TIDINGS

Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Long

1957
SECOND QUARTER

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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We oldsters who came out to India in 1916 have an advantage over the youngsters who have arrived in this decade. There have been so many changes to note. We first drove the twenty miles from Midnapore to Bhimpore in bullock carts at the rate of two miles per hour—one hour! Next we had our trotting bullocks hitched to a tonga (2 wheeled vehicle with canopy. A seat for driver in front and with backs to him 2 passengers could ride on narrow seat behind). In this contraption we made the trip in six hours. When the Ford, Model T., came along we reduced the time to two and a half or two hours. The modern jeep makes it in an hour during the dry season and when no bridges are out. It can still take two hours when there are five water holes of considerable size and many smaller mud holes to pull through during the rainy season.

When I arrived as a bride in Midnapore in 1919, after having served 3 years as a single missionary in So. India, I found Herbert had finished his two years of Bengali language study. He was then serving as Principal of the Deering Bible School. So our first term of service was spent in training young men and a few young women for full time Christian service. When we attend an Association or Yearly Meeting it is a joy to meet again some of “our boys”, now grey-haired, carrying on in places of leadership in the work.
Part of the Bible School training for students was the practical work in evangelism which meant touring among the villages in the cold season. Our first trip was by ox-cart at two miles an hour and we led our cow along to supply milk for our baby boy. Later, when we had an ancient Ford donated to us, we drove as far as Ghatal, 50 miles north, with pontoon bridge thrown across the Rupnarayan River. By use of magic lantern slides on the "Life of Christ" we told of the Savior of the world to those who gathered to hear.

I must mention the changes in our family. Our first son, Judson, had arrived in 1920 to gladden our home and he made us more acceptable in meeting Hindus, for were we not parents of a "male issue?" In 1922 twin girls came, born in the old Bachelor Bungalow in Midnapore (now Teachers' Quarters). A colleague gave Herbert a new name. He now was called, "Herbert, the High Financier", as we suddenly had a double child-allowance. When we returned from our first furlough in 1924 we brought another son, Paul, with us. The four children made rapid progress with Bengali, without having to think about grammar and they were helpful in the work, making contacts easy. During this second term we had two years in Bhimpore with Herbert still being responsible also for work in Midnapore. It was good to feel that we knew the Santal people better. Again we noted contrasts. In the old days Santals were not allowed in Bengali schools, but had to learn whatever they could by listening from doors or windows. But by 1928 we had well-trained Santal teachers, sitting in the only chair available, and teaching Bengali. Santal children and gradually a few girls were admitted to our Bhimpore schools. Hitherto it was an unheard of thing for girls to go to school. In 1926 the Boys' Middle School (Jr. Hi) become a recognized full grade High School, and has continued as such to the present day. Since 1956 it has become coeducational in the last two classes.

In 1933, when we returned from our next furlough, we left Judson, then 13 years of age, at the Home for Missionaries' Children in Granville,
Ohio. The Bible School at Midnapore had been merged with a similar school of the British Baptists at Cuttack and so Herbert was asked to return to Bhimpore to be in charge of the High School. Bhimpore we think of as our real home in India. Our children were now old enough to live at the Hostels, while they attended Woodstock School, a thousand miles away in the Himalaya Mountains, from March to December. This left me quite free to help with the work on the plains. I even went out to the villages on two trips without Herbert along. Once by bullock cart and dooly (like an inverted rope bed) I visited three villages on the Bengal-Orissa border. Again with Chum (Pearl) a faithful Bible woman I made a shorter journey into mofussil (the country), fording the Kosai River by wading, and going on the rest of the dusty way by ox-cart. That trip made me realize how much I needed Santali in order to talk to the village women in their homes, since so many knew only a very little Bengali. On my return home I announced I would be going out next time to live in a Santal village, where it would be impossible to use English or Bengali, and so learn Santali.

But, alas, those plans could never be carried out! One of our daughters, Adella, aged 14, became seriously ill and her “interesting case” could not be accurately diagnosed in India. So, early in 1938, it was necessary to take her home to see what the best of doctors and California sunshine could do for her. I sailed with Adella, and her twin sister Mary, via the Pacific, leaving Herbert to carry on, as he could not be spared from the work, and our son Paul remained in school at Woodstock, coming to be with his father during the school holidays. The Lord was with the family in a very wonderful way then, and through the years that followed when Adella’s illness kept my husband so long separated from his family. He and Paul arrived home for Easter in 1940. In October ‘41 he was back again in India. In the intervening years Adella’s health improved considerably, but it was always uncertain. The two sons did their war service and returned to college. Mary carried on in college and in nurses’ training.
Herbert had his hands and his heart full with the work in Bhimpore. Besides the regular work the awful cyclone, followed by famine, in W. Bengal in 1942-'43 gave him a great deal of responsibility in relief work. Today the Santal and Mahatta (a Hindu group) villagers in our area think of him as their best friend in their time of special need. They realized that he supervised fairly the giving out of food and cloth. The lady missionaries and many of the High School staff and village friends were faithful helpers in this work.

In 1947, just before the partition of India, Herbert came home to retire from foreign service, as the Mission Board, and we also, felt that we should not have to face family separations any longer. In the U.S.A. we found two fields of service: a year at Sherman, California, helping with the Navajo program, and a pastorate in the Sierras of Northern California.

In January of 1952 Adella left us for the Better Land after a valiant struggle of nearly fifteen years. We then offered again for work in Bengal, although Herbert had reached retiring age. We felt that the Lord would have us here in Bengal, using the language and contacts gained before.

We returned to our old station, Midnapore, in October 1952. We have always felt that God led us back to this, our adopted land. In 1953 what a joy it was to go out to the villages with the Word! In the Chevy station wagon, with camping equipment given to us through home friends, we have enjoyed trips to villages near and far where we have pitched our tents under mango or neem trees. Many came to renew old contacts made in the famine days at Bhimpore and others came because Bhimpore is an open sesame. All stayed to hear the message and to see the Word expressed through pictures and song.

Our only regret has been my ill health, following a fall in Oct. 1955 when my left femur was fractured. Although ever since I have been
much incapacitated, the Lord has been wonderfully with us and blessed us. Although we cannot stay on longer, as we really must retire, we are glad our Bengali and Santal colleagues will be in Bengal preaching, teaching, and seeking to win others for Christ.

The changes during 40 years have been many, but the message is the same; the Word remains true. John 3:16 is the key verse of our teaching. He still loves and seeks His own in Bengal. As we go to live in Southern California near our six little "grands", we shall continue to keep in touch with the friends and the work in India. Bengal-Orissa will still be in our hearts.

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AN APPRECIATION
BY ETHEL ROADARMEL

Bouquets should be given while people can enjoy them. As Rev. and Mrs. H.C. Long leave India after more than 40 years of service for the Lord we would like to give them a very large and beautiful bouquet of appreciation for their devoted service and their life in our midst.

Mabel's "Reminiscences" give an indication of their selflessness. Only briefly does she touch upon the very difficult experiences that have been theirs through the years. Always they have put the Kingdom work before their own personal or family interests. Only those who have experienced long separations can understand what it must have meant for Mabel to be in the U.S.A. with the children, with all the uncertainty and anxiety for Adella's health, and for Herbert to be in India. That Mabel should be eager to return to Bengal after 14 years at home makes it evident that all through those years her heart interest was in India. That Herbert offered to return when he had already reached retiring age makes us know, too, that this part of God's vineyard has a strong hold on his affections.
But it is particularly for the wonderful spirit these dear colleagues have shown in the midst of affliction that we want to give them our bouquet. This bouquet is made up of the fine things people have said by word or by pen. One writes: “Mabel has done a lot of good to many folks. Anyone should feel ashamed to feel sorry for himself after what she has been through with Adella and herself. And she has come through it all in such a beautiful spirit. I suspect Adella’s long illness was harder to bear than her own. One can find it easier to suffer than to see one you love so much suffer so.”

A Nurse at the Kharagpur Hospital adds to the bouquet: “What an amazing person Mrs. Long is! She is always so cheerful.”

Mabel was in the Kharagpur Railway Hospital when she fractured her collar bone when their station wagon overturned a few years ago. She was there again for the second of the four operations following fracture of femur.

A patient at Vellore hospital who used to call on her when she was there for two successive operations on the femur: “What a grand ‘old lady’ she is! And what wonderful faith she has in the Lord!”

The son of a patient at Vellore: “Mrs. Long was always cheerful. She helped everyone who saw her.”

A missionary friend: “Mabel has given all of us a lesson in patience, in faith, and in optimism.”

An American young man with Kaiser Engineers, Jamshedpur, after a week-end in the Longs’ home: “I admire you both very much.”

And so the bouquet grows and grows and all who know the Longs would add a flower of appreciation. I think of Dr. August Hintz’s comments after his visit to Kharagpur in 1953. He had gone out to see the Longs who were then camping in a tent, with very primitive household arrangements, on the outskirts of Kharagpur where they were visiting in the homes of
Christians and non-Christians and holding special evangelistic meetings with the use of stereoptican slides. On his return to our home, he said, "When one sees the Longs doing what they are doing and having come back to this at their age one knows there is something vital in the call to missionary service."

Farewells are hard at best, but how difficult for the Longs to end their years in India with Mabel flat on her back. Sometime ago, when she had made sufficient progress to be able to walk a little with the aid of two canes, she discovered a curvature in her spine. The local doctor told her that she must not try walking anymore. Earlier she had been using crutches, but had given them up because of severe pain in her chest and back. An X-ray was taken and sent to Vellore for reading. The doctor reported that three vertebrae of the spine were collapsed and that all vertebrae were decalcifying. He said she should not sit, stand, or walk without a spinal support. Unfortunately, a plastic moulded shell could be made only at Vellore, a 45 hour train journey, involving two changes. After much prayer and thought the Longs decided that the wisest course was to go to Los Angeles by plane as soon as arrangements could be made and their packing be completed. Earlier there had been tentative plans for sailing via England to N.Y. in early May.

As Tidings goes to the Press, Mabel expects in a few days to enter Khargpur Hospital to have a cast applied for the plane trip and on May 5th she and Herbert will go by train to Calcutta, and from the station make the trip to the airport by ambulance. That night Mabel, as a stretcher case unable to sit up, and her husband as her nurse, will board the PAA plane and in approximately 48 hours from then expect to be met by their son Paul, their daughter Mary, and Herbert's sister at Los Angeles. Once more Mabel will be taken to hospital.

The love, admiration, and prayers of all their friends in India will be in the bouquet they carry in their hearts, a bouquet which we know
will never fade. As Mabel repeatedly has said, “The Lord has been wonderfully near at all times,” so we pray that His presence may go with them to guide, strengthen and bless. May both Mabel and Herbert still be used of the Lord in bringing new courage and blessing to others.

UTKAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL BIENNIAL MEETING

BY ANUGRAHA BEHERA

Our bus was packed to capacity as we started from Bargarh for Diptipur, a distance of 36 miles, to attend the meetings of the Utkal (Orissa) Christian Council. This was western Orissa and so the country was dry and we felt early summer in the air. At about five o’clock in the evening the bus stopped at Diptipur, a small, but an ideal place for conferences and camps. As we were getting down from the bus we saw hundreds of people moving in the area and the place seemed very lively. We learned that the West Utkal Baptist Convention (British Baptist Mission) was in session and this was their last day. About 950, including women and children, had come together at their own cost in this spiritual gathering from the surrounding 150 churches. It was an inspiring sight for myself, as well as for the other members who had come for the U.C.C. meeting. We felt very fortunate to enter into such an atmosphere and continue our meetings as they finished theirs.

The U.C.C. Biennial Meeting, from March 24th to 26th inclusive, was mostly a business meeting. Most of the denominations working in Orissa were represented. The meeting commenced on Sunday with the morning service which was presided over by Rev. P. C. Das Benya. The message concerning Christian sacrifice and cross-bearing, based on the text Matt. 16: 24, was given by Mr. P. M. Das.

Mr. Samuel Das, the Chairman of the Council, opened the business session after the morning devotional meeting. There were about 20
delegates and 40 visitors from the different churches and Missions of Orissa. Most of the time was spent in hearing committee reports and discussing new problems which had arisen. The reports included: Christian Home, Economic Life, Public Relations, Literature, Theological Literature, Youth, Audio-Visual Work, Adult Education, Evangelistic, Medical, Language Examination, Day of Prayer for National Christian Council, and Theological Education. The reports showed that most of these committees had taken an active interest in doing something for the Kingdom of God. The result that has been produced by this work is thrilling and inspiring.

Let me mention a few things from the reports which will give a general idea of the work that has been done. The Economic Life Committee reported that, following the flood in 1955, many long and weary miles of mud were travelled in taking supplies to people. Often these supplies had to be carried on the backs of the relief workers. The Theological Literature Committee said that 7 books would have been published under their auspices during the year. The Theological School, Cuttack, reported that 19 students have been trained in the seminary this past year for Christian work in Orissa. The convener of the Adult Education Committee reported splendid work. It was encouraging to know that in the last two years they have established 15 libraries, published 12 and sold 21,000 books. Also it was mentioned that in about 202 centres 1498 people had become literate. Similarly, the other reports were received by all of us with the same spirit of interest and became the source of inspiration for all of us.

Our own Baptist area of work is also playing quite an important part in this Utkal Christian Council, since many of our members are taking an active part in it. This year on the different committees of the Utkal Christian Council we have three missionaries: Dr. W. C. Osgood, Miss Nina Bowers, and Rev. L. P. Hunwick, and five nationals: Miss S.
Behera, Rev. R. K. Sahu, Mr. A. Behera, Mrs. L. Christian, and Mr. Robinson Singh.

It was also a thrilling experience to see that the vision of Christ for the Church, to some extent, is being realized: "That they may all be one, even as Thou Father art in me and I in Thee." As we lived together, worshipped together, and planned together we felt the moving of the Spirit and all of us received a new call to be one under the flag of Christ and to attempt great things for God. It is no wonder that I mention that now we all long to see the day come when the Utkal Christian Council will be wholly a Council of Christ, striving for the advancement of His Kingdom in this part of our country as one Church, which is His body.

CHRISTIAN HOME FESTIVAL OBSERVED
IN HATIGARH CHURCH

By Jane Osgood

"Our State Convention" appointed a committee last fall to work on materials to be used in all our churches during the first months of 1957, in order that important topics might be given special emphasis. During January stewardship and tithing were discussed and studied in various groups and we were challenged afresh to give rightful place to the use of our money, time and talents. February brought to our attention the importance of the Christian home; how Christian homes play an important part not only in the life of the Church, but in attracting non-Christians to Christ.

The families of Hatigarh spent two very happy, profitable weeks toward the end of February and beginning of March in preparation for and taking part in what we call a Christian Home Festival. Groupings of all the Christian families in Hatigarh were worked out whereby four or five families met together each evening when the Church bell rang for family devotions. One person was responsible for each group, but they
met in the different homes and, in some instances at least, took turns in leading. Our "family" consisted of our boarding boys, the headmaster and his mother, three other staff members living in the boys' hostel, and one of our evangelistic workers. This week was in preparation for the actual Christian Home Emphasis week, but also we hope it may start up some prayer cells meeting from week to week together. We know that it has helped greatly in increasing good feeling between neighbors and in renewing efforts to have daily family worship, which had become lax in some homes. A few nights ago as we were returning from calling in the village, we saw a dozen little children running happily into the pastor's yard. I asked what was happening and the pastor said "Our prayer group is having dinner together tonight, and we are hoping we may continue to meet once a week together for prayer." We believe some follow up on this beginning could bring about several groups meeting together regularly.

The beatitude "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" was the theme verse for the Bible study groups during the second week, emphasizing the necessity of purity in the Christian home. Satyabati Behera, one of our experienced, very fine Bible women, took the two evening classes with the unmarried girls and two afternoon classes for the mothers. The older men had two evenings with Bhupati Sahu, lay-training leader of Balasore District, and he also led the young men in Bible study on the same subject for two evenings. Leading questions were given each group and discussed freely after the Bible study. The children enjoyed a special service for them on Friday afternoon, using the World Day of Prayer program. That night the whole church joined in the World Day of Prayer program and we felt drawn very close to other Christians the world around, knowing there were thousands of churches, small and large, meeting as we were, for the same purpose.

The week was brought to a very impressive close on Sunday afternoon when Mrs. Christian, retired school teacher now giving major time
to translation and writing, used the latter part of Joshua 24:15 "...as for me and my house. we will serve the Lord", in a dedication service. These words had been written in large red letters and pasted to the front wall of the church where all could see, and small banners had been made from newspapers, with a cross of red on each, attached to tiny bamboo poles. The children sang in the village ahead of the service, carrying the banners. When the service began these were piled on the table in front and after Mrs. Christian finished her talk, she asked for families to come together who were willing to rededicate their lives to better service for God, the head of the family taking a banner and all repeating together the verse in Joshua. Men and women do not normally sit together in church in India, but the women on one side and the men on the other, so having families sit together for the service was impressive in itself and to have the family unit rededicate their lives really brought joy to our hearts.

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WEDDING BELLS IN MONAPARA

By Shirley L. Hill

It was a bright February morning when we set out from Jhargram, all five of us packed into the Jeep with Bahadur Kisku, his wife Maloti, and Sopon, their young son. We headed for the village of Monapara, twenty miles distant, to attend the wedding of Hasi, the daughter of one of our pastors. We had been told that the wedding would take place at 10:00 a.m. and allowing for the usual delay, we expected to be home in the early afternoon, and made our plans accordingly.

The Jeep bumped over the jungle "roads" and then off through fields which finally led us, a bit the worse for wear, to Monapara. It was nearly 9:00 when we alighted and were welcomed by Gobinda Babu and his family. We sat under the bamboo-mat canopy erected for this special
occasion, and were grateful for shelter from the hot Indian sun. After a thirty minute wait, the women of the household came to greet us in the Santal way, bringing the shiny brass vessel containing water, which they placed in front of us, and then "pranamed", or bowed gracefully before each of the guests. We then removed our shoes and socks and they proceeded to wash our feet and anoint them with oil, in the Santal gesture of welcome. Since we were honored guests at a wedding, I, a woman, they also rubbed cocoanut oil into Maloti's and my hair, and then dropped scent all over us!

After further delay of some thirty minutes, the bride appeared to make her respects. How our hearts sank as we beheld her! It was obvious that she was not ready for any wedding, much less her own. Sometime after she vanished into the courtyard, her father appeared, explaining that there would be a small delay, and would we care to come and have something to eat? Of course, Leslie, Gary and Laurie Lou think there is nothing quite so delicious as food in a Santal village, so they rose with alacrity, and we followed with almost as much enthusiasm. The hot luchies and tea were served promptly, as we sat on the veranda overlooking the courtyard, where the festivities were to occur. After we had eaten with enjoyment, and settled back, the Pastor came and revealed to us that, before the wedding, there were to be two baptisms, and in fact, there were to be two weddings, instead of just one! Bahadur, area supervisor, was asked to baptize the two candidates, and agreed to do so, after looking slightly rueful that no intimations of the proposed baptisms had reached him. Sometime later, out into the burning noonday sun we trudged, through the village, across the fields, through a small jungle, to the small pond where the women were to be buried with Christ. There were some fifty of us, singing as we went in procession. At the pond, curious villagers watched the proceedings as they continued to bathe, wash clothing, and bathe their water buffalo. As it turned out, three women were baptized, and following this, we discovered with some alarm
that there were to be three weddings actually, for since the licensed preacher had come forty miles for one wedding, two other families decided to take advantage of this fact. I'm afraid we were staggering in the hot sun as we headed back for the village. By then it was 1:00 p.m. and we began to realize that there would be much more than the "usual" delay!

The homes of the newly baptized had to visited as is the custom, for they think that added blessings will be theirs if many Christians pass over their thresholds on such a day. We then tottered back to the Pastor's home, hoping that it wouldn't be too long now. We waited for about an hour, with the children most restless, when our host came and said apologetically, that he was sure we were hungry and food was now prepared for us. They served us rice, dal and curry, with tomato chutney that is so delicious. By then, it was three o'clock and I was invited into the inner sanctum to watch the bride being made ready for her wedding. As I blinked in the dark little room, trying to get my vision back, I noticed that there was a bottle of Cutex nail polish on the floor, and that her toenails, and soles of her feet, had been beautifully polished with the "shocking red." This is quite in order, although villagers usually use the dye made out of a root, so I was rather surprised at this modern touch. Then as my eyes became accustomed to the darkness, I noted that her fingernails had been brightly polished also. Then Maloti and I both exclaimed with horror at the same time, for our gaze was transfixed on the face of the once-lovely bride... they had carefully painted the same shocking red over every square inch of her face, even over the lips! And as we watched with an awful fascination, one of the young bos (daughter-in-law) was carefully painting her eyelids, and tears were running down the bride's cheeks as it burned her, falling swiftly like waterfalls over the red-glazed skin!

When we asked them why they had done such a thing, one young bo said shyly, but rather proudly, "It was my idea. I know that white women put red paint on their faces, and we wanted Hasi to look her
most beautiful on this special day."

Then Maloti and I tried to explain to the puzzled women about the use of nail polish versus any kind of cosmetic, and ended by holding up the lamp in front of the young girl's face. They gasped when they saw the results of their handiwork, and begged us to help them erase all the evidence of their awful mistake. Frantically, they applied soap and hot water, all to no avail. Hasi began to cry in earnest now for her skin was beginning to feel most painful. I knew I could get it off with kerosene, but it would hurt and smell bad. Then my eyes fell on the small bottle of perfume which had been given her by the groom; it was four o'clock when I began rubbing at the "shocking red" face with the perfume, and forty-five minutes later every vestige of the sad spectacle had vanished. With sighs of relief and gladness, Hasi was hastily robed in her wedding saree and at five o'clock, looking radiant and beautiful, as a bride should, stepped out into the courtyard into the crowd of assembled guests, to take her place beside her handsome young groom. I wended my way over to the children, who had begun to wonder where their long lost mother was, and the first wedding began. The two hundred and more folks standing in the courtyard were an interesting group. There were the ever-present children, dressed in nothing more festive than a string around their skinny little waists, the young women with babes suckling at their breasts, the curious old crones, the elders of the village, the families of the bride and groom... they sang the old Santal songs of love and marriage, in their peculiar minor strains, and one would never have guessed that the songs were really happy tunes!

One marriage over... two to go! The sun was sinking in the west, a ball of fire on the horizon, and the guests stirred uneasily. Marriages are supposed to be performed before sunset in India! Hastily the old preacher turned to the second couple and they recited their vows, before God and assembled man, without wasting time. Alas, the third groom sat in solitary splendor, as his bride had not yet arrived! At
6:00 p.m. in the distance could be heard the third party arriving with the bride. They stood outside the village singing for some time until the old preacher could be heard to say, "Tell them to stop their serenading and get her in here to be married!" Thus at last, in the falling darkness, the third couple were united in marriage, and all was well. We fell wearily into the Jeep, bade our friends farewell, and set off down the jungle road towards home, seeing jackals, fox and rabbits on the way. At 8:00 that night we arrived home, thankful that the day was over . . . . but rich in new knowledge of a Santal village wedding.

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ANOTHER TURN IN THE ROAD AHEAD

By Elsie M. Kittlitz

The Editor of Tidings reminds me that this is my last chance to write for this paper while I am on the field. My road of life is about to make another turn, for in July I must leave these people whom I love. Perhaps it is the flood of wonderful memories of almost thirty-six years that makes me such a reluctant retirer. It makes one feel like a ghost to help in planning for future work and know one will have no part in it.

I replied in the negative to the question as to whether I found many differences among the three Mission Fields in which I have served: China, So, India, and Bengal-Orissa. People are so much alike; I find myself thinking of similar groups in each place and realizing that, were there no language barriers, people could quickly and easily adjust to working together.

From my class of girls in America, before I went to China, to the present group of similar age here in Orissa, Sunday School classes seem to merge in joyous memory. The large class of 60 women in China, with the one woman who always answered before another had a chance, had a girl twin in last year's group here. Right or wrong, she spoke up before
I could finish the question. Most of my present Sunday School class of 16 girl seniors are ready to take the High School Leaving Examinations. The entire group just stopped in to ask me to pray with them about the coming test. I told them, as they tearfully face leaving the School where they have been for so many years, that if following Jesus be their goal, each turn of the road for them will be a right and blessed choice. Several will go for Teacher Training; one is considering medicine; some will probably marry and serve in their local churches.

Where has the turn of the road taken the girls who have gone from this School and Hostel during the past five and a half years? An invitation just came to the wedding, in a distant place, of one of the Hindu girls. She once showed me a picture saying: “This is my god.” Later she asked for, and had framed, Sallman’s Head of Christ. Pray that this may not be just another god for her, but that His love and glory may fill her heart and eclipse all others, for she has heard His Word here in our School.

Another in that class one day asked suddenly, “Please tell us why you came to India,” thereby giving me a splendid chance to witness to the Living God. She is a brilliant student, now studying medicine. Pray that she may accept the Great Physician as her Lord.

Most of last year’s class have gone to college and one, a Christian, is studying nursing, her aim being to work with a Bible Woman in one of the Christian Evangelistic Medical Centers we are opening in various rural areas:

Angur Jena, whom my home church has helped to educate, has taken her final B.A. examination at Madras Christian College. The Principal there told me that Angur is one of the finest girls they have had in the College. She plans to come here to help in our Balasore Girls’ School. Recently she wrote, “I am sure God will help me, since He has called me for this work.”
What precious memories I will carry with me of the strong ties that bind me to the Staff here; to the school girls; to the people in the Church; to my fellow missionaries! Separation will be physical only. Nothing can separate us spiritually. As we each go marching along Life's Road, in His keeping, we can know with Van Dyke that "The Road's last turn will be the best."

“WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD.”

By Nina Bowers

With anticipation, and considerable planning, women belonging to twenty-four churches, came from different directions to Jaleswar to join in a meeting for Pastors’ Wives and Bible Women, March 19th to 22nd. Mothers of small children brought powdered milk and cookies for those who could not eat curry. All gathered together their clothes and bedding to take with them. Most rose early and rode by bus and train. Some walked eight or ten miles across rice fields carrying children and bedding. Others rode for long distances in ox carts. But the prize for the most persistence and for the most difficult trip must surely go to the woman who walked thirty-one miles, caught a bus, and changed to a train. Six women missed train connections in Khargpur because their train was delayed, and were not able to get another train until the next morning. But aching muscles and lost sleep were forgotten as women entered into fellowship and the opportunity for better preparation for their work.

This year was one of the best planned meetings for this group which we have had in recent years and, therefore, was very helpful. Mrs. W. C. Osgood was chairman of the committee which planned the program and made the other arrangements. Leaders were carefully chosen to help in those ways in which each was most experienced. Each day began with prayer and Bible study in groups, according to language. During the
rest of the day we used the three languages—Bengali, Oriya, and Santali—and also sang some songs in Hindi.

Ruth Daniels led the daily Bible study on the book of Colossians. She laid much emphasis on the practical application of the teachings in the book. This was followed by discussions on family worship, Sunday School, and women’s meetings, which stressed the aims and needs in Christian growth. The discussion periods in the morning, and the associated worship in the afternoon were led by Parul Tudu, Satyaboti Behera, and Subarna Karmarkar, all Bible women.

Evening meetings were on the theme of the meeting, Workers together with God. These were led by Surodhoni Hansda, Nina Bowers, and Rev. Mohendra Santra, one of the area supervisors.

We had games, laughter, and much conversation and the sharing of experiences. After the evening meal the women gathered on the veranda, under the stars and full moon, to pray for their churches, their families, and for each other. With renewed courage and determination to be more effective workers for God, the women returned to their own places of work; many of them to isolated places where opportunities for much fellowship are rare.

WHO WILL STAND IN THE GAP?

By Susanne Powers

About 100 feet of our compound wall fell down in a rain and wind storm. For about two weeks the workmen have been rebuilding the wall. While watching from the school office window the two women carrying bricks on their heads and the men fitting them together into a wall, I am reminded of the gap in the wall that the prophet Ezekiel wrote about. "And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge,.

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and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it, but I found none."

Then I was reminded of the many gaps that need to be filled in this area. This year thirteen of our 29 missionaries in Bengal-Orissa have left or will be leaving for the States—some for retirement. These thirteen have been doing evangelistic work in our villages, student hostels, churches, schools. Who will stand in this gap?

Singing while we drive along, our "Balasore Gospel team" of teachers from our Girls' School and the Boys' Technical School have been going to the neighboring villages with Bible slides. By connecting the projector to the car battery, we've been able to present Christ through pictures to many village people. Between 100 and 200 people saw the Bible pictures in Nilgiri, a pretty village of a Maharaja, where only a nurse and a man having a bicycle repair shop are Christian. As Probhat was explaining the Ascension to many who never before had heard of Christ, I heard the bells of the temple across the street ringing the Hindu evening worship. The ringing is an everyday occurrence so no one looked up.

A week previously we showed the Bible slides in the village of Mitrapur to 30 or 40 Christians. About 100 years ago, when there were only a very few Christians in Balasore, some of the converts started this village at the foot of the pretty Nilgiri Hills about eight miles from Balasore. At that time the new Christians were sheltered there from persecuting relatives and neighbors.

We do enjoy going to the villages nearby and do pray God will use the Bible pictures for His glory. In time, God can call out from these villages His workers to fill the many gaps here.

"How can there be one God when there is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?" asked a senior Hindu girl in our hostel. On Sunday evenings the high school seniors and juniors in the hostel and I have been
trying to answer that question. We have been studying the Trinity and other Christian beliefs with the help of a study book and our Bibles. These girls also attend Elsie Kittlitz’ Sunday school class each week. Perhaps some of them will help to fill in the gap.

The active little children in my 3rd grade Sunday school class, too, might become men and women who will stand in the gap and will show others the salvation of our Lord.

But, also, for now we trust that God will seek for and find the necessary missionaries and Indian workers to fill in the gaps for His work in Bengal-Orissa.

NINE CHURCHES WOMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING

By Jane G. Osgood

Wish some of you home friends could have crowded into the Land Rover Bill drove, or our Jeep which I drove, filled to overflowing with women attending our Annual meeting for the women of the 9 Churches of this area, held from the evening of February 21st through the 24th in Rangiam, a small, mostly Santali church, in rather an inaccessible location. The Christians of Rangiam church are scattered far and wide, so five tents had been pitched for us to stay in, and the Laheys (Australian neighboring missionaries) brought their little, very handy trailer house to camp in. Mrs. Lahey has been guest speaker for this annual gathering for a number of years and we had expected they would be on furlough by now so we wouldn't be privileged to have her with us again. Furlough is long overdue, and they must be past retiring age, but there is just too much to do, so furlough is being pushed aside! That is the spirit it takes to be effective missionaries! So once again we were blessed by

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Mrs. Lahey’s teaching. The three days’ thoughts were centered around the “Use of our Mouths—Our Speech”, taking the un-Christian way the first day and the more constructive, helpful angle of the Christian Way the last two days. In our daily prayer groups we prayed that our tongues might be under the Holy Spirit’s control, that we might not speak in anger or against others, but always with love in our hearts. Using Bible references as our guide, we saw that the right way to use our tongues is in acknowledging the Lordship of Christ, and our faith in Him; to confess our sins; for praising and praying and for witnessing.

The Sunday evening session was brought to a very impressive, helpful climax when Mrs. Christian (retired School teacher giving major time to literature, translation, etc. for our Mission) challenged the women to put into action what we had been discussing for three days. We really were touched as we heard brief prayers asking the Lord to give them courage to go back home and humbly ask forgiveness of those they had quarreled with, or hadn’t been speaking to. We need to follow these resolutions with our daily prayers.

As Bill guided us home that night over the humps and bumps of the so-called road, or just over open spaces where I could never have found my way alone, there was much rejoicing over the benefits we had received during our three days together and as the beautiful night rang with song, I thought, “this is just like home groups” and gave thanks for the common Christ we serve.

**DAY OF PRAYER**

**By Satyaboti Behera**

To pray is natural for the women of India. Those women who still walk in darkness and do not go in the Light of Jesus Christ, also worship their own gods and spend time in prayer. In a certain festival for women they do not sleep the whole night, but light little lamps and pray that they
will be faithful wives, have good husbands, and bear sons. One day while travelling on a train I met a woman who was very anxious to learn how to pray. I taught her a short Christian prayer which she was happy to learn.

Today in many Christian churches in India there is a revival in prayer. A certain Christian woman, who is very old, gets up early in the morning and, with the aid of a stick, makes her way to the church and prays.

With joy the women of India look forward to the World Day of Prayer. This year, at the time of the Day of Prayer, the Hatigarh Church was observing the Christian Home Festival. What a fine opportunity it was to sit down in fellowship and remember in prayer all the other churches in the world! The leader of the service, Dr. W. C. Osgood, asked several consecrated young men to assist. They read their parts in clear voices and asked different men and women to lead in prayer. That day we truly experienced the presence of God. "What shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Nothing can separate us. We thank God for giving us this opportunity of praying together.

Let us be eager to spend more time in praying for Christian churches all over the world. May Jesus be glorified.

NEW COINAGE

In his quarterly letter to friends in the U.S.A. John Gilson has a paragraph on India's coinage which we think worth quoting for your information, particularly as to some of the difficulties in the changing of coins and values. "India is suddenly becoming modern and scientific so far as standards and mathematics are concerned. For several months now all official weather reports have used Centigrade temperatures. On April 1st the new decimal coinage was introduced, and next year the whole metric system of weights and measures will be used."
What confusion the new coinage is causing! For the uneducated people, brought up in figuring everything in multiples of four, the decimal system is quite a mystery. Besides that, the old coins are still in circulation, along with the new, and all transactions can be done in either coinage or a combination of the two, but all accounts have to be kept in decimals. Perhaps the post offices are the most confused, or rather the people who go to buy stamps. The new inland letter postage is 13 naya paisa, instead of the old 2 annas, but the P.O. does not yet have a sufficient supply of stamps of the 13 naya paisa denomination, so they are still selling the old 2 anna stamps, but at the increased cost of 1 naya paisa. For those who buy with the old coins it costs $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas to buy a 2 anna stamp; for 100 such stamps (old price Rs. 12, As. 8) it is now Rs. 13/- so the stamp vendors go mad, not only trying to calculate the change on each sale, but to placate the customers.

But what a saving it will be when the new system gets into effect and people understand it! If you have ever tried to calculate the cost of 5 tons, 3 hundred weight, 2 quarters and 5 pounds of steel @ Rs. 27-12-6 per Cwt. you know what I mean."

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Some folks may wonder what a Property Advisor has to do, or why some Missions employ a full-time person as a builder. Gleanings from a letter of John Gilson's, our Mission Property Advisor, (one of his many responsibilities) will show that, in spite of the shortage of missionaries, those on the field are undaunted and confidently go forward planning for the future.

"The Property Advisor and his national assistant keep busy with detailed plans and estimates, procuring materials, and advising on construction procedures. The Urban Basic School building (4 room elementary) at Midnapore is just about complete now, and materials are
being collected for the 10 room addition to the Midnapore Girls' High School building to meet the Government's requirements for a "Multi-purpose" School.

In the Jhargram area Mr. Hill has completed the permanent roof on the Chukripara Church and is now working on the roof of the new church building at Chainasole. He is also starting on the three new buildings for the Jhargram Christian Training Center, and the storeroom and engine room for his new electric power plant.

At Nekurseni Mr. Kau is starting construction of three buildings for his hostel and training center project on the new plot of land just purchased for the purpose.

Remodelling work is going on at several of the churches and at the Ujurda Medical Center building, and a permanent roof is being fitted at the Ujurda pastor's house.

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OUR PRAYER CORNER

"Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks." I Thess. 5:17-18.

We covet your prayers of thanksgiving and petition each day of the week throughout the year. We thank you for your prayers for healing of the sick and for keeping missionaries and national workers in health that they may carry on the work to which the Lord has called them.

1. We thank God for answered prayer for Naomi Knapp in bringing her back to her normal good health. Pray for her as she assumes increased responsibilities while Hazel Smith is on furlough.

2. We ask your prayers that someone may be found who will take Hazel's work in the Girls' School at Bhimpore during her absence.
3. Pray for Mabel Long that wisdom may be given to the doctors in the U.S.A. who study her condition and that her spinal trouble may be cured so that she may be well again and able to enjoy the years with her loved ones at home. We thank God for her Christian fortitude and cheerfulness and her witness to God’s sustaining power.

4. Remember especially those who have come out from non-Christian faiths and at Easter confessed their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ in baptism.

5. Pray for the ones who attended the Lay Training Conference at Jaleswar who declared their purpose to serve the Lord wherever He would have them.

6. Pray for the people of Bhimpore that they may respond eagerly and sacrificially to meet their share of the costs for a new Primary School building.

7. Pray that scholarships may be provided for deserving young people who want to have college training that they may be equipped to take places of leadership in Christian service.

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NEWS ITEMS

Vacations:

With the thermometer soaring to 108 in the shade during the day and even at sun-down lingering around the 100 mark the following vacation spots have added attraction for those who are able to get away from the plains: Landour, Mussoorie for Naomi Knapp, Nina Bowers, and the Roadarmels; Kashmir for Sue Powers; Shillong for the Hunwicks, and Kodaikanal for Ruth Daniels. Art Sanford, Louis Kau, and Glenn Hill will join their families who are already at Landour where their children are in school.
The Gilsons, who will leave for furlough in early October, think they can survive the heat at Kharagpur and will not take vacation.

The remaining missionaries will be leaving India in the near future.

Departures from the field:

**Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Long** by plane from Calcutta via Pacific to Los Angeles, May 5th. Retiring. (Home address in Annual Report Number Tidings).

**Miss Hazel Smith** by plane from Calcutta via Pacific for San Francisco, June 5th. Home address: 22 W. Holly Ave., Oaklyn, New Jersey. Furlough for one year.


**Rev. and Mrs. H. Howson** and Sharon by plane from Calcutta via Europe for U.S.A. and thence to Canada on July 13th. 1st furlough. Home address: c/o Mrs. Ralph Thornton, St. Stephen, Charlotte Co., New Brunswick, Canada.

**Miss Elsie Kittlite** by plane from Calcutta to San Francisco July 15th with extended visit with China missionaries and Chinese friends in Hong Kong, arriving in the U.S.A. Oct. 19th. (Home address in Annual Report Number Tidings). Retiring.

At the Calcutta air port on April 3rd to bid farewell to Lillian Brueckmann were Nina Bowers, Ethel Roadarmel, and Mrs. Christian of Hatigarh. Lillian's home address is: 4145 Monroe Ave., Kansas City 3, Missouri. Furlough to October '58.
Language School:

Rev. and Mrs. B. E. Weidman are attending the Bengali Language School for Missionaries held on the Mt. Hermon Estate, Darjeeling. Teresa is enjoying nursery school. They will return to Bhimpore about the 20th June.

Miss Nina Bowers is taking the Hindi language course for two months at the Language School for Missionaries at Landour, Mussoorie. Miss Bowers is proficient in Oriya, but requested permission to study Hindi, now recognized as the national language, to make her work as an evangelist more effective when she is in the cities and industrial areas.

Births:

Rev. and Mrs. S. Ramanjulu announce the birth of a son on March 9th at the Tata Hospital, Jamshedpur. At the Church of Christ on March 31st Rev. C. C. Roadarmel conducted the dedication service for this little lad, Samuel Singh.

Rev. and Mrs. Purna Baske of Mosabani Mines announce the birth of a daughter in April.

Deaths:

Three of our Christian workers have passed on during recent months. Rev. Choterai Tudu was called to his heavenly home on March 3rd and Rev. Chuniram Murmu on March 10th. Some months earlier Rev. Darsarath Behera entered the more abundant life.

Choterai served as an evangelist for two years in our Home Mission field, Dompara and then was transferred to Chainasole. Under his leadership there was a genuine revival. He served also, along with his pastorate, as supervising evangelist, visiting pastorless churches and lonely Christian families. He had been ill for some years before his death and so unable to carry on any work. He leaves five children, two of whom are still in school. Sombari, his wife, teaches in a village school. To her
and her children all who know her in our Mission here, or in the U.S.A., extend sincere sympathy and pray that the Lord may meet their every need.

Chuniram Murmu was converted and baptized while he was a student at the Bhimpore High School. Deciding to enter full time Christian work, he was sent to Bible School at Cuttack, Orissa. His work also was among the Santals, first in the Domapara Home Mission area and later at Ramchandapur. He was especially used in personal work, making contacts easily with non-Christians and was an effective preacher in the open bazar meetings. He was ill for more than a year before his death. He leaves a wife, and five children, three of whom are in school. We pray for this family in their loss that their hearts may be comforted and their needs met.

Dosarath Behera became a follower of Christ when his son, Kritbas, was 13 years old. He was one of the first in Betnasia, Orissa to make a break with Hinduism. Familiar with the Hindu Scriptures he was able to discuss intelligently the religious questions of non-Christians. He carried on evangelistic work in the villages of Orissa and held pastorates for short periods. He also worked among the Koras in Bengal. Wherever he went and on all occasions he was eager to tell what Christ meant in his life. Even after reaching retirement age, he continued to witness. He had a long and useful ministry, hearing the Lord’s “Well done” when he was more than eighty years old. His son Kritibas is pastor of the Ward Memorial Church, Kharagpur and his grandson, Samuel, is pastor of the Nimpura Baptist Church.

Missionaries Children:

Congratulations to Daniel Sanford on his graduation from Woodstock High School, Landour, Mussoorie, U.P. Dan will enter college in the U.S.A. in September.
Application by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions for a visa for Rev. Norman P. Roadarmel and his wife to serve as missionaries in the Punjab has been refused by the Government of India. Subsequently, an application for visa has been made to the Government of Pakistan for missionary service there.

Rev. C. C. Roadarmel has been invited by the A.B.F.M.S. to attend a Consultative Conference of Mission Secretaries from all of our Baptist Mission fields to be held in the U.S.A. this fall. He will leave India by plane to arrive in New York about September 22nd and will return the end of November.

Miss Tushar Tudu of Bhimpore, in the recent General Elections in Bengal, was elected on the Congress ticket as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Bengal from Gorbeta, Midnapore District. She is a special representative for the tribal groups. Tushar, after completing Jr. High School at Bhimpore, graduated from the Midnapore Girls' High School and took the B.A. course at Women's Christian College, Madras. Since her graduation from college in 1956 she has been on the staff of the Bhimpore Santal Boys' High School. She is a member of the Bhimpore Baptist Church.