TIDINGS

Mr John G. Gilson

THIRD QUARTER 1966

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA-
BIHAR MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

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MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

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

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Local subscriptions from Mrs. B. E. Weidman Bhimpore, Dist., Midnapore, Bengal.
IN MEMORIAL

by ISAAC D. NAYAK

The news received on July 23rd of Mr. J. G. Gilson’s demise shocked us all. A memorial service was held at the Balasore Technical School on July 25, 1966 at 11.00 A.M. with all staff and students present. Invited guests included two retired teachers who reside in Balasore, the Executive Secretary of the C.S.S., the Headmaster of the Christian High School, the Superintendent of the Technical School Hostel, and the Pastor of the Balasore Baptist Church. Four different speakers presented some of the highlights of Mr. Gilson’s life and some of his achievements.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilson came to Balasore in 1926 and joined the Boys Industrial School which was renamed Balasore Technical School in 1933. He instituted a systematic syllabus and during his administration, the school achieved recognition by the Government of its courses of instruction. As a result of this, certificates were issued to the successful trainees by the Industries Directorate. Under his guidance the Teachers’ Association and the Students’ Welfare Committee were formed and his contributions to the local church, the District Athletic Association, and other public organizations were many. Mr. Gilson continually sought to improve his own academic qualifications and to instill the same eagerness in others. The present staff members were all taught and trained by him. A monthly salary system was introduced in place of daily wages and he oversaw the construction of a new school building and hostel.

A condolence letter was mailed to Mrs. Gilson with signatures of all employees of the institution. The employees and students resolved to contribute funds so that a marble stone with suitable inscriptions can be placed in our new school building in memory of the services rendered by the late John Gustave Gilson.
A LIFE-WORK COMPLETED

by C. C. ROADARMEL

It was with a profound sense of loss that we learned of the homegoing of John Gilson on July 19, 1966, at Pilgrim Village, Redlands, Calif. The passing of this friend of nearly 40 years, some 37 of them spent together in service in the Bengal-Orissa Mission in India, was not entirely unexpected. In recent months he had been facing increasingly the effects of the myasthenia gravis which had forced him to leave India in 1962 after 37 years of service, within 1½ years of his expected retirement.

John Gustave Gilson was born on a farm near Knoxville, Iowa, April 19, 1899. He attended the local high school and went on to earn the following degrees: B.A. 1921, Des Moines University; B.Sc., 1923, and M.Sc., 1933, Iowa State University. He was elected to membership in the following national honor societies: Gamma Sigma Delta (Agriculture); Tau Beta Pi (Engineering); Pi Kappa Delta (Debating); Psi Chi (Psychology); Phi Kappa Phi (All-University Scholarship). He was married to Miss Alice Webb, also a graduate of Des Moines University, in 1923, and for the next two years taught agriculture and science in Iowa high schools.

John felt the challenge of Christian service from a Life Work Conference sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. in 1917. In college in 1922 he joined the Student Volunteer Band, offering his talents for foreign mission work, although realizing that his abilities were not those of the 'ministry', as commonly understood.

In the fall of 1925, John and Alice, under appointment by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, came to India to begin their work at Balasore, then in Bihar-Orissa, in what later
became the separate state of Orissa. Under his guidance the Balasore Industrial School became the Balasore Technical School and latter, for a time, became a part of the Christian High and Technical School, until the State Government abandoned that plan in favour of the more immediate results of a pre-apprentice training programme. The separate Technical School included the 1½-year government course as a part of its three-year course. John put the best of his life into this School until when he had to leave because of his health, a trained Indian Christian, Mr. Isaac D. Nayak, was able to take over as the head.

In June, 1938, in the King's Birthday honors, the silver Kaiser-I-Hind medal for distinguished public service was conferred upon John. In Orissa State educational circles, he was able to share his vision on various government commissions and committees. In Balasore Town and District he was active in the Sports Association and during the war served as Air Raid Warden.

Of the many worthy characteristics for which we remember John Gilson, the following are a few:

1. His appreciation of the need of sound technical knowledge and trade skills, as a basis for an able, self-supporting church membership. He insisted on honest, careful workmanship, the dignity of hand labor backed by dependable character. He worked hard to maintain and develop the tradition of the School that the students gain their practice on actual saleable work rather than on 'exercises'.

2. His recognition of the place of practical Christian knowledge and experience as the foundation of good work and solid character. The keeping of a School Chaplain for regular chapel services, Bible classes and counselling with the students, the maintenance of a very high proportion of Christian teachers, and his own example and teaching were evidences of the central place he gave to Jesus Christ. He was convinced that his work and that of his associates was no less 'evangelistic' than the work of those in the preaching ministry.
3. His adaptability and readiness to help in many phases of the work of the Mission and the Church. His engineering background and special studies of Indian building problems made his work as Property Advisor especially valuable. He spent much time both on the field and on furlough in carrying forward the Property Survey with its complexity of records. As Mission Treasurer and as Christian Service Society Treasurer at various periods, he applied his talents for orderliness and accuracy. He shared his technical training in advising in the development of craft and agricultural programs at Hatigarh and at Bhimpore, and his general educational vision and knowledge as Mission Educational Advisor.

4. His ability to delegate responsibility. He said that he found that when a person knew just what he was responsible for, he was much more likely to do the job well. He applied that in the School and in many of his other tasks, and the results were seen.

5. His continuing search for new ideas. Even during his last furlough in 1957-58, he audited some courses and took others for credit at Iowa State University to complete a total of 9 full years of college work.

6. To many of John’s students, his fellow workers and his friends, he is remembered as keenly interested in individuals and as absorbed in the experience of ‘helping people grow’. He has made an outstanding contribution to the cause of Jesus Christ in India.

Many around the world are sharing the sense of loss felt by his wife, Alice, their two daughters, Ruth and Lois, their two sons, William and John Richard, and their families.
A MAN OF MANY SERVICES

by Susil K. Bepari

Executive Secretary, Christian Service Society

I had the privilege to be with Mr. and Mrs. Gilson during the period 1959-62. I was very much impressed by their eventful lives and services. They were deeply dedicated to the work of the Christian Service Society. Whatever work was assigned to them by the Society, they accepted without hesitation and performed most efficiently. They carried a huge load but always discharged their responsibilities on time. Mr. Gilson worked during the late hours at night to keep his desk up-to-date and got up early in the morning to attend his duties. He was always punctual. Every branch of the work in which the Gilsons were involved was richly benefited by their services. He had many abilities. During his years in India, he had various responsibilities. Included among these are the following: He was the builder of the Balasore Technical School, Secretary of the Balasore Technical School, Secretary of the Christian High School, Chairman of the Balasore Mission Girls' High School Managing Committee, Treasurer and Property Advisor of the Christian Service Society and the Mission, Chairman of the C.S.S. Education Committee, President of the Balasore Baptist Church, Superintendent of the Balasore Sunday School, Treasurer of the Balasore Gospel Team, in charge of the Balasore Mission Compound, Treasurer and the Vice Chairman of the Balasore District Sport Association, and Chief Warden of the Air Raid Precaution during the World War II. He served his Master faithfully and well in all these capacities.
Mrs. Gilson kept her home very nicely and took good care of her husband and family. She was a great help, counsellor and a perennial source of inspiration to Mr. Gilson. Because of her help and co-operation, Mr. Gilson could prosper in all his work. She was a kind-hearted woman and no one in distress was ever turned from her door empty handed. She arranged socials for Christian leaders in her home, sent birthday presents to many Christian children, helped the poor students with money for books, school fees and clothing, contributed liberally for Christian love feasts and other school feasts. She visited the sick and helped them to get proper diet. Her silent and selfless services contributed much to the cause of her Master.

The Gilsons loved our field very dearly. When I paid a visit to their Redlands home in 1965, they expressed great concern for our work. They remember almost everybody by name and inquired about their health and activities. Mr. Gilson kindly gave me his room and bed to use during my stay with them. On the wall hung the farewell addresses given to them when they left India by the Balasore Technical School and the Church. Mr. Gilson's voice was indistinct and he was reduced in health, yet he was acting as a Treasurer of the Church. He took me to the bus station by car and waited there till the bus started moving. We waved our hands and bade farewell to each other. That was my last meeting with him, but I shall not forget his lifetime of service.
HOW CLEAN IS DIRTY WATER?

by Evelyn Medley

A fundamental truth was brought home to me recently after pondering a remark by a friend. She had remonstrated with a Christian Indian woman about bathing in the tank where so many others bathe. ‘But the water is not dirty, water cleans’, came the reply. We laughed when my friend told me of the incident.

Since then I have thought much on the subject and realize how true are the words of the Indian woman. So long as water is wet, it will clean. What is suspended in it can clog and stain, but the water keeps its cleansing quality.

So it is with us; our minds get clogged and stained by the cares and evils about and within us, yet we are clean if we have the Holy Spirit to wash and purify our souls.

RAINBOW IN THE CLOUD—A SHORT VISIT TO TOKYO

by Satyaboti Behera

I am very thankful to everybody for giving me this wonderful privilege of attending the third Asian Women’s Conference in Tokyo this past month.

Plane travel is still a new experience for me and as I looked out of the window and saw the wonderful creation of my Lord, I began to sing an Oriya song. I forgot all my fears as I had a wonderful experience of my Lord’s creation of this world. There were six ladies from India, two ladies from Pakistan and
three ladies from Ceylon. How kind everyone was to us. The airline hostess took me on a tour of the plane. I saw the pilot's room, the kitchen room and the first class section. Her smiling face put me at ease and increased the joy of the trip.

More than 100 delegates and visitors attended this Asian Women's Conference. Members came from 18 countries. Delegates from Burma were not able to attend but they sent their warm greetings to us.

This Conference was first begun by the Presbyterian women of America who saved their 'least coin' to make the conference possible for women from Presbyterian missions. Later it was decided to invite all the missions in Asia to send delegates. It was Mrs. Solomon from India who began the program of saving the 'least coin' in the Asian countries. Now all the countries have begun collecting this love gift of the 'least coin' to help send delegates to this conference.

This year's key verse was John 15:5, ABIDE IN ME . . . BEAR RICH FRUIT. It was a time of wonderful fellowship with Christ and those who love Him. Devotions led by the delegates were very inspiring. One evening the Thailand women were in charge of devotions. They presented a tableau of how the Good News was spread in Thailand and how people became Christian.

During the Bible study period, we discussed the need for more time to read our Bibles and pray individually. Our Churches should also instigate more effective programs of corporate Bible study so we can learn from each other.

We learned of a German pastor's experience in Russia that I would like to share with you. Thousands and thousands of Christians are still gathering for worship in Russian Churches. There are no chairs or benches in the Churches so the worshippers stand during the services that last three or four hours. Most of the time is spent in worship. A very short talk is given by a lay preacher for 10 to 15 minutes. The Lord's Supper is observed
without food. Women help in the singing at the worship service. Sometimes when the people in Russia go on trips, they are searched to see what they are carrying. The Christian people proudly say they are taking their Bible with them. There is a Government order that Christians may not congregate in homes. Because the people thirst after fellowship with likeminded Christians, they go early to the Churches to find a standing place before the worship service begins. We learned many lessons from hearing about the hardships of Christians in Russia.

Another part of the program was the four discussion groups. In these we discussed the Church, the Society, the Home and the World. Each part of the Conference was truly inspiring and very enjoyable.

The Japanese women had so graciously prepared for our coming. One of the thoughtful ways was to provide us with special rubber shoes for wearing inside the houses and wooden shoes for wearing to the meetings.

At the close of the Conference, we went in small groups to give reports of the meetings to the women in outlying sections who were not able to attend the Conference. I went with a lady from the Phillipines and a lady from Korea. There were about one hundred women who came to hear our report.

Never shall I be able to forget the wonderful, smiling, helpful spirits of my Japanese women friends.

Again, as I was returning to India by plane, I was impressed by the creation of my Lord as it stretched out before me. Suddenly, I saw a rainbow in the cloud and I remembered God's promise to us. Even though we are surrounded by problems and difficulties of all kinds, still there will be a rainbow in the cloud and my soul praises the Lord.
IN REMEMBRANCE

by GERTRUDE JESSER

Completely committed to God and His will,
Lillian gave of herself to fulfill
The Great Commission to go and teach
The people of India—all she could reach.
She left behind her kith and kin
To seek out those who were lost in sin.
She cared for the hungry, the needy one,
Even the leper whom many shun.
She showed respect to all who came,
Whether rich or poor, she ministered the same.
Six little ones she took to her home,
That they might be spared from having to roam
In the nearby colony for leprous ones,
To grow up as normal daughters and sons.
They rewarded her well with love and affection,
As she guided their lives in God’s direction.
Her labors ended, she now has won
The Master’s crown and His ‘well done’.

Editor’s Note: This poem was written in remembrance of Lillian Brueckmann by her sister Gertrude Jesser. We thought that the numerous friends of Lillian would like to have it shared with them.
It was late in the afternoon, for the background hum of voices outside my examining room was becoming softer and softer and soon would stop. It was hot, so I gave the sign to the nurse that I was going to take a break after the next patient. After seeing one more lady with roundworms, I got up and walked through the cramped three rooms we now use to examine out-patients, and stopped to check with the clerk at the makeshift office in the indoor waiting room. We had to convert the former office into a third examining room and moved the poor clerk-cashier into the waiting room.

Budhu Ray Singh, the clerk, looked up with an extra smile in his eyes and proudly announced, ‘We’re nearly finished, and we’ve seen 265 patients so far today’. I thought to myself, ‘Yes, we’re nearly finished’. But I wouldn’t want to go through with this every day. Since 7.30 in the morning we had been pushing as hard as we could. Judging from the group outside, his ‘nearly finished’ meant that there were only about fifty patients left, but I knew we simply couldn’t push ourselves another two hours. In nine hours we had done over 100 laboratory examinations, taken three chest X-rays, gone through the take X-ray—reduce fracture—retake X-ray—apply plaster cast routine for three broken arms, inserted several of our famous ‘loops’ for birth control, and dispensed over 9,000 pills for treatment of worms along with over 10,000 vitamins.

‘Give the remaining patients the “cacha” tickets that will let them be first tomorrow and close up, Budhu Ray. We’ve got to stop sometime’.
Then I walked out along the inner verandah of the hospital past the laboratory where Sonjib was finishing his last few examinations, which all happened to be smears of sputum for T.B. diagnosis, past the temporary outdoor waiting room, which has been temporary for 1½ years now, across the driveway to stand on the fresh foundation of the Lillian Brueckmann Memorial Out-patient Building. We were fortunate that, during the dry weather, we obtained enough cement to complete the foundation and dirt fill in and around the new building. Work has now stopped while we first complete some of the other urgent projects, but in a few more months we will be back to finish the building which is now only outlined by foundation.

As I stood on what will be the front verandah I couldn’t help dreaming a little. Last year at this time one of our Santal workers was planting rice five feet below where I was standing. Then came the expensive foundation which started deep in the paddy field and went up seven to eight feet. Fortunately, a nearby pond needed digging out so we had plenty of dirt to fill in and around the foundation. Maybe next year when the rains come we’ll be using the building.

I jumped across the extra wide 12-foot verandah which will be patient waiting room to stand at the front door. Suddenly there were painted plastered walls all around me, with a flat reinforced concrete roof overhead. Patients were lining up for their tickets and inside I could see Budhu Ray writing as fast as he could to get the new day’s patients registered. I opened the broad double doors and stepped into the sanctuary of buzzing activity. Nurses were pulling old cards from the files, while others were laying out diagnostic instruments in the examining rooms down the hall. Next to the office, the boys in the pharmacy were already counting out the worm medicines in order to save time when the rush began. I suppose there are some similarities to an assembly line when 300 patients are seen in a day, but even an assembly line can be effective if it is staffed by friendly,
intelligent people. The more serious cases were already being lined up on the two benches in the office, meaning that they would be seen first.

Next I walked into the hallway with the six examining rooms extending off from it on two sides. There I found the other two doctors of our staff sitting and laughing over a humorous incident from the day before. Each examining room was indeed simple with only a small desk, sink, and examining table, with a few diagnostic instruments, but the curtains on the windows and the pictures and calendars on the wall gave them warmth. At the end of the hall I came to the two larger rooms for special examinations. Instruments were already being boiled and the trays with the 'loops' were being set out by another of the nurses.

I walked back down the hallway to the office and then in to the pharmacy. Although this room was small, it was obvious that it was well stocked. The larger stocks of medicines were kept over in the hospital in the old pharmacy, and here only a few days' supply was on hand. The front waiting room-verandah formed an 'L' with the smaller verandah on one side of the pharmacy, and here patients would soon be lining up for their medicines at the large window between the pharmacy and this verandah. A few feet farther down this verandah is a doorway into the pharmacy where the nurses' aid gives injections.

Coming back to the spacious front verandah I felt assured that before long seeing 250-300 patients a day would not be such exhausting work as it now is. Maybe we will even be able to see everybody who comes. Suddenly I was surrounded by piles of brick, rock, and sand. Dreaming was over and two or three patients who had been told to come back tomorrow were heading towards me to plead for treatment today. Without their speaking I knew what they wanted, for in each hand was the 'cacha' ticket which would let them be first tomorrow. I tried to think
of an answer before they reached me, but what could I say? As we walked away from the Lillian Brueckmann clinic foundation I tried to explain to them why we were too exhausted to be able to give good diagnosis and treatment to more people, and at the same time I was thinking to myself ‘How can we wait another year for this building to be finished?’

THE SKILLMAN FAMILY REASSIGNED

At last the hopes of many years have been realized. We as American Baptists now have a teacher representative on the staff at Woodstock School where our children attend. At the beginning of the school year in July, it was announced that Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Skillman were to be released from the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar mission work to join the Woodstock staff. Even while Bud was studying Oriya in Mussoorie, he saw the needs of the school and helped out part time in the Physical Education, Chemistry and Physics courses. Now on the staff full time, Bud will teach freshman Bible and Chemistry at various levels. Jan is also teaching. As a trained Physical Education teacher she is well qualified to direct the High School girls’ physical education program.

We still look upon Bud and Jan as members of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Missionary Fellowship and trust they will be able to join us during the winter when school is closed for three months.
OUR PRAYER CORNER

'Always and in everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.' Ephesians 5:20.

Sunday: Rejoice that we have a God who is able. Able to make His presence felt. Able to make His will known. And, able to give a helping hand during difficult times. Pray that we may never turn our eyes away from Him.

Monday: Give thanks for the Missionaries who are now on furlough in the United States, Maureen Brauns and Sue Powers. May this time of sharing with interested friends be an inspiration to all who hear them speak. May Maureen and Sue receive the rest they need to return refreshed in body and spirit for another period of overseas service.

Tuesday: Rejoice that there are Churches of this mission who have an ongoing program of witnessing continuously to the non-Christian community around them. Pray that they might strengthen and encourage other Churches who do not have this type of outreach.

Wednesday: Express gratitude for the Nekursini Christian Hospital and its program of mobile clinics. Pray that the patients may come to the realization that God's love expressed in the lives of Christian people has made their treatment possible. May the patients respond to this expression of love by giving their lives to Him.

Thursday: Give thanks for the many lay workers who are capable and willing to give leadership in the conferences and retreats of this mission held throughout the year. Pray especially for those who will be leading in conferences during this puja holiday in Oct. and Nov.
Friday: Rejoice that we have Christian Schools and Christian teachers on the staffs of these schools. Pray that the teachers may consecrate their lives anew each day that the training given will bear fruit in the hearts of the students.

Saturday: Express gratitude for the return of Rev. and Mrs. Lynn Hunwick to overseas service. May they find the work God has for them to do. May the missionary family grow in their love for one another as they work toward the mutual goal of doing God’s will.

NEWS ITEMS

A note of appreciation is due to Mrs. Ethel Roadarmel who has served as Tidings editor since 1964. This was not her first experience as editor for she served in this capacity several times previously. Only those people who have ever taken the responsibility know the problems involved and we are especially grateful to Ethel for her untiring efforts on behalf of Tidings.

* * *

Plans are being finalized for the departure of Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel in the last week of September. Enroute to America they will be visiting their oldest son, Norman, and family who are missionaries in Thailand.

* * *

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Alice Gilson and family at the homegoing of Mr. John Gilson on July 19, 1966. The immediate cause of John’s death was pneumonia. We have all been aware that John had not been well for several years. A paralysis in the throat made eating and talking very difficult. John had been in the hospital only a few days prior to his death.
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Long, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hill and Miss Maureen Brians were among those present at the funeral. Mrs. Gilson’s present address is 817 Cajon Street, Redlands, California, 92373.

* * *

We rejoice in the fact that Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick and family will be returning to India. Their freight is already on its way and we are expecting the Hunwicks to fly out sometime in October. The Hunwick family will be located in Jaleswar, Orissa upon their arrival.

* * *

Hazel Smith writes that she will be teaching fourth grade again this coming year. She is spending her spare time these days learning to drive the white chevy she has acquired. Her address is 22 W. Holly Avenue, Oaklyn, New Jersey, 08107.

* * *

Word has recently come from Sue Powers now on furlough in Wisconsin of her expected attendance at the Annual Missions Conference held at Green Lake, Aug. 6-13. This is a real highlight for all privileged to attend. She has been busy speaking at various camps. She will continue on deputation until February when she anticipates taking some courses at the University of Wisc. to better equip her for another term in India. Not too long ago, Sue was able to take a few days off and relax with her brother and family at Three Lakes, Wisc. Sue’s address is Wilmot, Wisconsin.

* * *

Maureen Brians, also on furlough, spends most of her time in deputation on the West coast. Maureen recently wrote of her experiences in a camp patterned after an American Indian village and how interested the young people were to hear about
the mission work in India. After a summer of deputation, Maureen plans to return to California Baptist Theological Seminary at Covina for an additional semester of studies. Maureen's address is 790 N. Gordon, Apt. 12, Pomona, California, 91766.

* * *

Recent word from Bill and Jane Osgood who retired from their work in Orissa in April of this year and now reside in Portland, Oregon indicates that they are far from retired. While Jane is busy taking typing tests for Civil Service, Bill is busy studying and filing applications for a teaching position. Both are thrilled with the recent acquisition of a lovely mobile home. They are especially enjoying frequent visits with daughter Lu and family and son Gilbert. Janet and family are able to visit sometimes also while they are preparing for their reassignment to South India. Beginning in September their address will be, Space 108E, 1501 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland, Oregon, 97217.

* * *

Ina Kau, daughter of Louis and Wilma Kau, flew from Delhi Aug. 5. Destination, McMinnville, Oregon where she will be enrolled as a freshman at Linfield College this fall. All the best Ina as you begin this new venture.

* * *

We are grateful to Isaac Nayak, Supt. of the Balasore Technical School for supplying us with the cover picture of Mr John Gilson.