway across the expanse of blue water that opened to their view through the cottage window.

"What a glorious sunset!" exclaimed the old lady, as she drew back the curtain to enjoy its beauty to the full.

But to the young girl at her side it symbolized the golden dawn of a new day, a new era of unquestioning faith in the love and wisdom of God, as she had seen it exemplified in the experience of Granny Weston.

CHAPTER XVIII

A SURPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Norwood was in excellent spirits when she arrived home from the Southdown Grove Women's Guild's special afternoon, even though she was much later than usual on such occasions, and her

husband and daughter were already comfortable in the house, waiting for her and for their dinner.

"I have let you down tonight!" she greeted them with a smile, as she walked into the kitchen where Nancy, apron on, was busily engaged at the stove while Mr. Norwood read the evening paper.

"That's all right, mum, don't worry!" Nancy replied cheerfully. "Everything's well on the way."

"It's not often you have to come home and cook your own dinner, is it?" her mother went on. "But I just had to stay to finish. We've had a wonderful day!"

Charles put down his paper and enquiringly turned to his wife. "How much did you make, Thelma?" he asked quickly.

"All we wanted!" she declared triumphantly.

"What?" Charles leaped to his feet in excitement. "You don't mean to say you've made the five hundred—?"

She nodded eagerly. "I said we'd make twenty-five pounds today, didn't I?"

Charles was still looking incredulous. "Really, dear, I can't believe it!"

Thema Norwood put down the leather satchel she had been carrying, opened it, and drew out a canvas money-bag which was tied firmly at the top.

"There you are!" she said breathlessly, jingling the contents of the bag as she held it aloft. "Count it, Charles, and see for yourself!"

He grasped at the bag with eager hands. "What's here—twenty-five pounds?"

"Yes, twenty-five pounds!" she reiterated, emphasizing every syllable. "And with the four hundred and seventy-five pounds that's already locked away in the cash-box—"

"The total should be five hundred pounds, eh?" he chuckled, his eyes gleaming with satisfaction as he spread out the money on the table.

"Exactly!" Mrs. Norwood cast a triumphant glance in her daughter's direction. "Did you hear that, Nancy?"

The girl nodded. "Yes, mother," she said in a voice that was scarcely audible above the sizzling of the saucepans on the stove.

"We made twenty-five pounds on the spinning-wheel and the guessing competitions," continued her mother brightly, "and that's our five hundred—right to the last penny!"

"Really, mother?"

Nancy tried to sound casual, but the news had come as a shock to her. She had been aware that her mother was working hard to win the five-hundred-pound challenge against Pastor Brandon, but she had not thought that they were so close to the goal. Now she knew that they had actually achieved it.

Disturbing questions flashed through her mind, questions to

which there seemed no adequate answer. Why should they have won the challenge? Why hadn't Pastor Brandon obtained the money through prayer? She and others had been praying, and surely the pastor's prayers would count for something, even if nobody else's did! Had their faith been misplaced? Hadn't God heard their prayers? Was He going to let them become a laughing-stock in the midst of those who had deliberately rejected all spiritual values? It certainly seemed so! How could she or anyone believe in prayer after this? A feeling of hopeless despair came over her as she forced herself to listen to what her mother was saying.

"Just think of it, five hundred pounds! And every penny of it raised by means which the pastor condemns! What do you think of that?"

"Good work!" commented Charles approvingly.

Nancy said nothing and again turned her attention to the dinner on the stove. As far as she was concerned there was nothing more to be said. But her mother had not finished by any means.

"And how much has Mr. Brandon received—through prayer, Nancy?" she questioned pointedly.

"Mr. Brandon never discusses it, mother, so I haven't the slightest idea," was the truthful reply.

"Well, he hasn't got his five hundred pounds, or everybody would have known about it!" declared Mrs. Norwood confidently.

"We'll have to see that they all get to know about this!" Charles sounded quite enthusiastic as he put the money back into the bag.

Mrs. Norwood rubbed her hands together in eager anticipation. "We don't have to worry about that! Trevor said he would give us a write-up in the paper as soon as we reached our goal."

"You'll have to let him know."

"Yes, I'll ring him right now!"

And suiting the action to the words she was half-way to the telephone when Nancy interrupted with the suggestion that they ought to be sitting down to dinner. "Everything's ready now, mum," she ventured.

Mrs. Norwood protested. "I'm so excited, I don't really think I could eat a thing!"

"Well, I could," said Charles, striking a note of common sense. "Here, Thelma," he added, holding out the canvas bag to his wife, "I think you ought to put this away with the rest of the money before you do anything else."

"Yes, Charles, of course!" And taking hold of the precious bag, she hurried off into the dining room to put her last twenty-five pounds into the cash-box, where she had carefully kept all the money they had raised under lock and key since the beginning of the campaign.

(To be continued)

MCC News & Notes

Vietnamese Refugees Receive Aid

By Don Voth of Inola, Okla. Paxman in Saigon, Vietnam

Recently I received a letter from a missionary couple here in Vietnam concerning a group of mountaineers near Nhatrang who lost everything as refugees from Communist terrorism. In their letter Mr. and Mrs. Fune say, "Please convey our gratitude to the Mennonites of

America who have contributed of their substance to meet the need of our people. You have made it possible to manifest the love of God in action in a way that we could not have done without you."

The people to whom Mr. and Mrs. Fune refer are mostly Christians. Several years ago they moved from their high mountain homes and resettled in a beautiful valley. Their valley was fertile, they were industrious and soon they were

living better than they had ever lived before.

Then the terrorist bands began to come, demanding the cooperation of the villagers in their program of undermining the government of South Vietnam. They not only demanded the crops for food but also that the villagers leave the valley and move back into the hills in defiance of the government. This the villagers refused to do.

When it became evident that the government could not protect them and that they might experience violence from the terrorist bands, they escaped down the river on 100 rafts. They had barely enough room to bring all the people and their children, so all food supplies, of which they had plenty in the villages, had to be left behind to be taken by the Communists. Nearly 1,200 people came down to a small settlement

near Nhatrang on these rafts with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

The Vietnamese government was willing to help these refugees with some food and new "homesteads." MCC contributed rice, meat, some clothing, and Christmas bundles. However, what was needed was someone to coordinate these efforts and work with Vietnamese pastor Hien, who lived near the settlement, in his efforts to organize the people for beginning a new life.

The missionary couple, Mr. and Mrs. Fune, are working at the mountain station in Dalat, from where these mountain villagers were reached the first time many years ago. Seeing their need, Mr. and Mrs. Fune decided to spend several weeks with them at their temporary settlement. Mr. Fune and Mr.

(Continued on page 11-4)



Photo on the right: Elderly leprosy patient receiving a Christmas bundle from missionary Johann Regehr. This man travelled 100 kilometers by horse so that he could attend the Christmas program we had arranged for the patients on Christmas Day. Centre photo: A young and very poor leprosy patient receiving a large bundle for himself and his family at Christmas from medical worker Gerhard Pries. This man suffers severely from anemia and ulcers on his feet so that he hardly can provide for his large family. He lost his former job several years ago when his employer found that he was suffering from leprosy. Subsequently, this man was hospitalized at the station and was able to return home much improved.

Photo on the left: Leprosy patients and several children receiving gifts at the station. The two children in the foreground are children of a very ill leprosy patient who has become a Christian while being hospitalized at the station. This patient is now an active and witnessing Christian, and he and his wife have been baptized at the station. When the small boy received his present his first words were, "May God reward you for this." These words also apply to those who made up the gifts in North America.



Two pictures of pupils at the Daily Vacation Bible School held shortly before Christmas at the station and in the neighboring town, Itacurubi. About 60 children in all attended the DVBS.

Christmas at the Kilometer 81 Leprosy Mission, Paraguay

(Pictures and information were submitted by Arthur C. Klassen, now with MCC in Paraguay. Dr. and Mrs. Klassen are directing the work at the Kilometer 81 Leprosy

Mission during the furlough of Dr. and Mrs. John R. Schmidt.)

About 550 Christmas bundles, prepared many months previously by Mennonite Sunday schools and churches in North America, were distributed to poor and needy Paraguayans at the Kilometer 81 Leprosy Mission in Paraguay. The majority of these bundles were given to the unfortunate victims of lep-

rosy and their families who also received medical care and attention from this mission. Other bundles were given to children who had attended the Daily Vacation Bible School held at the station shortly before Christmas. These children generally come from very poor homes, and these bundles were very welcome gifts.

Not only were bundles distribut-

ed at the station but some were also carried by jeep and horseback to those leprosy patients who live too far from the station to come for the Christmas celebrations. One of our medical workers, Hans Penner, spent four days on one trip, with several pack horses, bringing bundles and medicine to a group of patients who live in a remote area of Paraguay.

NEWS from HERE and THERE

Son's Crime is Costly

A man whose crimes left his father, an old-age pensioner, without a house was sentenced to six months on Thursday.

Victor David DeVehr, 21, of 1063 Talbot Ave., pleaded guilty in city magistrate's court to eight charges of forging and uttering, and one of theft. Court was told that DeVehr, while living with his father, forged eight cheques for \$91 on his father's account.

Last year, court was told, DeVehr's father bought a house on Talbot Avenue and made an agreement with the accused that he would pay \$55 of the \$90 a month mortgage, the accused to cover the balance. When the house was paid for, court was told, the accused would own it.

DeVehr collected the mortgage money from his father for five months, but failed to make a payment. Early in March the mortgage company notified the father that because no payment had been made he had lost the house.

Winnipeg Free Press

Japan's First Rocket

Michikawa Beach, Japan — Tokyo university scientists announced Saturday they have successfully launched Japan's first three-stage rocket. All previous Japanese rockets have been two-stage types.

A spokesman said the rocket, weighing 153 tons, was fired at an 80-degree angle and reached an al-



Two young Daily Vacation Bible School scholars receiving their Christmas presents from mission worker Mrs. Rudolf Plett (formerly Hilda Polnau). With their bundles they also received a Bible story picture to hang on the walls of their homes. Many of their parents attended a Christmas program presented by the pupils and thus also heard about the true meaning of Christmas. (See report, "Christmas at Leprosy Mission," page 8)

titude of 217 miles and fell into the Pacific approximately 370 miles from shore after 10½ minutes.

Baptists Write to President Kennedy

Boston — In a letter to President Kennedy the Massachusetts Baptist Convention, composed of 300 churches across the state, voiced firm opposition to federal aid to church schools and commended the chief executive for his clear stand.

The convention also sent a telegram to US Senator Leverett Saltonstall (R-Massachusetts) expressing alarm "that he had declared himself in favor" of such aid. The Baptist organization told Sen. Saltonstall it considers such aid "a clear breach of the historic principle of separation of church and state."

In other communications the Bay State Baptists urged the 6,500-member American Baptist Convention, the 1800-member Massachusetts Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches to continue their vigorous fight against attempts to spend federal funds for the aid of church schools.

ON THE HORIZON

April 7-9. — Canadian M.B. Sunday School Convention in British Columbia.

April 15. — Meeting of the Association of the Tabor Home of Mordecai, Man., at 10:30 a.m. in the Mordecai M. B. church.

April 16. — Graduation Exercises at Winkler Bible School, Winkler, Man.

April 29 and 30. — Meeting sponsored by the Inter-Church Mission of the Canadian Protestant churches to be held in Winnipeg. The evangelist is Rev. Tom Rees of London, England.

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April 30. — Dedication services for the new house of the Lord of the Hill Ave. Mennonite Brethren Church, 3717 Hill Ave., Regina, Sask.

May 7. — Manitoba M. B. Youth Workers' Conference, held at Brandon M. B. church, 4th and Hill Streets.

May 28. — Graduation Exercises of the Mennonite Brethren Bible College to be held at the MBCI auditorium on Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

June 2 and 3. — The Manitoba Mennonite Brethren Conference to convene at the North Kildonan M. B. church.

July 5-11. — Canadian Mennonite Church Conference to be held in Calgary.

June 18. — Graduation at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, Winnipeg.

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The author, Hartwell James, has written this 256-page book in a way that catches and holds the attention of the young and also of the older reader. The book deals with subjects, some of which are as follows: Why Betty was Glad, The Angel's Whisper, The Little Carpenter of Nazareth, When the Heavens Opened, The Fish in the Net, The Little Girl Who Came Back, The Children Who Cried Hosanna, The Empty Cave. 75¢

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YOUTH IN ACTION

Sunday Services at Brooklands

Evening services sponsored by the Church were begun in the Brooklands Collegiate auditorium on Sunday, March 26.

Several years ago a Sunday school was started in Brooklands by the young people of the South End M. B. Church. Recently the school board of this district offered the new collegiate auditorium to have another Sunday school conducted. The Sunday school work was richly blessed by the Lord.

On March 26 a third milestone was reached in the extension work in this community. After careful planning, preparation, and canvassing of the district, the Sunday school workers together with the help of some other church members introduced evening services.

Quite a number of children, a few parents, the Sunday school teachers and some interested friends of the church formed the audience. After Mr. Bert Huebner, who was in charge of the service, had warmly welcomed the guests, Mr. Dave Loewen led in congregational singing. For the invocation Mr. Frank Peters read John 19:1-11. Some of the Sunday school teachers joined to form a small choir and sang several suitable numbers to enrich the service. They were accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Clara Froese. A special flannelgraph story was very ably presented by Mrs. Susan Martens. The children of the two Brooklands Sunday schools also participated in the service by singing two numbers, one being a welcoming song. Mr. Len Schroeder was in charge of this item. Then followed a short, but fitting message by Mr. Jake Klippenstein. He based his remarks on Matt. 21:1-11. In speaking on Christ's entry into Jerusalem he posed three questions which he answered briefly: Who is this Christ? What did the triumphal entry into Jerusalem mean to Jesus? What does it mean to us? After prayer and a song by the congregation the service came to a close.

May the Lord bless this small beginning and continue to guide the endeavours to expand His work even in this needy community.

Mrs. Elfrieda Duerksen

Where are we going?

(Continued from page 1-4)

But we are not only recognized by what we are doing, but also by what we are not doing, by our lack of interest in the theatre, dancing, some sports, and certain cultural endeavors, for the purpose of dedication to a deeper spiritual life.

However, we are living in an age

of change and we have to change also. As mechanization of farming speeds the movement into the cities and towns, we are getting urbanized and are subject to the advantages and disadvantages of contact with various cultural and religious groups.

As far as language is concerned, time will play its part. The language of economic prestige is the assimilating language, Russian in Russia, German in Germany, Spanish in Latin America.

Already in ancient Gaul it was fashionable for the people to look Roman and speak Latin, yet time did not make Romans or Italians out of Frenchmen. The French of today are more different from their Spanish and Italian contemporaries than were the Gauls from the Iberian and Latin tribes who also lived under Roman rule.

Levelling forces are rapidly gaining momentum and we "do in Rome as the Romans do." I am not an obstinate adherent to traditions, but should we not be slow to renounce what has been proven to be good? We profit from additions to usage and custom, but could it not be that we are too much in a hurry? There are those of us who would like to conform at any price, willing to give up principles, language and way of life. Had our forefathers

done the same thing, there would have been no Reformation.

The process of assimilation is more obvious in the United States than in Canada. They are all thrown in the "melting pot." No national identity remains. "E pluribus Unum" is the inscription on the American silver dollar.

In Canada we find a somewhat different attitude. We are encouraged to preserve our cultural heritage in order to form a Canadian mosaic, where we are part of the whole and still keep our identity. Canada is not only bilingual and bicultural, it is multilingual and muticultural. In order to be bilingual we have to be bicultural. "This is impossible," some may say. That it is possible, we see in other ethnic groups of Canada.

As we come out of our geographical and cultural isolation, some of our people are gripped by a feeling of inferiority. Some join other churches, others just disappear in the main stream of humanity. They don't want to be different. Still there is richness in diversity.

Where are we going in this time of change? Will we go the road of least resistance and float downstream like dead fish? Will we forget our history? Will we be called "run-away Mennonites"? At the other extreme there are some of our people who are trying to preserve our confessional and cultural isolation of the past.

In this time of change let's chart our course by first looking backward and keeping the good of the past, but also looking forward and

accepting the best of the new. Above all let us not give up any of our basic principles.

Challenging Youth to be Holy and to Serve

Virgil, Ont. — On March 11, after a week and a half of evangelistic meetings conducted by Rev. H. H. Epp in the Virgil M. B. church, we launched out on a new group project. We have started a tract group which is sending out a hundred envelopes of tracts each month, to people in our district. Besides this our tract committee has decided to get our young people to distribute tracts by hand. This we know will help us to grow spiritually.

Rev. Wm. Schmidt, pastor of the Kitchener M. B. Church, conducted services for young people in the M. B. church here on March 18 and 19. All three services were well attended. The topic for these services was "Holiness." He said that it is for everyone, but it is not forced upon us. He answered the question, "Why Holiness?"

The male octet from Eden served us on Sunday with several messages in song. Several others participated throughout the weekend. A lunch was served in the basement on Sunday afternoon by the Dorcas Group. This was followed by a hearty sing-song just before the evening service. We express our gratitude to Rev. Schmidt for having come to us and are thankful to God for His rich blessings.

Linda Willms

Gospel Light Hour Tour to USA



Gospel Light Hour quartet, left to right: John Klassen, Len Schroeder, Frank Funk, Geo. Olfert.

Rev. J. M. Schmidt and the Gospel Light Hour quartet are conducting a 10-day tour of the M. B. churches in the USA Midwest area, as arranged by Dr. Vernon Wiebe of Hillsboro, Kans. Their purpose is to present the Gospel Light Hour work and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship between Canada and

the USA. They are grateful for this invitation, for God's blessings as they go from one church to another and for the prayer support of those who love the Lord and His work.

Their itinerary from March 31 to April 10 included the following churches: Ebenezer M. B. Church,

Doland, S.D.; Ebenfeld M. B. Church, Gnadenu M. B. Church, Hillsboro M. B. Church, Kansas; Oklahoma City M. B. Church, Corn Bible Academy, Corn M. B. Church, Oklahoma Bible Academy, Enid M. B. Church, Central Christian High School, Buhler M. B. Church, Tabor College, First M. B. Church, Wichita; Silver Lake M. B. Church.

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS and COLLEGES

M. B. Bible College News Release

Music Students Compete for Finals

Three music students were recently chosen as semi-finalists in the Scholarship Series sponsored by the Registered Music Teachers' Association of Manitoba. The semi-finals have been set for May 1. Margaret Pauls of Coaldale, who won the Tudor Bowl last year, will compete together with two others from MBBC. The other two are Bill Baerg of Coaldale and Nick Kaethler of Kitchener.

Students Present Annual Drama.

The Literary Committee of the College sponsored its annual drama entitled, "A Mighty Fortress." Based on the life of an early missionary couple pioneering among the Indians in Oregon, the drama brought to the stage scenes of conflict, misunderstanding and heroism, which are part of the missionary venture. The actors in the play were Melvin Toews of Winnipeg, Katherine Reimer of Kitchener, Joyce Redekopp of Main Centre, Martha Thiessen of Abbotsford, Vernon Voth of Herbert, Art Prieb of Flowing Well, Fred Enns, Mera Klassen, Don Baerg, all of Winnipeg, Alvin Enns of Wheatland, Bettyanne Nikkel of Vancouver, Harry Dyck of Virgil, and Werner Heidebrecht, Irene Kopp, and Ethel Brandt, of Clearbrook. The play was presented on two nights and drew excellent audiences.

Another recent student activity was a presentation, "How the Bible Came to Us." A skit, written by Anne Wall, depicted the life and labours of Dr. Herman Menge. Miss Lydia Martens presented a reading describing the history of the Revised Standard Version and the Rev. D. Ewert presented certain principles which should govern our Bible reading.

Music Instructor and Students Serve as Guest Soloists

Mr. Victor Martens and Miss Breata Krahn served as guest soloists in the Saskatoon Mennonite Brethren Church. The choir of the church under the direction of Mr. Wilmer Neufeld presented the "Seven Last Words of Christ." Mr. Martens and Mr. Bill Baerg served as guest soloists at Herbert, where the "Crucifixion" by Stainer was presented.

Annual Prayer and Fast Day Observed

The Prayer and Fast Day has been an annual event in the history of the College. This year it was observed March 22. The Rev. Cor-

nelius Wall led in a devotional and teachers made themselves available to the students for counsel and fellowship. A special testimony meeting brought the day to a close. President J. A. Toews, who led the fellowship hour, bade farewell to the College family since he left that evening for Minnesota, where he intends to complete residence work for his Ph.D. degree.

Rosthern Junior College Visits Churches

The Alumni of the Rosthern Junior College met in the Carrot River Mennonite church on Saturday, March 18, for a time of fellowship and renewal of acquaintances. Some of the ex-students present had attended the school in 1912, 1917 and 1921. Slides were shown of the former years at the school and of future plans. After the program the ex-students, their husbands and wives enjoyed a lunch in the church basement. Sunday morning, Leonard Enns told the children a story and Joe Neufeld had the morning worship service, speaking on the theme, "Christ on the Cross."

The Junior College chorale directed by Alfred Dahl presented a program in the Hague Mennonite church on Sunday, March 19. Rev. J. J. Mierau opened the program with the reading of Psalm 8, after which Mr. Elmer Richert introduced the members of the chorale. The 27-voice choir blended their voices beautifully in a number of sacred German songs. Rev. Ed Enns of Rosthern based his message on Psalm 139. He noted that men cannot flee from God, and the presence of God everywhere is man's greatest consolation.

Graduation Service at Rosthern

Rosthern, Sask. — Five young people were granted diplomas at the Bible Department graduation services held in the Rosthern Mennonite church on Sunday, March 25. Rev. P. G. Sawatzky, chairman of the Board of Directors of R.J.C., brought greetings and led in the opening. Edith Peters, as class valedictorian, referred to this event as another "milestone" in her life, this one having been preceded by conversion and by graduation from high school. Helen Fehr gave a testimony, speaking on the New Life in Christ, its challenges and struggles and its ultimate reward here and in eternity. Edward Enns, dean of the Bible Department, gave the charge to the students using the theme: "Stand fast in Christian liberty." President Richert then pre-

sented diplomas to Edith Peters, Rosthern; Marilyn Funk, Drake; Helen Fehr, Hague; Werner Tessman, Mullingar; Joyce Neufeld, Saskatoon.

Rev. Verner Friesen, Dalmeny, a former student and instructor at R.J.C., presented the graduation message, using the words of Jesus, "I Have Chosen You," as his theme. He pointed out the blessings of having been chosen by Christ and the proper response the young people had shown by studying Bible in a special way. He urged them to continue to respond in a similar way in the future.

The R.J.C. Chorale under the direction of Alfred Dahl supplied the special music. Eight other students taking classes in the Bible Department were: Leonard Regier, Adeline Martens, Hedy Loewen, Edward Bergen, Garry Harder, Helen Hiebert, Jake Pankratz, Louise Jantzen.

All graduates, students and guests were served a lunch by the R.J.C. Women's Auxiliary.

The R.J.C. Choir, consisting of about 75 voices under the direction of Alfred Dahl, rendered their Easter program to a capacity audience in the evening. Rev. Art Regier, Tiefengrund, gave the Easter meditation and grade 9 and 10 students read appropriate Scripture passages.

More Young People Visit Tabor Campus

Seven high school groups have visited Tabor College within the past month. These prospective students come from six states: California, Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

These students from seven church-related academies and high schools came to Tabor for the ninth annual Invitational Academy Tournament held March 2-4. The schools participating in the event included Berean Academy of Elbing, Kansas; Central Christian High School of Hutchinson, Kans.; Corn Bible Academy of Corn, Okla.; Hesston Academy of Hesston, Kans.; Meade Bible Academy of Meade, Kans.; Nebraska Christina High School of Central City, Nebraska; and Oklahoma Bible Academy of Meno, Okla. The tournament was won by Berean in a close 66-62 won over Hesston.

During the week of March 6 the following groups visited Tabor: five students from Ebenezer Mennonite Brethren Church of Doland, S.D., accompanied by Rev. C. F. Plett, their pastor and a member of the board of education; two students from the M. B. Church at Joes, Colorado, with their pastor, Rev. Gerhard Warkentin, and Mrs. Warkentin; four students from the city M. B. Church of Harvey, N.D., and their pastor, Rev. David J. Wiens; and four students from the M. B. Church at Fairview, Okla., accompanied by some of the parents. Rev.

Loyal Funk, a Tabor alumnus, is pastor of the Fairview church.

Moscow Wedding Palace

A "wedding palace" was formally opened in Moscow as part of a Communist program to make marriage ceremonies more solemn and memorable events. The "palace" is a mansion which formerly belonged to a Czarist nobleman. Designed to provide the glamour lacking at non-religious ceremonies in registry offices, the palace is modeled after one previously built in Leningrad. The Moscow palace, boasting great chandeliers and other attractive features, is expected to be matched by similar institutions in other large cities of the USSR.

Vietnamese Refugees

(Continued from page 8-3)

Hien hauled grass for thatch roofs during the day while Mrs. Fune and Mrs. Hien sewed and altered clothes. In the evenings they had distributions and preaching services. More than 10 tons of food supplies were sent and all 250 families received a package containing one Christmas bundle and a piece of clothing for each member of the family.

The Funes write, "We have enjoyed our stay with these dear people very much. It was great to give them 'the gospel in action,' not by any means hiding from them the fact that you and your Mennonite people had a large part in making this possible. It was easy to preach to them those two Sundays because we were one with them in their effort to rebuild."



"What Spring Tells"

Each Tulip in its bed of rock,
Each Crocus in the dell,
Each Violet pushing through the
moss
Has something pure to tell.

Each budding twig, each sprout,
each leaf,
Each Pussywillow Tree,
Each Birch and Poplar in the
Woods
A Message has for me.

Each twitter of the Meadow Lark,
Each Robin in its nest,
Each fluttering Swallow in the air
Joins in with all the rest:

"He rose, He rose, He rose from
death."
All Nature doth declare,
"Because He lives you too shall
live."

This Message Spring doth share.
Lillian Giesbrecht



Bethesda Home Board. — Members of the All-Canada Board of Bethesda Home gathered at Campden for their semi-annual meeting and to participate in the dedication of the new 17-bed addition to the hospital and the new female staff quarters. Shown here are, from left: Gerhard Friesen, secretary of the Board and business manager of Bethesda; C. J. Rempel, Kitchener, board chairman; Rev. P. P. Doerksen, member for Alberta; A. A. Wiens, member for British Columbia; Rev. D. D. Derksen, member for Manitoba; B. F. Redekop, member for South Saskatchewan; Rev. G. J. Epp, superintendent of Bethesda; Martin Duerksen, Beamsville, executive board member for Ontario; Gerhard Reimer, Virgil, vice-chairman. Absent is Dr. A. A. Dyck, member for North Saskatchewan.

Graduation at Winkler Bible School

The Commencement Exercises of the Winkler Bible School will, the Lord willing, be held in the Winkler M. B. church on Sunday, April 16, at 2 p.m. Five students are graduating from the four-year course and fifteen students from the Sunday School Teacher's Training Course. Rev. J. J. Toews, instructor at the M. B. Bible College, will be the guest speaker.

Everyone is welcome to attend.
John H. Goossen

Southern Manitoba Crusade for Christ

Another evangelistic crusade for Southern Manitoba is in the planning stage at the present time. This one will take place at Winkler from July 16-30, 1961.

The campaign, which has the support of Mennonite and other churches in the area, is expected to be organized on a scale similar to the Janz Crusade held in the Southern Manitoba community last year. The tent, which housed the crusade, has been purchased and will be used again this year for the meetings.

The churches participating and their representatives serving on committees are: Mennonite Brethren—Rev. J. H. Quiring, Winkler; Rev. Peter Martens, Hordean; Bergthaler—H. J. Gerbrandt, Rev. David Schulz; Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church—Rev. Jacob Friesen, Altona; Rev. Isaac Friesen, Winkler; Evangelical Free Church—Rev. A. H. Pohl; Emmanuel Gospel Church—Rev. J. G. Wiebe, Lowe Farm; Church of God—Rev. H. Knoblich, Plum Coulee; Blumenortner Mennonite—Rev. J. K. Klassen.

Speaker for the campaign will be Rev. J. J. Toews, instructor at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Winnipeg.



New Recreation Room — Miss Z. M. Ratzlaff, R.N., female wards supervisor, shows some of the patients' handiwork in the new recreational hall at Bethesda Home. Watching, from left, are John Heidebrecht, St. Catharines, Rev. G. J. Epp, superintendent, and Jacob Penner, male wards supervisor.

New Wing at Bethesda

(Continued from page 4-4) a large dairy herd, hogs and chickens, fruit and vegetables are raised in large quantities. Most of the produce goes to the hospital although the farm is operated as a separate unit.

On the medical side, Dr. H. D.

Latham is at the hospital five days a week and Dr. H. D. Mitchell, St. Catharines psychiatrist, is available on a call basis twice a month. Help in training staff for special techniques and in handling patients who require special treatment has been received from the Ontario Hospital at Hamilton.

Open To All

Patients are admitted, as they can be cared for, without regard to creed or race. Chapel services are held regularly on Sundays and Wednesdays, but there is no obligation to attend. Movies and slide-shows are provided frequently for the enjoyment of all patients. A drama committee, in which staff and patients take a keen interest, is actively planning the use of a movable stage in the new recreation hall.

Bethesda Home, its Board and dedicated staff deserve wider recognition in the work they are doing to care for the less fortunate.

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