

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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Our Saviour's Birth

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David); To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a man-

ger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us: And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger" (Luke 2:1-16).

A Sweeter Christmas

Why shouldn't this Christmas be
sweeter
Than ever a Christmas before,
When Jesus is tenfold the dearer,
Outpouring His grace more and
more?
Why shouldn't my praises mount
higher
For mercies still greater He's shown.
For hope of His coming brought
higher
To those who are fully His own?

Why shouldn't our vision be clearer,
His last blest command to obey,
While ever His coming draws nearer,
And millions in darkness still stray?
Oh; thus can this Christmas be
sweeter
Than ever a Christmas before,
If souls that are dying are dearer
And on them Christ's love we out-
pour.

Conference of Ministers and Deacons

Calgary, Alta. — The Calgary Highland M. B. Church was host to the annual Ministers' and Deacons' Conference of the Alberta M. B. Churches on November 25 and 26. On slippery road in wintry weather approximately 40 brethren representing all but the two most northerly M. B. churches in Alberta came to take part in the sessions. The purpose of the conference was mutual fellowship and strengthening as well as discussion of current problems of the ministry.

The ministry of Rev. Is. Tiessen, guest speaker from Chilliwack, B.C., was of special blessing to all. Brother Tiessen brought a series of very practical, yet deeply spiritual messages under the general theme: "Take Heed Unto Thyself" (I Tim. 4:16a). In all of his messages Broth-

er Tiessen held before us the mirror of God's Word which faithfully reflected the innermost state of our heart and suggested the remedy of any fault that may be there. In successive messages the speaker dealt with "The Danger of Preaching to Others While Being a Cast Away" (I Cor. 9:27); "The Danger of Discouragement" (I Kings 19:4); "Becoming Fishers of Men" (Matt. 4:18-20); "The Danger of

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M.B.-Missionaries Write

It is the end of another day in Neuwied, Germany — Saturday evening. Busy streets have become quiet, for the church bells have already announced the Lord's Day. The Rhein River at the outskirts of the town also has fewer rafts than usual. Neuwied and this part of the Rhein valley is a sea of lights. If each light represented a saved soul, this inland port would be a mighty witness for Christ. But as yet spiritual darkness is widespread.

Since arriving here in July, we have had many joyous experiences. For ten days it was our privilege to act as parents to 17 children from scattered homes of M. B. members, who had come here for children's camp. From early to late we were occupied with washing, making beds, playing and teaching. After catching our breath, we participated in a weekend youth retreat in Neustadt. This included a long hike, refreshments, Bible study and practising of songs to be sung in a hospital on Sunday. These hours of fellowship were scarcely digested when

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To all our readers
The season's cheerful greetings.
May God send you joy as the joy of angels, and
Peace that passes understanding.
And may the Christ of Christmas
Abide with you always.



The CHRISTIAN PRESS Ltd.

EDITORIAL

Let's Not Spoil Christmas

Neither for Our Children, Nor for Ourselves!

The real meaning of Christmas has been obscured to many people and the season in which preparations are made for it has become a mass of tinsel and trappings, of excessive spending and indulgence in sin. It has become a time of fabulous stories about the red-cheeked, smiling, friendly Santa Claus and his reindeer racing through the snowy wild territories of the north and not forgetting the good children in the countless homes in all parts of the world.

The parent who places Santa in the limelight is robbing the Lord. Often the Santa story seems more real to the child because it is dinned at him in story books, by his pals, on the streets, on radio and television, and especially because he has seen Santa in a Christmas parade or at some other place. When the child learns gradually or suddenly that Santa is nothing but an enormous hoax, the story of Jesus is likely to go into the fairy tale category along with that of Santa. In the mind and experience of the child the two stories are linked and they stand or fall together.

The child's earliest infantile love fastens easily upon the fabulous Santa Claus. If later he is weaned away from him to Jesus, it is possible that in the shock of the loss of his first object of devotion, his faith and love have lost in intensity and perfection. The child fears another disillusionment, therefore he has become cautious in the choice of the object of his faith and love. His confidence in grown-ups is shaken. He may feel hurt; he is bewildered and is skeptical of what adults tell him. They have deceived him once, and they may do it again. How can this difficulty be overcome or prevented?

Since the Santa Claus story is known all over the world, it is self-evident that children of Christian homes are not excluded from this general knowledge. It might therefore be advisable to tell the child that Santa Claus is a big game of pretence. A child can understand that, because children like to pretend, they do it constantly. However, they must be shown the difference between the true Christmas story and the pretence story of the imaginary white whiskered, red-garbed gentleman.

If the child is asked what gift he wishes for Christmas, he is likely to have a long list which can be extended to a hundred wants, which will never be met. Something he will get, but many things will be missing. This, too, will be a disappointment to the child. How can this difficulty be taken care of?

It is true of children as well as adults that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Instead of making "getting and having" the Christmas theme, it should rather be "giving and loving." Giving and sharing are experiences which satisfy not only the adult, but also the child, especially when the favor cannot be returned (Luke 6:33; 14:13,14).

Months before Christmas the child should be encouraged to think of some missionary's child, an orphan, a poor child of his community, his grandparents, or some lonely person and plan what he can do to delight his heart at Christmas. The child should be assisted in carrying out this project with loving care. Such a Christmas time experience is satisfying and rich and results in a more lasting joy.

Parents and children should do as much of their planning and preparing for Christmas as possible together, because then the result of their effort becomes more meaningful for the whole family.

The elaborate pageantry of Christmas is not worthwhile if, because of the hustle of pre-Christmas days, we become faggy, irritable and cross. It is better to have a simple Christmas with pleasantness and peace than an excited one with weariness, short tempers, and an empty pocketbook. It is "better a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith" (Prov. 15:17).

Instead of glamorizing Santa with much dramatization, Christ's incarnation, life, death, resurrection and coming again should be proclaimed with greater vigor and conviction and the huge amount of money spent meaninglessly or for sinful purposes should be applied to send messengers of peace to the far-flung parts of the world and the teeming millions, who have never heard the glad tidings of great joy.

G.D.H.

DEVOTIONAL

God's Remedy for Sin

By B. Charles Hostetter

One who sees the true meaning of Christmas as found in the Word of God and then sees how so-called Christian nations celebrate it, is overwhelmed at the mercy of God in not sending immediate judgment upon us. Christ, the Holy Son of God, in whose honor Christmas is to be celebrated, has been lost in selfish, sinful revelry. Sin is abundantly in evidence in much of celebrating at Christmas time.

The Need of a Remedy

Let us study the real meaning of Christmas. Sin and death came into the world through the sins of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Part of the penalty of their sin was their depraved nature. They lost fellowship with God and sin became the natural course. In that condition they were spiritually lost, hopelessly estranged from God for time and eternity. By natural generation and the laws of heredity, Adam, the head of the human family, passed on to the race this same depraved and sinful nature. The Bible tells us that "by the offence of one (meaning Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation." Therefore all men are sinners and helplessly lost.

But praise be to God, at the time when Adam sinned and doomed the yet unborn humanity to be lost and helpless sinners, God unveiled His mercy and grace. There Christmas was first prophesied by God. When Adam sinned, Satan thought he had won the battle for the human family. He thought all mankind was doomed forever. But God told Satan in Genesis 3:15 that a Saviour, a Redeemer, was coming to provide a remedy available to the whole world.

From the time this prophecy was first given, the human family has looked and longed for its fulfillment. The Old Testament is the story of God getting the world ready to receive its Saviour and Redeemer. In Gal. 4:4,5 we read, "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

In the Gospel of Luke an angel appears to Mary and tells her that she will have a man child who is to be called Jesus. Mary says, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" The next verse says, "And the angel answered unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

An angel also appears to Joseph

who was engaged to Mary, and said, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus."

Why did God send His Son to this world? Here He was mistreated, misunderstood and crucified. To answer this question is to find the real meaning of Christmas. Let us find some Scriptures that give us the answer.

The Remedy

John 3:16,17 expresses the problem clearly. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." How clearly these Scriptures tell us the purpose and meaning of Christmas. God loved the lost world of men, so He sent His Son to be its Redeemer.

In Matt. 1:21 the angel tells Joseph that when the child is born he shall be called Jesus, which means Saviour, because, said the angel, "He shall save his people from their sins." Christ came to save us because we are sinners.

On the night of Jesus' birth shepherds were in the field watching their flocks, when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ

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for Mennonites of All Age-groups

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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

Silver Wedding Anniversary

Kelowna, B.C. — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wittenberg of Kelowna celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on December 4, 1960, at 2:00 p.m. Present were the children and also the mother to Mr. Wittenberg. She had not been present at the wedding of her children in Winnipeg. Mr. Isaac from Winnipeg was also there. He had been the driver of the bridal car at the wedding. Two years later he married the sister of the bride.

The celebration was opened with the reading of Psalm 2 by Jack Davis, the chairman and son-in-law of the Wittenbergs. The choir sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." There was a solo by Mr. Walter Goerzen: "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." An amusing item was the well-recited poem, "Wishes from Children and Grandchildren," by 7-year-old Bobby Wittenberg. Twenty-five years have passed away—

To you it seems like yesterday.
Our heavenly Father cared for you,
Each day and night the whole year through.

Although it wasn't always bright,
He guided you with love and light.
He gave you seven children in all,
Also five grandchildren yet small.
And now come wishes from your youngest,
Who hopes that you will live the longest.

By Mrs. H. H. Enns

Tina Wiebe then sang "God Will Take Care of You."

Rev. A. J. Sawatzky presented the challenge in keeping with the occasion. Reading Joshua 24:1-15, he spoke on Joshua's Last Charge to Israel. Joshua reminded the people of what God had done for them in the past and challenged them to choose. Indecision is fatal and leads to failure. Joshua as the father of the people chose to serve God.

Linda Wittenberg, Eleanor Wiebe, Margaret and Esther Enns sang "Rock of Ages." Then Shirley Wittenberg recited a poem. After a few remarks by Mr. Henry Wittenberg the choir sang "How Great Thou Art," and the congregation retired to the basement to join the happy family at a banquet.

Schroeder—Eichhorst

Central Baptist church, Yorkton, was the scene of a wedding on October 22, when Elaine Edith Eichhorst, R.N., of Yorkton, and Rev. Henry I. Schroeder of Swift Current were united in marriage. Rev. A. H. Ortner of Regina officiated, assisted by Rev. H. Peeler of Pambun.

Mrs. Anne Schroeder played the wedding music and accompanied Harvey Schroeder in his solos. Miss

Emma Schroeder was maid of honour, bridesmaids were Miss Grace Eichhorst and Miss Ruth Chambers. Little Gwen Eichhorst and Brenda Epp, nieces of the bride and groom, were flower girls. Attending the groom were Oscar Nelson, as best man, and John Regier and Bud Gienow, who also served as ushers.

A reception was held in Legion hall.

Upon their return from a wedding trip, Rev. and Mrs. Schroeder took up residence in Swift Current, where the groom is pastor of the Christian Missionary Alliance tabernacle.

Penner—Plett

On Friday afternoon, Nov. 11, the Gem community joined in celebrating the wedding of Martha Plett to John Penner. While Betty Penner played, relatives and friends gathered in the church. The couple entered while "Jesu geh voran" was being played. Rev. P. Doerksen, Calgary, performed the ceremony. After the choir sang "The Lord Is My Shepherd," Rev. Doerksen spoke on Ps. 127:1,2. He compared matrimony to the perfect house whose foundation is Christ. The walls are cemented with love, the roof represents hope in time of trouble and the ventilation is provided by friendliness, tact and peaceableness. Enemies like sickness, want and suspicion may try to break the house down, but all is overcome by true Christ-centred love. The choir then sang "So to the Deeps of God's Promise."

Mr. Jake Plett, brother of the bride, then spoke in English on Eph. 5:22. A sanctified marriage should typify and proclaim to the world Christ's relation to the church.

After the service all partook of a delicious lunch in the basement, during which Katie Penner and friends sang a trio, "Father Make Them Loving." A duet, "The Wedding Prayer," was sung by John Ratzlaff and Anne Willms, sister of the bride. We all join in wishing them God's richest blessing.

M. Willms

MCC Workers Active in Javanese Church and in the Congo

Pati, Java (MCC) — Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kaufman, Marion, S.D., Indonesian relief workers who recently became members of the Javanese Mennonite Church in Pati, have witnessed an increasing interest in the Sunday school program there. "Under the leadership of a recent graduate of the Christian University of Salatiga, a program of re-activation for the Javanese Sunday schools in the Pati area has been undertaken," Mrs. Kaufman wrote. "Sunday schools

are being organized in several villages where congregations have only recently been established."

"A Sunday School Teacher Training Course is being offered, with Mrs. Herman Tan and myself as instructors. Most of the teachers are young people who have had little or no experience in teaching. It is a challenge to adapt principles of Christian education to this setting, where equipment for activities is virtually non-existent."

Mrs. Kaufman wrote also of taking part in the church music program: "The approach of Christmas has given incentive to get the choirs active again. Weekly rehearsals of the ladies' choir and the youth choir are an enjoyable task for me. Another challenge is presented in reading the music—numbers instead of notes—and in giving instructions in another language."

Rev. Archie Graber, former missionary now working in food relief for Congo Protestant Relief Agency, wrote from Kasai: "I expect to fly to Lukabourg to buy a load of salt and some milk for some of the hospitals around Bakwanga. I also hope to place an order of \$1,000 worth of seeds—tomato, black-eyed peas, okra and corn. This is the season for planting, and as I go from village to village, I will give seeds for planting. The seeds will be shipped by air from Angola and South Africa."

Paxmen Abe Suderman, Haskett, Man., and Allen Horst, South English, Iowa, have been sent to the Bakwanga area to help Graber with relief.

God's Remedy for Sin

(Continued from page 2-4)

the Lord." The angel mentions two important things. First, he has good tidings for everyone, and second, a Saviour is born. Finally this promise of a Saviour was fulfilled after about 4,000 years. Hereby full salvation was offered to all who wanted it, eternal life and hope.

John the Baptist, standing one day with a few of his followers, saw Jesus coming and said concerning him, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

The Cost of Redemption

The thrilling truth about Christmas is that we are celebrating the birthday of Jesus. God's eternal Son sacrificed the glory world and all its sinless bliss and "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." On that first Christmas God and Jesus Christ, His Son, began paying the awful and unmeasurable price of providing eternal redemption for us poor lost sinners.

Isaiah, the prophet, says, "Surely he hath borne our griefs and car-

ried our sorrows: Yet he did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Christ pleased not himself but gave himself to be a ransom for us all who were lost and hell-bound.

Sin is an awful thing in God's sight. We cannot imagine how much God hates sin. We get a partial understanding of God's attitude toward sin when we see the price that he was willing to pay and the sacrifice that Jesus was willing to make to save and deliver us from sin.

Christmas Celebrations

When we look at these spiritual aspects of the meaning of Christmas, we tremble at the way it is being celebrated. We have taken Christ, the world's Saviour and the real occasion for Christmas, out of our celebrations and put in the impossible and ridiculous Santa Claus. For praise and thanksgiving to God for His Son we have substituted revelry. Instead of rejoicing over God's gift of salvation we have parties and feasts that are far from Christ-honoring. Christmas is representative of God's unselfishness, but we turned it into perhaps the most sinful and selfish season of the year. Christmas should be the time when the cause of Christ and the church advances, but it is largely a victory for hell.

How godless, pagan and sinful are our Christmas celebrations? We would discover that very quickly if the government should ban all use of strong drink, the giving of gifts, and excessive feasting from our celebrations. Such a ban might start a civil war. It is almost unthinkable that drunkenness and wild parties should be at the peak when we should be praising and thanking God for our Saviour, who provided an escape from eternal doom. It is a sin of the first degree that we worship Santa Claus instead of Jesus at Christmas time. It is a revelation of the depravity and sinfulness of the human heart and the carnality of the church to see the excessive selfish and wasteful spending during the Christmas season when so many in the world are in physical need and when the world is at the brink of destruction for lack of spiritual help.

Your Part

Let us put Christ into the centre of our Christmas and keep Him there. The first Christmas was heaven's revelation of divine love. God isn't willing that any should perish, so He has provided a Saviour for us. Jesus was born to die for our sins and provide us eternal life. Jesus became poor that we might be rich. The riches of eternal life can be yours by having a vital faith in Christ the Saviour.

The Mennonite Hour,
Harrisonburg, Va.

Times of Special Blessing

Carman, Man. — The congregation at the Gospel Light Mission was privileged Sunday evening, Dec. 11, to have as guest speakers Rev. J. B. Toews, executive secretary of the M. B. Board of Missions, and Rev. Kyoichi Kitano, a native of Japan, who serves as a teacher in the Japan M. B. Bible Institute.

Before giving his testimony of his personal conversion from Buddhism to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, Mr. Kitano conveyed greetings from the brethren in Japan. He recited John 3:16 and he also sang a chorus in the Japanese language.

Rev. Toews, who has travelled extensively in the interests of missions, gave a challenging report, referring to John 4:34-36. Having visited many mission fields in different parts of the world, Rev. Toews was impressed with the power of God to create such strong bonds of love between Christians, regardless of racial differences.

Mr. Toews reported that 9% of the world's population speaks the English language and that 90% of

today's Christians come from this 9%. Further, 94% of all preachers minister to the 9% of the world's population.

Are we doing God's will if we, who have the gospel, keep it to ourselves? Rev. Toews mentioned that the Apostle Paul had a successful missionary career because he knew the gospel has the power to save.

In closing, Rev. Toews urged those assembled to have greater concern for those who have never heard the gospel and requested prayer for the 260 M. B. missionaries scattered over the face of the earth.

Speakers at the recent missionary conference held at the local church on December 3 and 4 were Rev. H. Lenzmann, teacher at Winkler Bible School, Miss Sarah Peters, on furlough from the Congo, and Miss Rosella Toews, missionary on furlough from India. Miss Peters and Miss Toews illustrated their reports with slides.

Mabel Friesen

Conference of Ministers and Deacons

(Continued from page 1-4)
Self-Exaltation" (Rom. 12:3-4); "Waning Fire" (II Tim. 1:6-8). In all of these messages Brother Tiesen did not only show the dangers we must face, but also pointed to the way to victory in Jesus Christ.

Among the other items of devotional nature were a study of prayer according to Matt. 6:5-15, led by Brother A. Regier, a "Probepredigt" by Brother J. P. Doerksen and a missionary message by Brother Ernest Dyck, presently teaching in the Alberta Mennonite High School. Discussion periods and prayer sessions on both days gave opportunity for individual participation and fostered a spirit of worship.

Among the practical matters dealt with was the adoption of a questionnaire which is to be submitted to all candidates for the ministry or deaconate prior to ordination.

A number of special sessions regarding Christian education within the province such as in Bible school and Christian high schools also took place.

The Lord richly blessed all who were able to take part, instilling in each one the desire to serve Him more faithfully in the future.

A. J. Konrad

Social Evening at the M. B. Mission, Portage la Prairie

On December 7 our mission group gathered in the banquet hall of the Portage Hotel for our annual Christmas social. The evening commenced with the serving of a delicious turkey supper. Following the meal we all joined heartily in the social part of the evening which was planned by Gertie Klassen, Mary Wall and Cornie Isaak. At

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and a
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
to All of My Customers and Friends!

* * *

Fred J. Letnick
East Kildonan Tailors

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and a
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* * *

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this time we were all given an opportunity to prove our imagination, vocal talent and Bible knowledge.

The evening concluded with a devotional talk by our guest speaker, Mr. John Froese from Newton Siding. His talk was based on Eph. 6:10-18 and dealt with the warfare of Spirit-filled believers. The talk

was appropriate and challenged us anew to put on the whole armour of God, especially at this Christmas season when mankind is apt to forget the real meaning of Christmas.

Laura Heier



M.B. ministers and deacons. Left to right, front row: A. Regier, Calgary; I. Tiessen, Chilliwack, B.C.; Heinrich Kornelsen, Coaldale; David Kroeker, Calgary; second row: A. J. Konrad, Grassy Lake; Henry Huebert, Toffield; Aron Willms, Gem; Victor Pankratz, Coaldale; Heinrich Thielmann, Calgary. We leave it to the readers to name the rest of the brethren.

OBITUARIES

Mr. Jacob A. Friesen, 62, of Reinfield, Manitoba was buried at Winkler. The last rite ceremony was held from the Reinland Mennonite Church on November 24.

Mr. Bernhard Falk, 95, of Yarrow, B.C., died after a stroke, in November 27. Burial service was held from the local Mennonite Brethren Church on November 17.

Rev. Waldo Janzen, 43, of Goesel, Kansas, died in a car accident at Stella, Nebraska, just recently. Rev. Janzen leaves to mourn his wife and 6 children.

Mr. John Heese, 55, owner of the Rosthern Printing Press, where the Mennonite paper the "Bote" is being printed, died on November 24.



The Cause of Foreign Missions

Board of Missions News

Several members of our missionary staff attended the Congress on World Missions held in the Moody Church in Chicago December 5 to 10. Plans were that Ernest Friesen of Colombia, Irvin L. Friesen of the Congo, G. J. Froese of India, Kyoichi Kitano of Japan, J. B. Toews of the Hillsboro office and H. K. Warkentin of the Board attend this important meeting which brought together representatives from missions over the world.

Kyoichi Kitano and J. B. Toews were involved in an automobile accident near Newton, Kans., on November 26 enroute to Collinsville, Okla., for a Bible-missionary conference from November 27 to December 2. Brother Kitano was injured to the extent that he could not continue on to Collinsville and was hospitalized in Newton over the weekend. Brother Toews received bruises but was able to proceed to Collinsville via train. Brother Kitano received head injuries, but was able to travel to Collinsville on November 29. The accident occurred when Brother Toews' car was struck by another vehicle at an intersection eight miles southeast of Newton. The couple in the other vehicle was not hospitalized. Let us thank the Lord that these folks were not more seriously hurt and pray that all may soon be fully restored to health.

Brother Kitano was scheduled to travel and visit the churches as follows. During the first full week in December he was to attend the Congress of World Missions in Chicago and then speak at the Bible College and in churches in Manitoba December 10 to 14. Our prayers in behalf of Brother Kitano and his ministry in our churches will be appreciated.

Several members of the missions staff participated in missionary conferences in the Colorado churches of Burlington, Denver and Joes from November 27 to 29. Serving in these conferences were Nettie Berg and Irvin L. Friesen of the Congo, P. J. Funk of the office and Hugo Jantz of HCJB Ecuador.

Nettie Rempel of the South End Church, Winnipeg, has joined the Board of Missions office staff in Hillsboro. She arrived in Hillsboro on November 22 and has begun work as one of the office secretaries. Her interest and willingness to serve the cause of the gospel in this capacity are much appreciated.

Linda Banman reports that the couple who sold a house to our mission in Sao Mateus, Brazil, was

won to Christ during the process of purchasing the property. This conversion was a real encouragement to our workers as they establish a gospel witness and church in Sao Mateus. The property was sold to our mission at a rather low price, but the owner has no regrets and has testified: "I have received much more than money."

G. B. Giesbrecht has returned to Paraguay after spending approximately five months in North America visiting the churches and attending the centennial conference at Reedley. He left Wichita by plane on November 22 and spent about 10 days enroute preaching and reporting in our churches in Brazil and Uruguay.

Europe

Bro. and Sister Jacob Thielmann, who are serving in our conference ministry in Europe at Linz, Austria, will be ordained to the ministry in Linz on Sunday, December 18. Participating in the service of ordination will be H. H. Janzen and A. J. Neufeld. The Thielmanns are members of the Port Rowan Church in Ontario, which wishes them God's blessing upon this occasion and upon their future ministry for the Lord in Europe. It is possible that J. W. Vogt will also be present at Linz for this occasion and that a meeting of conference workers in Europe will be held at that time to review and plan the work in Europe.

India

News comes from India regarding a certain national brother who has been greatly used of the Lord. Living at Hughestown, he accepted a government job more than a hundred miles away. There he came under deep conviction over his life and repented and promised the Lord that he would be more active for Him in the future. This brother took upon himself the definite responsibility to evangelize four villages which were still without the gospel. The Lord blessed his simple proclamation of redemption through faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ so that many villagers believed. Inside of two years there were around 150 converts with more waiting for baptism. Three of the church groups have already built their own houses of worship. No requests for funds have been made by these native Christians who have managed their entire local church program without financial or other aid from the outside. These believers in the four villages show a great deal of Christian grace and growth and are exercising their relationship to one another and their testimony within



Brother and Sister Jacob Thielmann and children, Christel, Elfrieda and Evangeline.

the bounds of the "first love." This is evidence that when a Christian surrenders himself and his life to the Lord, he can do great and marvelous things even in unexpected places and under trying circumstances. Shall we remember this brother in our daily prayers and the Christians who have come to a faith in Christ.

Ted Fast and several of their children and **A. A. Unruh**s in India were recently involved in a car accident. The accident occurred on the way from Nagarkurnool to Wanaparty while on a tour visiting the different mission centers and missionaries. A few miles from Wanaparty the tie rod of the steering apparatus came loose and the car headed to the left of the road. Although it was possible for Brother Fast to keep the car from going over the bridge, it nevertheless hit the stone railing which damaged the front of the car almost beyond repair. Under the Lord's providence the car did not turn over and the passengers though severely bruised

were not fatally hurt. The children and sisters Fast and Unruh had many bruises and also sprains, and brother Fast had to have some stitches in his hand. We praise the Lord that He protected them from serious injury. Please pray for their recovery and the replacement of the car.

A recreational building has recently been constructed at the Bruton Mennonite Brethren boarding center at Kodaikanal school in southern India. Serving as houseparents to children of our India missionaries attending school here are Brother and Sister Peter M. Hamm. In the picture are children of our missionaries as well as children from other missions and children of business men and government employees. These other children are admitted to our boarding center when our facilities are not fully utilized and thus they come under the spiritual guidance of our houseparents. Children and houseparents deserve our faithful intercession.



Brother and Sister Peter M. Hamm (left and right) and children to whom they are houseparents. They stand in front of a recreational building recently constructed at the Bruton Mennonite Brethren boarding center at Kodaikanal school in southern India.

THE Young Observers

Hello, Girls and Boys

Christmas Eve! At last it is here, that joyous day of all days. As a small girl I thought it was the happiest, most beautiful night of the year.

We lived five miles from church and the program started early. That meant that chores had to be done in mid-afternoon. After an early supper, we got ready. The new clothes were put on. Finally the horses were hitched and we all piled into the sleigh. We were well tucked into warm blankets and away we went. We did not mind the long ride. This was our annual pilgrimage to the manger in Bethlehem—somehow it was really that to me! On the way, each one rehearsed his part. Mother seemed to know all the parts in the dialogue. Then we recited the Christmas story. If it was not too cold we sang some carols. Have you ever recited the story about the angels and the shepherds under a starry sky in an open sleigh? We could almost feel the presence of the "heavenly hosts" as we looked up. Then came the Wise Men worshipping the King and bringing gifts. I felt that their pilgrimage could have been no more reverent than ours was. Finally, we reached the church nestled in the woods, brightly lit by gas lamps to welcome us. You know, boys and girls, every Christmas Eve I felt as though I would really find the Baby Jesus there in a manger instead of the glistening tree. It seemed that nowhere else could there be such a fine program, such a festive tree, or such a beautifully illuminated church.

Dear girls and boys, may you too find the beauty of Christmas in the Christ Child.

Love, Aunt Helen.

Jimmy's Christmas

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15

Jimmy could hardly sleep the night before Christmas. How he wished he knew for sure that Mother and Dad would give him what he wanted most of all—a dog.

What fun it would be to have a dog all his own! They would play together, go fishing together, and be real pals. Jimmy could think of lots of tricks to teach a smart dog. He could even sleep on the foot of his bed at night if Mother did not care. And then Jimmy fell asleep.



The next morning he scrambled downstairs without dressing. "Merry Christmas, Mother, Dad!" he called, dashing into the living room. There under the tree were presents in all shapes and sizes. Right in front stood something big, big enough to hold a small dog. Jimmy looked at the tag. It read, "Best Wishes to Jimmy from Mother and Dad."

Just then Dad walked into the living room, and with a big smile he said, "Merry Christmas, son! It looks as though we will spend all day unwrapping presents!"

"May I begin now?" asked Jimmy, already stooping to open the big box. "Better wait until after breakfast," his father answered, as he hurried Jimmy out of the living room.

Jimmy thought breakfast would never be over. He was finished eating long before Mother and Dad were half finished. Grown folks are so slow. You'd have thought Christmas came every day, the way they ate.

Finally Dad pushed back his chair and said, "Well, Jimmy, are you ready to open your gifts?"

"Anytime, Dad," he answered, rushing from the table. "As if I haven't been ready for the last fifteen minutes," he added under his breath. Jimmy's fingers seemed to be all thumbs, so eager was he to open the big box. Suddenly some-

Christmas time and the beautiful snowflakes make girls and boys happy. — Sleigh rides are then enjoyed more than ever. What about joining these jolly children.



thing stirred inside. "Woof! Woof!" came a puppy's bark. In a moment happy Jimmy was hugging his little dog.

"I'm going to name him Pal," he decided. Running first to Mother and then to Dad, Jimmy gave them each a good hug and said, "Thank you!"

After all the gifts had been opened, Dad reached for the big family Bible. Opening it, he said, "Jimmy, what is the best gift you have received?" Jimmy promptly answered, "Pal!"

"God has a gift for you too, a better gift than Pal. It is the greatest gift in all the world. The Apostle Paul said, 'Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.' Do you know what that gift is? Your Mother and I pray each day that you will receive that Gift."

Jimmy looked puzzled, so Dad went on. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son—that was God's Gift on that first Christmas. God gave Him to die on the cross for your sins, Jimmy. He took your guilt upon Himself and says that whosoever believes on Him will not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Wouldn't you like to receive God's Gift?"

After a few minutes Jimmy said, "I would like to have God's Gift. May I tell Him so?" Then he bowed his head and prayed: "Thank you God, for sending Jesus to die for me. And thank you, Lord Jesus, for taking away my sin."

After that Dad prayed, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift." Raising his head, Jimmy said, "I still think Pal is a good gift, but God's Gift is my best Christmas gift!"

—Adapted from a tract by Christian Witness

Are You Watching for the Lord to Come?

Do you love Him? I am sure some of my readers do, and such can be watching for Him to come. He has said,

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour" (Matt. 25:13).

We cannot say just when the Lord will come, but He has given us another word.

"Behold, I come quickly" (Rev. 22:7). O, dear children, are you rea-

dy to go when the Lord comes; or will you be one of those who are left behind? The only way to be ready is to accept the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, and then you will be one of His, and when He comes He will take you. If you are His, are you watching for Him to come?

"What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37).

Children's Eyes at Christmas

Children's eyes at Christmas,
Lit with a holy light,
Glow brighter far than all the lights
That men at Christmas light.

Children's eyes at Christmas,
Bursting with mirth and song,
Gay songs of bells and candles,
Of angels, God and Christ.

Children's eyes at Christmas,
Beaming with radiant joy,
Unmingled joy, that banishes
All thoughts of grief or care.

Children's eyes at Christmas,
Brimming with eagerness,
And yet a peace, so deep and pure
Is also settled there.

Children's eyes at Christmas,
Lit with a holy light,
Children's eyes at Christmas,
Eager and big and bright;

Children's eyes at Christmas,
Joyful and peaceful and clear;
Children's eyes at Christmas,
A bit of heav'n is here!

Hilda Janzen, Abbotsford, B.C.



Curious children are some times trying to find out the secrets of pre-Christmas days. We hope that they will not be disappointed when all the secrets will be revealed.

Strait is the Gate

By MARJORIE BUCKINGHAM

(16th Installment)

The young people rallied round him because his forthrightness appealed to them, his vision inspired them, and his enthusiasm for the kingdom of God challenged them to consecration and practical service. Not all of them, it is true, responded to his leading. There were many who continued to drift along their heedless way in spite of all his efforts to point them to higher things, but there was an ever-increasing number who were a joy and inspiration to the pastor. With thankfulness to God he observed their growing desire for spiritual things, the increasing enrichment of their lives through the gracious ministry of the Holy Spirit, and their unflinching eagerness to answer the call to serve in any practical way. And in his heart Maxwell Brandon knew that whatever happened, his ministry at Southdown Grove could never be written down as a failure while he could claim such trophies of grace.

But those who opposed him were different. They were among the "stalwarts" of the church—the rank-and-file of regular worshippers from whom the church derived the greater part of its income, the virile and energetic workers who were the mainstay of its many auxiliaries, and the officers and deacons who were responsible for the executive and organizational side of the church life. And while it might be true that Pastor Brandon's opponents were in the minority in the church, they were a very effective minority, and the influence they exerted in the congregation was considerable. True, the grievances they had against the pastor were not of a serious nature, but the points of disagreement were "touchy" and vital ones in the life of the church at Southdown Grove, and it was only to be expected that the strongholds of years would stoutly resist any attack, whether it came from pulpit or pew.

The truth of the matter was that prior to Pastor Brandon's coming into their midst the church at Southdown Grove had been very complacent. It had a large membership and an equally large number of adherents, a building of which it could be justly proud, and a program of meetings which drew good congregations regularly, and large crowds on special occasions. Enjoying many material comforts and advantages, the church at Southdown Grove was not aware of its spiritual impoverishment, for its lack of fruitfulness was covered by a general feeling of fellowship and goodwill, and its powerlessness was not really apparent in a program that

covered a wide variety of activities and interests.

So the evangelistic emphasis in the new pastor's preaching struck a jarring note on the ears of those who preferred dignity of service to the deep things of the Spirit. These people had long since lost any concern they might have felt for those who had never come to a knowledge and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Son of God and Saviour, and they keenly resented any change in their regular mode of worship. But that was not all. There was a personal note in all his sermons that antagonized them. His call to consecrated Christian living startled them. So few had ever faced up to the implications of Christianity and daily life; and while some were ready to act up to the new light they received through the new pastor's teaching, those who had the most to lose in the way of material things opposed him bitterly. Reluctant to surrender the worldly interests that had occupied them for so long, they stifled the stirrings of conscience, and took refuge in the argument that one's private life was one's own affair, maintaining that no minister had the right to concern himself with the individual lives of the members of his congregation.

The same attitude was apparent in the auxiliaries of the church, where Mr. Brandon's ideas seemed to conflict with those of many of the most active workers—notably the Women's Guild, which had always been responsible for the raising of large sums of money for special funds and appeals. This band of ladies had a wonderful record of service, and until the coming of Pastor Brandon to Southdown Grove no one had ever questioned what they did or how they did it, and the large cheques they had passed into the treasury from time to time had been received gladly and gratefully. So when Mr. Brandon made it clear that he did not approve of many of their methods of raising money, and when Mrs. Brandon made no effort to support any of these ventures, the ladies were openly hostile. Following the lead given by Mrs. Norwood, they made no secret of their feelings on the matter, which before long assumed such vital importance in the church that the official board of deacons devoted a whole night to the discussion of the problem.

Now if the whole truth were to be told, the deacons themselves were divided—some solidly behind Mr. Brandon and some vigorously opposed to him. If Brandon had not been aware of this division before, the frank and even bitter exchanges that took place at that meeting would have told him exactly where

he stood with his official board. Mr. Norwood appeared to be the chief spokesman for the opposition, but it was soon apparent that his remarks contained a good deal of personal invective which was aimed directly at the pastor. Undoubtedly he had been influenced by his wife's hostile attitude, but even that did not completely explain Charles Norwood's calculated and bitter opposition. He attacked every part of Pastor Brandon's work, from the length of his sermons to his interest in people whose names were not written on the church roll, as though he didn't have enough to do ministering to the people who actually paid his salary, and had some real claim on his time and service!

And Maxwell Brandon listened to all this with a heavy heart. He felt no resentment towards those who opposed him, only a great burden of grief at their lack of spiritual understanding and insight. But when it came to plans and decisions which involved him personally on matters of principle he did not hesitate to declare himself, and on the question of the money for repairs to the manse which were to be paid for with money which we felt had not been raised through Christian channels."

"That's a very sweeping statement, Mr. Brandon!" warned Charles Norwood aggressively.

"Nevertheless it is the truth, Mr. Norwood," the pastor reiterated.

"Well, anyway, what does the pastor mean by raising money through 'Christian channels'?" demanded the treasurer, with all his books spread out before him.

"Briefly this," returned Maxwell Brandon quickly. "The church of the Lord Jesus Christ and the world that crucified Him can have nothing in common, as I see it. The world is free to use any means to gain anything, because it is already under condemnation, anyway. But the church for which Jesus Christ died should have not part in any of these things."

"What things?" they demanded in unison.

"Things that the world regards as quite legitimate—stunts, raffles, games of chance."

"In which you include a ladies' get-together for a harmless game of cards?" Charles Norwood put in belligerently.

"Yes, I do, Mr. Norwood," replied the pastor mildly, deliberately ignoring the implied invitation to an argument on the relative merits of the case.

"Well, if all such things are 'taboo,'" ventured another member of the Board, "perhaps the pastor would tell us what the church can do to raise money."

Maxwell Brandon nodded. "As I understand the teaching of the Scriptures, brethren, we have no right to money except as a return for adequate service rendered, or as a gift."

The treasurer ran his finger down

the long column of figures in front of him, then looked up with a cynical smile. "All I can say is that if we had waited for all the money we need to be given to us, the church at Southdown Grove would have been in financial straits long before this."

"But have you ever made your financial commitments a matter of prayer?" asked the pastor quickly.

"Prayer?" came the sceptical echo.

"Why not?" demanded the pastor. "Aren't we told to 'make all our requests known unto God'? Aren't we assured that He will supply 'all our needs' from the riches of His unfailing storehouse of grace? Surely the needs of the Southdown Grove church wouldn't leave the Almighty bankrupt!"

Nobody could gainsay the underlying truth in the pastor's reasoning, and his words were received in silence until presently Charles Norwood ventured a very pertinent remark.

"Can we take it then, Mr. Brandon, that in regard to the repairs to the manse you would be content to pray for the money to come in and leave it at that?"

"By all means!" declared the pastor unequivocally.

The treasurer had been making some quick calculations. "To repair the manse satisfactorily and make the necessary alterations, we would need at least five hundred pounds," he announced.

"Yes, I daresay we would," agreed the pastor quite unperturbed.

"And you really think that amount of money can be raised by prayer?" demanded the treasurer, to whose practical mind the idea sounded perfectly ridiculous.

Maxwell Brandon smiled confidently. "Since as children of God we have an open cheque on the bank of heaven—yes!" he said emphatically.

"And what about the five hundred pounds we need for the extensions to the kindergarten hall?" someone queried.

"Well," suggested Mr. Norwood shrewdly, with a long look at the pastor, "since the ladies have decided to put any money they raise into the hall funds in the future, and Mr. Brandon seems quite content to wait for the manse money to drop down from heaven, I suggest that we leave things as they are."

"And see which five hundred pounds come in first?" added the treasurer ironically.

A faint smile lurked at the corners of Charles Norwood's tight-lipped mouth. "It would be an excellent opportunity to test the effectiveness of both methods," he said pointedly.

There was a tense silence as the question reverted back to the pastor.

"What have you to say to that proposition, Mr. Brandon?" asked the chairman of the meeting.

(To be continued)

M. B. Church Board of General Welfare

(Dienst am Evangelium)

The new Bible school for Mennonite Brethren churches in the vicinity of Curitiba, Brazil, has concluded its first year of instruction, and the student body has been visiting churches in the area in the interests of the school. H. W. Dueck, Board worker serving in the school, reports a growing interest in the institution and the prospect of increased enrollment for the coming year.

A vehicle for Brother Dueck to use in his ministry in the Bible school and churches in Brazil is being provided with funds from himself, his family and friends. Brother Dueck has been assisting the new Mennonite Brethren Church at Witmarsum. He writes that they have found many opportunities for Christian service and an open door for preaching the Word of God.

M. A. Kroeker was invited to speak to a meeting of Mennonite Disaster Service in Winnipeg on December 3. He presented a devotional message on the Christian imperative of helping our fellow men in need.

Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service at its annual meeting in the Hillsboro Mennonite Brethren church on November 22 reported an extensive program of activity during the past year.

Major disaster areas in which MDS served were Sapulpa, Okla., and Meridian and Leavenworth, Kans., which suffered extensive tornado destruction; Hutchinson, Kans., which had severe windstorm damage; and Newton, Kans., which experienced flood damage.

Besides actual disaster activity, Kansas MDS has done a number of things to improve its service. An important accomplishment is the publication and distribution of a manual designed for training volunteers in local congregations for service in case of disaster. The manual was prepared by Vernon R. Wiebe, Hillsboro. Portable citizen-band radios for field operation as well as for the mobile bus were secured to facilitate disaster work.

An additional project this year was assistance in planning and building the Mennonite Central Committee warehouse, and Mennonite Disaster Service garage in North Newton.

Elected to serve the Kansas MDS organization during the coming year were: Vernon R. Wiebe, Hillsboro, chairman; Wilfred Unruh, Newton, secretary-treasurer; John Diller, Hesston, coordinator; and Kenneth King, Hesston, assistant coordinator.

The Kansas unit is one of many MDS units in the United States and

Canada. Disaster services given since 1952 have ministered to thousands of persons who have experienced the calamities of flood, tornadoes, fires and earthquakes.

Elected to the Board of General Welfare and Public Relations at the centennial conference were the following brethren: C. A. DeFehr, Winnipeg, Man.; Waldo D. Hiebert, Reedley, Calif.; William Neufeld, San Jose, Calif.; C. J. Rempel, Kitchener, Ont.; and G. H. Sukkau, Winnipeg, Man. Remaining on the Board were Louis Goertz, Henderson, Neb., confirmed by the conference as an alternate for Clarence Hiebert, who was elected until 1963 but who is currently in MCC service in Europe; O. B. Reimer, Reedley, Calif.; B. C. Schellenberg, Maine Centre, Sask.; and A. A. Wiens, Yarrow, B.C. The Board has organized itself as follows for the coming conference term: Waldo D. Hiebert, chairman; C. J. Rempel, vice-chairman; M. A. Kroeker, Hillsboro, will continue serving as secretary-treasurer until the Board meets in February.

A good number of men responded to the need of several families north of Hillsboro, whose farm buildings were damaged by a tornado Sunday evening, November 27. Outbuildings on the farms of Albert F. Bartel, Homer Enns, and George Yauk were extensively damaged or



Students and teachers of the 1960 Bible school at Curitiba, Brazil. Teachers H. W. Dueck and P. H. Janzen appear second and fourth from the right end.

demolished and the Enns' house was damaged. From 10 to 25 men worked each day for several days at these places cleaning up and repairing the buildings. This assistance was arranged through the Mennonite Disaster Service of the Hillsboro Mennonite churches which is coordinated by M. A. Kroeker.

Anyone having a colored slide of the Board of General Welfare's display at the centennial conference at Reedley is asked to communicate with its office at 315 South Lincoln, Hillsboro, Kans. The office would like to have a print of the display entitled "The Gospel of Love Speaks Through 2,000 Years of Suffering."

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M. B. Bible College Practical Work Program

"... and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The primary aim of MBBC is to train young people for various areas of Christian service. This cannot be done solely by class instruction, for only as truths find expression in our lives can they become a part of us. There are various avenues provided for students to gain experience in the type of work they may be doing after they leave College. Not the least of these is the expanding practical work program of the College. This area of service not only gives the students experience but it has also proven to be a fruitful work in the city. The work is supervised by the Home Missions Committee and Rev. J. J. Toews acts as director. In order to give you an insight into this work we would like to briefly describe its various phases.

Mission Sunday Schools

Every Sunday afternoon a number of students go to either the Gospel Light Church, Union Gospel Mission and Elmwood M. B. church to teach at mission Sunday schools. The children who attend vary in age from about four to fifteen and come from different family backgrounds. Each child is different. Some sit quietly and eagerly, while others find it almost impossible to sit still. Most of the children never attend church and, this is their only contact with a Christian environment. Especially now at Christmas a real challenge for the teachers has been to bring out the true meaning of Christmas. The children listen with astonishment to the story of the first Christmas. One little girl recently lifted her hand and asked, "But how can Jesus be born all over again every Christmas day?"

The main concern of the teachers is that the Word of God may dwell in the hearts of the children and that they may live out what they hear. The last few weeks the theme of the lessons in our classes was "Thanksgiving." Such remarks as, "I say thank you to God every night now before I eat, even though Mommy and Daddy don't," fill the teacher's heart with thankfulness. What a privilege to give the Word of God to these children who must return to their godless environment after hearing about the love of God.

Jewish Hobby Club

Each Monday afternoon at approximately 5 o'clock, ten students leave their books and assignments to bring the gospel to some of the Jewish children in the city. The first thirty minutes at the Hobby Club are usually spent in singing choruses when the children participate heartily. Then follows a story told by one of the teachers. For the remaining period the children are

YOUTH IN ACTION

divided into five classes, with two teachers in each class, and the time is devoted to teaching a Bible lesson and craft-work. The children eagerly participate in the variety of craft-work which is provided for them. It is an incentive for the children to attend regularly and that makes the teacher's work less difficult.

Union Gospel Mission

Every Wednesday evening a group of twenty-one male students go to the Union Gospel Mission, where they conduct a two-hour service. The work consists of tract distribution, counselling and singing. The tract distributors extend an invitation to those whom they regard as capable of accepting the message. Once inside, the man is accompanied to a seat by a counsellor, given a cup of coffee, and dealt with personally. Meanwhile, the quartets, each serving for one hour, proclaim the message in song, which is also transmitted to those on the street by a loudspeaker.

The work has both joys and disappointments. It is almost inconceivable that human being can sink to such depths, but what we see reminds us that our foe is the ruler of the darkness of this world. Many men come in merely to be warmed, or to have a cup of coffee, or to argue. But there are some who are open to the gospel, and it is encouraging to see those who are seeking come to the knowledge of salvation. The Word of God is truly powerful and mighty to save.

However, it is extremely difficult for these men to remain in the faith, and often we are not able to keep in contact with them since they move about rather freely. We would request prayer for Mr. Frank Koop, the full-time worker at the mission, for encouragement to those who labor there, for contact with those who are seeking, and for victory in the lives of those who have come to the Saviour. In this work we are dependent upon the Lord, for He "openeth the eyes of the blind; the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down" (Ps. 146:8a).

Singing Groups

Once every week the patients in three non-Catholic hospitals of Winnipeg know that a group of ladies from MBBC will take time to come and sing for them and give them a smile and a cheerful word. Some of these patients have no friends or relatives who come to visit them. Toward these we feel a special responsibility.

It is a joy to sing, not only for the patients, but also for the visitors. After a few songs, the students go into the wards and if time allows, talk to them individually. Some, though physically miserable,

are happy in the Lord and radiate their joy. To them the message of the Christian songs is a source of encouragement.

But in many eyes only suffering and despair can be seen. To them our songs only emphasize the desperate need and longing for peace within. Tears flow—tears of hopelessness or self-pity. Oh that they would become tears of repentance! "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Ps. 30:56). Pray that the patients may experience the joy of deliverance.

Gospel Light Hobby Club

Often on Friday evening a group of Mennonite Brethren Bible College students are greeted with eager anticipation by a cosmopolitan group of children from the city centre, each revealing his own particular need and each clamouring in his own way for individual attention and recognition. It is challenging to seek to instill in these young lives a reverence for God's house and to prepare them to receive the gospel message.

A worship service, including some lusty singing and a story, unites the various departments before they separate for the Bible story and crafts.

Being constantly aware of the varied influence brought to bear on these children, the teachers attempt to relate the stories simply and effectively to their daily experiences. As the teachers worship together with these children, tell them Bible stories, and come into close personal contact with them during craft time, it is their prayer that the children may "see Jesus" and accept Him as their Saviour.

Good News Club

The Good News Clubs provide good opportunities for reaching children. It may be of interest to relate some of the experiences of which the teachers report.

On one occasion, after singing several choruses, the teacher asked for a favorite chorus. One eager five-year-old suggested "Jingle

Bells;" another child, "Some men have to march in the infantry... I'm in the Lord's army." The teacher hesitatingly replied, "I don't know that song and therefore I cannot play it on the piano." "My sister knows it and she can play it," was the child's reply. Only one thing was left to do—call the sister and sing it. They did.

On another occasion ways of recruiting children were being discussed. One enthusiastic child offered to help and said, "If you want me to, I can bring sixty children next time."

One afternoon only one eleven-year-old girl turned up for the club. The teachers hesitated but decided to teach the story, "Stephen, the Martyr," to this pupil. The result was that she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour. She then asked, "Can't we have Good News Club more often?" The teachers' faithfulness was rewarded. Experiences such as these are a particular encouragement to the teachers to serve more faithfully.

Domain Services

A new phase of the practical work program this year are the services at Domain. Every Sunday evening a mixed octet and two student speakers present the gospel in song and word in the Mennonite Brethren church at Domain, about thirty miles southwest of Winnipeg. Presently the church has approximately fifty members and is under the leadership of Mr. Jake Pauls.

It has been a real joy for the college students to fellowship with the brethren at Domain. The warm welcome received in their church and homes, as well as the faithful attendance of the members, have encouraged the students in their service. All expenses connected with this work are being paid by the church.

The Sunday evening programs consist of congregational singing, songs by the octet, special numbers, children's features, and an English message. The Lord has blessed these times of fellowship and we hope that more people in the community will be reached in the future.

Besides the phases of work mentioned above, some of the students are also serving in their home churches and communities.



Here are some children among whom the students are doing mission work.

EDUCATION

SCHOOLS and COLLEGES

M. B. Bible College Students Sponsor Debate

Student night on November 26 was reserved for a debate sponsored by the Literary Committee of the College. The topic was: "Resolved that the Mennonite Brethren should participate more actively in the rectification of social and moral evils." The affirmative was supported by Rudi Schnitzler of Germany and Joyce Redekopp of Main Centre, Sask. The negative was defended by Allen Guenther of Clearbrook, B.C., and Kathie Reimer of Kitchener, Ont. The judges, Herbert Giesbrecht, Rudy Wiebe, and Myrtle Mendel, decided in favour of the affirmative.

The students collected over one hundred and sixty dollars to be distributed to needy families as Christmas Cheer. Fourteen homes are to be visited by student groups. These homes are in some way associated with the Gospel Light Mission on Main Street. With the food and gifts will go a testimony in word and song.

Relief Secretary Visits College

Rev. Martin Kroeker of Hillsboro, Kans., was the speaker at the chapel exercises of the College on December 5. Mr. Kroeker is the Executive Secretary of the Board of Welfare and Public Relations of the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church. The speaker directed the attention of the students to the great physical and spiritual needs in the world today, especially the refugee problem. "We must not spiritualize the commands of Jesus which deal with the obligation to feed the multitude," said Mr. Kroeker. This, he felt, had become a common error in fundamental circles.

Second Semester Registration Announced

Registrar David Ewert announced January 23-24, 1961, to be the dates for registration for second semester courses. New students may register on Friday, January 27. Several new applications have already been processed. Some students will be completing their studies at the end of the first semester.

The following courses will be begun during the second semester: History of Missions, Missionary Survey, Minor Prophets, False Cults, Evangelism, Johannine Writings, Expository Preaching, The Christian Home.

Students entering for the second semester are allowed to enroll for some courses now in progress, such as, Systematic Theology III, Old Testament History, Old Testament Poetry, Medieval Church History,

Life of Christ, Mennonite History, General Epistles, Homiletics, Doctrine, Biblical Theology and Educational Work of the Church.

Other courses are continued but are not open for second semester registration.

Ministers' Course in February

President J. A. Toews announced the dates for the Annual Ministers' Course to be February 6-17. All instructors will participate in the course. Such courses as Pastoral Counseling, Homiletics, Systematic Theology, Mid-Week Bible Classes, Practical Theology and Music will be offered. As in past years a large number of workers are expected to come from the various provinces to participate in this course.

Steinbach Bible Institute

The twenty-fifth school year of Steinbach Bible Institute is well under way. The largest student body in the history of the school has resulted in overflowing dormitories. Many students live in house trailers on the campus, some in a nearby motel, and others in town.

This year, as in other years, the students and faculty are lifting their eyes unto the fields which are white unto harvest. Rev. Ben. D. Reimer, the principal of the school, conducted revival meetings in Portage la Prairie from November 27 to December 3, in spite of an already busy schedule. Some students teach Good News Clubs in schools or private homes both in Steinbach and the surrounding area. Singing groups frequently serve at special meetings, and programs have been rendered in various churches, such as the Evangelical Mennonite church and the Evangelical Mennonite Mission church in Winnipeg. Each Friday and Saturday, a group motors to Winnipeg for personal witnessing and tract distribution. House visitations are being planned for the near future.

Every Wednesday, after the noon-day meal, a different group of students present a program in the school auditorium. This is called the "Practical Hour." It affords opportunity for the development of skill in the preparation and presentation of Christian programs. These vary and include gospel services, skits, and panel discussions on such topics as choosing a vocation, teaching Sunday school effectively, and others. After the program, helpful criticism is offered by both students and teachers. This period has been of much practical benefit as well as a means of spiritual blessings to many.

Ernest Funk
S.B.I. Literary Committee

Missions Workers in Germany Write

(Continued from page 1-4)

we found ourselves in an open-air camp with Dutch and German Mennonite young people. Bible study under the trees and "singing in the straw" must be experienced to be appreciated. We were deeply impressed by these young people—precious souls in need of spiritual light.

On the day following the close of the camp we drove to Austria to assist Brother Neufeld in evangelistic work. Again and again we saw evidence of the cleansing power of God. Thus a destitute woman in a meeting in Steyr, after her prayer for forgiveness, exclaimed, "Is all the filth removed now?" And a 19-year-old girl was a living witness to the truth of John 8:36: "If the son therefore shall make you free ye shall be free indeed." Although baptized, she was an unbeliever, enslaved by sin and Satan, unhappy, in despair. What a joy to see her radiant, saying, "Today I have decided to wholly follow Jesus," and proving the genuineness of her decision by writing letters of apology. By God's grace we are able to share in these blessings. We accept it as a gift of God's grace that He has led us here into this field of service.

Shortly after our return to Neuwied an evangelistic campaign was begun here. The Lord Jesus, as revealed in the epistle to the Hebrews, became very precious to us all. The Neufelds stayed with us for one week and we learned to know them better and enjoyed their fellowship. After this we spent a few days in Basel and Neustadt, which was the end of our itinerary for a few weeks. We need not emphasize that we are happy and content here. At present we are separated, Cornie is in Austria preparing songsters for a Christmas program to be given at Linz, Steyr and Wels. The many opportunities in the field of music make the work a pleasure, even though the performance technically is often faulty.

An assignment which we had not anticipated is to assist in the production of the radio program, "Quelle des Lebens." The first program was broadcast short wave over radio station Luxembourg on September 16. It is our responsibility to provide the music (with the help of the Neufelds), prepare the tapes, and take care of the correspondence, that is, the correspondence which does not concern spiritual counselling, which is sent to Brother H. H. Janzen. To date we have received from 150 to 175 letters from West Germany, East Germany, France, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. Sorry to say, the reception is not satisfactory because of interference by another station (Stoersender). But God has provided a way out: Radio Luxembourg is

broadcasting the program free of charge in the morning when there is no interference. We are receiving many requests for copies of the messages for rereading and distribution. We are grateful to the ladies' missionary circles of Manitoba for purchasing the recording equipment needed in this work. Such cooperation is much appreciated.

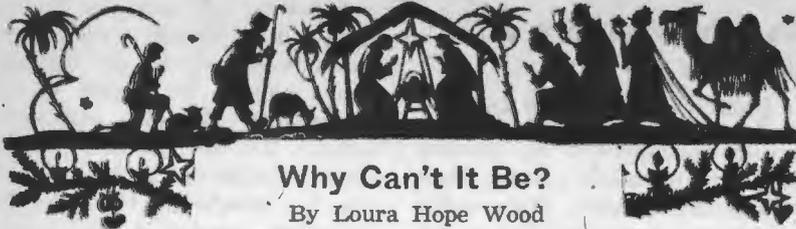
We are reminded of the time when we heard missionary reports at home and words as: "Your prayers are a support to us. Ours is a common task." It was an encouragement to us. Now we are in the same position and are literally experiencing answers to your prayers for strength and grace in difficult situations. For instance, we began with the children's hour on Wednesdays in October with meager prospects. Last spring this Bible study hour had been conducted in connection with a class in craft work. We began conducting it with Bible study only, with some misgivings. But the children came out and still are. Someone has prayed, we feel. Our experience with the young people is similar. They are very enthusiastic about the Christmas presentation now being prepared. All this causes us to lay some prayer requests upon your hearts. Please pray:

- 1) That the radio broadcast may remain free of interference and that souls may be saved through it;
- 2) That the children may give their hearts to Jesus;
- 3) That the young people who are saved may stand firm for Jesus and learn to serve Him;
- 4) That God might lead us in the extension work here at Neuwied;
- 5) That we might truly occupy the field for Christ during the campaigns in Ens and Wels, Austria, in April and February of the New Year;
- 6) That the 18 workers in Europe may be filled with the Spirit of God.

We could list many more items, but with one for each day of the week, this is probably enough. On Sunday we ask you to remember us personally, if you will.

Finally, we invite you to a "house-warming" of our cozy two-room suite in the M. B. complex in Neuwied. The dark hangings, old wood-work, and second-hand furniture have been replaced by bright paper, varnished wood-work, friendly curtains, and other things by the expenditure of many hours of labour. Things are much as they were when we were studying—an organ, a small heater in each room, etc. We have ample room and thank God for our fine home. We would be delighted if you surprised us with your presence at Christmas time. But all our visiting will probably have to be done in spirit. So we wish each and all, "Merry Christmas."

Cornie and Elfrieda Balzer,
Wiedbachstr. 11,
Neuwied/Rhein, Germany



Why Can't It Be?

By Laura Hope Wood

Why can't every day be like Christmas?
 Why can't love be in the air?
 It takes such a little remembrance
 To show somebody you care.

Why is it only at Christmas
 That gifts to others we bring?
 If everyday we'd remember,
 We could make somebody's heart sing.

The same Star that shone at
 Christmas

Shines each day in the same old way;
 Just tell somebody you love them,
 And Christmas will be every day.

Sent in by
 Mrs. I. K. Epp
 Kelowna, B.C.

New Leadership

Beechy, Sask. — All future correspondence with regard to the Beechy M. B. Church is to be directed to our new leader, Mr. Clifford Nickel, Beechy, Saskatchewan.
 In behalf of the Church,
 Jacob Schellenberg, secretary

Special Announcement

Alexander, Man. — Mr. Helmut Schroeder of 1354—4th St., Brandon, Man., is the newly elected pastor of the Alexander M. B. Church. All future correspondence, therefore, is to be directed to Mr. Schroeder as of the above address.
 On behalf of the
 Alexander M. B. Church
 J. J. Krueger

Church Announcement

Edmonton, Alta. — The Mennonite Brethren Mission Group of Edmonton wishes to announce that their worship services are now held in the auditorium of the James Gibbons School in Jasper Place. The school is located at the corner of 90th Avenue and 143rd Street, Edmonton.

Sincerely yours,
 W. Sawatzky

Future Subscribers

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Corny Petcker of Tofield, Alta., a girl, Grace Marie, on November 10, 1960.

ON THE HORIZON

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!

December 27-29. — The annual Bible Conference and Evangelistic

Services in the Elmwood M. B. church. Rev. J. B. Toews will serve in the 3 meetings in the evening and the 3 brethren J. A. Toews, F. C. Peters and David Ewert in the day-time services.

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

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

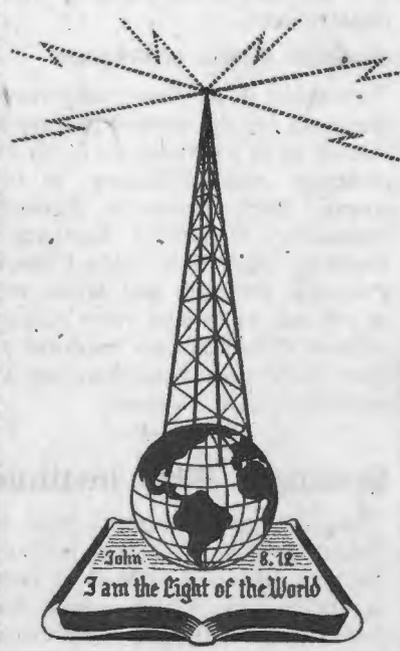
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 Im Himmel ist kein Scheiden
 Solang mein Jesus lebt
 and 4 others

LP 102 — Quartet (English)

The Old Fashioned Meeting
 Oh its been Wonderful
 We shall Walk through the
 Valley in Peace
 and 8 others

LP 103 — Quartet (German)

Ich weiß einen Strom
 Die Himmel erzählen
 Brüder, auf zum Kampfe
 and 5 others

LP 301 — Choir (German)

Lobe der Herr, o meine Seele
 Du redest, Herr, zu mir
 Ganz stille muß die Seele sein
 and 5 others

LP 501 — Children's Choir (English)

Come, Children, Join to Sing
 I am Jesus' Little Lamb
 Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead us
 and 10 others

LP 201 — Soloist — Peter Koslowsky (German)

Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe
 So lange Jesus bleibt der Herr
 Es harret die Braut so lange schon
 and 5 others

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