

Mennonite Observer

"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." I Cor. 2:2.

YOUR CHRISTIAN
FAMILY WEEKLY

January 11, 1957

The Christian Press, Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba

Vol. III, No 2

Bible Conference in Volendam, Paraguay



Here are some of the church workers attending the recent Bible conference held in the Volendam Mennonite Brethren Church. Seated in the front row beginning second from the left are Brother and Sister Aaron Reimer, Volendam church leader; Kornelius Voth, district conference chairman and Friesland church leader; C. C. Peters, G. H. Sukkau and Brother and Sister Henry C. Born, Board of General Welfare workers from North America. Willy Janz, former student at Tabor College and Mennonite Brethren Bible College, stands in the back row.

By Henry C. Born

November 15 to 18 were days of spiritual enrichment and advancement for the Mennonite Brethren Church of Volendam colony, Paraguay. A Bible conference and a baptism were the special events.

Arrangements had been made by the District Reference and Counsel Committee for the Brethren C. C. Peters and G. H. Sukkau to serve simultaneously in a Bible conference. The program here was part of an effort to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of the churches in eastern Paraguay.

Aaron Reimer, local church leader, welcomed the visitors and expressed the joy of the church in being host to such a conference. Forenoons were devoted to studies in I John 1 led by Brother Peters, and in James 1 led by Brother Sukkau. All church members were invited to these sessions to hear of the importance of "experiencing Christ" in the Christian life as taught by the Apostle John. James' Epistle served to point out the practical aspects of a "righteous faith".

In the afternoons the brethren spoke especially to the servants of the churches: ministers, deacons,

members of the church council, Sunday school teachers and various committee members. Brother Peters emphasized certain qualities of service such as humility, willingness, sincere love, and control by the Holy Spirit, and also pointed out the many areas of service in the church. The church servant in his private life as well as in his social relationships was the focal point of Brother Sukkau's messages.

(Continued on page 4-4)

Midnight Vigil Service

Abbotsford, B.C. — The young people's group of South Abbotsford church accepted an invitation from the young people's group of the Abbotsford M. B. Church for a Midnight Vigil Service on December 31.

After the regular New Year's Eve service, about 200 young people assembled in the basement of the Abbotsford M. B. church. First everyone joined in a hearty sing-song. Most of the remaining time was spent in a panel discussion. The three members were: Rev. W. Neufeld, Rev. A. H. Wie-

ler, and Mr. W. A. Wiebe. Among the questions discussed were: "How can I get more out of my daily devotions? Should a Christian attend all church meetings? Are we to believe in a verbal inspiration of the Word of God? What kind of musical instruments could be used in God's House? Is it good for a Mennonite young person to attend Bible Schools and Colleges other than those of our M. B. Conference? What is wrong and what would be right for a Christian young person to do concerning the matter of dating? How can we best be a testimony in an area where there are many religious people who believe in good works but who are not true Christians?"

While refreshments were served there was time to meet many friends. Then just before the New Year arrived Rev. Nikkel spoke

briefly to the group. He emphasized the text, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Then while all heads were bowed he prayed the New Year in.

John Peters to Germany

Challenge of Missions Presented

By D. K. Schellenberg

Steinbach, Man. — "Christians are Christ's representatives on earth. The burden He had for the lost should also be the burden of the Christian. To make this more real is the purpose of this conference," announced Rev. D. B. Reimer of the Steinbach Bible Institute in his opening remarks at the sixth annual missionary conference of the Evangelical Mennonite Church here.

Conference speakers at the four-day sessions held from December 29 to January 1 were Rev. J. B. Toews of the M. B. Board of Foreign Missions, Rev. G. Christian Weiss and Rev. Richard Wolfe of the Back to the Bible Broadcast, Lincoln, Neb., missionaries on furlough and those under appointment. Local ministers also participated.

In his message at the first night's service, Rev. Archie Penner pointed out that the speaking in tongues at Pentecost demonstrated that the Gospel was for all. "Let His purpose be our purpose; His will our will; His love our love, and His hate our hate," he stated.

Key to Scripture

The "key" to the whole Bible is found in Luke 24:45-48, especially verse 45: "Then opened he

their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures", declared Rev. G. Christian Weiss in his first message. The knowledge that "... it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day" and "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all the nations..." caused the disciples to preach Christ, not counting their lives dear unto themselves, he maintained in outlining the compelling motive of the disciples. The carrying out of His program cost John the Baptist and the Apostle Paul their head, but there were always others willing to carry on the work.

In his exposition of Luke 11: 21-22, Rev. Richard Wolfe stated that the strong man is the devil,

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EDITORIAL

Let's Make This a Year of Prayer

A mighty wave of prayer has ascended from churches and missions around the world during the past week. People who never came to the mid-week prayer meeting attended one or more of these prayer meetings ushering in the new year. Faced with a year of tension among the nations of the world and a crucial year in the development of foreign mission work, Christians realized the importance of enlisting God's help.

The week of prayer at the beginning of a new year is an excellent practice. It focuses attention upon our dependence on God and re-emphasizes the fact that He will act in behalf of His children when they pray. There is, however, the inherent danger that we regard this week of prayer as sufficient for our needs throughout the year. Unconsciously, perhaps, we begin to think, "Well, we asked the Lord to help us; we have prayed for the extension of His work through the church; now everything will be fine for another year." That attitude, however, is in sharp contrast to the spirit manifested by the early church, who "... continued stedfastly ... in prayers."

We deceive ourselves when we think that we can store up power and grace for the year by one week of intensive prayer. We are not a storage battery; we have only a direct connection with the source of power. That connection must be maintained in prayer to produce the power in our lives that will "turn the world upside down". We must also constantly come to Him for guidance, for God does not reveal His will for the year to us in an itemized program sheet. Constant fellowship is necessary, as Jesus Himself demonstrated while here on earth.

Parents, prayer is the formula to success in parenthood. No amount of reading about child psychology can take the place of uninterrupted fellowship with the Father. As Almighty Father, He can deal with the complexities of the modern home. He knows when and what type of discipline is needed, for He has spent thousands of years blessing and punishing mankind. No work is more important than prayer—even if one's daily bread seems to depend on it.

Teachers, whether in Sunday school or elsewhere, the fruitfulness of your work will depend upon the amount of time devoted to prayer. The teacher that does not systematically intercede for EACH child before the throne of grace need not expect a changed life in her pupils. She may transmit facts, but mere facts are powerless without the Spirit. If teachers prayed as often and with the same intensity as the Master Teacher, they would gain such a burden for their pupils that the problem of unprepared lessons, failure to visit the homes of the pupils, lack of interest in the monthly teachers' meeting, would automatically be resolved.

Christian workers, the dynamic ministry of the Apostle Paul cannot adequately be explained by reference to his thorough education, or by application of his methods. The Apostle Paul was first and foremost a man of prayer—therein lay the secret to his phenomenal fruitfulness. When reading his epistles one cannot help but be struck by his frequent reference to his intercession for the church he is writing to. Frequently he uses the word "always" in describing his intercession. Even so we who live in a time when there is general lamentation about the powerlessness of preaching, the fruitlessness of evangelistic campaigns, and the general lethargy in the church, need to become men and women of prayer. The dynamic power of God is available only when we pray.

Believers in the early church were all present at their prayer meetings—not only a "remnant". When Peter was in prison the whole church prayed for him. When Peter and John were given strict orders by the church hierarchy not to witness to Jesus Christ, they all "together" prayed. Where are we when the mid-week prayer meeting is held? If there is not one organized as yet, like-minded believers can always gather together in homes to pray. Christ has promised His presence where two or three are gathered together.

The Bible is full of examples about the results of prayer. Men of God through the centuries have demonstrated the effectiveness of prevailing prayer. The Billy Graham evangelistic team today is showing us the effectiveness of prayer. So let's not be satisfied with a week of prayer, but let's make this a year of prayer.

DEVOTIONAL

Growing up

By Jacob Friesen *

From Ephesians 4:14,15, we glean the statement: "That we ... may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

The beginning of the new year is a very fitting time for anyone to accept Christ and to begin a new life. To such a person Christian growth is a topic of vital interest. But to all Christians, who ought to take an inventory of their spiritual gains and losses, this also remains a vital problem. To the child, who gladly rocks his doll to sleep or who builds a toy airplane, there nevertheless exists no greater desire than to grow up. Likewise it should be the aim of every Christian to "grow up into him".

Let us refer firstly to the end result of growth; then discuss some of the means of growth.

Negatively, the end result is not perfection. Many would like to begin the new year by living a perfect day, but perfection in the sense of not sinning is impossible in this life. While we have in the very verses of our text references to perfection, as verse 12: "for the perfecting of the saints", and verse 13, "unto a perfect man", perfection cannot apply to the present life, but to our condition after death. In spite of that, this perfect standard is already in this life our goal, and this, it seems to me, is what Paul is here speaking about.

Positively, the end of growth is spiritual adulthood. Verse 14 warns us that "we be no more children". Children are so influenced by personality that they find it difficult to differentiate between truth and falsehood. As adults, though not perfect, we are not to be affected by every onslaught of the enemy; yes, more than being able to stand ourselves, we are also to help others to salvation, and then to victory in the Christian life.

In saying that perfection is not the end of growth, let us repeat that this applies only to the present life; after death, we shall indeed be perfect in holiness, as 1 John 3:2 indicates: "we shall be like him."

Of the means of growth in the Christian life, I will mention but three. First, the study of the Word of God. Speaking of growth, the Apostle Peter admonishes: "But grow in ... the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18) Knowing Christ is equivalent to accepting him as my Saviour, and receiving eternal life, as we read in John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know ... Jesus Christ ..." Know-

ing Christ, according to Peter, is also a vital experience in the Christian life.

How can we know Him? If I want to know D. L. Moody better, I will read a biography of him, and if I could, I would read an autobiography. It happens that his son has written what is considered to be the best biography, and having this book, I am happy to think I will get about as good a picture of the man as anyone could. Jesus Christ has had four biographies written about his earthly life, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but his life was not only an earthly one; he is the eternal Logos, and the entire Bible is the story of this Divine Person, Jesus Christ. The Bible is not merely written about him, but He, through his Holy Spirit (he is called the Spirit of Christ, Rom. 8:9) has written it.

Why is it so important to know Jesus Christ in order to grow? Firstly, through him alone can you receive your spiritual sustenance; secondly, he is the only one who has left us a perfect example of how to walk. To know Christ, then, I am to read the Bible. But reading means getting the thought from the page. If your half-shut eyes just stagger over a page, you are performing a rite no more blessed than is the Catholic who hears the mass read in Latin. A few hundred years ago the devil was very successful in hiding the physical Bible from the people; today, with numerous Bibles in our homes, he is attempting another

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Mennonite Observer

Our Christian Family Weekly for Mennonites of All Age-groups

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The MENNONITE OBSERVER is being published every Friday by

The Christian Press, Ltd.,
159 Kelvin St., Winnipeg 5,
Manitoba, Canada.

Address all correspondence to the above address.

Managing Director — H. F. Klassen
Production Manager — J. K. Neufeld

Subscription rate: \$1.75 a year;
in combination with the
Mennonitische Rundschau — \$4.50 a year,
payable in advance.

Authorized as Second Class Mail,
Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The MENNONITE OBSERVER strives to have Christ at the helm, the salvation of man as its goal, and the essential unity of all true Mennonites as its guiding principle.

They Thought of Others

By Martha Janzen

Vineland, Ont. — At Christmas time, when everyone looks forward so much to receiving, it is pleasant to think that many also experienced the truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

In the past the M. B. church choir has always exchanged names and held a Christmas box party. This year, in view of the physical need around us, they decided to forego the gifts and made up parcels of food and clothing for needy non-Mennonite families around Vineland. Their evening of fellowship, held Thursday, Dec. 27, was very successful, even minus the gifts. Rev. David Neumann of Virgil was the speaker for the evening.

As in other years, the Sunday school Christmas Eve program was well attended. On this occasion an offering was taken for the orphans in Korea. In the past the money collected has been near the \$300.00 mark. Even the little children were made to realize the need in the world by comparison. We have so much, and they—? Our Sunday school superintendent is Abe Dyck.

The Intermediate girls class of our church also had the welfare of others less fortunate in mind. On the Sunday following Christmas they gathered at the home of one of their teachers to practice some songs and to wrap the small gifts. Then they drove to nearby Bethesda, our home for the mentally ill, to visit and sing for some of the patients there. They restricted their visit to only one of the buildings, where they felt certain their songs and gifts would be appreciated. And appreciated they were! The teachers of this class are Katie Duerksen and Mrs. Agnes Janzen.

How thankful we are to be in a position where we can give of our substance. When Christ gave, He gave all. Can we match Him?

Choir Leader's Course in British Columbia

Abbotsford, B.C. — Mr. C. Balzer of Winnipeg was guest conductor and speaker at a choir conductors' course sponsored by the Mennonite Brethren music committee for B.C. and held from December 27 to 29.

Day sessions were held in the Abbotsford M. B. church, where W. A. Wiebe is the choir leader. Evening sessions, where Mr. Balzer demonstrated choir leading and gave pointers to the singers, were held at various places to give more singers a chance to participate.

Mr. Balzer, who is the conductor of the North Kildonan M. B.

Church choir and the "Gospel Light Hour" and "Licht des Evangeliums" choir, is a graduate of the Sacred Music course at the M. B. Bible College and has studied choral technique with Robert Shaw in California one summer. Rev. C. D. Toews, chairman of the B.C. music committee of the M. B. Church, served at several of the sessions.

Attendance at the sessions was not too good, but an encouraging feature was the presence of several Mennonite Conference choir leaders. Lack of effective publicity is blamed for the unsatisfactory attendance.

MCC TO STUDY RACE RELATIONS

The executive committee of the Peace Section was authorized at the MCC annual meeting to study American race relations and possibly organize a mission of goodwill, fellowship and inquiry to persons involved in current race problems.

The Peace Section voted to continue services of peace promotion in Europe and Japan beyond the termination dates of the present workers if satisfactory personnel and financing can be arranged. A program of writing and lecturing is carried on in these areas.

The 1957 Peace Section officers



A consecrated service for Christ with which many of the present generation may not be acquainted is that of deaconesses... Here are several young ladies from the Mennonite Brethren Church, Bage, Brazil, pictured as they were in preparation for deaconess service in Curitiba. Brother and Sister C. C. Peters have provided assistance for young women preparing for this service. "How grateful to God we will be," he writes, "when these sisters first take up their work in the colonies as deaconesses."

are H. S. Bender of Goshen, Ind., chairman; J. B. Toews of Hillsboro, Kans., vice-chairman; J. Harold Sherk of Akron, Pa., secretary. Members-at-large are C. J. Rempel of Kitchener, Ont.; Robert Kreider of Bluffton, Ohio; J. Harold Sherk of Akron, Pa.; and C. N. Hostetter of Grantham, Pa. Hostetter and Kreider are additional members of the executive committee.

Mennonite Peace Witness in Japan

Akron, Pa. (MCC News Release)

The concept of Christian peace is being shared with Japanese Christians through the efforts of Melvin Gingerich (Goshen, Ind.) as a representative of the Peace Section.

During the past six months Gingerich gave 120 lectures to more than 17,000 listeners in churches, public halls and schools. In addition, large amounts of literature were distributed.

Of the church meetings Gingerich said, "I deeply appreciated the fellowship and the response of Japanese Christians, nearly all of whom seemingly were open to an emphasis on Christian nonresistance."

Meetings in public halls, he said, found a cooler reception to the idea of peace and the relevance of Christianity to the present world scene. However, these meetings generally established a harmonious relationship through question periods.

Lectures in schools generally presented an opportunity to cultivate friendship and understanding, to stress the spiritual foundation of a free society and to emphasize the origins and nature of civil liberties. Gingerich commented that one of the most satisfying responses was in a Buddhist girls' school.

He said three questions were consistently asked: "What is your attitude on the production and testing of H-bombs?" "How do you explain the racial segregation and discrimination in the United States?" "What is your attitude toward America taking away farm lands of the peoples of Japan and Okinawa for the enlargement of military bases?"

A Food and Clothing Distribution in Berlin

By Mrs. J. K. Klassen

(MCC News Release) It was a great experience to distribute material aid to 100 needy persons invited by the Red Cross.

Gifts for each person from Mennonite Central Committee this time consisted of three pounds of cream-of-wheat, two cans of beef, one can of lard, one warm cover and a New Testament if it was desired.

Among these 100 persons many were "Heimkehrer" men and women (returnees from Russia). A 66-year old lady told about how hard she had to work — felling trees, sawing lumber, etc. When after five years of penal servitude she discovered she was to be sent to Siberia, she wanted to take her life. This was prevented.

She now lives with a daughter in Berlin. She has experienced much bitterness in her life and thus she could hardly grasp the idea of being given gifts. In vain she tried to bring her thanks into words. With a warm handshake she left.

Another mother was exiled to Siberia with her daughter. Both returned after eight years of difficult experience. How the mother rejoiced over the cover given her.

Another lady told how her husband returned on Christmas 1955

from exile and how he had seen his seven-year-old son for the first time. The joy in having the family reunited was very great. Here, too, the gifts were a great help.

Here are the words of a very poor widower: "Here is God again at work. He will repay you. I wish you God's richest blessing."

One mother was so happy and thankful for the gifts that within an hour she came again with the only picture she possessed. Deeply moved emotionally, she gave us the picture and said, "Please take this as a small token of our thankfulness and thank your congregations at home."

Several refugees said they could use the lovely covers, but they would abstain and let them for those who needed them more desperately. It was most interesting as a large man received his gift and said, "That is really a good gift and today is my 80th birthday."

A 77-year old grandfather said, "We have already celebrated our golden wedding anniversary and mother will soon have a birthday. I will give her this New Testament for her birthday. Oh how happy she will be."

HERE AND THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Church Ladies Host Choir

Steinbach, Man. — A group of ladies representing the M.B. Church here hosted the choir of the church to a delicious turkey supper on the evening of December 29. It was a token of appreciation of the church for the choir's service at the Sunday morning worship service and at special occasions.

In return the choir was challenged by the Ladies' Sewing Circle with the need for schools on the mission fields. Plates were placed at the end of the tables and everyone received the opportunity of giving to help alleviate this need.

* * *

Christmas Cheer Project

Saskatoon, Sask. — Carols rang through the air as the young people of the M. B. Church and the M. B. Mission of Saskatoon, Sask., distributed Christmas parcels to twenty needy homes on December 18. Their gifts and song met with expressions of appreciation.

This project was made possible by the voluntary contributions of the young people. A local business man, Ed Buller, donated toys for all the children in these homes.

* * *

Good Attendance at Carol Festival

Tofield, Alta. — A large crowd attended the carol festival held in

the Tofield Community Centre on December 19. Choirs from the Mennonite Brethren, Schoenseer Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, United and Catholic churches participated, as well as the local high school choir.

* * *

Steinbach Choir Sings "Bethlehem"

Steinbach, Man. — The Mennonite Brethren Church choir sang the cantata "Bethlehem" by Maunder on Friday, December 21. Conductor was Mr. Albert Loewen, while soloists were Peter Koslowsky of Niverville, tenor, David Falk of Winnipeg, bass; and Rita Stobbe of Winnipeg, soprano.

In the first part the cantata portrays a pastoral scene at the time of Christ's birth, showing the appearance of the angels to the shepherds and the Shepherd's adoration of the child. In the second part the meeting of the wise men and their journey to Bethlehem is the theme. Whereas the first two parts showed the attitude of the shepherds and the wise men, the third part challenges the listener to give himself as a gift to Christ.

In closing, the beautiful Christmas carol, "O Come All Ye Faithful", was sung.



Rev. G. Christian Weiss

tized believers in 50 churches. Seven years ago when the work was started by Sophie Muller, the people were noted for their godlessness, drinking and fighting. Now their FAITH is spoken of for thousands of miles around. They have literally "... turned to God from idols..."—all because someone was burdened for their souls.

Four missionaries under appointment also gave their testimonies at the services. Another missionary speaker, Art Janz of the Congo Inland Mission, was especially thankful for the prayers while they were out on the field.

Featured at the conference were most of the missionaries of the Western Gospel Mission, with headquarters in Steinbach. This comparatively new mission was organized 10 years ago by a few men burdened for the lost. It now serves eight stations, most of them in Saskatchewan. Thrilling reports were given of open doors in Western Canada and the challenge was thrown out for more workers as school teachers and evangelists. The primary work of the mission is in giving Bible classes in the public schools. In most schools the missionary is welcomed gratefully. Other work that missionaries do is house visitation, cottage meetings, street-meetings, and hospital visitation. There is a substantial mission hall with living quarters on most of the stations.

28 Consecrations

Music for the conference was supplied by various groups of young people from E. M. churches here and in other districts. Highlight of the conference was when some 28 people, mostly young people, came to the altar upon the call to consecration at the close of Rev. Toews' last message.

In his closing exhortation, Rev. Weiss pointed out that we will forget everything that we have heard at this conference unless our purpose is translated into action.

MORE ABOUT Bible Conference in Volendam

(Continued from page 1-2)

Ten workers from the Friesland Mennonite Brethren Church also came to share the blessings of the conference. Altogether 35 church workers, besides many other church members, participated in the services. (After the Volendam conference, Brethren Peters and Sukkau ministered in Friesland for several days.)

The evenings were devoted to evangelism. God used his servants to bring souls to definite decisions and others to conviction.

Sunday morning, November 18, two young Christians followed the Lord in baptism. The entire colony participated and almost filled the church to capacity. Brother Peters delivered the baptismal sermon and H. C. Born performed the baptism and accepted the new members into the church. At the Lord's table we were served by Brother Sukkau. Membership in the Volendam Mennonite Brethren Church now stands at 116.

The conference fulfilled its purpose. We ask for more such Bible-centered work with an emphasis on the obligations and privileges of the church, because the church is God's chosen medium of Gospel proclamation.

THE BIBLE TODAY

"Laddy" MacKillop, a ten year old boy has recovered a prized possession, because of a "hunch".

It had been feared that "Laddy's" Bible had been consumed in the flames that destroyed his parent's home in South Lancaster, Mass. The Bible was cherished as a Christmas gift from his pastor. Days after the fire the boy developed a conviction that the Bible had escaped destruction. Largely to humour his son, the boy's father drove him to their former home. Among the charred timbers and other debris in the boy's burned-out room they found the Bible beneath a collapsed chair. Its contents and cover were unharmed by either fire or water.

"Laddy" says he wants to be a minister some day because "they don't make much money but they do an awful lot of good".

When a man meets Christ, he meets one going in the opposite direction. Accepting His call and becoming a believer in Him involves turning around and following Christ, with all this may involve in self-denial... Without discipleship, there is no true Christian experience.

MORE ABOUT

Challenge of Missions Presented

(Continued from page 1-4)

the palace is the area of his activities (the world), and "his goods" are the souls of men. Christ came and bound the "strong man". Our task is to spoil the enemy of his goods. The preaching of the gospel of grace sets the captives free.

To Follow Up Contacts

In a subsequent message Rev. Wolfe told us something of his work with the Back to the Bible Broadcast. This consists of making recordings in the German and French languages for release over European radio stations. Letters by the hundreds have come to broadcast headquarters as a result of these broadcasts. The following up of these contacts will be done by the John Peters, who will leave Steinbach in the early part of January for Germany. The Peters have been very active in the Evangelical Mennonite Church here.

"The Spiritual Basis for the Missionary Record of the Apostolic Church" provided the theme for the first message delivered by Rev. J. B. Toews. Using Romans 1:14-17, he outlined the feeling of indebtedness that they had and the extent of that indebtedness. "How

can we reconcile the indifference of the church of Jesus Christ in the face of these great truths," Rev. Toews asked, stating that "the church must re-evaluate its position to the faith it claims."

Many Have Never Heard

Rev. Toews' second message was based on II Corinthians 5:14-17. In a forceful presentation he emphasized again and again that Christ had died so that the Christian should no longer live to himself. Yet the fact that one billion four hundred million people have never heard of Christ shows that the church is living in selfish ease while multitudes go to hell.

In a third message Rev. Toews outlined "Paul's Spiritual Prospectus" according to Acts 26:15-18. Paul's life was one of obedience, with no regard to personal dangers. In all of Rev. Toews' messages one could detect the burden of his heart: that the heathen should hear the gospel, and that the church of Jesus Christ might awaken to finish the job.

Changed Lives in Brazil

In a stirring account of their life in Brazil, Henry Loewen of the New Tribes Mission took us a thousand miles up the Amazon river and another 800 miles up one of its tributaries to the Issana, where their work is located. With him we praise God for the 525 bap-

Mennonite Brethren Mission Notes

Brother and Sister Hugo Jantz report a record number of letters received by HCJB German department during November. November was designated letter month by HCJB, and the German department received 240 letters from the following countries—Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Colombia, Panama, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Canada, United States, Bolivia, Uruguay and Ecuador. "Reports of improved reception come from everywhere," according to the Jantzes. "We praise God for the tremendous outreach of this ministry."

Katy Penner, R.N., Kajiji, Belgian Congo, is ill and under doctor's care. Much prayer has been offered in behalf of her recovery. Missionaries had set aside December 9 as a special day of intercession for her. To continue her work Sarah Peters R.N., has been transferred from Lusemvu to assist Dr. E. W. Schmidt and Arlene Gerdes, R.N., until missionaries in Belgium will be ready to serve on the Congo field. Sister Peters' transfer from Lusemvu will delay the opening of medical work at that station which she was scheduled to initiate.

Purchasing of a building in Neuwied, Germany, to serve as a house of worship and center for the work has been completed. This spacious building includes a large auditorium, living quarters for workers and rooms for Bible classes and smaller meetings. Brother and Sister J. W. Vogt moved into the building on December 17. Part of the funds for the purchase of this building has been provided through the Board of Foreign Missions treasury. The remaining part was made possible through a loan which the Neuwied congregation hopes to repay.

Conversion of several Chulupie Indians in Paraguay during 1956 is cause for gratitude. Work on the new Chulupie station under the supervision of Brother and Sister Kornelius Isaak will be joined by Brother and Sister Walter Rennert, who thus far have been spending most of their time in the Indian work near Filadelfia.

Colombia missionaries report a blessed Missionary Council meeting during the latter part of November. The Council recommends that Don Luis Carlos Agudelo be ordained to the ministry. Brother Don Luis has proved himself faithful as a minister and evangelist for a number of years on our Colombia field. Both Brother and Sister Don Luis are active workers in the church in the Choco. The Council also decided that Srta.

Lucila Montoya be sent to Noama to teach the Spanish language to the new missionaries, Brother and Sister Vernon Reimer and Sister Esther Wiens.

Every-believer Bible classes have begun in all of our stations. Jonathan Bartels write from Japan. Pray that many may attend regularly and these classes will result in the establishing of the believers in their faith. Bartels also write the following from Kasugade: "The church here is going through a time of testing and sifting. Pray that the church may be strengthened through this experience and that the individual Christians will be made to be a greater witness for Jesus Christ."

A group of workers representing our various European centers of activity met with H. H. Janzen in Neuwied, Germany, on December 5. Purpose of the meeting was to plan the ministry of Brother Janzen as related to our various centers of activity in Europe. Attending the meeting were the Brethren Abr. J. Neufeld and J. W. Vogt and Sister Elizabeth Wiebe. Plans are for Brother Janzen to begin work at Neustadt, then in Neuwied and later in Austria.

Baby daughters were born on December 2 to India missionaries E. E. Schmidts at Gadwal and G. J. Froeses at Jadcherla. At this time the Schmidt family is enroute home on furlough. God willing, they will leave Gadwal on January 1 and India on January 8.

At Post Oak Mission School the Christmas season represented a special time of joy during which the children of the Indians presented the programs, not only in the school but also in the church, much to the delight of the parents. This also represented a great opportunity to exalt the coming of the Christ Child to Bethlehem Who became the Saviour of the world. At Lawton View the Christmas program also constituted an excellent opportunity to make the story of the Christ known to the people in that neighborhood.

Anna Goertzen, missionary to Belgian Congo on furlough since mid-1956, is preparing to return. Plans are for her to depart early this year. She is returning as an educational missionary and will serve at Lusemvu station where she will replace Martha Willems whose furlough will soon be due.

The work in Austria has been influenced by the influx of Hungarian refugees. Our workers have purchased Bibles and Testaments in the Hungarian language and distributed them to the refugees. Gospel services have been



Sunday School of The Air

From a modest beginning as a quarter-hour program over one prairie station in 1934, SUNDAY SCHOOL OF THE AIR has expanded until today it is a full half-hour and is heard on CBC from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OF THE AIR is produced by CBC Winnipeg in co-operation with the Winnipeg branch of the Canadian Council of Churches and is heard every Sunday morning at 9:30 on CBW Manitoba, CBK Saskatchewan, CBX Alberta and CBXA Edmonton.

The program consists of a story read by Norm Micklewright, a quiz conducted by the Reverend Douglas Lauchlan of Charleswood United Church, and music by the East Kildonan Choir directed by Gertrude Lowery with Ruth Gordon at the piano. A regular panel of boys and girls of Sunday School age takes an active part in the program's weekly quiz.

Shown here are, left to right, storyteller Norm Micklewright talking to the Sunday School of the Air panel Paul Misener, Jennifer Dawson, Howard Elliott, Allison Reed and Avis Louise Elliott, while quizmaster Douglas Lauchlan looks on. (Not shown is panel member Peter Misener.)

held among these people, and there have been favorable responses.

Special prayer is needed in behalf of obtaining a document which is necessary to allow the missionaries in Brazil to receive the vehicle purchased for the work at Curitiba some time ago.

Mennonite Brethren Board of Welfare

Much deliberating and praying has been put forth in recent weeks concerning the future service of the Fernheim Bible Institute in Paraguay. There is a greater consciousness for a Christian worker training school to serve the entire South American Mennonite Brethren Conference. This consciousness also accelerates the indigenous church emphasis. Plans are being made for the institute's second year of theological courses. At this time the thinking is to operate the school so the greatest number of students can be accommodated. Plans are for the first semester to be offered in Bage, Brazil, beginning in February, and the second semester in Fernheim, Paraguay, beginning in June.

The short-term Bible school, however, will remain in Fernheim. Instruction is to begin before June 10, 1957. Improvements in the facilities of the Fernheim Bible School include construction of a cistern

and acquisition of chairs for students.

Four evenings of evangelistic meetings were recently held in Filadelfia and Charbiner Ecke in Paraguay with C. C. Peters as minister. At the latter place 12 persons found peace with God by accepting Christ as personal Saviour.

Fourteen persons were baptized in Neuland colony, Paraguay, on December 2. While continued emigration disrupts the organized work of the church, our brethren and sisters who remain are sincerely and courageously continuing the witness for the Lord.

Two baptisms have recently been held in Friesland colony, Paraguay, according to Kornelius Voth. At a baptism late in October, four individuals followed Christ in this ordinance.

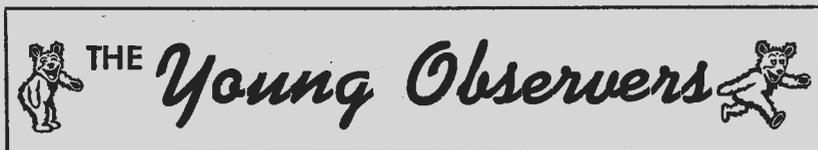
Your Church and You

By Frank C. Peters

This booklet was written for Mennonite Brethren young people who want to understand their church. It contains a brief historical resume of the Anabaptist heritage, the Prussian interlude, the developments in Russia and the migration to North America. Also contained in the booklet are chapters on: The Message of Your Church; The Witness of Your Church; and Your Responsibility to Your Church.

35¢

The CHRISTIAN PRESS, Ltd.
159 Kelvin St., Winnipeg 5, Man.



Let's Visit a Minute

Dear Boys and Girls,

Little Tony sat on the steps of the grocery store feeling very sad. He had a black circle around one eye and his head was aching very much. A while ago he had been fighting with a few of the bigger boys. No one seemed to care about him, and he began to wish someone would love him, too. He didn't want to go home, because his mother was out working and his grandfather was probably drunk. But there was one watching him, of whom Tony did not know. A young lady saw Tony sitting there and, feeling sorry for him, she sat down beside him.

"Where do you go to Sunday school?" she asked.

"I don't go," said Tony. "No one at our house believes in those things."

"Haven't you ever heard of the Lord Jesus and how He loves you?" she asked.

"No one loves me," Tony said under his breath. "Grandfather has mentioned Him, but he never said that Jesus loved me."

"Your grandfather probably does not know Jesus in the right way," she said. Then she began to tell Tony the story of Jesus and how He loved Tony. This was new to Tony, who had never heard anything so wonderful before. When the lady had finished, Tony said, "I want to have the Lord Jesus." So Tony was able to take the Lord Jesus into his heart right there on the steps of the grocery store.

Tony did not know much about the Lord Jesus, so the lady invited him to come to Sunday school. Tony went every Sunday, and when he got home he told his mother all about the wonderful stories he had heard. Tony was really a new person. His mother wondered at the change. He now always brought home the money from selling papers and he never fought with the boys. He was loving and kind to all, and stopped taking things away from others.

Tony's life as well as his heart had been changed. He showed others that he loved the Lord Jesus.

Boys and girls, do we show that we love the Lord Jesus by the way we live?
Aunt Selma.

A Chieftain's Daughter Finds Christ

Nancy Tupa grew up as all other Indian children do in the primitive jungle of the mighty Amazon river. Her father, an Indian chieftain whose word was law in a large area, was a great hunter. His sharp arrows not only killed the deer and the panther, but they also killed everyone who ventured into his hunting territory without permission. But he was also a cannibal, and a feast of men's flesh pleased him as much as roast venison. Nancy, who is only 16, still remembers vividly the cannibalistic orgies in her village.

When Nancy was about 12 years old, her father told her to marry a wild young lad from their tribe. She did not like the boy at all and protested loudly. This angered her father, and he beat her until she was unconscious. But Nancy had inherited the strong will of her father, and would not yield to his wishes, even though she knew he might kill her if she persisted.

Flight was the only way in which she could escape his wrath. Thus one day when her father and the hunters of the tribe left for several days of hunting, she slipped away secretly. She had heard that far away, where there were great waters, the "white man" had built a huge village from stones. That's where she wanted to go.

After four days of travelling, Nancy reached the Amazon river. There she was overjoyed to find a ship with a lot of these people with the funny skin on board. She herself was completely naked, and she had never seen a person with clothes on. One of the men saw her and called the Indian girl to him. His wife tried to put a dress on the naked girl, but Nancy quickly tore this from her body.

The people on the ship took Nancy along to the capital city of the province. There she was taken to the president of the state. Before she was to be presented to the president, the guards tried to put a dress on Nancy, but she bit and clawed like a wild animal, and

they had to give up the attempt. The president gave Nancy to a family to train and teach, but these people were also not Christians and they mistreated Nancy. Yet she gradually became used to the ways of the white man, even though she oftentimes received punishment for doing something wrong.

Some time later the family with whom Nancy was staying moved to a different part of the state. In this area a missionary was preaching the Gospel with real success, so that a small church had already been founded. By chance one of the ladies in this church saw the sad-eyed Indian girl and invited her to come to Sunday school and to the church services. There Nancy heard about the Lord Jesus for the first time.

The stories of the Lord Jesus were very strange to Nancy. She couldn't believe it that He should love even her—an unwanted Indian girl. She also found it strange that He wanted her to stop lying, stealing, cheating, and becoming angry. But one day she prayed, asking the Lord Jesus to make her like Dona Josefina, the lady who had invited her to Sunday school. She asked God to make her new—and the Lord Jesus did just that. He even made it possible for Nancy to move in with Dona Josefina, where she started studying. The missionary came out regularly to teach her. He was surprised at how quickly she learned, for you could see the change in her from day to day.

When Nancy had accepted the Lord Jesus and taken Him into her heart, she heard about the importance of baptism. She was very glad that she could be baptized, too, so she invited personally all the important people in the town, including the mayor and the police chief. All were to know that she, the heathen chieftain's daughter, was now a happy child of God.

Yes, even as God led Abraham out of his homeland to be able to bless him especially, so God brought Nancy away from her home to a place where she could become rich in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Unto The Least of These

Katie and her mother boarded the bus for the trip to the grandparents in British Columbia. They settled back into their seats for the long trip. It was very hot in the bus, for a hot sun had been beating unmercifully upon the prairies for several days. The clothes seemed to stick to Katie, and drops of perspiration stood on her forehead.

Finally the bus started. Backing out from its parking space at the bus terminal, it began the long

trip to the coast. The passengers were complaining about how hot it was, and they were happy that they were on their way.

Near the back a young man opened his window as wide as he could. Oh, how pleasant to get a little circulation of air into the bus and to feel the fresh air on one's cheeks. As the bus gained speed, the rush of air increased.

In the seat behind the young man an elderly lady sat with a white cane in her hand. She was obviously a blind woman, for she also wore glasses. Suddenly she spoke up.

"It is very drafty here," she said. "Would you please close the window, since I cannot stand any draft."

The people round about her looked at one another. Everyone seemed to be thinking, "This terrible heat—and then close the window?"

The young man sat up a little and pulled the window down until it was almost closed—but not completely closed. The other passengers saw it, but no one said anything. The bus rolled along the highway as rapidly as ever, with trees and power poles flitting by. Suddenly the voice of the blind woman was heard again.

"Is that window really closed?" she asked with a tremor in her voice.

"Yes," the young man answered quickly. Everyone knew that he was lying. Even though the woman knew this too, she did not say anything anymore. But a helpless, resigned look on her face betrayed how she felt.

Suddenly Katie's mother rose and, going to the window, closed it firmly with a sharp click. No one dared say anything against her action.

"Why did you close the window?" Katie asked her mother after the blind woman had left the bus at a small prairie town. "That woman was so particular—and she probably would not have noticed it if the window had remained open."

"As Christians we must always remember the words of Christ, 'What you have done unto the least of these, ye have done unto me.'" her mother answered.

Yes, boys and girls, it is easy to be so concerned with our own comfort, our own pleasure, that we disregard others. To be selfish is easy because we are naturally selfish, but to be unselfish—to be kind to others—takes a real effort. Yet if we are following Christ, we will always be ready to help our "neighbour".

Future Subscribers

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Victor Dick, Winnipeg, a daughter, Margaret Joy, on January 3, 1957.

The School of God *By Peggy Arbogast*

—Used by permission of Wm. B. Erdmans Publishing Company—

(23rd Intallment)

Ruth laughed rather ruefully. "It's always easier to tell others what they should do than to do those things ourselves. I know that my future is in the hands of my Heavenly Father. My job is to do His will daily as He makes it known to me. He has my life all planned, and each lesson He sends will work together for my good, even though I may not be able to see it at the time. Some day I'll be able to look back and understand it all."

Janet nodded. "Yes, I believe that is true, Ruth," she said softly. "You know, I think being a teacher has greatly helped me to appreciate what the School of God means to you. It has meant a lot to me too. As a teacher, I wouldn't think of treating timid little Connie in the same manner as I would bold Billy Foster. I spend a great deal of time studying each one of my pupils. Each one is a different individual, and needs to be treated differently. Some of my pupils are dull mentally, they need easy work and much encouragement. Then there are some who can do so much more than the average. They keep me busy thinking up harder problems to give them something to do. It does them good to be stopped awhile by some really tough piece of work."

Ruth listened to her friend with sparkling eyes. Her lips were slightly parted and she leaned forward. It seemed that daily the idea of the School of God became more precious to her. Now as Janet talked about her teaching, a new thought struck Ruth, which filled her being with praise and adoration for her Redeemer.

"Oh, Janet," she interrupted eagerly. "That makes me think of Luke 11, verse 13 I believe it is. It goes like this, 'If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?' You as a teacher, just give the best that is in you to meet the individual needs of your pupils. How much more does our Teacher in the School of God plan each lesson to meet the needs of each pupil in His School."

"Yes," agreed Janet. "We educators talk about progressive education, and pat ourselves on the back that we are up to date. But, really, the one big thought in progressive education is to meet the needs of the individual instead of

just teaching subject matter. Why, our God has dealt that way with mankind since the creation, and He never makes a mistake either. Sometimes after studying and studying, we think we have a child all figured out. We give him the lesson we think is just right for him, and then we discover our figuring was all wrong. What he really needs is something entirely different from what we've given."

"Why, our Teacher doesn't have to try to figure us out," said Ruth. "He knows us. We are the creatures of His Hand. He made us and He knows without any studying just what each one of us needs. He has already planned every detail of our lives. I guess sometimes some of your pupils think the lessons you give them are hard, but you know what is best for them. Just so, our Teacher in the Great School of God, knows what is best for us. He gives me one kind of a lesson, and you another. You can get along perfectly well without some lesson that I need very badly. Sometimes even yet, I just cry out, why have all these things been brought about in my life now? Then I remember that they are all part of my schooling, and I'm thankful for them even though I can't understand."

"Ruthie, our Saviour knows who can be trusted with the hard lessons. I wouldn't think of giving anything really difficult to little Harry Bell. He just couldn't do it, and would only get discouraged. A more intelligent pupil might become discouraged temporarily, but he'd stick at the lesson until he'd completed it. The Lord is using these hard lessons to develop the strong characteristics which He has planted within you. We who pride ourselves on being progressive educators strive to give to each pupil the thing that will best fit him to become a contributing member of his community. If he is a success, it reflects back upon the training we've given him and we rejoice in it. Our Saviour is giving you just the schooling which you need to fulfill the place in life which He has planned for you. He is the real progressive Educator. And, Ruth, as you learn and grow through these lessons, you bring glory and honour to your Teacher."

CHAPTER XVIII

The remaining days of summer passed swiftly, and September was upon them before the Arnold's

knew it. The crisp autumn days would have been very enjoyable, if it had not been for the fact that Bob had not yet been able to obtain work. Betty had brought home an occasional half dollar earned by caring for a neighbour's child, but the carefully budgeted money was rapidly dwindling.

Ruth was not quite so calm as she placed the potatoes in the oven one Friday evening. She looked at the few remaining in the basket, and wondered just how far she could stretch them. Bob was almost desperate as he entered the house a few moments later. Ruth did not have to ask him if he had met with any success. One look at his face was all that was necessary.

"Oh, Bob," she wailed as she followed him into the living room and dropped beside him upon the couch. "What are we going to do?"

"I wish I knew," groaned the boy as he wearily placed his head in his hands.

"I'm sorry, Bobby. I shouldn't have greeted you that way. You've been tramping around all day trying your best to get something. Now, when you arrive home, all tired out and discouraged, I come and weep on your shoulder instead of greeting you with a cheery smile. I don't even have supper ready for you."

Bob put his arm about his sister and patted her shoulder. "Don't you mind about that, Ruthie girl," he said. "It's not so easy staying home and just waiting all day either. It gives you a good chance to worry and that doesn't help any. By the way, where's Betty?"

"She's staying with the MacArthur baby."

"Well, that means another dollar or so, doesn't it?" cried Bob in an effort to cheer his sister.

"Yes it does, Bob," answered the girl slowly. "But Bob, we need more than that. I don't know where we would have been by now if it weren't for Aunt Sally. If she hadn't given us all those tomatoes and beans from her garden and then showed me how to can them, our cupboard would be bare. I'm so glad she did accept some peaches from our tree. I don't feel quite so much an object of charity."

"Yes, we can praise the Lord for Aunt Sally," returned Bob. "And you did put up enough of those things to last us a good while, didn't you?"

"Yes," admitted Ruth. "Still we can't live indefinitely on tomatoes, beans and peaches for three meals a day. Besides, we still haven't paid Dr. Blake. There are taxes on the house, besides water, gas and electricity to pay for. And, oh, Bob, the days are getting colder. We don't have any coal. There's no use pretending. I'm

afraid and I might as well admit it."

"Things do look mighty black," agreed Bob. "But they've looked black before and we've come through them. What about the time Connie was so sick? The Lord worked everything out. We're just having some more night lessons in the School of God. You said He taught you things in night school that you couldn't learn any other way. When you, I mean, when we have learned what He would teach us through this experience, He'll bring us out of it. He's never failed you, has He?"

"No, but oh, Bob, this is different. I've never faced anything like this before."

"Sh, here comes Connie from the yard. You don't want her to see you like this, do you?" warned the boy.

Ruth forced a smile as the little one ran in. The smile quickly vanished, however, and a look of consternation took its place. "Honey, what's wrong?" she gasped.

Connie threw herself into Ruth's arms and broke into uncontrollable sobs. It was several minutes before the older girl was able to calm her enough for her to relate the cause of her fright.

"I was coming home from Aunt S-Sally's," cried the child. "There was a big man looking in our dining room window, the one that opens into the g-garden. I thought it was Daddy, but he was too big. He went away, but oh, his face was so awful."

It was not a merry meal that the three sat down to a short while later. Connie's bad fright had taken away her appetite. Ruth and Bob were really hungry, for each unknown to the other, had been going without the noon meal for several days. But they too were worried and distraught.

"Would you believe it, Bob," suddenly cried Ruth as she jumped up from the table. "Tonight is Fellowship Night and the meeting is here. Goodness, we'll have to hurry."

"I had forgotten it too," admitted her brother. "Each day seems the same to me anyway, and I didn't realize it was Friday."

A little later the living room was buzzing with voices as one after another the young folks arrived. The group was no longer confined to the original six who had gathered at the Arnold's that earlier Friday evening. Others from the church had joined them. They no longer just gathered about the piano to sing. They sat about the room and after singing heartily for fifteen minutes had prayer, followed by testimonies. Then Keith or sometimes a visitor would bring a short Bible message. There had been souls born again at those meetings and the attendance seemed to grow each week.

(To be continued)

Topeka's Welcome Club

By Mrs. Milo Stahl

Twenty-six boisterous children came to Welcome Club—some with their black faces shining from a recent scrubbing, but more had a true "come as you are" appearance.

Recreation period passed quickly with its usual good time as well as usual disputes to settle. The children required guidance, correction, encouragement and praise while working on their crafts the following hour.

The worship period came and the children were more quiet, but some still restless. They sang lustily and seemed to enjoy it. What appeared to be a small dispute soon demanded that a staff member stop the flying fists.

Gary and Ronnie sat down again, but frequent sullen glances passed between them. They both understood that language—the language of resentment, hate and revenge which says, "I'll get even, I will, and you'll be sorry. We'll have it out as soon as we have a chance. I'll show you. . ." This language undertoned the rest of the worship period.

The group was in turmoil, pushing and shoving as they left Club. There was more commotion on the porch. The language of revenge was shouting now as fists flew with hateful purpose between Gary and Ronnie.

An I-W staff member stepped between the boys and stopped the fists, but revenge still rampaged. Their breath came in heavy gasps, their eyes were dark and flashing with unreleased anger, clenched fists were restless.

"Come on, fellows, let's get together here," he said as he placed a strong arm around each boy. The boys were led into the house and sat on the divan.

"You started it, you hit me first!"

"You shoved me off the porch!"

"Let's have it out, I think we better have it out right now!"

The I-W said, "Now fellows, it would be easy enough for me to go, let you have it out and have a big fight but what would that prove?"

One of the boys insisted, "I don't know, but I think we ought to have it out."

"I don't think it would prove anything, Ronnie. You know, boys, there is another way to settle this. The stronger of you two is the one who can ask forgiveness, the one who can keep his fists where they belong. It takes the stronger boy to do that."

Surprise appeared on their faces.

"I know you've probably never heard this before and it is going to be a hard thing to do," the staff man said. "You can't do it by yourself and that is why we have to ask God to help us. Do you boys ever pray about things?"

Both answered affirmatively. The instructor suggested they pray.

"You mean now and let him hear me?" queried Gary with disbelief as he eyed Ronnie.

But they agreed to let their instructor pray. Then Gary and Ronnie smiled, shook hands and each said he was sorry. They had experienced the better way and character was being molded Godward.

I-W Mirror

THAT WOULD BE TELLING

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime,
You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which you burdens bear,
By the kinds of things at which you laugh,
By the records you play on the phonograph,
You tell what you are by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat;
By the books you choose from the wellfilled shelf,
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself,
So there's really no particle of sense,
In an effort to keep up False Pretense.

MORE ABOUT

Growing up

(Continued from page 2-4)

approach: to make us lazy in Bible reading and unreceptive when we do take time to read.

The Spirit of God is a second means of growth. He is declared to be the Author of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21) and thus He opens the truths concerning Christ to us. Jesus said of this Spirit: "He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you" (John 16:14). How important, as we read God's Word, to make sure that we are in such a relationship with God, that the Spirit can show us the truths from the Bible. This is impossible where unconfessed sin is in the heart of the believer. The Spirit not only helps us to understand Scripture, but also to pray to the Father. I don't know whether we can determine which is more important: reading the Bible, or pray-

er. We do know that each is absolutely essential to spiritual growth. Your prayer life is the assertion before God and men that heavenly things are more important to you than earthly things, and the building of treasure in heaven goes hand in hand with Christian growth. How can I be filled with the Spirit? In my opinion, it can be answered in one word: obedience, as we read in Acts 5:32: "the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him".

Finally, fellowship is necessary for growth. This does not mean sitting in church together. It does not necessarily happen when you go visiting a Christian friend Sunday afternoon, especially if you confine your conversation to the negative qualities of your boss. Fellowship means sharing spiritual things. To have fellowship with God means to share with him the burden of a needy world, including lost souls, and the cares of Christians. To have fellowship with Christians means to share this same burden with one another. To effect such fellowship we must communicate with one another, and pray together. No normal Christian ever outgrows the need for fellowship.

May the year 1957 break records for spiritual growth in your life!

*Teacher in East Chilliwack Bible School.

The Gossip

The meeting has come to order and proceedings have started. There is one absentee, which nobody can understand because he is always so genuinely interested. It is not long, however, before this late comer makes his appearance. He is puffing so hard from over-exertion that he has barely enough draft left to pant out the one word — "What?" — which all knowingly interpret to mean that the new arrival would like to have a resume of what has transpired thus far and immediately comply with his wishes, while he, in return, barter off such an immense volume of news which he has garnered that even his being late can be excused.

The topics under discussion are wide and varied. Varied, that is, within their limits of comprehension. For each person out of wedlock they have a list of eligibles. This list is always subject to revision—upwards. If one of these victims is ever so bold as to talk to one of the opposite sex, the motive is quite obvious and there is no doubt whatsoever in their minds as to what the final result will be. A likely date for the wedding must be anticipated. But it is an actual wedding that puts the heaviest burden on their shoulders. Then it becomes necessary to

keep constant vigil to detect—among other things—the first signs of dissention between the couple.

Accidents are another favorite. It is a foregone conclusion that the driver involved in a traffic accident was drunk, except where someone a little closer to the fold is involved; then the other driver was drunk. Of course they will go to the funeral to gloat at the misery of the next of kin, and if deep emotions are not visibly forthcoming, their comment is "They simply didn't care," meaning; how could they have disappointed us so rudely?

In the meantime the late-comers' puffing has subsided, additional information has put a new glint in his eye and he has stored up a certain amount of energy which must of necessity be spent very quickly in dispatching the latest to the next station.

With one last enquiring look around the group to assure himself that no one has any further contribution to make, he gets ready for the takeoff. Shoes creaking under the strain, he makes haste to the next stop, where the whole procedure is repeated.

Let's Sing

THE YOUTH HYMNARY

Youth needs the inspiration of great music; youth needs also to grow in appreciation of great music. This youth hymnary has been prepared by Lester Hostetler and is a supplement to the Hymnary previously published for the General Conference Mennonite Church. It contains hymns, gospel songs, spirituals, carols, part songs, and canons, with several songs arranged with descant.

Price \$2.50

God's Wonderful World
By Agnes Leckie Mason and
Phyllis Ohanian. 165 pp.

This pocketbook edition of songs for the home, kindergarten, and Sunday school, is truly a unique collection. It will be exceptionally useful for all those who work with little children, and older children as well. Many songs have only one verse, with very few having more than two verses. Many delightful songs to make the children conscious of God's wonderful world round about them are in this book. Public school teachers will also be able to use many of these songs.

Price 60c.

The CHRISTIAN PRESS, Ltd.
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THE RELIGIOUS KALEIDOSCOPE

Religious Leaders Criticize 'Juke Box' Gospel Jazz

Songs with religious sentiments have been severely criticized by church leaders who call them "dangerous" and "an enemy of true religion."

Bishop Richard C. Raines of the Methodist Church, speaking in Lafayette, Indiana, criticized "religious jazz tunes" today as dangerous because they represented only the "fringe of the gospel." The Indianapolis Bishop told the closing session of a week-long conference on evangelism that these songs tended to "misrepresent or caricature the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Bishop said popular songs helped mold the nation's ideals, "But the fact is most such creations of Tin Pan Alley say in effect, 'My will be done with God's help, rather than God's will be done with my help.'"

Dr. James A. Pike, dean of New York's Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, referring to such current song hits as, "He", "Somebody Up There Likes Me," "Try a Little Prayer," "The Bible Tells Me So" and a dozen others of like nature, voiced his objection in a recent newspaper article.

The emphasis that "God will always say, 'I forgive,'" or that God "will stand beside me, right or wrong" is incomplete, declared the dean. Conditions like repentance are "conveniently overlooked" in the songs, which describe "an Ersatz religion, without awe, without mystery, without reverence, without judgment — and in the end, without reality," Dr. Pike concluded.

(ERA)

Team Loses Teachers, School, Plane in New Guinea Uprising

A native uprising in Dutch New Guinea last November 4th, in which 12 native teachers were killed, a mission school burned to the ground and a newly-arrived missionary aircraft chopped to pieces, has been confirmed by the foreign secretary of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Louis L. King.

Mr. King released the text of a cablegram he received last November 6th from TEAM missionary Robert Chrisman in New Guinea and at the same time revealed that a second attack on another station had been repelled by local police. No missionary loss of life was suffered in either uprising.

In the first attack at Obano the Kapaukus, alarmed because their pigs were dying of disease, killed 12 national teachers, burned the entire village — including the TEAM mission school — to ashes and chopped a newly received mission aircraft into useless pieces. In the second attack a three-day at-

tempt to destroy an outpost at Enarotali was repelled by New Guinea police. There were 23 missionaries at Enarotali, none at Obano.

The situation, according to King, quieted down after local police inflicted severe reprisals and made many arrests. (ERA)

Catholic Church Again Urges Philippine Dedication

President Magsaysay is under pressure from the Roman Catholic Church to officially dedicate the Philippines to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Reports indicate it seems likely he may comply with their request, perhaps for political reasons, since he is due for re-election next year.

The dedication issue is not a new one. In 1937 attempts were made to persuade President Quezon to do the same thing. He established a precedent when he replied to the Archbishop of Manila, "Well, I'm a good Catholic, but I cannot perform what you want me to do because it would be in violation of the separation of church and state." (MNS)

CANADASCOPE

No Settlement Yet

In spite of the intervention of the Canadian Congress of Labour, and the proposal of a plan acceptable by the union, the strike by CPR firemen continues. The proposal by the CLC would shelve the issue of whether firemen should be on diesels during freight and yard work for another year, so that it could be studied by a special committee. The CPR rejected the proposal.

Périlous Time for Lumber Industry

A stern warning that mass layoffs in British Columbia's forest industry may occur unless full cooperation is exercised by management, labor and government, was given by L. L. G. Bentley, vice-president of Canadian Forest Products. "The Lumber situation is so perilous today that everyone concerned should concentrate his efforts on keeping it operating in 1957," he said.

New Iron Developments in Ontario

Cartier Mining, a subsidiary of United States Steel Corporation, is ready to start this spring on a \$200,000,000 iron-ore mining development north of Shelter Bay, Que.

The project is the largest of its kind since Iron Ore Company of Canada undertook five years ago, at a cost of \$250,000,000, to mine rich deposits of iron ore straddling

the Quebec-Newfoundland boundary.

Gasoline, Oil Price Hike Possible

A one or two cent a gallon increase in the price of gasoline and a comparative boost in domestic fuel oil and crude oil seems almost certain for Canadians. As a result of the Suez crisis a price boost of one cent a gallon on gasoline and 35 cents a barrel on crude oil has been made by the Humber Oil and Refining Co. in the United States. Troubles in the Middle East have already set "pressures to work" to bring increases in parts of the U.S. and Canada.

THE WORLD TODAY

Israeli's Won't Vacate Sinai

The Israelis have completed the first phase of their withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula and thus have vacated half of the area, the Israeli Army Chief of Staff, Maj.-Gen. Moshe Dayan, told Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, the UN Emergency Force Commander.

The new Israeli line will run just south of El Arish, a town in the north where the two commanders conferred—but there are no plans for any Israeli withdrawal from Sharm Es-Sheikh, at the southern end of the peninsula. From here the Egyptians blockaded the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping from 1948 until the time the Israelis recaptured it in their October offensive.

The Israelis are not willing to withdraw from their present position until they gain the promise of unhampered use of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Chinese Find Oil

The Chinese Communists have discovered large oil fields in the wild northwest. In this region of vast deserts towns now are being built to house hundreds of thousands of oil workers: Mongol herdsmen, unemployed from Shanghai and thousands of ex-army men.

There are four main centres where oil has been discovered. The richest field is Karamai in the Dzungaria basin. The best known field is in the adjoining province of Kansu at Yumen. Another field, discovered two years ago, lies about 100 miles south of Yumen at Tsaidam. The fourth field is 100 miles west of the capital of Sinkiang, Tihwa.

Communists Incensed at Eisenhower Doctrine

The Communist countries of Russia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Hungary lost no time in launching a counter-offensive

against the Eisenhower move to stabilize the Middle East by asking for stand-by authority to use armed force without congressional approval and special funds to help Middle Eastern countries. They reacted violently against any attempt to oust Soviet forces from Hungary, declaring they would fight for Hungary and the Middle East.

First Ships Move Out of Suez

A string of ships marooned in the Suez Canal more than two months got up steam on January 6 and began a complicated voyage to the sea. In all, 13 ships of seven countries were caught heading south in the canal when British and French warplanes began bombardment Oct. 31 in preparation for the invasion of Port Said. Two ships began the trip out on Sunday.

REVIVING WILTED CUT FLOWERS

The two main factors affecting the life of cut flowers are age and their ability to "take up water". Most people know that older flowers will not keep as long as fresh ones. Not so well known is the fact that a great many cut blooms wilt and die prematurely simply because they are not able to absorb water, says Dr. A. P. Chan, horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Every flower stem has water conducting vessels which supply the stem, leaves and flowers with the water needed to keep them turgid. When these vessels are crushed, blocked by air bubbles, or by other obstructions, the cut blooms wilt. If the vessels are cleaned before the blooms are severely wilted, recovery is possible.

The first step is to cut off a piece of the stem end with a sharp knife. In general a knife cut is better than one made with scissors or shears because these implements sometimes flatten the water vessels. Whether the cut is made straight across or at a slant is immaterial. Immediately after cutting the stem, place the blooms in warm water. A temperature of 100-110 degrees F. is recommended. It is well to note that this temperature will feel only tepid when tested with the hand. An alternate treatment is to dip the freshly cut blooms into a jar or vase containing water and a small amount of household detergent for 30 minutes. Then place blooms in clear water. A longer treatment may be injurious to some flowers.

The use of commercial flower preservatives is highly recommended. This addition to the water and keeping the blooms from high temperatures and draughts will not only help to prevent blooms from wilting but will preserve them for the longest period.

Weddings

PENNER — WARKENTIN

Margaret Warkentin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Warkentin of Tofield, Alberta, and Peter Penner, son of Mrs. P. Penner of Coaldale, Alta., were married in the M.B. church at Lindbrook, Alta., on November 11. Rev. P. J. Warkentin, father of the bride, officiated. Guest speaker was Rev. A. P. Regier of Coaldale, who spoke in English.

Mr. and Mrs. Penner are residing at a Hutterite colony near Coaldale, Alta., where the groom is teaching school.

Obituaries

MRS. SUSIE FRIESEN

Mrs. Susie Friesen, 69, passed away on December 24 in East Kildonan, Winnipeg, after suffering a heart attack. The funeral service was held from the North Kildonan M. B. church on Thursday, December 27.

Mrs. Friesen was born on June 26, 1887, in Waldheim, Russia, and came to Canada in 1924, four years after her husband passed away. A widow for 36 years, she has lived in Winnipeg with her children.

She is survived by a son, Victor, and a daughter, Lydia, both of Winnipeg. A brother, John, resides in Saskatchewan, while a sister is still in Russia.

* * *

MRS. CORNELIUS WALL

Mrs. Cornelius Wall, 77, went to be with the Lord on December 26 after 11 days of illness. Following is her obituary (condensed) as sent in by the family.

Elizabeth Wall (nee Peters) was born on June 18, 1879, in Orloff, Sagraadowka, Ukraine. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior at 16 and was received into the M. B. Church at 17 after baptism. On June 1, 1900, she was married to me, Cornelius J. Wall. During 56 years of married life the Lord proved his never-ending faithfulness. He entrusted nine children, four daughters and five sons, to us. One son, Corny, preceded her in death in 1936.

Emigrating from the Ukraine in 1903, we arrived in Rosthern, Sask., that fall. In 1905 we homesteaded in the Borden district, where we experienced the Lord's singular protection and favor. For 16 years we joyfully shared in the organization, work and fellowship of the M. B. Church there. Since 1951 we have had our home in Saskatoon.

Mother served her Lord with undivided loyalty. During her

younger years many songs of praise and comfort came from her lips. She had a special interest in the Sunday school, particularly so in her later years when partial deafness made it difficult for her to follow a sermon. She faithfully assisted father in his work as a deacon.

Occasionally sickly during her life, mother failed to regain her strength after a major operation in 1953. On December 15 she became seriously ill and was hospitalized the following day. Our doctor, Brother A. A. Dick, did his utmost to ease mother's pain and make her comfortable after diagnosing her condition as severe inflammation of the gall bladder, attended by organic complications. She peacefully entered the heavenly portals at 6:40 a.m. on December 26.

She leaves to mourn, her beloved husband; four daughters, Mrs. Tena Dyck of Langley, B.C., Mrs. Annie Siemens of Borden, Sask., Mrs. Linda Esau of Chilliwack, B.C., Mrs. Frieda Wood-

ward of New Westminster, B.C.; four sons, John and Jake of Borden, Ben of Saskatoon, William of Chilliwack; four sons-in-law and four daughters-in-law; two brothers, Frank and George Peters of Terrace, B.C.; 39 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren, and a large circle of friends.

* * *

MRS. ANNA WIEBE

Mrs. Anna Wiebe, 80, of Abbotsford, B.C., passed away December 22 in the MSA General Hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon, Dec. 30, from Matsqui Mennonite Brethren church, with Rev. A. Rempel and Rev. H. Epp officiating.

Mrs. Wiebe was born in Russia and had lived in the district for 10 years. She was predeceased by her husband, Abram Wiebe, several months ago.

Surviving are one son, Henry of Aldergrove; two daughters, Mrs. J. Penner of Manitoba and Anne at home, 19 grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

1946 where she lived, going to Akron last summer.

Surviving are her brother Reuben of Harrisonville and sisters, Mrs. John Miller of Filer, Idaho; Mrs. Ora Hartzler and Mrs. C. V. Hartzler, both of Harrisonville.

JUNIOR VILLAGE

The six volunteers at Junior Village in Washington, D.C., report they were overloaded with activities during the Christmas season helping with festivities for the 200 dependent and neglected children.

The volunteers serve as counselors in small, new cottages. Children brought to Junior Village are from broken or semi-broken homes. Some are there a few days or weeks and some for longer periods of time.

One worker relates an experience with two children: "Ann and Patty came to Taft Cottage. Ann was crying, asking for her mummy. Patty acted as big sister to Ann.

"There were times when no one could do anything with Ann except Patty. No one else could touch her. They would not be separated for nursery school.

"I took an interest in Ann, feeling that something could be done for the dear child. I felt she could not trust anybody, so I told her she could come to me any time. She comes to me now and tells me her problems and desires instead of crying.

"Her father is in prison and her mother is unable to support them. The girls talk about 'going home tomorrow'. But tomorrow never comes for them."

More voluntary workers could find big opportunities for Christian service at Junior Village.



MATERIAL AID

The material aid program is to undergo a study to determine the best ways to handle material assistance, according to action at the MCC annual meeting. The study committee includes Elmer Ediger (chairman), General Conference; Boyd Nelson, (Old) Mennonite; Edward G. Snyder, Waterloo Ont., office; M. A. Kroeker, Mennonite Brethren; Ira Buckwalter, Lancaster Conference; and Robert Miller, MCC Akron.

NORTH GERMANY

The present MCC program in North Germany is being directed toward an indigenous youth work. Leonard Gross (Doylestown, Pa.) is giving leadership to the youth with a year-round program of youth programs and retreats. MCC personnel in Europe have been serving as speakers and MCC food and blankets used.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKER DIES

Lela N. Yoder of Filer, Idaho, died Jan. 2 at Ephrata (Pa.) Hospital following a period of illness. She was a cook at the Akron headquarters in the voluntary service program the past seven months.

She was born at Harrisonville, Mo., and was a member of Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church at Garden City, Mo., where she was active in Sunday school work.

She moved to Filer, Idaho, in

NEW MCC MEMBER

The Beachy Amish Mennonite Church is now represented on the MCC. Appointed was Elam L. Kauffman of Ronks, Pa., vice-president of the Amish Mennonite Aid organization. There are now 13 conferences with MCC membership.

1957 OFFICES

MCC officers for the coming year are C. N. Hostetter Jr. of Grantham, Pa., chairman; H. A. Fast of Newton, Kans., vice-chairman; Orrie O. Miller of Akron, Pa., secretary-treasurer; H. S. Bender of Goshen, Ind., assistant secretary.

Orrie O. Miller and William T. Snyder are members-at-large of the executive committee. Additional members include H. S. Bender of Goshen, Ind., and J. J. Thiessen of Saskatoon, Sask.

PERSONNEL

Emma Schlichting of Weatherford, Okla., has begun another period of service at Akron headquarters. She has formerly served in Akron, Paraguay and Germany. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Schlichting and a member of the Mennonite Brethren Church at Corn, Okla.

Herbert R. Kramer of Hagerstown, Pa., serves as a new psychiatric aide at Brook Lane Farm, Hagerstown, Md. He is a member of the Church of the Brethren at Quakertown, Pa.

D.C. Kauffman (Goshen, Ind.), former director of MCC in Europe, is serving part-time as counselor-advisor for the Ailsa Craig (Ont.) Boys Farm and part-time in the hospital development program for the East-Central area of the Mennonite Mental Health Service.

THE BIBLE TODAY

A current news item has called attention to one of the earlier and most successful Bibles ever translated into a primitive tongue.

Word comes from Entebbe, Uganda, the seat of British administration there, of the loan of a copy of the "biscuit-tin" Bible to a museum.

The nickname was given because of the Bible's size. It measures three inches broad and the same in thickness. It fitted snugly into a two pound biscuit tin so plentiful in that part of Africa at the time it was published. Such storage assured protection against both white ants and mildew.

The Bible displayed is in the Luganda language spoken throughout Uganda. It was loaned to the Museum by the present Chief of the Bugunda tribe, Mutessa II. The original owner was the chief of the tribe at the time of its publication in 1897.

BIBLE INSTITUTES

BETHANY BIBLE INSTITUTE HEPBURN, SASK.

Hepburn, Sask. — At the conclusion of another year we are mindful of all the way the Lord has led us. Many have been the blessings which the Lord has showered upon us as we have occupied ourselves with the study of his precious word.

Our chapel periods every morning have been to us as fresh manna from heaven. A refreshing change from the regular routine have been the Student Chapels every Wednesday. With the students of the senior class in charge, the students of the various classes serve us in song and testimony and often also with a sermonette. Then we have also had the privilege of hearing a number of missionaries bring us challenges from various fields. During the past month these have included Miss King of the Sudan Interior Mission, representing the leper work in Nigeria, Miss Nettie Berg from our field in the Belgian Congo, Rev. George Brucks of the European Evangelistic Crusade, and Rev. Howard Klassen of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

The Lord has given us many opportunities to serve Him. The Chorus Choir, under the direction of Brother J. K. Schroeder, has been kept particularly busy. In addition to broadcasting of "Gospel Echoes" over CKBI, Prince Albert, Sask., at 10:30 every Sunday night, their work has included the preparation of a tape of German Christmas Carols for the Hugo Jantz's radio ministry over HCJB, in Quito, Ecuador.

Every weekend staff members and students have had opportunities to serve in various churches of our province. On November 25, Rev. J. H. Epp, accompanied by a ladies trio, served in the Regina M.B. church. Brother G. D. Geddert and a male quartet served in the Rosthern Invalid Home. On the evening of that day another male quartet served in the Waldheim church, while the Senior Class was in charge of the evening service in Hepburn.

The weekend of Dec. 1 and 2 was richly blessed of God, as the Chorus Choir, together with Brother Otto Derksen and Brother George Geddert served in Glenbush and Borden. Brother J. H. Epp, accompanied by a ladies' trio, served Dec. 2 at Luseland, while on the evening of that day Brother Otto Derksen and a male quartet served in Warman. Brother Paul J. Wiebe and Brother Waldo Lepp visited Laird that Sunday in interest of the Sunday school work. This work has occupied them also several other weekends, as they visited other districts.

Dec. 9 was another busy day, as the Chorus Choir, together with Brother J. H. Epp and Brother P. J. Wiebe, served in Watrous and Aberdeen. Brother Waldo Lepp brought the morning message in Hepburn; Brother Otto Derksen served that evening in Hague Ferry, and a male quartet served in the E.U.B. Church in Rosthern.

As the Christmas season drew near there were other opportunities for service. On the evening of Dec. 14 four groups of students went out carolling in a number of needy homes in our district. Dec. 16 it was our unique privilege as a school to serve with a Christmas program in the Dalmeny M.B. Church. Our Family Night at Bethany, Dec. 20, arranged by the Student Council,

proved to be a time of enjoyment and spiritual refreshing. Our final Christmas program was rendered at 2:00 P.M., Dec. 21, in the M.B. Auditorium in Hepburn. We were indeed grateful for the very favorable weather and the large, appreciative audience.

Br. J. H. Epp, our Principal, had the privilege of attending the historic Study Conference in Winnipeg, Dec. 12-15. December 28-30 he served at the Bible Conference in Winkler. Various other opportunities for service presented themselves for staff and students during the holidays. We are looking forward to 1957, for greater blessings from the Lord as God's people continue to remember us before the throne of grace.

Work Sees Increase in Vancouver

Vancouver, B.C. — A growing Sunday school, a new venture in young people's work, and persistent proclamation of the Gospel at street-meetings show that the work of the Pacific Grace Mission in this city is not in vain.

Begun in the forties by the Mennonite Brethren Conference of British Columbia, the Pacific Grace Mission has reached out to the children, young people, and adults in the skidrow and East Hastings area in an ever-growing effort to win the lost for Christ. Spearheaded by a man wholly dedicated to the work, Rev. H. G. Classen, and a large number of volunteers from the M.B. churches in Vancouver, the mission has proved that the down-and-outs can be reached for Christ.

In its first stages the mission concentrated on reaching the children and on visitation work in the hospital and in the home. Rev. Classen co-operated with the Union Gospel Mission in reaching the men on skidrow and in the visitation and street-meeting work. Today the new mission chapel at Frances St. and Woodland Dr. is a busy place, with a greatly expanded effort to reach a maximum number for Christ.

The Sunday school work among the non-church-going people entered a new era with the dedication of the beautiful chapel. Attendance has increased to about 150 in 16 classes. Teachers are recruited from the young people who migrate to the city in search of employment and from the church members of the two Vancouver M.B. churches. Mr. H. J. Brandt is the Sunday school superintendent.

Workers at the mission are thankful for the opportunity to have clubs at the new chapel. From October to June boys and girls, ages 6 to 10, meet every other Saturday afternoon for a variety of activities. During the months of June to September there is "Grace

Children's Hour" twice a month on Tuesday evenings. And every summer a daily vacation Bible school is held for the boys and girls. A 12-year-old girl testified, "A week after I came from Hong Kong, China, I went to this Sunday school. At first I didn't quit wondering what they meant, until last July at DVBS my teacher told me I have to do three things before I could become a Christian. I must confess my sins, believe the Lord Jesus died for me, and ask Him to come into my heart. That afternoon I make sure I did them."

The workers at the mission were aware that unless something were instituted especially for the young people, they would eventually be lost to the Sunday school. Thus a program designed for young people was organized. The first inspirational program for young people was held on October 5, 1956, with Harold Ratzlaff appointed as leader. This endeavor has a devotional and a recreational phase. In the latter the boys have worked with copper and the girls with plaster-of-Paris. The special feature, a social, attracted 29 young people to the chapel.

Street-meetings are a regular feature of the work. Here small groups of workers sing, testify, and tell the glad news of salvation. Mr. Classen and others present God's Word, which is followed by tract distribution and personal contacts with the audience. Pleasant, warm evenings result in a small attentive audience, while cold, disagreeable evenings result in a "passing" audience. There are few tangible results from this work, but the Lord certainly blesses His Word when it is proclaimed.

Work at the Union Gospel Mission daily reaches out to those enslaved by sin. These men wander aimlessly about the streets. On many of them the mark of sin is stamped uneraceably. It is esti-

mated that daily the undertakers of the city have to bury one of these unfortunates. They portray only too clearly that "the wages of sin in death." At the regular evening services these men are given the Bread of Life, followed by a time of refreshments, when their physical body is nourished. God has blessed this ministry and people on the way to hell have been arrested by the message of salvation and are now on their way to heaven. One of these, Lloyd McMahon, is graduating from a Bible school this spring. His wife is a real Christian, too.

Rev. Classen is also speaker on the "Lighthouse of Hope", broadcast every Sunday evening at 10:15 p.m. on CJOR, Vancouver. The Crusaders Quartet sings the message of salvation. This ministry also provides contacts for Rev. Classen in his visitation work.

Annual Homecoming

By Hilda Janzen

Abbotsford, B.C. — The annual "Homecoming" of the Mennonite Educational Institute Alumni was staged January 3, in the MEI auditorium at North Clearbrook. The "Homecoming" is an event which has become a part of the school's tradition and an evening when graduates and one-time students unite again for one evening with part of the student body.

An exciting item was the basketball game between the grads and the school's senior team. There was keen competition, and although the score was very close throughout, the school team carried away the victory.

During the evening a short play called, "What shall it Profit?" was performed by the members of the school drama club. Various door prizes, kindly donated by the merchants of Clearbrook, were handed to persons holding tickets with lucky numbers.

The refreshments consisted of doughnuts, hot-dogs, and coffee. This was a time to chat with friends and one-time classmates. A short sermon was spoken by graduate Jake Friesen. His theme was "Christ's Second Coming." He stated that this truth should fill us with joy and anticipation because it would terminate our time of service here. He warned that the dangers of missing Christ's return were that of being too busy and that of being too tired to watch for Him, so as Christians it behooved us to "Watch and Pray" as the Scripture commands.

Teacher W. A. Wiebe requested in his closing remarks that the grads pray for the school and its students.

Complete Hospital Project for Africa

By Alvin Philippsen

Black Creek, B.C. — We had a wonderful Christmas season here. It was not a white Christmas because of mild weather, but it certainly was a warm one. Yes, our hearts were warmed anew by that wonderful story that never grows old, the story of the Saviour who became poor that we might be rich in Him.

The mission Sunday school presented a Christmas program on December 16. Many of the parents came, for which we were very thankful. Then, too, the regular Sunday school program on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, was a blessed time.

The choir had practised special Christmas songs, including several choruses from Handel's "Messiah",

such as "And the Glory of the Lord" and the "Hallelujah Chorus". The highlight of the choir program was the singing of the cantata, "The Holy Child".

The young people presented the Christmas story in a play. At this time we learned that our hospital project for Africa was still short about 100 dollars. An offering was received, with receipts totalling \$104. We are very thankful that this project has now been completed.

Another highlight during the festive season was the visit of Rev. J. F. Redekop, teacher at the M.B. Bible Institute at North Clearbrook, B.C. He gave various lectures designed to help us as Sunday school teachers to do a better job of teaching.

Bible Conference Set for Hepburn

Hepburn, Sask. — The annual Bible Conference of the Northern District of the Saskatchewan M.B. Conference will be held from February 11 to 15 in the M.B. church at Hepburn. All those living within driving distance are cordially invited to attend the services.

Theme for the conference is, "The Sermon on the Mount". Speakers include Rev. B. J. Braun, president of the M. B. Biblical Seminary; Rev. N. Janz, pastor of the Laird M.B. Church; Rev. Art Martens of Saskatoon; and faculty members J. H. Epp, G. D. Geddert, and Waldo Lepp of the Bethany Bible Institute.

The first service is slated for 7:30 p.m. on February 11, with Rev. B. J. Braun speaking on, "Principles of the Doctrine of Non-Resistance", and Rev. Martens delivering an evangelistic message. At

10:00 a.m. on February 12, Rev. Braun will speak on the Sermon on the Mount and a Bethany faculty member will discuss M.B. Church History. At the afternoon service, 1:00 p.m., Rev. Janz will discuss "The Kingdom of God" and Rev. Braun will continue his series. At the evening service Rev. Braun will resume his series on non-resistance and Rev. Martens will again deliver an evangelistic message. The service begins at 7:30 p.m.

The February 13 services include a continuation of the M.B. Church History series and the Sermon on the Mount series in the morning, a message on "Law and Grace" by Rev. Janz at the afternoon service, and the fourth sermon by Rev. Braun on the Sermon on the Mount. At the evening meeting Rev. Braun will again address the congregation on non-resistance and Rev. Martens will give an evangelistic address.

The M.B. Church History and Sermon on the Mount series continue at the morning service of February 14, while Rev. N. Janz will speak on, "The Gifts of the Spirit" at the afternoon service. At that time Rev., Braun will present

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his concluding message on the Sermon on the Mount.

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Christians Gaining Experience in Colomba

In the last prayer-letter, Miss Herta Voth from the Noanama field of the M.B. Mission in Colombia writes of improved conditions, in a limited way. She requested prayer for those who "will be commemorating His birth behind closed doors, or perhaps only in their hearts". Let us not forget them in our prayers at all times. She also writes:

"Annie Dyck, Ruth Loewen and I spent the first week-end of November in Quibdo, the capital of El Choco. It gave me great joy to visit with Nimia Cuesta, who spent two years as my helper in our Noanama Dispensary, and is at present entering new territory along the Atrato River under the direction of the Gospel Missionary Union.

"We stayed with Sister Dorothy Hagerman, also of the G.M.U. Her very recent experiences of arrest and imprisonment for the Gospel's sake, and God's wonderful leading and protection have encouraged us anew to stand firm for His cause. Ours is the victory!

"It was a special thrill to meet and worship with the national believers of that city. Their Chapel is closed, but the missionaries may meet in the homes of the natives.

"Conditions in Noanama are about the same. With the change in police we have friends in authority. The Christians are gaining experience and courage and are conducting their worship services in a more organized way. Do continue to pray much for them.

"Praise the Lord with us! The Choco children are at school at La Cumbre, which has been able to operate without trouble. The parents and we are grateful to God and hopeful for the future."

SASKATOON REPORTS GOOD ATTENDANCE

Saskatoon, Sask. — Christmas services were well attended in the M. B. church here. The choir started the Christmas season with a musical program on December 16. Carols, new and old, were sung in praise to God for His gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. George Braun, the pastor, spoke on "The First Song of the Angels", based on Luke 2:14: "... and on earth peace." The climax of the program was the rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Stainer's "Crucifixion" by the choir.

The Sunday school program on December 23 was an evening of blessing, the children leading the congregation in adoration of Christ. The junior girls were outstanding in their presentation of the nativity pageant.

The choir, directed by Wilmer Neufeld, and the male chorus, under the direction of Jake Neufeld, both participated in the annual Saskatoon Carol Festival in Third Avenue United Church on Dec. 10-12. Music critics in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix praised their performance.

On the Horizon

February 11 to 22 — The annual Minister's Course will be offered at the M.B. Bible College, Winnipeg. Applications should be sent in now, so that arrangements can be made for board and room.

Feb. 11 to March 9. — The Canadian Mennonite Bible College is sponsoring a Ministers' Course, with a variety of subjects, both exegetical and practical, being offered. Those interested should write to Rev. I. I. Friesen, C.M.B.C., 600 University Boulevard E, Tuxedo, Winnipeg 9, Man.

LORNE A. WOLCH

B.Sc., R.O., O.D.

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