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TIDINGS



Kulendra Mahapatra and colleagues

(See page No. 7)

1958

FOURTH QUARTER

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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EVANGELISM IN KHARGPUR

BY REV. RUPERT BUNTEN

Small prayer cells had been formed and Christian folks were meeting in homes and church praying for God's blessing and guidance as plans were being made for a series of evangelistic meetings in Khargpur. With Rev. Alfred Rees, pastor of Calcutta's Emmanuel Chapel, we had invited Rev. Archie Shear, the Hindustani pastor of Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta, and the blind Gospel singer, Mr. Biren Rongong. Biren was occupied with his studies, but we had asked the Lord to make it possible for him to come.

A "shamiana" (outdoor shelter for meetings) was erected with a seating capacity of about four hundred on a plot of land adjacent to our Union Church. It was with much expectation we faced the opening of the services on the first day. Just before the service we had a heavy downpour of rain and the ground was flooded. Because the electric connections had not yet been made, we could not use the "shamiana," so the first night the people gathered in the church. Mr. Rees gave a very brief, but deeply spiritual message and many were seriously challenged.

The next day black clouds gathered in the sky, so we decided to meet again in the church. This decision was most fortunate, for that night we had the worst storm of the season. While the rain poured down and the wind tore through the trees, uprooting many, the lights suddenly failed. The calm that follows the storm coincided with the close of the message, and in the stillness the preacher spoke quietly and seriously to his congregation. In spite of the confusion that prevailed outside during most of the evening, the message touched many hearts that night. Parts of the "shamiana" were torn away by the storm, so the structure was

dismantled and for the remainder of the seven days we continued using the church for the meetings.

The night Mr. Rees gave his personal testimony the church was crowded. The Word of God, backed by this man's startling experiences, gripped the attention of young and old alike. In response to the invitation, many came forward to the altar to indicate their desire to follow Christ.

Night after night Biren, our blind singer, sang precious Gospel messages. One night, after his singing "Thanks to God," there was hardly a dry eye in the congregation. Archie Shear supervised the counselling and nightly led the song service. It was a well balanced team of Christian workers, and one that the Lord used to speak His message to the people of Khargpur. As I look over the congregation on Sundays, I see the glowing faces of boys and girls, men and women who committed their lives to Christ during that week.

Plans for City-wide Campaign.

We are now preparing for an evangelistic campaign in which the majority of the Christian groups in the Khargpur area will cooperate. This will be on a much larger scale than the one this year and will begin in March, 1959, and will continue for a month. Dr. Abdul Haqq, a young man who has been associated with Dr. Billy Graham in several campaigns, including some in the U. S. A., is to be the speaker. Associated with him as song leader will be Mr. Cliff Robinson. We seek the prayerful support of all who read *Tidings* for this campaign and for all the details of preparation that they may be in accordance with the will of the Lord. We believe that the work of the Holy Spirit will extend beyond the limits of the railway town of Khargpur and draw people from neighboring towns and villages.

Daily Vacation Bible School.

Following the evangelistic effort in the hot season, Denzil Baker and Conrad Halyburton came home from Bible College for their vacation. These young men are from our own church. While they were with us we held a Daily Vacation Bible School. The first day we had about 50 children. We encouraged all who came to go out 'fishing' for others. The second day several more attended, and toward the end we had over 80 children attending regularly.

Our daily program began with a combined song and worship service, and then we divided into various classes, for which we had five teachers. Conrad's class was overcrowded, but he seemed to manage very well. At the end of the morning the children eagerly looked forward to the religious film strip as one was shown each day.

One of the high-lights of the Bible School was the quizz teams. There was keen competition between the boys and girls, and at times their excitement was hard to control. Their interest amazed us. They worked hard at memory verses, and the hand-work classes absorbed them.

The final Sunday night of the week we devoted our evening church service to the D.V.B.S. and this proved a fitting end. The children sang their special songs with great enthusiasm and the quizz teams were the delight of the congregation. We have had a wonderful time among the children of Khargpur, and we know that these youngsters will make up the future congregations of our churches. It is our prayer that the Lord will call out from among these children many into the service of the King of Kings.

WITNESSING AN OUTDOOR BAPTISM

BY REV. JOHN PHILLIPS

Three months after our arrival in India and soon after I returned to the plains following a period of language study I, for the first time, witnessed a baptismal service in this land. This was both interesting and inspiring. After breakfast at 6:30 A.M., Bill Osgood and I started out in the jeep for the village where the couple to be baptized lived. All along the way we were slowed up by cattle, goats and water buffalo in our path. Both children and adults came out of villages and ran from the fields to see us pass. At some places we had to cross unbridged streams, and sometimes the open field was more easily passable than the road. Our average rate of speed was about three times that which one could make by walking.

Finally, we arrived at the home village of the couple to be baptized. Here were gathered the few Christians of the village and the pastors from four neighboring villages, who had come by bicycle. After a couple of hymns in Santali, which is the language of this village, the pastors led a procession to the baptismal site. This was a cleared pool about waist deep in the middle of a rice field. In the procession the pastors were followed by the Christian men of the village with the rear brought up by the women. As they walked along they sang gospel songs to the accompaniment of two flutes and a rhythmic device.

At the place of baptism the couple stood in front of the pastors at the edge of the pool. After a prayer for God's blessing, the Scriptures were read and then two of the pastors gave detailed instructions as to the meaning and purpose of baptism. The man and woman gave verbal assent to the Lordship of Christ in their lives and their intention to continue in allegiance to Him. One of the pastors, who is also the area secretary, baptized them. At the request of the pastors, Dr. Osgood pronounced the benediction in Oriya and then the procession formed again and returned to the village.

A short worship service led to inquiries by some of the non-Christian members of the village, and this led to arrangements being made for a service the following morning in two separate villages.

As we returned to Hatigarh, we were stopped by a man who wanted to ask Dr. Osgood's help for a newly converted Christian who was being persecuted by his fellow villagers. As you can well imagine, this drove home very forcefully the meaning and the courage which the young man and his wife had just demonstrated in accepting baptism into Christ. Pray for them and others that they may find the strength and courage in God's Spirit that is needed to stand firm in the faith.

KULENDRA MOHAPATRA—AN APPRECIATION

BY REV. L. P. HUNWICK

On April 29th, 1958, a recognition program was held at the Technical Section of the Christian High and Technical School to honor the Superintendent, K. C. Mohapatra, for his thirty-eight years of service to the institution.

Planned by the Technical Section Teacher's Association, the program began with the regular, morning opening of the school in the chapel and surprised the Superintendent as it developed into a service of recognition which included the traditional garlands of flowers, student songs, addresses, and a farewell gift of luggage.

First employed as a clerk in the "Industrial School" by Mr. Krause in 1920, Kulendra Babu has been on the job as Superintendent since his completion of a special drawing course at Bihar College in December, 1925.

Largely a "self-made-man," Kulendra Babu feels that he owes much of the credit for his early progress to Rev. Collett, Rev. Hamlin,

and Mr. Krause because of the interest they showed in his development in the respective areas of English, sportsmanship, and technology. While still a schoolboy, Kulendra Babu "traded" Oriya for English lessons with Rev. Collett and attributes an early proficiency in English as much to Mr. Collett's eagerness to learn Oriya as his own ambitions regarding English. Of course, having a preacher for a father undoubtedly had its advantages to a young man seeking to express himself, and, when the occasion demanded, eloquently—a faculty still in evidence.

The enthusiasm of Rev. Hamlin for athletic competition seems to have been a contagious thing because Kulendra Babu feels that he is very much in debt to his Principal for awakening him to the value of games and good sportsmanship. For, while of average height and weight, Kulendra Babu showed himself of considerably more than average ability in athletics. As with most of his countrymen, football was a prime interest, closely followed by the track and field events, and an area in which he won considerable renown. This boyhood interest has developed through the years to positions of service with the local and State athletic association. As the present Joint Secretary of the Balasore Athletic Association, Kulendra Babu had a part in making the housing of the competitors for the 1958 Indian National Games in Cuttack a harmonious affair through his residency with them.

As Workshop Superintendent, Kulendra Babu has combined the two qualities of responsibility and seeing a problem through to completion to the satisfaction of both the resident missionary and the Mission Society. His working relations with trained engineers and specialists through the years has served to broaden his own background and capabilities and stimulate him to attempt new approaches to problems.

When questioned recently as to some of the unusual experiences he had during his years of serving as Superintendent, Kulendra Babu recalled the time during the war when the Public Works Department called upon

the Technical School to put in a hurry-up bridge near Amarda. Because of the rush nature of the job and the man-power shortage, Kulendra Babu decided that he'd better drive the " T " truck and hustle the small tree-felling crew in the jungle personally.

Returning to Balasore from the jungle with the truck heavily loaded, they were caught in a bad storm which flooded the road, made the river impassable, and cut them off from their destination. The mission was completed in time successfully by lashing the logs to form a raft, driving into the river, floating the logs across, and towing the submerged truck to the other side with locally recruited man-power.

Of course Kulendra Babu was not always so fortunate in such undertakings and there are still people in Balasore Town who recall the time that a rainstorm and flooded roads kept him and Mr. Gilson out all night in a canvas-topped, open car because they were unable to determine the demarcation line between road and fields—an especially fine point since the fields are frequently ten feet below road level.

One post-war experience included having a share in the decoration of the Governor's mansion at Puri when the Technical School was called in to assist with the furnishings. It developed that the color of the draperies had become something of an issue between the Governor and his wife, the Governor preferring a shade of sky blue while his wife liked something more " earthy." Since the house was beautifully located with a magnificent sweep of the grounds to the coastline, with the Bay of Bengal and the sky for a backdrop, Kulendra's proposal for a " sea color " made an acceptable compromise.

Perhaps it was with some of these recollections in mind that senior members of the Managing Committee voted an appreciation into the minutes which was suitably framed and presented to him at the recognition service held in his honor. The appreciation reads :

" Kulendra Chandra Mohapatra, Esq., Superintendent, B.T.S.

The Managing Committee of the Christian High and Technical School, Balasore, wishes to express its deep appreciation to you for fulfilling the responsibilities of Superintendent and for maintaining a steadfast direction of purpose for the Technical School under changing heads and conditions these past 38 years.

Further, your own high personal standards, extensive reading and continuing self-improvement have been a source of inspiration for other staff members.

Further, your sense of responsibility has extended beyond the duties of your office and has won for you and this institution an enviable position of regard and respectability—both in this community and in the State of Orissa."

Signed by the District Magistrate and the Secretary of the
School,

Of course, retirement for Kulendra Babu doesn't mean the end of his work—only that portion of his work for which he received a salary from the Christian Service Society. His duties with the Athletic Association and as the only elected Christian Ward Counsellor for the Balasore municipality will continue to keep him busy. Also, he has some intentions to put his luggage gift to use and, with his wife, to do a little travelling from time to time. Wherever he goes and whatever he does, the Christian community in India has a forceful spokesman and friend.

The picture appearing on the cover page shows Mr. Kulendra Mohapatra and Rev. L. P. Hunwick holding the framed vote of appreciation of the Managing Committee, referred to in the above article. At the left stands Mr. Isaac Nayak, who took graduate work at San Jose State College, Calif, and who succeeds Mr. Mohapatra. At the right is Mr. Kartic Behera, principal of the Christian High School at Balasore.

THE STORY OF A TRACT

BY JANE OSGOOD

Many tracts are given out in India by many people. Some are free and some are sold. Sometimes I have thought it would be most interesting to follow these little tracts and see what happens to them, especially when they fall into the hands of illiterate people. Are they read? If they are read, do they ever bear fruit?

Twenty-five years ago one such tract fell into the hands of Majhia Hembrom, an illiterate Santal (animist). He treasured this little leaflet and when friends came along who could read he had it read aloud, many, many times. *Pyari Soren* was then pastor of a small church some five miles from Gengtaboni, but in his evangelistic outreach he one day arrived in Majhia's village. Majhia's interest was so great that from that time onward for six months he called together a group of his friends once a week at noon, and *Pyari* walked through the heat of the day to meet with them and to teach them of Christ.

Four illiterate couples accepted Christ and were baptized. The following year *Pyari*, with his devoted wife, went to live in a tent at Gengtaboni to work more closely with these new converts and to reach their relatives and friends. Soon a small church of 20 members was organized and for some years there was a real steady growth. The growth was not spectacular, but steady and encouraging. Then followed some years of disappointment when the work seemed at a standstill. Some even turned back to their old non-Christian ways. But the Lord meant what He said, as it is written, "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Very recently nine were baptized and have become members of the Gengtaboni Church. As I write, two more are to be baptized tomorrow. These are coming from the non-Christian relatives of Christians, which is always a source of joy, for it means there is concern on the part of church members for those who know Him not.

Christians are scattered in many tiny villages, some miles from the organized church. How difficult it is to teach widely scattered Christians, who can neither read nor write for themselves! Here is where the missionary needs to be alert. We feel the most important job a missionary can do is "spotting" potential leadership and seeing that these young folks have the opportunity for training when, along with the ability, they have a spirit of service.

What has come out of this small, illiterate church? The first High School graduate among the Kora people (another aboriginal, animistic group) graduated in 1955 from this little group, followed soon by the second High School graduate. Raneswar Singh, the first graduate, was also the first Kora ever to enter college, as far as we know, and he completed two years of study. He along with Lalite Hembrom, second graduate, taught school, and now are in training in Yeotmal Seminary, preparing for full-time Christian service.

Only a primary school is maintained in Gengtaboni, but when a child finishes this school and has ability to go on, he transfers to another Mission school of higher standing. Coming from a background of illiteracy, only a small percentage are able to go far in school. But there have been at least three other young men who attended High School, not quite finishing, and three girls completing grammar school. One of these young men has married one of the young girls. He is now teaching others to read through a night Adult Literacy class. Another of the girls has a Christian home, and the third went for Bible training and is now serving as a Bible woman. She has a lovely spirit and can speak at least three languages fluently and understands some of another.

Pray with us that this present growth and interest in Christ may steadily bear fruit. Surely this one small tract has borne fruit and renews our faith in the power of Christian literature, even when it falls on "illiterate" ground.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Multi-Purpose High School, Midnapore

BY REV. S. K. PATRA

Less than two weeks before leaving Midnapore for retirement in the U.S.A. Miss Ruth Daniels had the joy of seeing a dream fulfilled. On August 23rd, the Mission Girls' High School at Midnapore at the opening ceremony of the new building was officially upgraded to a Multi-purpose Higher Secondary School. Dr. D. M. Sen, Education Secretary for the Government of West Bengal, was the chief guest on this occasion. The specially constructed stage and out-door auditorium were tastefully decorated. Some 600 students in their smart school saris were in the gayest possible mood. The distinguished visitors and the parents and guardians were directed promptly and courteously to their seats by student ushers. Rev. C. C. Roadarmel, Mission Secretary, presided at the function, which started at 3 P.M.

The program commenced with a chorus with musical accompaniment. This was followed by a variety of items by the students, including kindergarten rhythm and action songs, a Girl Guide demonstration, and other group songs. The girls who took part in the program put forth their best efforts and their excellent performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. One especially attractive number was the "Saluting Song." This depicted graphically the various ways in which people from different parts of this country and in foreign lands greet one another when they meet. The students, with appropriate dress, representing men and women of various tribes and states and countries performed their greetings while the chorus sang in such a perfect manner that along with the fun and enjoyment, many of us learned for the first time the variety of ways people greet each other, including complete prostration and even showing of tongues.

The Headmistress and Secretary of the School, Miss Suddha Mookerji, in presenting her brief report, related how from the humble beginning of the Girls' School, the great vision, earnest zeal, and hard labor of Miss Daniels had brought steady progress up to this time. In truth, she has been the spirit and the guide of the institution ever since 1914 when she first came to India and was assigned to work in Midnapore. As long as the School exists Miss Daniels' name will be associated with it. Miss Mookerji gave entire credit to her for the success it has achieved. The results of the yearly examinations, set uniformly for all High Schools by Government, have been regularly successful with 100 per cent passes. It is only in recent years, mostly due to changes in staff, that the standard of examination results and other activities have been somewhat lowered, yet they are still higher than those of many other schools,

Mr. S. N. Chakraborti, a non-Christian veteran educationist, and a sincere friend of the School, in a long speech, heartily praised the missionaries for their devotion to the cause of education in this country. He himself, having been a student in one of the foremost Christian Colleges in Calcutta, related how during his educational career he came into close contact with the principal whose hallowed memory is enshrined in his heart. He said that he has been impressed with the earnest efforts of missionaries to promote character development in their students. Being associated with the activities of the Midnapore Mission Girls' School and especially with Miss Daniels for a long time, he expressed satisfaction that such a large sum of money, more than Rs. 100,000 (approximately \$ 20,000) had been granted by Government for this new building and its equipment. He appealed to the parents to co-operate with the School authorities in such a way that their children might receive the maximum benefit from the School.

The chief guest, Dr. Sen, then addressed the gathering and expressed his appreciation for the role of missionaries in general in the advancement of education in our country, and in particular he paid high tribute to

Miss Ruth Daniels for the great service she has rendered in this direction at Midnapore. There are many activities, he said, which do not appear in the newspapers, but nevertheless are slowly and silently influencing our people for their good. He was quite sure that the hundreds of students who had gone out from the Mission Girls' School into so many homes would have taken with them some very valuable things for their daily living. He was confident that the ideals for which the School stands would live and direct the pupils in the right way.

Mr. Roadarmel, in proposing a vote of thanks, expressed his sincere appreciation to Dr. Sen for helping the institution in numerous ways and especially for his coming for the opening of the new building. He added his deep gratitude to that of others for Miss Daniels' long period of devoted service.

After special thanks offered by Miss Daniels to Dr. Sen, the student body and teachers joined in the School Song. Dr. Sen was then led to the entrance of the new building where he cut the green ribbon and in so doing opened the building to visitors. The well equipped science laboratory, the large airy classrooms, with electric lights and fans, the new tube well fitted with electric pump on one side, and the attractive gas plant on the other, the disciplined band of students and staff, along with the distinguished visitors, gave us the deep impression that the Midnapore Girls' School will surely have a great future and that the spirit of Miss Daniels will live on during the further progress of the School. Along with the recent development of Basic Education in the Primary School, the Mission Girls' School at Midnapore has now undoubtedly become the first and foremost of its kind in this largest district of West Bengal. May God abundantly bless this Christian institution so that it may be used for His glory.

CHRISTIAN WORKERS' REFRESHER COURSE

Despite difficulties of travel due to road blocks, breaches, rain and floods almost all of our national Christian workers managed to get to Balasore for a time of real spiritual and mental refreshment from the night of September 15th through September 26th. On the 14th there had been a storm of cyclone intensity in Midnapore District with damage also in Balasore District. Bill Osgood could not get through in his jeep, so on the 15th morning walked the 12 miles from Hatigarh to Jaleswar, wading in some places through water waist deep. Trains were off schedule and so Bill was at the railway station from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. before train for Balasore came along.

Classes, including discussions, were held both morning and afternoon. The leaders included W. C. Osgood, C. C. Roadarmel, Rev. Bhupoti Sahu, Rev. Bahadur Kisku, Parul Tudu and Rev. Rupert Bunten. Lessons centered around "Christian Living", the special needs of the church in India today, and helpful methods for and ways of promoting Daily Vacation Bible Schools

Rev. David McKee of the Assemblies of God Mission was the invited guest speaker and led the evening inspirational services. He is a dynamic speaker and although his messages had to be interpreted from English to Bengali, since his vernacular is Hindi, his spirit and enthusiasm was caught by Sushil Bepari, the Hatigarh pastor, who did an excellent job of interpreting. McKee's English has a broad Irish accent, but quite a number, familiar with English, were able to follow in both the languages used. On Sunday it was decided that these evening meetings should be open to the general public, and so from Monday evening, through to the close on Friday, people assembled at the church. Rev. McKee also preached at the regular Sunday afternoon church service. That evening the smaller group of national Christian workers met for a prayer and testimony meeting. Emphasis was laid by Mr. McKee on confession and full

surrender, and the need to live a holy life. At the third general meeting a number of men and women indicated a deepening of purpose by going forward to the altar. Some were first decisions for Christ, while others were for fuller dedication.

Mr. McKee could not remain for the last two days of the meetings and on those nights Rev. Rupert Bunten, pastor of our English speaking church in Khargpur, brought evangelistic messages.

We believe these ten days of sharing, of praying, of facing problems both personal and in the church, together with the strongly evangelistic messages each evening, will be used by the Holy Spirit to quicken the spiritual life of the churches represented by pastors and Bible women and that there will be an increased concern for reaching out to non-Christians, and also for challenging nominal Christians with the claims of Christ. Pray for these fine men and women who work in difficult areas and are living sacrificial lives that God's kingdom may be extended.

TOWARD AN ORDERLY FAITH

BY REV. L. P. HUNWICK

At a working committee meeting of the Baptist Union of India, Balasore was selected as the site for a conference on Faith and Order. Accordingly, twelve representatives from the three major Baptist Missions and their national representatives (American Baptists, Canadian Baptists, and English Baptists) from the Eastern part of India met in Balasore for a series of study meetings to review the basis for their beliefs and to provide a foundation for greater Christian unity among them.

Three areas were marked out for study, and discussion papers were planned to bring the particular problems into focus for the group on "The Nature of the Church", by Rev. E. L. Wenger of Serampore

College, "Baptism and the Lord's Supper", by Dr. D. J. Duffy of the Jorhat Baptist Theological School, and "Religious Liberty", by Rev. A. B. Masilamani of the Kakinada Baptist Theological School. The Rev. I. H. Douglas of Hyderabad preceded the reading of each discussion paper with a devotional address indicating the Biblical basis for approaching the problem.

In addition to the above three areas of discussion, one day was spent considering the relationship that a Baptist Church might have with the proposed Church of North India and the Church of South India.

Adhering to Baptist practice in such matters, the committee has printed a report of the conference and has made this available to their constituency. Aside from a few particular points where Indian terminology and the developing Indian theology introduce new or different concepts to western forms, the report is straightforward and should prove helpful to both pastors and churchmen who will take the time to read through the committee's twenty page pamphlet. The purpose of the discussions and the pamphlet, to make available to interested churches a concise outline of the Biblical and traditional practices used in Baptist Churches in India and throughout the world, has been well carried out.

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Balasore, September 4-5, 1958

Only 12 of our Bengal-Orissa missionaries came together for two days in September at Balasore for a deepening of the spiritual life, but then we were only fourteen on the field. Pat Weidman with her two children, and Bea Ericson were away at Landour in the Himalaya mountains. Unfortunately, Hazel Smith took ill the first afternoon and Nina Bowers had to give considerable time to Satyaboti Behera, whom

she had brought to Balasore for medical reasons, so our fellowship was the smallest ever. We were happy to have with us Mrs. L. Christian of Hatigarh, and Rev. S. K. Sahu, both of whom had a part on the program. Mrs. Christian brought us close to God in a worship service on the theme, "United in Spirit." Rev. S. K. Sahu led our thoughts to the meaning of being "United in Love" at the opening worship service the second afternoon. We had hoped that at least three others of the national workers in Balasore might share in our fellowship, but except for one or two meetings this did not seem possible for them.

Our theme, "Oneness in Christ, that the world may believe," taken from John 17: 20-21, was kept before us in the emphases given by all who led our thinking. The Old Testament Bible study period, led by Hazel Smith, centered around the story of Jacob's spiritual struggle. In the New Testament Bible study, Mr. Roadarmel drew from experiences of Paul and the life of the early church parallels in our experiences and church life today, knowing that the same Christ who controlled Paul's life and who made him victorious is available for us, and the same power of God is at hand to meet the needs in the churches.

Rev. and Mrs. Rupert Bunten, who have charge of the English church work in Khargpur, cooperated in an inspiring praise and prayer service the first evening, with Rupert at the little portable organ and Hilda leading in a well planned service of Scripture, choruses, hymn-singing, and prayer.

The time allotted for the discussion and prayer groups, led by Ethel Roadarmel, Jane Osgood, and Burt Weidman were all too short. In them we faced up personally to our own needs and the needs in our Christian fellowship for greater unity, more sharing, and more power in prayer. As an outgrowth of the special concerns felt by these groups a special prayer emphasis is to be made throughout our Christian fellowship. The list of prayer requests in "Our Prayer Corner" will be circulated among

Christian leaders and in our churches that we may be united in our prayers for these specific needs. In time set aside for personal meditation and prayer we sought to face realities honestly before God in our own lives.

Part of the message given the closing evening by John Phillips is quoted in the article "United in Obedience." He led us also in a meaningful communion service when we were again reminded that Christ gave His life for us and for those among whom we serve, and as He abides in us and we in Him we can be united in a fellowship such as shall cause the world to believe in Him.

Quotable Quotes from the Prayer Retreat

"The harvest field in which we work is also the school for our own discipline."

"We may be failures, but love never fails." Burt Weidman.

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving"
Rev. R. K. Sahu.

"Man must come to account with God before coming to account with man." Hazel Smith.

UNITED IN OBEDIENCE

A portion of the message given by our newest missionary, Rev. John Phillips, at the closing session of our Annual Prayer Fellowship at Balasore in September.

John 17 : 18 "As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

What does it mean for us to be sent into the world as Christ was sent? What bearing does such a commission have on our being united in obedience? For an answer we must first consider what it meant for Christ to be sent into the world. From Phillipians 2: 8 we see that to Him it meant being *obedient unto death*. And when we couple this passage with the 16th verse of the 3rd chapter of John, we get a picture of the meaning of His being sent which, if we apply it to ourselves, is simply overwhelming: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Of course, we are not sent into the world so that men might believe in us, but in Christ; and, although we cannot redeem the world in the sense that Christ can, we have been given the continuation and extension of His ministry. We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. So, we have been sent, as Christ was sent. How was He sent? He was sent into the world to *reconcile the world to God at whatever cost to Himself*, and this is also how we are sent.

To those in sin, who knew themselves to be in sin, we find that He offered the love of God and the forgiveness of sins (note Matthew, the tax collector, Zaccheus, the publican and swindler, Mary Magdalene, the harlot, and the adulterous woman of Samaria). He saw them clearly for what they were, and, nevertheless, offered Himself and God's love without reservation. Without regard for His own reputation He sought them out wherever they were and made them His own. To this we are sent.

He opposed evil wherever He found it, not passively but positively. Wherever He found sin in any form he exposed it for what it was and condemned it. And yet He did this with the concern of eternity for those who practiced these evils; and in condemning their practices He was loving them with the unfathomed love of God. He calls the Pharisees

hypocrites directly and openly. We find him condemning their desire for the esteem of men, their misleading the people, their misinterpretation and misrepresentation of God's Word, their pride, and their rejection of a right relationship with God. Yet we must never forget that He loved them as much in doing this as He did in dying for them on the Cross. For a man to be brought to a right relationship with God, or to a truer relationship, as the case may be, he must see himself clearly as he really is, and he must also see God clearly as He really is. Sometimes this requires drastic action, and this is what we see in Jesus' dealing with the Pharisees. To act in such a way, with the love of God as the motivating force, is more difficult even than death on a cross, and it leads inevitably to that end. And so we are sent. Are we willing to be sent in such a way?

Only thus can unity in obedience be possible. Each must accept for himself the commission of Christ: to reconcile the world to God at whatever cost to himself. We must be the unswervingly obedient vehicles of God's redemptive love to the world. This love is not just man-sized; it is God-sized. Christ invaded the world and waged battle against men for their lives and souls; and so we are sent. Without self-concern, without anxiety over being loved in return, without desire for personal esteem in the eyes of others, we must love with the aggressiveness of God, the frankness of Christ, and the earnestness of eternity. We must seek earnestly to carry out God's will to reconcile the world to Him at whatever cost to ourselves. In this and only in this is there true and vital unity. It is the unity of Christ and God—the unity of perfect obedience.

WORLD VISION INC., U.S.A. ENCOURAGES PASTORS

BY REV. RUPERT BUNTEN

From West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, East Pakistan, Assam, and even from Nepal, Christian pastors made their way to Calcutta for a unique gathering of pastors only, held under the direction of World Vision, Inc. U.S.A. of which Dr. Bob Pierce is the President. This conference had been talked of, planned and prayed about for many months prior to August 18th when 561 men, representing 17 different denominations, 7 interdenominational missions, and several 'undefined' groups came together in the brightly lighted out-door 'shamiana' (shelter for meetings). Forty-nine different tribes, communities, or language groups were there, which made interpreting a really big undertaking. Over a hundred who had registered their intention to attend were prevented from doing so by floods. Many had travelled hundreds of miles to share in this fellowship. Some had travelled for 12 days, their journey being slow because of the floods and a breakdown in transportation in many areas.

Thorough arrangements had been made for the accomodation and comfort of the delegates. Those coming from isolated villages were amazed by all that had been done. A short distance down the road from the meeting place was another 'shamiana' which served as the dining quarters. The Y.M.C.A. took the responsibility for all the catering. Their extremely valuable help and co-operation was much appreciated.

The Conference began with a Bible study based on the book of Colossians by Dr. Halverson. He had the undivided attention of all present. The morning session continued without any appreciable break from 8:30 A.M. until noon. In between there was an interlude set aside for music. Kurt Kaiser, the young pianist who was with the team, was refreshingly different, and Gary Moore, the talented singer, will long be remembered by all who heard him.

It was a rare privilege to sit under the ministry of Dr. Paul Rees, a real man of God. Many had listened to him when he visited India a few years ago, and still others knew him through his writings. The sharing of his experiences in the pastorate was most helpful to the pastors present. Dr. Bob Pierce, who is widely known in India, infected the entire group with his inimitable warm-heartedness. Dr. Yapp and Bishop Theophilus of Kerala, so. India, also travelling with this team, were appreciated both for their scholarship and their devotion to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was Dr. Martin, however, who was looked forward to with the greatest eagerness. In two memorable sessions he dealt with the error of the Jehovah Witness group who have considerable strength in India. He suggested ways by which their teachings could be met and combatted. He sought to impress upon the pastors that it was no longer sufficient to know *what* we believe, but *why* we so believe, and *Whom* we believe. After his brilliant talks, he invited questions from the men. This question period was extremely stimulating, but was far too brief.

Perhaps the most valuable part of the Conference was just the opportunity it afforded for the pastors to meet with others similarly engaged in preaching the Gospel. Some would sit far into the night sharing experiences with each other. There was so much to relate and so little time to do it in, for the Conference concluded on August 22nd.

I have since had the chance to talk with several who attended the Conference and from all reports it was a time that the Lord used to encourage his ministers. A news report summing up the Conference suggests that "there was nothing spectacular," but many indicated a new dedication to their Lord and his high call to them. For those who made the Conference possible, meeting all travel and other expenses of delegates, and for all who worked faithfully to make the undertaking a success, the apostle Paul has an assuring and an encouraging word, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Cor. 15: 58.

IN MEMORIAM

"In my Father's house are many dwelling places." As portions of the 14th chapter of John, and the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians are read at a funeral service, one is very conscious of the note of triumph. "If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable." But Christians have the certainty of eternal life, here and now, and beyond the grave.

Two of our veteran Christian workers, retired for many years, in Bhimpore passed away in recent months. *Bihari Lal Das* had been ill for several years, but he continued to work on his land as long as he was able and to tend the garden at his home. The past year was an exceedingly difficult one for him and as his body grew weaker he longed to depart from this life to be with the Lord. He had lived beyond the three score year and ten, when he passed away on the 19th of July.

As a young man *Bihari Babu* had served as a School Sub-inspector under the Government. When the need of Christian teachers for the Boys' School at Bhimpore was presented to him, he gave up his Government post and continued as a teacher there until his retirement. Until his health began to fail he was an active church member, serving on the Church Committee, and teaching in Sunday School, as well as sharing in the wider interests of the Mission work through being a member of the Home Mission Board.

His knowledge of English, along with Bengali being his own language, made him an excellent language teacher for each new missionary who came to Bhimpore.

Rev. Pyari Soren felt the call to the Christian ministry as a young man. His was a ministry for many years, until he reached retiring age, to non-Christians as well as to the building up of the church through his preaching and personal counselling. He was an evangelist who did not

count the cost to himself. His part in the establishing of a new church at Gengtaboni, sowing the seed which even to-day is bearing fruit, is described by Mrs. Osgood in the article, "*The Story of a Tract.*"

He retired in Bhimpore. Up to the very last he attended Sunday School regularly. His daughter Labonga, who for ten years has been working as a Government Public Health Visitor, in her capacity as a trained nurse, in another district, took her father for a visit with her. While there he had an eye operation for cataracts. It was not long after this that he developed fever and the end came quite unexpectedly on August 13th. Surely he would hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

OUR PRAYER CORNER

As a result of our discussion and prayer groups at our Annual Prayer Retreat the following objects of prayer were drawn up to be circulated to a wider group in our Christian fellowship. We shall be grateful if the readers of *Tidings* will bear these requests in mind and pray each day as suggested for these special needs. Perhaps you might cut out this Prayer Corner and keep it with your Bible and so have it ready for daily reference at your Quiet Time or when you have family worship.

"Pray without ceasing"—1958-1959.

- Sunday.**
1. For obedience and unity of spirit in love. That we all may be more aware of these as essentials in the Christian life, and that God will enable us to be absolutely honest with Him as to our dependence upon Him for our success in these two areas.

2. For a revitalized program of prayer throughout our area of responsibility in Bengal, Orissa and Bihar. That in each Christian home, church, and community Christians be led to see the need for more prayer, and that they be led to revitalize the church prayer meeting where it has become stereotype.

Monday

1. For the forthcoming evangelistic campaign during the month of March in Khargpur, and the follow-up afterwards. For an outpouring of God's spirit through the evangelist, Dr. Akbar Haqq and his associate, Rev. Cliff Robinson. For wisdom and guidance for each committee and for Khargpur pastors and all others who have accepted responsibility.
2. That opportunities will open for full-time work to Anglo-Indian young people now studying in Bible College.

Tuesda

1. *Jamshedpur* :—that people be challenged and accept the responsibility for full support financially, as well as in other ways, for the pastor of the Church of Christ.
2. *Lay support* :—that each church member see the church as his own responsibility, i.e. to tithe, to be willing to teach in the Sunday School, visit the sick, witness for Christ in the homes of Christians and non-Christians, sponsor young people's activities, and by his life, as well as by word, glorify Christ.

That the larger, self-supporting churches see their responsibility to help in the support of smaller churches.

Wednesday

1. *Executive Secretary* :—Gratitude to God for the fine work of Rev. R. K, Sahu these many years, That God's choice of a man to succeed him when he retires be made

very clear to the Christian Service Society whose responsibility it is to appoint a person to this position.

2. *Full time personnel* :—That full-time Christian workers, both missionaries and nationals know and act upon God's guidance as to what work is most important, and how transfer of present missionary responsibilities to nationals can best be accomplished. That all may be sensitive to God's leading in discovering potential leaders. That each one may so develop his work that it can be taken over by someone else.

Thursday.

1. *Medical Program* :—That we may know God's will as to whether we should plan for a hospital or not and that there may be unity in whatever final decision is made. If a hospital is within His plan, that there may be agreement as to location, and adequate provision for staffing and financing it.
2. *Schools* :—That sufficient dedicated Christian teachers be found to maintain the kind of Christian witness God wants.

Special prayer support for Miss Suddha Mookerji, Headmistress, and Secretary of the Midnapore Girls' School.

A qualified Headmistress for the Balasore Girls' School.
The necessary additional Christian teachers for Balasore Technical School, and the Bhimpore Boys' and Girls' Schools.

Friday.

1. *Adult Literacy* :—That these programs be extended and that they make the maximum contribution in extending God's kingdom among non-Christians and among the Christians who direct them.

2. *Poverty* :—For the success of all creative efforts to increase the food supply and the standard of living in India, and for guidance to Christian workers in knowing how to help meet human need and suffering without making people dependent upon the worker.

Saturday.

Repentance and confession :—Purification and cleansing of sin in our Christian communities to open the channels for God's blessing and power.

2. For personal revival and community revival that we will all be more on fire for the Lord and eager to witness for Him in every possible way.

NEWS ITEMS

Missionaries :

Miss Lillian Brueckmann arrived in Bombay September 13th. She was welcomed upon her arrival at Khargpur the morning of the 15th by Ethel Roadarmel, Rupert and Hilda Buntin, and three national workers. Lillian has been appointed by the Reference Committee as Womans' Work Advisor in place of Miss Ruth Daniels. This appointment also makes her an ex-officio member of the Christian Service Society.

Miss Hazel Smith has been appointed as a member of the Reference Committee to replace Miss Naomi Knapp.

Rev. and Mrs C. L. Kau have rented a house for their furlough period in the U.S.A. at 411 So. 24th St., Quincy, Illinois. Mrs. Kau's mother's home is in Quincy. Louis is engaged in extensive deputation service.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gilson should have arrived in India from furlough by the time this issue of *Tidings* reaches overseas subscribers. They are scheduled to arrive Bombay on the mv *Asia* from Naples December 14th, and hope to be at their home in Balasore by the 16th night.

Rev. and Mrs. L. P. Hunwick with their three children will leave India by plane for furlough the last of February.

Miss Susanne Powers expects to sail from Ceylon on April 6th for furlough.

Miss Ruth Daniels was honored on August 3rd by being invited as a "renowned educationalist" to attend a small gathering of women to meet Miss Naidu, Governor of West Bengal, when the Governor was in Midnapore.

Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel expected to move to Midnapore not later than October 15th. A breach of one mile in the main road to Midnapore has closed this part of the road and transhipment is necessary. It is uncertain when the Roadarmels will be able to move their furniture as it all has to be done by means of the jeep with trailer, but they hope to be settled before Christmas.

Former Missionaries :

Rev. August Berg and his wife live in the house at Malden, Mass, where Adoniram Judson was born and are caretakers for this historical property. August is teacher of the Men's Bible Class at the 1st Baptist Church. He has frequent preaching appointments and has assumed responsibility for services in Rest Homes. Ruth and August are very much a part of our work through their continual deep interest and prayers. Through the Santali tape recordings they have made, and which are used on the field, their work continues in a very real way.

Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Long attended the A. B. Missionary Conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin in August. They exhibited and sold ebony articles made in Midnapore, had an exhibit of Indian curios, and took part in the missionary pageant. From Green Lake they went to Chicago and then to Michigan to visit friends and relatives of Mabel's. One would never guess from Mabel's enthusiastic letters, so full of the joy of life, that she is still confined very largely to her wheel chair. We thank God for her steady improvement in health.

New Appointee :

We rejoice in the appointment of *Miss Clara Dorn* for missionary service in Bengal-Orissa. She is studying for her Masters degree in Education at the Los Angeles State College and is also teaching physical education. Her address during the school year is 7500 So. Dolton St., Los Angeles. Pray with us that her application for permit to serve in India may be granted. At present in Bengal we have only one missionary of the Woman's Society, whereas formerly we have had four, and on occasion five.

Missionaries children :

Rev. Norman Roadarmel has applied for permit to come to India with his wife and three children for a three week's visit with his parents. They should arrive in Calcutta by plane December 19th.

Irene Dunn is now teaching in Oakland, California.

Arvid Berg is working with an insurance firm located in Fargo, N. Dakota. He has a baby daughter, so grandmother reports.

Roger Berg is pastoring a church while completing his course in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. John Howard, Jr. announce birth of their first daughter and fourth child on August 26th. John and Grace, the grandparents, now have 3 granddaughters and 7 grandsons.

Visitors:

Miss Florence Stansbury, special Sunday School and children's worker, is due to arrive in Calcutta the evening of October 24th. We regret that her visit to our area is limited to four days, but trust she may share in both city and village Sunday School programs during that time.

Dr. Marlin D. Farnum, A.B.F.M.S. Secretary for India, will visit Bengal and Orissa sometime during the winter season. His wife who has never been to this field, will accompany him.

Mrs. R. D. Martin, Chairman of the Woman's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, is to be in Calcutta November 8th to 13th. She comes at the invitation of British Baptists to discuss the formation of a Baptist Womans' Union in Asia. Miss Suddha Mookerji and Miss Satyaboti Behera will be our representatives at this meeting.

Special Meetings, Oct. to Dec. :

Oct. 9-12. Midnapore Half Yearly Meeting, at Jhargram.

Oct. 18-21. Annual Womans' Conference at Balasore.

Oct. 29th to Nov. 2nd. Yearly Meeting of all the Churches, Balasore.

Dec. (dates not set) Annual Meeting of the Christian Service Society.

For the *Women's Conference* the daily program begins with private devotions. There will be Bible study groups, discussions, and talks on the theme found in Colossians 3 : 17. "Whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Mrs. Benjamin Pradhan of Cuttack is to be the special speaker and will address the assembly each evening.

The women, just as they have done for 35 years, will bring their special gifts for the support of nurse in a rural medical-evangelistic center.

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