TIDINGS

New Hospital Nekursini
(See page 3)

FIRST QUARTER 1964

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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A physician restrained from practicing medicine is like a pianist whose piano has been taken away, or a child whose candy has just been snatched from his very hand. This is my predicament on beginning this year of language study, completely away from any medical practice. The tendency to impatience is greatly intensified as I watch the progress of the new hospital at Nekursini.

Setting out on our first eagerly-anticipated visit to Nekursini, we travelled south from the large railroad center of Kharagpur by car, and came upon the hospital compound, twenty-five miles distant, quite without warning, for it is set apart from the road and railroad by a row of bushes and bamboo trees. The compound appeared quite isolated at first, situated, as it is, at least a mile from any village. But when one realizes that each cluster of trees in sight signals a bustling village, (a pattern which repeats itself for miles in every direction) and that both the road and railway are main arteries carrying thousands of daily travellers, this first impression of solitude is quickly dispelled.

Turning off the road, crossing a small creek, we found ourselves in a spacious clearing with the hospital buildings immediately on our right, the physician’s bungalow about fifty yards ahead on the left, and the nurses’ residence opposite. Set well back are various small buildings including residences for employees and a boarding house for about twenty Christian high school boys who attend a near-by Government school.

We drove up to the bungalow and were greeted warmly by Bill and Sheila Green, a dedicated couple who are devoting their
energies to supervising the completion of the building and furnishing, in the absence of missionary Louis Kau, who has returned to the States on furlough. Bill and Sheila promptly took us on a tour of the hospital building. Starting with the private rooms, of which there are presently two, each accommodating two patients, we proceeded to the wards. "You see how conveniently the nursing station is located between the two wards", Sheila said. "The wards are small, allowing only six patients each, but the verandas (covered porches) on each side are large, and will soon be filled with overflow".

Then she pointed out some changes in the arrangement of the examining-emergency room and the doctor’s consulting room. We continued through the combined record-room and admitting office and waiting room to the front entrance of the hospital. Standing on the entrance porch Bill said, "The most popular waiting room will probably be out here", indicating an expanse of lawn in front, separated from the creek by bamboo bushes. "We will have to plan our landscaping with these waiting patients in mind".

The pharmacy and laboratory were roomy, light, and airy with good storage space. Next on our route—the surgical wing, always the biggest attraction of any hospital for me. This, too, has a large veranda on its south side, which will serve as the hallway for "traffic". This wing includes labor room and good-size delivery room, and, to my delight, a beautiful operating room. The floor and walls, up to head level, are of a pale green chipped stone terrazza, with the upper walls and ceiling also a soft green. The floor-to-wall transition is smoothly rounded for easy scrubbing, and the terrazza, hand-polished by Bill, will make the room quite dustproof.

As we left the building through the central supply room I turned to Sheila and said, "You talk about the place as though it were already filled to overflowing with patients. How can you be so sure it will be promptly filled?" "Every day we have
patients come expecting to find a doctor”, she said. “With my nursing experience I can help them a little sometimes, but many we have to simply send away. Yesterday a woman came who has been bleeding several days since she delivered her baby. I hope she was able to get to a hospital, for I could do nothing here. No”, she continued with a bright look of anticipation, “you will never suffer from lack of patients. The hospital will be filled as soon as it opens and we will have to start planning the construction of the new wings.”

As we started back toward the bungalow I lost the gist of our conversation and turned back for another look at the hospital. Through my imagination I saw an orderly, wearing a white shirt and dhoti, wheeling a new patient on a trolley down the central veranda toward the ward. I saw a nurse taking the temperatures of patients lying on straw mats on the verandas around the filled wards. I could smell the simmering curry being prepared for the patients by their families in the kitchens located behind the hospital. I heard the low-pitched moan of a mother-to-be in the labor room, about to have her baby in a sterile atmosphere. No longer need these village women lose about half of the babies born to them. I saw the new mother Sheila had spoken of, being treated in the operating room for control of her bleeding.

Almost as abruptly I didn’t see the hospital. I saw mothers holding their dying children in their arms. I saw a grown, healthy man dying of snakebite because there was nowhere to go for help, surrounded in his small home by pock-faced children who don’t run and play because their energy is sapped by the chronic anemia due to parasitic infections. I also saw pastors and Christian men and women praying for this medical project. I felt guilty as I saw them giving a rupee or two, a whole day’s earnings, so that the hospital might become a reality.

Seldom does a doctor experience this thrill of watching “his” hospital being built and of stepping into a practice where patients are waiting for him. After these moments of reflection I no
longer felt so deprived of my physician’s element by the long confinement to language study, for the responsibility before me is tremendous, and I will need not only this tool of communication, but more importantly the guidance of God Himself.

THIS, TOO, IS MISSIONARY SERVICE

CHARLES C. ROADARMEL, Midnapore

Sometimes in thinking back over the activities of the year we feel that writing “ditto” to our report of the previous year would be appropriate. That might do for the general headlines, but, in a very real sense, each year is a new year rather than merely another year. So, using a similar outline, I shall fill in some of the 1963 highlights.

Field Secretary. The work that falls distinctly to the Missionary Fellowship, and its’ executive Reference Committee, continues to decrease, as the Christian Service Society assumes more and more of the responsibility for decisions in connection with the Mission and Church work. This Society is made up of thirty members, two of whom are always missionaries. At present four missionaries have been elected to serve on this body. It is the executive body of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention, which is the organization of the churches. We pray and work for the time when this may become more completely the mission of the churches of India, even while aided and shared by Christian friends, and churches of other lands. As yet, some of the more personal areas of missionary life are dealt with by the Missionary Fellowship. These include housing, language study, travel of missionaries, vacations, educational facilities for missionary children, and any sale or lease of property still in the name of the Foreign Mission Society.
Our missionary staff crisis has continued with the leaving of Miss Lillian Brueckmann and Miss Hazel E. Smith for reasons of health, and of Rev. and Mrs C. L. Kau due to family problems. We are rejoicing in the return of Rev. and Mrs B. E. Weidman from furlough, and the coming of Dr and Mrs Robert R. Larsen to begin their services in Bengal-Orissa. We are still waiting and praying for the approval of visas for Rev. and Mrs Joseph Bass, and Rev. and Mrs Edward L. Skillman.

Part of the Secretary's responsibility has been the planning of and, in some cases, sharing in the itineraries of friends from abroad who have visited our area. We have welcomed more than usual this year, particularly those who could combine field visits with their journey to the Hong Kong Consultation. Visits began with the study group led by Dr William Keech in Feb.—March, Dr M. D. Farnum in April, Rev. R. G. Beers in Nov., Miss Annie Root and Mrs Manogg, Rev. Russell E. Brown, Rev. John Scott, Dr E. B. Willingham, and 6 members of the World Mission Tour party early in December, and Rev. and Mrs L. Carol Lemons near the end of the year. We tried to share with each something of the problems and joys of the missionary enterprise, arranging travel to the centers of work, and hospitality in the homes of missionaries. We are especially happy to welcome folks who are interested in seeing what we consider the real India, where we serve, rather than only the usual tourist attractions in Delhi, Agra and other cities.

In October we were happy to welcome Dr and Mrs L. C. Kitchen to our home when they first arrived in India, before they moved to Jhargram where they have carried on valuable service in short training conferences with village workers. Further ones will be held in March. Mr Kitchen himself will report in more detail of what the Lord has enabled them to accomplish and the joy that has been theirs in again serving in our Mission where they previously worked from 1921 to 1934. His article will appear in Tidings, second quarter.
Mission Treasurer. The office was moved from Balasore to Midnapore March 1st, when it was felt the Christian Service Society Treasurer's office could carry on independently. That meant that I could have the experienced accountant, Mr Chittaranjan Samanta, near at hand to help in a variety of services in connection with Treasurer's, Secretary's, and other work.

Besides the Treasurer's usual making of payments, keeping of accounts, and supervising the audit of station accounts, the task of assisting in travel and baggage arrangements, and helping to secure necessary clearances for travel, is one of the most troublesome and exacting services and requires persistent attention. This has included in the first half of the year arrangements for Lillian Brueckmann, Hazel Smith and the Kau family going on furlough; for Rev. S. K. Bepari, our C.S.S. Executive Secretary's going to Bangkok for a meeting of the program committee on the World Mission Consultation. Attempts were made to arrange for Miss Suddha Mookerji to go to the Philippines for the Asian Baptist Women's Conferences and for Mr Dulal C. Murmu to Beirut for the Baptist World Youth Conference, but in both cases the passport was granted so late that it was impossible to clear the other necessary Government requirements for them to go. Later in the year, arrangements were made for the journeys of Rev. S. K. Bepari, Mr Vincent Behera, Miss Tushar Tudu, Rev. W. C. Osgood and Rev. C. C. Roadarmel to attend the Burma Baptist Convention Sesquicentennial in Rangoon, and the World Mission Consultation in Hongkong, for Mrs W. C. Osgood's trip to Burma and on to the U.S.A. for short furlough, and Mrs C. C. Roadarmel's to Burma and Thailand.

Property Survey and other matters in connection with preparations for eventually turning over property to the C.S.S. as a Holding Body had some attention during the year, but this needs more time than anyone has been able to give to it.

Both as Field Secretary and as Mission Treasurer, I serve as member of the Christian Service Society and of its Executive
Committee. The meetings of these bodies and of the numerous standing committees and sub-committees have taken days of time, but have also offered the opportunity of sharing in the development of the Christian leaders in ability to plan and to meet problems with a sense of responsibility and with Christian devotion and insight.

Inter-denominational. We continue to feel that we can be most effective in the work for Christ in India by co-operating with the people of other denominations. My own work has involved sharing in several enterprises of this type:

The Triennial Meeting of the National Christian Council at Madras in Sept., at which I represented the Foreign Mission Societies, was an opportunity to participate in discussions on the national level. The fellowship, as well as the discussions, were stimulating and instructive. Forward steps were planned in Stewardship, Education, Literature, and other phases of Christian work.

The Biennial Meeting of both the Bengal Christian Council, and the Bihar Christian Council fell within the year, and I have continued to serve on the Executive Committee of each of these. In them we have a sharing of minds in meeting the opportunities for co-ordination of work within the State areas.

On the Governing Body of the Union Christian Training College, Berhampore, W. Bengal, I shared in the plans for celebrating early in 1964 the Silver Jubilee of this Institution, which trains High School teachers. The capable Principal, Mr Amiya K. Kisku, was formerly Headmaster of our Bhimpore Boys' High School. Mr Hiralal Das, who is on the staff, received much help from our Mission in securing the education that has made it possible for him to render this wider service.

As a member of the Governing Body of the Darjeeling Language School for missionaries I have had the privilege of helping to plan for the important language study period for new missionaries to Bengal.
As a personal responsibility, that is, not appointed by the Mission or the C.S.S., I have continued as Treasurer of the Church History Association of India. Auxiliaries of this in South India and in North India have been organized to further the work of encouraging the preservation and use of historical materials connected with the Churches and Missions in India. A Bulletin is published to help in stimulating thought on this and making available at least a little of the material.

As a Missionary. Certain duties have come to me as a missionary working in the Convention and the Christian Service Society. As Chairman of the Program Committee of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention, I helped to plan for and carry out the Annual Meeting of the Convention, held in Kharagpur in November.

Until Sept., I continued as Secretary of the Bhimpore Santal Boys’ High School, Superintendent of the Hostel, and supervisor of the accounts. I was glad to turn over these responsibilities to Rev. B. E. Weidman when he returned from his additional language study after furlough.

As a Supervisor of churches for Jamshedpur Branch Society some special effort was needed in reorganizing the English-speaking Church of Christ in that city. The Emmanuel Baptist Church at Golmuri, a suburb of Jamshedpur, has been without a pastor since the first of May. It is hoped that a pastor may be called early in the new year. The rapid growth of Jamshedpur industries, and the resulting expansion of the whole Jamshedpur area, is demanding a much more carefully planned strategy than we have had in the past. A survey of the Christian forces and the needs of the city being made by the interdenominational “North-east India Ecumenical Social and Industrial Institute” should bring help in making a more adequate approach to the problems.

As a Supervisor of Churches for Kharagpur-Midnapore Branch Society, with some responsibility for property, I have been able
to give only a minimum of time for work that could use much more. I served on the Midnapore Church Council and Pulpit Committee which arranged services until the new pastor came, usually conducting the service the first Sunday of the month with communion following. Eleven were baptized on New Year’s Day, 1963. We are still rejoicing in the coming on May 1st of the Rev. Hiralal Singh as pastor, as all parts of the church’s life have shown the effects of his devoted attention. In addition to regular services, he has had a weekly Bible class for young people, and a class later in the year in preparation for baptism and church membership.

I cannot close my report without expressing my gratitude for the helpfulness of my wife not only in maintaining a home with the open door for missionaries and others, but also in sharing in other phases of service in counselling, correspondence, and planning.

Sometimes in the midst of a program such as this, thinking in traditional terms, one may be tempted to ask, “Where is the missionary work in all of this correspondence, committee work, etc?” We reply from thoughtful consideration of the situation: “In all of it.” The planning and organization help to make possible the vital contribution of pastors, evangelists, Bible women, nurses, teachers, and other church leaders, as well as humble church members, who minister both in the development of Christians and in outreach to others with the message of Christ. To a considerable extent, we missionaries from abroad concentrate on “helping people grow”, so that the Indian Church may be strong, capable, and devoted in its “Mission” to the whole of life.

We remind ourselves also that, in the midst of the very activities and even of the “machinery”, we must be representatives of Jesus Christ, ready to share the message of His faithfulness and His love at every opportunity by word and deed. Join with us in prayer that we may be true disciples.
JET-SET, WE’RE BACK!

BURTON. E. WEIDMAN

This is just the way our year in America seemed to us. We left Calcutta for furlough on June 2, 1962 and it seemed like no time at all before we were again, 30,000 feet in the air on another Pan-American jet, returning to the field. We had a grand year at home in Oregon for two months visiting almost all of our relatives and friends, and then on to California and Berkeley Baptist Divinity School where I enjoyed such courses as “Case Studies in Pastoral Counseling”, “Christian Education of Adults”, “Creative Teaching” and others. It was great to get in the library where all was quiet and just have time to read, without feeling that there was someone waiting to see me or something else that should be taken care of first. The two most valuable things were: the chance to just get away from all the responsibilities I had in India for a year, and then to know that all the problems are not in the particular village in which we happen to be working. We so much appreciated the fellowship and the opportunity to meet with other Christians in some of the churches and to know that, for the most part, they are sincerely interested in the cause of Christ in other lands as well as in America. It was a fine year of rest, study, and fellowship with those in the home churches, yet we were grateful to God that we could once again return to India. After a short refresher course, with the last three months of our furlough spent in Landour, Mussoorie, we returned to Bhimpore to take up the work which challenged us even before we ever saw the place.

We have only been back for 4 short months, yet there are many signs of progress in the midst of the problems which are always challenging.
Conditions are about the same in the High School. In terms of staff we have lost one faithful non-Christian teacher, but we have gained two teachers. The staff strength now stands at 6 Christians and 4 non-Christians. We hope to bring in two more, one being Christian, within this year. For the last six years we have dropped below our 18-year matric pass average of 43 per cent and our average per cent for the past 3 years has been 34 per cent. Due to the change to a new syllabus in class nine, in 1962, it has been difficult to improve our standing. This year will be the most severe test, since, due to the fact that class 10 students may not sit as private candidates for the matriculation test in 1964, we have had to send them all up for the test. We are trying to meet the Government regulations in order to qualify for Higher Secondary Standing, i.e., we must maintain an average of 350 students per year and a matric pass record of an average of 50 per cent for three years. The school is located in an area where people are poor and even though tribal students have their tuition fees paid by Government it is still hard for them to pay the other costs. It is very difficult to get qualified staff people to come to rural areas for any length of time, and just about the time that they get some experience and have been sent off for B.T. (teacher training degree), they want to move on to greener pastures. Still there is some hope, since more and more Christian young people are graduating from college these days, and some of them have chosen teaching as their profession. We are crowded for room, but the plans for the new classroom have come back from Valley Forge and have been sent on to the Office of the Chief Inspector of Technical Education, from whence we received the original invitation to accept the Government grant for an additional classroom. We were told three months ago that it would take three months for approval, but we all know that it will take longer, and then there will be the long wait for the permit to buy cement. There is not much room for despair,
because young people are eager to study and get ahead in the world these days, so we are too busy to look long at the problems. We try to do the best job we can with what is provided.

**Girls' Junior High School**

In order to release Miss Maureen Brians for language study in 1964, I took on the job of Secretary of the Junior High School for Girls. So that no one can say that I am partial to boys, I have been bending over backwards to do this job along with the many other things that have to be done around here. It has been a real challenge to work and pray with the Girls' School Staff, although I am afraid that a woman could serve as Secretary much more effectively.

After months of trying to get permission for the Special Constitution as submitted to the Board of Secondary Education, W. Bengal, we finally got a letter from the Director of Public Instruction requesting us to go ahead with the election of the guardians' representatives and the reconstitution of the Managing Committee. However this made no mention of the Special Constitution in which we had written the purpose of the C.S.S. in the school, the principles on which we were operating, etc. In spite of all our letters and personal visits we have not to this day received written permission to go ahead as per the Special Constitution. However, we have gone ahead as per the directive of the Director of Public Instruction with the understanding that this is implied consent to the total constitution.

The two biggest problems are how to keep on financing the School if the Government of West Bengal does not give any more aid than they have given in the last two years. As I understand it, there was no lumpsum grant given in 1962 and only about Rs 1,400 has been given in 1963. This is quite sad compared to the Rs 21,000 given to the Boys' High School in 1962 and some Rs 19,000 in 1963. These two problems of the years without grants, are kept in the best of spirits by a third
problem which is always with us, i.e., how to get at least 80 students each year so as not to lose the Government grant. Using the last two years as the example, we can laugh and say “What do we have to lose?” However, the C.S.S. is not laughing, and the parents of the even now too few students are not getting any richer so that we cannot raise the fees and hope to have any girls show up. Also, at present, we are badly in need of a science teacher who is also good at teaching math, and we are trying to fill this vacancy with a qualified person. There has been some talk about joining the two schools, i.e., the Jr. Girls’ High School and the Boys’ High School, but I am sure, along with quite a few others, that this would mean the end of any real beneficial education for girls who will make home life their career. In view of the fact that well over 50 per cent of the girls are now from Christian homes, this would be a real blow to the church and to Christian home-making. We trust that the School will soon be put on a deficit grant-in-aid basis just as the High School, and we can continue to give girls the kind of education that they really need and in a situation in which they can really learn and grow.

**Burkholder Memorial Hostel**

The hostel, although not increasing in the number of students, has held it’s own in terms of real Christian witness during the last year. It is no accident that there are at present 3 non-Christian boys and two non-Christian families who have promised to come forward to accept Christ in baptism at Easter time. Part of the credit must go to the hostel program and the fine Christian man who is now in charge, Sri Birendra Sinha, and part of the credit must go to Sri Premothpal Karmokar the Bhimpore pastor, and to Rev. Bahadur Kisku, previous area supervisor, and Sri Shotish Kisku, pastor of the area from which these boys have come. Needless to say it is not the influence of one individual or of one program which makes an impact upon people for
Christ and His Church, but the co-operation and harmonious working of many individuals and programs. There are still many problems in the hostel program such as how to get the money for a hostel garden wall, how to get money to enlarge the school tank so as to raise enough fish for both boys' and girls' hostels, where to find a really full-time Hostel Suptd. (present man is a teacher in the High School) who is trained in the pastoral ministry as well as in other areas, how to encourage more non-Christian boys to come into the hostel program and therefore to come under real Christian teaching and living in a Christian environment. We have had one fine testimony of a boy who was at first afraid to come, but later found out that Christian boys were mighty fine lads with a genuine concern and interest in one another. There is a real possibility that this boy may also come for baptism this Easter. There is hope in the year ahead, and we are trying our best to improve the hostel program, the discipline in habits and in real progress in school of the boys, and in terms of non-Christian boys feeling welcome and wanted.

_Bhimpore Baptist Church_

Each year we feel that God wants to bless this church as the center of evangelism for this whole area, but each year Satan seems to try just a little harder to see that it does not happen. This year for the first time the church has stepped out in faith to pay her share of an evangelist for this area. A real step has been taken and I think it is a step of vital faith for this church. It remains to be seen what will come of this, but there is the beginning of a new attitude in the church. This new attitude is what we have been praying for. It is hard to define the attitude, but one might say that it is a new pride in the Gospel of Christ and a willingness to follow up more of the implications of this wonderful Gospel. This Christmas was a time of true Christian fellowship, love and forgiveness, and we may yet see God use this church in wonderful ways. There was a real effort put
forth to witness to those who do not know Christ, and although some did not care to shoulder the burden of the program of drama, flannel-graph story, and slide projection, it went off well. The love-feast that was held on December 27th was a great success, not only in terms of the 400 fed, but in terms of the deepening of fellowship as a result of doing it. It was a great joy to see folks work together so splendidly this Christmas.

I am trying to do my part by teaching an adult Bible class every Sunday. I know that I am getting far more out of it than I am giving. This is the wonderful thing about that which is done for Christ, the rewards are so worthwhile. Our present study topic for as many Sundays as the door stays open, is Prayer, and if there is anything which should be put first, it is Prayer.

One of the visitors from the U.S.A. described Bhimpore as "a sleepy little village". And then he said "Doesn't anything ever happen here?" Another visitor said, "Why don't you start something new, this work is so old, perhaps people have lost interest in it". This was one of the times when I was able to congratulate myself on holding my words for a brighter light, but I wanted to say what now I can say—

Some people may lose interest in old projects, but the people who live and work here definitely have not lost interest, and this is most probably due to the bed-rock fact that the Lord has not lost interest in this "old project". This is the most wonderful fact that I know about working for, and with Christ, He is the greatest specialist that the world has ever seen or ever will see when it comes to making "old things", bright and shiny new.
TYPICAL SITUATIONS

Clara Dorn, Midnapore

By describing a few situations in which I found myself, I shall try to give some idea of my activities last year.

“What is the difference between Christianity and Hinduism? Why don’t Christians worship idols? If Jesus was a good man, why did He die on the cross?”

These are just a few of the questions my 11th grade Hindu girls asked which I tried to answer during my Bible classes at our Midnapore Girls’ School. We had many stimulating discussions. Besides answering these questions we used workbooks dealing with the foundations of the Christian faith.

I also directed a Sports Club after school on Fridays for a few months. Extra-curricula activities are a rather new thing in this culture, so we had a very enthusiastic group of over 100 participating in races, standing broad jump, bicycle riding, badminton, rings, learning volleyball, and group exercises.

“Let’s have our class outside. When is our Sunday school picnic? I’ll read the Bible for the flannelgraph story. Do you think she can speak next week at Women’s Meeting?” When I think of wiggly, whispering girls often asking their teacher irrelevant questions, my Sunday school class comes to mind. My class is 25 eager, active 7th and 8th grade girls. They helped me introduce the lesson to our entire Sunday school of 100 children, using various audio-visual aids.

Other teaching activities in Midnapore included meeting with our 50 boarding girls each Sunday evening and helping in our local Women’s Society. The girls living in the Hostel helped me present our devotional program each week. Many filmstrips were shown. Since it is rather impossible to meet the needs of
3rd graders and 11th graders at the same time, I gear my message
to the little ones one week and to the high school girls the next.

I led a number of Bible discussions at our weekly Womens’
Society. I have continued as officer and program planner of that
group. Our average attendance each week for the year has been
23 women, and we were most happy to learn at Womens’ Con­
ference in October that our group had given the most towards
our special project, the support of a nurse.

“What is prayer? For whom do we pray? How do we pray?”
We considered the teachings of Christ on this theme in several
small groups for 3 days at our Annual Women’s Conference.
My Bengali tutor, Mrs Nilima Patra, and I wrote the Bible study
materials, and I led a group. Conferences took up quite a bit of
energy this year with both Womens’ Conference and Youth
Conference in Midnapore.

I found myself writing devotional materials, speaking some,
and helping with odd jobs at our Lay Training, Pastors’ Wives
and Nurses’, and Workers’ Refresher Retreats. Also there was
our Annual Convention and a Christian Home Conference. I
especially enjoyed these opportunities in leadership education.

“Our church would like to have a Bible woman. Am I
ready for a salary increase? Here is the report you asked for.”
I dealt with these matters as Chairman of our Womens’ Work
Committee of our Christian Service Society. Serving on the
executive, I was able to learn much more about the work of our
total field. I also served on the Literature Committee and on the
Christian Training Committee.

“How much money is there in the Sunday school fund? The
door to the cookhouse needs to be repaired. Call a coolie to
draw water as the pump isn’t working again. Is there any money
with which to help this Chrisian girl with boarding fees?”

These are some of the situations missionaries handle in the
role of banker, accountant, property overseer, etc. Each day
brings new opportunities, problems, and joys as we labor to­
gether here.
VARIETY AND JOY IN SERVICE

A. Maureen Brians

The year 1963 began in a neighboring village, some five miles down the road, where we went for a special New Year’s Day service and it ended in a distant mountain village, where we gladly went to bed early in the evening after a fifteen mile hike over a rugged trail in order to visit the Christians scattered through the area.

In between these two events were the countless activities of committee meetings, planning and attending conferences, feasts, funerals, weddings, and the necessary trips to various Government offices, mostly on school business. Incidentally, I invariably wind up lost in the Government office building in Calcutta, because I can never remember which is the American way of counting stories of a building and which is the way used here. Here, I think it is, first is the ground floor, second is the first floor, etc. Are you confused now too? I find the Bengali numbers much easier to remember than floors of buildings. If it looks like an 8, it is a four. If it looks like a 9, it’s a seven. If it looks like an unfinished 5, it is a six. Quite a neat system I’ve got for numbers, but don’t ask me to go to the Department of Public Instruction in Calcutta, unless I have a whole day and a picnic lunch. It’s on the second floor. Now let’s see.

January consisted much of audit and being audited. February was high-lighted with our Annual Missionary Fellowship meeting and March is always a favorite time of the year. Our two Santal Women’s Conferences were from March 5-9 and from the 12th to the 15th, leaving us barely time to move from the area of one to the other. The second conference was followed by the wedding of one of the orphans to a young pastor from Orissa.
April brought the Annual Pastors’ Wives’ and Nurses’ Retreat at Jaleswar, and May was vacation time at Darjeeling.

While returning from Darjeeling, I interviewed prospective science-math teachers for the Girls’ Junior High School. One was qualified, but she decided not to come to our small village. Our need of a science-math teacher is very acute. Join us in prayer for our school.

In June one of our Bhimpur orphan boys, along with others under our sponsorship, went to Balasore to begin training at the Balasore Technical School. In July a change was made by the Christian Service Society to improve the quality of leadership for all of our hostels. The standards were raised and our school clerk was asked to serve as hostel superintendent. She accepted the post and I was relieved of one of my responsibilities.

July also found me making the first of four trips to Calcutta within two months. Four a year is my usual average, but with Government educators to see, an ear infection that required treatment, and housing to locate for a student, I was almost a commuter.

I continued to be the only missionary in Bhimpur until the Weidmans returned from furlough, and from a period of language study. It was a happy September evening when I could welcome them home. During October and November they assumed the responsibility for the Girls’ Jr. High School and the care of the orphans in addition to the work for which they were already responsible.

October was the time for our Annual Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Women’s Conference. Although the rains prevented some from coming, others waded through knee deep mud to share the expected blessings and joy.

November was filled with responsibilities in connection with the Annual Youth Conference, which this year was held in Midnapur. We were encouraged by the sight of young people and counselors studying the Bible together, and also by the rapt
attention, especially during the testimony time. Testimonies were given in Bengali, Hindi, and English. One of the pastors rapidly translated all of the testimonies either into Bengali or English so that everyone understood. Perhaps the high point of the conference was the viewing of the old silent film “King of Kings” with a Hindi sound track. The few more than 100 delegates were joined by at least 200 more people for the film. The film made a great impact and the life of Christ came alive for those in the audience. It was unforgettable and many a tear was quietly wiped away as young people were gripped by the knowledge of what Jesus Christ had done for them.

An approximate 300 mile trip, beginning three days after Christmas, ended the year and began the new in the best possible way. We visited some rather remote villages, thoroughly enjoying the fellowship with Christians we’d known before and happily meeting new friends. How thrilling it was to hear Ram Babu, the supervisor of the pastors in this area, talk with a non-Christian Santal, a dispenser of folk and magic medicine! He started the conversation much, I think, as our Lord would have, “So you have medicine for the body. What medicine do you have for the soul, for the spirit?” “None”, the man replied. Then Ram Babu told him about Jesus Christ, the One who cleanses us from sin. Again he referred to a familiar Santal custom and asked the man, “Why is a small wooden cross placed on the chest of a Santal body before it is cremated?” The man confessed he did not know—that it was just one of those things that everyone did. And probably no Santal knows the reason—it is just another one of the many similarities between Christian symbols and practices and Santal customs and religious observances. Then Ram Babu related the history of the Santals and how they searched for the truth and how in Christianity we find the meaning of the Cross. Well, it was thrilling to sit in that tiny village, high on the side of the mountain, and listen as a man heard the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time. The year ahead holds
time for language study, since I’ve been helped by my associates to get the necessary relief from responsibilities, I’ll move to my new location in Jhargram, and after taking my second language exam, I will engage in the village evangelistic work which I came to do. It is exciting to contemplate the opportunities of the new year.

MIDNAPORE GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL AND HOSTEL

Suddha Mookerji

Like other years, 1963 was also a year of joy and blessings, although occasionally things happened which brought us sorrow. However, those were so few we can only be thankful to God for all the blessings He bestowed upon us.

As in other years, our School Final Examination results were good, showing 86 per cent passes by our students. But we were disappointed that no girls were in the First Division, although some should have succeeded to that extent. Yet it was satisfying to have 26 out of the 30 girls who took this state-wide Government examination pass.

Results were very good in our Primary School, which covers the first four grades, and is co-educational. All the pupils passed and most of them were in First Division. Out of some 46,000 students from all the schools in the State taking this exam, three of ours secured scholarships. These results made us happy and proud.

Our chief problem is in finding enough consecrated Christian teachers. In our Primary section we have ten Christian teachers out of eleven on the staff. But in the Multi-purpose and High School section, out of seventeen teachers only four are Christians. Bible teaching is provided for students in all classes.
The shortage of Christian teachers makes it difficult to carry on these classes. They have been taught by Miss Clara Dorn, our Christian school clerk Miss Sarkar, and the Primary School Headmistress. It is sad that there are not enough Christian girls attracted by the teaching profession and that not many are able to go on for higher education.

We are thankful that in the course of the year our Hostel matron, Miss Hemlata Dey, improved both in health and spirit, and is able to carry on her duties as formerly. She is such a faithful and efficient matron that it would be hard to think of the Hostel without her. The death of our faithful cook saddened us. Though she was a Muslim by religion, she fitted well into our life. The girls were all so fond of her that we were shocked at her sudden going. Her motherly affection for the girls will long be remembered.

Miss Dorn was very gracious in looking after the spiritual side of the Hostel life. She explained to the girls in simple Bengali the essential beliefs of the Christian faith. Her showing of film strips, and Christian messages on her tape recorder were much enjoyed by the girls. Rev. Hiralal Singh, our pastor, and some of the church members joined the student prayer periods sometimes and this was much appreciated by the girls.

It was a pleasure to have guests from America visit the School. Among them were Miss Annie Root, and Mr Richard Beers from Valley Forge, and Mrs Manogg, President of the A. B. Foreign Mission Societies. They commented on the fine equipment of the School and said that the many books in our library made it one of the best they had seen in India. We were also proud to have Dr. and Mrs Robert Larsen for their first visit to a School in India come to see ours.

Rev. C. C. Roadarmel is still the President of the School Managing Committee. He is so well acquainted with schools that it is a privilege to have him as the President. He always helps us with his wise judgement.
Many times I think I have more blessings than I am fit to receive. I know many of you pray for me and for our School. I am grateful to all of you for your kindness. Continue to pray for our School. We thank Him heartily for all He has done for us.

PROGRESS AND BLESSINGS IN WOMEN’S WORK

SATYABOTI BEHERA

The Psalmist says, “They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy”. The apostle Paul says, “Your labors are not in vain”. So, friends, those who are in the United States, as well as those in India, let us be thankful to our Lord because our labors and tears are not in vain.

The year that is past was a blessed year for me and my co-workers, because many have been praying for us. We are grateful to all for your continued, earnest prayers.

At Chordhia an evangelistic woman worker and a nurse live together and work in the dispensary and surrounding villages. While the nurse is dealing with patients, the Christian message is given by the evangelistic worker. One day a non-Christian man came to the dispensary for treatment. After hearing the story of Jesus Christ, he said, “I believe in your Jesus, and I want to be baptized”. At Balasore Rev. Sushil Bepari, and Rev. Bhupati Sahu were very busy at an Executive meeting of the Christian Service Society, when a telegram came asking them to come to Chordhia. They sensed the urgency of it and responded. Throughout the night they discussed what it means to be a follower of Christ, and the meaning of baptism, with this man. The next day this Hindu man was baptized. His work is making mattresses. This takes him from village to village and so gives opportunity for him to give his testimony.
Our evangelistic worker and our nurse are giving a wonderful witness for Christ in this village. There are some people there who are secret believers, but who have not yet had the courage to come out openly for Christ. The women in the Chordia church are growing spiritually. One Christian woman, through her own spiritual life and her earnest prayers, brought about a change in her husband’s heart. The village people say that they can see a great difference in the life of this man; this is evident in the place where he works and he faithfully studies his Bible.

Our 42nd Annual Women’s Conference took place in Midnapore in October. Even though it rained “cats and dogs”, brave-hearted women came from the city and rural churches.

Luke 11:1, “Lord, teach us to pray” was the theme followed. Our special speaker was Miss Biswas, the headmistress of Dhanbad Railway School. She helped us to understand what it means to have the Holy Spirit in our lives, and emphasised that through a life of prayer and holiness women can glorify the Lord.

Some had walked eight miles, others as many as fifteen, through mud and rain. Some carried babies on their hips, and the bundles of bedding and clothes on their heads. The majority met their own expenses. Seeking financial help from others, in order to attend, is gradually decreasing.

At the session when each woman’s society reported, forty churches gave their contributions. Furthermore, our area women’s conferences, Belda, Dampara and the Hatigarh nine churches conference sent their love gift to the annual conference. The total amounted to just over Rs 1,438, or approximately $290.00 which was Rs 120, about $25.00, more than last year. Of the total amount Rs 1,075, or $225.00, goes towards the support of a nurse, and the balance goes to the Central Fund (like the Unified Budget of the A.B.C. in the U.S.A.) The Midnapore Church women stood first in their giving.

From women who had come for the first time I heard these words: “This Women’s Conference makes us very happy.”
“We had no idea before about what Women’s Conference would be like. From now on we will be more active in the Lord’s work in our churches.” “We are sad because the conference has ended so soon.”

Thanks are due to many at Midnapore who helped with entertainment arrangements, cooking and serving of meals, and caring for all the needs of those who came. Special appreciation should be given to Mrs Roady, Clara Dorn, Suddha Mookerji, Mrs Nilima Patra, Mrs Rajabala Jana, Mrs Mary Singh (the pastor’s wife) and to the Hostel matron, Miss Dey, and Miss Mookerji’s fine group of helpful teachers.

In the Belda area, during the year, 43 men and women from non-Christian, Kora and Santal tribal backgrounds accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior and were baptized. Fifty illiterate women of this and the Dampara area decided they wanted to learn to read and write and are being taught.

At the Women’s Conference of the 9 Churches of Hatigarh District the love gift, besides money, included rice, leaf plates, and parched rice. Mrs Nilima Patra was the special speaker. Miss Rani Tudu was the president at this conference which was held in her own church, Manikadanga. Her parents, long ago, were the first to become Christian here. When Rani was a student, my co-worker Parul Tudu and I felt that she should be in Christian work. We prayed that she might hear God’s call and dedicate her life to His service. Now she and Bibhasini Das are carrying on evangelistic work, especially among women and children in the Hatigarh area.

Recently I visited the adult literacy schools in the Balasore area of which there are seven. Two at Ujurda are just for women. When I was questioning some of the women to see how much they knew, non-Christian women, with babies on their hips, brought garlands to put around my neck. They could sing our Christian hymns and they told the story of the Prodigal Son. Both Hindu
and Christian women are enthusiastic about learning to read and write.

At Vellore one of our girls is taking medical training. She made her decision for Christian service, through the vocation of a doctor, on the last day when she was attending our Vacation Bible School. On New Year’s day this year she and her brother were baptized and received into the membership of our Balasore Church. We thank God for answered prayer for her.

I now have two younger co-workers: Mrs Paul Das and Miss Esther Sahu. Mrs Das served as an evangelistic worker before her marriage. She became a widow after only two years of marriage. Esther Sahu’s parents were converts from Hinduism. All the children in the family died and then Esther was born. She is only 18 years old now and is very attractive. She helped with the Christian Home Festival held in our Balasore Girls’ School Hostel at Christmas time. Many Hindu girls also participated in this celebration.

The younger women are active in the Women’s Society at Balasore and take turns at leading Bible study at one meeting each month. One meeting they have a sewing class to make clothes for the poor. Another week they have a special speaker, and once each month, instead of a meeting, they walk to a non-Christian village where they show Bible pictures and tell the Gospel story to the women and children.

At Jaleswar, a weekly Bible study period has been led by Mrs W. C. Osgood. The women have shown much interest in this and have been greatly helped.

The women have contributed to our new Hospital project. Recently the C.E. girls of the Balasore Hostel, and of Bhimpore, and the Midnapore Women’s Society sent a love gift for this purpose. We supervisors plan soon to visit the churches in an effort to create more interest in giving for this medical work. The Lord has made possible a beginning and we do believe He will supply all our needs.
At Hatigarh, we are thankful and praise God for our lovely nurse, Miss Ruth Filmer, an Australian Baptist, who left other work, believing God would have her here, especially for work among those afflicted with leprosy. Some days she is up as early as 3 a.m., answering a call from someone in the village. I shall never forget the meeting of the Mahila Samity (Women’s Society) at the Leper Colony, which I was privileged to lead. A large group of women gathered. I felt that although their bodies are afflicted, they are happy spiritually. How they sang and sang Christian hymns!

Please pray for our work during 1964. Though we are separated by long distances geographically, we are close spiritually and feel a bond in Christ with our sisters overseas.

Supervisor of Women’s Work
Chairman of the Women’s Work Committee

NO CHRISTIANS HERE

Susanne Powers, Balasore

“We have no Christians in this village. People become Christian only so they can get financial help.” The man who told us this seemed proud of this fact. Kunja Nayak, our teacher, who had come with some of the young people and me to tell the Christmas story in a village 26 miles from Balasore, replied, “My father was a court inspector. He paid for all my education, but I’m a Christian”.

The villager replied, “Oh, well, only the sweeper or lowest caste people become Christian”. Then Kunja replied, “You mentioned having seen our headmistress. She’s pretty and has fair-colored skin. Her father was of the land-owner or kingly caste before he became a Christian. Does Miss Garnaik look like a sweeper?” The questions and answers were all given in
a friendly way, and we feel that we can return to Singla after a few weeks.

A white person had never visited Singla before, so people crowded around the jeep station wagon when we arrived. They didn’t know what “American” was, but all knew of President Kennedy.

Some of my time this year has been spent in visiting in villages and cities, especially those from which our hostel girls come. In February I spent a weekend in the Village of Ujurda, which was a village of thieves before the Gospel reached it. Now most of the people are Christian and are vegetable farmers but very poor. In March some of the hostel girls and I went to Inchudi. There also the children had never seen an American, so they flocked about us. They also listened well to the story of Christ.

In August we went to two Hindu villages where were the homes of two of the hostel girls and also told Bible stories with flannel-graph at the sea-coast. In Sahupur we were able to walk through the village and call the children to see a flannelgraph story, but when we went to Bonsiboni there was a heavy rainstorm. Malati, the 9th grader whose home we were visiting, had said that the car would go right to her front door, so none of us had taken umbrellas. The narrow built-up “road” through the rice fields was muddy, and I could imagine the station wagon full of girls slipping off into the rice fields or else getting stuck in the mud, so I parked the car under a tree and we walked, or ran, the remaining two miles to Malati’s home. The rain didn’t dampen our spirits as we had our worship and teaching service with members of her family.

When Satyaboti Behera, our Bible-woman, was doing visitation work in Khargpur in September, I joined her for one weekend. Eight of our hostel girls are from that railway center. I also spent a long weekend with Indian friends in Jamshedpur, the steel center of India, and visited the homes of our six hostel girls there.
Miss Ruth Filmore, Australian nurse who is living in Lillian Brueckmann’s thatched home in Hatigarh, invited me to spend Christmas with her and Lillian’s six children (the six children for whom Lillian made a home). We shared the Gospel message at the leper colony there on the 24th. On Christmas morning we walked through the village singing Christmas carols. How happy we all were: the young people, two young Bible women, the lepers and I, as we progressed through the village singing of the birth of our Saviour. In Hatigarh I also visited the homes of our seven hostel girls and four teachers.

During 1963 these village visits have just been a bit of the “extra”, as most of my time has been spent in our Balasore Girls’ School and hostel work. I’ve been teaching 18 periods of English (the American variety), and Bible weekly. Preparing lessons and correcting homework also takes time. Taru Garnaik, our High School headmistress, and Kenchan Barick, our Primary (grade) School headmistress, have the responsibility of the schools but I have a few accounts, and other responsibilities as Secretary of the schools. However, that work too, is being reduced as Martha Patel, school clerk, is assuming much of the responsibility for this.

Credit also should be given to Bindu Behera, our capable hostel matron, for all the care and responsibility she has taken for the 76 hostel girls, the largest number in the history of our Girls’ Boarding. Of these, 26 are from non-Christian families. The girls all attend hostel morning and evening prayers, church, Sunday school, and Christian Endeavour. The students live in four cottages and each girl cooks by turn for the others in her cottage. The hostel accounts, although Sunandini Das helps with them, take quite a bit of time because fees are received for each girl and these fees come throughout the month.

There has been time for play also this year. I’ve enjoyed “squash” at the Army Club, which is not far from the house. They also are building a swimming pool, but I wonder if I’ll
have to wear a sari when I swim there, as is the custom here. Some of the hostel teachers and I have also spent time playing volley ball and badminton after school. College boys and others come some evenings to play ping-pong on my front veranda. College students, members of Student Christian Movement, meet twice a month in my living room.

Angur Maharana, the daughter of my cook, Ahboni Jena, began teaching science in our school in July. Ahboni’s house is small, so four young boys from his home, 9th grade and lower, come in the evenings to sleep in the “boys’ room” of my home. About 8 p.m. we ring a little bell and some of the teachers from their hostel come to join our evening prayers. From the youngest, a third grade Hindu boy who is learning much about Jesus, to the oldest, we take turns leading the prayers. We sing choruses in English as well as in Oriya, Bengali and Hindi. Bonshi Sethi, a 7th grader of a Hindu family, helps me in order to earn his school fees; so he also stays in the “boys’ room” of my home at night. I am thankful for this happy time at the close of each day when we thank God, and also remember our friends, in prayer together.

American friends, who have visited us during the year, have taught us new songs. These guests in 1963 have included Miss McTyre, Rev. Croone, Rev. Mumford, Miss Morse, Mr Andreae, Mr Scott, Miss Root, Mrs Manogg, Rev. Beers, Mr Brown, Dr and Mrs Massey, Rev. Grabia, and Mr and Mrs Kitchen. I’ve enjoyed showing them our mission work in Balasore, the community, the Bay of Bengal, the raja’s palace in a nearby village and his elephant which the visitors think is photogenic, especially when they are on it, and then a poor Christian community where the members earn their daily rice by breaking stones from a nearby hill.

During all the “busyness” and leisure, too, of 1963, we have been ever mindful that we have a “Saviour to show to the nations . . . that all the world’s great peoples might come to the truth of God”. Being a Christian is a real privilege and responsibility for which I thank God.
The year 1963 marked progress in the total ministry of our Christian Service Society, although what has been accomplished may seem very insignificant in comparison with large Mission fields. In the midst of multifarious difficulties, and obstacles, and in spite of our weaknesses and shortcomings, we have labored faithfully and sincerely this past year for the total program and welfare of this part of God's kingdom. We thank God for His blessings and help.

**Progress in our hostel program**

The aim of our educational institutions is “to develop Christian character, to win young people to allegiance to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, to provide for the maximum unfolding of the potentialities God has given to each pupil, and to develop a relationship of genuine partnership under the Lordship of Jesus Christ”. To fulfill this purpose we carry on a program of religious education which includes Bible classes, chapel periods, moral instruction, etc., in our schools. We are facing increasing pressures, particularly in Orissa, to minimize the religious education program. Some non-Christian guardians have strong objections to their wards attending Bible classes or chapel services, and the Government educational curriculum is demanding increased time for the teaching of other subjects. In order to meet this situation, we have adopted a vigorous hostel program in which there is provision for individual Quiet Time, Sunday School and church attendance, daily hostel prayers, group Bible
study in which there is pupil participation, and the Christian Endeavour Society. Opportunity is provided for vital, personal spiritual contact. Provision has been made for supervised study, work program, and for recreation and social life. Opportunity is afforded for student participation in the hostel program and management, and in the care of the sick. We need the facilities of well chosen libraries of Christian biography, novels, and other helpful books which can be changed and supplemented from time to time. So far, we have been able to appoint two well qualified, full-time hostel superintendents for two of our eight hostels, and we are making every effort to find such superintendents to appoint for other hostels as soon as possible.

Progress in our evangelistic program

This last year we reached 120 non-Christian villages, sold Bibles, tracts, and Christian literature amounting to about Rs 3,000 (approx. $632.00), and were used of the Lord to win 80 non-Christians for Him. We hope to establish two new churches in 1964.

Four of our Bible students, and one of our Bible women, have completed their training this year and are now in full-time service under the Christian Service Society. Three more Bible students have completed their second year course, and are now having in-service training. Twelve men and four women are taking Bible training in different Bible schools and colleges at present.

Out of our 54 churches, 11 are self-supporting. These are either large Mission station churches, or are located in towns. The rest of our churches are situated in rural areas, and the members are very poor. In order to make the churches self-supporting we have a vigorous stewardship drive. Our Stewardship Committee teaches the stewardship of talent, money and life in the churches, with the help of audio-visual aids, stewardship literature, and revival meetings. We aim to have all of the churches give one-half of the tithe of the membership towards the pastors'
salary. Though this program has not yet had complete success, we have made fairly good progress in this direction.

Last year, aside from the Christian literature published in co-operation with others, we published 73 books in three different languages. We co-operated with other groups in a number of other publications. We published a new *Bible Correspondence Course in Acts* and sent out about 600 lessons a month in our six courses. We have granted several hundred certificates for completion of courses, and distributed a goodly number of tracts, the four Gospels, and New Testaments through these courses. A new book store has been opened in the Railway town of Kharagpur and improvements have been made in our distribution of literature. We are carrying on a new venture in the Oriya Christian Book Club, helping in theological literature by publishing a second volume to the *Bible Hand Book*, which was completed earlier; reaching out to meet the needs of the Christian home by publishing books on Christian family planning, as well as literature for children, and youth, evangelism and the upbuilding of the church.

Our missionary staff has decreased considerably during the last year. One family, and two of our single women missionaries have returned to the States for health or family reasons. We need their return, but if that is not possible, then their replacements as soon as possible. We believe that God will provide us with this great and pressing need. In 1963 the Mission Boards assigned Rev. and Mrs Joseph Bass to work in our rapidly developing industrial areas, and Rev. and Mrs E. L. Skillman to help develop our educational, property, Christian training and rural life program. We ask your prayer support that visas may be forthcoming for them.

**Progress in our medical program**

To meet the urgently needed medical care in the villages, we have had five Medical-Evangelistic Centres, and one Leper
Colony. 13 in-patients, and 13,469 out-patients have been treated. 36 maternity cases have been cared for, and 890 homes visited. At the Leper Colony 139 were in residence, and treatment was given to 331 suffering from the disease. We wish to relate this medical work to a 16-bed rural, central hospital which is nearing completion at Nekursini. The time for opening depends upon having the necessary medical equipment, and Dr Larsen’s having acquired sufficient command of Bengali to assume the responsibility of being head of the hospital.

We were fortunate to obtain in 1963 the dedicated services of Miss Ruth Filmer of Australia for our leper work, and of Mr and Mrs William Green for the construction, and planning of equipment for the hospital, and of Dr and Mrs Robert R. Larsen from the U.S.A. for the medical work. We need to raise another Rs 3,500 for equipment through the churches, as thus far we have raised about Rs 6,500 for this purpose (approx. $1,368). We further need dedicated Christian staff for our hospital, which we believe will be an instrument for healing both physical and spiritual illnesses. Please continue to remember us and our efforts for the Lord at the Throne of Grace.

Executive Secretary,

Christian Service Society
EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS

William C. Osgood

In one's next incarnation as a missionary one might well hope to have the gifts needed to make the labors of accounts, audits, annual reports and the like, a truly fascinating story, as they might be if one could see the personalities supported by the funds spent, and the long term results of plans made in committees and small, monotonous or routine services done in the name of and for the sake of Christ.

January, when we would like to be out among the churches and in direct evangelistic work, often requires the finishing up of the accounts of the previous year, audits, budget meetings, and statistical reports, which help to tell our friends and supporters what is being done in terms of figures, and what we are attempting to do. Much of last January was taken up in this way, yet we also unfortunately had to help Lillian Brueckmann pack up, and bid at least a temporary farewell to her for health reasons. Lillian has made such a great contribution to the training of leaders for the women's work, to Christian literature and evangelism that it was sad to have her go to the U.S.A. and she is sorely missed.

It was my privilege to share with others in a most helpful conference at Purulia, headquarters in India of the Mission to Lepers. Plans were implemented, which are still in the process of being brought to fruition, for the improvement of the ministry to the many afflicted with leprosy who live near, or come for treatment, to the Hatigarh Clinic. Miss Ruth Filmer, Australian nurse, was employed from June, and is gradually bringing a new day to the unfortunates whose leprosy has brought ostracism bodily weakness, and crippling. When the co-operation of the new Government doctor is secured, and the physiotherapy and other forms of treatment are organized, an even greater advance can be made in help given to patients. The opening of a new school
for lepers, attended by about 22 children of the colony, also gives promise of a new opportunity. A young man, who himself was rescued from T.B. through treatment and operation at the Madar Union Sanatorium, is serving in this school with great zeal and Christian love.

Mrs Osgood’s Bible classes with the younger married women, and mine with the young men, using Youth Notes, Everyday Life Bible Course, Proverbs, and Essential Bible Doctrines, have been a real satisfaction, though we have not held them as regularly as we would have wished to do.

February brought the first of the Conferences held at our Jaleswar Conference Center, the one for pastoral workers of north Orissa, under the leadership of Rev. Morling of Sydney, Australia, and Mr Subodh Sahu, who is on the staff of Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta. The Lay Training Institute for our three Mission areas, the Pastor’s Wives’ Retreat, the Oriya Young People’s Institute, the Christian Workers’ Refresher Course are some of the groups who benefited from the new facilities we have at Jaleswar, some of which have been completed during the year. These programs evidently mean much in the lives of individuals, as a steady stream of new workers and fresh dedications are traceable to influences flowing out from them.

This month also brought the first of four trips to Serampore, beyond Calcutta, for the annual Convocation, Council Meetings, and the Executive of the College. It was good to see over one hundred students graduating with one kind of degree or another in theology. We were impressed with the progress at Serampore with its 25 affiliated institutions. There has been the opening of quarters for married students, a hostel for girls to which our American Baptist F. M. Societies have largely contributed, and living accommodations for graduate students. A full time librarian has been engaged. Nine students from our American Baptist Mission areas are in residence in theology and five in the
arts and sciences. How much additional endowment and operating income is needed!

The usual special series of meetings in the churches three times a year brought opportunities for meeting old friends and giving instruction in the things of the spirit, and trying to build a more vital co-operation.

Many advances in terms of property matters are in progress. Most significant of all is the completion of the registration of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention’s Executive body of the Christian Service Society as a property holding body.

Next in importance was the progress made on the building of our hospital, thanks to the labors of Louis Kau, who had to take early furlough in June, and to Mr and Mrs William Green, who since July have been supervising this work, and planning and securing some of the needed equipment. A new church building, with permanent roof, at Leda has been completed and a pastor’s house at Nimpura. These and many other property matters have demanded my attention.

In the field of Christian literature the Oriya Christian Book Club has been inaugurated and four very useful volumes for this have been published. Those for the following year have been selected and are being prepared. Some fourteen titles in three languages have been published, and a new book store has been opened in Kharagpur. Much literature work is being done through co-operative effort, but production and distribution is woefully lacking along many lines. Some 175 pages of the Bible Handbook have been completed. Bible revision is going on and a series of graded Sunday School lessons in the vernaculars is in the process of completion. Our Bible Correspondence Courses continue to be used by many non-Christians, as well as Christians.

The Utakal (Oriya) Christian Council was entertained in Balasore this last year, as well as a special session for training Sunday School teachers. Finding enough leaders to carry on
the administrative work in a small Mission-church area, with co-operative relationships to five Christian Councils and many other groups, is difficult, but very significant contributions are being made in these joint endeavors. We rejoice in a larger number of trainees in various grades of theological education than we have had for many years, and more in the higher grade training than ever before.

The effort launched for raising a substantial sum toward the cost of equipment for the hospital has been carried forward with considerable success, though much remains to be raised. The coming of Dr and Mrs Robert Larsen and family in October gave added impetus to this effort. Perhaps one-fourth of the equipment has been purchased and is on hand. We have been blessed with many visitors from abroad, especially during the fall months, and hope they have taken back some of the inspiration they appeared to receive.

The red-tape required, for permits, visas, no-objection-to-return, and income tax clearance for Jane and myself, as she left via Burma for three months in the States, and I for the Judson Sesquicentennial in Rangoon, and the Consultation on World Mission in Hong Kong, was considerable. The joy of being with at least part of our family in Burma was very great. The inspiration of these days, and the look toward the past and the future, convince one more than ever that Christ’s cause goes forward only where dedicated individuals are willing to pay the price of faith and courage, and sacrifice required to meet the many adversaries arrayed against it. In Adoniram Judson’s words: “The future is as bright as the promises of God,” but those promises are to those willing to lose life, whether as churches or individuals, for Christ’s sake and the Gospel’s.

A larger number from non-Christian backgrounds were baptized than in any recent year in our Mission areas, but the number is still pathetically small in relation to the challenge before us. While some time has been given to preaching in
the churches, we recognize that not nearly enough has been found for personal, vital, spiritual contact with individual Christians and non-Christians. Pray for that spirit of concern and zeal for witness among laymen, missionaries, and other Christian workers without which other means of witness too often fail to bring to fruition the seed sown.

**IN THE RED**

That *Tidings* account should be completely in the red at the beginning of 1964 is most discouraging. This Annual Report Number goes to Press with no financial backing. This means that when the bill comes, the editor will have to request that this be paid from Mission funds.

We believe this little magazine gives information useful to pastors, women's societies, and others engaged in Christian work, as well as being of interest to all who believe in extending the kingdom of God beyond American shores.

We would be sorry to discontinue this publication, but with the high costs of printing and publication this will be necessary unless our subscription list is doubled, even with the contemplated increase of price for the four issues to $1.00. Occasionally, someone sends a donation towards the cost of *Tidings*, but we should be covering the costs from subscriptions.

Beginning with this issue, we are asking that one dollar be paid to Mrs J. A. Howard, 1708 No. Grand Ave., Pittsburg, Kansas as your subscription for 1964. It will be easier for you to send two dollars and be sure of receiving news of the work of missionaries and nationals in your Bengal-Orissa and Bihar field in India for two successive years. Do help us to get out of the red by renewing your subscription and obtaining additional subscribers. Thank you.

*Mrs C. C. Roadarmel, Acting Editor*

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OUR PRAYER CORNER

"Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you". 1 Thess. 5:17-18.

Sunday: Give thanks that there is now a missionary doctor on our field. Pray that Dr Bob Larsen and his wife Norma may come to have fluency in Bengali as they give themselves to studying the language.

Monday: That wisdom may be given for the right time to open the new hospital and that this may not be delayed through lack of equipment. For guidance in the choice of staff.

Tuesday: Continued prayer in faith believing that visas will be granted to the Basses and Skillmans.

Wednesday: That Government will grant recognition to our Christian hospital and also allow White Cross supplies to be received, and the equipment held by Customs in Bombay to be released.

Thursday: That the Hostels connected with our Christian Schools may have the needed spiritual leadership to strengthen the lives of Christian students and confront other students with the true meaning of being a Christian, so that they may be drawn to Christ.

Friday: That Louis and Wilma Kau may be guided to know God’s will as to when they should return to India, and that their son Larry may have the help needed to progress to the best of his ability.

Saturday: Thanks for Miss Ruth Filmer, the only C.S.S. missionary in Hatigarh village, and prayer that she may have deep satisfaction in her service at the leprosy colony and in her outreach to villagers in her ministry of healing and evangelism.
NEWS ITEMS

Dr and Mrs Robert R. Larsen announce the arrival of Karolee Kim, a sister for Micaela Jo and Kamala Joy, at the Railway Hospital, Kharagpur, January 15, 1964.

In mid-March the Larsens will go to Darjeeling to attend the Bengali Language School for Missionaries. The course there, which prepares for the first year examination in Bengali, lasts for three months.

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Mrs W. C. Osgood, on 3 months furlough in the U.S.A., expects to leave by plane about March 10th for return to India. We congratulate Jane and Bill on the arrival of Holly Jane Spirup in St Paul, Oregon where the proud grandmother was visiting at the time. This gives Luella a second daughter and she has two sons. She was born on December 30th, 1963, which was the 6th birthday of Cynthia Osgood, Fred’s daughter.

Gilbert Osgood, who is in military service, and who has been studying the Serbo-Croatian language, received the highest grades of anyone in the 46 classes who have graduated. He also stood first in all the languages of the graduating class this year. Gilbert is now located at Fort Meade, Maryland where he will be stationed until June. He then expects to be sent to Germany.

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Louis Kau writes that they have not been able to reach a decision as to returning to India. Their son Larry is making good progress in a class of 25 children in a school in Quincy, Illinois (where Wilma’s mother lives), in which he receives special attention. Louis hopes some arrangement can be made for Larry in India so that both he and Wilma can return.

Gordon Roadarmel plans to return to the U.S.A. by a Pacific flight about July 1st, following the completion of nearly two years in India on a Fulbright scholarship. He will have some time
with his parents in Darjeeling prior to departure. En route he will visit his older brother, Norman, and his family at Prae, Thailand.

Dr and Mrs L. C. Kitchen, who served in our Mission from 1921 to 1934, will be reporting on their services at Jhargram and at various conferences in the next issue of Tidings. Dr Kitchen's ability to speak readily in the Bengali language after these years of absence from India has greatly impressed those who have heard him.

In early January they went south to the Canadian Baptist Mission where they have had opportunities for service. He is to be the special speaker at our Missionary Fellowship, March 6th to 8th at Midnapore. They plan to go to South India again and then on April 17th will leave from Ceylon going via Europe en route to Canada.

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Visitors from the U.S.A. have been listed in the report given by C. C. Roadarmel in this issue of Tidings and others have also told of their coming. This first hand contact with the work of our area we consider most valuable both for those who come from abroad and for us on field. Missionaries and nationals appreciated their vital interest in all that is going on. Their pictures and reports when presented in the U.S.A., should mean a greater vision of the opportunities and needs by Baptists, and a consequent response in prayer and financial support that should strengthen the work.

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Mr Thomas Walters, who visited India four years ago, returned in January, 1964 and visited the Roadarmels in Midnapore for a second time. He is a former High School teacher from W. Newton, Mass. His keen interest in people and love for children is so evident that he received a warm welcome wherever he went.