"The work of Christian evangelism is a labor of love. And in spite of all its ups and downs, acceptances and rejections, it still has to consider itself in the light of that one supreme love. It is a work that must be able to endure no matter what comes up; it must not give in when the going seems rough; it can never let its eternal hope fade. It must still stand when all else has fallen."
The Arabian Mission

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(Continued on page 18)
Arabian Mission Annual Meeting

Rose Nykerk (edited by Dorothy Burt)

Members of the Arabian Mission gathered in Kuwait for a full annual meeting on the seventh of October, 1955. The forty-two persons in attendance included Rev. Henry Bovenkerk, treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions and the Rev. Bernard D. Hakken, member of the United Mission in Iraq. Mr. Wilbur G. Dekker remained in Bahrain to supervise the children in the orphanage. Rev. G. Jacob Holler and Dr. Bernard Voss divided their time between the meeting and their posts. All others were present for the entire meeting. It was a time of wonderful fellowship, inspiring devotional periods, unity of spirit in policy and business decisions and a general feeling of goodwill and cooperation.

In this issue of Arabia Calling we share with you some of the high moments of our meeting, our hopes and aspirations for the future and our thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to us during the year. We know you are with us in asking His blessing for the year to come.

"To the Glory of God and for the Good of the People of Kuwait"

The first big event was the opening of the new Mylrea Memorial Hospital of the American Mission in Kuwait. On Saturday, October 8, His Highness Sheikh Sir Abdulla Al-Salem Al-Subah, K.C.M.G., C.I.E., formally opened the doors of the new men's hospital. Following the service of dedication there was an escorted tour through the building. A reception was held later on the mission grounds.

Those who took part in the ceremony were: Ya'coob Shammas, colporteur in the Bible Shop of Kuwait and preacher in the Evangelical Church; Rev. George Gosselink, secretary of the Mission and principal of the School of High Hope, Basrah; Rev. G. E. De Jong, padre in Bahrain; Abdulla Alireza, co-director of the Suhail Company, contractors for the hospital; Lewis R. Scudder, M.D., medical officer of the Mylrea Memorial Hospital in Kuwait; Doctors Allison, Storm, Nykerk, Heusinkveld, Voss and Bosch.

The map shows the various locations in which the work is carried on. In Baghdad the Reformed Church shares with other missions in carrying on mission work under the United Mission in Iraq. Rev. Bernard
D. Hakken of this mission attended as a fraternal delegate. Speaking one evening on the work in Baghdad, he stressed the number of young men who have recently asked for instruction and baptism. The Christian group is growing and some families have come into the church, forming a real nucleus for the future Christian church in Baghdad. Since Mr. Hakken spent many years in the boys' school in Bahrain, and since education was one of the main items discussed at the meeting, he was often called upon for suggestions and advice.

AMARAH—most northerly station; located 250 miles south of Baghdad and 120 miles north of Basrah

There are no educational institutions in Amarah. The hospital, however, has carried on a staff nursing education program and the church is a constant teaching medium through its services, Sunday schools, youth programs, etc.

Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Luidens are both engaged in full time evangelistic work. Mr. Luidens is pastor of the church and also works with visual aids and radio evangelism, sharing in the planning for future Arabic broadcasts in the Near East. Their one joint project is the Friday morning children's class which has become a challenge to them. Enrollment has reached 120 making two sessions necessary. These naturally undisciplined children have learned hymns, Bible verses and Bible stories. Visual aids have been used to a great extent in their teaching.

Mr. Luidens paid tribute to his father, Dr. Anthony Luidens, who in a two-month visit spent most of his time and energy in attempting to comprehend the Arab mind and in personal witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On one all-day trip two heads of local government departments said, "He's almost made us Christians already." His enthusiasm made an impression on the community, too, despite the language barrier.

The men of the church have met to discuss church problems and several of them are growing in their ability to express their faith straightforwardly and very effectively and so are sharing more fully in the preaching of the Gospel. They have begun to share the responsibility of group discipline in Christian brotherhood. "If the Mission would grant them jurisdiction over the use of the church's offerings," said Mr. Luidens, "as a step toward their assumption of leadership, this would be a step forward. We are trying to grow in our sense of true brotherhood with this small Christian community, so that we may grow all together into the full unity of the Spirit."

Mrs. Luidens used the word participation as the keynote of her report of evangelistic work among the women. Each Sunday she spends time with Um-Waheeda who is especially eager to learn more about the Gospel and then to share it with others. Waheeda, the daughter, joins in too and is happy to read the Bible selections chosen for discussion. Although they often receive abuse from the community, they continue to stand up for their faith.

"May His church in Amarah grow in wisdom, and in size and in favor with God and man."
Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Heusinkveld have worked together in the Lansing Memorial Hospital for more than five years. They think the work in Amarah is well worth while particularly because of its effect on the boys who work in the hospital. They attend chapel services each morning and have imbibed so much Bible knowledge that they can express themselves well in the use of Bible texts and references. One of these youths has asked for baptism in spite of family threats.

"In quietness and confidence shall be thy strength," and "Thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance" are two verses which have become very meaningful in Amarah during the past year. Just after the Heusinkvelds returned to Amarah from the annual meeting, the rain started, lasting for over a month, and producing more rainfall than the area usually has in two years. Roads were closed for many weeks and none of the village patients could get to the hospital. This caused a marked decline in the work with outpatients as well as inpatients. New equipment funds had to be used for current expenses.

"The crying need of the hospital," writes Dr. Heusinkveld, "is a group of private rooms for both male and female patients." Each year the number of educated people in Amarah increases. More teachers and government officials have entered. Work on the new road from Basrah to Amarah, a new bridge across the Tigris and other projects will bring still more people into the area. There are no facilities for this new group. If a block of private rooms and needed
bathroom facilities could be added soon (the Board has since approved this), the hospital could give care to these people who have asked for it.

Mrs. Heusinkveld spends almost full time in the hospital; household duties and young Paul absorb much of her time, too. Each morning the outpatient clinic and the women’s clinics average between thirty and fifty women and children.

Miss Jeannette Veldman continues the Nursing Staff education program through class work and practical application of nursing procedures in the hospital. She stresses Christian honesty and service and the fact that the patient is the most important person in the hospital. Getting individual responsibility and the staff members’ best at all times is a constant pull but there is evident improvement.

Dr. and Mrs. Nykerk are happy to be back in service again. Dr. Nykerk notes a great difference in this hospital compared to the ones down the gulf. The extreme poverty of the people makes it difficult to get the expensive medicines they need. “We dislike stressing money,” he says, “but hesitate to order expensive drugs unless we have collected something because we have no means of paying for the drugs ourselves. In addition to their poverty there is a deep-rooted fear of surgery.” Many of them go away and die without surgery muttering, “Akhaaf amoot,” (I’m afraid I’ll die). It is a matter of training to build up confidence. The great need of the hospital is to operate on a self-supporting basis. “We hope the Lord will bless our efforts in Amarah to present the whole Gospel message through our contacts with patients in the hospital.”

BASRAH at the head of the Persian Gulf

The main work in Basrah is presented through the medium of the boys’ school in Ashar and the girls’ school in Basrah City. Through the club work for girls, hundreds are reached each week. This emphasis on youth has been an influence for good throughout the years.

One of the main events of the year was the building of a new mission residence supervised by Rev. George Gosselink. This beautiful, large excellently constructed home has extra bedrooms for the many guests who pass through Basrah. While he was occupied with this project, the school work has been on the shoulders of Rev. G. Jacob Holler who reports that their greatest single problem is a blanket order that no teacher should teach more than thirty hours of classes a week. Some of the mathematics teachers, who are regular government school teachers filling in as needed, had totals of nearly forty hours a week. They could have remained, but only at the expense of losing their government jobs which offer attractive pensions. They simply left. Another went back to his accounting job at the flour mill when pressured to decide on one job. “We ended the year,” added Mr. Holler, “with a former school boy who has a special arrangement with the Department of Education which allows him to supply-teach in our school. All this was somewhat disconcerting, since the Department’s ruling was put into effect just three weeks before mid-year examinations.” Our boys were without a math teacher at precisely the wrong time.
At the close of the 1954-55 year there were 186 boys registered in the primary school and 80 in the middle school, a total of 266. This year the enrollment totals 251. There were the usual twenty-four classes of Bible each week. The arrival of Mr. Donald Maxam as a short termer for the next three years was great encouragement indeed. With their personnel at full strength the school looks forward to teaching, preaching and praying so that the spirit of Jesus may leaven the community.

Miss Rachel Jackson reports that the girls' school had an unusually large enrollment of 110 as compared with 94 the previous year. The periods have been lengthened from twenty-five to forty-five minutes, according to government regulation. Consequently the program has become less flexible with the time given to sewing cut from an hour and a half daily to three three-quarter hour periods a week.

The children pay a small registration fee and the cost of their books, whereas the government schools are all free and materials are supplied.

The clubs proved so popular that a third one was organized. In the Tuesday Club, many of the twenty-six members are former students and therefore know how to read and write. They studied the Gospel of Luke. Girls in the other two have the Bible stories read to them. The purpose of the school and club work is "to present Jesus Christ through reading, hearing about Him and by our lives, and we pray that some day the girls will open their hearts to Him."
Mrs. George Gosselink and Mrs. G. Jacob Holler report on the women’s evangelistic work and the club work in Basrah for the older girls. A complete and efficient program was carried on during the year with three working at it. (Mrs. Van Ess, when in Basrah, was also a part of this program during the past year.)

Besides classes in reading, health and devotional periods, the older girls were given lessons in family life. "To look into the eager little faces of sixty to a hundred children, to hear them sing and recite, and to watch them drink in every detail of the Bible story as it is being told and illustrated by Miriam, our helper, is heart-warming to say the least." This past year there has been what might be called a Sunday school class on Friday mornings for a group of girls who attend the government school. Visits to the homes of the girls were most gratifying.

In their tribute to Mrs. Van Ess, Mrs. Gosselink and Mrs. Holler add, "Her love for the underprivileged and her faith in them as well as her unusual organizing ability have helped greatly in the success of our club work thus far. May we who follow, with the Lord’s help, be enabled to carry on with as great a vision and with as much consecration as she did."

Mrs. Holler used her nursing ability in the Amarah hospital during the summer, but most of her time was spent in Basrah in the girls' club work and evangelism among the women.

Following Paul’s example—"The more excellent way, the way of love," Mrs. Holler relates the story of little Shereffa, a member of one of the girls’ clubs:

"She is not so difficult to love. She sits quietly and attentively, sharing in the singing and recitation, listening attentively to the Bible story illustrated by the flannelgraph. She is neat and attractive. It nearly broke our hearts one day when Um-Shereffa came to tell her daughter ‘good-bye.’ Our little girl’s father had taken a second wife and Shereffa’s mother had been divorced and was being sent back to her family. Shereffa’s clothes had been taken to her father’s new wife’s home where she was to live from then on. Little Shereffa needs our love and we in turn find it easy to love her."

The three big events of the club year are the Christmas season, Field Day and the Sewing Exhibit. All three require long hours of planning and preparation.

KUWAIT on the shore of the Persian Gulf

This year Kuwait saw the fulfillment of the dreams and plans of many years as the Mylrea Memorial Hospital rose, new and beautiful, on the shore of the Persian Gulf. The supervision of the myriad details in the construction of a modern hospital kept the personnel extra busy all year.

Rev. and Mrs. Don MacNeill have filled the posts of evangelistic workers in Kuwait during the past year. Mr. MacNeill describes it as a work which must endure no matter what comes up. "It must not give in when the going seems rough; it can never let its eternal hope fade. It must still stand when all else has fallen."
In a year of ups and downs, acceptances and rejections, a good year though filled with its disappointments too, the WORD seems more and more applicable.

There is still no organized congregation in Kuwait, but there is a nucleus of approximately forty individuals, drawn from various backgrounds. It is not self-supporting financially. An advisory church council has helped in the planning of a church program. During a week’s preaching mission, it was established that about 130 families look to the church for spiritual counsel and guidance, although not constant attendants. The group participates in prayer and discussion groups and has shown a lively concern in the life of other Christian groups in the Gulf area and in the entire Arab East. To the non-Arab communities as well the Mission has certain responsibilities in spiritual care and nurture.

![Image of a group of people]

Dr. L. R. Scudder; Rev. and Mrs. Don MacNeill and Lizbeth; Mrs. L. Scudder and Teddy; Dr. Mary Allison; Miss Madeline Holmes

The Bible Shop, under the valuable leadership of Ya’coob Shammas, continues its Christian witness to the community. Many valuable contacts are made here and some inquirers have been attending the church services.

In the usual functions of church life there is great encouragement; the list of the things done is only overshadowed by another list of things not done. "It is here that we return to the words of St. Paul,” says Rev. Mr. MacNeill, “for we are mindful of our necessity to endure, trust and hope, knowing that in Christ's love we have the one thing that stands when all else has fallen."
On this same truth is based the women’s evangelistic program in the “sea of sand” in Kuwait, as well as the work with children. The Sunday school which meets on Friday has grown to some thirty-five young-sters who are for the most part Christians. Through flannelgraph stories, group classes and singing that urges the passerby to stop and listen, the Christian life is shown to them. Twenty or more of the young girls gather each Thursday for club work and devotions. The women call at the MacNeill home for private counselling and group meetings. Mrs. MacNeill also takes charge of morning prayers in the woman’s hospital where she also visits the women patients individually.

Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Scudder have been unusually busy with their regular work and watching with special care the construction of the new hospital. Salaries of employes had to be raised to meet the higher cost of living, although they are still lower than the government salaries.

The laying of the foundation stone of the new building was cause for a celebration to which European and American friends were invited. With an amused smile on his face the Ruler of Kuwait contributed his bit of mortar with the golden trowel made for the purpose. At a luncheon following, gifts to the hospital amounted to $9,694.90.

At the formal opening His Highness again officiated. This program was in Arabic for the Arabs. Seven hundred people attended, made the tour of the hospital and were served tea.

Dr. Scudder says, “However great has been our joy at the continued confidence our Muslim friends evidenced in our Christian medicine, even more have we rejoiced over their response to our intensified evangelistic program under the enthusiastic leadership of Rev. Mr. MacNeill.” He tells of hiring a young mechanic, Joseph Hakeem, a Palestinian Christian who shouldered the burden of Arabic services during vacation time and did a splendid job. Later he turned his attention to personal evangelism in the wards. It has been a real privilege for the staff to witness the efforts of this native evangelist in his quiet heart-to-heart talks with the individual patients. Dr. Scudder closes his report with: “Our hearts thrill to the glorious major chord of gratitude for Kingdom building tasks, thankfulness for the strength to do them, at the exciting evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in Kuwait and finally hope that God will wonderfully use the new tools at hand to fashion in Kuwait a strong Church of Christ.”

Dr. Mary Allison has continued her fine work in the Woman’s hospital, ably assisted by Miss Madeline Holmes who is hospital manager, accountant, secretary and housekeeper for hospital and home. Clinic patients have averaged 109 per day; inpatients totalled 1,196; baby cases were 305; six Indian nurses are on the staff. “Our hospital does not minister to sick bodies alone,” says Dr. Allison, “but also offers to minds and souls that comfort and healing power which come from Christ.” This is often difficult as the patients speak a dozen different languages. Mrs. De Jong and Mrs. MacNeill assisted in the women’s hospital evangelistic work during the year.
BAHRAIN an island in the Persian Gulf

On this island there are men's and women's hospitals, church, girls' school and the orphanage. In spite of the extremely humid climate, the work has flourished and greater freedom has been given to preach the Gospel. People from many lands worship in the church and are treated in the hospitals. Its central location makes it easily accessible by ship and air. The friendliness of past and present rulers makes it possible to carry on an ambitious program.

Dr. Voss and Dr. Storm served together in the hospital this past year, their service being interrupted by touring in Hassa and vacations. The Mason Memorial Hospital which has withstood the ravages of moisture and heat for some fifty years, now needs attention. One of Bahrain's leading young men asked Dr. Storm when he was going to rebuild or fix up the hospital so that it will belong to this day and age. He told him that the good reputation of the hospital is disappearing because the building looks so old and is so poorly kept. Because there are no suitable private quarters, patients are ashamed to come to the hospital. Dr. Storm comments, "We will always have that something—the Spirit of the Master—which no other secular hospital will have, yet our physical setup and equipment cannot longer remain out-of-date."

During September an Arab national, Fehid, was assigned to evangelism in this hospital. He did a grand job, proving that a Christian hospital needs a person for personal evangelism and nothing else. The hope and plan is to have a full time evangelist next year and arrangements are being made to secure such a man.

Miss Anne De Young labels her opinions as first impressions, since she has been working in this hospital for just a few months. She advocates a school of nursing where their own nurses might be trained; such a school is planned for the near future. Each Friday morning she meets with the Arab and Indian nurses and each Tuesday with the servants to discuss ways of improving the hospital service. The short term nurse cannot do much in the realm of direct evangelism, but she can witness every day to the love of Christ which brought her here. Sometimes that kind of preaching is the most easily understood.

Dr. Voss tried an experiment of decreasing the number of beds to about fifty and bringing about a more rapid turnover of surgical patients so that more time and attention could be placed on individual patients. In the group of uncomplicated surgical cases, the experiment seemed to work out just the way he had thought it would.

Sometimes the purpose of the Mission bows to the pressure of work. In this regard Dr. Voss reports that a renewed emphasis in evangelism has been made possible by the fine cooperation between padres and colporteurs, Christian nationals and the hospital staff. There is a Wednesday evening get-together besides the regular Sunday services, at which time audiovisual aids are used.

Mr. Wilbur Dekker takes great satisfaction in the new X-ray machine; he is in charge of the X-ray and laboratory department. New laboratory equipment raises the standards of the work in clinical chemistry.
Three months were spent in Hassa; this work in the interior is dear to the hearts of all the missionaries. Rents for living quarters and an Arab house to serve as a hospital are high. Reports are that income tax will have to be paid in the future by the staff since the members are foreigners and earning their money there. In spite of new hospitals and equipment to be provided by the new King, this little visiting task force is still the only means of honest medicine the Oasis receives.

Dr. Storm reports that malaria, trachoma and tuberculosis run high in Hassa. Patients must bring their own pallets and lie on the floor; their friends nurse them. Because women cannot travel abroad, their needs are very heavy. "The challenge of the interior is more impelling than ever," says Dr. Storm. They are now awaiting permission to return this year.

Miss Dalenberg now has an Indian woman doctor to help her in making every smallest bit of the work witness to Christ. The Muslims are always invited to staff prayers, but how to make the evangelistic work more effective is the eternal problem. Um Miriam is still faithful in her work and courageous in the face of rebuffs. After clinic prayers Gospels are offered for sale. A meeting is held every Saturday for inpatients and their friends at which time they are invited to the services the next day.

Miss Dalenberg was on the trip to Hassa and extremely busy with the women’s work during the entire three months. She says, “We have always felt that medical work was the entering wedge of central Arabia.
to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If that way is to be closed now, there may be some other way God wants us to do the work which we cannot see now, or some other door may be opened to us. God is still on His throne, and we are here to follow His guidance and to do His bidding.”

Although the orphanage in Bahrain is called The House of Happiness, the reports of the Rev. and Mrs. Wilbur Dekker show its problems and difficulties. The children are growing up and need schooling, future husbands and wives from Christian families and discipline. Two boys have been away at school this past year, one in Sidon and one in Syria. The children occasionally take part in the services at the oil company at Awali and in the Mission services. They sing choruses in English and Arabic and recite Bible verses in Arabic.

When Rev. Harvey Staal went home for furlough in May, Rev. James Dunham spent part of his time in the church work along with his language study. The visit of Rev. Leroy Whitman to Bahrain was a highlight of the year. The services on Good Friday and Easter were well attended and truly wonderful. Mr. Staal reports that the Tichenors have left for the interior now that the oil camp at Dhahran is allowed to have its own resident minister. He tells also of a young RAF boy who has been influenced to use his life as an industrial evangelist, witnessing for Christ in the factories of England. Mr. Dunham gave particular thanks to those who made it possible for him to prepare for his Arabic examinations by assuming full responsibility for the English services during September.

Mrs. Staal who with Miss Dalenberg was responsible for the evangelistic work in Bahrain says that the women are courteous and friendly and enjoy a missionary call. On Thursday a group of very poor women meet to hear the Gospel. Christ’s love for the poor, the sick and the sinner amazes them.

This year the two colporteurs, Fahad and Eliah, wrote a Christmas play and worked for hours drilling the Sunday school children and arranging the stage and costumes. It was a real success with one of the Muslim boys taking a major role and learning line after line of the Christmas story. Miss Dalenberg teaches the Sunday school class of women which she took over from Mrs. Van Ess. Old Medina is taken in the car each Sunday in time for this class. “When any of us feel tired or sorry for ourselves,” says Miss Dalenberg, “we think of Medina, crippled and almost blind, climbing those stairs to the church every Sunday.” Mekkia, another faithful member comes each Sunday. No one knows how old she is. She says she was baptized by Dr. Zwemer before the men’s hospital was built which was over fifty years ago. No longer able to work she depends more and more on the Mission for help and support. There are others who come but who are unable to express openly their belief in Christ.

Mrs. Douglas Begg took over the girls’ school in Bahrain while Miss Ruth Jackson was on furlough. At the same time she was setting up her new home with her husband. Three of the teachers were married in the past year and posed a problem of replacements. A junior high school with teachers’ training is being planned for the near future which should help with the securing of teachers. Christmas
was a happy time for the children showing the spirit of love and devotion that permeates all the work with the girls. Four years ago, she says, when she first began her work, "it was this love and cooperation which captured my attention and it is this continuing love and thoughtfulness and helpfulness which I am happy to return to Miss Jackson as she resumes her work in the school.

MUSCAT and MATRAH in Oman

This is the most southerly part of the Arabian Mission and is separated from Amarah by about a thousand miles. Communication is difficult as there is no airport; British India ships stop once a week, one going north and one south. Evangelistic and medical work is done in both places, making excellent headquarters for trips into the interior. Dr. Alfred Pennings is working in the Matrah hospital on a one-year contract. He has applied to the Board for permanent membership in the Arabian Mission.

The Muscat church includes a fine Christian group with some second generation Christian children. The women's hospital is managed by Miss Jeanette Boersma and Nurse Mary from India, with occasional help from Matrah doctors. Mr. and Mrs. Kapenga together run a primary school for the children of the Christian families. In spite of many obstacles Ayesha Negbat and Ayesha Mabarak were baptized and accepted into the Church. Those desiring baptism must make known their intentions before the community at a regular church service six months in advance. This is a request to the church for instruction and preparation for baptism. Mr. Kapenga feels this is a valid procedure for Muscat as it makes the inquirer's decision definite before the whole community.

They both feel that the small school is one of the greatest fields for evangelism for it is an opportunity to fill the pliable minds of children with Christian concepts. Five classes plus a kindergarten took care of twenty-six boys and twenty-three girls. They miss Mrs. Dykstra's patient emphasis on grammar and letter writing and would like the time to do more individual work with the children and to make a study of child development in the culture of Oman. "In spite of all," they say, "some learn to read and write and do simple arithmetic involving bags of cement, skins of water and donkey loads of sand."

Miss Boersma reports a fine group of women in Muscat who have been loyal in attending Sunday services, daily morning prayers and classes during the week. The Christian girls also attend the mid-week prayer service and some attend Matrah hospital prayers on Sunday afternoons. The two Ayeshas have been a source of great inspiration to all the Mission folk, attending services regularly in spite of open hostility. Another girl of twenty, Jokha, who went to Ismayil on vacation and became very conscious of the sorcery among the women there. She rebuked them boldly, pointing out to them the one true God. This was not easy to do and the women respected her for it. Many came and asked her to read to them which she did. She takes a great deal because of her faith, but she stands up to it well and her experiences have changed her.
Miss Boersma and Nurse Mary carry a heavy load at the woman's hospital in Muscat. Clinic patients seen during the year numbered 35,000. They went out on 320 calls. They have no doctor to help them except in dire emergencies when they call on the Matrah doctor. They have a small staff of five untrained girls. They rush through the inpatient rounds and baby care to be ready for the clinic. Daily prayers make a break between the two.

Miss Boersma describes the clinic: "They swarm in like flies and stick worse. Everyone wants to be seen first and they tell us they came first. They know nothing about loving one's neighbor as themselves. They push and yell until we can be heard above them to restore order. They force themselves in like droves of cattle; their noise exceeds the noise of the fish bazaar." In spite of all, things are accomplished and with the psalmist they "remember His marvelous works and His wonders that He hath done."

At the Knox Memorial Hospital in Matrah Dr. Bosch mentions the people that have been a part of the staff in the course of the year—Dr. and Mrs. Thoms, Dr. and Mrs. Lakra from India, Dr. and Mrs. Voss as well as another Indian doctor and nurse. In spite of the heavy work load here, Dr. Bosch recognizes the work that has been done by Miss Boersma and hopes that with the added assistance of Dr. Alfred Pennings this next year, more help will be given to Muscat.

Although there are daily clinic prayers, a Gospel bulletin board, distribution of literature, special Sunday services for leprosy patients
and inpatients, daily witness by staff members, the evangelistic impact of the hospital is not satisfactory. They hope one day for a full time native evangelist. Dr. Bosch says, "Unless a mission hospital has a good program of hospital evangelism, it is failing in one of its prime purposes and therefore we believe this aspect of our work needs repeated evaluation and adaptation."

Mrs. Bosch was in charge of the women’s evangelistic work after Mrs. Thoms left. She, too, is conscious of the volume of work that cries out to be done. "The crowds coming to the hospital have but a momentary contact with Christianity," she says, "we pray we may be found faithful in sowing the seed to the groups and individuals also who come to our house. We pray to be led to know how to prepare the 'soil' that they may receive the Word of God."

Mrs. Nykerk closes the report with the dreams for the future—progress in the new hospital building; expansion of the Basrah boys school; other new buildings to replace old ones; additional Arab evangelists and more joys to be shared with their colleagues. "The Lord will uphold us in the days that lie ahead," concludes Mrs. Nykerk, "the Lord will lead and guide us. We have placed our burdens upon Him and our yoke has become light." One of the high spiritual moments of the annual meeting came as they joined in singing together, and as they sang their spirits were lifted near to the throne of God. "He left us with a song in our hearts."
The Rev. B. D. Hakken, formerly of the Arabian Mission, was re-elected secretary of the United Mission in Iraq at its annual meeting.

Little Kathleen Joy rests in the missionary cemetery in Bahrain. Born to the Rev. and Mrs. James Dunham on December 15, she died a day later.

On January 2 the daughter-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Wells Thoms, the August bride of Peter Thoms, was killed in an automobile accident near Ann Arbor where Peter is a medical student. The Rev. Dirk Dykstra, D.D., took part in the funeral service. Before her marriage she was Miss Retha Brockman.

Dr. R. Park Johnson, Field Representative, attended the meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions in Levittown, Long Island, New York, in early February and was one of the speakers at the mass meeting.

Those attending their first annual mission meeting in October were Rev. and Mrs. James Dunham, Miss Lavina Hoogeveen, Mr. Douglas Begg, Miss Marilyn Tanis, Miss Allene Schmalzriedt and Mr. Donald Maxam.

The devotional presentations of the Rev. H. G. Bovenkerk, secretary and treasurer of the Board, at the annual meeting were so highly appreciated that they were recorded for distribution among all members of the Mission.

Resolutions were passed by the Mission, on the completion of twenty-five years of missionary service by Miss Jeannette Veldman, and on the death of Mrs. Dirk Dykstra.

Formal language study has been satisfactorily completed in recent months by the following: Miss Anne De Young, Dr. and Mrs. B. J. Voss and the Rev. and Mrs. James Dunham.

Dr. Harold Storm went to Hasa in February to release the two houses in Hofhuf and bring out the supplies. Because of the lack of royal permission, the station is temporarily closed.
Members of the Mission who are due for furlough in the near future are Miss Rachel Jackson, Miss Cornelia Dalenberg, Miss Jeannette Veldman, Dr. and Mrs. W. Harold Storm, Rev. and Mrs. D. R. MacNeill and Rev. and Mrs. G. Jacob Holler.

At the February meeting of the Board, the Rev. B. D. Hakken of Holland, son of the Rev. and Mrs. B. D. Hakken of Baghdad, was appointed with Mrs. Hakken as missionaries of the Board with assignment to Work with Overseas Chinese. Miss Nancy Nienhuis of the Oak Harbor Reformed Church in Washington was appointed as a missionary teacher with assignment to the Arabian Mission. Miss Mary V. Hager, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harry Hager of Bethany Church in Chicago, was named a member of the United Mission in Iraq. The Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Weiss, formerly appointed as missionaries, were assigned to the UMI. Mrs. Weiss is a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Benes of Grand Rapids.

(Continued from page 2)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur G. Dekker</td>
<td>P. O. Box 1, Bahrain, Pers. Gulf</td>
<td>Medical &amp; Evan. Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. Donald R. MacNeill</td>
<td>156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.</td>
<td>On Furlough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. Donald T. Bosch</td>
<td>P. O. Box 1, Muscat, Pers. Gulf</td>
<td>Medical Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Voss</td>
<td>P. O. Box 1, Bahrain, Pers. Gulf</td>
<td>Medical Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Margaret Schuppe, R.N.</td>
<td>31 East Cotton St., Fond du Lac, Wis.</td>
<td>On Furlough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Madeline A. Holmes</td>
<td>P. O. Box 80, Kuwait, Pers. Gulf</td>
<td>Medical Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. and Mrs. James W. Dunham</td>
<td>P. O. Box 53, Bahrain, Pers. Gulf</td>
<td>Language Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Lavina C. Hoogeveen</td>
<td>P. O. Box 53, Basrah, Iraq</td>
<td>Ed. &amp; Evan. Work</td>
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<td>Miss Marilyn Tanis, R.N.</td>
<td>P. O. Box 53, Bahrain, Pers. Gulf</td>
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<td>Miss Allene C. Schwalzriedt, R. N.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Donald A. Maxam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Educational Work</td>
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Add *American Mission* to all addresses in Arabia. Air mail service is available at twenty-five cents for each half ounce. Sea mail functions but is subject to delays; the rates are eight cents for the first ounce and four cents for each additional ounce. A special air mail sheet, stamped, may be obtained from the post office for 10¢, no enclosures.

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