

Mennonite Observer

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

★
YOUR CHRISTIAN
FAMILY WEEKLY

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Anniversary Marks Opening of Addition

By Henry Toews

Steinbach, Man.—"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts!" With these words of the Psalmist the dedication service of the Sunday school addition of the Steinbach M. B. Church began on Sunday, December 8.

The new Christian education addition and church front is a four-story structure, 64' x 24', and joined on to the front of the church proper (42' x 70'). It houses twenty Sunday school classrooms, washrooms, a gas heating system, and a roomy entrance as cloakroom.

Rev. H. A. Regehr, pastor of the church, opened the dedication service with Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25. He emphasized the necessity for obedience to the command of God to diligently teach our children biblical truths and the Christian way of life. In order to accommodate our growing Sunday school and provide more adequate facilities for better instruction more space was needed. That, with our responsibilities to the children of our community and not merely our own, motivated this building program.

Rev. Baerg Speaks

Rev. H. R. Baerg of Winnipeg then delivered the dedication address. He reminded us to give credit where credit is due—"This is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:23). He admonished us to praise God, and "rejoice and be glad" (v. 24). The dedication of a church, he said, should be accompanied by personal dedication. Thus we have need to repeat verse 25 with the Psalmist—"Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity." Though we enter a new building dedicated to the Lord's work we are not perfect and require His constant guidance for daily re-dedication. We must offer our children not only a fine structure, but a genuinely Christian body of believers as a challenge and inspiration to them.

Rev. H. A. Regehr, Rev. H. Baerg, and Rev. W. W. Schroeder then pronounced the dedication prayer.

A report was heard from Mr. J. J. Klassen, chairman of the building committee. Mr. D. Schelberg, supervising carpenter, then

expressed his desire that the new addition might be used of God according to His will. Mr. J. G. Wiebe, treasurer, gave the financial report. The total cost of the new

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Five Speakers at Elmwood Bible Conference

Winnipeg, Man. — Five Bible teachers, known across Canada and in the United States for their sound biblical exposition, will serve at the annual Bible Conference ("Bibelbesprechung") in the Elmwood M. B. church.

This year's conference, to be held December 27 to 29, will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the "Bibelbesprechung." They were begun in 1927 in the basement meeting house of the then M. B. city mission, corner of Burrows and Andrews, Winnipeg. The late Rev. J. W. Reimer was one of the most regular speakers from 1930 to 1940. Dr. A. H. Unruh's first appearance as guest speaker was in 1935, and he has served annually since then. He was joined by Rev. H. H. Janzen from 1944 to 1955.

This year's speakers include Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. A. Toews, president of the M. B. Bible College; Rev. D. Ewert, registrar at the M. B. Bible College; Rev. C. C. Peters, who recently returned after eight years of service in South America, and his son, Dr. Frank C. Peters, instructor at the M. B. Bible College.

"The Fruit of the Spirit in the Life of the Christian" will serve as the over-all theme at the three-day meet. During the day the brethren A. H. Unruh, D. Ewert, J. A. Toews and C. C. Peters will discuss the individual fruits mentioned in Galatians 5:22. At the evening services Rev. Frank Peters will deliver messages on the temptations from self, the world and satan.

The messages of these men of God are expected to attract believers from all over Manitoba and from the various Mennonite groups. In the past the conference has been interdenominational in outreach.



Rev. and Mrs. John Regehr were ordained at the Elmwood M. B. Church, Winnipeg, on Sunday, December 1. They are serving at the Silver Lake M. B. Church, Marion, S. D., where Rev. Regehr is pastor. He is also taking a part-time course at a nearby seminary. Their children are Reynolds and Lorie. Mrs. Regehr is the former Mary Unger of Leamington, Ont.

Still Much Work to Do in Congo

By Mrs. Milfred Wall

...Dalmany, Sask.—Miss Katie Penner, missionary on furlough from the Belgian Congo, served as guest speaker at the Junior Missionary Society mission sale on December 6 in the M. B. church here.

Home baking and articles for Christmas gifts were sold, while doughnuts and coffee were served in the lunchroom. The proceeds of \$135 have been designated for the needs in the M. B. hospital in India where Miss Margaret Willems is serving.

Miss Penner read several verses from the fourth chapter of Nehemiah as the basis for her report. Then she compared the work in the Belgian Congo to the work of the Jews in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. She declared that:

"Nehemiah and his people had the great task of rebuilding the city walls. We as the M. B. Conference are to build the Church of Jesus Christ in the Congo. The command has been given to us, 'Go ye therefore.'

Twenty Different Tribes

"Six hundred thousand people of twenty different tribes are the

building material. They believe in a God who created all things, including themselves. But after He created them He left them to do as they please. He doesn't trouble them, so they don't worry about Him. On the other hand, they believe that all matter has a spirit

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All News

for the December 27 and the January 3 issues of the **Mennonite Observer** should arrive at the editor's desk by the Friday previous to publication date, thus December 20 and 27. This applies particularly to school news, feature articles, and pictures. We will try to include news that arrives on the Monday and Tuesday previous to the publication date, but cannot guarantee this because of the change in publication schedule due to the mid-week holidays. We will appreciate your cooperation.

EDITORIAL

God Speaks in the Quietness

The pre-Christmas rush is on. Milling crowds pass the laden display tables. Cash registers ring merrily as gifts are purchased for little Jimmy, Aunt Sue, Mr. Jones the landlord, mother or father, husband or wife. Over the hubbub of the jostling throng may come the strains of "Silent Night" or "O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie." The roar of the crowds seems to mock the spirit of the music.

The Christian sees all this and possibly participates in it. If he is a true disciple of Christ he will realize that for him the gifts are not the most important part of Christmas. He will acknowledge that not even the music of Christmas and the church services are as important as the experience of the shepherds. They heard the message; they were obedient to the heavenly messenger — and they found the Christ. Even so today all the trappings of a modern Christmas will be of no significance if we do not meet the Christ of the manger — who today is waiting to give us an personal, vivid encounter with Himself.

Therefore it is of utmost importance that we meet the prerequisites for experiencing Christ in our lives at Christmas. It means that we must become quiet within ourselves in spite of the bustle in kitchen and office. For Moses this meant going up to the top of Mt. Sinai, there to meet God where the noise of the dancing multitude at the foot of the mountain could not reach them. He came from this meeting with God with a shining face, a face aglow with the glory of the Lord. Our faces, too, will reveal whether the pre-Christmas rush has merely fatigued us or whether we have been able to become quiet and meet God.

Elijah had to travel forty days and forty nights into the desert to hear the "still, small voice" of God. God spoke to him there and gave him a mission to fulfill. He returned with new zeal and energy to carry out God's work within reach of the woman who had threatened him with death. If we take the grace to withdraw from the clamour of the noisy throng to meet Christ daily in the days before Christmas we, too, will have a message for those whom we meet daily. We, too, will have a new sense of purpose when we have seen and experienced the Christ who humbled himself to seek and to save that which was lost. The threat of persecution and of social ostracism will not affect us, but we will conquer through Him that loved us and gave Himself for us.

Becoming quiet before God demands a special effort during the pre-Christmas season. It is easy to convince ourselves that we are too busy — that a particular job must be done before we can think of withdrawing to meet Christ personally. Yet if we want to really experience the true joy that Christmas can give us we must take time to meditatively read God's Word, to meet the Lord in prayer and to spread out our soul before Him for cleansing.

Prayer Week Program Announced

The annual week of prayer will be held from Monday, January 6, to Saturday, January 11. The following program has been suggested for use in churches participating in this week of prayer services.

Monday, January 6

Retrospect and the Upward Look: The suggested Bible reading is Psalm 90 and Psalm 121. Passages that should lead to a spirit of thankfulness are Psalm 23:5 and Luke 22:35, while Romans 11:22 and Mark 9:23 should make us pause to reconsider our position.

Tuesday, January 7

The Church of Jesus Christ: Suggested Bible reading is Revelation 1:4-6. Thankfulness for God's in-

stitution, the Church of Jesus Christ, should also lead us to sorrow over our frequent grieving of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) and a prayer for revival and strengthening of the saints (Ephesians 3:14-21; I John 4:1-6).

Wednesday, January 8

The Nations and Their Governments: Suggested Bible readings are John 17:14-19 and Romans 13:1-7. We should be thankful for the governments God has given us and for the opportunities to spread the Gospel freely (I Timothy 2:1-6). Prayer and intercession should be made for the abatement of racial and national hatreds and for the improvement of morals in our day.

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DEVOTIONAL

Man's Character Confirms the Bible

By Wm. Schmidt*

Recently it was my privilege to speak to a group of men about the trustworthiness and authenticity of God's Word. Among other things it was pointed out that our Bible is no collection of myths or man-made philosophies. When we make the Bible the basis of our faith and order our life accordingly we are backed by proof—we have reality. There is the evidence of fulfilled prophecy, the evidence of its life-changing power as well as that of answered prayer. Although often overlooked, man's attitude in itself is a confirmation of the Bible.

Without hesitation we may hold that the Bible is confirmed by the testimony of the character of those who accept it as well as by the character of those who reject it. The nearer men are to God the more confident they are that the Bible is His Word, but the farther they drift from God the more doubt enters their heart.

Where is the stronghold of the Bible? Is it not the pure, happy unselfish and devoted home or church? Where is the stronghold of infidelity? Is it not the tavern, the obscene theatre and the rationalistically and communistically inclined institution of learning?

"Religion," said Lenin, "is the opium of the people." Other haters of Christianity and supporters of atheism followed in the same vein when they say, "The Bible is contrary to our principles; it speaks of love and mercy—we need hatred—only thus will we conquer the world." Accepting that honesty is an outstanding trait of character, how weighty would the evidence of another Bible hater be who said, "As long as there are idiots who take our signature seriously we must promise everything that is asked if we can only get something tangible in exchange." The character of such men is obvious. Would we even contemplate trusting them?

The story is told of a very shrewd Mohammedan trader. One day he came to a missionary and asked for a Bible. The missionary was surprised at the request knowing that the man concerned could not read and inquired why a Bible was wanted.

"I want a Bible not to read," said he, "but to place before strange white men who wish to trade with me. If these men upon receiving the Bible will treat it with respect and read it I will trust and deal with them, but if they mistreat and ridicule it I will have nothing to do with them." What insight! What practical wisdom to make his test of strangers conditional on their attitude to God's Word.

Consider the problem from a different angle. Who have been a

blessing and benefit to mankind, the Bible-lovers or the Bible-haters? Compare Voltaire with Luther. They were both intellectual giants. Voltaire led the people of France away from God and the Bible to the Enlightenment and bloody revolution. Luther led the people of Germany back to the Bible and faith, a factor confirmed by history as one of the great blessings to man. May I also take this opportunity to point out that prominent men have explained the difference of North and South America by pointing out the fact that to South America men came to look for gold but to North America they come to serve God.

I ask you, dear listeners, to do a little thinking. Where are the failures of today? Which class of society has the broken homes and crowds our prisons with bankrupt human beings, gangsters and swindlers of all kinds? Are these the people that exalt the Bible? You know they do not. Who supplies the dissecting tables with corpses of criminals, who are the derelicts of the venereal wards or those ruined by drink and vice? Are these the people that love the Bible? No, they are not. Do you expect the Bible to be reverently treated in a dance, beer or gambling hall? Truly, man's testimony of character for and against the Bible speaks for itself.

The Bible claims to be God's Word. Will we accept or reject it as such? Ours is the decision, ours also are the consequences.

*Speaker on the Gospel Light morning and evening devotional programs.

Mennonite Observer

Our Christian Family Weekly for Mennonites of All Age-groups

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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.

Church Meeting For Bethania

Swift Current, Sask.—As winter closes in and nature seems to die may it not have the same effect on our country churches, but may it rather be a period of rallying forces for the conflict. May we, with Paul, "press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The annual business meeting of the Bethania M. B. Church was held on November 9. To complete the business another session was held on November 18.

Brother G. R. Klassen resigned from his post as active church leader. The church then elected a three-man committee to do this work, with Rev. Eugene Martens responsible for the spiritual ministry, Brother Peter Dyck, the deacon, the material aspect, and Brother Gottlieb Janz to assist these brethren. Because of his years of faithful service Brother G. R. Klassen was made an honorary member of this committee.

On December 1 the church members gathered to partake of the Lord's Supper. Rev. Martens delivered a brief message and was then assisted by the brethren G. R. Klassen and Peter Dyck.

Guests at the occasion were the brethren J. Bergen of Glenbush and Howard Klassen, formerly of Bethania but now employed at the Bethesda Home at Vineland.

The Sunday school superintendent, Brother G. Janz, is at the present time preparing the Sunday school for Christmas. He is being assisted by the teachers, with Sister Della Klassen in charge of the singing. Weather permitting, the program will be presented on Christmas Eve.

Inaugurate New Approach to Youth Problems

Regina, Sask.—The young people of the Mennonite Brethren Church here have introduced a new and different type of youth fellowship meeting. These are intended to solve, or at least clear up, common problems for Christian young people through group discussion.

To make the questions as impersonal as possible, the young people are urged to place them into a special question box. Then on one Monday of each month the young people meet to ponder over the various problems that accumulated during the preceding month.

Sixteen young people turned out for the first meeting, held on Monday, December 2. The interest and participation aroused during the first session forecast a greater turnout for future meetings. It also indicated that this type of Christian fellowship does definitely meet

a need, especially for young Christian men and women who flock to the cities and find themselves face to face with the dangers and pitfalls of city life.

To Move Into New Parsonage

Lashburn, Sask.—Rev. and Mrs. Abe H. Dueck are expecting to move into the new parsonage across the street from the M. B. church here in town by Christmas.

Rev. Dueck is the pastor of the M. B. Church, which prepared the parsonage. His former address was Waseca, Sask.

A Profitable Year

Borden, Sask.—The Mennonite Brethren Church here has experienced another year of blessing from the Lord.

Outstanding highlights of the year have been a two-day missionary convention and a baptism in which eight young people followed the Lord in this step of obedience.

A feature that has proved fruitful is the weekly Bible study and prayer-meeting on Monday nights. At this time the children also have graded Bible instruction and fellowship.

Rev. Isaac Block is the leading minister, assisted by Rev. Abram K. Rempel and Rev. Jacob H. Block. The deacons are the brethren J. B. Stobbe and David A. Penner.

To Present Radio Program

Winnipeg, Man.—The students of the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute will present a Christmas program in the German language over radio station CFAM, Altona, on Saturday, December 14, at 4:30 p.m.

Attend U. S. Music Convention

Winnipeg, Man.—Four Winnipeg Mennonite musicians attended the sixth annual convention of the National Church Music Fellowship December 2 and 3 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Traveling by car, they took in only the inspirational sessions on the second day of the conference. Participating were: Mr. Henry Voth, director of the music department at the M. B. Bible College; Mr. Victor Martens, voice instructor at MBBC; Mr. Peter Klassen, instructor in music theory at MBBC and an organist at the Elmwood M. B. Church; and Mr. Helmut Janzen, choir director in the Elmwood M. B. Church and music instructor in several Fort Garry schools.

Eighty ministers of music in



AUSTRIAN CHILDREN experience emotions typical of all children everywhere when the Christmas program is given. The little fellow at right is obviously more interested in the tree than anything else, while joy, apprehension, and disinterest are mirrored on the faces of the other children.

For children such as these the MCC creates Christmas joy and provides religious instruction (now by Miss Helene Dueck of Winnipeg). This picture was taken Christmas 1956 at a Baptist Church in Huetteldorf near Vienna, Austria.

churches and music instructors at evangelical colleges attended the convention of the fellowship, which was formed by individuals who support it with an annual fee. The chief guest speakers were Rev. Robert Smith, chairman of the department of philosophy, psychology and religion at Bethel College, Minneapolis; Mr. Don Hustad, music director at Moody Bible Institute; and Dr. Herron, faculty member at the Southern Baptist Seminary.

A typical question discussed at the convention is, "Does our church music fulfill its function?" Throughout it was emphasized that church music should not be on a concert

level, or art for art's sake, but that it should have a definite spiritual purpose. It was also pointed out that too much emphasis can be placed on worship in the choice of music and not enough emphasis on evangelism.

Participants agreed that it is essential that ministers of music in a church be acquainted with God's Word—and that pastors should have some musical knowledge.

The Winnipeg men who attended agree that the convention was definitely worthwhile and rich in inspiration for the Christian musician. Next year's session will be held in Chicago.

Young Men's Camp Held in India

Just as in America, camps and retreats mean a great deal to Christian youths in India. In that land, however, they are something new, at least in Mennonite Brethren circles. The responses of Indian youths to the camp programs must be quite an encouragement and incentive in the work of the Gospel in that country.

Between 250 and 300 boys and young men attended this year's camp. The meeting place was near Dindi Dam, and the time was October 3 to 7.

Since Dindi is near a large government center, up to 1,000 villagers attended the evening meetings. Messages were presented by a Brother Premiah. Preceding the messages, films entitled "The Missing Christian" and "Prior Claim" were shown.

The camp program included instructional periods and periods in which the young men shared their experiences and made suggestions for their youth work. There were classes for boys from grade six

through high school, for men capable of understanding English, for village Christian youths and for Bible school students. A total of 15 teachers participated. On the last day of the camp, the youth leaders of each field met and formulated new plans for the next year which were read and approved.

The meetings closed with consecration services. Campers responded by confessing their sins and making new vows to walk closer with God.

Missionaries participating in the camp were the Brethren T. F. Fast, Jacob Friesen, Henry Krahn, Henry Poetker and A. A. Unruh.

When God measures men He puts the tape around the heart, not the head.

Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God.

You can't keep your mind and your mouth open at the same time.

MORE ABOUT

Anniversary at Dedication

(Continued from page 1-2)

structure to date is \$28,500, all of which has been covered by donations and pledges. Much of the work was done by the voluntary labour of willing members. The architects were Reimer & Mcleod of Winnipeg.

History Began 30 Years Ago

Rev. A. A. Regehr gave a brief review of the history of the Steinbach M. B. Church. He reminded us that the completion of this structure marked the 30th anniversary of the local church. There was indication of real thankfulness and rededication as he asked the blessing upon the congregation.

The history of the Steinbach Church is an example of a body of believers in a changing world holding on to the changeless Christ. In 1923 several families of the M. B. denomination moved to Steinbach. They had their membership in Winkler and participated actively in the E.M.B. Church. By 1927 this group had grown, so they met on January 3 to discuss the possibilities of forming a local M. B. Church. This plan became reality later that year and the church, as organized in 1927, was made up of five families, with about twenty members.

Rev. Gerhard Unruh was the first leading minister and Rev. Henry Siemens acted as his assistant. In 1929 Rev. J. W. Reimer moved to Steinbach and served the church in thorough ministry till 1942, when he left for B. C. In 1934 God saw fit to take Rev. G. Unruh to his reward. That same year Mr. A. A. Regehr was ordained to the ministry and put in charge of the church. His Christian devotion was then, as now, a constant inspiration to the congregation. Rev. J. P. Epp came to us in 1939. In 1943 he consented to the leadership. Our present pastor, Rev. H. A. Regehr, came to us from Saskatchewan and since 1953 has served as leader. May God richly bless him in this service for years to come.

Expansion

During the 1930's M. B. members in the surrounding area met privately to worship and have fellowship with God and one another. Five small groups formed and organized as affiliated bodies to the Steinbach Church: Halbstadt with Rev. Henry Rempel; Bergthal with Rev. H. G. Dueck; Rosengard with Rev. W. W. Schroeder; Bergwalde with Rev. Peter Riesen; Grunthal with Rev. Peter Martens. During the 1940's, with improved roads and vehicles, these scattered bodies found it more convenient to worship in the mother church. Thus all five affiliated groups have dissolved.

Throughout its history the Steinbach Church has stressed youth work. It has always had a church choir and a Sunday school. The "Jugendverein" work was done in conjunction with the E.M.B. Church till 1943. Since then the Young Peoples' work has been expanded to include regular weekly evening meetings and mission endeavours.

Missionaries sent from this congregation are: Margaret Willms, India; Sally Schroeder, South America; Bill Schroeder, teacher in Paraguay. Home Missions of our Conference have been served by Rev. Joe Wiebe, Ashern and Rev. Peter Martens, Winnipegosis and Carman.

The first building used by the church was a vacated school. This was purchased and renovated at the cost of slightly more than three thousand dollars. It was used from 1927 to 1943. In order to provide room for the growing membership, the church planned a larger structure. The basement was completed in 1943 and used for assembly for a number of years. After the Second World War, with renewed interest, the church was completed. Thus at the conclusion of the third building program on the one site, we look upon the structure as 'complete'.

MORE ABOUT

Congo

(Continued from page 1-4)

in it, and that they must seek to appease these spirits.

"Nehemiah and his people had opposition from leaders of surrounding provinces. Our main opposition comes from demon worshippers. A Christian teacher in one of the villages was not acceptable to the people. His wife became ill and the people offered her medicine. She accepted it and died because of the poison in the medicine. There are many 'poison' cases.

Catholics Distribute Holy Water

"Catholicism also presents opposition. The Roman Catholics recently came up with a new device—the distribution of holy water, which is supposed to be able to do everything. Because of their own fetish practices the natives fall for this. At one time a whole village, including the Christians, took this water. The missionary dealt with the Christians, but they said, 'This is all we need.' A few weeks later lightning struck the village and six people were killed. The Christians repented and came back to Christ and the church. God had over-ruled the satanic powers once more.

"A comparatively new nationalistic movement is hindering our work. The leader says that Jesus Christ is a good saviour for the

white man because He was white, but 'we Africans need a black saviour.' He continues to announce that he has been sent from God and that the people shall follow him.

Teachers Win Natives

"The Jews did not only pray; they also worked. Our work is done through evangelism, education and medical work. In our nine church posts we have 61 catechists, or people who teach. One of these catechists, Mr. Shanon, reported that on one of his trips the chief and one of his foes in a village closed to the gospel both accepted Christ—opening the whole village to further work. In another village 26 souls were saved. One of these men had formerly poisoned seven people. Thus we see that the Word of God still has the power to save.

"At one time when I was giving out the Word ten souls accepted Christ and burned their idols. We asked whether there was anyone in the village who could read, but there was no response. Our hearts were burdened for these new babes in Christ, for how could they grow if they couldn't feed on God's Word? They repeated John 3:16 a number of times and then we had to leave. Truly, there is much reason to pray, for the fields are ripe unto harvest, but 'the laborers are few.'"

Education in Mission Schools

"The only education provided is through mission schools, either Protestant or Catholic. The catechists teach the children to read and to write and then these can come to the mission school. A new door of opportunity awaits us in a state school that has now opened in our city, Kajiji. Catholics and Protestant teachers may come in to teach religion. The Catholics are in there already—but we do not have any teachers to go into this open door.

"Even as a magnet has drawing power, so our medical work draws the people. It is the key that opens villages as well as hearts. Although our buildings and equipment are primitive and we are short-handed, the Lord blesses the work. There is one nurse in the dispensary and two nurses and the doctor in the hospital. A nurses training school has been started. Our first class of five students was unsuccessful—they all withdrew within six months, either because of sin in their lives or other reasons. However, the second class was more encouraging, for of the twelve students enrolled four wrote state exams and three passed. The exams are very stiff.

Evangelist Effective in Hospital

"There are no permanent wards. The beds are made from crates. A straw mat and a blanket give

the finishing touches. The state looks down on us for having such a hospital, but the fact that our students made the exams has helped to change their attitude toward our work.

"The evangelist in the hospital, John, is 55 years old and doing a great work. He used to dispense medicine and when he was asked to do personal work he felt set back. But now he says that the Lord has given him a great burden for his people, especially the older ones who come to the hospital. He reports that 44 people have accepted the Lord during his short ministry as hospital evangelist. When the patients leave the hospital their names are given to local evangelists for follow-up work. Let us pray for these young converts, as well as for the evangelist himself. He has many temptations since his wife left him ten years ago and he has to cook his own food, which is a great shame for a man in Africa. He has remained true to the Lord thus far.

Won't Listen With Empty Stomach

"The famine of 1955-56 made the work very hard. There was no food to give to the patients, and when they were invited to come and listen to God's Word they said, 'We don't want God's Word on an empty stomach.' Many left us to go to the Catholics because they received food there. When relief came from America the doors opened again and those who had strayed away came back.

"Dear friends, we are aware of the call to battle. The Word of God still cuts, as a two-edged sword. A hospital experience proves this.

"It is natural for an African to turn his back on one who is wounded. As a result the Christians are tempted to do the same.

"One day a patient who had been wounded by a buffalo was brought to us after a three-day journey. His large wounds were festering. We, two registered nurses, cared for his wounds for a week. Then one day I was so busy with other work that I gave orders that the natives should help the other nurse. They didn't obey at once, but after I had talked to them they consented to help. For punishment they each had to write out the story of the Good Samaritan twice. When this was finally completed they brought their work to me. Quite a number of them wrote their own applications also. One of them wrote, 'I realized as I read this story that I had never dedicated my life to the Lord for this service.' The next day they all confessed their sin."

As the trumpet call goes forth, "Pray for Africa", may we all be found faithful!

From Turkestan to Canada

By the Editor.

From catching falcons to "catching" men, from bartering wheat for salt with migrating nomads in Russian Turkestan to book-keeper for a two-city Mennonite business, and from "ziffern" to the "Gesangbuch" is the story of a man who has played a key role in the development of Winnipeg M. B. Sunday schools, Canadian M. B. hymnody, and the Elmwood M. B. Church.

Now in semi-retirement, Mr. Jacob Wedel of 106 Noble Ave., Winnipeg, still takes a vital interest in those areas where he once had a decisive influence. This is small wonder, for he has served 26 years as Sunday school superintendent, for several years as church secretary, and longer than that as choir member. He also contributed in large measure to the publication of the first German M. B. hymn book in Canada.

Soon Saw Need for Sunday School

When Mr. Wedel and his wife came to Winnipeg in the early 1920's, Sunday schools were in their infancy here and just developing in Russia. "We didn't think Sunday schools were necessary when we were in Russia," he recalls, "but here we soon saw the need for them. In Russia we taught religion in our own public schools, but here the child's Bible knowledge consisted largely of what he learned in Sunday school."

Today thanks to the hard work and vision of men like Mr. Wedel, there are considerably more than 1,000 pupils enrolled in the departmentalized and graded Mennonite Brethren Sunday schools in Winnipeg—a far cry from the small number who met in the M. B. city mission in Winnipeg in the early twenties. He testifies that "we learned as we went along" as the Sunday school grew rapidly through the constant influx of Mennonites into Winnipeg.

Not only has he contributed significantly to the development of religious education in the churches, but Mr. Wedel also gave of his best as secretary of the church and church board at the North End M. B. Church (now Elmwood M. B. Church) during the turbulent years after the Second World War. His experiences here have given him concern for the future development of church life.

Must Adapt Church Program

"We must adapt our church program to meet the needs of all," he insists. In his case it meant constant changes in Sunday school methods and materials. But it also means more full-time workers in the church. "Today we must have ministers who feel the call of God

to give themselves wholly to their work. In time we might even need to set aside youth leaders and Sunday school superintendents for full-time service," is his studied opinion.

One of his primary concerns for many years has been the publication of a first-rate German church hymnal that would not only have songs for every occasion, but which would also preserve the rich heritage of German hymnody. As secretary of the committee that supervised the publication of the Mennonite Brethren "Gesangbuch", he spent many hours in research and earnest labour. When the printing firm at work on the book changed hands it seemed that publication would be delayed unduly, so he travelled to New York at the request of the committee to give the new manager the information needed to hasten publication. His reward is the knowledge that more than 19,000 copies of the "Gesangbuch" are now in constant use in churches and homes across Canada, and that the book is playing a decisive role in improving the standard of Mennonite Brethren congregational and choir singing.

Improvement in Musical Standards

He is happy over a constant improvement in musical standards in Mennonite Brethren circles, and feels that not only the "Gesangbuch", but also the Mennonite Brethren Bible College music department have helped immensely in this respect.

Mr. Wedel was born in 1894 in Gnadenthal (Nikolaipol), a Mennonite settlement in Russian Turkestan. His parents had been among those who had followed Klaas Epp and his ill-fated expedition to meet Christ there. Their group broke away from Epp's fellowship, however, and started their own settlement.

"Here we grew up with the nomadic Kirgiz," he relates. These were a Mohammedan Turkish tribe that migrated to the valleys in summer and returned to the mountains in winter. During the summer they worked on Mennonite farms, and Mr. Wedel learned not only their habits but also their language. In fact, years later in Germany he met a Turkish student with whom he could converse fluently in spite of a difference in dialect.

Lived With Nomads

Catching and selling falcons proved to be great fun and profitable as well, even though the boys' mother objected. They also loved to travel to the mountain homes of the nomads, there to live with them for several days. Mr. Wedel still longs for a good drink of "kummiss" (fermented mare's milk), which was the favorite drink of the Kirgiz tribesmen.

Annually, long caravans of Kirgiz wound through Mr. Wedel's village on their way to the mountains from the Caspian Sea. These brought salt, which was bartered for wheat and other goods.

During the period of conscription early in World War I, the young man was to transport a group of Kirgiz to the railway centre. Leaving-taking was a long process among the tribesmen, with prolonged weeping, passionate embraces and recitals of sorrow at separation. One of the men repeatedly brushed against one of Mr. Wedel's wagon-horses. Unable to countenance such actions, the high-strung horse sent the nomad for a loop with a well-placed kick. Picking himself up, the Kirgiz cursed the horse roundly—and resumed the tearful farewell.

Off to High School

A good education was a must in the Wedel family. For his high school Mr. Wedel was sent 2,000 miles to a Mennonite Brethren "Zentralschule" in southern Russia at the age of 19. There at Nikolajewka his spiritual life was deepened under the Spirit-filled ministry of Rev. J. J. Toews, who had a heart for young people and held special services for them. His faith was also strengthened through his three-year stay in the home of Rev. H. A. Neufeld. Mr. Wedel had accepted Christ as Saviour as a lad of 14 after a bout with smallpox.

Marriage after graduation at the

"Zentralschule" to Miss Katherina Neufeld, and failure to obtain a visa for a trip home to Turkestan, proved to be God's leading. Had they returned home they might never have left Russia. Mr. Wedel testifies to a prayer-answering God during the next few years, for after a stint as cashier in his father-in-law's farm implement factory the family was taken to Germany by the occupation forces returning home in 1919.

From 1919 to 1921 the family lived near Stuttgart, Germany. Expecting to return to Russia at any time, he took a special course in book-keeping and office procedure, "for we never found work in Germany." The latter fact resulted in their move to Canada, where they settled at Herbert.

Taught in Bible School

"I even taught German and Church History for one term at the Herbert Bible School," he laughingly relates. A call to work in the office of the "Mennonitische Rundschau", then recently moved to Winnipeg from Scottsdale, Pa., resulted in their move to the "gateway to the west."

"I used to find bound copies of the Rundschau in my father's attic and read them, but I never dreamt that I would be working in the office there some day," he chuckles.

Those were difficult years. Living in rooms over the printing shop and working in cramped quarters

(Continued on page 8-1)



"No duencket mich doch selbs seltzam sein, und kans schwerlich gleuben, das ich diese Epistel S. Pauli — da ich sie in unser Schulen zu Wittenberg offentlich gelesen — so weitleufftig und mit so vielen worten sol ausgelegt und gehandelt haben, wie ich in diesem Buch allhie sehe das es geschehen ist. Und befinde doch gleichwol, das es je allzumal meine gedanken gewesen sind. Welche etliche Brueder so gar gnawe und vleissig auffgefangen und in dieses Buch zusammen verfasset haben."

Thus writes Dr. Martini Luther in his foreword to "Der Erste Teil der Buecher ober etliche Epistel der Aposteln", a 562-page book printed by Peter Seitz in 1578 and owned by Mr. Jacob Wedel of Winnipeg. This book contains a series of expositions by the great Lutheran reformer as given by him in the schools at Wittenberg. The brown, board-covered book contains pages browned by age and is closed by metal clasps on leather hinges. The state librarian at Stuttgart, a Dr. von Seeger, whose mother was of Mennonite background, took an interest in Mr. Wedel during his stay in Germany and led him to an antique shop, where he showed him this book. Mr. Wedel purchased it and it is now one of his prized possessions.

THE Young Observers

Let's Visit a Minute

Dear Boys and Girls,

This is the time of year we remind ourselves that we must be thankful to God for sending Jesus into this world to save us from our sins. We should also be thankful to Jesus that He was willing to come into this world.

Because God gave us Jesus as a gift we give each other gifts at Christmas. Are you going to be truly thankful when you see your gifts — or are you going to grumble? Before you grumble think of the wonderful things God has given you.

One evening shortly after his father had returned from a trip to the city, Edwin sat down beside him and asked him what he thought was the most wonderful thing he had seen there. His father said that it was a tool.

"What is its name? Is it a new invention?" asked Edwin.

"No, it has been in use for years and years. It is used for many purposes, and that is what makes it so wonderful."

"Well, what can you do with it?" asked the eager boy.

"It can be used," said his father, "for a paddle, a mallet, a thimble, and a gasket."

"O Father, I believe you're making fun now."

"No, my son, it's really so, and I've seen it used for more curious purposes still."

"What are they?" the boy inquired.

"I've seen it used for a brush, a press, a dipper, a spinning machine, a pair of scales, a dipple —"

"What's that, Father?"

"Why, a dipple is a pointed stick used to make holes in the ground."

"Can it be used for anything else?" asked Edwin.

"Yes, for a pair of tongs, for a stopper, and it does very well for a corkscrew, too."

"My, it must cost a lot," said Edwin. "I wish you had brought it home with you."

"I have," the father said, and stretched out his hand.

Edwin's face fell, but it brightened as he named over, slowly and thoughtfully, all the things which he could do with his hand. He began to think of crippled children he had seen whose hands were shriveled and twisted so that they could not even care for themselves.

Are you thankful for your wonderful hands — and legs — and eyes — and ears? If so, you will also have the true spirit of thankfulness at Christmas.

Aunt Selma.

Tommy's Christmas List

By Martha S. Hooker

When Uncle John came into the room, Tommy was very busy with pencil and paper—so busy that he did not look up to greet his visitor. This was unusual, for Uncle John was Tommy's favorite uncle.

"Well, Tommy, my lad," began Uncle John, after he had stood in the room awhile unnoticed, "what is this important letter you are writing?"

"Oh, it's not a letter—but—a list," replied Tommy slowly, hardly looking up.

"A list?" repeated Uncle John, "a list of all your aunts and uncles and cousins, I suppose?"

"Oh, no, Uncle John—don't you know that Christmas is only two weeks away? I'm writing out a list of the things I want most of all for Christmas; I thought Mother and Daddy might like to know."

"You are a helpful lad," teased Uncle John, as he chose a chair

by the fireplace. "Would you mind letting me have a look at that list?" Tommy, remembering Uncle John's generous gifts in the past, eagerly granted this request, and was soon seated on the arm of his Uncle's chair, while Uncle John adjusted his glasses and read aloud the long Christmas list. "Roller skates, a ball and bat," and on to the very last thing, "a new bicycle."

"That is a very interesting list, my boy—but I thought your birthday was in July," said Uncle John.

"It is," replied Tommy, "but this is a Christmas list." Tommy thought quietly, "Uncle does act so stupid. He doesn't seem to understand what Christmas is for."

After looking at the list for what seemed to Tommy a long, long time, Uncle John leaned back in the chair and began talking in a heart-to-heart fashion. "Christmas is such

FALLING SNOW

Gently falling snow!

So spotless, silky, soft.

Ye shimmering flakes—nay more, ye messengers from Heav'n
Whispering, stainless, snow!

Carpenting the earth

In robe of star-shaped silk.

Snow flakes, your silent sermon I at last have heard;

Ye messengers to earth.

White and unmarred snow!

"Dear God, from sin and stain

Oh wash this human heart I pray, until it be

E'en whiter than the snow."

Hilda Janzen

a blessed season, Tommy. It's the time when we remember the day long ago when God gave to the world His best of all gifts, the Gift of His only Son. You and I have both accepted Him as our Saviour, Tommy; and now at this Christmas time we are remembering the earthly birthday of our Saviour. What a wonderful day it was, nearly two thousand years ago, when our Lord Jesus left His beautiful home in glory to come into this dark, sinful world as a Babe in Bethlehem's manger! Angels came down that night to announce the good news of His birth, and a star of wondrous light, seen by the Wise Men, caused them to travel across desert sands to the place where Jesus was, that they might give their gifts to Him. Yes, Christmas should be kept as His earthly birthday. And if it is His birthday, Tommy, who then should receive the gifts?" asked Uncle John, looking toward Tommy, who had been sitting very quietly as he listened to the story of that first Christmas Day.

"Why—Jesus should—of course," answered Tommy, as he remembered his birthday and all the fine gifts he received. "I guess, Uncle John, that I had forgotten about Him on His birthday," Tommy added, looking down at the floor. "But tell me, what can I give Him?"

"Well, Tommy, you have already given Him your best gift," continued Uncle John, as he put his

arm about his nephew's shoulders. "You have accepted Him as your Saviour and have given Him the gift of yourself; that is the first gift, and that brings Him great joy. But how it would rejoice His heart if you could tell some friend about Him and get that friend to receive Jesus as Saviour. Do you think you could do this, Tommy, and become a soul winner at this season when we're remembering His birthday? This would be a wonderful gift."

"I'll try, Uncle John," replied Tommy, "I know two boys who never even go to Sunday School."

"Perhaps you could give some gift, too, in Jesus' name, to some who do not have as many things as you have," continued Uncle John, as he watched the interest and eagerness on Tommy's face.

"I'll do it, Uncle John, I really will," said Tommy as he rushed to the fire with his long list of Christmas wishes.

And that night, before Tommy went to sleep, a brand new list lay on his table. And such a long list it was, too! The names of all the poor boys and girls in his room at school were written there. Opposite each was a gift listed; and some of the gifts were his own best games and toys. And at the bottom of the page, written in large letters, were these words: "For HIS Birthday."

—Young Ambassador.



FROM HERE TO THE PINNACLES

By Elizabeth Schroeter

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(39th Installment)

Finally, the minister explained that Christians must bear fruit through holier living and compassion for the needy. "We are at peace with God and we should live out our faith peaceably among Mennonites and non-Mennonites," he concluded.

Then he picked up one of the songbooks on Vater's sewing table and read audibly but not loudly:

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,

It is well, it is well with my soul.

The pastor and the entire family in unison sang the song from memory. Vater's voice was stronger than anyone's else's; Mutter sang tearfully and once or twice had to wipe her eyes with her handkerchief. The others sang softly. Uncle Regehr then opened the large family Bible and read a passage about seeking peace. All knelt on the floor and prayed. Mutter cried audibly, as she asked for peace in the troubled world and petitioned God for wisdom for the higher powers so that they would prevent war and promote peace.

After the prayers, Mutter, Anna and the children immediately left the Grosse Stube. Katja and Mascha walked out holding hands as they were accustomed to do in the meeting place. For them that experience had been the same thing as a church service. Mutter and Anna quickly prepared a Vesper of coffee and Zwieback, and then they, Vater and the minister ate in the Grosse Stube, while the children waited in the Kleine Stube. They talked in a low whisper so as not to disturb the conversation of the grownups in the next room.

A great deal had been said that afternoon. Liesbeth at once turned to the cupboard and her diary to write into it the many highlights of the visit. She had noticed the perfect agreement and fellowship between Vater and the pastor. Did Vater agree with the minister in all things because he valued his good will and the church association, and was therefore willing to give up his own ideas for that fellowship? It had been only about twenty years since Vater and Mutter had accepted the Mennonite faith, and yet they were such staunch followers. Would she ever attain their level of religious faith?

She would give almost anything to possess it. She probably never would attain it if she continued to dodge and to look for comfortable and interesting ways of being a good Mennonite. Vater and Mutter had never asked for an easy way to serve God. They took things as they came to them. They were faithful and true under all conditions. Could she not somehow combine the faith, traditions and experiences of her elders with the education and responsible theories of the modern days? She did not know, but she would try to find out.

To the Tatar Land

The pastor's visit had aroused Liesbeth's curiosity about Mennonites and about the recently conducted Japanese War. For several days, after supper while Vater was watering or otherwise caring for the trees in his orchard, Liesbeth accompanied him and plied him with questions. After two days of it, Vater recalled that two or three years before a trip to Uncle Martin had had a soothing effect on Liesbeth's inquiring nature. He needed a vacation. June was one of the best months of the year to see Russia. Its extreme southern tip surely would be free of unrest and discontent. Unexpectedly he announced at the supper table that he, Liesbeth and Anna, if she cared to go, would take a vacation. They would go to the Crimea within two days.

Liesbeth was so completely surprised and pleased that she could not say a word.

Then suddenly Anna announced, "I am not going. If you want to go along, Mutter, I'll take care of everything."

"I don't care to go," said Mutter.

Liesbeth knew the reason why, and for a minute she was angry with Vater. He never asked Mutter to go with him on trips. When Anna was convinced that Mutter did not want to go, she said she would go if she could finish her sewing by leaving time.

The following day Vater fed the black mare extra rations of grain and borrowed the same light carriage he had used for the journey north a few years before. He put several old blankets and much straw in the back of the carriage and fastened the spring seat from his own carriage to the sides of the borrowed vehicle. Anna and Liesbeth pulled their brightest colors out of the Kiste. Mutter baked pi-

roshki with a dried-cherry filling for the first day of travel and toasted Zwieback for a good many days after that. Carefully she packed the foods in a basket. Included were the little blue teapot and fresh and toasted provisions.

Liesbeth took out her diary and a sharpened pencil. She removed her money from the clothes basket on the floor of the Kleine Stube and counted it. She only had thirty-two kopecks, but she would need very little anyway, especially if Anna were going along. For several years she had been receiving a small fraction of her earnings. She was always generous with her money, when giving the children a treat was concerned.

They were going to travel through a vast area that had always intrigued Liesbeth. She would tour a large part of the province of Tavrida, which up to comparatively recent times had belonged to Turkey. It still was inhabited by people of the faith of the Turks. "Are we going to Balaklava?" she asked, as they were nearing the Juschanlee villages. That was a Crimean city where Florence Nightingale had done so much for the wounded British soldiers in the Crimean wars. Also the English poet Tennyson had honored it in one of his poems.

"I don't know," Vater replied.

To Liesbeth's joy Vater guided the little wagon past Rudnerweide. She received a close view of seemingly well-preserved kurgans. They were uniformly round hills twenty or thirty feet in height and appeared to be man-made. Rudnerweide was a Frisian village which the Alexanderwohl old-timer had mentioned as a good place for studying and exploring a kurgan.

The Sheep Ranch had been mentioned in Liesbeth's presence on various occasions. Suddenly she was riding through it. It was a show place near the Juschanlee River. She was awed by its immensity. It evidently belonged to one man, yet it seemed bigger than an entire village. The big Mennonite estate with large white barns and handsome brick fences teemed with cattle, horses, orchards, grain fields and green pastures.

Near a creek between Juschanlee and Melitopol, Liesbeth spotted a gypsy camp with its usual big bonfire. Perhaps it was the same group of gypsies who had been in Margenau, in the river-bed near the cemetery, about two weeks before. Liesbeth recalled that she had shivered when several women with long black braids and big earrings had come into her yard. She had thought of her grandmother who supposedly had been bewitched by a gypsy. The women wore colorful and slightly peculiar clothing, and their dark flashing eyes and strange lingo had seemed odd to Liesbeth. They had asked Mutter if she had any buckets or pans to fix. She had

heard that gypsies stole horses and children or anything they could lay their hands on. She had never believed those stories but, just the same, she had watched the women as they left the yard. They had made no attempt to take anything. She wished she might sometimes be able to travel and camp out like they did. When she approached them in the creek-bed and saw how they lived, she changed her mind. She realized then how fortunate she was always to have a home to which to go.

Before they reached Melitopol, they passed a Molokani community. The Molokani were Russians of an evangelical faith who had seceded from the Greek Orthodox church. On the right of the Molotschna River, which was quite a large stream in those parts, the little box wagon passed through Terpenye, a Bulgarian village. Vater and Anna, in years past, had frequently gone there to trade dried plums for fresh apples. At one time many years before Dukhobortsy had lived there. Liesbeth knew that the word dukh in Russian meant a spirit and the word borotsa referred to fighters. She asked Vater why they were called by that name.

He explained that about a century or more previous to their trip, the Dukhobortsy had left their Greek Orthodox church because of divergent beliefs. They also had refused to give military service. The Russian government had exiled them to the southern part of the Caucasus and moved Bulgarians into their villages. "Are the Dukhobortsy still in the Caucasus?" Liesbeth asked.

Vater replied, "I have heard that roughly six years ago about eight thousand of them were permitted to go to Canada."

"Canadians seem to be a sympathetic people," Liesbeth opined. "When in 1874 several thousand Mennonites left Russia, Canada admitted as many of them as cared to go there."

"Yes, they and the United States are two countries that were founded by freedom-loving people. They are, and always will be, free and sympathetic toward persecuted individuals," Vater said.

(To be continued.)

Lusemvu Dispensary Dedicated

(Continued from page 10-4)

their contributions which made possible this good dispensary building at Lusemvu. We are sure that if you could see for yourselves how thankful the people are to be able to come to the mission for help, you would say it was worth your effort, time and money. And now we do covet your prayers for the work as it is carried on and that lives may not only be saved physically, but also spiritually.

Toys Aid Child's Development

Toys and games are not just for children's amusement, but to help necessary development, aid in finer co-ordination, and stimulate creative expression.

Active and physical play toys for children one to three years old should include blocks and beads, large for easy handling. These will develop skill and strength, as will the push-and-pull and take-apart toys.

The three to five year group advances to sleds, wagons, trapezes, beads to string. These stimulate co-ordination of body parts in children. The six to eight year olds like scooters, carpentry sets, bats and balls, and water toys to swim and play with. Nine to twelve year olds like footballs, bicycles, croquet sets which aid their development of balance and poise.

Constructive and creative play toys develop personality and creative ability. For very young children, take-apart toys, hammer and nail sets, puzzles, jumbo crayons, plasticine, sewing cards complete with wooden needles, are recommended for aiding eye-hand co-ordination. Children six to eight years old, and nine to twelve, appreciate

water colors, embroidery sets, mecano sets, clay and wax modelling outfits, building bricks.

Dramatic and imitative play toys for smaller children should include cuddly toys, dolls and their accessories, to allow the little child to imitate adults. A lacing shoe can prove invaluable. With separate laces, it is designed to allow a child to practise the tying of shoe laces on his own. Kitchen utensils, doctor and nurse sets, and similar types of toys for older children, will stimulate the adult outlook and reaction.

In social development toys, the element of sharing is most important. Wagons, dishes, tricycles, doll houses, table games, all stimulate the feeling of sharing and the learning of rules. Playing with this type of toy aids a child in realizing that he must be able to be happily one of a group.

Naturally there must be proper space for the child's playthings if it is to learn tidiness.

When thought of in this context toys are not only for fun. They can directly aid in the development of the child.

MORE ABOUT

A Varied Career

(Continued from page 5-4)

were the least of his worries. Subscriptions that were many years overdue, a shrinking subscribers' list, and other difficulties all proved his mettle. A move to C. A. DeFehr & Sons in 1934 made him book-keeper of that growing importing and wholesale-retail firm. He still works at the office, although failing health has cut his working day in half.

Entered Church Work Whole-Heartedly

In Winnipeg he entered wholeheartedly into the work of the struggling Mennonite Brethren mission church. He sang in the choir and in 1925 was chosen Sunday school superintendent. "I was completely inexperienced and learned from others as much as I could," he declares. The same Bible lesson was taken in all classes, so that teachers gathered on Saturday nights to discuss the lesson and to hear a demonstration by one of the teachers. Criticism and suggestions for improvements followed. "In this way we learned together," he says of the 25 or more teachers that used to meet weekly.

To improve the standard of teaching, the church would invite men like Dr. A. H. Unruh and Rev. J. Wiens, then teachers at the Winkler Bible School, to come and serve at Sunday school conferences. Through

the years these grew into provincial affairs and helped to raise the standard of Sunday schools in other churches, too.

When Mr. Wedel retired as Sunday school superintendent in 1953, he could look back to 26 years of growth and progress. He had seen the Sunday school adopt the graded lessons and had the joy of seeing more and more Sunday school teachers become qualified for their work through special courses and attendance at Winkler Bible School and the M. B. Bible College. During this period he has served continuously as superintendent, with the exception of a two-year period when he resided in North Kildonan.

Loves Children

Mr. Wedel loves children and "has a way with them." At one time the first child of friends of the family proved an exceedingly restless baby. The health of the mother was threatened, so she and the boy were taken into the Wedel home while the father attended to a struggling business. "He was the one who walked the floor at night, carrying the baby," the mother testified of Mr. Wedel. When fifteen years later this boy's query led his parents to consider the claims of Christ seriously for the first time, Mr. Wedel's exemplary life and helpful counsel were instrumental in leading the parents to accept Christ as Saviour.

When an official of the local hospital needed a home for a child, he

turned to the Wedels for help. After a night of prayer and thought about it, they adopted the infant. Betty is now the wife of one of Steinbach's prominent hardware merchants, Mr. Peter Barkman, and active in church work also.

Mr. Wedel's career in music began at home, where "we all loved music." His musical interests received new stimulus through several voice lessons in Germany. Experience was gained as a choir member and as first tenor in one of Winnipeg's best-loved quartets in the late twenties and early thirties. For three years (1929-1931) he, Ben Horch, Ed Horch, and Henry Shier sang for a radio program of the Canadian Sunday School Mission and occasionally for a radio program of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Associated With Ben Horch

Association with Ben Horch proved decisive in shaping his appreciation of good music and in his knowledge of music. Out of their experiences in those years grew their close collaboration in the production of the "Gesangbuch". Others who participated in the work that led to the appearance of this widely-acclaimed songbook were Rev. C. F. Thiessen, Rev. H. P. Neufeldt, Rev. C. D. Toews, Rev. J. Harder, and Mr. Cornelius Klansen (Winnipeg). A project of the Canadian M. B. Conference, the songbook is loved for its fine choice of "chorale" and music for every occasion.

In the middle 1940's the music committee of the M. B. churches in Manitoba began reproducing music by the photostatic process, and during the last few years Mr. Wedel has spent much time in this work. He has also continued to serve on the songbook committee of the Canadian M. B. Conference, which is now working on an English hymnary, and the music committee of the Elmwood M. B. Church, until ill-health made this impossible this year.

Mr. Wedel lost his wife through cancer in 1950. Last winter he suffered several severe attacks that were diagnosed as kidney trouble and necessitated long periods of hospitalization and convalescence. Through it all he learned to pray, "Lord, give me the right attitude. Let me learn to accept Thy will for my life." That the Lord has been able to do so is the testimony of his friends.

It has been a rich life—a life full of service for the Lord. Mistakes have been made, but these have been used as stepping-stones for further growth. Those who know him agree that one day the Lord will be able to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." They also wish him increased health and a steady trust in the goodness of God.

Books You Should Have

The Question of Worldliness

By Frederick P. Wood. 70 pp.

This is definitely one of the finest books ever to appear on this subject. It does not evade the issues, but lays down Biblical principles amply supported with scriptural references. It deals with the biblical teaching on worldliness, gives a definition of worldliness, the effect of worldliness, motives for separation, and discusses the "question of the questionable."

All young people and every parent should have this little volume. Stephen Olford, who assisted Billy Graham in New York, states: "No minister should be without a supply of this book in his vestry." 60¢

Out of the Earth

By E. M. Blaiklock. 78 pp.

In this book the author, who is a professor at the University College at Auckland, N.Z., writes a scintillating account of the most noteworthy triumphs of the witness of archaeology to New Testament history. Both students and general readers will find this treatment up-to-date and absorbing reading.

Price \$1.50

Archaeology and the Old Testament

By J. A. Thompson. 117 pp.

The author is not only someone who has studied archaeological writings — he has taken part in excavations. From his experiences and his wide knowledge of the subject he has written on: Biblical Archaeology Today; Abraham the Migrant; In the Land of the Pharaohs; From Egypt to Canaan; Settling Into the Land; One Nation — One King; The Kings of Israel; The Kings of Judah. \$1.50

Sketches of Jewish Social Life

By Alfred Edersheim. 332 pp.

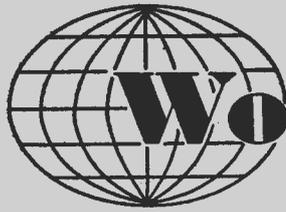
This monumental work on Jewish social life during the days of Christ is a classic in its field. All who would teach Sunday school, serve as Bible discussion leaders, and who would understand their Bibles better should buy this volume. \$3.50

George Mueller of Bristol

By A. T. Pierson.

The message of faith and trust which the life of George Mueller presents is one much needed today, and the reality of his witness to a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God is a great tonic for people in whose hearts the lamps of faith are burning low. This book will strengthen and inspire every serious student of this great life. \$2.50

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Round-Up of World-Wide

RELIGIOUS NEWS REPORTS

Charles Wesley Record Album Released by Methodists

The first record album to feature exclusively the hymns of Charles Wesley has been produced by the Protestant Radio and Television Center, Atlanta, Georgia. The 250th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth is being celebrated this year, and the album was produced in connection with the observance.

Charles Wesley was born December 18, 1707, lived in England, and wrote about 6,500 hymns. He was the brother of John Wesley, founder of Methodism.

The hymns in the album are sung by the Chancel Choir of First Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, under the direction of Dr. Glen R. Johnson, director. A portion of the album is devoted to a "Charles Wesley Hymn Service," featuring hymns woven together with appropriate narration.

* * *

Dr. Smith in Buenos Aires

The Reverend Oswald J. Smith of Toronto, Canada, is preaching in Buenos Aires after conducting three crusades in Brazil and one in Uruguay. There was a total attendance of 66,000 in the first four crusades, with 1,171 making first-time "decisions for Christ." Crowds at Buenos Aires are the biggest yet, averaging 15,000 each night and 25,000 on Sundays. Over 300 step out to make "first-time decisions" every night. Dr. Smith writes: "The Buenos Aires Campaign is the greatest movement of the Spirit of God that I have witnessed in the 50 years of my ministry."

* * *

New Graham Headquarters

Evangelist Billy Graham dedicated a new headquarters building of his evangelistic association "to the glory of God" in Minneapolis, Minn. The \$200,000 building was formerly used for Standard Oil Company offices. The evangelist said he was turning over responsibility for the business end of his association to an expanded board of trustees, of which he will no longer serve as chairman. The board will be increased from five to 20 men, including leading accountants, lawyers, bankers and insurance executives representing several denominations, Mr. Graham said. "I want to give my time solely to my preaching and ministry," he added.

* * *

Sole Indian Church Renovated in Connecticut

Connecticut's only church built by and for Indians has been refurbished. Erected in 1831 on tribal lands of the Mohegans, it is

located on a hilltop south of Norwich, according to a report of the New England Council. In the old days the church was the center of annual tribal meetings, when wigs were put up, ancient ritual dances performed and meals cooked.

CANADASCOPE

Winnipeg Teachers Given Strap

Under a new ruling passed by the Winnipeg school board all of Winnipeg's 1,577 teachers will be issued with a strap to maintain law and order in their classrooms. At the same time, the teachers will be given authority to use the straps without consulting school principals. Under the old regulations, the principals decided whether or not straps should be used. Under the new policy, teachers strapping students will be required to make a full report of the incidents to the principals.

Tax Reductions Announced

Tax reductions for Canadians have been announced by the finance minister, Hon. Donald Fleming, in the House of Commons. They include a two and a half per cent reduction in the excise tax on cars, the increase of personal income tax exemption for dependents by \$100, and the reduction of the rate of tax on the first \$1,000 from 13 to 11 per cent. Other tax changes affected corporations, estates and those working away from home (who now need not pay tax on free room and board).

* * *

Rockslide Idles Kitimat

Shortly after midnight on December 7 a rockslide bowled over a huge steel power pole carrying electricity 50 miles from Kemano through the snowbound Kitdal Pass to the Aluminum Company of Canada's giant smelter at Kitimat.

The result was a complete blackout of the town, until domestic power was restored temporarily with diesel engines. Within eight hours the potlines, groups of furnaces where aluminum ingots are made, were frozen solid. This put many of the 2,500 workers out of work. It is expected that it will be at least two weeks before the smelter will be in operation again.



What Of The Night?

By James H. Hunter

Once again at the time these words are written the air is filled with rumors of war as Prime Minister Macmillan flies to Washington to confer with Mr. Eisenhower on the explosive situation in the Middle East, with Syria as the chief fomenter of trouble. Behind it all, of course, stands the sinister shadow of Russia, ever ready to fish in troubled waters and stir up strife where it will further her nefarious ends. As the year draws to its close there is not the slightest evidence of peace anywhere on the dark horizons of the world. Unrest, hatred and strife are the order of the day.

There are none of the Arab kingdoms that have any desire to embrace Communism, or that does not recognize what a serious menace the Russian system constitutes to them, but a state like Syria finds itself drifting nearer and nearer within the Soviet orbit as Russia provides her with military aid and plays upon her fears. The one enemy that these states are united against is Israel. Here again one sees the dreadful dilemma of the Western powers and the diabolic cleverness of Russia. In Arab eyes the Russians are their friends

against Israel, while the Americans, particularly, are only their friends against Communism, which the Arabs dread even less than the little state the West brought into being.

But what neither of them see is that history today runs rapidly into the mold of prophecy, and that the stage is being set for the last dreadful acts that will bring an age to its bloody and awe-inspiring termination.

Surely it should not be hard to discern the "signs of the times" in this day and generation, of which the troubled Middle East is only one expression. Even as we celebrate at this season the birth of the Prince of Peace there is war in the hearts of men, war upon a scale the world never dreamed of and that can only find a fitting description in the Apocalyptic judgments of the Book of Revelation.

The hearts of men may fail them for fear for the things that are coming upon the earth, but they will not turn to God's Book to find where we are in the scheme of Time, nor turn to God's Son to find the only Refuge from the storm and the only way of eternal life. That we have reached the "perilous times" spoken of in Paul's Epistle to Timothy (II Timothy 3:1-5) no candid observer will deny. There can be nothing but the darkest

pessimism in our outlook on the future if our horizons are bounded by what man has wrought to bring peace upon the earth and goodwill to men. Such an outlook can only lead to despair as man's futile efforts to bring about the Kingdom of God upon earth are considered.

But there is nothing but glorious hope and rejoicing in the Biblical outlook upon the future. It is only in the prophetic Word that one can find assurance, stability, comfort and joy. The victory of God's kingdom in this world of space and time is assured, as well as upon the vaster background of eternity. God is not dead, nor shall His plans and purposes for this earth fail by so much as a hairsbreadth. But there can be no kingdom of Peace without the King of Peace, and the establishment of that kingdom must be preceded by fearful judgments upon an apostate world given over to greed and godlessness, materialism and sensuality, skepticism and unbelief, all pre-figured in the prophetic Word with the colossus of the Russian bear casting its shadow over all. "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh — and also the night."

(Copr. ERA, 1957)

Rev. A. J. Sawatzky Serves at Crossweide

Crossweide, Man.—Beginning on Nov. 17, the Crossweide M. B. Church was richly blessed through two weeks of Bible study and evangelistic meetings conducted by Rev. A. J. Sawatzky of Kelowna, B. C.

Rev. Sawatzky's first messages were directed to Christians. This led to soul-searching on their part. Later appeals were made to the unsaved.

Every forenoon of the week Rev. Sawatzky led the Bible study with those who were able to attend. The book of Peter was the topic of study.

The services were conducted in both the German and the English language. Prayer meetings were held for fifteen minutes before each service began. Different groups from the local church served with songs and musical numbers. Rev. Sawatzky always had something of interest for the children. Sometimes it was a story, sometimes a sermonette. New choruses were learned and Bible drills were thoroughly enjoyed. Boys and girls were encouraged to invite friends and their enthusiasm and response to the challenge really put the grownups to shame.

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'All Things To All Men'

Christians must understand and appreciate the Oriental culture and make more effort to enter into their problems, says Dr. Melvin Gingerich after returning from two years in Japan.

He said one of the chief criticisms of the people of the Orient is that Western churchmen do not understand the Eastern culture nor do they enter adequately into their problems, which are much different from those in the West.

He said the great revolution of the Orient must be taken into account by the West. A third of the world's population in recent years has passed from colonialism into independence, he noted, which is producing strong nationalism in the nations of the Orient.

Dr. Gingerich spent the past two years as a representative of the MCC Peace Section writing and lecturing on the issues of Christian peace. He gave more than 200 lectures to more than 30,000 persons in secondary schools, universities, churches and other organizations.

He plans to resume work with the Mennonite Research Foundation centered at Goshen, Ind. Dr. Paul Peachy, on leave from Eastern Mennonite College, is the MCC representative in Japan now.

Dr. Gingerich reports that Japan, probably more than any other nation, has a great interest in peace. He said the Japanese have become disillusioned about the virtues of war and militarism, so they earnestly want peace.

Communism, he said, takes advantage of the Japanese peace interest by stating that it is the "party of peace." The Buddhist faith, which has a philosophy of peace, is gaining acceptance by the Japanese.

Domestic Needs Encircle Timor

Leonard Kingsley (Berne, Ind.) reports from Timor island:

"I suppose it would come as a bit of a shock to people of some parts of the world that 98 per cent of the people of Timor have never heard of the Russian sputniks and another 1.99 per cent, who may have heard, have very little interest.

"The .01 per cent keep abreast with world news, but even among them there is little concern about international developments, especially in science.

"Perhaps this points up nothing, except that in this rather remote corner of the globe people have

more immediate concerns and work worries than any 'nik'."

Timor's period of food shortage is at hand, Mr. Kingsley reports. Prices all over Indonesia are soaring, but at this particular time foods are not available so prices become prohibitive.

For instance, corn imported from Java sells at Rp. 3.30 per kilogram (about two pounds), which is about \$8 a hundred in America. With such prices, he says, it does not make much difference whether or not food is available since most of the island's population cannot afford it.

The MCC-Church World Service project on Timor seeks to help restore income from agriculture by teaching usable techniques in methods and management.

The Evangelical Christian Church of Timor, through which the project functions, in October commemorated its tenth anniversary as an independent church. Before Indonesian political independence, the church was supported by the Dutch government.

Flu in Frigid Land Alters Activity

Not even the cold northland is immune to Asiatic flu and the Mennonite volunteers in all the Newfoundland projects have had their work altered because of it.

Many of the volunteer teachers were away from their classrooms for a period while pupils (or themselves) recuperated. Some spent the time working with other volunteers in hospitals and some had big experiences moose hunting.

Dr. John C. Stutzman (Carlock, Ill.), a volunteer physician with the Grenfell Association at St. Anthony, has made trips by plane and boat to Grenfell outposts in Labrador to give medical and dental services.

Good Response to Magazine Request

Some time ago the MCC requested contributions of old copies of The National Geographic for use in MCC service units. To date around 4,000 pounds of the magazines (they weigh at least three-quarters of a pound) have been contributed by readers and have been shipped to some of the service units overseas.

The magazine, now in its 58th year, is one of the really great journalistic and humanitarian achievements of civilization.

Dollars for the World Community

Three Mennonite men who are in 1-W service in Michigan are contributing their earnings to world relief and projects in the program known as the "1-W Mission."

Sanford Christophel (Clarksville, Mich.), who is engaged in agricultural experimentation at Michigan State University, is contributing earnings to the MCC agricultural

rehabilitation projects in northern Greece and in Timor island of Indonesia.

Jerry Newcomer (Seville, O.), who is a psychiatric aide at Ypsilanti State Hospital, is giving his wages to the support of the radio broadcast "The Mennonite Hour" on radio station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador, a Christian station which has nearly world-wide coverage.

Ralph Smucker (Smithville, O.), also working on agricultural experimentation at Michigan State University, is contributing to the Greece and Timor projects.

In the "1-W Mission" program 1-W men have the opportunity to contribute their earnings to their conference mission board or to some related project while working on a voluntary service basis.

Lusemvu Dispensary Dedicated

By Mrs. Frank Buschman

On Sunday, October 6, the newly-completed medical dispensary building here at Lusemvu was dedicated to the Lord and His service. This event meant exceedingly much to the work here. Ever since we arrived at Lusemvu in March, 1953, we have constantly been confronted with the tremendous medical needs of the people in this area. Since we were not set up for medical service, it was often necessary to turn away those who came for medical help. To say "no" was the hardest experience of all in our work. The disappointment in the people's faces cannot be described in words.

Present for the dedication were representatives from the Kafumba and Matende stations, the Lusemvu missionaries and a good crowd of Congolese from this area. Just before the service began, Brother Ernest Schmidt from Kajiji drove up unexpectedly. We were indeed happy to have the field missionary doctor with us to speak briefly.

Music by Natives

Musical selections were presented by three boys who work in the dispensary and by the primary school children of the station. The dedication message by Brother Buschman was based on the portion of John 6 in which Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda.

Brother J. Rolfe Graves and our African preacher Malwano James led in the dedicatory prayers. Sisters Anna Goertzen and Nettie Berg, missionaries serving at Lusemvu, also spoke.

The Congolese were reminded that a group of Christian mothers in America had given of their tithes and offerings for this structure and that they were now following this work with their prayers and interests. (The dispensary was made possible by the Women's Missionary Service of the Pacific District Conference. These sisters are also continuing to maintain this medical service with their contributions. The cement-block building contains reception, treatment, medicine and maternity rooms.)

Medical Work Begins

In March, 1953, the Congolese heard there was finally a resident missionary at Lusemvu. Immediately they began coming for medical

help. Lacking facilities, medicines and native help, we were really unprepared to care for their various tropical ailments. But since there was no dispensary within a radius of 20 to 30 miles where these poor, neglected people could go for help, it was hard to say "no" to them.

Even with the limited care we were able to offer, people continued to come, and in increased numbers. Treatment was confined to what might be called "first aid" or "relief." People were encouraged to go to a place where they would get the needed help. Even with this setup it wasn't long before we had 40 outpatients a day. The Lord blessed this work and in several cases we know that lives were saved.

Meanwhile, the government-subsidized schools required more and more supervision and the enrollment continued to increase. Villages, indifferent to the Gospel, began to respond, and we felt we should spend more time there. For two years we carried on under the strain of these other responsibilities. And then came the painful decision of sending the sick people away without giving them help.

Medical care, however, was continued for the school children on the station, the teachers and their families. This still left 300 persons to care for.

Contributions Make Dispensary Possible

When Brother J. B. Toews came to the field early in 1956, this need was again presented. Several chiefs from nearby villages came to ask the "white chief from America for a hospital and a doctor." Brother Toews then informed us that contributions from the Pacific District women were available for the construction of a dispensary.

The building was begun in May, 1956. The main part was completed in a short time, but there were not sufficient funds to complete the building. Then in 1957 came another contribution from the Pacific Coast sisters with which we were able to put in the ceilings and otherwise finish the building so it could be occupied and used. Then came the dedication on October 6.

We want to thank the sisters of the Pacific District Conference for
(Continued on page 7-4)

COLLEGES

Mennonite Brethren Bible College

We have various mediums by which we can effectively minister to the unsaved as well as have fellowship with one another. One of these mediums is music. Many experiences and observations have proven to us that singing can be a very successful means in building God's kingdom. The administration of the Mennonite Brethren Bible College has recognized this possibility, and has provided our young people with the opportunity to prepare themselves for this ministry. The motivating factor, guiding us in formulating progressive and positive principles for our music department, is to provide the right environment for learning to serve God effectively through the ministry of music.

For convenience sake I shall discuss the music department with regard to three different areas, namely: theoretical, applied, and practical.

Theoretical:

There are fifteen students enrolled in the music course and these are concerned with all areas of the music department. We must remember that the music students receive a certain amount of biblical instruction as well. It is our conviction that a minister of music must be grounded and established in the Word of God.

The theoretical area of the music course includes subjects such as: Rudiments, Harmony, Counterpoint, Form, History of Music, Composition, Conducting, Hymnology, Sight-singing, etc. The course is so designed that a student, completing the above courses, is equipped to write the required theoretical examination for a teacher's diploma from the Toronto Conservatory of Music, as well as from the Western Board of Music, affiliated with the University of Manitoba.

Not only the music students, but also a number of theology and religious education students avail themselves of the opportunity to study some of the theoretical music subjects.

Applied:

The applied area is occupied with the teaching of voice and piano. The number of students studying in this area has increased considerably this year. Thirty-two students are busy exercising their vocal cords under the able instruction of Br. Victor Martens. If enthusiasm and desire are any criterion, then a steady progress will be observed.

Approximately fifteen to twenty students are diligently endeavoring to improve their piano technique. Miss Wanda Dick is an ac-

complished teacher in this field. Other teachers are assisting her. The performance at recitals is proof that progress is achieved.

Our prayer and desire is that all of the voice and piano students will permit themselves to be used of the Lord in a pleasing and acceptable manner.

Practical

This area is one in which almost the entire student body participates. Here we are occupied with serving the Lord through music and song in a practical manner. Various avenues of approach are used:

- Many special groups are organized to serve at different occasions. These consist of singing during chapel service, student meetings, hospitals, old folks homes, and many other similar places. Many blessed experiences are reported by these groups.

- A number of students serve at various occasions as pianists. In this field we also try to help the students to be as effective as possible. They are doing a commendable service.

- A select group of approximately 38 voices is known as the A Cappella choir. This choir seeks to serve the Lord in song at various college functions. Many blessings

have been experienced by these singers and others have received blessings as a result of their singing. It is an accepted function of the college to visit the Mennonite Brethren Churches of one province every year. Next spring we plan to visit the Mennonite Brethren Churches of British Columbia. We trust that God will look favorably upon this venture, and give grace and strength for this service.

- The largest group is the Oratorio Choir. Not only the students, but also some other singers from the city participate in this choir. Each year the choir presents programs of some larger musical works; such as an oratorio. During the last number of years the oratorio, "The Messiah", has been presented. We are very grateful to the singers who have participated in this choir and for the blessings which have come to others as a result of these programs.

It is the desire and purpose of the music department, in cooperation with the college in general, to emphasize spiritual values in our program. We hope that in some measure this has been realized in the past, and will be realized also in the future.

—Henry Voth,
Director of the Music Department.

The First Baptist Church, Burlingame, said arrangements have been made to administer the village of 2,500 through the Anglican Church of Jerusalem. The initial cost of the adoption will be about \$1,600, which will be used for road and street repairs, water pipelines and sanitation work. Villagers of the once model community will share one-fifth of the cost.

Prayer Week Program

(Continued from page 2-2)

Thursday, January 9

Family and Youth: Suggested Bible readings are: Mark 10:6-9; Colossians 3:18-25; and Ephesians 5:28 and 6:4. We should be thankful for the institution of the family, particularly those where Christ is the head. We sorrow over the loss of the sanctity of marriage and the increase of divorces. Prayer is needed that God's Word might become the standard for home and school life.

Friday, January 10

Foreign Missions: Suggested Bible readings are: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; and Isaiah 55:4, 5. Praise should be given for God's Word, His messengers, and the church that sends them. However, we are troubled that many do not manifest the true missionary spirit and that thus many areas are still without the Gospel. Supplication is in order for all missionary efforts, the workers, and the indigenous church (Ephesians 6:18-19; Romans 11:25-27).

Saturday, January 11

Home Missions: Matthew 22:9-10; John 1:35ff are the suggested Bible readings. Praise for rapid expansion of home missions, city missions, radio work, relief. Praise also for students and teachers in Bible schools, colleges and other institutions preparing young people for His service. Prayer for Spirit-filled workers (Matthew 9:36-38; Isaiah 52:7-10).

BIBLE INSTITUTES

Swift Current Bible Institute

The first month of school has passed by very rapidly. Chapel, classes, noon-hour volley ball and gratis work have become a routine to each student.

The chapel period each morning is a challenge and a blessing to us. The teachers and third class students have been bringing the messages. The second class students will be bringing the messages this week. Occasionally we are privileged to have visiting speakers.

On November 8, Mr. Michael Tancredi, an Italian student, spoke to us of the difficulties encountered when missionaries wish to enter Italy. His great burden is to establish a Bible school there. In this way the Christians there could become better trained to teach their own people.

On November 19 and 20, Miss Reid of the Wycliffe Bible Translators visited our school. She told us of the work in Mexico and presented to us a few interesting lessons in phonetics. This gave us a clearer insight into the work and the difficulties connected with it.

For practical work a number of students are teaching Happy Hour Clubs, contacting children who would otherwise remain unreached. Tracts are distributed every Saturday night in the streets of the city. The choir, as well as the mixed

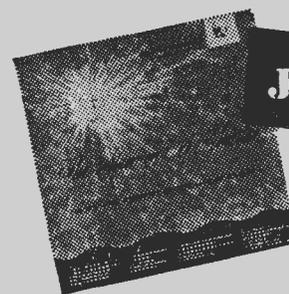
quartet, have rendered several programs at various occasions and places.

The cook, Miss Eva Penner, had to leave us for reasons of health. Mrs. Elwin Epp, wife of one of the students, has taken over.

California Church Adopts Jordan Village

In Burlingame, California, an internationally-minded congregation is taking steps toward the adoption of the Jordan village of Rafideyeh, 70 miles north of Jerusalem.

Dr. Cecil G. Osborne, pastor of



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ing with. He appealed for new members and said that CBMC was a place for men with drive and zeal for the Lord's work. He added that the souls of men and women are at stake and therefore the association was not a place for shirkers or deadwood.

The supper banquet consisted of turkey and all its trimmings, which pampered the palates of hungry members and guests, particularly this young reporter. Christmas carols and hymns were sung under the leadership of W. Mulligan. Special numbers were sung by the CBMC quartet and Dave Falk, law student and 1957 winner of the Rose Bowl competition, who sang two solos.

The program for 1958 was announced by Mr. Redekop. For the first time the Winnipeg committee is to be the host at the annual regional convention, which will be held May 9, and 10, 1958. This regional extends southeast to Minneapolis, east to Duluth, west to Regina and southwest to Billings. Already 50 reservations have been made at the Fort Garry hotel for guests from all points of North America. Several leading men of the committee's international board will be present as guest speakers. One of the highlights will be a banquet at the Fort Garry Hotel on May 10.

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Businessmen to Host Regional Convention

By George Derksen

What lies ahead for mankind; terror, doom, destruction? This is the question which most men are trying to find an answer for. The answer to this question was given at the

Christian Business Men's Committee Christmas banquet, held in the North Kildonan M. B. Church on December 9 by various members of the organization, as they gave their personal testimonies.

In their testimonies, they told the approximately 200 guests and members present that the ultimate answer is Christ—or death and hell.

While giving the regional report for the past year the retiring president, Dave Redekop, supplemented these statements. He said that the world faces a great crisis and is in perilous times. He added that CBMC had a glorious position to fill, its members being, "Men with a vision for God's work" (theme for the year).

Mr. Redekop reviewed some of the highlights of the past year, revealing that a new CBMC organization had been founded in Brandon and urged prayer for that group. He also reported on the forms of assistance the Christian business men had given The Deeper Life Campaign held in the city auditorium last spring. A highlight of the year had been the annual retreat held at Lake Winnipeg Mission Camp, when businessmen from Regina, Brandon, Winnipeg, Grand Forks and other outlying points gathered with their families for a retreat with God and fellow Christians.

Another added feature of this year's activities was the participation by members of the Winnipeg Association in the world-wide convention held at Phoenix, Arizona.

Introduction of the 1958 president, Sel Belsher, was made by Dave Redekop. Mr. Belsher in turn introduced the members of the new executive which he will be work-

CAROL FESTIVAL AT SHARON
Yarrow, B. C.—The Sharon Mennonite Collegiate is sponsoring a two-day Carol Festival for December 17 and 18. Various choirs will take part. Two dramas will also be presented.



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