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Annual Report Number

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**DIRECTORY OF THE
BENGAL-ORISSA MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP**

of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies
In Co-operation with the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention

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GLIMPSES OF MY LIFE BEFORE FURLOUGH

By A. MAUREEN BRIANS

Going through this year, doing many things for the last time before furlough, has been hard for a sentimentalist like me who, in the days before garbage disposals (in the States) and crows (in India), used to cry if the garbage man changed his route. But the activities of the year have kept me busy to the point that when there is time to think about the farewells, I am too tired to do so.

In January finally I moved to Jhargram and was the royally-treated guest of my neighbors and fellow-missionaries, the Kaus, until such time as I was able to camp in my house. Work here went on into June and is now finished except for repairing repairs. I have learned a lot these months—mostly about what I do not know. I am convinced that crash training programs in masonry, electrical repairs, auto mechanics, wood-working, refrigerator repair (both kerosene and electric) and other such vital subjects should be a part of the preparation of every missionary. I've resented so much time having to be spent on making living quarters livable, but there has been no alternative, so I've tried to make use of the time here in Jhargram, as well as that time which was spent out in the villages.

It is impossible for me to "save the best for the last" and the "best" for me is being in the villages. In March we were in Laodoha for the annual Belda Area Women's Conference. That Conference was a joy to all of us as the attendance was more than double that of any previous year, and the attention the women gave was much better than before. Getting in and out of the village required the skill of a pilot landing on an aircraft carrier.

I preferred the job of "guide" and so walked much of the road, directing the driver to turn the wheels ever so slightly now and then so the jeep would not fall into the deep cart tracks. But the joy of the Conference far outweighed the traveling difficulties encountered.

A few days after the Belda Women's Conference we were off again; this time to our Dompara area for the Santal Women's Conference held this year in Behera. More than 100 were in attendance. I cannot help but wonder how well-attended our conferences would be in the States if delegates had to come under such difficulties, i.e. walking miles, including crossing over hills, carrying babies, clothing, rice, Bibles, and song books.

After the Dompara Conference ended, we spent another week in the area, visiting places I had never been before. I hoped to visit all the churches (Santal speaking) before leaving on furlough, but there are a few places that I won't be able to visit, as time is running out. We were in real mountain country on this tour. Sleeping outside on an open veranda at night made us wonder if any elephants might come around. I always seem to be too sleepy at night to worry about wild animals, but my cook-helper who was with me assures me that she doesn't feel led to return to that area. It was good to have fellowship with Christians of the Machbandar church; an isolated spot, and how thrilling it was one night when weather permitted the showing of slides and the preaching of the Gospel. The mountains seemed alive with flaming torches and lanterns as people swarmed out of the darkness to gather on this cold night to listen. How we need to make a concentrated, sustained effort in this and many other areas!

There was a week in April required for helping with auditing of fellow-missionaries' accounts. Then it seemed I should change my address to 'South Eastern Railway' as I lived on the train three days between Calcutta and Balasore, making several trips

back and forth getting proper parts of pumps so that preparations could get underway for installing running water (by means of hand pump, pipe and tank) in my house. The house is so small there just isn't space for buckets of water to be sitting around the house. A few days later in the month, in another village for the Half-Yearly meeting, made me glad (once again) that I am learning Santali. (I wonder if I'll ever be able to speak of language learning in the past tense?) Most of the sessions were in Santali so I could know something of what was going on. Our Annual Meetings are in Bengali and Oriya so I merely endure those while fellow-missionaries comprehend.

Part of May and June was spent at the ocean in Gopalpur, Orissa with Indian friends from Bhimpur. I am sure none of us will forget those days together. In the rest of June there are notations in my datebook regarding cement, lime, and pipe so I am reminded that the water system work was finished then, as well as some construction work.

Having no jeep most of July (a new one arrived for use, but the registration took weeks to complete) kept me closer to home. I did go to Calcutta twice to help a Santal boy get registered in college. In August we made two village tours. It was the rainy season, but I wanted to see what is being done in villages at that time of the year. In the line of what can be done in villages in the rains, there was one person floundering in a paddy field, but I didn't see anyone else but me! Even when one is bare-footed, the mud is as slippery as ice, if it is not as sticky as fly-paper! We did manage to locate some Christian families and bring encouragement to them. We visited and participated in church services, and came to the aid of an isolated Christian family. The widowed mother of the family had been proclaimed a "witch" by non-Christian neighbors, which means they think she caused the death of two villagers who died of cholera. This case is not yet finished and will probably require at least one more visit to Government authorities.

September was largely filled with preparation for final audit, preparing devotional material for the Annual Women's Conference, and with working to get Government permission to stay in the country and to return. October was more of the same, plus some day trips to villages and several days at our Annual Women's Conference (this is our big one, which includes women from our whole Mission area), held this year in Bhimpur. We were all glad that the cease-fire between Pakistan and India made it possible for us to carry out our program. Other days were busy with more trips to the police regarding extension of stay permit (previous permit expired in Sept. 1964) and to get a "no objection to return" permit. Also twice I had to go to Calcutta regarding the latter permit, as well as to get visas for stops *en route* home on furlough, and to be sure the freight was safely deposited.

In addition to work already described, I was a member of the Bhimpur Girls' Hostel Committee part of year, a member of the Managing Committee of the Bhimpur Girls' Jr. High School, the Christian Literature Committee, the Pastors' Wives' Conference Planning Committee, Youth Conference Planning Committee, Women's Conference Planning Committee and the Reference Committee of the Missionary Fellowship. I prepared devotional material for the Annual Women's Conference and for the Belda and Dompara women's conferences and spoke at the latter two conferences. We were glad to see the Jhargram church women's group begin meeting monthly this year too.

Since my house is near a rail line, and in a central location for the area, many guests came to me this year. I was glad that guests included Hindus as well as Christians, Bengalis, and Santalis. I am especially grateful for the newly open doors for friendship with Hindus of the community. Certainly we cannot be communicators of God's love from afar off. Visits to several schoolis and colleges in the areas, contacts through business acquaintances and friends have begun new friendships here in

Jhargram. Having studied only Santali thus far, my Bengali is extremely limited, although I can understand much more than I can speak. Most of my acquaintances have a good command of English and with the help of friends I can manage with those who do not know English.

As I write, the latest report is that the freighter taking me to the States for furlough will sail from Calcutta between the 8th and the 12th of November. As I see the eagerness of village people to hear the Gospel, to learn to read their Bibles and song books, and when I heard of hundreds, even thousands who gathered in one area to hear the Gospel daily for about two weeks, and in spite of their pleas, no followup or return visit has been made, I am aware of how we have hardly begun to take advantage even of the opportunities to tell of God's love where people are waiting to hear—not to mention the teeming millions who are unaware that there is an abundant life available in Christ. So I eagerly anticipate my return from furlough to join again in the task and privilege which is ours here.

October, 1965

A BACKWARD AND FORWARD LOOK FROM BHIMPORE

By REV. B. E. WEIDMAN

The story is told that one old farmer was laughing over his broken wagon when another farmer coming along said to him "Jeb, thats a pretty bad break with harvest on you, why are ye laffin"? To which Jeb replied "I'm a laffin at maself cuz I'm so stubborn the Lord had to break my wagon to show we that I'm overloadin the hosses."

As far as this Mission is concerned maybe that is what the Lord is trying to teach us. In 1964 it was only a broken wagon given hasty repairs so as to get on with the work somehow. This year,

i.e., 1965, we have been faced with the same wagon (the Christian Service Society) one lame horse still thinking secretly of carrying his normal load again, another equally overworked horse soon to be put out to pasture, one young maverick limited only by blinders, another one champing at the bit but looking at the barn, and two other horses who haven't got enough sense to come out of the rain when it comes to taking on more than they can do and do well. No doubt all of the horses are thinking—"Will help come in time, will part of the load be left for the next trip or must the wagon break down completely and we go back to pack saddle?"

With this crude attempt at humor to tickle the Field Representative, stimulate the Candidate Secretary of the A.B. F.M.S. and encourage the horses, may we turn to the no-nonsense "report".

Bhimpore Santal High School

The term High School may be misunderstood in the U.S.A., for here it means from class five through class ten, thus covering from the 7th grade on through High School. The question which faces us increasingly in our School is—"How far is it possible to finance and administer a Government-aided high school in such a way that it provides good 'secular' education for all, imparts Christian teaching to those who will accept it, and prepares Christian young people intellectually and spiritually to enter church-related vocations?"

In a predominantly Hindu country, in spite of minority groups, there can of course be no such thing as "secular" education. If the churches through our Christian Service Society withdraw finances, administration, and influence from the high schools in this area, how long would it be before education for Christians becomes a luxury, available only to those willing to compromise, or to the brightest who can demand and get an opportunity to study in schools run largely by members of the Hindu community?

If the church is to continue to be strong and to keep a real place of relevant influence in Indian life, it's young people must continue to enjoy unhampered educational opportunity in good schools of Christian character.

The great advantage of Christian schools is that they are organized, administered and financed on the basis of Christian assumptions. These assumptions are caught by a majority of the total student body, even if they will not admit it, and there is always the possibility that young people may later learn that one cannot live life on the basis of Christian assumptions unless he has Christ in his life. For these reasons and others we are carrying on to the best of our ability at the Bhimpore Boys' High School in spite of difficulties.

The enrolment at the end of the year was 274 and the average passing in all classes was about 60 per cent. This is somewhat lower than for the previous year, as we are gradually raising the standards. Ten out of 20 in class ten were approved for the State Government School Final Examination. We hope that at least half of them will pass. Since the School Final Exam record for passing from this School was above 50 per cent in 1953 and a bit above 65 per cent in 1964, we are confident that if the boys do well this year in the March Examination, we would have a three year percentage of passes well above the 50 per cent required by the Board of Secondary Education of W. Bengal to partially qualify the School to be raised to a Higher Secondary Multi-purpose School. In order to achieve a better record we have had to give transfer certificates to those students who are unhappy with higher standards and want to study in schools where promotions are given more readily. This has brought our enrolment down some, but not appreciably so.

By some way or other, virtually all of the Hindu sponsored and administered schools in this area have been raised to Higher Secondary Schools, so some of the better students, particularly in science, transfer to other schools to study in the pre-university

curriculum. We still have no secondary school closer to us than five miles, but one Jr. High School is being started 5 miles to the south of Bhimpore and draws some of the students from the primary schools in that area, who used to come to our High School. Since this was the pioneer School in this area for many years, there has been a great desire on the part of many Hindu people to get control of the School. Now that other schools are being organized, the more conservative people have taken their children out of our School and are much happier that they can study in Hindu schools.

In a School such as ours, administered by the minority Christian community, the pressure is constantly on us to let down the barriers and allow the School to slowly become more and more Hindu in character, but at the same time to let the Christian Service Society and the Mission keep up the regular salary payments, care for the property, and meet any deficits which may come. It is not enough to have a qualified staff; they must be loyal, hard-working, and honest.

To qualify for raising the School to a Higher Secondary School we must also have at least one, or better two, Honors graduates, M.A.'s, or M.Sc.'s, in each of the areas of study selected. For our School this is in Humanities and Agriculture, although a B.Sc. could teach agriculture. At present we have one M.A., the headmaster, two Honors graduates in Bengali and one in Sanskrit. In 1967 we shall no doubt qualify as to record and enrolment, but we need a Christian honors graduate in Economics and one B.Sc. in Agriculture. We know of two Christian boys preparing for the post or posts in Economics, and a former student of this School is in his first year at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute.

Recently, the headmaster, D. C. Murmu, and I had an extensive talk with the Deputy Chief Inspector of Secondary Education, W. Bengal, together with the Assistant Director of Public Instruction in his office in Calcutta. Both men assured us that due to the limited funds our school could not be ungraded in

1966, but that in 1967, with the beginning of the next Four Year Plan of Government, our School would be considered if we could keep the enrolment in class eight high, employ one or more Honors graduates, and keep our record of passes at or above, 50 per cent.

At present there are six Christian teachers, one Christian headmaster and four non-Christian teachers on our staff. However, two of these Christian teachers will soon reach the age of compulsory retirement. They are being approved a year at a time now, but this cannot go on beyond two years more. The present high school clerk is also past retirement age. We have secured a fine Christian young man who is willing to give up a good job with the Railway to serve as clerk. He is a leader among the young people here in the church and he has land in his name to keep him from getting the wander-lust so characteristic of youth in the villages.

Boys' High School Hostel

Although we have a fine young man, with a B.D. degree, who is serving at present as Superintendent of the Hostel, and I am not directly responsible, I continue to oversee the program in general. In 1965 there were 47 boys in the Hostel. Of this number 41 were approved for and took the School Final Examination and 24 passed. This gives the Hostel an average pass record of 56 per cent as compared with the School record of 60 per cent. There is an organized study program carried on in the Hostel for two and a half hours every night. The Hostel Superintendent and one other Christian teacher have been doing the tutoring. More should be done, but it is hard to get teachers to serve as tutors evenings after teaching all day, even when given a remuneration.

The regular worship program in the Hostel both night and morning has been conducted in a fine manner. All of the boys are expected to attend the morning worship services of the church

each Sunday, as well as the Sunday school session in the afternoon. Attendance at the Hostel Christian Endeavour meeting in the evening is optional, but nearly all the boys participate.

There were sons of four pastors in the Hostel in 1965 and they helped out a great deal in the spiritual life and program and gained valuable experience in so doing. We have always hoped that we could have a gospel team going out from the Hostel each week, but the study and work programs are so heavy that it is difficult to find adequate time for a consistent program of this kind. We do go out as individuals, and we still hope that a program of regular witnessing can be set up.

Gardening: This year we have tried hard to carry out a program of gardening with the hostel boys on a purely voluntary basis, without paying for work done. But we have discovered that without a gardener, such as the one employed by the Girls' Hostel, who can oversee the total work in a consistent manner, our chances of having a profitable garden are slim indeed. Since we have no cattle here (i.e., of our own) we have difficulty in providing the needed fertilizer. The well water is 20 or 25 feet down. We have put up two, tall well sweeps to facilitate the lifting of the water in large enough quantities to do some good. After the boys have pulled a few four gallon tins of water with a rope by hand, the hostel garden program seems a very hard way to them to get vegetables. We are really trying to beat some of the problems connected with obtaining the right kind of food with the land and the help we have.

When Bill Jarvis, Treasurer of the A.B.F.M.S., was here for a property survey, he saw much unused land in Bhipore. He suggested that we make use of this land to either save or make money, so that the Christian Service Society and the Foreign Boards would not need to provide so much. I heartily agree with his suggestion, for it is what I have been advocating for about seven years. There is, however, the little problem of adequate fencing to keep everything out that eats up what one plants, and

everyone who steals what the cows, goats, chickens, jackals, crows, rats, chipmunks, and white ants do not get.

There is another small problem of adequate water supply put on or above the level of the surface soil at reasonable rates per gallon. With the price of goat meat more than double what it was when I came to India in '56, we need to deepen, widen, and lengthen the High School fish pond, so that what fish we do put in it will not be stolen before they celebrate their first birthday.

This past year we have completed a successful test on pit silage, using hybrid cornstalks. This was on a small scale, but if cattle food can be raised during the rainy season, and stored through the dry season in large enough quantities to support at least six cows, then the milk problem and the fertilizer problem for the School and Hostel may be solved. This year we have ordered twenty tons of night soil from Midnapore town, 22 miles away, and thus far have brought one ton. This is very cheap fertilizer at Rs 3.00 per ton. We plan to use this night soil to raise corn for more silage, dhancha (green legume cover crop) for compost, and dal (an edible lentil). The dal can be planted on ground used for dhancha just after the rains are over, but while the nitrogen from the dhancha roots may be utilized.

We have done some reforestation on a very minor scale and after getting the promise of the District Forest Officer that the trees we plant will not be taken over by Government again, if we plant all kinds of trees (i.e. mango, guava, etc.) together, and call it a tree garden and not a forest, we may go ahead and plant more trees this rainy season.

In late February of 1966 we plan to begin a poultry project on a very small scale, perhaps 50 to 100 birds. We have purchased a Rhode Island red cock from the Midnapore Poultry Farm to check on his immunity to village diseases. For a week or so we thought he was out cold, but he rallied and is doing fine now. We have hatched out a small number of Poultry Farm eggs to see how their chicks stand up to village sickness. There is wide

scope for poultry and egg raising as a village industry here, for, it is a job that the mother and children in the family can take on and there is a ready market for eggs just 20 miles from here.

This year, for the first time, we petitioned for and received permission to bid on 25 acres of "fair price shop" timber for firewood. We completed the bid on the basis of at least 50 adlas (about half a cord) of firewood. To date we have brought to the compound 64 adlas, and have nearly 250 more adlas to bring from the forest, 3 miles distant. We will use the best of this for the hostels and the school lunch programs, as well as for our own needs, and sell the remainder to the public at prices fixed by the District Forest Officer.

Each year we buy enough dhan (unhusked rice) to store and make into chaul (husked rice) as it is needed by the hostels. It is in ways like this that we can keep our hostel costs the lowest of any school that we know of in this whole area—Rs 18.00 per month for the Girls' Hostel and Rs 22.00 per month per student for the Boys' Hostel. However, this past year for the first time we have had to get Government permission to purchase and store this rice. The present District Magistrate is a Christian and has been very friendly and helpful in giving us this permission. The Government has set the rate of rice for three different grades at Rs 14.00, 15.00 and 16.00 per maund (82 lb.). Even in spite of a group outside trying to convince people not to sell to the Mission, we have gotten the permit extended to 31st January 1966 and we are now taking in rice at a rate which we hope will insure that we have enough in stock to meet the needs of both hostels and the lunch programs of both schools, as well as the needs of staff members, who are without land of their own. Always the Christian Service Society has been very generous in granting us advances from the reserve fund to purchase this rice and then pay it back during the year as the rice is charged out to the hostel accounts. Gradually we have charged this rice out at a rate a bit above what it cost us so that at least by 1968 we will have a

fund built up so we won't need to take any more advances for purchase of dhan.

For the last 6 months of 1965 we have had kerosene rationing in Midnapore District of W. Bengal. We have managed to get enough to carry on the hostel study programs and provide some for the teachers who must correct papers at night. With much more difficulty we have managed to get some (but not enough) for our own personal needs.

Girls' Junior High School

Perhaps the greatest joy of working in Bhimpore is that of working with really dedicated Christians. Miss Suhar Bansria, Headmistress of the Junior High School, and Mrs Koruna Tudu, Superintendent of the Girls' Hostel, are two such. Of course I can say the same for some of the men also, but we men tend to get swell headed if too much is said of us, while women more or less take it in stride. Suhar has carried out a very fine program in the School. The enrolment has stayed between 78 and 80 and the pass record for the whole school in all classes was 70 per cent. We want to increase the enrolment. We had taken slides of all the activities of the School and had a plan to show them in key villages and to put on a short program, show hand work etc., to encourage more girls to come to this School, but due to the necessity of using the jeep to bring kerosene a long distance and to bring in the firewood from 25 acres of forest we were unable to get transportation to these villages, some of which are quite far from here. We can always look forward to 1966 which cannot possibly be as busy as 1965! (I say this every year).

We were all shocked by the sudden death of Miss Dhira Sinha in August of 1965. She had come to be the Secretary of the School and to do Bible Women's work as well. She was just beginning to take hold of the job and to make a real contribution, particularly in dealing with W. Bengal educational leaders, when she was taken from her family and from us. She went to hospital

for a tumor operation, but apparently the operation was too much of a shock for her system for she died soon after it was completed. Her loss is felt very much, but I am sure that with all the experience Suhar Bansria has gained she can carry on the responsibilities of Secretary.

Mrs. Koruna Tudu is doing a splendid job as Superintendent of the Girls' Hostel. She has excellent discipline, fine program of Christian teaching both morning and evening, an excellent work program both in the Hostel itself and in the garden. She is able to balance the budget and feed the girls well, even though as compared to the Boys' Hostel the Girls' Hostel is operating on a shoe string. The girls seem to be hard working and are kept busy and out of trouble. I am sad to say that they can all work rings around the boys with one hand tied behind.

Bhimpore Basic School

All is in readiness for the Bhimpore Primary School to become a Basic School, i.e., on a deficit grant basis for maintenance only. The staff is qualified. We have received permission from the District School Board in Midnapore for the School to be directly under the Director of Public Instruction of W. Bengal and managed by a committee chosen by the Christian Service Society. We have the assurance of the Chief Inspector of Basic Education for W. Bengal that he has recommended our case to his Board and it is being considered and we will know the results by the end of Feb. 1966. This man is a former class friend of the present headmaster and he also served as District Inspector of Schools in Midnapore, so he is known to us and is familiar with the Bhimpore situation. Our only problem is that if permission is given we have to advance the first 6 months' of operating costs. Then the Government will give a grant to cover that 6 months which can then be used to pay the next six months' costs. The problem is "Where does the first Rs 4,800.00 come from?" The 1966 budget was so impossible that this amount of money could

not even be considered. If this Basic School can become a reality, it will mean that about 500 boys and girls will be attending schools from the first class through the tenth, and we hope later the 11th, under the auspices of the Christian Service Society. In God's time and in His way, there is bound to be fruit if we are humble and faithful.

Bhimpore Baptist Church

The Annual Women's Conference and the Annual Convention of the Churches were both held in Bhimpore in 1965. A very fine spirit of co-operation was shown by all and both conferences were well managed and there was no deficit to deal with afterwards. Money and food collected before each conference to help meet the expenses not covered by the fees charged made this possible.

Evangelistically the church needs awakening. The Evangelistic Committee still is alive and we hope more may be accomplished in the year ahead. Some of us worked for, and finally achieved, a statement of the budget rather late in 1965. We are hoping for a similar statement of the 1966 budget with a printed copy for all to inspect. You may say this is fundamental in the U.S.A., but it is not so easy to come by in a village in India. We believe this a good step forward. We also want to introduce the idea of a Nominating Committee to prepare a list for officers before the actual day of the Annual Meeting of the Church. We have achieved this in the Annual Youth Conference and now must accomplish it in the Church. Our Bhimpore Church has a real future if the people who have the qualities of leadership are given an opportunity to lead.

Annual Youth Conference

It was again my great pleasure to have some part in a very fine Annual Youth Conference. This was held on the grounds of the Golmuri Baptist Church in Jamshedpur, a great industrial

city. It was attended by 108 delegates from 13 churches. We have heard some fine reports of Christian growth on the part of some who attended. We have felt for some time that there is too great a disparity in the ages of those who attend. Also it is hard to imagine a conference which can be so organized as to meet the needs of college students and illiterates at the same time. For this reason, during the Christmas vacation, we called a meeting of some forty Bhimpore young people, who are either in college or working outside of Bhimpore. We agreed to plan a college and working-age young people's conference on a trial basis. For the first time it will be held in Bhimpore for the young people of this village. We will then know whether the young people can themselves finance such a conference, as well as plan and carry it through. If this is successful, then we will bring a proposal to the Christian Service Society to try to organize a larger conference for this age group.

No annual report would be complete without saying something of the fine work or suffering of my help-mate. She has been, and is a "mother" to the orphan girls and boys, now only four, left with us. She gave of herself unstintingly in helping a teacher, also an orphan, who had gone from our area to another Mission to regain her emotional and mental stability. Treatments were arranged and the money found to meet the expenses. When able to work again, it was Pat who helped her to find one teaching position, and then more recently to get a better one. She is busy helping Mrs. Probha Tudu, our nurse, in doing fine work in the Dispensary we have in Bhimpore. She tells me that there will be Rs 1,000 to return to the Christian Service Society from dispensary and nursing services. Business in new babies has been good also. Recently Pat was out until 2 a.m., helping at the delivery of a fine baby daughter for Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Murmu.

The greatest contribution any wife makes, I suppose, is to listen to the husband, even when what he has to say is not very interesting. Pat is a good listener and even puts me in my place now

and then when I tend to become critical of others with whom we work. We are all fine at the time of this writing. The children, at least David and Terry, are doing fine in Woodstock School in the Himalayas. Timmy, just turned 4 years, is happy at home.

We really had a grand Christmas in Bhimpore. The best part of it was in having both the Roadarmels and the Osgoods with us, as well as Mrs. Medley. We say again that the best part of work on the Mission Field is the quality of the Christian friends that the Lord provides for us.

The value of any report is the perspective that it gives to the writer and to the reader as well. We trust that this report serves this purpose for those who will struggle through it. We are looking forward with keen anticipation to the help of Dr Farnum and others at Valley Forge in helping us evaluate the total program here and in helping us gain more perspective by which God can help us to do a better job for Him and His Church.

1965

THE NEW YEAR

By ROBERT R. LARSEN, M.D.

There are a lot of ways I could describe the year 1965. It was a year with many discouragements, frustrations and problems. In retrospect these were essentially insignificant, and I'm sure they would not make very interesting reading, but I do mention it so that you will be aware that here, too, problems do occur. At the same time this was a joyful year. I couldn't begin to relate the experiences that have made it such, but the greatest joy of the year for us lies in the fact that we are finally doing the work we have been trained for—the work which has been our goal for 20 years. This one joy has been more than enough to

outweigh all frustrations. Probably the most appropriate adjective to describe 1965 is the word "new"; for the rest of our lives we will look to this year as the year of "newness".

January. Although we saw a few patients in our clinic we really spent this month in preparation for the opening of this new hospital. On January 24th, after a brief ceremony, hundreds of fingers were run over the new (actually a "used" gift from California) blankets on the rows of sparkling white beds. It was a *new* hospital in every sense of the word, including its efficiency in design.

February. This was the month in which our new staff began to learn to work together. We had to learn it quickly because the numbers of new out-patients rapidly grew. Soon we were seeing patients into the early evening, using hurricane lamps. These days were taxing on our small staff and it took its toll, for now, of the 11 original staff, we have only 3 still working with us. We did our first major operation that month, and in the months to follow did about 70 more. We did our first delivery and have averaged one delivery every $2\frac{1}{2}$ days since then.

March. We then added to our staff a new nurse and a new lady doctor. Dr. Sulata Garnaik comes from a Christian family in Orissa that has several members active in Christian service. She brought welcome relief to us and made it possible for us to do more surgery, as well as to see more patients in the out-patient clinic. Her training has been good, and her ability to use that training is excellent, but her outstanding quality is her ability to get along well with everyone. She soon became the favorite "didi" (big sister) to all of the staff.

April. We had to say goodbye to the young laboratory technician who had been temporarily loaned to us, but our new laboratory technician came to begin work, and it took only a few days for us to realize how fortunate we were in the new boy.

Sonjib is a Santal Christian from the village of Bhimpore whom we had sent away for a short period of training. He has become a real leader among the staff. We were soon doing as many as 50 laboratory examinations daily, thanks to his speed and efficiency. Other staff members are equally capable and devoted, but there simply isn't space to write of each of them.

May. Experiencing the "heat of the plains of India" was something really new to us. I used to think it got pretty hot in the summer in South Dakota and Nebraska, but that would have been welcome refreshment here. Most of the days we didn't mind it too much, for the out-patient clinic was so busy we didn't have time to think about it, but we were constantly bothered by it in the operating room. There the temperature would frequently be over 120° before we began working under the large hot lamp. Even though one nurse did little else but wipe the perspiration from our faces, we still always had a little puddle of perspiration on the drapes over the patient which had dripped from our chins. After each operation there would be a fresh outbreak of prickly heat on our bodies and I'm sure we all lost at least 1-2 pounds with each operation.

June. By this time our 16 in-patient beds were nearly filled. Out-patient clinic hadn't changed any, but people were beginning to get used to the idea of going to a hospital to live, not just to die. We saw cases which were new to us in many ways. Many cases we had read about, but had never seen. Besides this there were many new cases that we hadn't even read about before. There is an excitement in seeing these that one does not experience in a medical practice in America. Sometimes only among old, outdated textbooks can we find anything written about some of the illnesses we see.

July. Regardless of what one's work is in India, July is a month of newness. This is the month when monsoon rains are heaviest. The cracked, parched, brown earth suddenly

becomes green and everybody's interest lies in planting the new rice crop. This is the month which can bring promise of feeding India for another year, or, as it happened this year, can be the month which will spell doom and starvation for hundreds of thousands of people. We are fortunate that in our particular locale the rains were good, but in large parts of the country people watched the new green shoots gradually wither and die before they had a chance to bear fruit.

August. This month saw new projects for Norma. Several months before she had started a Sunday School in Bengali for the children on the compound. She soon discovered that most of her kiddies understood only the Santali language, but with the aid of pictures and color crayons they understood her in spite of the language. In August she helped begin a new women's group which meets weekly for a short Bible study and then spends a couple hours sewing blouses and baby dresses (by hand), or linen for the hospital, while they sing their rhythmical Santali songs.

Also, this was the month in which we got our x-ray unit functioning, and Norma became the hospital x-ray technician. This means that one or two times each day she will be interrupted from her teaching of Miki Jo, our oldest daughter, who began her schooling in that month, or from her many responsibilities in making a home for three active little girls and a tired husband, to come over to the hospital to take and develop an x-ray. These things plus the frequent filling-in in the pharmacy or office of the hospital, as well as home correspondence, gave her about three full-time jobs.

September was a month of renewal for our family. We hadn't realized how tired we were. The load of patients and the heat had taken more out of us than we realized. Our first few days vacation in Assam were spent in just sleeping and relaxing—something we had neglected too long. We had a chance, in the

lovely hill resort and state capital, Shillong, to read many new books, and we also gave a sincere try at the game of golf, which was indeed something new for us. We also had a great time with the Larry Nortons and their three little girls about the same ages as ours. Dr. Norton is also a first-term missionary and is on the staff of our Mission Hospital at Gauhati.

October. This was a month for new varieties of recreation among the hospital staff. We returned from vacation to find that the hospital staff had formed a soccer team which entered into a regional tournament. We lost out in the semi-finals, but the games put a new life into the staff, and soon our late afternoons were being spent playing volleyball, badminton, and other games. All of our staff are under the age of 30 and we suddenly discovered that there had been too much work and not enough play. These sports helped to increase our feeling of "familyness" and helped us all to forget some of the problems and growing pains of working in a new hospital.

November brought new unpleasantness. Following the short war with our neighbor, Pakistan, India suddenly felt a new crisis in her economy, and many new restrictions were made. Medicines formerly imported were no longer available. Certain products like kerosene (which is vital where there is no electricity) became very difficult to obtain. Then, because of the monsoon failure coupled with the growing population, food items became scarce or very expensive. All staples like sugar, rice, flour, wheat, cooking oils, etc., became rationed. Salaries, which before had been adequate, were no longer sufficient to feed a family and raises had to be made from funds which didn't exist.

December. More staff was added, including a third doctor. This time we took on a young Hindu doctor who has come for only one year, primarily to learn while he works with us. He is certainly more than welcome, for now that the rice harvest is over, the out-patient clinic is booming more than ever. It is no

longer unusual for 250 people to come each day. We have passed the total of 20,000 out-patients seen in the year, and we are now glad that we expanded our in-patient bed capacity to 25 beds by enclosing a veranda. We have now treated over 350 in-patients since that opening day in January.

There will be many new things in 1966 to be sure. For example, we are looking forward to electricity, which has been promised to us within a month or two. Yet, the old year, 1965 will probably be the "new" year in the minds of our staff for a long time to come. We are no longer a "new" hospital, but we are still a young hospital and with youth there is a refreshing spirit which we hope will stay with our staff as we continue to mature.

WHAT WOMEN HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN ONE YEAR

By SATYABOTI BEHERA

Annual Women's Conference

For forty-four years we have been conducting an Annual Conference for Women of the Baptist churches in Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar States. This year (1965) we feared it would not be possible to hold the Conference, although all plans had been made, because of the open conflict between India and Pakistan. But we went forward in faith and the cease fire was declared. We thank God for this.

Our Conference is fully self-supporting, receiving no financial help from the Christian Service Society towards the expenses. Women paid their own expenses. And the women of the Bhimpore Church contributed besides money, such things as leaves to be used for plates, rice, chickens and vegetables. Despite the high

cost of living these days both urban and village churches contributed to the Love Gift.

The total contribution of all the women's societies brought at this Conference came to Rupees 1679.12 or approximately a little more than \$ 350/00. Part of the money was given to the Central Fund of our Christian Service Society, and the remainder after expenses were met, went to the support of the nurse at the Panchkahania Medical-Evangelistic Centre. Each year the women of the churches aim to support fully one nurse. There is always competition among the women's societies to see which one will contribute the most towards the Love Gift.

More than 150 women attended the Conference held at the Bhimpore Baptist Church, October 2nd to 5th. One woman from the British Baptist Mission, and some from our own Convention attended for the first time and discovered what great joy there is in such a fellowship. The guest speaker was Miss Iris Schlitz of the American Mennonite Mission. The theme of the Conference was taken from 1 Chronicles 29:11 "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all." Miss Schlitz emphasized our need of a personal faith in God. When we realize that He is our God, we will want to do His will, and give ourselves to Him.

Hatigarh area Meeting

This was the 28th meeting of the 9 churches of the Hatigarh area and was held at the Amdiha Church. This conference, too, is fully self-supporting. Through two special programs money was raised for evangelistic work, and for the Love Gift.

Dampara and Belda area

The women of these two areas are largely Santals and Koras, tribal people. There are some who are illiterate, and this is not

forgotten in planning the meetings. Hymns and choruses and Bible verses are memorized, and instruction is given to increase general knowledge of the Bible. The women of the Belda area were so enthusiastic that the Chitrapathor Church invited the Women's Conference to meet there in 1966. They have already begun collecting dhan (unhusked rice) for the meeting next fall.

A New Area Conference

Besides the three Regional Women's Conferences a fourth is to be started. Ujurda Church has extended an invitation for the women of the Balasore area to meet with them.

New Churches

The women workers have helped to establish two new churches—one at Panchkahania, and one at the Leper Colony at Hatigarh. At the former the men and women helped, along with the pastor's family, in the construction of a church building. Six men and six women accepted Christ as their Saviour and were baptized in His name.

The Balasore Church Union Half Yearly Meeting was held at Panchkahania. Shortly before the meeting, everything was stolen from the house of the dispensary nurse. When this nurse gave her testimony at the meeting, she said that she kept her money in a suitcase, but her tithe money she wrapped separately in paper. She was surprised to see that the Lord's money was not taken, and thanked God for this. Do pray for this Medical-Evangelistic Center.

The Women's Society of the Leper Colony sent their Love Gift also to our Annual Conference. Through the efforts of Miss Ruth Filmer, our Australian nurse, appointed by the Christian Service Society, there is not only a Women's Society, but also a Sunday School, Sunday service, and a Night School being conducted regularly at the Leper Colony. There are some

inquirers in the Colony, so we trust that they may become openly followers of Christ.

Medical-Evangelistic Centers

Evangelistic work, treatment of patients, and health instruction are being carried on very well at the Bhimpore and Ujurda dispensaries. The number of patients is increasing, so that the nurses have much work to do.

We are thankful to God for our Nekursini Christian Hospital. Many non-Christian men, women, and children, as well as Christians, are receiving treatment for their bodies and also spiritual treatment. Our lady doctor, Miss Sulata Garnaik, had her training at a Government Hospital. She is serving our Hospital gladly and generously at a small salary. We are so thankful for her. Miss Prabati Singh, nurse on the staff, is from the Belda area. She received a scholarship from the C.S.S. to assist her in taking her training at Vellore. We are glad for this graduate nurse.

Evangelistic Work

Our women Christian workers of the C.S.S. have given the message of Jesus Christ in many non-Christian villages, schools, and bazars. They have sold Christian literature to church members, at conferences, in bazars, and in non-Christian villages and schools. Approximately Rs 800.00 has been realized from these sales. (A rupee is approx. 20c). There is a real eagerness on the part of non-Christians to learn of Christ and to buy Christian literature.

Some of the churches have conducted vacation Bible Schools and observed the Christian Home Festival. Our aim is to have all of our churches observe this festival which is meant to strengthen the Christian home.

Our Regional Sunday School Teachers' Training Conference was also held. Rev. J. K. Mohanty of Cuttack was the guest

speaker. He had many helpful suggestions for improving the quality of our Sunday School teaching.

In Memoriam

In August we lost *Miss Dhira Sinha*, Secretary of the Bhimpore Girls' School, and evangelistic worker, through death, following operation. She is greatly missed.

Mrs. Lydia Christian, although a retired literature worker, is also sorely missed. We know that in retirement and when her health reduced her activities, she spent much time in prayer.

Farewell

We express our deep gratitude to Rev. and Mrs. Osgood for their fellowship, advice, and enthusiastic service for 37 years, rendered to our Women's Conference. Mrs. Osgood has done two things at Jaleswar for which she will be remembered in our Orissa field. She started a Bible class for young housewives. When the local pastor's wife was critically ill, she gave of her own blood to save her. We have received inspiration from Mrs. Osgood's life amongst us.

Episodes from the 37 years of the Osgoods' service in India were staged at the Women's Conference and at the Youth Conference in a dramatic way. Since this was the last time they would be at either of these conferences it was with real sorrow that we bade them farewell. We are sorry to lose such good friends, as they return to the U.S.A. May the Lord use them there for His glory.

NEW EXPERIENCES AS A NEW MISSIONARY

By MRS EVELYN MEDLEY

An office desk is not the most exciting place to be at a mission station, but there are scenes to attract one's attention even from an office. As they cross the compound the girls from the hostel going to and from school, make a very pleasant and colourful sight each day in dresses and saris of all the colours of the rainbow. On Fridays and special occasions the School uniform is worn which is a white sari with a red border. The students look very smart as they go chattering on their way past the office.

One morning a little old lady walked purposefully across the compound with half a brick in her hand. I paused wonderingly to watch her pass by. A few minutes later she returned pulling a goat at the end of a rope. The brick was to knock a stake into the ground to tether the goat and restrict it to a small circle of grass. On this occasion her sari was white and flowing, instead of the usual dingy off-white, because this day was the Kali Pooja holiday, a major festival in India.

The dew still sparkled on the short grass which was bedecked with a myriad of tiny starlike flowers of pink, yellow, blue, mauve and white. Later in the day the air was filled with the sound of drums and blaring music and firecrackers, as the Hindus celebrated their festival.

Bullock carts pass through the compound loaded with wood or hay and often a coolie swings along with the peculiar gait which seems to bounce his load on air. His broad-brimmed straw hat and his shoulder yoke being special features of his occupation.

Just over the road is the Church where two strong pillars stand marking the place where there was once a gate. No gate or fence bars the way now, from any direction one can walk right in.

A strong steel girder forms the central pillar holding up the roof of our church. Because of the reverberations inside the

church, not until after the second bell has rung will there be more than one or two pairs of sandals on the step. But promptly at the half hour after seven a.m., the pastor announces the first hymn and starts to lead the unaccompanied singing and silently some of the chairs are occupied, men on one side and women on the other; they never sit together in church.

Pastor's memory sets the tune and if sometimes it seems familiar, rest assured, it will not be quite the same as the one you know.

Like aeroplane propellers during the hot weather, the hanging fans whirr and stir the air, sending sari ends floating in the created breeze, making them slide from the sleek, shining heads of the women to be hitched back to place for prayer. Indian women always cover their heads to pray.

Our eloquent pastor carries along the service and preaches at length, his voice rising in minor and major crescendos as he warms to his subject. His hands and arms are used eloquently also, and sometimes he puts tears into his voice for emphasis. The heat makes him perspire, as it does the congregation who can use fans. Then we see his stole put to use as he mops his brow and wipes his face, and wafts the flies away from the white linen cloth covering the bread and rosewater wine of the communion service.

When the service is over, as silently as they entered, the people leave; the men by the nearest door moving quickly away, the women by the back door, pausing to slip on their sandals and have a word with a friend, smiling and gracious with their "Nomuskars", gold rings glinting and bangles and chains shining and sparkling in the bright sunshine, but with a sombre umbrella carried underarm for a great part of the year. In winter the fans are still, although the doors stand open and the breeze makes one draw stole or scarf a little closer.

Beyond the compound is a Santal village. One day Mrs. Roady and a visitor and I went there to visit. We were greeted with

smiles and "Nomuskars" of welcome at the first house at which we called. Except for the partially paralyzed child on the floor and a few rags hung on the wall, the house was completely empty. The family of four, mother and three small children, lie on the ground to sleep in this small three-sectioned, mud house under a thatched roof. The 15 inch step-up base of the house makes a natural seat, and cooking is done out of doors over a fire of sun-baked cow dung.

The father died some time ago of T.B.; his permit, long awaited to enter hospital for treatment arrived three weeks after his death. The mother earns a little doing house work which keeps them from starvation.

In this home, and many like it, house work is uncomplicated. Fingers are used to convey food to mouths so that one or two cooking utensils, a water pot and the cloths in which they stand comprise all the belongings of this little family. A few twigs tied together make a broom with which to sweep the floor. This done, a walk to the well to fill the water pot completes the household chores, except for cooking the rice which, for many, is almost the only food eaten. Dishwashing poses no problem when a leaf serves as a plate and fingers for cutlery.

The children of the village seem happy and not noisy. Life is simple and fun cheap. A shower makes a shining pool in which to splash and frolic and mud will wash off. One rarely hears a crying child, though there must be many hungry ones.

A voice called in greeting from the next house, where a woman crouched as she fanned the flies from the reclining figure of an older woman. We went over to speak to her. The old woman had lapsed into a coma and lay there slowly dying. The younger woman's husband was killed in a railway accident some years ago. She too is left with children to care for.

As we walked along the narrow lane past the thatched cottages, not all poor, indeed some looked in very good shape and prosperous, word of our coming seemed to fly before us and a gathering

throng of children started to follow us, smiling and chattering in their excitement at seeing three western women together. As we left the village some of the children stayed near to their homes, but fifteen or more followed us until we returned to the mission compound, and only by a threat that we would not visit again were they held outside the fence. The thrill over, they slowly went away in twos and threes. A few months later on a second walk through the village, the children greeted us with pleasure that we had returned as promised.

These are my immediate surroundings along with the School and the Teachers' Hostel. Most of my time has been spent in the office. However, during the half-year since my arrival I have been able to visit most of the stations of the Bengal-Orissa Mission. The Christian Service Society meeting at Jaleswar gave me a chance to meet the C.S.S. Executive Committee and the Missionary Fellowship at the home of the Osgoods (Bill and Jane). The Women's Conference was held at Bhimpore and I stayed with the Weidman's (Burt and Pat), and had some very interesting visits to other Santal villages around Bhimpore. Balasore, which will be my home, offered much of interest. My visit there coincided with that of Mr. Merrill our Regional Representative from America, and we shared a tour of the Mission Girls' Schools under the capable guidance of Miss Sue Powers, meeting also Jan and Bud Skillman and their charming young daughters, and visiting Rev. Sushil K. Bepari in the C.S.S. office.

A check-up at Nekursini Hospital gave me the opportunity of a visit with Bob and Norma Larsen and their bevy of beauty in the form of three growing daughters. Neat, compact, and utilitarian Nekursini Hospital caters to a great need.

Christmas at Bhimpore with Weidmans, Roadys, and Osgoods and the visit of Mr. Jarvis from Valley Forge made a pleasant break. At the end of the year I visited the Kau family at Jhargram and was able to make the acquaintance of Mrs. Kau, and the children who were home on vacation.

“ONE YEAR NEARER ETERNITY”

By REV. ARCHIE SHEAR

The past year has been one in which we have seen much that speaks of building up the Christian church here, in Kharagpur. No doubt many have been the regular efforts of the year, but by the help of the Lord we have made many new, concerted efforts in the field of evangelism and Bible study which hitherto were in our minds, but now they have been translated into something definite.

Camping Experiences

The year commenced with a Teen-ager camp at Ragunathpur, about 104 miles from Kharagpur. Previously we used to conduct an English-speaking camp of our own for our teen-agers who could not attend other camps because of age restrictions and also the language barrier. This we had to discontinue as it was too costly and finding a suitable place was always a problem. So we joined with the United Missionary Society (American Mennonite) camp, known as “The Light of Life Camp”. Ten of our young people were able to attend and each one was blessed.

The daily schedule was a heavy one beginning early in the morning at 6.30 with a flag raising, and closing at 10 p.m., around a camp fire. The day was filled with the activities of meetings, discussion groups, games and organized sports. We also had handicraft classes, where the making and coloring of plasterwax was taught. The girls learned to make purses, and were kept busy with their needlework.

Along with the serious side of the camp there was also provision for some outings. All the young people were thrilled when they

had a 20 mile trip to a dam site. It was an experience they all enjoyed, as they could see something of the advance that their own land of India is making. On another day we were taken to the Rajah's palace at a village close to Adra. This was a real palace and, as we were conducted through the many rooms, we beheld some of the splendor that belongs to man. Yet how much more the riches that are ours in Christ!

An experience never to be forgotten was on the day when we climbed the mountain near the camp site. Many of the campers had never had the experience of seeing the hills, so this was entirely new to them. As they climbed the hill, although it was not very high, they had the satisfaction that they had accomplished something new; in fact, some felt as happy and as victorious as the Mt. Everest conquerors. Our desire is that they should aspire to climb spiritual heights with Christ with equal enthusiasm.

Revival Campaign

No sooner had we returned from this camp than we were in the midst of preparations for a special revival campaign. We had one week of special meetings at the end of January. The speaker was an old friend of ours, Brother Jonathan Maraj. Jonathan came to India originally from Trinidad. He is now sharing the Gospel with his own Indian brethren. He brought to us that week some deep thoughts from the book of Joshua. Indeed, many felt that they were not in Canaan, but bordering on the other side of Jordan, still in the wilderness as far as their carnal lives were concerned. Yet the Lord was gracious and before the meetings closed many had stepped into the promised land with Christ and were beginning to possess their possessions in Christ. Not only those of our own fellowship attended these meetings, but others belonging to Kharagpur. The churches have been strengthened because of this week of concentrated effort.

The Daily Vacation Bible Schools

These were carried on with enthusiasm and blessing. I have written a separate article about them, and hope that reading this report in *Tidings* will be a blessing to some, and a subject of prayer for many.

Student Work

God has been working silently, yet definitely among the Indian Institute of Technology student friends who come to our church fellowship. This Institute is a Central Government institution, largely for graduate study, and has an enrolment of more than 2,000 students. Of this number only a very few are from Christian homes. We are having two regular meetings each week at the Institute. The Christian students themselves felt the need for a prayer fellowship. On their own initiative they commenced a Wednesday evening prayertime where five or six gather regularly. At our Saturday meetings the average attendance has been nine. One week we have doctrinal studies and the next a Bible study led by one of the students. Some of these young men have received a glowing vision of what the Lord can do through them.

This last year these Christian students not only have been inviting others to our church services, and also to their own meetings, but also have been winning souls to the Lord. Please pray that these new-born babes in Christ may grow in their knowledge of Christ and become strong in the faith. Many of India's future leaders are being prepared here. As we see some of these fine students we have much hope that the future India will be strong as far as the Church is concerned.

Summer School

This is one of our annual features. The school is usually held at Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta, sponsored by this church with the help of World Vision, Inc. Many of our own young people, as well as others, attend this because of its proximity to

Kharagpur. Also this is one of the few English-speaking camps that our young people can attend. This year once again the Lord worked a miracle. This school to which many were looking forward, and praying for, was almost cancelled due to the disturbances between India and Pakistan. There were blackouts during those days. The food situation was almost impossible and things looked rather gloomy. But we prayed and believed it was the will of the Lord to go ahead in spite of many vexing problems. Then the Lord blessed our faith and one week before the school was to open, the truce was announced. The Lord made it possible for some 16 young people to go from Kharagpur. The speakers at this camp were Mr. Allen Vincent of Bombay and myself. The Lord met with us in a new way and revealed some fresh things to us. Our young people are going on with the Lord and seeking to share this wonderful Gospel with the lost in Kharagpur.

Christmas

The 1965 Christmas season was one of the most strenuous we have known since we came to Kharagpur, for the ministry through Union Baptist Church, six years ago. But again we experienced the truth of God's word that "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength". He enabled us physically to stand up to all the strain of added work and activity. We praise the Lord that He helped us to keep a proper balance between the social and the spiritual side of all of our activities during that time.

We were glad, before the year ended, to have a visit from an old friend and member of Union Church, Mr. Richard Naug. He and his family left Kharagpur to settle in the U.S.A. some six years ago. He was able to visit his 92 year old mother who is in a hospital in Delhi where one of her sons is a doctor. It was good to hear from him about the old friends who have emigrated from here to the U.S.A. and other parts of the world.

1966 is here

The new year came almost too soon. But the Lord has already done great things for us since the beginning of the year and we are looking forward to a time of rich experiences with Christ this year, and we desire that the blessings we receive from Him we may share with others. We pray that you will continue to uphold us at His throne of grace for our need is great.

BENGAL-ORISSA-BIHAR NEWS

By REV. SUSHIL K. BEPARI

Executive Secretary of the Christian Service Society

Our nation went through the most critical time in its present history during the year 1965 and the early days of 1966. The war with Pakistan was a question of life and death. The death of Prime Minister Shastri was a severe blow to the nation. Yet, there is the Tashkent Declaration: the victory of the good over the bad, peace over war, and friendship over enmity. Hence we are hopeful for the future. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the newly elected Prime Minister, daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru who served so ably as Prime Minister, prior to his untimely death in 1964, we trust will lead India with success in overcoming the many problems confronting her.

The Nekursini Christian Hospital was officially opened January 24, 1965. Thus the dream of our predecessors came true. Medicine and medical care came within easy reach of thousands of poor and needy village people. A full-fledged ministry of healing and love, and compassion for the sick and afflicted saw the light of a new day. This has brought a new opportunity and avenue of service in our field. The Hospital is earning a good reputation. Patients are coming in large numbers for treatment.

The Hospital staff is rendering a unique service in the name of Christ. We are grateful for the coming of Dr. Larsen and his family. Additional staff is needed. Pray that this need may be supplied.

The Baripada Church of Mayurbanj District, Orissa, which was founded by an Australian Mission, became a member of our Annual Convention in March of 1965. A series of revival meetings as well as our Balasore Baptist Church Union Meeting were held at Baripada. The church needs further spiritual revival and a greater unity.

I had the privilege of attending the Baptist World Congress in Miami, Florida, and the Post Consultation Conference in Philadelphia in the U.S.A. My report of these conferences appeared in *Tidings*, Fourth Quarter, 1965.

Our Convention, in its annual meeting at Bhimpore, Nov. 10-14, 1965, resolved unanimously to become a member of the *Baptist Council of Co-operation in World Mission*. We believe that this wider fellowship will give us new opportunities to fulfil the task of our World Mission.

Some of our churches and institutions have become ingrown and are not maintaining adequate Christian standards, or witness. We need to find means to revive them and restore vital Christian standards, reaching out in witnessing, or use the resources employed therein for some new and productive Christian enterprise.

The Mediation Sub-Committee, appointed by the Christian Service Society, to help in the problem of Ward Memorial Church, Kharida, Khargpur, has seen some reward for its efforts over a long period. The division in the church has been mended, and a new Church Committee was elected on January 12th, 1966. This Committee will take over from the Mediation Committee. We need to provide this church with a deeply spiritual and competent pastor.

Conference with Canadian Baptist Secretary. We had the privilege of having a most helpful conference, or consultation with Dr. Daniels, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in November. He pointed out the need of reorganizing our work in such a way as to make it manageable within our available resources. We are maintaining a Cadillac with foreign aid, whereas our resources will permit us to maintain only a bullock cart.

Adult Literacy. We have received a fresh grant from the Boards for our Adult Literacy Centers, so they can again function effectively. This means a renewal of our efforts to promote literacy in the villages both among Christians and non-Christians. Along with learning to read and write, these adults also learn of the One who came to the world that those who believe in Him might have eternal life.

Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Osgood are retiring in May, 1966. Their deep and selfless devotion to their Lord and to their work for Him, love and compassion for their fellow-workers, all-round qualifications and foresight, untiring labor and missionary zeal have been a source of our progress and inspiration. They cannot be replaced by just one missionary couple. How much we need new missionaries who will imitate their example!

We were concerned by the protracted illness of *Rev. C. C. Roadarmel* during the last four months of 1965. He had been overburdened with many heavy and difficult responsibilities, which he carried efficiently. We have relieved him of some of these responsibilities, so that he may be able to fully recover and maintain his health. His improvement gives us hope that he will be able to stay with us until the end of 1966, when his retirement is due. We need his advice and guidance so much that we cannot afford to let him go now or in the near future.

Asian Church Women's Conference, Tokyo, Japan, July 15-26, 1966. Miss Satyaboti Behera, Bible Women's Supervisor and

Special Women's Worker, has been chosen as our representative to attend this Conference. We need to raise Rs. 750 towards her expenses. This is not easy to do in these days when the cost of living has so greatly increased. We hope Christians will respond to our appeal for this purpose.

Visa applications have been submitted for two couples, Rev. and Mrs. L. P. Hunwick, who some years ago had a term of service in India, and Rev. and Mrs. Charles Chapman. These have been recommended at the local Government levels, but have yet to be approved by the higher authorities. We pray that these will be granted soon.

We are on the look-out for a national to serve as Treasurer of the Christian Service Society. A Treasurer is also needed for the Mission. We pray that God may provide us with the right persons at the right time.

We were blessed by the visits of Rev. A. F. Merrill, the Regional Representative, and Mr. William Jarvis, the Secretary for the Business and Finance Division of the A.B.F.M.S., Valley Forge, to our field in November and December. Their presence was a source of joy and inspiration to us. Their valuable advice helped us to solve many difficult problems. We need such visits frequently in order to maintain close and helpful contacts, and clear understanding between the Christian Service Society and the Boards.

FIRM FOUNDATIONS THROUGH DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

By REV. ARCHIE SHEAR

Construction paper, banners, old Christmas cards, scissors, gloy, and cutting put together no doubt sound like a discordant conglomeration of oddities. But those who are familiar with preparations for Daily Vacation Bible Schools know that these are vital components of a well organized vacation school.

The Daily Vacation Bible Schools held in Kharagpur proved that there is a reward in proper, prayerful preparation. In all we held four D.V.B. Schools. Each was in a different language: Hindi, Bengali, Oriya, and English. One can immediately conclude from this that ours is a cosmopolitan city. We are glad to report that interest ran as high as the atmospheric temperature at that time, which was 110 degrees Fahrenheit! In both the Hindi and English Schools the attendance was up to this, although the registrations were slightly higher.

We had four teachers and a number of helpers in our *Hindi School*. It opened at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and carried on until 6 p.m., from May 3rd through May 8th. We were encouraged by the numbers because a majority, up to 70 per cent, were from Hindu homes. Nevertheless, they showed equally as keen an interest as our children from Christian backgrounds. One significant thing was evident on our closing day. When we gave prizes to those who could repeat all the Bible memory verses word perfect, which had been taught, the non-Christian children far outnumbered the Christian ones receiving awards. We used material, bought from the Masihi Sahitya Sanstha Book Depot in Delhi, which is made up of translations into Hindi from Scripture Press material.

Many times in the past we have felt that the titanic work of D.V.B. Schools is lost because of the lack of follow-up. To

overcome this, we have each Wednesday at 4 o'clock a Berean Club. The children and young people come to the parsonage and have a time of outdoor games, followed by a meeting in which many of the Vacation Bible School choruses are sung, and then a message given. Many are attending and the older ones have been introduced to appropriate Bible Correspondence Courses in their own language. Please pray that the seed sown may bring forth lasting fruit.

A few days lapsed which gave us a breather. Then on May 13th we were plunged into the activity attendant on the commencing of the *English speaking D.V.B. School*. We are so thankful for the *Gospel Light* material supplied free to our School by Mrs. W. A. Corlett, wife of the pastor at Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta. The series for 1965 was on "Adventures of the King". These six days saw the recruitment of genuine adventurers into the King's army, as young lives handed themselves over to the King of Kings. They were dealt with through personal counsel and truly passed from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of Christ.

On opening day there was a thin assembly of about 55 pupils. That very first day God challenged our hearts with regard to our selfishness. Then the children promised that they would bring "new fish" to enjoy these days. Four days of persevering caught 55 "new fish" and our number on the closing day was exactly double what we had at the beginning.

On one Sunday, about mid-school, we had a special rally when parents were invited. The display and the active participation of the children in the service surely caused an indelible impression on those who were present, and amply rewarded their labor in rising early to see the children off to the D.V.B. School. We experienced some opposition from those outside of our fellowship, but that was not unexpected. Some children were forbidden to have anything to do with us. However, we know that by the power of His love God can overcome even such opposition.

The *Bengali and Oriya Schools* were conducted in our Christian Centers at Kharida, and Nimpura. Reports came in of much blessing. There is still much scope for expansion. We have two Telugu Churches in Kharagpur and we are praying about the possibility of starting a D.V.B. School in Telugu in 1966. Please pray that all of these schools may be a means of introducing their children and young people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Onward to victory! Won by one!” may well be the victory slogan of this great venture with its potential as we go forward with Christ.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

“If you are too busy to pray, you are too busy”. *Anon.*

Sunday: Thanksgiving for the cessation of the conflict between India and Pakistan, and prayer that force may never again be used to settle disputes.

Monday: That when application is made to Government for a visa for Miss Maureen Brians, now on furlough, to return for service in India, that it may be given favorable consideration at all levels.

Tuesday: Continued prayer that visas may be granted for the Hunwicks, who had one term of service in Balasore, to serve in the industrial center of Jamshedpur, and for Rev. and Mrs. Chapman, new appointees to serve in evangelistic work in Orissa.

Wednesday: That the right pastor may be called to serve at the Ward Memorial Church, Kharagpur. A man is needed who can lead the people spiritually to bring about unity in the membership.

Thursday: For the workers, a nurse and a Bible woman at Panchkahania Medical-Evangelistic Center and the Christians of that locality, together with the pastor of the church; that through their services and witness souls may be won for Christ, and have the courage to acknowledge Him openly.

Friday: For Rev. Sushil Bepari, Executive Secretary of the Christian Service Society with the added responsibility of being Acting Treasurer, and for Mrs. Evelyn Medley, Assistant Treasurer, and the clerks who work in their offices that they may have strength and good health to carry on their responsibilities, and may know the joy of the Lord in administrative and office work, so necessary for the whole work of the Society.

Saturday: Continued prayer that a qualified national may be found to become Treasurer of the Christian Service Society.

You will find other prayer requests as you read the articles in this issue of *Tidings*. Keep them in mind, too, as you remember your representatives, both missionary and national in Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar.

OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

By ETHEL N. ROADARMEL

It's happened again! The wife of a missionary was elected to the Reference Committee at our Annual Missionary Fellowship Meeting, held at Lee Memorial Mission, from January 24th evening through January 27th. With Maureen Briens in the U.S.A., Sue Powers leaving in May for furlough, and the Osgoods retiring at the same time, it is not so surprising that Pat Weidman, wife of the newly elected Chairman, Rev. Burton E. Weidman, was elected. For the first time in our memory of forty years on this field, there will be a period of at least ten months without any missionary of the Woman's Society. Rev. C. C. Roadarmel, as Field Secretary, remains on the Committee, as does Louis Kau, who has been recommended to the Boards for Field Secretary, to take over from "Roady", who will retire before the end of the year. The others elected are: Mrs Evelyn Medley, Rev. E. L. Skillman, and Dr. R. R. Larsen.

We were sorry that the families of Louis Kau and Bud Skillman could not be with us. Our Missionary Fellowship of only twelve Bengal-Orissa missionaries might be called a family get-together for much needed inspiration, fun, and fellowship.

We were most fortunate in having Rev. Tracy Gipson of our S. India Mission as our guest speaker. Tracy and his wife Marjorie put up with the discomforts of 3rd Class travel overnight so that both of them might come. Marjorie led one of the morning devotional periods and was a great help with the games on "Fun Night". They both shared in all of the sessions, contributing to discussions out of their experience not only as missionaries in India, but also out of their pastoral service in Salem, Oregon for five years, before returning to India a few months ago.

There had been hours of car and train travel, shopping, and a business meeting of Reference Committee the first day, so that evening after dinner we had an informal gathering in the drawing room when, with a background of recorded music, we could just visit with each other. Scripture reading and prayer brought this time to a close.

Recreation and fun are needed in every family and so, on our second evening we enjoyed "attending" the World's Fair in New York. We followed with amazement the flight of Gemini IV, seeing the two astronauts launched into space and continuing with them through to their reception on return to earth. For the children, but with laughter from the adults also, there was "Henny Penny". These films were provided through arrangement with the U.S.I.S., Calcutta.

On "Fun Night" we were all children again, along with the three children of the Weidmans and the Larsens' three. The "oldsters" were as active as the youngsters in stamping on balloons tied to ankles, in finding hidden objects, and in other group games. Marjorie Gipson, Burt Weidman and his daughter Terry, with Norma Larsen, Chairman of the Program Committee, did most of the planning.

Pat Weidman had been called to take a former teacher for further treatment at the Christian Psychiatric Center, Lucknow, so was not with us until the 26th morning. For this reason, Mrs. Evelyn Medley, who was to have the devotional period the second morning, led us the first morning for this half hour period, Mrs. Marjorie Gipson the second morning, and Pat on the third. With our theme: "Let all be done in Love", 1 Cor. 16:13-14 being the key verse, Evelyn used "Stand firm in the faith", or stand fast in *the* faith as a basis for meditation. "Faith is an interdependent aspect of knowledge." Knowing God, even in our limited way, we have faith in Him. Careful attention was called to the heroes of faith in Hebrews, the 11th chapter. Marjorie directed our thinking to the exhortation, "Be courageous, be

strong". She mentioned the dangers of discouragement—through illness, separation of families as is so often necessary for missionaries, even sometimes feeling adrift; the dangers from exposure to heat, to insects from the daily pressures in concern for the work. "But, God is not dead; our help is from Him. Our belief is in a God who is concerned, to whom we can pray, who is capable of filling our earthen vessels so full we can go forth with courage, strength, and joy." Pat emphasized the need of being watchful, or alert; sensitive to the needs of people, and to take care that we do not cause another to become discouraged. There is need to be alert to say the right word at the right time; to say the kind and helpful thing.

An hour of Bible study and discussion was directed on the first two mornings by Rev. Walter Corlett, the pastor of Carey Baptist Church, and on the third morning and at two afternoon sessions by Rev. Edward Benedict of the Lee Memorial Mission.

Mr. Corlett gave practical applications for our daily conduct based on a consideration of the love chapter, 1 Cor. 13. This love of which Paul speaks is not a natural love; it is 'agape', love that is willed through the love of God in our hearts. J. B. Phillips says, "Love looks for a way of being constructive. Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy." In other words this kind of love never treats a person in the wrong way; it does not insist on having its own way. "It is not easily provoked, keeps no score of wrongs, but keeps a score of kindnesses." Love shows itself in action, and the proof of love is obedience.

From a study of several of the Psalms Ed Benedict led in the discussion of such questions as, "Does God really rule in the universe today? Does He have all things in His hands? Is He the God of history? Are there other gods, other powers?" We looked into our own lives as he emphasized that there are areas of life where God does not reign. He also brought out the fact that even our standards and culture may prevent God

from having the freedom to work through us, and can be a barrier to our effectiveness in service. Ps. 139 is a Psalm of the ever-abiding presence of God, of the unavoidable God. God cares. We can daily pray the prayer of the Psalmist in verses 23 and 24. Ps. 27-28—our trust in God—"I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord." Without this trust there would be many times when we could not go on. We need to remember that in times of discouragement "He, in His infinite power, knows how to deal with men and how to build His church."

We were deeply challenged as Tracy Gipson led us in a deep study of our key verse. With illustrations from Scripture he showed how easy it is in a weak moment to negate what we preach. "Stand firm in your faith." Often it is not loss of faith in God, but loss of faith in ourselves that causes difficulty. There are things that shake our faith: a trusted man fails, tragedy strikes, needed men are taken by death, church quarrels, the seeming ineffectiveness of our own lives and the lives of others. There is need for great patience; we do not know what God is doing; we can be unaware of what is happening. Pertinent to each of us was his statement of the prayer we need to make: "Give me the grace to live with the situation and not to think of myself more highly than I ought to think."

We are urged to be courageous "A subtle form of courage is needed: the courage to keep on going in faith and trust that God will use you; the courage to believe in yourself."

To "be strong" takes more than human strength. Phil. 4:13 "I am ready for anything through the strength of the One who lives in me" (Phillips translation). Matt. 11:28 "Take my yoke upon you." "Bend your necks to My yoke, or put yourselves under My discipline. Be yoked to Me—an unequal yoking but it is where we get our strength."

Matt. 5:20 "Unless you show yourselves to be better men than the Pharisees and keepers of the law, you can never enter into the kingdom of heaven" (New English version). Christ came

to make men different. Many are more concerned with outward forms than with right relations. Paul says, "Let all you do be done in love." Jesus called men to the motivation of love. The Pharisees were concerned with reputation. Jesus said it counts little compared with character. The Pharisees' emphasis was around an act; Jesus' emphasis is around an attitude. The law is like a chain holding a dog—it keeps vicious people in check, but does nothing to change character. "The love of Christ constrains me, or restrains me."

Matt. 5:38-48 gives the essence of Christianity. This is the conduct that makes the Christian different from other men. Non-Christians recognize this as the standard. "Christianity has been tried and found difficult, and so has been given up."

Tracy pointed out that this kind of love, 'agape,' is invincible good-will. It is a matter of attitude, a determination of the mind. This gives us power to love those whom we do not like and who do not like us. It is the love Christ had when on the cross he prayed, "Father forgive them." No bitterness should be allowed to invade our hearts towards any person. This is a call to be God-like. The matter of practicability is irrelevant. Through Jesus Christ it is possible to become God-like.

A new understanding of the exhortation to "be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" was given in bringing out its meaning as "full maturity." "You must all be mature just as your Father is mature." You are called to fulfil the purpose for which you were created—to become God-like.

Such challenges to our ways of thinking and acting, to our motivations, and our relationships could not but make the prayer period, led by Jane Osgood, one of soul searching. In such a family fellowship we could speak of our personal needs, as well as of our concern for others and the work in which we are so closely associated with our national colleagues. So, we entered a meaningful prayer hour when the presence of God in our midst, and the certainty of His power to change us at our point of need,

and to do the seemingly impossible in bringing a solution to problems, was very real.

The last afternoon we were free to do as we wished. Parents and children were off to the Zoo, while the Gipsons and Osgoods went sight-seeing, and others went shopping, or to carry out business appointments.

At the closing evening session a farewell gift from our Missionary Fellowship was presented to Jane and Bill Osgood. It was with a very real sense of loss that we recalled something of their experiences and service over 37 years, realizing that this would be the last Fellowship Meeting at which they would be present. It was fitting that Dr. Osgood should bring the final message for our conference with emphasis again on our theme. As we came to the communion service, we were reminded again that because He gave His life for us, we are enabled to give our lives in service for Him. We were deeply conscious of our oneness in Christ.

We are indebted to Rev. and Mrs. Edward Benedict for their most cordial hospitality in providing meals and accommodation for all twenty of us—including our guests and the children, and for making us feel so much at home. We are grateful for their fellowship, and genuine friendship.

NEWS ITEMS

Mrs. Lydia Christian, who served for many years in Oriya literature work both for our Christian Service Society and for the Utkal (Orissa) Christian Council, entered into that more abundant life for which she was so ready, on October 2nd, 1965. Since her retirement she has resided with her doctor son at Baitalpur in Madya Pradesh.

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Maureen Brian's address in the U.S.A. is now 790 No. Gordon Ave., Apt. 12 Pomona, California 91766. She had a wonderful reception from the 1st Baptist Church at Pomona, where she had served for some 8 years in youth work before coming to India. Every effort was made by her, and on her behalf to obtain a "no objection to return" endorsement from the State Government, but she finally had to leave without this. Her application for visa will be submitted in the usual way.

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Rev. C. C. Roadarmel had a sudden attack of what was later diagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis on August 29th. Both knees were seriously affected. We are thankful that since December he has shown remarkable improvement and is now doing full-time work. It seems necessary, however, to continue with one of the newer drugs to keep up the healing process.

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Mrs Evelyn Medley, who arrived in Midnapore in July for Special Service, was appointed as Assistant Treasurer of the Christian Service Society at the meeting of the C.S.S. Executive body in October, and *Rev. Sushil Bepari* was appointed as Acting Treasurer to take over from Rev. C. C. Roadarmel. Since strain is a contributing factor to rheumatoid arthritis, Dr. Larsen

advised that Mr. Roadarmel's responsibilities be greatly reduced for a full recovery that could be maintained. The office is being moved from Midnapore to Balasore.

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Ruth Daniels, who retired in 1958, was obliged to cancel her plans for visiting India in late November by a sudden illness which made it necessary for her to enter hospital. For medical insurance her doctor gave the diagnosis as "congestive heart failure, auricular fibrillation, arteriosclerotic heart disease". She writes with great courage and faith, knowing that the presence of the Lord whom she loves and has served so long is with her. She will appreciate our prayers that she may have further years of usefulness.

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Dr. John Brush, professor at Rutgers University, and elder son of Mrs. E. C. Brush of San Diego, is to be in India under a grant from the American Institute of Indian Studies from January 21st, when he arrives in Delhi, for six months. His headquarters will be at Poona, but he will be doing much travelling in connection with research on population growth. He hopes to visit Kharagpur where he lived as a boy, and in June to see something of Woodstock School from which he graduated 28 years ago. We anticipate meeting him after all these years. His brother *Stanley* is in London working on material for his Ph.D. dissertation. *Stanley* and his wife, who have been missionaries in W. Pakistan, hope some day to return.

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Dr. Lee Howard, son of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Howard of Pittsburg, Kansas, who served as a doctor in our South India Mission, is now Deputy Director of all Health Services under the U.S.A.I.D. Program. Formerly he was with the Malaria Eradication Branch of this service.

Rev. Zo Browne and his wife are now living at the Baptist Home at Concordia, Kansas. Their address is 617 Second Avenue, Concordia, Kans. 66901. Zo is a cousin of Mr. Roadarmel and it was to their home in Jamshedpur that the Roadarmels went after their marriage in Assam in 1927.

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Judson Long, elder son of Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Long of Pomona, Calif., is now retired from army service. He is living at Long Beach and working as an Inspector in Surveying with the State, in Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

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Rev. A. F. Merrill, Regional Representative of the A.B.F.M.S. for Burma, Bengal-Orissa, and Assam visited in our area from Nov. 11th evening through Sunday Dec. 5th. He was present for the full body meeting of the Christian Service Society at Jaleswar, and a meeting of the Missionary Fellowship was called at Midnapore while he was with us. It was possible for him to share also in the special consultation at Kharagpur with Dr. Daniels, Secretary for the Canadian Baptists, who was visiting India. Individual conferences with Christian leaders and missionaries were most helpful.

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Mr. W. E. Jarvis, Treasurer, A.B.F.M.S., Valley Forge, Penna., was a most helpful visitor from the time of his arrival Dec. 20th through his rapid tour of our area which concluded Dec. 29th. This was his first visit to India. We felt he grasped the situations, problems, needs and opportunities remarkably well for so short a visit. He is now "Bill" to the missionaries, not just the Home Treasurer.

Miss Beatrice Ericson is now working with the Chinese Church, San Francisco, Calif.

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Rev. Roland Metzger, Regional Representative for South India from Valley Forge, travelled in our area for brief visits from Feb. 4th to 7th inclusive.

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Cover page

This picture, taken by Dr. Robert Larsen, shows how a thatched roof is constructed. The shelter, now completed, serves as a waiting hall for patients who come to the Nekursini Hospital. There is a waiting room inside the main Hospital building, but often patients arrive before this is open, or they prefer waiting out-of-doors until their ticket number, given in the order of time in which they appear, is called. Now and then patients come and spend the night, so as to be the first in line next morning for the clinic.

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