

# Mennonite Observer

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

I Cor. 2:2

★  
YOUR CHRISTIAN  
FAMILY WEEKLY

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## Missionaries to Latin America



Brother and Sister Richard Wiens and their two children Donald 2½ and Beverley 5. (See report on page 5-3)

## A Watchword for Missions for 1961

"Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

In 1914, when the world was plunged into the the first World War, Sir Edward Grey uttered these ominous words: "The lamps are going out all over Europe, and they will not be lit again in our lifetime." At Christmas time, 1960, and New Year's 1961, the above description of world conditions applies even more than in 1914. The lights are still going out, not only in Europe but throughout the world, affecting nations large and small. The flickering hopes for greater understanding among nations in 1960 have vanished and the shadows of history's eventide are lengthening. Tensions, suspicions, treachery and fear dominate the atmosphere of our atomic age. Distance has been removed. Geographically, humanity has become a one-community world. Yet, two major philosophies of life are engaged in a terribly dangerous global struggle which will determine the destiny of the present civilization. The lights are going out while the tempest of political and philosophical struggle is gaining in scope and velocity.

The angelic message, "Thou shalt

call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins," remains unaffected by the alarming disintegration of all moral and social law on international and national levels. God and His redemptive purpose, to which we are committed, supercedes the issues of time and is not endangered by the rise and fall of civilizations and the self-destructive struggle of generations. The purpose, message, joy and hope of Christmas, with the background of rolling billows and threatening storms, emerge in greater glory and certainty. He came to "save His people from their sins." When was this message more needful than at these crossroads of human history?

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## Christian Couple Married to Enter the Lord's Service

By Mrs. Sam H. Krause

As the young couple exchanged marriage vows in the Hirona church one sunny October afternoon, our thoughts went back to the time when we first met Brother Kurita. It was through an English Bible class eight years ago that he was

contacted. Soon after that, he accepted the Lord and showed interest in Bible study. When we moved to the Tsurugaoka station, he requested time for special Bible study and prayer. This was granted and so many hours were spent around the Word, sometimes alone and sometimes together with others. We had prayed that he would give his life to full-time service if the Lord should call him. The Lord in His own time called him.

For years Brother Kurita had a growth under his chin. It became very painful and started swelling. He went to the Baptist hospital for treatment, where it was decided that he should have surgery. The day before the scheduled operation, the swelling went down and the pain ceased. However, a four-hour operation was performed. The doctor said that the pus pocket had broken and was draining down to his heart. Had he waited a day

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## Significant Events in Hamilton Mission Church

### Baptism at the Hamilton Mission Church

November 27 was a day of exultation and blessing for the Hamilton M. B. Mission Church. The Hamilton group, together with the Vineland congregation, assembled in the Vineland M. B. church. During the gathering of the congregation, the presence of the Spirit of God could be felt. At the front of church auditorium is the baptistry with a beautiful oil painting by Mrs. George Friesen in the background.

After some congregational singing, the pastor of the Vineland M. B. Church, Rev. H. Voth, opened the baptismal service with the reading of Acts 8:32: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter," and verse 39: "And he went on his way rejoicing." The invocation prayer was followed by the choir song

(Continued on page 3-3)

## GERMAN RADIO PROGRAM

of Mennonite Schools of Southern Manitoba held every Sunday from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. over radio station CFAM, Altona, Manitoba.



(Photo by H. F. Wiebe, Winkler, Man.)

This picture shows how the taperecordings are made. Here are grade V pupils of the Winkler school. Mr. Ernie Kroeger, teacher, is standing to the right; Dorothy Kroeger is at the piano; the pupil's choir is at the centre; Rev. D. K. Duerksen, educational director, stands behind the microphone. This choir presented the Christmas program this year over radio station CFAM.

Every week a program is recorded from one of the schools. Some times it is necessary to record the programs three or four weeks in advance.

From January 24 of 1960 to January 29 of 1961 fifty-three programs were recorded and sent out over the air. Teachers and students are willing to do this work especially when they know that they have many listeners. We are grateful for words of encouragement and for every donation and we are courteously asking for your assistance in this important work.

With fraternal greetings, D. K. Duerksen.

## EDITORIAL

### Redeeming the Time

Redeeming the time means to make good use of it. The world evaluates time in terms of money, by stating that time is gold. The Apostle Paul considered time in the light of eternity and realized the preciousness of it.

One year consists of 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, and 31,336,000 seconds, and every moment of it is precious.

A Persian fable states that a man, who was walking along the sea shore, found a container with small stones. In his idling time he threw them one by one at the sea gulls on the waves, until he had only one stone left. Great was his astonishment and regret when he discovered that the stone in his hand as well as all the rest of the stones which he had carelessly cast into the sea, were precious diamonds. Similarly many people throw away their precious days of life without realizing their infinite value.

Every moment of life is to be compared to a costly stone which must be regarded as highly significant. The late Queen Elizabeth of England realized this when in her dying hour she said, "I am willing to give millions if my life could be extended for several more hours."

Enormous things can happen in a short time. Three minutes of a severe earthquake shattered the city of San Francisco on April 18 of 1906. In five minutes the good reputation of an individual can sink down to its lowest level so that the rest of life is spent in discouragement, selfaccusation, dispare and remorse. Great things can also be accomplished in a short time and they are of special value if they are done according to God's will. Deeds done in the name of the Lord make life pleasant and shine with the light of heaven.

There is usually more to do than there is time in which to do it. There is therefore the danger of neglecting the essential and of doing the multitudenous things which contribute comparatively little to a life of fruitfulness. We are usually careful in the use of our money, and we must exercize even greater care in the budgetting of our time.

Famous men have achieved great things because they redeemed their time. Ex-president Harry Truman of the U.S.A., speaking of the budgetting of his time described a usual presidential day as follows: "I have always been an early riser and still am. In the White House I used to get up at 5 a.m. and read government documents and reports that had come to me late the day before. Then I'd take a walk at 7 a.m. Back in my office, I'd read three or four newspapers and eat breakfast. At 9 o'clock, there was the daily staff conference. I kept appointments from 10 o'clock until 1, had lunch and took a half hour nap, and then saw people until 5 p.m. After 5 o'clock usually came a swim and dinner. I went to bed early and would read myself to sleep on history and the lives of the men who made history" (November 11, 1958 issue of "Look").

Great men of God have likewise redeemed their time. Thus Pastor Arthur F. Jones of a large church in Niles, Ohio budgetted his time carefully. He had the following items on his list for a year's work: prepare sermons, Sunday school lessons, Bible class studies, prayer meeting talks, attend several conferences, write letters, remember certain birthdays, mail Christian literature, mimeograph weekly bulletins, daily prayer, Bible memory work, weddings, funerals, vacation Bible school, youth camps, read 10,000 pages, make 730 visits (not five-minute, pop-in and pop-out visits) and many other things. Pastor Jones urged his members to read through the Bible every year. In 1953 he stated that till then his daily reading had enabled him to go through the Bible forty-five times.

Much can be done and accomplished if time is redeemed and used profitably. The diligence of a common tailor by the name of A. Johnson made it possible for him to rise to the position of the U.S.A. president. The late Abram Lincoln redeemed his time and thus he did not remain a woodchopper but became president of the United States. John Bunyon who, on account of his testimony for the Lord was imprisoned, did not waste his time there, but he wrote his well known "Pilgrims Progress".

Thomas Edison climbed to a lofty height in his achievements because he had no time for idling or for trivial things. Humboldt was able to write his famous "Kosmos" because he redeemed his time and Martin Luther translated the entire Bible into the

German language because he knew the value of time even behind prison bars.

The secret of getting things done is to do first things first and a key to the best use of time is the weeding out of time-killing non-essentials and of spending the time which we have with the best. May God help us to redeem our time this year and in all the years to come.

G. D. H.

## DEVOTIONAL

### The Thief of Time

Beloved reader, much wealth, great business concerns and interests, and even kingdoms, republics and empires have been lost and gone down by delay, or procrastination. But all these transitory values and losses cannot be compared to the value and loss of a human soul. Man's immortality and the unspeakable and precious price paid for his soul lift him far above all material wealth and creation.

Our gracious and almighty Saviour gave His own precious life to redeem and save man. "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" (John 3:16). The Lord Jesus asks these soul-stirring questions: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36, 37)

These wonderful passages of Scripture set forth God's estimate of the value of the immortal soul of man. This, in the boundless universe of God, is the greatest issue for you and me. Then let us decide this all-important and tremendous matter here and now by receiving the dear Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives to be our Saviour and friend forever.

He says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and sup with him and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2).

"Seek ye the Lord, while He may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isa. 65:6). Dear reader, please consider the "Thief of Time" and heed the following awful lessons and examples of unutterable ruin and eternal misery and woe that resulted from procrastination.

#### One Month Too Late

At a prayer meeting held in a country district of western Washington, a young man appeared, to be deeply convicted of sin. He was urged to give his heart to God immediately. But he hesitated saying, "No, I will surrender to God when I am done hauling logs; I have a month left to work." Four weeks from that day he and a young friend went bathing in Lake Lacomas. He was using profane language while undressing. Plunging into the lake,

he swam into the deep, cold water. He was taken with a cramp and, screaming wildly for help, sank to the bottom and drowned. He was one month too late.

#### One Week Too Late

A lady in Scotland became greatly concerned about her soul. One night she was so troubled she could not sleep, but walked the floor in great distress of mind. At last she sat down and wrote in her diary: "Next week I will attend to the salvation of my soul." She then retired and slept soundly. The next day she indulged in pleasure and gaiety. The following day she was taken violently ill, and soon became delirious. Before her death the delirium left her mind long enough for her to say: "I am one week too late! I am lost!"

#### One Night Too Late

One night at a revival meeting a young lady was urged to repent. She said, "I will seek God tomorrow night." The next evening her mother found that she intended to go to a ball, and she begged her not to go. She replied, "I will go if I die," and went upstairs to prepare. A young man called to take her to the ball. She was called, but did not answer. Her mother went to her room and found her sitting before the looking glass, as though putting a ribbon in her hair. But she was a corpse! She waited one night, lost her dance and lost her soul!

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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

## Four Groups Unite in Carol Festival

Laird, Sask. — "Joy to the world! the Lord is come." The singing of this carol marked the opening of Christmas festivities in the community of Laird, Sask.

The twelve-voice choir of the M. B. Church was rendering their cantata, "While Shepherds Watched." Mr. Arnold Fischer directed while Rita Fischer accompanied at the piano. Rev. Corny Braun of Hepburn served with a short message: "What Can We Learn from the Christmas Story?" Christmas is a time of worship and adoration, for Christ, God's Son, was manifest in the flesh. Christ came not merely so that there might be a wonderful story and wonderful music, but He came to die on our behalf in order that we might be His for His service.

The second event of the season was a carol festival at which a Lutheran and three Mennonite groups participated. Numerous carols were sung by the mass choir as well as by smaller church groups. The address of the evening by Professor Floreen of the Lutheran College in Saskatoon proved a blessing to all. "The gift of the Christ-child

brought light to those in darkness, song for sighing and joy for sadness. To us as individuals burdened with sin and guilt, the message of Christ is to leave our burdens at the cross and go in peace. The gift of the Christ-child means everything that goes with Christ, from His birth at Bethlehem to His death on the cross, His resurrection and His soon return."

"Christmas for the Unevangelized" was the theme of the M. B. Sunday school program on Christmas eve. Parents and friends had gathered to hear the Word sung and spoken by the young people.

Christmas day, the message given by Rev. Ben Heppner showed us anew the "Unspeakable Gift." It was not physical beauty which made it so, but this gift was God's very best, His only Son, Who was given without restraint. This gift contained a message of peace and hope and security. Because Christ came, we have hope not in this life only, but a hope of a returning Saviour and a hope beyond the grave.

Christmas and its celebration is past. The message lingers on. May it prove a reality in our lives, not only a memory.

Linda Dyck

## One Hour Too Late

A young lady in New York attended a revival meeting with her parents. A pious aunt became greatly burdened and distressed for the young lady, who was unconverted. At last she went to her and earnestly pleaded with her to come at once and seek God, but she refused. At the close of the meeting she started home with her parents. A few rods from the church the team became frightened and over-turned the sleigh. The young lady was violently thrown against a telegraph pole and instantly killed. She was one hour too late. "He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Prov. 29:1).

## An Earnest Plea

"Almost persuaded now to believe,  
Almost persuaded Christ to believe.  
Seems now some soul to say,  
Go, Spirit, go thy way,  
Some more convenient day  
On Thee I'll call.

"Almost persuaded, come, come to-day,  
Almost persuaded, turn not away.  
Jesus invites you here,  
Angels are lingering near,  
Prayers rise from hearts so dear,  
O wanderer, come.

"Almost persuaded, harvest is past.  
Almost persuaded, doom comes at last.

Almost cannot avail,

Almost, is but to fail!  
Sad, sad that bitter wail—  
Almost—but lost!"

## How to be saved put in brief form

1. What must I do to be saved?

Answer: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

2. How shall I believe?

Answer: "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10).

3. What next?

Answer: Turn from every known sin and wrong, and confess them to God, and make all known wrongs right with all whom you know you have injured in any way, as far as possible. (Luke 19:8-10)

4. What next?

Answer: Be baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19). Jesus was baptized (Matt. 3:16,17). He says, "Follow me" (Jno. 12:26).

Believe and obey God now. Jesus says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (Jno. 3:36). "He that hath the Son, hath life" (I John 5:12).

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28-30).

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (Jno. 6:37).

Free Tract Society Inc.

## Hamilton Mission Church

(Continued from page 1-4)

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want." Although our pastor Unger was suffering from an attack of laryngitis, he was able to make some announcements and to thank the Vineland members for making their beautiful church available for the baptismal service.

The message by Rev. Voth was based on Romans 8:1-8: "What shall we say then?" Rev. Voth said that the baptismal candidates are witnessing to the congregation that Christ has died for all of us. Baptism is an act of faith, stepping into the waters of baptism is symbolic of dying with Christ on the cross. No one can rise with Christ who has not died with Him. Rev. Voth admonished the candidates to lead a life of prayer, for if the Son of God needed to pray, how much more we as sinners.

A selection by the choir followed the message. The words, "Christ has for sin atonement made," reminded us that His death on the cross has given us life.

Then the six candidates dressed in black gowns followed Rev. John Unger into the waters of baptism where the solemn rite was performed. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "I Know Not Why God's Grace," "I Serve a Risen Saviour" and "Blessed Assurance" were songs the congregation sang in the interlude before the Rev. Unger and the six returned. The choir then sang the song, "Shadows Only."

While the congregation stood, the candidates reverently knelt to receive the benediction pronounced by Rev. Unger: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly . . ." The young converts then received their baptismal certificates, a Word of Scripture and a warm handshake. The young people who followed the Lord in obedience are: Gail Webb, Katy Dyck, George Dyck, Vivian Schmor, Sharon Schmor and Paul Schmor. They were accepted into the Hamilton Mission Church at a special service on Dec. 3, which took place in Hamilton. Brother Ed Wiebe, an active Christian at the chapel, closed the service with prayer.

## Organizational Meeting of the Hamilton M. B. Mission Church

The chapel on Osborne Street in Hamilton was crowded to capacity with members of the chapel, visitors and dignitaries of the Ontario M. B. Conference. Brother Ernie Dyck from the Niagara Church led the congregation in singing "Precious Promise God Hath Given." The moderator of the Ontario M. B. Conference, Brother Henry Penner, was in charge of the meeting and began by reading from Acts 11:21-26: The Formation and Founding of an Apostolic Church. Brother Penner said that the church which is born by the Spirit of God is a living church. Characteristics of a liv-

ing church as defined by Rev. Penner are: 1) It has the knowledge of the grace of God, 2) From it flow streams of blessings for others, 3) It cleaves unto the Lord as the only sustenance, 4) It is knit together in fellowship and service, 5) It becomes a witness for God to its surroundings. This short but inspiring message was followed by prayer spoken by the moderator.

The official motion by the members of the Chapel, asking to be organized into a Mission Church and affiliated with the Ontario M. B. Conference, was read by Rev. H. Penner. Members of the newly formed Mission Church were asked to stand as their transfers were being read. After the names had all been read, the following members stood in front of the assembly and before God: Rev. and Mrs. Unger, Mr. and Mrs. J. Siebert, Mr. and Mrs. E. Piques, Mr. and Mrs. P. Friesen, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Loewen, Mr. and Mrs. W. Janzen, Mrs. A. Janzen, Mr. and Mrs. John Janzen, Mr. and Mrs. M. Wall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Schmor, and Mr. J. Dyck. Greetings from various points in Ontario were read or given verbally to the officially accepted Mission Church.

The song, "Sing Them Over Again to Me" was followed by a short message by Rev. William Schmidt, pastor of the M. B. Church in Kitchener. As a basis for his talk Rev. Schmidt read Ephesians 4:11-15. He said that the church is Christ's own, but it is also your church. What can we reasonably expect from our church? a) Not a substitute for home responsibilities. b) It should be concerned about our spiritual welfare. c) Through the church we are inspired, helped, taught, admonished and disciplined. d) We will find avenues of service. What can the church expect from us? a) That we be faithful and useful members. b) That a member be loyal, showing cooperation and not individuality. c) That we share in its blessings and duties.

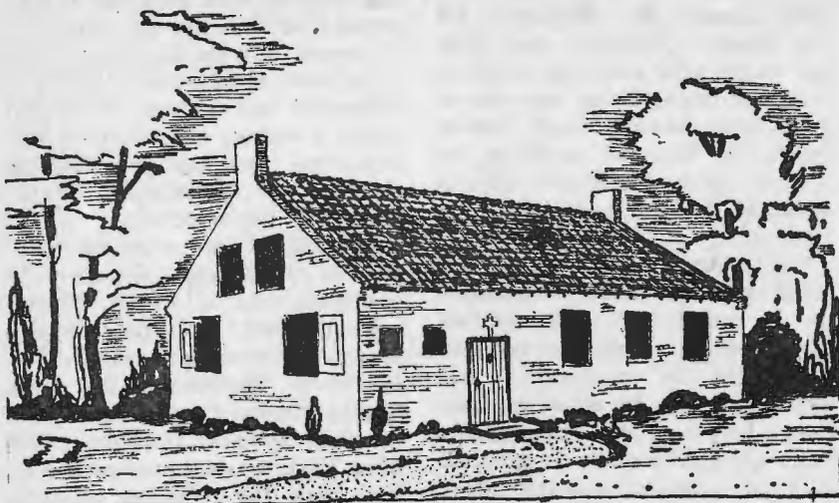
Rev. Penner, as moderator of the Conference, officially declared that the newly organized group be known as the Hamilton M. B. Mission Church. Hereupon Rev. Voth committed the church with its pastor, Rev. Unger, to God in prayer.

The next part of the service was conducted by Pastor Unger. First, the six recently baptized converts were accepted as members of the Hamilton M. B. Mission Church. A Scripture verse given to the new members was I Thess. 2:12. A sincere and spontaneous testimony period followed. The working of the Spirit could be felt and the communion service which followed filled our hearts to the full.

Friends and people from distant parts of Canada, if you ever have the privilege of travelling to Ontario, please visit us at Osborn St. in Hamilton. You will find a friendly welcome there as you enter and you will speak of blessings received as you depart.

J. Janzen

## Commemoration of Menno Simons Death



Sketch of the Menno Simons Memorial Church at Witmarsum, Holland.

The Mennonite brotherhood in the Netherlands is making the 400th anniversary of Menno Simons' death on January 31, 1561, the occasion of a special memorial celebration. This will be held on Sunday, January 29, 1961, at the historic Singel Church in Amsterdam.

On the very anniversary date itself, January 31, 1961, the new Menno Simons Memorial Church at Witmarsum will be dedicated. The monumental column erected to Menno Simons in 1881 and familiar to many North American Mennonite pilgrims to Holland, has been removed, and a new meeting-house, which is to serve the two congregations of Witmarsum and Pingjum, has been erected at the approximate location to replace the former Witmarsum church, now old and in need of much renovation. This location is near the place where Menno began to preach the true gospel in 1535, and where the earlier Witmarsum church stood until 1879. It will naturally become the future "pilgrimage place" for Mennonite visitors from around the world, and is to contain an exhibit of historic items related to Menno Simons. It is built simply, in a style of the spirit of the past, but fully adapted to modern needs. The cost is estimated at \$14,000. The congregation worshipping here is small and cannot bear the cost alone.

In this connection, Mennonites everywhere could well have some special service in their own congregations on January 29 or 31, 1961, remembering the life and ministry of the man who in the providence of God has perhaps meant more to our brotherhood in its first century than any other person. His influence has continued to the present day through his writings as well as through the descendants of the churches which he helped to establish and ministered to, first in Holland, and then in North Germany and West Prussia.

The Algemeene Doopsgezind Societeit, which is the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of the Netherlands, has invited various Mennonite Conferences to send representatives to the celebra-

tions in Holland mentioned above. The Mennonite Central Committee has designated Peter J. Dyck, its European director, resident in Frankfurt, Germany, to attend on behalf of the Mennonites of North America. Greetings by letter or cable, addressed to the Secretary of the A.D.S., R. de Zeeuw at 452 Singel, Amsterdam, would be appropriate from any conference, congregation, institution or individual.

The A.D.S. has also invited money contributions from Mennonites in North America and around the world toward the cost of the Menno Simons Memorial Church as a token of the ties which bind together all who are the spiritual descendants of Menno and who bear his name. Contributions should be sent to Ds. Leo Laurens, the pastor of the Witmarsum congregation, who lives at Snekeweg 30, Bolsward, Holland. It would be splendid if many Mennonite congregations, conferences, and individuals could send contributions to the cause, even though the amounts might not be large.

North and South American Mennonites have a special reason to make contributions, for they remember with gratitude the large debt which they owe to the Dutch

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### Jacob Benjamin Huebert †

Jacob Benjamin Huebert was born as the oldest son to Jacob and Agnes Huebert on March 28, 1936, in Coaldale. There he received his elementary and secondary education. Later he went to university in Calgary and Edmonton to prepare for the teaching profession. He taught one year at the Warner High School and 1½ terms at the AMHS in Coaldale.

In 1952 he became a member of the M. B. Church, where he tried to serve the Lord in various phases of church work.

Two years ago he was united in holy matrimony to Helga Schmidt. Baby Phillip joined them 2 months ago to make their happiness complete.

Jacob loved the great outdoors. Many a plant and flower as well as many a stone found its way into his home from his excursions. His knowledge of nature was a great help to him in the science courses which he taught.

In nature death found him on Dec. 3. We believe the Lord called him, for the Psalmist says, "Thou sayest, Return, ye children of men."

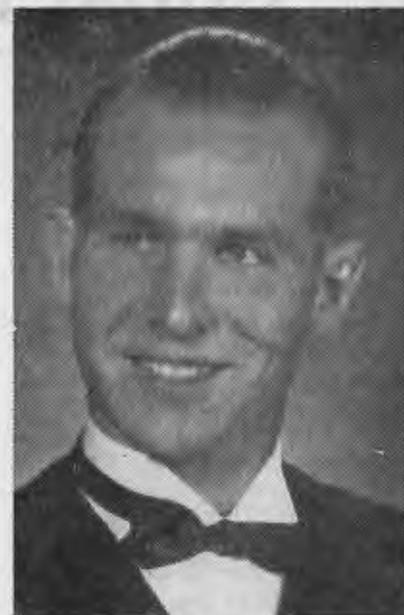
He leaves to mourn his death, his wife Helga, infant son Phillip, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Huebert; 5 brothers: John of Calgary, Frank of Halifax, David, Henry and Benjamin of Coaldale; 1 sister Agnes at home; grandparents and a host of relatives and friends.

We grieve for our loved one, but look forward to a happy reunion in glory.

At this time we wish to take the opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for all the love and sympathy shown to us in the hour of bereavement through visits, cards

or flowers. May the Lord richly reward you, is our sincere prayer.

The bereaved family



Jacob Huebert, teacher at Coaldale

### Cisneros Church Dedicated in Colombia

(The following report was written in Spanish by Jose Miguel Coy, pastor of the Cisneros church and translated into English by Annie E. Dyck.)

The new church in Cisneros, Colombia, is situated in the mountains between the Pepita and Dagua Rivers and it is about 100 miles north of Cali. The building was begun on March 28 of this year and finished five months later. The work was carried on with much enthusiasm day after day except for a break of one week. Don Gildardo Cardona was the official contractor and had seven men working with him. The building consists of a large room which is the main chapel and two small rooms in the back to serve as living quarters for the pastor or lay worker. The kitchen is a separate little building.

On August 28 the church building was given over by the contractor in a special celebration. It was also the joyous occasion of one soul accepting Christ as Saviour.

The dedication of this new church took place on November 19 and 20. Don Carlos J. Osorio, pastor of the La Cumbre church, was the main speaker. Several others also served in the preaching of the Word, while still others sang special numbers, recited and played instrumental

numbers. Forty-nine visitors came from La Cumbre, Cali, Zarzal, Euenaventura, Cisneros and its surrounding district making a total attendance of about 150 people.

On Sunday morning, November 20, nine new members were added to the Cisneros church. Two made public confession of faith and wish to follow the Lord.

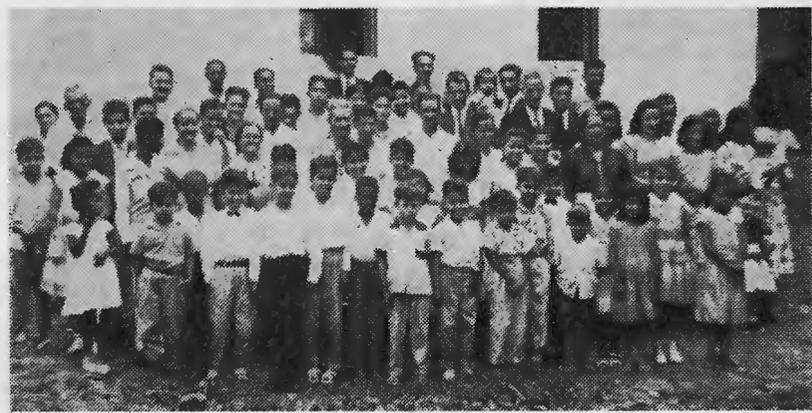
His work is growing. Therefore "let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

### Three Special Occasions at Horndean

Horndean, Man. — The Gospel Light Mission Sunday School held its Christmas program on Christmas Eve. Due to illness among the children and young people, a few items could not be presented as prepared. However, the Mission chapel was filled to capacity for the occasion.

Henry Neufeld, Sunday school superintendent, led the service of plays, exercises and songs as it was prepared by the teachers. Rev. P. W. Martens delivered the message, in which he emphasized "the importance of Christ's first coming as Saviour, and His second coming as King, for which we should look with joy."

(Continued on page 9-4)





## The Cause of Foreign Missions

### Missionary Children Went Home for Christmas

**Wanaparthy, A.P., India.** — There was much excitement on the morning of November 22 at Hebron School, the school for missionary children in the beautiful Nilgiri Hills of South India. Last minute preparations were made for the long train ride to the plains where most of the missionary parents live. We were given a wet send-off, for the late monsoon rains were not yet over. Taxis took the thirty-five children, the two teachers and two parents who acted as escorts to the railway station, and soon all were safely tucked into the little hill train that was to take us the first lap of the journey.

At Metty, a little station at the foot of the hills, we were greeted by scolding coolies eager to take care of our luggage. Our first major problem here was how to feed our group of hungry youngsters while waiting for the next train which was due in about two hours. But this is India, and the problem was soon solved: the children sat down on the platform and we distributed the food, beggar children and scrawny dogs looking on. After all the food was gone we checked with the coolies to see that all the luggage had been properly sorted. Then there was the paying of the coolies, which is always a problem. They always bargain for higher pay. What should we give them? Twenty-five Naye Paise is sufficient for small parcels, fifty N.P. for a heavy head load. But now, which of the ten or more coolies really did the work? After a lengthy and loud discussion, it was settled and everybody was happy. Our train was ready to leave.

First class travel in India is quite comfortable in spite of the heat and the occasional bedbugs or lice. We were put into small compartments comfortably furnished with upholstered seats, fans, and windows with shutters. Each compartment held about six children.

At first the scenery, so different from the hills, occupied our attention: stately palms, green rice paddies, and mounds of rocks. India is very rugged, and we wondered about its geological history. Passing villages of adobe huts we saw women drawing water in copper pots, or peering inquisitively at the train from behind unglazed windows.

But merely watching the scenery does not captivate the interest of the children for too long, as this stretch of country is very familiar to them, so we had to play games, sing, or encourage them to read or

draw to pass away the time. Meal-time could not be ignored. Opening tins of food with a blunt can-opener is not too pleasant, but somehow we managed. The children had voracious appetites, and we ran out of provisions and had to buy fruit at the stations. Fortunately, Indian fruits wear jackets! At one station we ordered a supper, but when the trays arrived we found the meat too "hot," that is, too curried, and even the children who as a rule love Indian foods refused it. So the beggars were lucky. We hope they enjoyed it! We tried to satisfy our disappointed group with bananas and oranges.

The monkeys always cause a sensation. Whenever the train stopped they climbed up the sides of the train and surprised us by peering in at the windows and looking for bananas. We hastily closed the windows because we recalled how on the trip last year they came into the train, stole our fruit, and when we tried to shoo them out hissed at us so that we had to call in some coolies to chase them out.

About four miles out of Hindupur, halfway on our trip, the train came to an unexpected halt and we discovered that we had run over an Indian and cut off his leg. We did not learn the cause, perhaps intended suicide. Some of these poor people try to escape their miserable existence in this way, hoping that their plight may be more tolerable in another reincarnation. As is typical of India, soon huge crowds gathered, people running across the fields to the train to investigate. The injured man was taken aboard the train, and the train "backed" into the town to unload him. This incident delayed us several hours.

Finally, after two days and nights on the trip, we arrived at the twin cities of Hyderabad-Secunderabad, where we were to be relieved of our little charges. The children needed no encouragement to be up early, for they were all excited to meet their parents, whom they had not seen since the hill season in May when the missionaries come to the hills to escape the heat of the plains. Brushing teeth, combing hair, and fastening bedding rolls took no time at all on that day.

We escorts were glad to have arrived too and to be met by our M. B. missionaries, Helen Dueck and Margaret Willms, who took us by car to Wanaparty, about one hundred miles out of Hyderabad. Here we spent our Christmas holi-

day. We visited the other mission stations as well.

We wish all our readers in the homeland a blessed New Year.

Agnes Dueck, Margaret Enns  
Teachers at Hebron School  
Coonoor, Nilgiris, S. India

#### India

The India missionaries met for their annual fellowship from December 30 to January 1. This is always an important occasion because it brings the whole staff together to study God's Word, to exchange experiences and to fellowship together. The children who are away during the school term are also with the parents at this time. Special programs are provided for them. On January 9 they must be back to school at Kodaikanal.

On January 1, 1961, India missionaries change from station assignments to the assignment of becoming responsible for the supervision of certain areas of service such as evangelism, church promotion and relationship, youth work, education, Bible training and medical ministry for the entire field. The stations are to be gradually integrated into the national Mennonite Brethren Church program.

India missionaries P. V. Balzers and A. A. Unruhs are due to return to the homeland for rest. Let us pray that their responsibilities can be transferred to other workers on the India field and also pray for more workers for the church and work of the gospel in that land.

#### South America and Mexico

Alvin Voths, Richard Wienses and Anne Wiebe are scheduled to leave for San Jose, Costa Rica, on December 28, to begin a period of Spanish language study in preparation for missionary service in Latin America.

In the Lord's providence, it is possible to announce the calling and response of another couple from our brotherhood to missionary service. The couple is Brother and Sister Richard Wiens of the Dallas Church in Oregon. The Wienses are under appointment to Mexico where they anticipate working with the national church in evangelism and church extension to meet the great spiritual need of that country. The Wienses will be taking up work in Mexico after a term of Spanish language study in Costa Rica beginning early in 1961.

The Wienses have prepared themselves for Christian service at Pacific Bible Institute and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. Brother Wiens was graduated from the seminary in 1959. They have served the Lord in the Selma mission church in California and in various ministries in extension work and in local churches. Sister Wiens is a licensed vocational nurse. Brother Wiens is a brother of Howard Wiens, who was interested in missionary service, but was called home

by the Lord at the age of 19. His parents are Henry B. Wienses of Dallas. Sister Wiens' parents are the Otto Heinrichs of Chowchilla, Calif. Our prayerful remembrance of Brother and Sister Richard Wiens and children Beverly and Donald will be much appreciated.

G. B. Giesbrecht arrived at his home in Fernheim, Paraguay, on November 25. It was not possible for him to visit the churches in Brazil and Uruguay as planned because he could not obtain a visa for Brazil. Brother Giesbrecht has written that Sister Giesbrecht is not well. He trusts that it will be possible for both of them to visit Brazil and Uruguay later.

#### China and Japan

Lim Khi Thin indicates in a recent letter that the number of Chinese Christians in the churches in Java is smaller with the deportation of Chinese back to the China mainland, but they are seeking to carry on as best they can. They have been busy preparing for Christmas services. Brother Lim Khi Thin also indicates that they will seek to continue the work as long as it is possible and requests prayer in their behalf.

Kyoichi Kitano is scheduled to sail from San Francisco on January 10 to return to his ministry in Japan after an approximate three months' visit with the North American brotherhood.

#### Europe

"Quelle des Lebens" ("Springs of Living Water"), our conference gospel radio broadcast in Europe, is receiving wider acceptance although interference from behind the Iron Curtain has made the reception of some of the broadcasts difficult. Correspondence is increasing. Many ask for light on Scriptural truth. The limited staff is carrying a heavy load of responsibilities connected with the production and correspondence of the broadcast. The Cornelius Balzers, H. H. Janzens and A. J. Neufelds will appreciate our prayerful remembrance of them in this ministry.

Anyone having a colored slide or black-and-white print of the Board of Missions display at the centennial conference at Reedley is asked to communicate with the Board of Missions office, 315 South Lincoln, Hillsboro, Kans. The display had the theme, "In a World of Nationalism, Build and Work with the National Church to Evangelize the World."

**Lancaster, Pa.** — A delegation of Old Order Amish from Lancaster County recently returned from a trip to the Bahama Islands in the Atlantic Ocean east of Florida, where they investigated settlement possibilities. It is reported that a number of Amish families of this area are interested in the Bahamas, but they will await further reports before deciding whether or not to emigrate.



## THE Young Observers

### Hello, Girls and Boys

Now it is 1961. Of course you are very used to writing 1960. Many of you will write it in your scriblers by mistake this month yet. I used to do that too.

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions? Some people make long lists of things they want to do in the coming year. Most of them want to do better — want to improve — in the future. Even grown-ups speak of resolutions. But can we keep them? Can we change our own hearts and old habits? In the Bible Paul says, "The good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." We want to improve but fail so often. Jesus can help us to conquer sin and temptation if we ask Him to.

What resolutions would Christian girls and boys put on the list? Someone says to practise the music lesson regularly. Yes, and, of course, do your school homework without complaining. Then, there are the chores at home. Certainly the boys like shovelling the neighbor's sidewalks. There is always a reward and a treat for that. Are you just as willing to do your own? Girls, how about that stack of supper dishes? Mother will be so pleased to have a cheerful helper.

I am sure you have more items to add. Pray for help and guidance in the New Year. Be a cheerful follower of Jesus in 1961.

Once again Happy New Year to all.

Love, Aunt Helen.

## A Time for Every Purpose

Helen and Ethel Sommers seemed to be walking on air as they sailed into the living room that Friday evening. My cousin Cora and I (I'm Patsy Jones) were waiting for them. We were spending the weekend together. But we weren't expecting such excitement as the girls brought.

"Patsy!" Helen squealed. "Cora! We've got news for you!"

"Dad's driving us to Chicago," Ethel shrieked, "in half an hour!"

"You and Cora can come along with us," Helen said.

"We'll have two glorious days in Chicago."

"And three heavenly nights at the Palmer House."

"Pack your bags—"

"Providing you can go with us." Helen stopped short and looked from me to cousin Cora and then at my Mother and Dad, who had been simply sitting there speechless during the whole rigamarol.

"You can go, can't you?" Ethel asked breathlessly.

"Can we go, Mother?" I pleaded. "Can we, Dad?"

"I should so love to go to Chicago," Cousin Cora said.

Mother looked at Dad and then at Ethel and Helen. "You say your father is driving?"

"Oh, yes," Ethel answered quickly, "and he's a good driver."

"He's been driving for years and never had an accident," Helen added.

"That's an excellent record,"

Dad remarked. "I gather you're leaving right away. When will you return?"

"We'll leave Chicago very early Monday morning," Helen answered. "Dad'll get us to school in time."

"Hrrump," Dad cleared his throat ominously. He looked at Cora and me. Then he wagged a stern forefinger in our direction.

"What about your homework? There won't be any time left to do it on that schedule. If you have homework and it isn't done, you can't go to Chicago!"

Homework! There had been time to do homework that afternoon. My mind flip-flopped back to the moment when Cora and I had come home. I had nonchalantly tossed my textbooks on the coffee table—where they were lying right now—and said, "Oh, Cora, let's skip homework."

"What a devastating temptation!" Cora came to stand beside me, still hugging her books in both arms. "But we have a huge algebra assignment ahead with a Monday deadline. And don't forget, Patsy, that Helen and Ethel Sommers are here to spend the weekend here."

"I'm not forgetting them," I said. "But they always go home early Sunday afternoon. We'll have Sunday night to do our algebra."

"Inclination tells me to go with you into the woods." Cora looked longingly out at the tall trees. "But childhood training and the memory of a bitter experience make me recall that for everything there is a

season. There is a time for every purpose. And I can feel it in my bones, Patsy, that now is the accepted time for me to do my homework. I don't like to put things off till the last possible moment."

I get a charge out of Cora's conversation. She was born and reared in India, where my Uncle Phineas Jones and my Aunt Emma were missionaries. Cora, the same age as I—sixteen—was a junior in high school, too, and she had come to live with us in September so she could finish her education in America. She had been educated by English governesses, and they had made a conscientious student of her.

Ever since she had lived with us, I had been doing my homework right after school whenever we had anything lined up to do later. In other words, we tried to plan our time sensibly. But on this spring-like Friday I wanted to play even though it would run us close. If anything happened to disrupt such a tight schedule—"Oh, Cora, come along." I seized her textbooks.

Cora did not relax her grasp on her books though. "I simply can't, Patsy," she said as she ruefully looked at her books. "My governess, Miss Dot, pounded home the point of doing my studying in season. And she let me learn that lesson the hard way, too."

"One very pleasant day she had set me to work to do a great number of sums. I dawdled away the study hours, never suspecting that Father would come to take my three brothers and me for a glorious boat ride on the Ganges River. My brothers were permitted to go with Father because they had completed their lessons. I had to remain in the stuffy schoolroom and make up the precious hours I had wasted."

Cora went to the desk and opened her book. "Do as you like, Patsy dear. But this is the season for me to do homework."

Dad's voice suddenly jerked me back to the present moment. "Well, girls," he boomed, "how about it? Is your homework finished?"

Cora and I made a dive for our books and came up with our homework, including the algebra problems all correctly solved and neatly copied. "Here, Uncle Henry," Cora said. "It's all done."

"I've reformed, Dad," I laughed. "Cora's converted me. I know now there is a right time for every purpose. And this afternoon was a dandy time to work that tough algebra assignment."

"Righto!" Dad's eyes beamed appreciatively. He knows what a procrastinator I've always been.

"There's a time to have fun, too," he added. "Mother, help the girls pack their grips, will you, dear? They're going to Chicago with Helen and Ethel."

By Beatrice Chesebrough

Reprint from Salvation Army's "The Young Soldier"

## Only a Poor Gipsy Chap



Passing near an encampment of Gypsies, I went in among them. After buying some of the skewers they were making, I learned one of their number was ill, and begged to be allowed to see him. The father asked: "Did you want to talk to him about religion?"

"No."

"What then?"

"About Christ."

"Oh, then you may go, only if you talk religion, I'll set the dog on to you!"

In the caravan I found a boy, alone and in bed, apparently in the last stages of fatal consumption. His eyes were closed and he looked as one already dead. Very slowly I repeated the Scripture in his ear: "God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

I repeated it five times without any apparent response, but he did not seem to hear even with the outward ear. On hearing it the sixth time, he opened his eyes and smiled. To my delight he whispered, "And I never thanked Him! But nobody ever told me! I return Him many thanks. Only a poor gipsy chap! I see! I see! I thank Him kindly!"

He closed his eyes with an expression of intense satisfaction. As I knelt beside him I thanked God. The lips moved again. I caught: "That's it." There were more words, but I could not hear them.

On going the next day, I found the dear boy had died, or rather, had fallen asleep in Christ, eleven hours after I left. His father said he had been very "peaceable" and had had a "tidy death." There was no Bible or Testament in the encampment. I left one of each. The poor man wished me "good luck,"

(Continued on page 8-4)

## Strait is the Gate

By MARJORIE BUCKINGHAM

(18th Installment)

But quite apart from her singing, it was very evident that these weekend visits would not have meant the same to Granny Weston if Nancy had not been there. She was fond of all the young people who came from time to time to spend a few minutes of their busy time in her company. She welcomed them all with the same cheery smile, and accepted all their overtures in the same spirit of gratitude to God for all the blessings she received. She was grateful for all their kindness to her. She came to love Pauline's cheery, practical ways, and made many friends among the other young people of the Southdown Grove church. But Nancy seemed to have a special place in her affections.

In some indefinable way, the old lady seemed to be growing more and more dependent on the thoughtful, warm-hearted girl who was contributing so much to her happiness. Not that Nancy was able to do any more for her than anybody else could do in ministering to her actual wants, but the bond between them was very real. It may have been their common love of music that drew them together; or perhaps it was Nancy's willingness to use her gift so unselfishly that warmed the old lady's heart. But whatever it might have been, Granny Weston was firm in her conviction that Nancy's goodness to her was an answer to her prayers.

"God has sent you to me, Nancy—I know He has!" she would say over and over again, as they talked together.

And Nancy, who was herself learning more and more of the riches of the all-sufficient grace of Christ from the life and lips of this gracious saint of God, knew that she was the better for every visit she made to the cottage by the sea.

"I'm sure that God must have sent you into my life, too, Granny," she would assure her.

Then a strange sadness would come into Granny Weston's eyes, and she would say, "There was such an empty place in my heart, Nancy—until you came!"

Then as Nancy stooped and kissed her, she would whisper, "I will tell you everything—one day, dear!"

Nancy made no attempt to force the old lady's confidence, but she could not escape the conviction that their lives had been brought together for some purpose, the unfolding of which she could only leave in the hands of the wise and loving God in Whom they both had put their trust . . .

It was not surprising that during these days, so full of interest and activity, Nancy began to see less

and less of Trevor Warne.

She met him still at church on Sundays, but there could be no doubt that his interest in that direction was on the wane. He seldom came to more than one service, and had practically drifted out of the Bible class altogether. He made no secret of the fact that he had "no time for Mr. Brandon," and Nancy would like to have felt that that was his only reason for absenting himself so often from the fellowship of the church. But in her heart she knew that the real cause of the trouble went much deeper. Trevor's interest in spiritual things, like her own, had never been very strong; and as she watched him now through newly-opened eyes she saw indications that all was not well with the young man's spiritual life.

His impatience with her loyalty to Granny Weston was understandable, perhaps because it meant that she would never consent to go out with him on a Saturday afternoon. True, on one occasion he had accepted her invitation to accompany her and Pauline to the cottage, and had agreed to help. But his half-hearted attempt at tidying the little strip of garden was not inspiring, and Nancy determined that she would never ask for his assistance again.

"It's all right for you, Nancy," he had grumbled irritably, "but if I want to do any gardening there's plenty to keep me busy round at my own place."

Disappointed and hurt at his selfishness, she had been stung to retort that she thought he would welcome the opportunity to help somebody else.

"That's all very well in theory, Nancy," he had challenged her.

"Oh, I'll show you!" he had answered confidently. "I'm getting ready to make a really big 'hit.' I'll surprise you all one of these days!"

Nancy knew that he was preparing to make his entry into the field of journalism, and that plans and preparations were occupying a good deal of his time; but she knew, too, that the real reason for his unwillingness to cooperate went deeper. She knew, in fact, that she herself was the underlying cause.

Ever since the night she had had the understanding with him she had tried to avoid their being alone together. She was just as friendly towards him as ever, but she usually contrived to see that they stayed with the group, or that at least there was somebody else present when they were together. Her friendship with Pauline was a great help in this regard, for she was genuinely fond of her friend, and Pauline was so easy and natural in her manner with everybody she met

that there was no embarrassment.

But Nancy knew by the frustrated look in the young man's eyes, and by his unwonted impatience and ill-humour, that he was aware of her design and felt that he was being cheated. However, Nancy remained firm in her purpose, and even on the few occasions when she could not avoid being alone with him, she was careful not to give him the lead he was looking for.

"We're just friends, you know, Trevor," she would remind him.

And then he would make his futile protest. "I say, Nancy, you're a bit hard on a chap, aren't you?"

Nancy had made her relationship with Trevor a matter of definite prayer, and she felt confident she was adopting the right attitude toward him. But when she saw he was taking it so badly she knew that things could not be allowed to go on any longer as they were, and she took the first opportunity to tell him so, once she had made up her mind as to the course she must follow. For the more she prayed and sought to know the Lord's will in the matter, the more she became convinced that she and Trevor must part. It would be completely unfair of her, she knew, to keep him dangling any longer at arm's length when she was not prepared to give him what he wanted on the "friendship" level, and she could not persuade herself that she thought enough of him to pledge herself seriously for the future.

She was not looking forward to the ordeal ahead of her in telling Trevor her decision, although she knew it was going to be easier for her than it would be for him. Not long ago it would have been impossible for her to contemplate parting from Trevor with any semblance of calmness or composure, but in the last few months the whole focus of her life had changed. Instead of relying on the passing pleasures of the moment to stimulate and amuse her, she had found an inward source of satisfaction that made her independent of outward circumstances. Her life, instead of being self-centred, was now Christ-centred. Christ Himself had become the centre of her love and devotion, and only that which drew her nearer to Him could claim any place in her life. If only Trevor had yielded to the Lord as she had done, how different her feeling towards him would have been! But how could they hope to walk together when, as she had warned him might happen, the paths they had chosen were so obviously drifting apart?

These were the things she had to try to make Trevor understand, but when she brought up the subject on the way home from church the following Sunday evening, he would not listen to her reasoning.

"No, Nancy!" he protested vehemently. "You've always led me to believe—"

"Don't say that, Trevor!" she in-

terrupted him quickly. "It isn't true."

"You always led me to believe that I had a chance!" he insisted.

"No, Trevor," she said quietly. "The last time we talked things over I told you I didn't think it would work out."

He gave an exclamation of impatience and disgust. "Yes, but that's only since you've got all these cranky religious notions into your head."

"You don't understand, Trevor," she said with a sigh. "You don't know what it means to surrender your life completely to Christ—that's why we could never be happy together."

"Oh, that's nonsense!" he retorted angrily. "Religion doesn't come into it at all. I love you, Nancy, isn't that enough?"

She shook her head. "I don't really believe you do, Trevor."

"What?" Her words struck him like a thunderbolt, and he stood staring at her aghast. "What did you say?"

She looked him squarely in the face. "I don't believe you really love anybody just now, Trevor, except yourself."

"Well!" he gasped, his face livid with anger, his hands clenched at his sides. He had stood a lot from Nancy Norwood, but this was too much!

"Trevor!" She made a conciliatory gesture. "Please forgive me if I'm being too personal. I don't want to hurt you. I want to help you, if I can."

"It looks like it, doesn't it?" he scoffed angrily.

She ignored the taunt. "What I'm saying is true, and you know it, Trevor," she insisted. "Nobody matters in your life just now, except yourself. You've often said so, and the way you're living proves it. You won't give Christ any place in your life, you won't even think of other people!"

He snapped his fingers in the air. "What do I care about other people?" he cried with passionate ardour. "It's you I want, Nancy, you!"

He advanced towards her, but she kept him back. "No, Trevor," she said quietly. "You don't really want me. You just don't want to be beaten, that's all."

He fell back a pace. "What do you mean?" he demanded.

With a strength and courage not her own, she faced him without flinching. "You don't want to go seriously with any girl, Trevor," she told him frankly. "You just want to have a good time, and you think if you persist long enough you'll win me over."

There was enough truth in what she said for her words to have some steadying effect on him, and he stood and stared at her in silence.

(To be continued)

A true friend is like ivy—the greater the ruin, the closer it clings.



## Material Aid in 1960

Year-end reports on the material aid program of Mennonite Central Committee indicate a definite expansion during 1960. Increases in both the food and clothing aspects of the program are reported by John Hostetler, director of material aid.

### Clothing

Contributions received at the five clothing centers have increased considerably this year in comparison with the past two years. A total of 609,000 pounds were received, compared to 485,000 pounds received last year.

A total of 31,560 Christmas bundles have been shipped to 12 countries: Algeria, Austria, Crete, Formosa, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Jordan, Korea, Paraguay, Vietnam.

New developments in the relief clothing program are the construction of the warehouse at North Newton, Kans., and the formation of the West Coast Relief Committee. The new warehouse provides more than 4,000 sq. ft. of floor space for housing relief goods of the Kansas area. The West Coast Relief Committee is expected to operate the clothing center at Reedley, Calif.

### Food

Three main sources of MCC relief food are U.S. government, the Canadian government and the Mennonite constituency.

U.S. surplus commodities are used in the Hong Kong and Calcutta feeding programs and are distributed in Korea, Vietnam, Jordan, Algeria, Indonesia, Haiti, and the Congo. MCC has recently received government approval for an additional 225,000 pounds of rice for the drought-stricken Bedouins of Jordan.

The Canadian government has provided MCC with 1,265,724 lbs. of luncheon meat during the past year. The meat was shipped to Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, Haiti, Germany, Crete, Austria, Egypt, Chile, and Indonesia. Beginning in January, 1961, the Canadian government is making available powdered whole milk for shipping to these areas.

Meat canning is the chief direct contribution of Mennonite communities to food relief. The MCC portable meat canner began operating in the Hillsboro, Kans., community on Nov. 14. After Thanksgiving Day the canner went north through communities in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota, then east

through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and will return west through Missouri, ending the canning season in Kansas and Oklahoma in February. The canning project is important because 25,000 cans per year are needed to continue the present feeding program of 1,400 to 1,500 meals served five days a week in Hong Kong. This year 4,800 cans of MCC meat were shipped to Algeria.

Individual community projects provide other types of food products. The Kansas Relief Committee has contributed two carloads of flour, of which 450 bags were designated for Jordan, Germany, Austria, and France, and 400 bags for Formosa. The recently organized West Coast Relief Committee has collected 70 sacks of rice and 500 cartons of raisins, which are now ready for shipment to the Far East.

Communities in Oregon processed 6,384 cans of fruit, which were shipped to Hong Kong and to the Mennonite Vocational School in Korea. Canned vegetables and fruit and 3,000 pounds of dried corn were contributed by the Relief and Service Committee of the Lancaster, Pa., area.

## Whole Milk Available from the Canadian Government

Akron, Pa. (MCC) — The Relief Office has recently been informed that the Canadian government is making available for distribution large quantities of powdered whole milk on the same terms as Canadian pork was made available during 1960. Shipping costs will be the only expenses involved.

Up to 500,000 pounds of the powdered milk will be available to MCC beginning in January 1961. The powder is packaged in 30-lb. tins. Whole milk is very valuable to the relief program as a supplement for babies and small children, as only non-fat powdered milk is available from the U.S. government.

By the end of December, MCC received approximately 1,250,000 lbs. of luncheon meat from the Canadian government during the year 1960. Luncheon meat was shipped to Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, Haiti, Germany, Austria, Egypt, Chile, Indonesia and Crete. The Canadian surplus pork program has now officially closed.

## Relief Goods Shipped to Crete

Akron, Pa. (MCC) — The first relief shipment to Crete of nearly eight tons of clothing and bedding

was sent Dec. 20. It consisted of 2,130 Christmas bundles, 9,586 lbs. of new and used clothing and 1,496 lbs. of bedding. Food supplies have also been requested and will be sent soon.

This represents the first step in the one-year program of material aid to Crete approved by the MCC Executive Committee Nov. 18-19. The program is designed particularly for victims of this year's crop failure in Crete.

## News Briefs

The Mennonite Student Fellowship at Ohio State University has contributed a piano to the Mennonite Vocational School at Kyong San, Korea. The piano was placed in the new chapel at the school and is used each morning for chapel services and for Sunday services. Many of the 180 boys at the school are interested in music, and several play the piano quite well.

Alice Snyder, Kitchener, Ont., veteran MCC worker and recently matron at the Jerusalem MCC Center, transferred to Berlin on Nov. 24 to assume the matronship of the Hammersteinstrasse home for refugee girls. Miss Snyder served in Ontario and Germany before going to Jordan.

A recent survey shows that of 44 Paxmen in Europe, 20 men (45%) are working on construction projects, 10 men (23%) are in agricultural assistance, 6 men (14%) each are in office work and institutional assistance, and 2 men (5%) are in refugee work. The high number of men in construction work is partially due to the building project in Aridea, Greece, and will probably decrease after completion of that project.

## Celebration of Menno Simons Death

(Continued from page 4-4)

Mennonites in past centuries. Many hundreds of Mennonites in Germany and Switzerland were aided in their emigration to Pennsylvania 1710-1760 by substantial grants from the Dutch Mennonites, who collected large sums for this purpose throughout their congregations. The Fund for Foreign Needs was organized in 1660 for the express purpose of aiding the sorely tried West Prussian and Swiss Mennonites. In 1710 fifty thousand florins were collected for the Swiss. In a half century more than 250,000 florins were collected for foreign relief. Much aid was sent to distressed Mennonites in Danzig, West Prussia, Lithuania, Poland, and the Palatinate. The Dutch Mennonite Relief Committee headed by S. H. N. Gorter aided many refugees from Russia in getting to Canada and Brazil after World War II.

The two confessions of faith used

by most of the Mennonites of North America originated in Holland. They are 1) the Dortrecht Confession of 1632 used by the Mennonite Church and all branches of the Amish and Old Order Mennonite groups as well as several minor groups, and 2) the Cornelis Ris Confession of 1766 used by the General Conference Mennonite Church. Nor should we forget the writings of Menno Simons, Dirk Phillips, J. P. Schabalie, P. J. Twisk, and above all, T. J. van Braght's *Martyrs' Mirror*. Our debt to Holland is great. May there be a glad recognition of this and a joining with the Dutch brotherhood in the erection of the Menno Simons Memorial church through our contributions.

The Mennonite Central Committee at Akron, Pa., or Waterloo, Ont., is ready to forward to Pastor Laurence any contributions sent for this purpose, or funds may be sent direct to him as mentioned above. In any case, the funds should be designated for the Menno Simons Memorial church.

Harold S. Bender, President  
Mennonite World Conference

## Only a Poor Gipsy Chap

(Continued from page 6-4)

and gave me a little bundle of skewers the "boy Jemmy" had made.

Reader, it was apparently the first time this dear boy ever heard of God's salvation, and with unquestioning faith he took God at His word, and with his dying lips thanked Him that He so loved the world as to give His Son for him, "a poor, gipsy chap."

God is satisfied with the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This poor boy was also satisfied, and this mutual satisfaction was instant and everlasting salvation. In eleven short hours he exchanged that forlorn, rickety caravan for the paradise of God, where he is tasting that God is as good as His word.

If you have not with your heart said "Amen" to God's way of saving lost sinners, you are at the gate of eternal death. He alone has the keys of hell and of death. But "the grace of God that bringeth salvation" is brought down to you, to your very level, today. Will you walk past it to the great white throne lying ahead of you, and thence to the fire that "never can be quenched?" Or will you pause and take it and "return Him many thanks"?

Fellow believer, may none within your reach and mine have occasion to say with regard to these everlasting realities, "Nobody ever told me."

Smiling, he said, as his last sigh was spent,

"I am so glad that for me He was sent!"

Whispered, while low sank the sun in the west:

"Lord, I believe! Tell it now to the rest."

# NEWS from HERE and THERE



## Hon. Lester B. Pearson's New Year's Message

It is a privilege to be able to send in this way New Year's greetings to the readers of the Mennonite Observer.

The first year of the sixties has not been an easy one, domestically or internationally. It has had its difficulties, its challenges—and even its dangers. But free men and free nations deserve freedom only if they can face up to these challenges. So it must be with us.

The dread spectre of nuclear war still hangs over a world where man has acquired mastery of so many of the forces of nature but remains incapable of ensuring that these forces will not destroy himself.

The "cold war," which is the most worrying evidence of the danger to peace and survival, has not lessened in its frightening intensity. Communist imperialism, notably through the threats and the antics of Mr. Krushchev and his followers at the United Nations, has shown that it has no desire to ease tensions or find solutions to international problems except on its own harsh and inadmissible terms.

We of the West must continue the search for these peaceful solutions, but in so doing we must make it clear that we will not yield to blackmail or to bluster. We refuse to accept, as the only alternatives, surrender or survival. So we will need wisdom, steadiness, patience and strength in the months ahead; and we will resolve not to become the victims of our fears or of our illusions. Provocation and bravado will not save us. But neither will weakness or foolish concessions of principle or purpose.

At home, in Canada, the expansion of the fifties has slowed down and there is much anxiety about the future. But Canada is a great country; its resources are unexceeded in any part of the world; its people know how to work hard and well. Our destiny is sure, if we wish to make it so and if our world remains at peace. So we must have faith and hope.

If we wish to progress, however, we must realize that nothing comes

—personally or nationally—without effort and sacrifice; without acceptance of those moral values and the principles that alone can make us strong. A society that does not accept these principles as the foundation of its development will only decline and weaken, however, wealthy or prosperous it may seem to be.

We should remember these things as we face the new year with all its problems and its opportunities. We,

who are in public and political life, have a special responsibility in this regard. In government, on every level, more than in most places, we will require steadiness, good sense and unselfish service. Without these qualities, our difficulties will increase and they will be harder to overcome. With them, and with leadership based on them, we can successfully face our national problems in 1961.

It is in this spirit of sober faith and confidence that I send you my best wishes for happiness, health and prosperity in the year ahead.

"God bless us, every one."



## Christian Couple Married

(Continued from page 1-3)

longer, he would have died. It was during the convalescent period that the Lord again spoke to him and he yielded his life in full surrender to Him.

What did this decision mean to him? As the oldest son in the family, he would be responsible to help his family along financially while going to Bible school. It meant leaving his present well-paid job. It meant refusing the tempting offer of another job with twice his present salary. It meant that his father would be bitterly opposed and that friends and relatives would think him radical and fanatic. Brother Kurita was trusting

in God Who cannot fail, and he saw Him supply his every need. Hidden talents began to show themselves and he became an effective personal worker. His teaching and preaching began to show promising ability.

We could not help but remember the many joys and sorrows we had shared together. Next spring he will be graduated from the four-year Bible school course. For two years he has been the student pastor of the Hirano Church and the Lord has indeed blessed. Many who were present at the wedding had been led to the Lord by him.

The wedding itself was simple but beautiful. The bride, Miss Shimada from the Ishibashi Church, was lovely. It was their desire to set an example to the many young believers in the church. For their honeymoon they had the privilege of going to southern Japan and on to Okinawa, where they visited many churches.

## 3 Occasions at Horndean

(Continued from page 4-4)

The annual business meetings of the Mission were held on Dec. 12 and 13. Rev. Martens was the chairman for the sessions, and P. Heide was the recording secretary. Mr. P. M. Thiessen and Mr. Ben Siemens were the scrutineers.

A member from each of the committees gave a report of the work done during the past year, after which Mr. Martens led the group in a discussion. Following the discussion, the committee delegate read recommendations. Then the meeting was open for nominations, and the election by ballot followed.

The Christmas Day message was brought by Rev. Martens. The choir, under the direction of P. Heide, sang such well known carols as "Halleluja, Gloria," "Ring Glad Bells," and "Sweetly Sang the Glorious Angels." A service was also held on December 26, when as guest speakers, we had Rev. C. C. Stoesz of the E.M.M. Church of Plum Coulee, and his son Rev. Ed Stoesz, who has a pastorate in Blumenhof, Sask. The choir again served with songs, suitable for the occasion.

Miss Cleo. Heinrichs

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If you send in two names and addresses of new subscribers and their subscription fee of \$4.50 you will receive a Wall-Motto-Calendar "Strength for the Day" or the same calendar in book-form or "The Diary of George Mueller (by A. Rendle Short).

If you send in three names and addresses of new subscribers and their subscription fee of \$6.75, you will receive "The New Testament in Modern English" (by J. B. Philipps), or "Climbing the Heights Daily Devotions" (by Al Bryant), or "Streams in the Desert" (a devotional book by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman).

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## I Run for Christ

On the night of March 18 about 15 years ago, in Chicago Stadium, some 13,000 track fans sat agog on the edges of their choirs, eyes glued to a slender young man before a "mike." Half an hour before they had watched this youth set a new world's indoor mile record of 4:06.4. Gil Dodds, champion miler, had been prevailed upon to say, a few words over the air before dashing away to his train.

"Naturally I'm happy to have broken the world record tonight," he began. "I like to run and I like to win. But, you know, running is just a hobby with me. My main aim in life is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and preach His gospel to all men."

The fans sat silent for only a moment, then broke into applause. They knew they were listening to one of the greatest athletes of all time. Rated "great" since December 30, 1943, when he was announced winner of the Sullivan Award for having done the most to advance the cause of sportsmanship during the year, Dodds was just a modest divinity student from Boston.

Talk to Dodds a few minutes and you'll hear words like these:

"Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1,2).

"In running I lay aside all weights, that is, dress as lightly as possible. So, in living the Christian life, we must lay aside every known sin.

"The most important part of the race is the finish, when victory or defeat is made known. For triumph in the Christian life, we must keep our eyes on Jesus. He ran the most difficult race ever run. And He won, too.

"For the winner there are prizes. The ones I get now are beautiful and have a sentimental value. But the prize that gives me the greatest joy is the one Christ won for me . . . for you . . . for all who believe on His name. That is eternal life. That prize will never tarnish, never be broken, never be stolen or lost. It is the gift of God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

★

Have YOU received this prize, my friend? Do you have the gift of eternal life?

Christ died for you as well as for Dodds and me and all sinners. God's Word says: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). But it also says: "For God so

# YOUTH IN ACTION

loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). That includes you. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

If Dodds could talk with you today, he would say, "How is it with your soul? Which way are you going, up or down? To heaven or to hell? Friend, let Jesus come into your heart. He'll make you a winner."

Mel Larson

## Christ—the Way

Every youth has a quest to make,  
For life is the King's highway,  
And a joyous heart is the script we take,

On the road of everyday.  
Every youth has his gifts to guard,  
As he fares to a far-off goal;  
A body pure, and a mind unmarred,  
And the light of a lovely soul.

Every youth has a task of his own,  
For the Father has willed it so.  
Youth seeks the way, and He alone,  
Can show him the path to go.  
Every youth has a lovely Guide,  
From the vale to the mountain crest;

For the unseen Friend who walks beside,  
Is the Way and the End of the quest.  
Mary S. Edgar

## Students Give Christmas Recital

Miss Olga Friesen's studio recitals are fast becoming a musical tradition in Morden. They are familiar to many people in the community. The Christmas recital and concert was held Monday, Dec. 19, at the school auditorium.

When the curtain was raised the audience beheld a delightful picture. A Nativity scene mural formed a beautiful background. Several twinkling Christmas trees had been suitably placed about the stage surrounding the 60 seated pupils with a halo of festive light. The children, dressed in white shirts and blouses, sat expectant and hushed as veteran singers and players.

The recital began with the singing of O Canada. The thoughtful invocation by Rev. A. Johnson, which stressed the place of music in worship as exemplified in the psalms, created a most receptive mood in the audience. One could not help but feel that what we would hear from the children would be a tribute in honour of the joyous season.

On the whole, the piano solos

were interesting, showing lots of practice and close attention to tone and technique.

Among the more outstanding selections on the program was "O Little Town of Bethlehem," sung by the choir and soloist, Mrs. Susan Klassen. It was very moving and harmonized beautifully with the Nativity scene in the background. The band accompanied Mr. Alvin Reimer in a rollicking, lilting "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." Mr. Reimer's pleasant baritone was in exciting contrast to the string and wind music of the band.

While Mrs. Friesen directed the whole concert, her own versatility was perhaps most evident in the direction of the combined choir and band. They surprised the audience with a unified performance after only a few practice sessions. One of the last items, "Kling Glockchen" ("Ring, Little Bell"), sung with perfect enunciation in German by the choir and Mrs. Klassen, was quite outstanding.

The concert ended with the singing of The Queen and the distribution of Christmas gifts and report cards.

By Mrs. S. Sharkey  
Reprint from "The Morden Times"

## New Plans for B.C. Camp

The M. B. Camp Society of British Columbia has elected the following brethren to serve on the board for the coming year of activity: Jack Block, president; Henry Esau, vice-president; Hugo Friesen, secretary; Henry Dick, treasurer. The other board members include the Brethren Menno Unger, Peter Koehn, Henry Lepp, Abe Wieler, Ben Voth, John Janzen, Jake Isaac, Henry Unger, David Vogt, George Letkeman and Peter Tilitzki.

An organizational board meeting was held on December 10, 1960, at which the president outlined the program for the coming year. Plans include the following items:

—Promotional rallies to be held in the spring.

—Building of adequate washroom facilities.

—Drive for funds for a swimming pool.

—General improvement of existing facilities and grounds.

—Drive for foods to be used during the camping season.

—Planning and execution of an aggressive camping program.

—Drive to increase membership and the raising of a \$6000 budget.

God has blessed the work in the past two years. We are looking to Him to do greater things as we do His will in faith and as a united effort is exerted.

## Three Christmas Programs

**Kelowna, B.C.** — Our first Christmas program was presented a week early by our young people under the direction of our young people's leader, Brother Nick Kroeker. In the introduction he read to us Ten Christmas Commandments. The choir then sang Angels We Have Heard on High, There is a Song in the Air, and other Christmas carols.

The stirring play, Self or Sacrifice, was then presented by the young people. A college student who was disturbed to find that she was unable to go home for Christmas was helped by bringing Christmas joy to a poor Christian woman whose husband was a drunkard. The drunkard witnessed the giving spirit of Christians and made room in his heart for the Christ of Christmas.

Rev. A. J. Sawatsky made a few closing remarks.

The second Christmas program was on Tuesday night with the Indians across the lake. The program was presented by those who had been the teachers of the now discontinued Sunday school. Mrs. Lilly Giesbrecht had a reading alternated by carols sung by herself, Tina Wiebe, Laurina and Frieda Willms.

Rev. Sawatsky presented the message from God's Word. He told of the love of a little girl for a filthy doll to illustrate the love of God for sinful people.

Bags of nuts and candy were handed to the children and apples to all.

The third Christmas program was presented by the Sunday school of our church on Christmas Eve. The little ones expressed their love for the Baby Jesus Who is able to understand them. They sang of the Christ-child and expressed their devotion to Him. The Juniors presented a little play about a boy who had been taken to the hospital for Christmas. Christmas cheer presented by other boys caused him to open his heart to the Christ-child.

Rev. Sawatsky closed the meeting reminding us of the joy that originated in heaven.

May this heavenly joy continue with us through the New Year!

## Power to Die

During the last war a boy of twelve refused to join the Nazi youth movement because he was a Christian.

"Don't you know that we have the power to kill you?" they said.

"Don't you know," he replied quietly, "that I have the power to die for Christ?"

## EDUCATION SCHOOLS and COLLEGES

### Spelman Exchange Program

**North Newton, Kans.** — Marilyn Mierau, a junior from Henderson, Neb., has been selected by Bethel College as the 1961 exchange student to Spelman College (for Negro women), Atlanta, Ga.

Marylin, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gus C. Mierau of Henderson, is planning to leave for Atlanta during the latter part of January. She will study at Spelman for one semester and return home at the end of May. Meanwhile she is busy finishing her winter quarter courses at Bethel.

The names of the girls who will come to Bethel from Spelman in the exchange have not yet been announced.

The Spelman exchange program began one year ago when Anna Marie Peterson, a junior from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Martha Thiesen, a sophomore from Wheatley, Ont., Canada, went to Atlanta. This program grew out of a letter received by the president of Bethel College from President Manley of Spelman College. Manley wrote in part: "The exchange of several students for a brief period would be, in our opinion, an enriching experience for the young women involved . . . We believe the presence of some white students at Spelman would pave the way for improved communications and relations . . ."

## I Witnessed a Christmas Miracle

By Leonard P. LaRue

(Continued from previous issue)

With this cargo of souls, we steamed out to the open sea toward Pusan on the southeast Korean coast, about 450 sea miles, or about 28 hours' journey. Ahead lay these formidable risks:

We were facing waters mined by the enemy with a vessel that had no means of detecting them or destroying them. We knew that Communist submarines, operating in the vicinity, could easily spot us and sink us with a torpedo.

### One spark—a fiery finish

We realized only too well that in the No. 2 lower hold were 300 tons of highly flammable jet fuel. A spark could turn the ship into a funeral pyre. We had no escort vessels, and no way to protect ourselves against air raids. Yet nothing touched us during that incredible voyage toward Pusan.

That evening, a crewman elbowed his way up to the bridge and called to me, "Hey, captain, how many do you figure we got on board?" A bit

### CMBC Historical Library

Recently the Canadian Mennonite Bible College Mennonite Historical Library received, among other gifts, two documents which will be of value to students of Mennonite History. One is a photostat copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, dated July 26, 1873, to Messrs. David Klassen, Jacob Peters, Heinrich Wiebe, and Cornelius Toews, the delegates from Southern Russia. The letter includes references to exemption from military service, the privilege of full religious freedom, the privilege of affirming, and it also describes the land grants to be made to the Mennonites in Manitoba.

The other document is the Letters Patent incorporating the Mennonite Immigration Aid, June 1926. The association was formed mainly to assist Mennonites from Europe wishing to immigrate to Canada.

Both these documents were in the possession of the late Mr. A. Buhr, Winnipeg, and were donated to the Library by Mrs. Buhr.

Any letters, documents or books of historic interest are gladly accepted by the library.

### First Printing Press

**Automatic Press** — First printing press not operated by hand was invented in 1806 by Friedrich Koenig. Two were purchased by the London Times and produced a record 1,000 impressions an hour.

annoyed, I snapped back: "You know the count—14,000." "Well, captain," he bellowed cheerfully, "it's 14,001 now!" Then he was gone. Our first baby had been born.

I cannot possibly describe the nightmarish quality of that journey. We had no food and almost no water for the refugees—they ate only what they could bring aboard. There were no extra blankets, no clothing to warm them. Yet they behaved well.

That is, until night came. Then suddenly, with almost no warning, an ominous thing happened. A few of the younger men advanced menacingly on the crew's living quarters up on deck. They were after food—who could blame them? A riot seemed imminent. What would have happened if 14,000 persons, jammed into one small ship, had suddenly become maddened by terror? I doubt that the vessel itself could have survived. We all knew how swiftly panic could spread, especially at sea. We knew, and many

of us were white-faced with the dread we felt inside as we listened to the rumble of that menacing mob. Yet the riot never occurred. Without knowing the language, the ship's officers and men somehow made the frightened and angry refugees understand that safety was now only a few hours away.

A little while later, I received another announcement: Our second baby had been born! The crew named them, using the Korean word for a popular national dish—Kim Chee. We called the first Meredith Victory Kim Chee One, the second M.V. Kim Chee Two!

Next afternoon we anchored at Pusan. Relief? It shone on every face. But this was not to be journey's end. Officials came alongside. "I've got 14,000 refugees," I told them. "Where do I put them?"

I was stunned at their reply: "Not here." They gave me a variety of naval and military reasons which I suppose made sense, but could you picture our chagrin! And could you imagine the fright of our refugees when they realized there was more of the nightmare voyage to come!

### Fifty more miles

"Head for the island of Koje," I was told. "It's only about fifty miles to the southwest."

Before weighing anchor, however, I was determined to get some help for my people. It took hours of slicing through red tape, but we finally managed to get food, water and some blankets and clothing from our own military supplies in Pusan. I also got a few interpreters and military police to make the last leg of the journey with us.

Suddenly the thought struck: "This is Christmas Eve." Night had come on, clear and cold. The hordes aboard ship were being helped and their fears were being calmed by the interpreters. And now something else was happening. I was astonished to see members of my crew going among the people, distributing their own extra clothing.

The message of Christmas, the message of kindness and good will, had come to this woe-laden ship, to these people aboard who, like the Holy Family many centuries before, were themselves refugees from a tyrannical force. I thought as I watched: "There was no room for them, no room in their native land."

While I ruminated, the same crewman who had made the announcement of the first birth came over to me. "Captain," he said softly, smiling, "we may be having a few more births. Maybe tonight." I smiled back. And I knew then that, no matter what lay ahead, this ship would deliver her cargo of souls safely to port.

We got underway again on Christmas Day, and arrived at Koje within a few hours. Since the harbor was small and crowded, we had to remain in the open sea overnight.

And here, too, danger rode with us. The only way we could unload was with the aid of LST's, large ships designed to land tanks on

shore during combat. One after the other, two of these vessels drew alongside and again we went through a nerve-jangling ordeal. Each person had to climb the rail of the Victory and be lowered into the LST.

The risk of death or serious injury was great. The two ships, ours and each LST, were lashed together so that the people could step from one to the other. The vessels pitched perilously in the swelling sea all through the unloading, the hulls banging and separating. The lines might part; somebody could be crushed between the two ships.

From every nook and cranny the refugees streamed. Fathers untied the sashes there were, wrapped them securely around the waists of their children and hoisted them from the holds. It took many hours, but 7,000 persons were packed into each of the LST's.

Koreans do not show emotion readily, but as I stood on the bridge, I saw expressions on faces that, even now, bring a warm glow to my heart. Our passengers, waving gaily, gave us all glances of profound gratitude.

I remained in command of the Meredith Victory, a Moore-McCormack Lines vessel, until her decommissioning in 1952, when she was berthed in the National Defense Reserve Fleet in Olympia, Wash.

Only a few months ago, President Eisenhower signed a bill into law honoring the entire vessel's complement. I am proud indeed of the citation that reads in part: "The courage and teamwork of her master, officers and crew in completing one of the greatest marine rescues in history, have caused the name of the Meredith Victory to be perpetuated as a Gallant Ship."

### No longer a captain

I am grateful for these honours, though I cannot wear the decorations. The reason for this is, I have taken my final vows and am no longer Capt. Leonard P. La Rue but Brother Marinus, O.S.B., of St. Paul's Abbey, Newton, N.J. The name comes, not from the sea, but from the Blessed Mother of God.

I was always somewhat religious, even in my youth in Philadelphia. Man is composed of the sum total of his experiences, so all the things in my life helped to cement my determination to enter the monastery. However, I am certain that this one event I have just described played a leading part in my decision.

I think often of that voyage. I think of how such a small vessel was able to hold so many persons and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul. And as I think, the clear, unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters off the shores of Korea, God's own hand was at the helm of my ship.

"This Week" magazine (The Kansas Star). Submitted for reprint by Mr. C. A. DeFehr, Winnipeg, Man.

**A Watchword**

(Continued from page 1-2)

The New Year, 1961, is enshrined in the mysteries and challenges of the humanly unknown. With God the future is not hidden. "The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty, the Lord is clothed with strength everlasting. The floods have lifted up. O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Thy testimonies are very sure . . . O Lord, for ever" (Psalm 93).

For the year 1961, we as a missionary staff want to consecrate ourselves together with you to the great unaccomplished task of world evangelism. The confronting difficulties shall be faced as challenges; the human impossibilities as opportunities to claim God's sufficiencies. "But we are not of them who draw back . . . but of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:39), is our watchword for 1961. Forward with Christ to accomplish His Word and rejoice in the hope of His coming.

J. B. Toews

**ON THE HORIZON**

February 5-19. — United evangelistic meetings, sponsored by the M.B. Churches of Winnipeg to be held in the M.B. Collegiate Institute auditorium every evening. Rev. Waldo Wiebe of Reedley, California is to be the speaker.

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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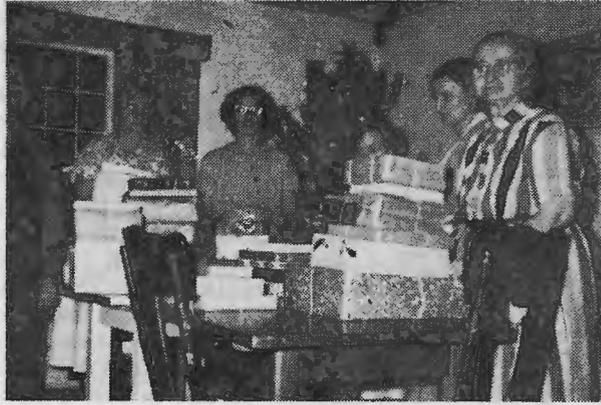


Photo to your right: Those are shown who had an active part in the presentation of the Advent program. Photo to your left: Here the gifts were distributed to those concerned on Christmas eve, on December 24.

**Dear Readers:**

We greet you with John 1:16 — "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."

The days of special blessings have passed. We would like to impart to you, our dear friend, some of the joys and blessings we have received from our Lord. During the pre-Christmas days our hearts were warmed by the words of prophecy. The Advent program, presented by the staff, reminded us of God's promise to mankind.

One Sunday morning I entered Mrs. Wall's room. I read to her Isa. 35:10. She was quiet and did not respond to my questioning; however, when I read the words: "sorrow and sighing shall flee away," she remained quiet no longer — her face beamed with joy.

This has been a time of special activity for us here in Bethesda. Great quantities of mail have been received and also sent. Many written and verbal greetings have been exchanged. Through your cooperation and gifts of money it was again possible for us to remember each patient with a suitable gift.

On the evening of December 21, we were pleased to have a full house for our annual Christmas program. A very interesting and instructive program was presented by the members of the staff with the patients participating. It was enjoyed by all. A short, but timely message was given by Rev. Henry Penner of St. Catharines.

Because of your help it was pos-

sible for us to give each patient a gift from the Home at the end of that program. On Dec. 24, the gifts, which parents, friends and relatives have sent, were distributed. This year there were more than 200 gifts for distribution.

Several of the patients were fortunate of being able to spend Christmas at home, or with relatives or friends. One young man went by air plane to his parents in B.C. for one month. For most of our people this is impossible. Many come to us with tears in their eyes and plead, "Send me home."

These days of blessings, stress and strain are behind us now and

we have entered a new year. In looking back we cannot but thank God for His guidance and all His goodness.

Once more we wish to express our thanks for every gift and every greeting. May God richly reward you for remembering the unfortunate ones.

Before us lies the New Year with its new responsibilities and also with its new grace. Let us look unto Him; He is the One we want to trust and serve faithfully. Pray for us!

In your service,

The Houseparents,  
G. J. and M. Epp

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