The First Consistory of the Muscat Church

From left to right, back row: Mubaarek, Rubaiya, Khoda Rasoon, Wadeea, Rev. Garrett De Jong in the rear. Front row: Hajar, wife of Khoda Rasoon and Lateefa, daughter of Rubaiya.
The Arabian Mission

OF THE
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*Members of the United Mission in Iraq in which we cooperate with the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

(Continued on page 16)
DO IT NOW

There has been no publication of Arabia Calling since the 1956-57 issue. The Friesema Brothers Printing Company of Detroit, who have printed this for many years as their contribution to the missionary program of the church, found it necessary to terminate this service. All who have enjoyed this informative quarterly continue to be thankful for the splendid support these friends have given.

Beginning with this issue, Arabia Calling will be published annually. We hope that it can be ready for mailing in February of each year. All ministers of the Reformed Church will receive one copy as usual. Will any others who receive this copy and wish to receive future issues please send a postcard telling of your desire. We will gladly place your name on the list of those who are to receive this publication. As we must bring the mailing list up to date, you will aid us greatly in sending your order at your earliest convenience. Send cards to Arabia Calling, Room 905, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Whatsoever Things Are of Good Report

by Elinor C. Heusinkveld, R.N.

The Arabian Mission year from October 1956 to September 1957 was unique in some ways. First, the Board sent out the Educational Survey Team to make a study of mission schools. It was composed of Miss Irene Teagarden, educational secretary of the Syria-Lebanon Mission; Dr. Walter Skellie, president of Assuit College, Egypt; Mr. John Karayusu, treasurer of Aleppo College of Syria; Dr. R. Park Johnson, field representative. We thank them for studying the problems, making helpful suggestions and giving freely of their own time. We hope that next year's report will tell of progress made in the line of their recommendations.

We also thank the Board and members of the Medical Survey Team including Miss Aley Matthews, director of nursing in the Ranipet Hospital, India; Miss Estella Chambers, nurse, and Dr. Rolla Hoffman, from mission institutions in Iran; Dr. Edmond Rice, United Christian Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan; Dr. R. Park Johnson, field representative; and our own Dr. Barnerd M. Luben and Rev. John E. Buteyn. They put in many hours of research as well as prayer in making the study of all our medical needs.
A great deal of time was spent in the consideration of the proposed new hospital for Bahrain and in advising the medical workers in the upbuilding of their hospitals to set better standards of service among our Muslim people.

Hospital boards of managers had their first trial run of a year's duration in our mission hospitals. The opinion appears to be unanimous that they have been a great success and should by all means continue.

The ministers met in conference to consider how best to proceed in their particular phases of the work. This too was most worthwhile and it was voted to repeat such experiences.

A mission executive committee also had its first trial run. Of all the committees this one no doubt had the hardest job. Its purpose is interim action for the Mission between meetings. Growing pains were suffered during the two meetings held, but we trust that these will be outgrown and that it will become our most effective method of doing this work. So much in general for the year. Now let us visit the five areas and see what has been taking place in each of them.

AMARAH

At our most northern location we meet Mrs. Nykerk and Mrs. Staal, in charge of women's evangelistic work; Miss Voss of the nursing work; Rev. Mr. Staal, our pastor; and Dr. Nykerk our chief medical officer. Dr. and Mrs. Heusinkvekl shared in the medical work until May when they were transferred to Muscat.

Many experiences in our daily work seem so aptly expressed in Bible verses. Our women evangelists here feel that they can almost hear re-echoing today the words of King Agrippa when he said to Paul, "In a short time you think to make me a Christian!" And they would answer with Paul, "Whether short or long, we would that you might believe in Christ as Saviour." One day several of the women came up after a meeting and said, "Thank you for that lesson. It is true physical healing is a great blessing, but that will pass; financial help for difficult times is a blessing, but that too will pass. Only the faith in our hearts that Christ is our Saviour can bring the blessing that will last for all eternity." Agrippa said, "ALMOST thou persuadest me to be a Christian!" To take that final step of baptism and confession before men—that is the hurdle that keeps the ALMOST large in the sentence and makes work among the women difficult.

The men's evangelistic report quotes: "Paul planted, and Apollos watered, but God gave the increase," which continues to be the story of the work of the Church of Jesus Christ from the first century. We are grateful to God for what appears to be an increase. One of the young hospital boys has made a public statement of his desire to be a Christian before a mixed group, because he feels that Christ has saved him from his sins. After six months of study and training by the local church members and pastor he will be received into the church, if he remains faithful to his intentions.

Another note of hope and joy is the way in which the men of the church have taken over the spiritual and financial responsibilities. Most of the financial support has come from the English-speaking community which will have moved away when the road and bridge projects are finished.
This willingness to assume responsibility should do a great deal to assure the future growth of the church.

A young men's camp at Shaqlawa, in the coolness of northern Iraq, and the youth conference at Kirkuk made a very deep impression upon Mr. Staal and members of the hospital staff who attended. This is a very definite way of getting our young people interested in dedicating their lives to our Lord.

For many years there has not been enough attention paid to obstetrics, maternal and child welfare work for there was no one to do the job. Infant mortality can be reduced by a program of this sort which presents a real challenge in a medical way and as an opportunity for personal work. Miss Voss has now had training in these services, and we are all most eager to increase our work along this line. There was the frustration, after the Heusinkvelds left, of having only one American nurse to supervise the whole hospital and clinic work. This makes it impossible to carry on the work as one would like to see it done. She kept before her, however, the exhortation, “Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith” seems to fit in with the year’s report for the Lansing Memorial Hospital. It seems fitting to bring in the word light as in a year the number of cataract removal operations has increased from sixteen to 114. Every day brings in new patients from outlying districts with their pathetic complaint, “I cannot see. I want, the operation that will enable me to see again.” We are thankful for the privilege of being here to help them receive physical sight and also that they may come to know Jesus the true light.

During the year the new annex consisting of eight private rooms with baths was opened. We hope this will aid the hospital in becoming self-supporting. One of the local converts employed by the hospital spends
his entire afternoon duty hours in evangelistic work with the patients. The response to his message has varied, but in general he has been well accepted. A hope for the future is the installation of a loud speaker system from the church and chapel to the hospital wards so that all services may be heard daily by the patients. Some funds are on hand for this purpose.

The staff would like to continue village work again as soon as there are two doctors and two nurses in attendance. Besides the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Baghdad, Lansing Memorial is the only mission hospital in all Iraq. We are hoping for personnel increases so that our hospital may advance.

**BASRAH**

Traveling south over a new road we come, after a 120-mile drive, to Basrah where Mrs. Gosselink and Mrs. Luidens are in charge of the women's evangelistic work; Miss Hoogeveen of the girls' school; Mr. Gosselink of the boys' school; and Rev. Mr. Luidens of the men's evangelistic work until furlough in June. Dr. and Mrs. Draper studied Arabic here until their transfer to Amarah in May; Miss Nienhuis completed her year of study here. Mrs. Luidens wrote that the active Protestant church group stands high on their list of memorable contacts. The alert young adult group of the church gave encouraging signs of growth and leadership for the future. Their bi-weekly meetings in the homes were well attended and well organized. Many of the women understand the challenge and responsibility to witness for Christ among the non-Christians.

Women's evangelistic work, wrote Mrs. Gosselink, was through girls' club work, women's meetings and home visitation. Three clubs met on different mornings each week; the enrollment was 25, 38 and 90. Work with the women of the Protestant Evangelical Church through the women's society was most gratifying. The relationship between Mission and church has been one of sharing and cooperation. Through service committees they have helped the especially needy, visited the sick in the hospitals, called on the aged and those of their own community in times of joy and sorrow.

Of the 112 students in the girls' school, 98 actually finished the school year. Four weekly sewing clubs trained 103 girls. After a sewing exhibit in March, one group continued as a Bible club and English classes took the place of the others. During the summer a Daily Vacation Bible School registered fifty-two girls, all the teachers being high school girls from the Protestant church. Miss Hoogeveen accompanied seven girls from the Basrah church to a 3-day young people's conference in Kirkuk. Six of these girls accepted Christ as Saviour at the close of the conference.

In some ways the boys' school marked time during the year, waiting to see what the future might hold as a result of the Educational Survey. In spite of this it was a year of rewarding experiences. The need for upgrading our intermediate school to full secondary level has been most apparent. There is a great demand for higher education and all schools are filled, whether they be government or mission schools. In the new government schools of commerce, crafts and teacher training, preference is given to students coming from government lower schools. Many of our students transfer in order to be eligible. Many of them would rather stay
with us, and they keep coming back even after they have transferred. We are sorry that the moral, spiritual and scholastic contact is cut short like this, before we have a chance to carry them on to a stage of greater maturity. Activities for them after school hours have been discussed, but that also brings up the problem of divided loyalties.

There is a great teacher shortage in the country. Government teacher training is free of charge, but the teachers are beholden to the government for as many hours of service as they have received training. We must either partially support our teachers while they are training in Lebanon or some other place, or be satisfied with supply teachers from other schools. Another unsatisfactory arrangement is to look for those who have completed their government contracts. Then it is a question whether they will leave government service with superior pay and more generous pension system to come to us.

Evangelistic opportunity for men is found right in the school and in teaching the twenty-five Bible classes a week. Other activities occupying Mr. Luidens' time were his responsibilities on the Near East Christian Council and its audio-visual committee, representing the whole Arab Asia area.

Rev. Mr. Gosselink was also dean of the training camp for Christian workers at Shaqlawa in August. He recommends that the Arabian Mission give serious thought with the United Mission in Iraq to the continuance of these summer camps on a more permanent basis.

KUWAIT

Kuwait is a half hour's air journey from Basrah. It can be done by car over a bad road, or by boat. Here Mrs. De Jong was our woman evangelist until a transfer in June to Muscat when her work was taken over by Mrs. MacNeill. Likewise Rev. Mr. De Jong turned over his work to Rev. Mr. MacNeill. Dr. Allison left on furlough in June, leaving the work of the Olcott Memorial Hospital to Miss Boomgaard and Dr. and Mrs. Scudder, in addition to their own responsibilities in the Mylrea Memorial Hospital. Miss Holmes spent full time in language study until her transfer to Bahrain in March to take over the orphanage.

Mrs. MacNeill reported the growth of the Arabic Church School
which continued through the summer months. A sixth class may be added. The three mission children have been the nucleus for an English language Sunday school; about twenty attended with more expected in the autumn. A Malayalcm Sunday school was also held, in charge of the wife of the secretary of the Malayalam Christian congregation, assisted by the two women doctors of the hospital. Women’s meetings were held with stories and lessons in Arabic and Persian.

Mr. De Jong reported that one of the outstanding occasions was the old year watch night service with over fifty attending. Approximately ninety people partook of communion during Passion Week. On Good Friday services began at 6:30 a.m. and continued through 8 p.m. Four groups had their own separate language or national devotions. At the Three Hour service six languages were used. Folks came and went, but many stayed throughout, filling the church to overflowing. An estimate of attendance is 150 to 200. The first sunrise service in Kuwait to celebrate Easter was held on the roof of the Mylrea Memorial Hospital; seventy people attended. More than 100 worshiped at the 9:30 a.m. Easter service for the Arabic congregation; the 11 a.m. service in English was attended by a hundred people; the evening worship drew around eighty people.

Two local colporteurs carried on enthusiastically at the Hospital and Bible shop. Scripture distribution and sales were high, averaging $50 to $60 a month. "My Word shall not return unto me void," saith the Lord.

The church building erected in 1931 has many times proved too small for the congregation. Sunday evening and special services attract twice the sixty for which it was planned. Urgent needs are a large hall for meetings and fellowship and more space for Sunday school classes. It is good to be able to present the need for a larger church plant, with the cost being raised locally. Everything must be done to answer our prayers that the sons of Islam may receive the free gift of the Lord’s saving grace in Christ, and that they too may assume their rightful places in His congregation of believers. There is a great yearning among the people of Kuwait for that greater wisdom. If evangelistic impact could be measured by statistics as the medical work is, the figures would be impressive. Steadily increasing are the numbers of non-Christians who come seeking the wisdom of the Book.

Possibilities are great for the need of a trained community to follow up on hospital visitation. Kuwait needs two ordained men; one untrained in Arabic could fill a needed role here with responsibilities in many activities on a short term basis.

After study in the United States and in Bossey, Switzerland, Rev. Mr. MacNeill feels that we are not touching the major task of real communication at the present time, even though the work done is all essential. Our major purpose is evangelization. We must spend more time in training the Christian community and reach out to draw others in while the door is still open.

Dr. Scudder reported that the building up of the spiritual house of God from inanimate steel and concrete structures of the Kuwait hospitals is their avowed purpose. They seek to undergird it by weaving into its fabric the lives of a devoted Christian staff. They seek to beautify it with pictures of the life-giving gospel of Christ. They seek to give it the soft-
ness, the flexibility and the sympathetic understanding of the love of Jesus in its treatment of sick and tortured bodies and souls. Only then will the hospitals take on life, and the house of God built from living stones will be an irresistible force in the evangelization of Islam.

The Board of Managers in Kuwait has brought a new feeling of the unity of purpose to the whole medical program and a comfortable feeling of strength and authority standing squarely behind the medical personnel in its approach to problems.

Both hospitals are now served by one laboratory and X-ray department. More and more general operations for men and women are being performed in the men’s hospital in the operating suite. In deference to purdah, separate outpatient and inpatient departments must be maintained. Purdah will only go when Islam goes, and we pray God that He will hasten the day.

BAHRAIN

Bahrain is by air one and a half hours from Kuwait, or by boat two days. Mrs. Dunham was in charge of the women’s work here, assisted by Mrs. Voss until the latter’s furlough in August. Rev. Mr. Dunham was in charge of the men’s evangelistic work. Miss Ruth Jackson of the girls’ school was assisted by Mrs. Begg. Mr. Begg served as mission accountant, Dr. Draper replaced Dr. Voss in charge of medical work in August, with Miss De Young responsible for the nursing work in the women’s hospital and Miss Tanis in the Mason Memorial, the men’s hospital. Mr. Decker had charge of the laboratory and X-ray departments and shared with Mrs. Decker the management of the orphanage until their furlough in April.

Women’s evangelistic work includes some of the teaching of Bible classes and music in the girls’ school, women’s meetings, English and Arabic Sunday school and Bible classes and home visits.

Feeling ran high during the Suez crisis in 1956 and street mobs did considerable damage to buildings. For almost a month strict curfew laws were enforced. Evangelistic visits to villages were not resumed until Jan-
January. Hospital clinics were almost non-existent for six weeks and continued light for another six weeks. The goodwill accumulated over the years enabled the mission staff to remain in Manama, the center of Bahrain islands, without any undue risk. Mission personnel and government officials were the only Europeans who did remain. There is little doubt that the continued presence of mission personnel greatly added to the stability of the Arab Christian community at that time.

To round out the situation in the rest of the Mission, feelings ran high in Kuwait at this time also. Strikes were rampant as well as demonstrations while strict military measures maintained order. No incident directly involved any of the Mission nor its property; the personnel moved about as little as possible. Amarah also experienced anti-government and anti-Western riots. Iraq was under martial law for some time; all hospital entries were guarded as well as compound ones. Schools and clinics were closed and it was some months before things returned to normal.

The men's evangelistic work had two primary objectives: to enlarge and strengthen the Arab Christian community and to contribute to the building up of the community of Bahrain.

The goodwill of the people must be used wisely in the service of the Bahrain community. The Mission has not only the responsibility of preaching the gospel, but it must be the seedbed of genuine religious tolerance and the builder of community spirit large enough to admit all races, nationalities and creeds.

Nationals make up the Church Committee and they planned the Good Friday services and the Easter sunrise service. They assumed considerable financial responsibility, sent two young men to the summer conference, authorized a money gift to the Bethlehem School for the Blind, laid a new tile floor in the church and painted the building inside and out, paid the rent for the colporteur and the costs on the pastor's car.

"Let the little children come unto me, and forbid them not." Seven pound, four-day-old John was found by one of the hospital workers in the cemetery and brought to the hospital. The oil company Sunday school sent over a box of clothes, so did the people on the mainland, and in no time he was a well outfitted baby.

At the Beit Saeed orphanage an innovation was the toy library. A record was kept of all toys just as in a library. If a child broke or damaged a toy he had borrowed he had to wait a while before he could borrow another. Each child had his special responsibility in the home. One of the older boys returned from school in the Lebanons and began a four-year training course in the Awalie Oil Company. He is self-supporting, seems to be making good and appears happy. Another of our boys in Lebanon stood first in his class and his brother fifth in his class of twenty.

The girls' school had a full registration; ten girls graduated in June. Three sat for the government exams to enter high school and were in the upper fourth of around 470 boys and girls taking the exams. A note of commendation was sent to Miss Jackson with their reports, but an informal remark made by the government directress of female education was appreciated even more when she said, "I think your girls who come to us
have more depth than ours. The character training you give them shows. We don't have that in our schools."

The new seventh grade included a daily hour of advanced Arabic, one of English with a variety of subjects and one of theory and practice of teacher training. Seven graduates enrolled in the full course and the three youngest teachers and two girls sent by the mission in Muscat took the teacher training period.

The alumnae club sponsored a charity bazaar, running the affair very capably. The church women's society contributed items they had made. The club cleared over $1000. After careful consideration they donated to the hospital an air-conditioning unit for the delivery room and two fans. They also gave two fans to the school and sent an order for $100 worth of sewing materials to make up for a future bazaar.

Three of the Christian girls joined the church. There are eight Christians, four of whom are from our orphanage, two of our church and two Roman Catholics, seventeen Jews and 101 Muslim girls in the school. Three boys of kindergarten age were taken in as the Educational Survey Team recommended caring for the boys of our Christian community or helpers for the early years of their education.

The teachers were given a raise in salary, still considerably less than the government gives, and we must try to bring our standard up to theirs as soon as possible.

The Marion Thoms Memorial Hospital, for women, has a staff of seven Indian nurse-midwives. When our Indian lady doctor left for vacation, the Arab women accepted the Indian male doctor. This was a big step forward. A board of managers was organized and met to discuss the problems of both hospitals and help make decisions of policy, finance and personnel. The nurses' training school was put off for a year.

Staff education programs were started in both hospitals. In the women's hospital the gospel has been preached through morning prayers, special meetings and bedside evangelism. We are planting, watering, praying and believing that some day the Lord will give the increase.
Fifty-four years of pioneer medical work have passed. For much of this time our attempts represented the only preventive medicine and public health of the community. The people learned to know and love our doctors. Now, however, the men's hospital is in a state of disrepair and upper class patients will not consider it. In any conversation with them the subject of plans for a new hospital is always brought up by them.

There are two weekly mejisdes designed for the men patients and their friends; talks to clinic patients were carried on each day; a program of follow-up to the homes of Bahraini villagers was undertaken, as well as daily prayers for the workers.

The U.S. Navy people on the island became interested in beautifying the reception room by doing some painting, adding a few chairs, some colorful pictures, and curtains. They have also acted frequently as blood donors. Women from the oil camps continued to show their enthusiasm by regularly sending hospital supplies.

**MUSCAT**

A four-day boat trip from Bahrain and one arrives at Muscat. The boat leaves every six days and a plane taking six hours goes weekly. Here were Rev. Jay Kapenga, until his furlough in June (Rev. Garrett De Jong took over in August); Mrs. Kapenga, principal of the Muscat school until replaced in March by Miss Rachel Jackson; Miss Boersma, nurse and superintendent of the women's hospital and in charge of women's evangelistic work until her furlough in June. Miss Dalenberg returned in March and took over her medical responsibilities and Miss Jackson the evangelistic, the latter again relieved by Mrs. De Jong’s arrival. Dr. Thoms was in charge of the Muscat-Matrath medical work and Mrs. Thoms shared in the school, evangelistic work and medical work, taking over the women’s evangelistic work in April on the departure of Mrs. Bosch for furlough. Dr. Bosch was chief surgeon. Miss Schmalzriedt served as nursing superintendent for the Knox Memorial and Sharon Thoms Memorial Hospitals. Dr. and Mrs. Heusinkveld shared in the work from August on.

The Muscat-Matrath Christian community is happily church-centered. We all worshiped together in Muscat on Sunday mornings, separated from Matrah by three miles. The responsive reading was announced a week ahead and then read every day in morning prayers; the group participated well in hymn singing. Even semi-literate members of the congregation were enthusiastic participants.

Sunday afternoons on the veranda of the Knox Memorial Hospital in Matrah, the gospel was preached to hospital patients and their friends and families. Ministers, doctors or convert staff members led. A similar service was held in the Muscat hospital. Sunday evenings hymn sings in both places closed with Bible reading and prayer.

Leper and tubercular patients, with their relatives, had their own service on Monday afternoons under the shade of a tree. Juma, an arrested tuberculosis case, works in the hospital and joined the church in the spring. Moosa, a convert of a few years, cared for those patients each day in real Christian love. One can truly see the results of it. Salem, a leprosy patient, made a folding stand for holding the Bible and hymn book for the leader.
He reads easily, takes part in prayer and has asked to be baptized.

Tuesday mornings a group of young women met in Matrah for Bible study. Wednesdays a prayer meeting for all Christians was held. Thursday afternoons was a sewing club for girls, and Friday afternoons a mejlis for women interested an average attendance of forty to fifty people. A similar group met in Muscat. Daily clinic talks, visiting in the hospitals, Bible classes, Sunday school classes and reading classes presented other evangelistic opportunities for the Muscat women.

World Day of Prayer was observed with a young convert from Islam conducting the service in which all Christian women participated. A sunrise Easter service has become an annual event, followed by breakfast on the roof of the Matrah mission house.

The war in Oman made us all sad. It was continued, however, in a small area and did not affect our day-to-day activities; it did take away our previous freedom of traveling to the interior.

Church, in the sense of the Spirit has been one of the main emphases of the men's evangelistic work. The heart of our concern for the people of Muscat was that the community of believers might grow in depth and experience and witness. There has been a conscious effort to relate our Muscat group to people of the way and people of the light and to people in one mind and spirit—those early Christian titles before Christian and Church were introduced as such.

Two converts from Islam were baptized at Easter, 1957, making a total of twenty-nine baptized converts. There are fifteen Christian children who represent the future church and explains our deep concern for their education.

Saeed Melki, an Iraqi from the Amarah church, came to lead the

A bit of the Netherlands in Matrah. A group of Reformed Church people contributed the windmill which pumps water for irrigation and household purposes.
meetings during Religious Emphasis Week, one of the finest experiences
the Muscat church has ever enjoyed. His impact was understandable as he
is of the same cultural background as our Christians. The church in Bah­
rain aided with financial help in making this visit possible. Thus, *forsaking
not the assembling together*, frequent gatherings bound the believers to­
gether in genuine fellowship.

Miss Jackson found the Peter Zwemer Memorial School in Muscat
running along smoothly under Mrs. Kapenga’s supervision who reported
a friendly atmosphere in the school and the rest of the work, as if all
were members of one large family with each one helping the other. For a
month after school closed, the girls met three mornings a week for en­
joyable sewing sessions. Thirty-four girls and twenty-six boys made a total
of sixty pupils. Nearly half the children came from Matrah which meant
two round trips for the truck and driver. Sessions were held mornings
only because of this and the fact that three married teachers could give
only part-time service. The aim is to have two sessions. The children of
the church are being kept in a Christian atmosphere during their formative
years and it is the hope that the Muslim children attending receive more
than the three R’s.

A noisy taxi drew up to the gate of the Muscat women’s hospital. Two
women stepped out helping a third. They came toward the clinic where
we were at work and where many women were milling around and headed
straight for the delivery room. After a few minutes number one, having
deposited number two on the delivery room bed, came out to look for
help for an imminent birth. These women were from Ruwi, a village not
far from Matrah. Like seasoned shoppers in a supermarket, they knew
what they wanted and they knew where to get it. There were 480 obstet­
rical cases during the year.

For a few months we had the help of an Indian woman doctor, the
bride of our Indian doctor in the Matrah hospital—the first woman doc­
tor the hospital had had since Dr. Hosman’s resignation in 1938. It was
not until 1952 that the Mission could spare even a missionary nurse to
take full charge. During the interval Nurse Mary carried on with some
help from the Matrah male doctor. Nurse Mary retired in December after
about forty years in the Muscat hospital. She had truly won a place for
herself in the hearts of the Muscat people. In later years she was deliver­
ning babies of *her babies*. The community and the Mission were most ap­
preciative of her fine faithful service.

Two new rooms have been added to the nurses’ home—one for a
nurse we hope to get and the other a light and airy sitting room. One
capable young Indian nurse has now been with us a year.

Work, worship, sing, play—the Christian group did everything to­
gether. The women have caught the idea of service in the name of Christ.
A recently baptized woman gave a talk at one of the Sunday afternoon
inpatient gatherings. A beginner in reading, she had someone else read
for her the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, after which she told
the story in her own words. Christian Arabs often use stories of Christ
winning individuals. She told how He had won her. “I was sick and He
healed me,” she said. “I believed and accepted His word and gave myself
to Him, and His spirit entered my heart and is a fountain inside of me.” God is using this child of His and others like her with their simple and sincere witness, to lead the women of Muscat to Him.

Knox Memorial Hospital had a full-time nurse to supervise the work of the staff and for a few months two mission doctors plus the Indian one. Unfortunately such a situation does not last long. With vacations, furloughs and replacements, it usually ends up with robbing Peter to pay Paul! Three boys were taken on as helpers, two of whom have become very useful. The third turned out to be a better carpenter and left. The government sent two young lads to us for several months to absorb what they could of hospital routine. Then they were sent out to assist two Pakistani doctors working for the government in inland villages.

Nurse Susan, a fine, gentle, Christian nurse, had the distinction of being the first full-time Indian nurse at Knox Memorial Hospital.

Every phase of the work continues to increase steadily each year. The new road, which the oil company built to their drilling site, was partly responsible for the increase. Towns formerly reached by camel or donkey in a two-or-three-day journey now can be reached in a few hours over this road.

A two-week tour was made to Tenoof during which almost a hundred trachoma operations were performed and several hundred people were treated. One person could spend his entire time doing these operations in the coastline Batina villages for one year and not have a slack moment. The two Pakistani doctors hired by the government to treat the people of Nizwa and Sur were invited by us to spend long enough in our operating room to teach them to do this simple operation. If they could do it, they could save the eyesight of scores of people. Neither of them came more than once or twice, nor have we heard that they were doing any eye surgery. All the Scripture portions that had been taken along were sold, some at an auction to the highest bidder. In this way the last few to be sold brought a fairly high price; people seemed to think that their desirability was in direct proportion to their scarcity. No one seemed to object to this means of evangelism since they were free to bid or not to bid on the books.

Now nothing remains of Tenoof. The imposing fort and castle, a sketch of which, made by Peter Zwemer, appears in *The Cradle of Islam*, is razed to the ground, and the sheikh and his family and people whom we treated are fugitives in the mountains except for one son who is a political prisoner here in Muscat.

“Whatsoever things are of good report . . . think on these things.” We consider the record of the past year of good report, but in the face of the untouched multitudes, we feel very humble and our work appears insignificant, like the little boy offering the two loaves and a few fishes to Jesus. But knowing that it is Christ’s work and He is working with us, it cannot fail! Even as He took the boy’s lunch and blessed it and fed it to a multitude, so He can take the work which we have done in His name and build it into His glorious kingdom. When we remember all our blessings and look ahead in faith at the wonderful vision of Christ’s established kingdom in Arabia, we press onward to a new year of work, ahead of us to reach the goal that He has set before us!
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