

Mennonite Observer

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

I Cor. 2:2

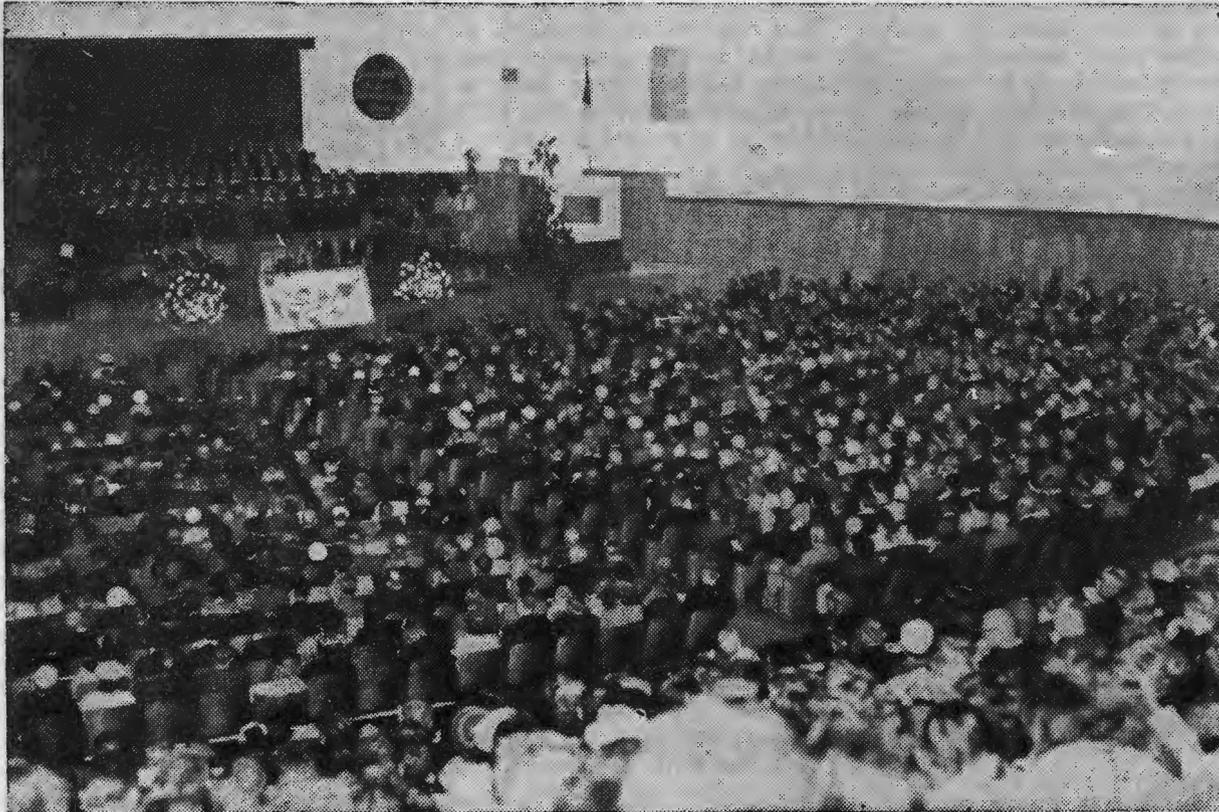
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YOUR CHRISTIAN
FAMILY WEEKLY

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Centennial M.B. Conference in Retrospect



Approximately 2,400 persons crowded into the large auditorium of the Reedley M.B. Church for the morning service on Sunday Nov. 13, 1960. Services were held simultaneously in three auditoriums for 6,000 persons.

Characteristics of the convention of the Mennonite Brethren Conference held in Reedley, California, November 13-16, 1960, were: the centennial of the brotherhood, the merger of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren and the Mennonite Brethren Conferences, the realization that the Mennonite Brethren are a world brotherhood, and a review of and the planning for the future in the various branches of activity.

"Jesus Christ... the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20b) was the main theme of the conference. The three basic subjects for Sunday, November 13 were: "Our Heritage: Retrospect and Repentance", "Our Trust: Present-Day Responsibilities", and "Our Prospect: Facing the Future."

The main speakers at the conference were G. W. Peters, J. A. Toews, B. J. Braun, D. B. Wiens,

G. B. Giesbrecht, D. J. Pankratz, I. W. Redekopp, J. A. Harder, F. C. Peters, J. B. Toews, R. M. Baerg and Lando Hiebert. Personal salvation, pious living, testifying for Jesus and a love for the Word of God, which characterized our forefathers, were points which were especially emphasized by the speakers.

At the first business session Rev. Dan Friesen brought the conference

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European Mennonite Bible School to Visit Canada and the USA

A visit to the United States and Canada of a vocal and instrumental musical group from the European Mennonite Bible School, Bienenberg, Switzerland, is being planned for August through October of 1961.

Samuel Gerber, principal of the school, and Clarence Hiebert, Enid Okla., MCC-sponsored teacher at the school, will accompany the group. The work of the school will

be presented at each meeting, with the purpose of acquainting North American Mennonites with the school. It is hoped that the visit will promote closer fellowship between North American and European Mennonites.

North Saskatchewan District Sunday School Convention

"The Abiding Word in a Changing World" was the theme of the District S. S. Convention convening in the Dalmeny M. B. church, November 25-27. Keen and growing interest was manifest throughout the five sessions beginning Friday evening, as Sunday school workers and interested friends from practically every church of the district crowded the church auditorium.

A highlight of the convention were the soul-stirring messages of the guest speaker, the Rev. J. J. Toews of the M. B. Bible College faculty. Very helpful also were the various workshops conducted in the classrooms of the local high school. Special numbers in song rendered by the various churches and the Bethany Bible Institute added greatly to the services. Appropriate posters prepared for the occasions by students of the Bible school challenged Sunday school workers to greater application to their God-given task, while the film strip, "Family Togetherness," shown at the first service helped to impress upon parents their responsibility to their children. Of special interest at the last session was the answering of a number of submitted questions by a panel of workers selected for that purpose.

"Our first concern as Sunday school teachers ought to be, who and what we are, not what we teach," said Brother Toews in his opening message. Speaking on "The Master Teacher," he showed us that Christ's effectiveness was due first of all to His absolute purity, then to His knowledge of the subject matter and His students.

"When Do We Really Teach the Word?" was the theme of the second address, given Saturday afternoon. Perhaps it came as a shock to many of us that we have taught

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Sherry Horton, left, who served with several songs at the Centennial. Mrs. Horton, centre, and Mr. Horton, right. These three represented the North Carolina, Negro churches which joined the M.B. Conference together with the K.M.B. Conference at the Centennial in Reedley.

EDITORIAL

"The Balanced Call of God"

Rev. Dan Friesen, Reedley, Calif.

"And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:3).

We have just finished observing our Centennial Conference in Reedley, Calif. At this great occasion we reminded ourselves anew of the good news, the Gospel of Salvation. As an aftermath, we need to see that the true church of believers, though one, is divided into two segments, the "Theys" and the "Thems." The early church caught this vision, and we read in our text, "They sent them." No church can do the work of the kingdom unless this principle is projected and this plan is understood. "Go ye into all the world." "How shall they go unless they be sent."

Long before the sun ever looked over the eastern horizon, centuries before the rivers were born or the mountains shifted into their places, this arrangement was made in heaven. The Father was willing to send; the Son was willing to be sent. The Father was willing to give up His Son; the Son was willing to give up His glory. Today, we enjoy the fruits of this sacrifice as we rejoice in our salvation. However, there is a grave/danger for Christians to fluff up their pillow of security, to relax in the sweet bed of salvation assurance and thereby forget the purpose of a Christian life—service.

When the birth rate of a nation begins to fall, that is the sign that such a nation is digging its own grave in a dying land. This principle holds true in the church. Unless children are born into the kingdom of God, we, as a church, are doomed to die. God has given us a great conference in which to work. But if we merely gloat over the accomplishments of the past, we are feeding on the husks that cannot satisfy. Both, the "Theys" and the "Thems," must be cultivated. There must be those who are willing to go to the battle and there also must be those who tarry with the stuff. Both shall share alike.

If the whole church could be awakened to the cry of Rachel in Gen. 31:1, "Give me children or I die," if the whole church would have this burning desire, then this generation could evangelize the world. Mission work is not the work of missionaries; it is the call of God to the church. Oh, that we might catch this vision, that the "Theys" of God's kingdom and the "Thems" of God's kingdom might carry on a balanced work.

We are not a church that merely promotes missions. We are a missionary church. As such, we trust, God will continue to give us such a vision, a burden, and concern that every member of our conference may belong to the "Theys" or the "Thems." If this is the case, the world will say of the 20th century M. B. Church: "They sent Them."

Guest Editorial by the Moderator of the M. B. Conference
Pastor of the Reedley M. B. Church

DEVOTIONAL

Righteousness in God's Sight

By John Boldt

Our Scripture is found in Romans 3:21-25: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood."

In these verses we find the answer to man's deepest need: to be made righteous in the sight of God. All of us exert a good deal of effort in meeting the ordinary needs

of daily living, but no one can realize full peace and joy if this deepest of all needs is not met. So many people are miserable because they have not realized this as their need. They spend much time in pursuit of secondary things. The righteousness that man needs in the sight of God is vital for his approach to any of the problems of life. If he possesses it, it undergirds and strengthens him as nothing else can. But in order to be righteous in the sight of God we must take the right way, God's way.

The great hindrance to man's righteousness with God is man's sin. It has entered, a dark and ugly enemy, from without and has made us all come short of the stan-

dard of righteousness, which is the glory of God. "There is no difference," our Scripture says, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." As Bishop Moule puts it: "Whatever otherwise your 'difference' may be from the most disgraceful and notorious breakers of the law of God, you know that there is none in this respect—that you are as hopelessly, whether or not as distantly, remote as they are from the glory of God. The harlot, the liar, the murderer, are short of it; but so are you. Perhaps they stand at the bottom of a mine, and you on the crest of an Alp, but you are as little able to touch the stars as they." And another writer says, sin is at once a debt, a disease, and a departure. The debt requires to be paid, the disease requires to be healed, and the departure requires to be corrected. Man needs to be right in the sight of God, but how can this be accomplished?

Some have tried to find the answer in keeping the law of God as it is revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures, but they have burdened themselves night and day and in the end have attained only to self-righteousness. This is worse than unrighteousness, because it is so deceptive. The rich young ruler who came to Jesus seeking the way to eternal life had endeavored to keep the law from his youth, and by his own estimate had succeeded very well. As a result he was blind to the real need of his soul, and when Jesus exposed his condition, he went away sorrowful. No, the law cannot give us righteousness in God's sight, for as we read it serves to give us knowledge of our sin. This is very necessary and important, but it is not enough. "The looking-glass may show us the smeared face, but for cleansing we go to the laver, not to the glass."

Others have tried to find the answer by following a good example, perhaps the life of some good person. Many even attempt to follow the example of Christ, Whom they hold to be the best man who ever lived, but only a man. Those who try to do His will have to admit, if they are honest, that they do not have the power to live as He did, for His life was flawless. They are weighted down and held back by their weakness, for which they have no answer. A Chinese fable illustrates this point. Confucius, Buddha, and Lao-tze were founders of three great religions which contained many lofty and noble moral teachings. One day they met in the land of the immortals and lamented the fact that their excellent doctrines did not seem to be making any headway on earth. They decided that what was needed was someone to live out these teachings as a constant model before the eyes of men. Accordingly they took on material bodies and went down to earth to find someone who would do this. Confucius found an old man who showed a wonderful knowledge of



his teachings, but who remained seated during the whole meeting. Confucius was delighted and recommended him to the other two. They also found that he understood their teachings fully, but again remained seated the whole time. Then Confucius suggested to the other two, that since this was the only man able to fulfill their purpose, all three ask him to be the model for the practice of their teachings on earth. Buddha and Lao-tze agreed. When they approached the venerable old man with their request, he replied that he was highly honoured by their favor, but that he was unable to carry out their wish since he was made of stone from the waist downwards and had to remain in a sitting position. Is it not true that we, too, are powerless to carry out what we know and see to be good? Therefore our righteousness cannot be our own.

God's glorious answer is that a man can be perfectly righteous in His sight by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If he trusts Christ, a man is justified freely, and that means not only to be forgiven but to be made as though he had never sinned. Why not trust Christ and be covered with the robe, the spotless robe of His righteousness? While it is free to all who believe, it cost our Saviour His lifeblood. Why not accept God's offer before Christmas is here, even this very moment? You can never attain to His righteousness by your own efforts, but you can obtain it free by trusting in Christ, Who was born as a child, Who lived on earth for 33 years and Who died for you.

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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 NEWS

Two Ordained for the Gospel Ministry

Mr. Arthur Kliewer son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kliewer of Culross, Manitoba, was ordained for the ministry by the Ochre River Baptist Church, on November 18.

The Mennonite Church of Coaldale, Alberta, had an ordination service for Brother H. H. Dyck on November 13. The blessing of the church was bestowed upon Mr. Dyck for the Gospel ministry.

"The Messiah" Performance Well Attended

Winnipeg, Man. — Handel's oratorio "The Messiah" was presented in the MBCI auditorium on Saturday, December 3. Soloists taking part were Breata Krahn, Saskatoon; Marina Dick, Kitchener; Margaret Pauls, Coaldale; Rudy Wiebe, Edmonton; George Wiens, Gem; William Baerg, Coaldale. The

choir of 154 voices (97 ladies and 57 men) and 19 members of the Mennonite String Orchestra were under the direction of Mr. Victor Martens, head of the College Music Department.

Ordained for Missionary Service

Miss Anne Wiebe, R.N., formerly of Herbert, Sask., will be ordained at the Sunday morning service on December 11 in the Elmwood M. B. church. Miss Wiebe is expected to leave on Christmas Day, under the auspices of the M. B. Board of Missions.

Divorce Granted to Mennonite Couple

The decree of divorce was granted recently in court of Queen's bench to Harry Wiens from Marie Wiens. They were married at Winkler on May 10, 1952.

Christmas at Curitiba

(Sent in by M.B. Board of Missions)

For weeks here in the children's home at Curitiba, Brazil, we have been practicing every day for the Christmas program. The final rehearsal was really a flop, but we guess everyone was a little tired.

Now it's the evening of the 23rd. The dining hall is beginning to fill up. My there are many faces we've never seen before. Good! They may have never heard the Christmas story. They tell us very few carols ring out in the streets in town; presents and liquor seem to be more important.

Visitors to Lar Das Crianças tell us they feel the real spirit of Christmas here. Real Christmas in Brazil must be more than snow on the ground for it's summer here then and generally warm. Christ is the center of our festivities, and in many a Brazilian heart this is the

first Christmas that Christ is a living and real Savior for He has been born in their hearts, too.

Our program is begun by the little ones and their verses. Everyone strains to catch the words. The program continues with a dramatization by the young people contrasting Christmas in Christian and non-Christian homes.

Finally Christmas eve comes. All the children, workers and missionaries have been anticipating "Festa de Natal" (Christmas party).

At 3 o'clock most everyone lays aside his work and begins preparing for the evening. Supper is to be served at 6:30, and this does seem a little late for anxious children who were willing to bathe at a remarkably early hour.

All afternoon curtains have been

Centennial Conference Time at Reedley



Four Generations present at the Centennial in Reedley, California: Mrs. C. A. De Fehr, second from the right; Mrs. B. B. Fast, to the extreme right, who is the daughter of Mrs. De Fehr; Mrs. Pete (Nellie) Dahl, the young lady to the left, daughter of Mrs. Fast, and Irene Dahl, 4, held on the arm of her mother and being introduced into the spirit of the Conference at an early age.



Photo to your left: Mr. and Mrs. Don Penner, chairmen of the Food Committee. They, together with their many helpers managed to feed about 3000 delegates and guests at Reedley in about one hour's time.



Photo to your right: Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Martens after an accident during the time of the M.B. Conference. The accident occurred as Mr. Martens crossed the railroad track.



Here is the busy kitchen staff and ladies who served at the tables at the Reedley Conference and who have done excellent service during those important days.

tightly drawn in the dining hall, and excitement has been mounting outside. What's behind the curtains? Tables have been decorated and food prepared. In the corner is a lovely majestic, Brazilian pine graced with lights and ornaments. Underneath is a mountain of gifts waiting to be claimed. Dona Helga and Dona Mariazinha have been busy baking cookies and cakes for a week. Some of the bakeries in town kindly sent out prettily-decorated heart cookies and candies were provided by a nearby service station.

The dinner bell rings, and every one forms the customary line to enter. Eyes glitter like the candles on the laden tables. What do the wondering eyes behold? Miniature trees with tiny candles. Then, there's watermelon—in December. Well, these are only a part of the decorations, but the spring of evergreen and the red of watermelon

are impressive at Christmas time.

Over there is a little fellow with beaming face who seems to be saying as he takes his share of candy, cookies and cakes: "Now, why don't they serve this kind of dinner every day. Then I wouldn't have any trouble cleaning my plate." And so it seems everyone is satisfied and chatting happily. Then another smiling face seems to say: "Let's get on to more important things such as opening gifts, for instance." Oh, but wait a minute, what's Christmas all about anyway. Let's take time once more to remind ourselves that Christmas is much more than just presents and good times.

Before the meal we thanked God for supplying all our needs throughout the year and for the privilege of such a nice party when there is so much poverty surrounding us. Now we consider why Christmas is

(Continued on page 4-1)



Boys at the Brazilian orphanage with trucks received as Christmas gifts.

Conference in Retrospect

(Continued from page 1-3)

message (Rom. 12:1-2) in which he challenged the brotherhood to a new consecration in "program, prayer and production."

One of the highlights of the convention was the merger of M.B. and the K.M.B. Conferences. Rev. Ruben Dirks, secretary of the K.M.B. Conference, read a document in which he traced the history of the K.M.B. Conference leading up to the merger. He pointed out that the K.M.B. Conference had a membership of 1,648 and 31 foreign missionaries in nine countries. The merger thus added a new mission field, Peru, to the M.B. missions program and six Negro congregations to the M.B. Conference. Brother Rondo Horton represented these churches at the conference sessions. The official merger took place after the reading of a document by Rev. H. H. Dick, secretary of the M.B. Conference. The merger handclasp was extended by M. B. representatives Dan Friesen, D. J. Pankratz, F. C. Peters and Waldo Hiebert to the K.M.B. representatives C. F. Plett and J. J. Kleinsasser. The ceremony was completed with the singing of "Blest be the Tie that Binds" by the 2,300 delegates and guests that were present.

At the Lord's Table the conference was significantly reminded of the fact that in Christ we are all one regardless of creed, color, race or language.

Special greetings were brought to the convention by Al Ratzlaff of the Reedley City Council, Assemblyman Charles Garigas representing Governor Brown of California. A.

Christmas at Curitiba

(Continued from page 3-4)

so important to believers. We think of the Lord Jesus as the greatest of all gifts.

And then we turn to the gifts under the tree. Suddenly trucks begin to roll across the floor—not only one or two, but at least 20. Girls find tiny sets of dishes and other dainty things which make them happy. And by the scent of shaving lotion, we are reminded of some grown-up fellows who must be around. Our family just wouldn't be complete if it wasn't for the older children who have returned home for Christmas.

Yes, our family night was wonderful. Weary children say: "Merry Christmas, and to all a good night." Just the Christmas tree remains—mute symbol of Christmas. It looks a little empty, but its lights shine brightly representing the light of the world—the Lord Jesus Christ.

Could it be that you had a part in making our Christmas so enjoyable? If so, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Children of
Lar Das Crianças



Rev. Erland Waltner, left, president of the Mennonite Biblical Seminary of Elkhart, Indiana and Moderator of the General Conference of Mennonite Churches and Bishop J. B. Martin, pastor of the First (Old) Mennonite Church of Waterloo, Ont.



Rev. F. C. Peters of Winnipeg, left, is the new M.B. Conference vice-chairman. Rev. J. J. Gerbrandt, right, pastor of an M.B. Church at San Jose, California.

* * *

W. Harder of the Reedley E.M.B. Church, Rev. G. B. Giesbrecht, Paraguay; Rev. Kyoichi Kitano, Japan. Rev. M.B. John, India; Rev. Alfredo Tagle, South Texas; Bishop J. B. Martin, moderator of the General Conference of the Old Mennonite Church and Dr. Erland Waltner, chairman of the General Conference Mennonite Church. Rev. Waltner presented two official General Conference Mennonite Church documents which expressed "repentance and apology for past actions and regrets that a closer unanimity had not been achieved by our two brotherhoods" and also the hope of a closer working cooperation between the two conferences.

Points of vital importance were discussed at the conference and far-reaching decisions were made.

The change of the official conference name to that of "The General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches" was tabled. The revised constitution, with changes made during the sessions, was accepted. The Board of Trustees presented a total balance sheet for 1960 of \$893,858.34.

The Board of Foreign Missions reported of a sum total of 29,765 baptized believers on M.B. mission fields, of 160 organized churches, of 220 missionaries, and of \$546,912.58 spent in 1960.

Statistics show that its per member contributions in that same year was \$125.50. The total church property is estimated at 12 million dollars.

The Board of General Welfare and Public Relations reported that the Canadian Conference had contributed to 'Dienst am Evangelium' and the Mennonite Central Relief Committee \$150,000 — 160,000.

It was recommended that the Education Committee study the possibilities of U.S. and Canadian conferences working together on the seminary question. The convention approved the Graded S.S. material with the M.B. imprint.

For the conference term 1960-63 the convention elected the following officers: chairman — Rev. Dan Friesen, vice-chairman — Rev. F. C. Peters; secretary — Rev. H. H. Dick. The Canadian Conference invited the 1963 convention. The invitation was gratefully accepted.



The M.B. Missions Committee and a number of missionaries on the platform at the Conference in the Reedley M.B. church. Front row, left to right: G. W. Peters, Buhler; H. K. Warkentin, Reedley; J. B. Toews, Hillsboro; J. A. Harder, Black Creek, B.C.; J. P. Neufeld, Winnipeg, and Herman Lenzmann, Winkler.

Christmas Carol Program

A cordial invitation is extended to all our friends to attend the annual Christmas Carol Program in the Auditorium of the Mennonite Brethren Bible College on Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m. The A Cappella Choir, assisted by other musical groups, will present both German and English Christmas Carols portraying the prophetic and historical aspects of Christ's incarnation.

With Season's Greetings,
J. A. Toews

New Magazine of the General Conference Mennonites

The Editorial Committee at its meeting in Chicago on November 7 and 8 decided on "Our Family Worships" as the name for its new family worship magazine which is

now in the publication process. The magazine will be printed in time to begin the April, May, June quarter of 1961.

Recent Deaths

Wire message from Coaldale: Jakob Huebert, 24, teacher of Alberta Mennonite High School, passed away December 3. Funeral, December 8 at 2:30 p.m. in M.B. church. J. B. Janz.

Mrs. Maria Guenther, 73 (nee Schmidt) of 1097 Wolseley Ave., Winnipeg, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 6 at 4:00 a.m. She died at the Winnipeg Concordia Hospital.

Maragerete Peters, 86, who formerly resided at Winkler, died on November 9 at Clearbrook, B.C. The burial service also took place at Clearbrook on November 12.

Fifth Church Building Dedicated in Japan

By Ruth Wiens

October 16, 1960, marked the climax of a period of great expectation on the part of the little group of believers in Nagase, Japan. On that day they were able to open the doors of their new church building and invite their brothers and sisters from far and near to join in this glorious occasion of dedicating their house of worship

to the Lord. God's precious promise to us at this time was: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

A year ago we hardly dreamed that a church building could be possible for a little flock like ours. Our group had only 11 members of (Continued on page 5-3)



The Cause of Foreign Missions

1960 M.B. Missions Report

(Continued from previous issue)

Brazil

The vast country of Brazil is a most challenging missionary field today. Political stability, economic expansion and educational progress mark the rapid development of this nation. With the establishment of religious liberty, the evangelical cause has greater opportunity in Brazil than in any other part of Latin America.

Our missionary endeavor in this country had its beginning in the establishment of an orphanage. This institution has received extensive recognition from government officials and is serving as an effective point of contact with authorities for the expansion of the gospel ministry. With its primary and secondary school system it attracts many students from the outside. It serves as a centre for evangelistic activity for the purpose of establishing churches. The church in Curitiba has been organized and placed under national leadership. During the year evangelistic work was begun in the cities of Sao Mateos, Clevelandia and Palmost, with missionaries serving in each of these three places. The response is favorable. God is giving power to His own. Our missionaries are encouraged. The nationals manifest a spirit of dedication and sincerity of faith.

Of central importance is the development of a Bible school which is to open its doors for the first school year in January, 1961.

Even though the church program in Brazil is comparatively young, it shows evidence of rapid growth. Baptized believers at these places are as follows: Curitiba 64, Clevelandia 4, Palmos 8 and Sao Mateos 10.

Japan

God's promise that His Word will not return void has been demonstrated anew in the Japan ministry during the past three years. At the time of this conference there are five organized churches in the Osaka area with the administration being assumed by national brethren under the capable leadership of our brother Kyoichi Kitano. Four new church buildings were erected with some assistance from the mission treasury; however, a large share of the cost is being carried by the national church. The Bible school with an expanding program of instruction has found a home in the Sunday school facilities of the Ishibashi congregation. Three national brethren are serving on the faculty with assistance from several mis-

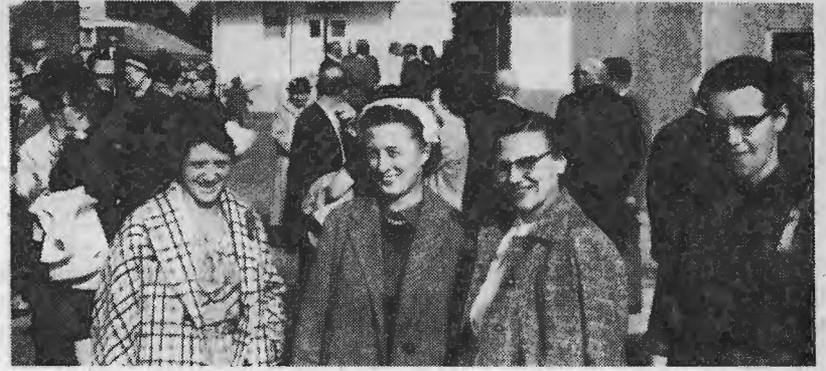
sionaries. The extension of the gospel ministry to new areas is a major concern of the Mennonite Brethren Church in fellowship with our missionary staff. God's blessing is resting upon the work which was recently opened at Kuwana City. The native brethren are responsible for its direction. The radio broadcast has served as an effective means to disseminate Christian literature and establish contacts by which people have been brought to the services of the local congregations.

The Mennonite Brethren Churches in Japan are at present organizing their conference so that the leadership of the churches will be in the hands of nationals. This will release the missionary personnel for the general gospel ministry and for a program of expansion to areas still unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A very important aspect of the gospel outreach in "the Land of the Rising Sun" is the literature program, which must receive increased attention in the opening of a book store as a strong literature distribution center in the Osaka area.

The withdrawal of the David Balzers from the field in Japan during the past year because of illness has increased the missionary shortage in this country, and the Board of Foreign Missions is looking to the Lord for additional personnel from North America to strengthen the the gospel outreach to the national church to their own people.

The Mennonite Brethren churches in Japan have the following number of baptized believers: Amagasaki 41, Hirano 46, Ishibashi 65, Kasugade 40, Minato 10 and Nagase 19.

For the Japan field we are at



Of the many missionaries present at the Centennial were also, l. to r.: Miss Mary Toews, Clearbrook, B.C.; Miss Katie Siemens, Gem, Alta.; Miss Annie Dyck, Winkler, Man.; and Miss Nettie Berg, Coaldale, Alta.

present concerned about a renewed measure of intercessory prayer for gospel outreach of the national church; the future of the Bible school program; additional personnel from North America; and an enlarged outreach.

(Continued on page 8-1)

Church Building Dedicated

(Continued from page 4-4)

whom only four were receiving salaries. First of all, the Lord has brought our group to number 20. Then a building contractor declared himself willing to accept monthly payments for the construction of a building. Then owner of the lot offered it to us at a special price payable whenever the money would be available. The architect is an elder of a Presbyterian church and has a fine sense of taste for the kind of building that would attract people in this modern age. When we add all this together, we recognize the providential care of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the Sunday following the dedication service, there were 42 in our worship service. This increases our responsibility. One of the older brethren in the church, Mr. Kitabori, has called for a special evangelism class on Saturday night to teach all the church members how to help in following up these contacts. Before the dedication, we held three nights of special instruc-

tion on how to do personal work. During the four nights of special meetings following the dedication, one of the members, Mr. Minami, had the privilege of dealing with a number of souls after the meetings and leading them to a decision. We compared his joy to that of a child who has just received a new toy.

On Wednesday afternoons we have special English classes for university students who pass our door daily on the way to the university campus next door to us. Already we have 10 students, who first came to the evangelistic services and are also attending some of our other services besides these English Bible classes.

We recommend the ministry of this church to your daily intercession. We are in the second largest suburb of Osaka with a population of 240,000, are next door to Kinki University with its 8,000 students, and are surrounded by rows and rows of building projects, five-story apartment buildings, shacks, rich men's houses, shops, factories, and everything that gives variety to life. Also we would request prayer for Mr. Sato, who will graduate from our Bible school in the near future and to whom the spiritual ministry of the church is to be given. He was the first baptized believer of this group. We are also praying for a harvest of consecrations among these students so that our ministry might be enlarged by additional workers in the Lord's vineyard.



The new church building dedicated to the Lord for the spreading of the Gospel in Nagase, Japan. Left, the outside and right, the inside of the church.

THE Young Observers

Hello, Girls and Boys

"How many days to Christmas?" Little boys and girls ask their mothers and fathers this question many, many times. Then mothers ask, "What is Christmas Day?" And the children say, "It is Jesus' birthday."

Many years ago little children asked almost the same question. They said, "When will the King be born? When will God send His Son?" Mothers could not tell their children the exact day when Jesus would come to the world. They did not know. But they liked to talk to their little children about the great day when God's Son would be born.

Children everywhere like to ask questions. So the little Israelite boys and girls must have asked their parents some questions like these: "Will God's Son come to the world as a tiny baby?" "Will God's Son be born in a great, beautiful palace?"

Then they learned that in many places God's Book tells about the birth of the King Who would be God's Son. Yes, for years and years people everywhere waited for the good news that God's Son had come to the world.

Today we are happy that Jesus was born. We watch and wait for the coming of Christmas, the birthday of Jesus, Who was born a baby in the far away town of Bethlehem.

"O come let us adore Him, Christ, our King."

Love, Aunt Helen.

The Magnet

By Lillian Running

The Story so far: Helen Hasken, who had recently moved to a new town, was snubbed by the local girls who felt she was spoiled by her wealth. A Sunday school teacher reminds Helen of the part she must play in winning friends, and illustrates it by a magnet. Helen decides to try the new approach at home first of all.

Helen went into the kitchen. Bridget, their maid, was just finishing mopping up the kitchen floor.

"How nice the kitchen looks," Helen said. Bridget looked at her in astonishment.

"You feeling all right, Miss Helen?" Bridget asked.

"Sure—why?" enquired the girl.

"Oh, nothing, only it's mighty nice of you to talk to me the way you did, noticing what I did. Your Ma won't be back for an hour yet. Would you be wantin' somethin' to eat?"

"I should say not, after the lunch I had. I guess I'll go up to my room and read awhile."

As Helen was passing her mother's room, she noticed her mother's sewing basket. She remembered

that her mother had said, just that morning:

"I'll have to take some time off one of these days to straighten up the things in my basket—the thread is all tangled."

Say, maybe here was a chance!

Helen really had fun unravelling the different coloured threads and arranging each spool in a special place. She had just finished when her mother returned.

Mother didn't really notice her neatly arranged basket until after supper when she was going to do some embroidering.

"Well, what do you know about that," she exclaimed when she opened the cover of her sewing basket to take out a spool of thread.

"Say, Bridget," she called out.

"Yes, ma'am," responded the maid.

"It certainly was nice of you to straighten out my basket."

"I ain't touched it, Mrs. Hasken," said Bridget.

"Then, who—why, it's you, Helen! Oh, my darling, how sweet of you."

Mrs. Hasken threw her arms

Children and birds are happy at Christmas time. They greet each other and they both enjoy the pure, white falling snow flakes.



He's Just the Same Today

When Jesus lived upon this earth,
He loved the multitude;
He healed the sick, the maimed,
the blind,
He multiplied the food.

Though often weary, needing rest,
He never turned away
His help from any seeking soul
That sought Him day by day.

The mothers, too, brought little
ones,
And placed them on His knee,
But the disciples said to them,
"Just let the Master be."

But Jesus said: "Forbid them not,
But let them come to Me,
Of such is Heaven's Kingdom,"
And He smiled tenderly.

The children clustered round about
In loving little bands,
To wait the benediction
Of His uplifted hands.

Oh, aren't you glad that Jesus
Told the children all to stay,
That He might bless them every
one?
He's just the same today!

M. Freeman

about Helen and hugged her tightly. Mr. Hasken glanced up from the newspaper he was reading. He didn't say a word. But he never looked at Helen like that before. It was just as if he were proud of her. It made her feel very happy and contented.

"This is all very well at home," Helen said to herself, "here I'm loved because I belong to the family. But it will be different tomorrow at school." She dreaded going to school the next day.

He Will Pay It Back

The love you give to others,
The good you daily do;
The friendly hand you offer,
Will all come back to you.

The words of loving friendship,
The smile that all can view,
The little acts of kindness,
Will all come back to you.

Then do your deeds of kindness,
Be bright as morning dew,
Extend a hand in friendship—
God will pay it back to you!

When she entered the hall, she noticed that Alice and Betty and a few other girls were gathered in a little group. They were talking very earnestly about something.

"I think it's a shame Tommy Bank won't enter the tennis match," said Alice. "He's a whiz, girls. My brother said our grade would win if Tommy played, and we've never yet won a tennis match."

"It's just because Tommy's proud—too proud to own up that he can't afford to buy a tennis racket," said another girl.

"He can have my racket," spoke up Helen. "Maybe you think it's

none of my business, girls, but I'd like to see our grade win. I've got two tennis rackets. Tommy can have one—it's a good one. He need not know who gave it to him."

The girls were too dumbfounded to speak.

"You really mean this?" Alice asked.

"Of course."

"Let's talk to Miss Briggs, our teacher," suggested Betty.

"I think it is wonderful of Helen to offer her tennis racket at this time," said Miss Briggs when the girls approached her on the matter. "Are you sure your parents won't object, Helen?"

"I know they won't," said Helen. "I'll bring my tennis racket this noon."

The girls condescended to say "hello" to Helen next morning. When school was dismissed, Alice walked a short distance with her on the way home.

The next day the girls were in trouble. They couldn't solve a problem in arithmetic.

"I've worked it," said Helen. "I'll show you girls how to do it."

"I think that's mighty nice of you," said Alice.

The girls eyed Helen rather curiously all week. But they always said "good morning" to her now, when she came to school. Alice told her that Tommy Banks was going out for tennis.

Sunday came around and Alice, who was in Helen's class, made it a point to sit beside Helen that morning. After class, when Miss Smith was gathering up the books, Alice said to Helen:

"I guess we girls had you all wrong when you first came here. You had such fine clothes and you were so smart in school, we thought

Strait is the Gate

By MARJORIE BUCKINGHAM

(15th Installment)

"I'm sorry, Granny—"

The old lady smiled reassuringly.

"That's all right, dear. It's a long story." A far-away look came into her eyes, and for the moment she seemed to have forgotten the people in the room—forgotten the present as she looked back over the past.

"I might tell you some time," she said a little wearily, "but not tonight."

"Of course not!" Nancy replied quickly. "Anyway, we came to sing to you, didn't we?" she added, feeling that she ought to change the subject.

Granny Weston looked appealingly up at the girl. "Would you sing to me, my dear?" she asked in a voice that was not quite steady.

Impulsively Nancy stooped and kissed the old lady's wrinkled forehead. "Of course, Granny, if you want me to," she answered warmly. "What shall it be?"

Granny Weston's eyes filled with tears. "There is a hymn that has always been very dear to me. I have not heard it for so long, but I always remember it." She paused. "It always brings back memories. I sang it once when I was just a young girl like you, and I would love to hear you sing it now."

Nancy took up the hymn book, letting its pages slip idly through her fingers as many old familiar hymns came to her mind. Which one would the old lady want, she wondered?

"I suppose you know it, dear. I hope you do. "What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear . . ."

Nancy nodded. Yes, she knew it. The words and the tune were quite familiar to her. But more than that, she was beginning to learn something of its meaning; and so it was from the fullness of her heart that she sang in her clear sweet voice: What a Friend we have in Jesus—All our sins and griefs to bear, What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer.

And as she sang, the One of Whom she was singing drew near to bless and comfort with His presence, while every heart in that little

—well, no matter what we once thought—I want to say I think you are swell. Will you come to my party?"

"I'll be glad to come," said Helen.

She lingered after the other girls had gone. She wanted to talk to Miss Smith, but she didn't know just what to say. In fact, it was Miss Smith who spoke first.

Helen exclaimed happily, "It's wonderful—that magnet!"

Reprinted from Salvation Army's publication, "The Young Soldier"

cottage thrilled anew at the wonder of His love.

Can we find a Friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share? Precious Saviour, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer!

"Oh, thank you, thank you, my dear!" The tears were streaming down Granny Weston's cheeks. "And the most wonderful thing about it is that it's true!"

"Yes, Granny," said Nancy softly, as she put her arm gently about the old lady's shoulders.

Granny Weston smiled through her tears. "You know Him, my dear, or you couldn't sing it like that!"

Nancy smiled back, a radiant smile that came from her heart.

"Yes, I do," she whispered.

With an effort the old lady managed to sit upright in the bed. "I want to tell you all," she said in a voice that carried conviction, "that the Lord Jesus is the Friend Who never fails. You can trust Him at all times, and you will always find Him true."

The pastor stepped forward. "That is a wonderful testimony, Granny," he said warmly, "and it does our hearts good to hear it. I told them they would all be glad they came!"

"We would like to come again some time!" Nancy was voicing the feeling of her own heart, but from the eager expression on the faces of the others there could be no doubt that she was speaking for them all.

"Any time, any time!" beamed the old lady. "I would always be glad to see you. I'm here by myself, you know."

"Well," Nancy looked around the room with a frankly admiring gaze, "everything is so clean and tidy, Granny! How do you manage, by yourself?"

Granny Weston shook her head. "I can't do much myself, but I have a very good friend who comes in every Saturday and she goes right through the house for me. She has done it for years."

"But didn't you tell me that this friend of yours is ill herself at present?" queried the pastor.

"Yes, she is, poor soul," said the old lady sympathetically.

"Then she won't be able to come along this Saturday?" persisted Mr. Brandon.

Granny Weston shook her head. "No, it will be the first time she has missed for many years."

"And how will you manage without her?"

The pastor seemed to be taking a marked interest in Granny Weston's domestic affairs, but even while he was questioning the old lady his eye was on Nancy Norwood, and he felt he knew what was in her mind. Was he right,

he wondered, in his conviction that the mere knowledge of a need can be the call of God to meet that need?

Granny Weston smiled confidently. "I don't know how I will manage, Mr. Brandon, but I'm leaving it with the Lord. Maybe He will send somebody else instead."

Nancy looked up at the pastor and their eyes met. And in the purposeful resolve which he saw in her face he read the answer to his question, and in his heart he thanked God.

"Granny, suppose He sent me?"

"Oh!" The eager light on the old lady's face touched the girl's heart.

"I'd love to come, Granny, if you'd let me. I'd do all that I could for you." There could be no mistaking the genuineness of the offer.

The old lady's face was radiant. "God is very, very good to me, my dear!" she said fervently.

So it was with a light and happy heart that Nancy set her face homewards when at last they had managed to take themselves away from the cottage by the sea.

"You're alone tonight, Nancy?" observed the pastor, after the rest of the group had drifted off in various directions. "I'll walk down the Avenue with you, just to see you safely home."

"Oh, don't worry, Mr. Brandon. I'll be all right," she assured him. "I'm not nervous at all."

"I'm sure you're not," he replied, "but your parents might be upset if you walked home alone and they might not let you go another time!"

Nancy laughed. "It would take a lot to keep me away from Granny Weston now that I've met her, Mr. Brandon. It's been a wonderful night!"

"Yes, I'm very glad we were able to go tonight," replied the pastor. "It has been very worth while."

"Those who weren't there don't know what they missed!" declared Nancy enthusiastically.

"That's true, Nancy." He hesitated. "I thought Trevor might come with you tonight."

Nancy shook her head. "No, Mr. Brandon, he wasn't a bit interested."

"Then you asked him?"

She nodded. "But he had tickets for the opera."

"Oh, I see!" said the pastor thoughtfully. "So he went to the opera?"

The girl took a deep breath. "I really cannot say, Mr. Brandon. I don't know."

She said no more, and they walked on in silence. What was the story behind the opera tickets, he wondered. What had it cost Nancy to render the lovely piece of Christian service that evening? Trevor. Her parents. What opposition might they have raised? He would have liked to know, but he felt he had asked enough questions, and when she spoke again she gave him no clue



but what he understood from her radiant face.

"Mr. Brandon, you were right," she said earnestly. "Granny Weston's faith is an inspiration. The Lord is so real to her. She seems so sure."

"Of course she is, my dear. She has proved him, you see." He paused. "That, I think, is one of the compensations of growing old—the richness of experience."

"Yes, I suppose so," Nancy replied a little uncertainly. They were in Burnside Avenue now and she was almost home, but her thoughts still lingered in the little cottage by the sea.

"And remember," came the pastor's final word as he bade her goodnight, "that the Lord is faithful. Granny Weston has proved Him, and so have countless millions—and so will you."

Nancy Norwood returned the firm grip of his handshake. "Mr. Brandon, I am proving Him now!" she said with shining eyes.

CHAPTER X DIFFICULTIES

The church at Southdown Grove was divided. This fact became increasingly obvious as the weeks went by, and as the gossip-mongers all agreed, the new minister was entirely to blame. The church had practically resolved itself into two factions—those who were in favour of Pastor Brandon and those who were not. In general, it was the old people and the young people who supported him, and those who might be generally classed as the "middle section" opposed him.

The old people soon took Mr Brandon into their hearts when they discovered that they had a place in his. In spite of the many demands upon his time, he visited the elderly folk regularly, ministering to their spiritual needs in the fellowship of Bible reading and prayer, while at the same time ensuring in an unobtrusive way that they were provided with the material things where they were lacking. Yes, these people had reason to thank God for Maxwell Brandon's ministry, but they were not a force to be reckoned with in the church. Because of failing health and increasing years they were not able to attend the services regularly or take active part in the life of the church, while some, like Granny Weston, were completely shut-in. But although they were not able to raise their voices in his defence, they lifted their hearts in prayer to God for him without ceasing, and he was strengthened and blessed in consequence.

(To be continued)



Menno Heim, Home of East German Mennonites

By R. Good, European Pax Director

Menno Heim, formerly the MCC center, in Berlin, now serves as a meeting place for the scattered Mennonite congregation of about 600 members in Berlin and East Germany. Only 200 members of this church live in West Berlin, the remainder live in the East Sector and in East Germany. It is very seldom that all 200 members in West Berlin can get together and even more seldom that the other 400 can come to Menno Heim. Gerhard Hein is pastor of this congregation.

Menno Heim serves not only as a church for the scattered Mennonite congregation of Berlin and East Germany, but as a center where people of West Germany, Holland and the US can meet friends and relatives living in the East. Many reunions have been experienced in this way. Both parties may spend their vacation or free weekend visiting and living at the Menno Heim.

An annual retreat for the old people of the congregation is sponsored

by Menno Heim. Similar conferences and retreats are held throughout the year. For many this is the only means of contact with the West and the home church, and some take a risk in coming to this home for spiritual refreshing and fellowship. Some people escaping from the East come to the Menno Heim to live until they are re-settled or are processed by governmental authorities.

Church services, Sunday school for children and youth group activities rotate every third Sunday. In addition to being responsible for leadership of the home and church activity, Mennonite pastor Gerhard Hein is translating the *Mennonite Encyclopedia* from English into German and is editor of "Der Mennonit," the monthly Mennonite paper.

Paxman Gerhard Janz of Calgary, Alta., was recently assigned to Menno Heim, where he will be responsible for gardening and maintenance. He will also assist in transportation, in the Sunday school and youth group work, and in the translation work.

1960 M.B. Missions Report

(Continued from page 5-3)

Colombia

Colombia, like many other areas of South America, has experienced a greater degree of liberty for the proclamation of the gospel during the past several years.

The Choco, which constituted the area of operation for our missionary program in the past, is continuing to offer opportunities for the preaching of the gospel. A limited educational program is being carried on as an undertaking of the national church. The growth of the church has been small, but gradual progress is noticeable. The medical program in Colombia is limited to the Choco. Because of favorable medical provisions which exist in the Valle area, medical work there has been discontinued. The missionary outreach in this needy field of Colombia is continued by our missionaries with dedication and unwavering faith.

The Valle with the city of Cali in its center has been accepted as the major area for the church outreach during the past several years. Special blessings of God, have rested upon these efforts and several churches have been established. The Bible school in the city of Cali, with a population of nearly half a million, promises to be an effective arm

for the extension of the church witness for the entire Colombia field. The large investments which were necessary to establish such a center in the city are paying great dividends.

Opposition to missionary activity has not been entirely eliminated. However, the growth of recent years is very encouraging. The church program in this part of the world must be carried on with increased faith and concentration upon the urban areas and then gradually extended to rural districts.

In Colombia there are the following churches and their membership: in the Valle—Cali 20, Cisneros 24, Jiguales 13, La Cumbre 25, San Jose 3; in the Choco—Andagoya 3, Bebedo 0, Istmina 28, Noanama 15, Seruco 1.

India

The first M. B. missionaries to India proceeded from Russia in 1889 and labored under the American Baptist Missionary Union until 1914 when this arrangement ceased because of World War I.

The Mennonite Brethren Conference of North America began mission work in India when it assumed its own field and sent out its own missionaries in 1899. The first center for mission activity was chosen in that year at Hughestown, a suburb of the large city of Hyderabad.

The first M. B. Church in India was organized with the initial group of converts on March 27, 1904, at Mulkapet of the Hughestown district. Through the more than 60 years since 1899 the gospel message has been carried to India by 73 missionaries to many of the over 2,000 villages and cities on the M. B. field. Today hundreds of places have church groups of Indian Christians who gather for worship regularly and spread the message of redemption to others. Under the Lord's gracious providence and the work of the Holy Spirit, the M. B. Church of India has grown to a conference of more than 20,000 members with many evangelists, preachers, teachers, Bible women, personal workers and active laymen carrying on the activities and functions of a true church of Jesus Christ.

At the outset, because of prevailing circumstances, evangelism and church extension, work was largely done by the missionary and his helpers and under the missionary's sole direction. Today the national church is organized into district associations responsible for a program of evangelism and church organization. The district association is made up of delegates from each organized church within the geographic area. The delegates meet regularly once or twice a year to regulate matters pertaining to all phases of the ministry and function of the church.

The Mennonite Brethren Churches in India have the following membership: Deverakonda 3,300, Gadwal 6,500, Hughestown 2,500, Kalkurty 1,400, Mahbubnagar 2,066, Nagarkurnool 1,800, Narayanpet 3,500, Shamshabad 1,036 and Wana-parthy 1,800.

The India Mennonite Brethren Church is rapidly becoming a unified church conference. As such, it goes under the name of The Mennonite Brethren Church of India and is directed by the Governing Council. This body is made up of three representatives from each of the nine district associations with a number of missionaries representing the mission interests and those phases of the India work which have still remained the primary responsibility of the mission.

At every center where a missionary was located, a school program was also carried on. As soon as there were converts who had the information and Christian experience and ability to instruct others, the educational ministry was extended from the mission center to the villages round about so that a tremendous instructional program has been carried on years before government schools reached these areas. Often the native preacher-evangelist was also the teacher who gathered around him a group of village people, young and old, to teach the rudiments of reading and writing, the content of the Word of God with reference to salvation, the



singing of Christian hymns, memorization of Bible verses, and prayer, the avenue of communion with God. Today the India government is largely supplying elementary schools also in many rural areas.

The M. B. schools on the India field have now been unified into one system operating two high schools, three middle schools and nine elementary schools under the direction of a committee of education. The school program is under the administration of national brethren. The Bible schools, however, are still under the administration of the mission and are being subsidized from mission funds. It should be inserted here, however, that a large percentage of the teachers in the Bible schools are also national brethren.

The medical ministry to this day remains one of the greatest means of gaining access to the hearts of the people. India's caste people were first reached through the administering of medical aid. This made them accessible with the gospel message. Two missionary doctors and nine missionary nurses are active in this ministry. The day has come in which it is possible to employ national doctors and nurses. Nurses are now being trained at the M. B. Central Hospital at Jacharla, and young men are being encouraged and subsidized to go to medical schools to train as doctors. The five hospitals on the India field treat several thousand patients each week. Everyone coming to the hospital also hears the message of redemption through Christ.

A monthly M. B. church paper entitled *Suvarthamani*, meaning "good gospel" is being published in the church printing press at Mahbubnagar. In addition to the publication of this periodical which contains notes on Sunday school lessons, sermons, mission news and items of interest to the India Christian public, other literature is being printed at this publishing house, including doctrinal material, Bible instruction booklets and guides, expositional material, helps for ministers, songbooks, marriage and baptismal certificates, Christian tracts and other literature and job work.

With more of India's people becoming literate each year this avenue of the gospel ministry is constantly offering greater challenges. A printed paper or tract or some other periodical or even songbook may find its way into a home which might otherwise be entirely inaccessible.

The gospel outreach of the India M. B. Church now also embraces a radio program beamed to the Telugu-speaking population of the world over Far East Broadcasting facilities. This program is produced by M. B. personnel.

The Last of Romanov Dynasty Dies

Toronto (CP) — Olga, Russian imperial grand duchess and last of the great Romanov dynasty, died here Thursday night, Nov. 24th. She was 78. The Romanovs ruled Russia for three centuries.

The daughter of Czar Alexander III, she emigrated to Canada in 1948 with her husband Nicolai Kulikovsky. He died in 1958.

They settled in a modest five-room cottage in nearby Cooksville, a vast contrast to the 800-room palace near St. Petersburg in which she was born and where she grew up in the lavishness of the Russian court.

She and her husband escaped death at the hands of the Bolsheviks several times. Most of her family were executed. Her brother, Czar Nicholas II and his family died in the Ekaterinburg cellar slaughter at the hands of a firing squad in July, 1918.

A solemn 3½ hour funeral service was held Wednesday for the Grand Duchess Olga.

The coffin was surrounded by more than 50 wreaths, including the ones from the king and queen of Denmark, Queen Elizabeth, and King Olaf of Norway. Messages came from all over the world.

About 500 persons jammed the tiny Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Our Saviour in midtown Toronto to view the royal bier draped in the imperial Russian double black eagle flag. The grand duchess had been lying in state there since Saturday.

Exiled officers of Russian im-

perial regiments formed a guard of honor.

Bishop John of San Francisco represented the Russian Orthodox hierarchy.

Resignation of Long-time Editor

Rev. Paul Erb, editor of the "Gospel Herald" since 1944, expects to resign from his position in the spring of 1962. The vacancy is then to be filled by Rev. John M. Drescher of Marshallville, Ontario.

Newly Appointed Bank Manager

Gilbert E. Epp has been appointed manager of the Clearbrook, B.C., branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. He was formerly attached to the Credit Department of the Regional Office of that bank in Vancouver and has lived in Burnaby for the past eight years. He and his family will move to the Clearbrook area as soon as suitable living accommodation can be found.

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ON THE HORIZON

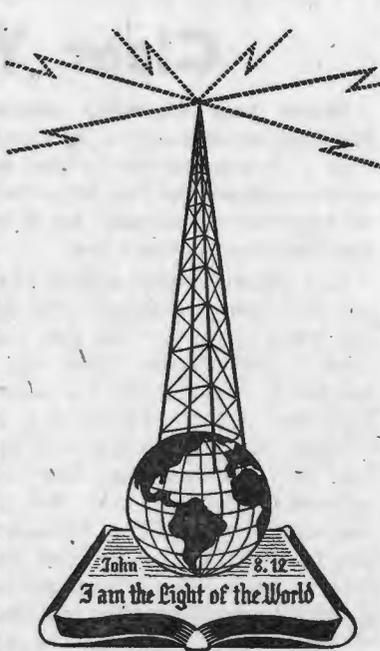
December 10. — Christmas Carol Program in M.B. Bible College auditorium, presented by College A Cappella Choir at 7:30 p.m.

December 10-11. — Christmas Program at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College.

December 16-20. — Deeper-life services to be held in the Linz M.B. church, Austria, with Rev. H. H. Janzen as speaker. Pray that these meetings be a blessing!

February 6-17, 1961. — Annual Ministers' Course, Mennonite Brethren Bible College.

March 3-5, 1961. — Annual Bible and Missionary Conference, Mennonite Brethren Bible College.



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Mennonites at Manitoba Teacher's College

Winnipeg, Man. — Looking about us in the world today, we find that young people everywhere are engaged in studies in one field or another. This includes the 574 individuals studying at the Manitoba Teacher's College. Of these students approximately 102 have a Mennonite background. Of the 578 attending this college in the year 1959-60, there were approximately 84 students of Mennonite origin.

Although the main purpose of the school is to train teachers for secular education, we are thankful to God that He has also given us this opportunity to receive spiritual training. Of great importance to us as Christians is the Teacher's Christian Fellowship. From the meetings which we have already had we feel that God has rich blessings in store for us. The average attendance at the meetings is approximately 60. At one evening meeting Mr. Ken Loudon, leader of the Varsity Christian Fellowship, assisted us in the organization of our fellowship group. At the second meeting Rev. J. J. Toews challenged us to a more diligent study of God's Word. Rev. Tom Allan also came out to speak to the students at the college during his campaign in Winnipeg. We were happy to see so many of the students attend the services. Mr. Allan directed our attention to the purposeful life which is possible only in Christ.

The regular Monday night meetings include films, panel discussions, visiting speakers and other activities. Besides these the students have formed smaller groups for Bible study and prayer. The task of witnessing for Christ at this college is great. May God help us to be found faithful.

Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute

Winnipeg, Man. — Several weeks ago a number of our students visited Rev. Henry Regehr, our former dean and teacher, at the Gospel Light Hour studio. The outcome of this visit was a suggestion from the students that we undertake a project for the Gospel Light Hour. The idea quickly caught fire and the "Operation Gospel Light" was launched.

During a two-week period special attention was given to this international radio ministry. The speakers of the various programs, Rev. John Schmidt, Rev. Henry Regehr, Rev. J. J. Neufeld and Mr. Toby Voth, participated in our chapel services, informing us of the extent and effectiveness of the Gospel Light Hour. The radio staff extended a warm open-house invitation to the students and many took part in an interesting tour of the studio.

Spurred on by an objective of \$300.00, we began voluntary con-

YOUTH IN ACTION

tributions, and realized the sum of \$385.00, which was designated for a typewriter for Rev. H. Regehr's office, a world map for the lobby of the studio, and financing of several programs. During these two

weeks we sensed a new bond, created by a common purpose. We feel that this project has done much to foster missionary vision and zeal.

Secretary of Prayer Committee,
Elsie Klassen

Clear Young Eyes

Bethel near Bielefeld, Federal Republic of Germany. — At Christmas it is essential for us that our eyes should see the One Who "hath no form nor comeliness," yet is the manifestation of God's love.

In a report written several years ago by a young assistant after she had been caring for the sick children in our Patmos Home for a number of weeks, I find the following lines: "I firmly believe that all of them, even the weakest, still feel that they are loved and that they respond to that love. That they are touched can be seen from the sparkling of their clear young eyes. The eyes of those sick children are often much more beautiful than those of the healthy ones, as they are not clouded by sorrow and they are young."

Yes, it is essential for us that we should be touched by the love of Christ and should see Him. We do not come to that by merely thinking of Him or by straining ourselves in wanting to believe, but only because He grants it to us Himself. He does not teach about love, but He teaches by loving, by serving the least of His brethren. We come to see Jesus by following His example today in His service to men. Whenever we really do anything for those next to us, for people who are tired, full of bitterness or disappointment, we suddenly feel that we are touched by the love of Christ. In this respect our patients in Bethel are a great help to us. Their eyes are young, not aged or dimmed by the deceit and glamour of money. They do not live from money, but from love. It is just by their clear, young eyes that they draw the attention of those caring for them to that bright light of eternal love.

The teachers in Patmos School have tried very hard to teach dear Helmut how to talk. But they have not succeeded and he can only utter short words with an almost barking sound, so that only those who know him understand what he wants to say. But he has such clear, bright and young eyes. They have not changed since he has grown up to be a young man and moved into a Home for Men. He immediately recognizes his friends. Even when I pass him in my car he waves to me frantically to show that he has recognized me. When

the other day I wanted to call on his housefather, who had been taken severely ill, I met Helmut before the door. His eyes were full of a strange dark glowing. He pointed with his hands towards the door and said one word only: "Papa." His look and his pointing conveyed everything, his great concern, the fire of his love, and his communion with all those, who, helping and praying have gathered around the suffering housefather. Before I left the patient, we talked about Helmut. The faithfulness with which he was greeting his weak housefather in the morning and at night, looking at him with his eyes, darkened by worry, but, all the same, strangely brightened by love and confidence, was a great comfort to the patient as it made him realize that he was supported by a large and strong communion of love.

We do not know the paths God will lead us during the coming year, but there is one thing we know: God has not given up the world. "For God so loved the world — this world! — that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." That is why we are greeting all our friends wishing that it may be granted to our eyes to see the One Who comes to us in His poor form, wanting to lead us to the abundance of His communion in His service.

Pastor P. von Bodelschwingh

Sask. S.S. Convention

(Continued from page 1-4)

only as much as the student has learned. We shall not soon forget the importance of building a bridge from the teacher and the lesson to the interests and needs of the pupil.

We felt condemned for our complacency and were challenged to make the Sunday school our real business as Brother Toews expounded the "Seven Laws of Growth," drawn up by the Southern Baptists and proven by a 47.8% increase in the membership of that convention over a ten-year period.

The many parents who were present Sunday afternoon to hear Brother Toews speak on "The Responsibility of the Christian Home in Christian Education" will long remember and will, we trust, apply themselves more earnestly to their oft-neglected task. Too frequently



Rev. J. J. Toews, guest speaker at the North Sask. District Sunday School Convention

we have expected the Sunday school to make up for what is lacking in the home, whereas it is there only to supplement the parents' instruction.

At the final service we were challenged to examine our own hearts as Brother Toews posed the question, "What Is the Sunday School Worth to Us?" Do we regard it as a service unto the Lord? Is it worth thorough preparation of ourselves and the lesson? Is it worth setting aims? Is it worth going after the students? We must demonstrate our answers to these questions practically.

Pastors, teachers, Sunday school workers, and several medical doctors conducted the following departmental workshops: "Reaching the Home," "Preparing the Nursery Child for Sunday School," "Experiences Fostering Religious Growth," "What to Expect of the Primary Child," "Teaching Methods for Juniors," "Captivating and Maintaining Interest," "Adaptation of Teaching Methods," "Vital Needs of Young People Today," "The Bible the Answer to Mental Stress." Workshops of a general nature under the following headings were also conducted: "Hints for Secretary-Treasurers," "Missionary Education in the Sunday School," "Branch Sunday Schools—a Need in our Area," "Superintendents," "Take Home Materials," "Weaknesses in Our Sunday School System," "Boys and Girls Clubs," "The Christian Home Within Modern Society."

On behalf of all who were privileged to attend, we wish to express our gratitude to the host church for their fine hospitality; to the brethren of the Sunday School Committee, Henry Bartsch, chairman, Paul J. Wiebe, and Ray Berg, for a well-planned program; and to all who helped to make the convention a success. We have taken with us many valuable ideas. It is now up to us to put them to practical use, for, as our guest speaker reminded us, "An idea is no good unless you work it."

G. D. Geddert

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS and COLLEGES

Bethany Bible Institute News

Hepburn, Sask. — November 11, which is our annual Alumni day, was well attended this year at Bethany Bible Institute. The day was much enjoyed in spite of the absence of our Principal J. H. Epp, who attended the Centennial M. B. Conference in California. During the morning the Alumni members attended the classes of their choice. The afternoon brought a fellowship service, which included a testimony meeting and a speech by Rev. Alfred Schmidt. The day was concluded with a business meeting.

The evening of November 12 was much enjoyed by the students and staff, when a group of students from the M. B. Bible College consented to present a program of music. The selections, both sacred and secular, were rendered by Breata Krahn, Bill Baerg, Art Priebe (vocal) and Wanda Dyck (piano).

On November 21 returned missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Wingert, who work for the MCC, presented to us the conditions and needs of the refugees in Europe and Asia. As an illustration, Mr. Wingert showed us a movie film on the deplorable conditions in Hong Kong. The next morning, Mr. Wingert spoke to us during our chapel service.

We are happy to report that the new administration building is progressing favorably. Whenever possible, students have aided in the construction. We are all looking forward to the classes and blessings we will receive in our new building.

Grace Megli

Tabor College

"Messiah" to be Sung by 125 Tabor Students

Handel's oratorio "The Messiah" will be sung by a group of 125 singers in the Tabor College auditorium on Sunday evening, December 11, at 7:30. The group is directed by Dr. Paul W. Wohlgemuth, chairman of the music department.

An added feature in this year's rendition is the use of trumpets and tympani for instrumentation in addition to the organ and piano. Soloists for the occasion are Imogene Wollman, senior, soprano; Beverly Vogt, music teacher in the Hillsboro elementary school, alto; Walter Jost, instructor of music, Bethel College, Newton, tenor; Leland Suderman, senior, and Carl Gerbrandt, junior, basses.

At the organ and piano will be Miss Ruth Bixel and Thomas W. Collins of the Tabor music staff.

Tabor Professor Attends Music Conventions

Dr. Paul W. Wohlgemuth, chairman of the music department, was in Chicago November 25-29 attending two music conventions in that city.

On November 28 and 29 he participated in a meeting of the National Church Music Fellowship. Formerly the West Coast vice-president of this organization, Wohlgemuth at present serves as chairman of the hymn committee.

In this capacity he was in charge of a national hymn tune and hymn text contest. He presented the winning tunes and texts to the convention.

Prior to the meeting of the church music group, he attended the annual convention of the National Association of Schools of Music on November 25-26.

Activities at the M.B. Collegiate Institute

Winnipeg, Man. — The evening of November 26 brought to fruition an endeavour undertaken by the senior girls of our school. Motivated by a desire to carry out some project for the school, they asked Mr. J. Thiessen to organize a girls' chorus and prepare a carol program with them. The program proved to be a great success. The highlights of the program were some well-loved German carols. The strains of "Leise rieselt der Schnee" came to us through a light down-fall of artificial snow. "Stille Nacht" was sung with flute accompaniment by Albert DeFehr.

Vocal soloists were Elaine Martens, Erna DeFehr, and Albert Siemens. "The New Jerusalem" was sung by Margaret Redekop and Agnes Dyck.

Two other groups helped to enrich the evening. Mr. H. Konrad led the Junior Girls' Chorus in a number of carols including the Carol of the Bells, and Mr. A. Friesen directed the school's string group in two numbers. A trumpet group also took part!

By a short pageant we were transported in time to the night on which the love of God could contain itself no longer, and Jesus came.

On the evenings of December 1 and 2 the Alumni of our school presented a Christmas drama, The Tinker. The response was encouraging and we received some good practical Christian advice as to what attitudes and motives should govern our activities at Christmas. In

the cast were the following: Wanda Dyck, Lillian Rempel, Laura Fast, Alfred Enns, Victor Thiessen, Leonard Mann, and Cornelius Martens.

The play was directed by John Wierler and Mr. Henry Dick, past principal of the M.B.C.I.

John Regehr

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UNIVERSAL WEEK OF PRAYER PROGRAM

January 2—7, 1961

The Universal Week of Prayer begins its second century of worldwide observance this year. We are calling to prayer Christians all over the world during the week of January 2—7. We encourage united praying and private devotions using the suggestions given below.

THE TRIUNE GOD

Monday, January 2

Readings: Psalm 95:1-7a; Psalm 103:1-13, 20-22; John 4:23-26; Revelation 14:6-7; Isaiah 6:1-8.

Praise: We come with praise and adoration into the presence of God. He is Creator, Saviour and Sanctifier. His faithfulness endures forever. His grace is sufficient for every need. His promises fail not.

Confession: We hide our faces in shame because of our lack of faith, our waywardness and self-will, in sad contrast to the faithfulness and grace of God. For this reason we are so often ineffective and joyless in our daily lives and powerless in the hour of temptation.

Prayer: Help Thou our unbelief. May we see Thee as Thou art and bow before Thy sovereign will. Fill us with Thy fulness, Lord, and cleanse us from all that is not worthy of Thee.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Tuesday, January 3

Readings: Matt. 16:13-18; Luke 6:20-23; Ephesians 3:8-12.

Praise: Even in the midst of the turmoil of our time the Word of Christ is still true. The "gates of hell" shall not prevail against His Church, not even in those countries and circumstances where there is hostility, nor yet in those areas where the Church is weakened by lack of spirituality and worldliness. Sincerely we thank God for every demonstration of His power in the lives of Christians despite the difficulties they face.

Confession: We confess to Him our luke-warmness, slothfulness and lack of charity. We acknowledge

our failure in witness and in deeds of love. We are humbled by the many divisions within the Church.

Prayer: We pray earnestly that Thou wilt give to Thy Church the power to withstand the perils and dangers of these days. Fill Thy Church with joy in witnessing and give the assurance of hope. Grant Thy blessing to all societies and individuals working and praying for spiritual unity. May we never lose sight of God's plan for His Church.

NATIONS AND THEIR RULERS

Wednesday, January 4

Reading: Psalm 96:1-13; Deut. 32:7-8; Acts 17:26-27; Isaiah 45:21-24; Phil. 2:5-11.

Praise: In every upheaval, in all struggles for power, in all political unrest, God is still sovereign. All the gods of the people are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. He numbers the stars and calls them by name. He fixes the boundaries of nations. He sees the strife and discord of men. He speaks the final word in the history of nations, and He says to His people, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved."

Confession: We confess that Christians have failed in their responsibility as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Our witness to the Word of God and the salvation which is in Christ has lacked strength and unity. Too often Christians have shared in the doubts of others instead of declaring fearlessly: "Thus saith the Lord."

Prayer: May righteousness and peace reign on earth and all artificial barriers separating peoples be broken down. May the threat of war be overcome and may nations and their rulers be willing to submit themselves to the sovereign will of God. May the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ be proclaimed to all people.

THE WORLD CHURCH

Thursday, January 5

Readings: Mark 16:14-20; Matt. 10:16-20, 24:4-13, 28:18-20.

Praise: We praise God for the many Christians who are willing and ready to take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. In a constantly changing world the gospel is still the power of God unto salvation. The divine commission and the divine promises are still in force. God does not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live.

Confession: As Christians we have not been as faithful as we should have been in prayer and sacrifice. Not all of us have been willing to face the question: "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" The low spiritual standard of many Christians at home has resulted in inadequate support of those who serve as missionaries overseas.

Prayer: Lord, preserve for us open doors! Open those doors which are closed; send forth men and women suitably equipped to take the gospel to the younger nations and grant that the churches there may be built up according to the Scriptures. Save them from the divisions of the older churches. May Christian nationals be raised up for the work of evangelism and leadership in the Church.

THE FAMILY AND YOUTH

Friday, January 6

Readings: Eph. 5:18-28, 6:1-4; Titus 2:1-8; Ecc. 11:9-10.

Praise: We sincerely thank God for His ordering of family life. We are grateful that in His Word He gives guidance for education in home, school and church. We praise God for all parents, teachers, pastors, doctors and youth leaders who in the spirit of Christ teach, educate, and train the young.

Confession: We confess in deep humility that godlessness, materialism and secularism have permeated home and family life with disastrous results. We are saddened by the many unhappy marriages and broken homes.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant unto Thy disciples strength and wisdom, love and the willingness to accept Thy standard for heir lives. Grant that in the right use of Sunday, in a scriptural attitude toward work, and in Christian stewardship of money and all other possessions, Christ may be honored and glorified. May all relationships, whether at home or place of business be ordered aright. May those who frame our laws acknowledge Thee as the supreme Lawgiver. May the Word of God be restored to its

rightful place in the homes of the people.

HOME MISSIONS AND ISRAEL

Saturday, January 7

Readings: Roman 9: 1-18, 15:1-7; I Peter 2:9-16.

Praise: We praise God for all acts of love done in the name of Christ, for the work of evangelism, for conventions, for the deepening of spiritual life. We thank God for the many humble believers who through their prayers and sacrificial lives commend the gospel. We thank Him for all who unselfishly devote their lives in serving their brethren. We praise Him for opportunities of bringing the gospel to the Jews.

Confession: We confess that while much is being accomplished, it is inadequate. Too many of us are given to compromise with the world and are weak in our testimony. We are not effective enough as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Even keen Christians have fallen a prey to the spirit of the age and their discipleship has been weakened thereby. Our personal testimony is often lacking and without power. We have failed fully to appreciate our responsibilities in our attitude to work and our use of leisure.

Prayer: Lord, give to Thy people the renewing of Thy Spirit and increase their joy in discipleship and witness. Grant unto our people a revival. Empower and enrich all servants of the gospel. Take away the blindness from Israel that God's ancient people may recognize and accept their Messiah.

Open Letter

Many friends have enquired how D. B. Wiens of Vancouver, B.C., is getting along. Rumors have spread that he was murdered; others say that, because of fear, he has committed suicide. May I assure you, however, that none of these rumors are true. I am in good health; I rejoice in life and have never intended to shorten it, and by God's grace I shall be kept from doing it in the future.

I trust that, through this announcement, calmnes will be restored to those who have heard these untrue rumors.

D. B. Wiens.

Special Announcement

The 51st issue of the Mennonite Observer will cover the two weeks before Christmas and will carry the two dates December 16 and 23.

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