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TIDINGS
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Bengal-Orissa Tidings

GOD'S SPIRIT STRIVES WITH MEN

BY NINA BOWERS

The power of God to save and to answer prayer was dramatically demonstrated during the days in March when delegates from the Oriya churches met for Half Yearly Meeting at Chordia. The Church at Chordia is the most isolated and most difficult of access of all the churches in the Balasore District. Thus it is not easy for pastors or others to visit here and maintain Christian fellowship.

A Son Reclaimed.

Shortly before this meeting one of the Christian families decided to become Hindu again. During the negotiations the father died. In spite of this apparent warning from God, the eldest son persisted in his determination to revert to Hinduism. The members of the church had failed to show the right spirit towards him, but he, too, had shown little desire to attend church or to come to an agreement with them. As soon as the group of pastors, evangelists, Bible-woman and missionary arrived and understood the situation they began to pray earnestly that God would bring about a reconciliation between this family and God, and a right spirit to all the church members. Early in the morning, just before retiring, at all the sessions of the conference, and in our private prayers we besought God to bring about a change according to His will.

On the afternoon of the third day of the meeting, while we were praying in the tent, this eldest son and his mother came. He prayed and asked forgiveness and a spokesman for the church asked for forgiveness for their mistakes. Then everyone stood while the men of the church joined hands in token of reconciliation. Truly we had much for which to thank God as we sang His praises together.

Through persecution Christ is found.

Soon after this the Hindus began a disturbance which continued until nearly noon of the next day. When the boy and his mother returned home they were made virtual prisoners and their Bible was taken from them. Threats were made by the Hindus to beat them and to tear off the straw roof of the house and throw it into the river. We continue to pray for the family.

During the meeting three leading Hindus were appointed to watch the house and to see that no Christian brothers talked with the family. One of these men had previously been in the home and, after eating at noon, asked to look at their Bible. Beginning to read at random he became more and more interested and read for four hours. He found John 3:16, the Sermon on the Mount, and the last verse in James which reads: "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins." Thereupon he said to the family, "If you have such a religion as this, don't change it." A couple of days after the meeting began this man, Banomali Mullick, became more and more interested and came to the pastor's house. For hours the preachers explained the way of salvation and showed him what it means to be a Christian. Finally he could withstand the call of God no longer and this man, who had been an enemy of the Christians and a leader among the Hindus, declared he would be baptized. After further explanation, prayer and examination, it was decided to proceed with the baptism on Sunday morning. Then the Hindus collected in angry groups, loudly demanding that Banomali be turned over to them. But he steadfastly held to his new found faith in Christ. When he was baptized, Hindus watched in silence from a distance.

The next day groups demanded again that he be turned over to them. He said, "Here is the key to my house. Take what you want. If you want the roof, take it also." Once again we, who were privileged to see God's power, were reminded of Christ's words: "I will draw all men unto me."

Will you not pray regularly that Banomali, who has been so marvelously saved, will grow steadily in faith and in understanding God's will for him.

EASTER AT BHIMPORE

By MRS. A. A. BERG

Refreshing rain early in the week brought a tinge of green to the previously parched ground. Most of the trees had their fresh green leaves and many of them were in blossom. In different places on the two compounds beautiful white lilies appeared in all their glory just between Good Friday and Easter. They brought a special message to the missionaries because of our background and memories of Easter in the homeland.

It is customary in India to have a long service on Good Friday afternoon and so we did! A special speaker, known to be very spiritual, had been invited by the church, who, unable to come himself, had sent a colleague. In the evening Mr. Berg showed slides on the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord with Bible reading and soft music. The picture of Christ remained visible through the night and people were invited to remain as they wished for meditation and prayer.

There was a service again on Saturday evening. After mid-night the boys began singing Easter songs. At dawn the compound family attended the service of the boarding school girls in the beautiful open-style chapel. The girls had planned the entire program themselves, even to composing the pageant on the resurrection which was beautifully and

reverently rendered. In a corner of the compound near the chapel there was one mass of the lovely lilies mentioned above, which added to the joy of Easter morning.

The first church bell rang at a quarter to seven, but it was more than a half hour later that the service began. The young man preached for an hour and twenty minutes and followed his sermon with a long prayer and yet had an attentive congregation. Anticipating that the service would be long, Junior Church was held as usual when the resurrection story was told with the aid of the flannelgraph.

I wish you could have joined us for the baptismal service which followed, or that we could show you a colored movie of just such a scene. The processions formed immediately after the meeting in the church when the Christian community, with singing, wended its way to the out-door tank some quarter of a mile away. Sixteen fine young people were baptized. My husband said the happy singing throng made a beautiful picture as he saw them from where he was standing out in the water. "Happy day, Happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away" was the song used during the service itself. As the baptized one returned to the edge of the tank, flower petals were scattered on the water before him and a close relative or friend met him with a clean new cloth (a dhoti in the case of a man, and a sari for a woman) which was wrapped about him. This is supposed to be significant of the new life in Christ. All sixteen candidates, nine girls and seven young men, were also garlanded with many flowers.

At noon the five Bhimpore missionaries had a most delicious rice and curry dinner at the girls' boarding, being honored guests along with the girls who had been baptized. Many of the girls in the boarding come from the district and they took pride in receiving us as if into their village homes at Dampara, washing our feet and greeting us, even singing a farewell song when we left (besides playing pranks with our shoes and umbrellas left at the door).

Several weeks before Easter, Hazel Smith invited the girls who were considering baptism to join a class for the study of God's word on this,

and in this way they had grown spiritually, too. One could sense that they had a vital and personal Lord. The pastor had a similar class with the boys.

The Sunday Schools combined for a meeting in the church at 3 p.m. and another preaching service followed in the evening. It was a full, but blessed day !

HATIGARH ENTERTAINS YEARLY MEETING

BY LILLIAN BRUECKMANN.

To the village of Hatigarh, ten miles distant from any railroad and with no bus connections, over one hundred delegates and visitors made their way to attend for four days, early in February, the Yearly Meeting of the churches of our Mission. Some came by train as far as possible, then walked three miles to the river. There they waited on the sands for the ferry boat to be pushed across by bamboo poles from the other side. People and luggage soon filled the boat and several trips had to be made. How good it was to have Dr. Osgood and his jeep waiting on the other side ! As many as nine squeezed in for the 7 mile trip to the Mission compound. Some of the delegates came by bicycle and some on foot for many weary miles. The jeep made several trips back and forth over the rough road that day. Mrs. Osgood had rearranged her home so that she could accommodate all of the missionaries who came. Most of the time there were 21 for whom she provided meals. Under the efficient direction of the pastor, Mr. Bhupoti Sahu, the local people entertained all the Indian delegates in a splendid way. In a village where there are no local stores this meant planning well in advance to have the necessary supplies on hand.

An increased interest on the part of our laymen in the development of the evangelistic program among our churches was in evidence. A deeply spiritual tone pervaded the sessions of this four day meeting. Each day's program was begun in prayer groups where there was special

prayer for the lost, for the growth of Christ's Kingdom, and for unity among the Christian groups within India.

The evangelistic work in the *Dampara Home Mission Field* was ably presented by two pastors of that area. More than fifty baptisms during the past year give evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit among the Santals of this area. Rev. R. K. Sahu, Executive Secretary of the Home Mission Board, stated most emphatically that the investment of the churches in the work of Dampara field is bearing one hundred percent fruitage and he challenged the churches to increase their giving.

Rev. C. C. Pande of Bankura, the special speaker for the Yearly Meeting, stirred our hearts with his fervent evangelistic messages on three successive evenings. On Thursday evening, basing his message upon Romans 8: 12-28, Mr. Pande spoke of God's great work of redemption which is still going on and for the completion of which God is dependent upon redeemed men and women. After emphasizing some of the great results obtained through man's co-operation with God and God working through man, the speaker pointed out three great hindrances to the work of God's Kingdom to-day: mixed marriages (Christians with non-Christians), Communism, and Secularism. The next evening he spoke of witnessing as the thermometer of our Christian life. He affirmed that "*only the dead do not preach.*"

On Sunday evening, in his closing message, Mr. Pande used the text, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." Gal. 6: 7. He pointed out that it is not enough for us to teach about prayer, but we must practice prayer. One great contribution which India has to make to the world is "Guru-bhakti," or respect for spiritual leaders and this must be developed by parents in the home. In order to be worthy of this respect our pastors and Christian leaders must develop deeply spiritual lives. This does not come through position, money, or authority, but through a genuine experience with Jesus Christ.

On Saturday morning in discussing "The Relationship of the Missionary to the Christian Church in Independent India," Mr. Pande said that if missionaries had not come to India, India would not yet have her independence. He stated further that missionaries did not come because they were British, or American, but because God called them and "*as long as God calls missionaries to India, they will have a place in India.*" Missionaries were likened to scaffolding used in the construction of a building. When the building is completed the scaffolding is removed, but even when the scaffolding gives place to the building, the scaffolding is not discarded, but will always be useful for work in some place. He said that India to-day needs missionaries for theological training, for the development of leadership in the Church, as specialists in medical, educational and other types of work, and in evangelism. The missionary cannot play the role of pay-master, but must be a co-worker. Leaving the throne is not easy, but in Christ we can give place to others.

After presiding at the opening session, the Chairman, Rev. R. K. Sahu, turned over the chair to the new Chairman, Mr. Amiyo Kisku, the Headmaster of the Bhimpore Boys' High School, who very capably conducted the business sessions and presided throughout the meeting. Mr. Bhorat Tudu was elected as the Vice-Chairman for this year and he will succeed as Chairman of the next Yearly Meeting.

WHY I CAME BACK ?

BY AMIYO KUMAR KISKU

Editor's Note:

The following article was written at the request of Rev. A. A. Berg who has long been associated with Amiyo Kisku. Amiyo was brought up in the Santal village of Bhimpore and had his elementary and high school education there. He is now Headmaster of the Bhimpore Boys' High School. He takes an active part in church affairs and work among young people and during the past year has been Chairman of the Church

Committee. He tells of the circuitous route by which he came back to his own village to serve under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

To-day I am writing something about myself. You must surely realize how much truthfulness, frankness and honesty is needed when a person writes about himself. Yet I am writing this personal story to tell you why I have come back to Bhimpore. This I do at the repeated requests of Rev. A. A. Berg, who, to speak the truth, has brought me back here.

When the Prodigal Son went away from his father, he never dreamt, perhaps, that he would some day have to come back. I must confess now that I am the prodigal son of Bhimpore, for I, too, out of my personal ambition, desire for more money, and indifference towards my mother church, left my home village, disregarding the tie of love of her people and children, disrespecting the good advice of my elders and superiors, and disobeying the call of sacrifice and service. I, too, never dreamt that I would come back some day.

What was I doing in those days when I was away? I was in Calcutta and there I began to earn more money and to make friends. I was teaching there in a large and famous High School, and, at the same time, pursuing a very heavy schedule of studies. Every morning I used to go to the Law College, aiming to prepare myself for a money-making profession. In the day time I used to go to school. The afternoon hours were spent in studying law books. After a year I passed with distinction the Preliminary Examination in Law. In addition, I used to attend evening classes in a Homeopathic Medical College. The doctor's stethoscope had struck my imagination in my very boyhood. I was "doing very well in the art of healing" as some of my professors remarked. All these pursuits compelled me to keep awake into the late hours of the night.

"Jack of all trades", you would say, and I won't deny it. My sole purpose in life became money. The desire for money made me very

self-centered. I had little touch with the church. Consequently, all my efforts were directed towards 'getting' and I had almost forgotten the Christian principle of 'giving'. But the wheel turned mysteriously.

One day, as I returned from school, I found a telegram on my bed. My breath almost stopped as I opened it, but it was good news. I read : "Come at once for an interview for the post of the Special Officer for Aboriginal Tribes; salary—Deputy Magistrate's grade, plus other allowances." It came from the Commissioner of Burdwan Division. I felt very proud of myself that I was offered such a lucrative position without even having applied for it. Surely this gave me a very high opinion of myself. I thought I had been very clever in leaving Bhimpore. Pride made me blind.

One full moon's turn elapsed in the sky and I received another offer; this time the position of Headmaster in the Bhimpore High School. But I looked despicably at the teaching profession, which I felt would give me neither good bread, nor proper respect.

Yet I prayed in those days for guidance in deciding between these two positions. I took advice from all kinds of friends and most of them advised me to take the Government offer. But thank God, I remembered some of my past promises. I remembered my father's desire who, instead of seeking Railway employment for me, wanted to dedicate his eldest son for his own church. I remembered the last conversation that I had before leaving college, after completing the degree course, with Mr. W. Bailey, the Principal, who said, "Go and serve your church." Among all my friends in Calcutta I found in Mr. A. R. Roy, the Assistant Headmaster of the Scottish Church Collegiate School, a real friend and a good guide. Before I had made any decision one morning at about one o'clock he called me into the lonely corridor of the hostel and, embracing me, said: "Go and serve your own people, the Santals." In the meantime I heard from different people connected with the Bhimpore High School: the pupils and teachers, the guardians of students, the Santal village teachers, and also some of the village

preachers. All of them brought me back to my sense of duty and I again began to think seriously of the teaching profession. By this time my awakened conscience made me see that I was needed more at Bhimpore than anywhere else. I decided to see Rev. A. A. Berg. I rose and walked to the station, boarded a train, and in the evening reached Bhimpore and went at once to Mr. Berg's home. He greeted me cordially and we sat side by side on his verandah in the darkness. The beauty of nature at the close of day had stirred soft feelings in my heart and the south wind had blown away all the dust of sin from my mind. In the darkness we sat facing the open lawn and were talking about the future of the Bhimpore school. He, with his fatherly affection and wisdom, made me conscious of my real duty to my people and to my church at Bhimpore. I can never forget that silent moment when, after our conversation, we bowed our heads in the presence of our Heavenly Father, and He called His prodigal son to come back to Bhimpore and I said in my heart, "O God, thy servant heareth." Now the prodigal son is at Bhimpore.

Do you ask whether I am happy now after my return? Before I answer I would ask you whether the lost son was happy when his father put the best robe on him, the ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet and kissed him. Yes, when in my daily prayer I utter, "Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth," I surely feel happy.

PRIZE-GIVING AND WHITE CROSS BOXES

BY HAZEL SMITH

There is the shrill call of that unpleasant bird some people call "malaria-fever bird." He calls "You're ill, you're ill" until you begin to think that maybe you are! The increased heat results in shorter tempers, too. You can hear the teachers scolding their classes, and the bus drivers fuss if passengers are slow to hand up their bedding rolls or baskets of fish or what not, to be put on the top of the bus and whisked (?) over our increasingly rutted road to the big town of Midnapore.

We made a mistake in delaying until March the big program to the school year—the prize-giving, to which the children look forward so much. We have no big auditorium for the girls' school at Bhimpur, nor any auditorium at all for that matter, but our huge, many branched banyan tree has provided an excellent place for programs. The guests sit in its shade and the children perform on the wide veranda of our house. But this wouldn't do in the heat of March, when most of its leaves have just dropped off and the new ones are still tight buds. Then you ~~were~~ walls to protect from the hot winds. So for prize-giving we borrowed the boys' high school auditorium with its lovely stage, and felt very ~~sophis-~~ ticated indeed. But it didn't hold as many people as our "auditorium" does! However, we had the benefit of back drops and a wide stage.

The program was based on a published speech of Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, in which he pointed out some of the things that must be accomplished before India and Indians are ready to take their place among modern nations. He referred to the potential wealth of India, and how it is really the development of such character traits as honesty, unselfishness, putting the good of all before personal gain, etc., that will enable Indians to develop the country to its fullest possible capacity. We thought that we would show various scenes from school work to demonstrate how Christian schools attempt to achieve just those aims. The children had a very good time making up the various scenes based on geography, history, current events, physical training and health classes. The final scene showed how they learn that Christ personifies the highest personal and social ideals, with the children showing practical ways in which His example could be followed. It was all very interesting, but I am afraid that the final product of a two hour program rather exhausted the patient friends and parents who sweltered through the hot afternoon watching it performed.

Of course, the important part of the program was the distribution of prizes. We had really delayed the big event because we heard that four white cross boxes were on their way from the States and due to

river anytime. Well, they probably arrived promptly in Calcutta, but then the usual delay of getting them from the wharves to the train began to make us wonder if we could have prize-giving before the summer vacation. At last came the thrilling news that they had arrived in Midnapore. We dispatched two speedy ox-carts on the twenty mile journey and two days later they returned triumphantly with the boxes! Such excitement as we had in opening them! Due to the war, etc., they were the first boxes of anything except bandages that Bhimpore had seen since some time before my arrival in 1945. So you can imagine how welcome they were. Dolls—beautiful dolls, and cloth by the yard in such luscious colors, and balls, and pencil boxes, and sewing bags all fitted out, rulers and pencils, pens and erasers, and little red cars to delight the boys. What a prize-giving we had! The teachers fell in love with the dolls and asked if they couldn't buy them. Of course, we don't sell them, so we gave them each one, much to their delight. They also each received a lovely turkish towel, wash cloth, pencil, and spool of thread—delayed Christmas presents, we told them.

There were about ten big dolls, not quite new, which we didn't use for prize-giving. I wondered what we could do with them; if any child would mind if she got a doll with a slight crack on head or foot. But they had very nice qualities; many of them could close their eyes, and a few could even cry. We decided to give four of them to the small girls in the dormitory, and I do believe they have become the most popular dolls in Bhimpore. They are carried on the girls' hips while they do their garden work; squat beside them on the floor as they eat their rice; perch on the side of the well as bath water is drawn and, short of going to school, take part in all the daily routine. Putu, our six year old, who is here because her mother died and her father has too many children to look after properly, came crying to say that someone had dropped hers and its head was broken. If we could give her another she would have her big sister keep it for her whenever she wasn't playing with it. So we gave her another, hoping that its life would be longer than that of the first one.

What welcome white cross boxes! And we still have presents for new babies as they arrive, and even some toys left for Christmas.

"YE ARE MY WITNESSES"

By MRS. A. A. BERG

To Leda in Dampara, Bihar, people came long distances to attend the meeting of our Bengal and Bihar churches from March 18th to 20th. Some had crossed several hills on the way; others had come from homes the other side of the Subornarekha river; most of the delegates walked the seven miles across rice fields from the railway to Leda. Dampara is the Home Mission field of our Bengal-Orissa Mission. There were fifty baptisms in that area last year. Already this year many have accepted Christ and openly confessed Him through baptism, most of them from non-Christian background.

"Ye are my witnesses" was the theme of the conference and much time was given in messages and prayer that we might truly witness for the Lord in life, word, and deed. Witnessing in the villages round about Leda had been planned for Friday and Saturday afternoons, but rain made that impossible. On Saturday and Sunday evenings large crowds stood for hours, because they could not sit on the wet ground, to see stereoptican pictures on the Life of Christ and to listen to the Christian message. Rapt attention was given as one of our Santal laymen told the story. May God bless the seed thus sown!

The big service of the Conference was on Sunday afternoon when groups arrived from all directions. The meeting place, built for the occasion of bamboo and straw, was filled to capacity with mostly Santals, their faces aglow with faith and joy. A number were welcomed into the fellowship of the church and joined in the large communion service which followed. It rained between the afternoon and evening sessions, but dry straw was brought in and many gathered for the final meeting of singing and testimonies.

Santals love to sing, and become joyous Christians. Some of the young men sang through the whole of Sunday night, appearing about one o'clock in the morning in the courtyard around which our party of six, Indian guests, and the family of the home were sleeping. One night I entered a courtyard to find three different groups singing. Immediately off the village road, on the veranda of the first house, men were thumbing their home-made instruments as they practised a song. Close to the fire, where the rice was cooking, three lovely young girls sat with heads close together singing, and at the farther end of the veranda women sang as they made leaf plates and cups for their evening meal.

Miss Knapp came to the conference directly from the Adult Literacy Conference with Dr. Laubach in Calcutta, so enthusiastically set to work on improvements suggested by this man of God who has done so much towards increasing the number of literates throughout the world. Many are learning to read by the simple Santali literacy chart. We were kept busy by the constant demand for the purchase of these charts, gospels and other Christian literature and medicines.

Among resolutions passed at the business sessions was a vote that two new churches be organized: one at Leda, the meeting place, and the other at Machbandar for the group beyond the river. May these churches be spirit-filled and instrumental in bringing many to a saving knowledge of the Lord.

“THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE”

BY JOHN G. GILSON

The Koraput District, in which live about half of all the Christians in Orissa, in the past has been pretty much isolated from the rest of the province. It was with the purpose of getting acquainted with the people there and of making them feel themselves a part of the whole group that the fifth biennial meeting of the Utkal Christian Council was held at Kotapad,

March 8-10, 1949. This was a place hard to get to for most of the delegates. From Balasore it meant for us a rail journey of 365 miles plus a bus journey of 136 miles over mountain roads. The journey was made the more uncertain and uncomfortable at this time by the sudden restriction in the supply of petrol (gasoline) which stopped many of the buses and made the rest over-crowded. Most of us were delayed a day on our return journey by failure to get accommodation on the buses.

The largest congregation in Orissa meets in the Kotapad Lutheran Church which will seat eighteen hundred people. More than half the seats are filled every Sunday and, on special occasions, the church is over-crowded. It was half filled for the evening meetings of the council which were open to the public and at which addresses were given by leading members of the council, including Miss L. Brueckmann and Rev. R. K. Sahu of the Balasore District delegation.

The delegates present at the meeting included missionaries from Canada, Denmark, England, Germany and the U.S.A., as well as Oriyas from all parts of the province and many tribal Christians. The purpose of gaining a better understanding of each other's problems and a better co-operation in the Kingdom work was certainly accomplished to a large extent, in spite of the failure to agree upon a united communion service which was proposed by some of the members. The Baptist and Lutheran ideas of the communion proved to be too far apart for that. Nearly all the members of the council are either Baptists or Lutherans, the only other denomination having any considerable following in the province being the Evangelicals (Reformed Lutherans). One new church was admitted to membership in the council this year : the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gangpur District.

The Evangelistic Committee reported large numbers of conversions in some areas, especially among the aborigines in the hills around Sareng (Canadian Baptist Mission) where an average of ten to fifteen converts per week are being baptized at present.

Both Theological Schools, the Lutheran at Kotapad and the Baptist at Cuttack, reported good progress. The Management of the Cuttack School is now being reorganized so as to make it a more truly union Institution with the full co-operation of the Canadian and American Baptist Missions and the churches associated with them, as well as the English Baptists who started the school. Our Mission and Church is to have four representatives on the Managing Committee and we are to supply the new hostel building. Nine of the seventeen students in the school last year were from our Mission.

The Adult Literacy Committee reported that more than two hundred adults had become literate during the year. A number of simple books and stories have been published for the new literates. There is a plan for a full time paid supervisor for this work which until now has been carried on entirely by volunteer workers. Rev. R. K. Sahu has been the Convener of the Committee for the past two years.

The publication of Christian literature has been limited by the excessively high cost of printing, the shortage of paper, and other difficulties at the press, but the demand for Christian tracts, Bible portions and hymn books far exceeds the supply. Work is now proceeding on several reprints, as well as on the printing of the Oriya Bible which has been out of stock for the past five years.

In education the only new projects were the starting of Technical High School courses at the Balasore High School, and plans for starting this year a teacher training school for girls at Kotapad. The need of a training school for men was stressed and the committee was instructed to again explore the possibilities as the shortage of trained Christian teachers in the province is acute.

The Christian Home Committee had arranged for the printing of the "Christian Home Festival" booklet in Oriya and reported the observance of the festival in several churches with good results. Miss Brueckmann, Convener of the Committee, made an eloquent appeal for Christian training in the homes when she addressed the public meeting on the second evening.

Members of our Balasore District Baptist Church Union were well represented in the report of the nominating committee. Rev. R. K. Sahu was elected President of the Council for the next two year term, Miss Lillian Brueckmann Convener of the Christian Home Committee, and Mr. J. G. Gilson, Convener of the Education Committee. Others who were not present in the council meeting, but who were elected to serve on committees included: Rev. H. I. Frost, Dr. W. C. Osgood, Miss E. Mooney, Mrs. B. K. Singh, Mr. B. K. Sahu, Mr. K. C. Mohapatra and Mr. Rohini Sahu. We should all congratulate Mr. Sahu and encourage the committee members to co-operate fully in the work of the council.

From my point of view the chief practical result of the meeting was the growth of a fine Christian fellowship among all present, which I hope we may be able in some measure to carry back to our congregations, and to our supporters all over the world. So may we help to fulfil the prayer of our Lord and Master "that they all may be one that the world may believe that Thou didst send me." John 17:21.

SANTINIKETAN, OR THE ABODE OF PEACE

The above is the name given to the typically village home with its mud walls and thatched roof, at Hatigarh, Orissa where Lillian Brueckmann now lives. For a long time Lillian had had the desire to live in a house more nearly like that used by the Indian villagers among whom she works than in the bungalow assigned to her in Balasore. When Mr. Santosh Patro, in memory of his parents, decided to give to our Mission the property upon which his father had built a house to use after he retired from active service in the Christian ministry, Lillian saw that her dream could come true. The house had been in use only a short time when both Mr. and Mrs. Patro passed away.

After months of work in reconditioning the house and building both a cook-house and a place with bath-room facilities, the new home was ready to be occupied. On March 15th it was dedicated, in an impressive service.

conducted by the local pastor, as "The Abode of Peace", to the Indian people as "Santiniketan." About a hundred guests, mostly women and children, came on the invitation of the hostess. Following the special service refreshments were served. The three downstairs rooms, made attractive with colorful curtains at the windows, and the large upstairs room which is to be used for meetings and Indian guests, were inspected and approved. It proved a delightful and unusual occasion for all.

Lillian writes: "Parul and I are happy to be living here and Satyaboti looks forward to joining us after the hot season vacation. A group of five friends, Bible-women and teachers from Balasore, came out on the Thursday before Easter and stayed with us until Monday. We enjoyed a happy week-end of fellowship together.

Betty Mooney plans to send the Balasore Hostel matron, with the five girls who have no other place to go for vacation, out to spend their hot season holidays at Santiniketan."

Parul and Satyaboti are the Bible-women who carry on evangelistic work among the women with Miss Brueckmann. May this new venture in living be used to the glory of God and the winning of many villagers for Christ!

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"WORKERS TOGETHER WITH CHRIST"

BY LILLIAN BRUECKMANN

The high-light of the four day retreat for the evangelistic workers of our entire Bengal-Orissa field came at the evening service when five men gave most stirring testimonies of the evidence of God's power working in the hearts of men. These testimonies revealed God's healing power through prayer, the victories over Satanic powers through faith in Jesus Christ, and God's keeping power in the life of a young man who left the Moslem faith to become a follower of Jesus Christ in the face of severe opposition.

Many of us had faced discouragements during the past year. This retreat afforded an opportunity to share our problems, to enjoy Christian fellowship together, and to increase our knowledge of the Scriptures through our study periods. Mr. Roadarmel's series of Bible studies on the Gospel of John deepened our appreciation of the great riches which are ours in Jesus Christ.

The group attending this retreat, from April 5th to 8th, held at Chandipore, included thirty-five preachers, twelve Bible-women, and seven missionaries. A number of those present had never seen the ocean before. To all of us it was an added inspiration to spend these days away from our usual sphere of work in the quiet and beauty of God's great out-of-doors at the sea-side.

A CALL TO PRAYER

BY REV. A. L. SANFORD

From January through March a series of special prayer meetings which included the entire field, and which was held in nearly every church in the Mission, was arranged as the result of a call to prayer given at our Annual Mission Conference. The purpose of these prayer retreats, as set forth by the planning committee, was : 1. To call us all back to a deeper devotion and personal surrender to Jesus Christ, and to lay on our hearts the concern for those who are outside of Christ; 2. To give us a new vision of Christ and what it means to be a Christian in terms of the home, church, and community ; 3. To strengthen the individual Christians and encourage our people to become personal witnesses of Jesus Christ. The impact that these made on the Christian community becomes evident as time goes by. In many places the report tells us that the spiritual life of the entire church has been deepened and the work strengthened.

The leadership was under the guidance of the Home Mission Board and included pastors, laymen, and missionaries. Each team consisted of

either three or four leaders. A short period of worship and meditation and then an extended season of prayer characterized each retreat. In the three months we held over *one hundred prayer sessions with an aggregate attendance of nearly two thousand eight hundred.*

Having felt the need of a closer contact with our Lord Jesus Christ we joined in these corporate prayers and did receive a blessing. Such a season of prayer could well be included in our yearly schedule to the honor of God and the uplifting of our own souls.

PRAYER RETREATS IN SANTAL-KORA FIELD

By NAOMI KNAPP

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee." Using this Scripture as the basis for our thinking, prayer retreats were held in the organised churches and in villages where there were several Christian families, but no church. Among the Santal churches the hymn "Revive Us Again," translated into Santali, was used as the theme song.

The team visited nineteen different areas. Most of the villages are not on the main road, so considerable time had to be allowed for the car to wend its way through jungles and over rice fields. We crossed unbridged streams, some of which had to be entered from almost precipitous approaches. On the Kora field we had to leave the car in several places and walk from two to five miles to reach the village. In many places the houses were very prettily decorated with geometric designs. The Christian homes could easily be located because usually there was a cross painted on the outside wall. We were happy to see that Christians are not ashamed to thus proclaim their allegiance to Christ among their non-Christian neighbors.

Most of our meetings were held out of doors. At Burudihi, where 56 adults and 18 children gathered, we met in the courtyard of one of the homes. The pastors were seated on a bed. A pumpkin vine hanging from the roof formed a background. At Bonkati over one hundred people gathered on a threshing floor with rice straw stacked on both sides. Lovely trees provided shade, and the birds sang an accompaniment to the talks by the leaders. Mr. Berg gave a talk on the 23rd Psalm which fitted in well with the outdoor surroundings. The meeting ended with a simple and moving communion service. Afterwards we went to a place near the pastor's house where Mrs. Berg broke ground for a church building.

In some places the people had problems concerning which they wished advice and help. As we discussed these with them, we realized that many of them are the same problems which Paul met on his journeys almost two thousand years ago. The group considered them in a spirit of prayer and as we separated into smaller bands for prayer they earnestly sought their solution and a deeper consecration for their lives.

Men and women came from distant villages, walking through the hot sun, and often carrying small children, in order that they might join in this fellowship of prayer. In some places there were small groups of twelve or fourteen, and in other places as many as ninety or one hundred, including the children. In most places special children's services were held as well. A total of about 550 adults and about 250 children attended the meetings in the Santal and Kora areas.

"ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH"

I talked with the Brahmin father of a ten year old boy whose leg had to be amputated as a result of an accident. He said, "When my son leaves hospital, I shall take him far away to the jungles of the Himalayas in North India where there are Hindu holy men who have such under-

standing of spiritual power that they can make a new leg grow." This father was not an illiterate villager, but an educated man with a good command of English who works in one of the offices of the Tata Steel Co. One of the nurses who attends the boy said of the father, "Such faith have I never seen!"

What might not be accomplished if Christians around the world had such faith in God's power to do the "impossible!" We on the mission field know that our work is in vain without that faith. We count on the faith of Christians at home as they remember us and the needs of India. Will you not in your private devotions, in family worship, in your missionary meetings, at young people's gatherings, and from the pulpit remember the requests for prayer which are given in each issue of "Tidings." Your faith and ours will be strengthened as we tell of answers to these definite requests.

Answered Prayer :

1. For a new couple for Bhimpore. By the time this issue comes from the Press, Rev. and Mrs. Glenn R. Hill should have arrived from the U.S.A. They were first appointed to Burma. When conditions there seemed against their being able to enter, we were told they would come to Bengal-Orissa. Later we had word that efforts were still being made for them to go to Burma. Then came the information that they had been appointed to Assam. It must be that God's place for the Hills is at Bhimpore that they should now be on their way to our field.

2. Baptisms at Easter : nine girls and seven young men at Bhimpore; six boys and three girls at Balasore and two boys and three girls from the Balasore boardings at their village churches; two Anglo-Indian young people at Jamshedpur.

3. New pastor Rev. P. Limma for Golmuri Church from April first.
4. Monoharini Lima, daughter of above pastor, will do village evangelistic work with Nina Bowers.

5. Nina Bower's car, safely delivered from U.S.A. and now in use. She says, "So many were praying and then doing something tangible to make it possible."

Requests :

1. For Bonamali Mullick (see article "God Strives with Men" by Nina Bowers).
 2. That newly baptized Christians may witness for Christ.
 3. For a pastor for Midnapore church.
 4. That necessary funds may be obtained for constructing a church building at Golmuri where the congregation overflows the one room in pastor's house where they now meet.
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NEWS ITEMS

Vacations :

In May when the schools on the plains close for hot season holidays and when the thermometer gets up to 110 degrees or more in the shade, missionaries find refreshment in the mountains for a month or so until the rains break about the middle of June. Rev. and Mrs. Roadarmel who cannot get away at that time will go to Landour, Mussoorie, in August.

Grace Hill, Naomi Knapp, Nina Bowers, and Lillian Brueckmann will be at Ootacamund, South India.

Rev and Mrs. A. A. Berg, Ruth Daniels, and Hazel Smith will go to Darjeeling, but Hazel will not be able to arrive there until sometime in June.

Elizabeth Mooney plans to attend again the ashram at Sat Tal conducted by Dr. Stanley Jones.

Rev. and Mrs. H. I. Frost will be at Gopalpur beside the sea, rather than in the hills.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gilson will be at Landour, Mussoorie, for June and Dr. W. C. Osgood will join his family there the middle of July.

Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Kau have been at Darjeeling since April for Bengali Language Study.

Rev. and Mrs. C. Verner Johnson have taken charge of the work at Khargpur during April and May while the Sanfords are at Landour, Mussoorie, taking their second year course in Hindi at the Missionaries' Language School. The Johnsons are also studying the Oriya language and plan to keep at it on the plains rather than going on vacation this first year in India. Since the Sanfords will be away through August, it will be necessary for others to help in the Khargpur work until their return.

Arvid Berg, youngest son of Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Berg, sailed on a cargo ship from Calcutta for Boston on April 5th. With him were three of his classmates from Woodstock High School. He will enter Bethel College in the fall.

Connie Lou Sanford, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Sanford, was elected Governor-General of the Lower School at Woodstock.

Gordon Roadarmel is taking a post-graduate course at Woodstock and classifies as a "staff" member through teaching some drill classes, and working in the school office.

Mrs. W. C. Osgood and Gilbert are boarding at "Holly Mount", Landour until a house is available about the middle of June, at which time Luella, who is a senior at Woodstock, will join them.

Mr. Gilbert Tyler, safety engineer for the Pan American Airways, who was in India on business took this opportunity of visiting in our Mission, and taking many pictures. He is active in the work of the First Baptist Church, Jamaica, N.Y.

Rev. W. S. Dunn writes that his elder daughter, Helen, is to be married on June 17th to Rev. A. Broyles of West Virginia. During the war years Mr. Broyles was a chaplain's assistant in the army. He has been a pre-ministerial student at Kalamazoo College, Michigan, graduating in the class of '49. He will begin his seminary course this fall. Helen plans to complete the necessary hospital training in her course in Occupational Therapy.

Mrs. J. A. Howard was privileged to be present at the commissioning service for Rev. and Mrs. Glenn R. Hill at the Sunnyside Church, Los Angeles, on Sunday, April 24th. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Eller, former missionaries at Balasore, were also present. Mr. Hill has been assistant pastor at the Sunnyside Church. We look forward to welcoming the Hills to service in Bengal-Orissa.

Adella Long, twin daughter of Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Long, is now with her parents at Susanville, No. Calif., where Mr. Long is pastor. Her condition is still very serious. We continue to remember Adella and her parents in our prayers and are inspired by their courage and faith through the long years of her illness.

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