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THE FIRST YEAR OF A FINAL TERM
BY JOHN AND ALICE GILSON,
Balasore

This year we completed our 34th year of service in India, most of the time at Balasore. There have been many changes during this time, not the least of which is the amount of energy which we are able to put into the work. 34 years ago there were four missionary families and four single ladies at Balasore, now we are alone in the General work and Nina Bowers alone at the Women's Compound. That does not mean to suggest that we are doing the work of 4 people. Much of the work has been closed down and more handed over to Indian hands. Only, the Girls' School and the Technical School have grown and still receive a considerable amount of missionary attention, although they also are now under the control of the Christian Service Society. Sometimes we get so bogged down in routine office work and committee meetings that it seems we are not accomplishing much, but as we look back over the year a few encouraging things emerge.

Christian High and Technical School.

During the first half of the year the enrollment in the trade classes dropped very low, but in July we admitted a new class of 44 full-time students bringing the enrollment up to 84. At the same time the enrollment of part-time commercial students rose to 56, making a total enrollment of 140—certainly an all time high. About 100 students of the High School also come to the workshop during the two hour noon interval for their craft classes, and about 65 students of the Government
Industrial Training Institute used the shops from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., so the fullest use was being made of all the facilities. The trade students continued to work on real jobs bringing an income of about Rs. 75,000 of which about Rs. 20,000 is gross profit to be used for the expenses of maintaining the shop. (Approx. Rs. 475 to $ 100).

Three students completed the Technical Diploma Course during the year and sixteen took Artisan Certificates. We also issued 14 Typewriting Certificates and 12 Shorthand Certificates to part-time students, tho'it appears that most of these students get the job, or the promotion they are working for, before completing the course and so do not take the trouble for the final examination.

Eighteen students passed the High School Final Examination of the Board of Secondary Education, two of them in the Technical section. This is the last class which we shall have to appear for the Technical School Final Examination, as we have had to drop that course. In the new curriculum craft training is compulsory for all students even in the "Humanities" course.

Hatigarh.

We took over charge of the property and accounts of the Hatigarh Station in addition to Balasore Station as from the 1st of March. The work which was formerly supervised by Dr. and Mrs. Osgood was divided among many hands. Miss Brueckmann has general charge of the Medical, Leprosy, Literature and Bible Correspondence work, in addition to her work among village women; Rev. M. N. Santra and Rev. R. Singh supervise the Evangelistic work; Mr Samar Lal Saha is doing a fine job with the Hatigharh Schools, and Mr. S. R. Das handles the cash and accounts for all of us with a minimum of missionary supervision. John made 2 trips to Hatigarh in the spring to audit the accounts and take charge, and one in October to check up on how things
were going, but otherwise depended on correspondence. We were pleased to see how well the staff is carrying on, and credit the Osgoods with building up so efficient a staff in such a difficult situation.

**Property Advisor.**

The only major building project completed during the year was the Forland Memorial Hall at Nimpura, Kharagpur, which was dedicated when Dr. Willingham visited the field. The hall is used for a day Primary School and an evening Christian Center program and also, for the present, for the Sunday services pending construction of the new sanctuary which the Nimpura Church hopes to start in 1960. Otherwise, the P. A. did not accomplish much except to fill a file with correspondence about minor projects and work over preliminary plans and estimates for future projects. The important plans now on the drawing board for 1960 are the Hospital to be built at Nekursini and an addition to the Girls' High School at Midnapore.

**Educational Advisor.**

Another of Dr. Osgood's duties which fell on us was Educational Advisor. The chief duties of the Ed. Ad. are to be a member of the Christian Service Society and its Education Committee and to report to them as required on educational problems. Most of the important problems remain unsolved and there will likely be much more to report next year as we get a clearer picture of our changing relations with Government. The most encouraging feature at present is the development of the Midnapore Girls' School as a Multipurpose Higher Secondary School.
A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES

BY NINA BOWERS, BALASORE

This past year has been divided into two distinct parts. For nearly three months I continued with the evangelistic work in churches and villages. Then in March it was necessary to return to the Balasore Girls' School and Hostel again. It was not easy to leave the work I had come to India to do, nor to give up the little house I had fixed up as home at Bhadrak. Only those who know the situation here can understand the problems that have to be met. It is a help that I have had both training and experience in education and know many of those who are in the School and Hostel.

Many of the responsibilities of the previous year continued into 1959, work on Oriya language exams, membership on the provincial Sunday School executive committee, responsibility for state-wide Sunday School examinations, and membership on Christian Service Society and Reference Committee. Again this year I led the Bible study at Women's Conference on the topic, "The Gospel According to Twenty-eight Women." I found this study of the women in Luke very interesting and others have said they also found it helpful. For the first time, I went as delegate to the Utkal Christian Council which was attended by representatives from Churches and Missions all over Orissa.

In late September a cyclone hit this district, causing death and destruction. The rice crop has not been as adversely affected as it was feared it would be.

The two most encouraging experiences of the past year have been the work done in the Primary Sunday School and the Christian Home Festival observed in the Hostel in December. The attendance of the primary children has been very good, and we are reaching a larger per-
centage of that age children in the community. The teachers have been especially faithful in attendance, and interest is keen as we learn new methods of Sunday School work.

After a period of several years we decided to have a Christian Home Festival on the compound during the week before Christmas vacation. Interest and cooperation were unusually good, and many spoke of the joy and help they received. Each morning each family or group gathered for family worship which was prepared by one of the teachers. On two evenings we had women speakers from the Church, and another evening the girls gave a series of tableaus at different places on the compound, showing parts of the Christmas story. These culminated in a meaningful candlelight consecration service. One afternoon church women came to inspect the cottages in the hostel. They were almost speechless with surprise that adolescent girls could keep their houses so clean and orderly. We had special games one day, pictures of different families on another, and on Saturday evening a "Love Feast" for everyone on the compound, including the school servants and the women who helped in the week’s program. In every way this was the nicest feast I have attended since I came to India, and the cooperation was splendid. Girls got up long before daylight to grind spices and cut vegetables, and what is more important, they did so cheerfully and gladly. Two of our senior teachers entertained us with several skits which were much appreciated. On the last day before the teachers and girls went home for the holidays they gathered again in my house for a Christmas program and play that was reverently and well done. They gave gifts to those whose names they had drawn previously in empty peanut shells. We feel confident that our shared experiences this week will bear fruit in the lives of these girls as they establish their own homes and as we continue living on this compound.
“There are glorious years ahead, if you choose to make them glorious. God’s in His heaven still. So forward, brave hearts. To what adventures I cannot tell, but I know that your God is watching to see whether you are ADVENTUROUS.”—James Barrie.

The above quotation was on the front of a 1959 calendar. Truly there have been some adventures during the past year. During my 1959 adventures in village evangelistic work, I have been grateful to God for the help of two young Bible Women, Miss Rani Tudu and Miss Pronati Das. Among the three of us we have been able to use the Oriya, Bengali, and Santali languages in our efforts to witness to people of the great salvation in Jesus Christ which is available to all. In spite of inconveniences, and difficulties in transportation, my happiest experiences during the past year have been when we were able to spend some time in various villages, seeking to strengthen the faith of Christians through Bible study and worship, and telling the glorious message of salvation to the many in this area who, as yet, have not found peace in Jesus Christ.

In April, it was a joy to witness the baptism of 12 adults, members of 3 families, in a village some three or four miles from the Medical-Evangelistic Center at Panchkaharnia. One never knows when or where the seed, which has been sown over a period of years, will germinate and grow. After eight months, we are happy to find these new Christians eager to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

In one village, where we spent ten days, the church is weak and struggling. One young man, a third generation Christian, had fallen into sin and wandered far from God. At first every effort to draw him
into our confidence seemed fruitless. He avoided us at every turn. Much prayer for wisdom and guidance in dealing with him was offered, and one day, with the pastor, we visited his home and found all the family there. For two and a half hours we opened God's Word to them. When the challenge was given to make the choice between serving God or Satan, the younger son, who had never confessed Christ as his Savior, responded by declaring, "I want to follow Jesus." Then the elder brother also was given the victory. Seeing his desire, I suggested that, if he truly meant to leave the way of Satan and surrender to Christ, he should come and sit beside his younger brother and, as his own prayer, read Psalm 51, thus asking God's forgiveness, and rededicate himself to the Lord. As he did this, we were all confident that the victory was given to him through the Holy Spirit. By God's grace, may this young man continue to stand firm in the faith and know complete victory in his life.

But not all of our time could be spent out in the villages. There were committee meetings to attend and, with the departure of the Osgoods on furlough, responsibility for literature and Bible Correspondence work has required some time.

It has been a joy to work with the women of this area in helping to plan for, and in participation in, the Retreat for Pastors' Wives, the three day meeting of the women of the nine churches in Hatigarh area, a similar meeting with the women of the churches in the Belda area, and in the Lay Leadership Training Institute.

With the help of God's spirit may we find new courage in 1960 to adventure forth with Christ to build His Kingdom in the new decade in which we have entered.
ENCOURAGING ASPECTS OF WOMEN'S WORK

By Miss Satyaboti Behera,
Chairman, Women's Work Committee

Conferences held for the Christian women of the Belda and Dompara areas in March of 1959 helped in the spiritual growth of these Kora and Santal village women. Mrs. Karmakar, mother of one of our pastors, was the special speaker at the Belda conference and her using the Santali language made her messages very effective. Some had never before been to such a women's gathering and were enthusiastic in telling of the joy and blessing that came to them through prayer, singing, and Christian fellowship. One woman testified that the fear of evil spirits disappeared as she saw more of the purity and power of life in Christ.

During the past year four people in the Dompara area and thirteen in the Belda area publicly confessed Christ as their Lord and Savior. Among the Koras in the Belda area there are other inquirers. Through the organization of women's conferences and the appointment of full-time Christian women workers in these areas, the women have developed in their Christian lives, and have shown increased interest in the work of the Bengal-Orissa Women's Conference, and have also increased their gifts towards the work.

This year the Annual Women's Conference of the Nine Churches of the Hatigarh area was held at the Medical-Evangelistic Center in Panchkahania. Again the messages of Mrs. Karmakar brought great blessing to all who heard. The women of this Conference contributed Rs. 20 (approx $4.00) towards the work of the Bengal-Orissa Women's
Conference. This was over and above what they gave through their respective churches.

The Bengal-Orissa Baptist Women’s Conference, which also includes the women of our Bihar churches, was first organized 37 years ago. The Conference this year was held at Midnapore. The key verse, which was emphasized at all the sessions was: “Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain.” I Cor. 15:58. In spite of storms and floods, more than 100 women attended and found joy and blessing. It is especially noteworthy that this year, of those who attended, 90 women came at their own expense, giving evidence of a desire to be financially independent. Miss Anandi Kenowar, Headmistress of the Teacher Training School at Nowgong, Assam, was the guest speaker for this 3 day Conference. She gave special emphasis to the way in which the Christian women of the hill tribes of Assam are accomplishing much to the glory of God, as they give witness through their personal lives, community and church life, without any outside financial assistance. The women of our Conference were deeply challenged by these messages.

This year a total of Rs. 884.00 in offerings was raised by the Women’s Conference, of which Rs. 848.00 is towards the support of a nurse in one of the Medical-Evangelistic Centers, and for the Central Fund of the Christian Service Society under which our Baptist Christian work is carried on. This year women of nearly every one of the 51 churches of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar areas has contributed to this offering, and a number of the women’s societies have increased their gifts over what they gave last year. One woman gave Rs. 20 herself with the request that it be given to some woman who would invest it in a goat and each year send the amount realized from the sale of goats to the special offering of the Women’s Conference. One of the women accepted this offer with the promise to so use the money for the glory of God.
Among the churches of this field some have well established women’s societies, while in others the women’s work is not satisfactory. It is our aim through women’s societies to strengthen the work of the churches and to promote evangelism, to increase the giving of women for their special offering at Annual Women’s Conference, and to minister also to the physical needs of the people in the name of Christ. In some churches we find the pastor’s wife serving as the pastor’s right hand in the work of the church.

In certain churches where there has been division and unhappiness, the church has given this witness: “These women have been peacemakers in our midst, because they have glorified Christ in visiting every home, giving helpful advice, and through prayer and Scripture reading have brought us to repentance, and have ministered daily to the physical and spiritual needs of many.”

In Balasore and Hatigarh areas the women sold Rs. 425 worth of books during 1959.

In January of ’59 three young women of our field entered the Cuttack Bible Training School in Orissa to prepare for work as Bible Women.

A number of young women have helped as volunteer workers in Daily Vacation Bible Schools. Through such D. V. B. Schools increased spiritual growth has been in evidence in certain Christian homes and Christ has been magnified.

In these difficult times, one source of hope for bringing revival among our churches in Bengal, Orissa and Bihar lies in the spiritual strength of our Christian women. Therefore, give us the encouragement of your prayers that we may be used in the work of the church. In all the work of our Christian women may our Lord be honored and glorified.
A RURAL MINISTRY AMONG SANTALS AND KORAS

By C. L. Kau, Nekursini

After a year away from India we are more conscious of the changes taking place in this land. Certainly some of the material progress is impressive. The vast hydro-electric projects on several rivers are now sending their power to new industry in the cities and the network of irrigation canals cuts a pattern through the agricultural areas. The steel mills now coming into production and other industrial developments will mean more advances and a better life for some. Alongside this activity and progress we still see the oppressive poverty of the people in the villages. There is a growing restlessness and a gnawing doubt, in spite of the improvements in agricultural practice, new irrigation schemes, better seeds and fertilizers, that in a few years there still will not be enough rice to feed this vast population. The rising prices and exploding population, without a comparable production increase, are sufficient causes for concern among the leaders of the country, but especially among the people in the villages who are caught in the pinch of increasing want.

In recognition of this growing struggle, a program of rural life development was proposed a few years ago with the direction to prepare a ministry to the total life of the village people. This program is gradually getting beyond the planning stage. For a week in October we had a second Rural Life Conference at Nekursini. Thirty village leaders, who are in a position to give at least part time assistance to helping villagers to improve their conditions, attended this Conference. In this particular Conference the group met in six different villages to survey conditions and discuss ways of meeting these problems. They received a far better response than we had anticipated. Those who made
the reports were enthusiastic over the prospect of what they could do in villages where they get such whole-hearted response and willingness to work together. The group in its closing session urged us in this area to undertake a pilot project of rural development in several of the villages. We expect that this program will be correlated with our Adult Education Schools.

There is still a demand for literacy work throughout this area of the field. There are requests from villages where we have not worked, and also from others which have had a year or two of literacy instruction. We had nine centers operating in 1959, but the new year began with only seven. There is considerable turnover among these young men and we are always looking for new ones to help in this program. One recent loss will be an ultimate gain. Singh Rai Murmu from the Kirachand School is leaving for Bible School. He has the quality of character and leadership which will make him an excellent pastor. His radiant spirit and fervent testimony has influenced numerous people to accept our Lord Jesus Christ. Another pastor from the Jhargram area was planning to return to Cuttack for two more years of study, but his church is preparing to build a pastor’s house and without his leadership they would not complete the project.

This year our district Youth Conference met at Jhargram. It was the largest gathering of youth, 130, that we have had in this retreat. The responsibility for the planning and leadership of the retreat is almost entirely in the hands of the older young people. This developing leadership is an encouraging and hopeful sign for the future of the church. Again this year several youth made their decision for Christ and others re-consecrated their lives to the Lord.

The Annual Meeting of the Churches here at Nekursini was another outstanding event of the year. It was particularly marked by a unity of fellowship and absence of sharp differences over any issues. The
inspiring series of messages lifted us out of the routine of the annual reports and the details of business. We entertained over a hundred delegates and a number of visitors. For accommodation we put up tents and held the meetings in a pavilion and erected another for the eating space. Several Kora preachers and lay leaders did an excellent job of serving up the steaming mounds of rice and spicy curries at every meal.

One of the high lights of the meeting was the decision of the delegates to encourage the churches to back up the proposed medical program with a substantial financial contribution. Three of our small village churches immediately pledged about a quarter of the total amount to be raised. This is a challenge to others to come forward with larger sums than they might have given. This action was a determining factor in the final decision to proceed with the construction of a ten bed hospital as the first unit at Nekursini. The costs of the hospital, at the minimum, exceeds the budget available, so the churches are making up the difference. The construction of this hospital will strengthen our rural medical program. We have four dispensaries in operation and one is opening in the new year, with others under consideration. For many years our medical ministry has been almost nil and we have never had a hospital. We expect to open the hospital with Dr. Aloka Marndy, who recently finished her course at Vellore. She is one of our young women from Bhimpore. We will have to work in a small way until additional doctors, staff and buildings are available. This will be a beginning along the line of ministry which we have needed for a long time. We have asked for a doctor from the States and certainly hope one will be willing to accept the challenge of this new work in a rural area. The request is for someone with an understanding of tropical medicine and with a specialty in public health or surgery. Certainly any doctor willing to face the problems and limitations we will have in this institution must sense the compelling call of God to this ministry.
The student program in this area is still growing. We have 17 students in the Nekursini Hostel and five at Bhimpore. More will be ready to come at the beginning of the new school year. Only one will be finishing high school this year. The Nekursini Hostel is for Christian boys who are attending a Government school. Very few schools in the villages go above fourth class, so it is necessary for children to go away from home to get their education. This is our opportunity to have a Christian influence on the lives of these boys in their formative years. Certainly from the present progress of this group, we will expect to enlarge the program and take in more boys each year as finances permit. At present the boarding is about 2/3rds self-supporting. We have reached the limit of our housing facilities and, if we are to take in more boys, we will have to arrange for additional buildings.

Before we left India the Jhargram area of 13 churches had become a part of our responsibility. We returned in June to work again with the pastors and teachers in both of these fields. It would not be possible to do even a portion of the work in such a vast area if it were not for the capable leadership and assistance of Rev. Bahadur Kisku in the Jhargram area and Sri Bon Singh Hembrom in the Kora field. These men take care of many details in relation to the churches and pastors, as well as the evangelistic meetings. Throughout the Kora field there is a steady response to the Gospel. Some come inquiring under false impressions that they can have the benefits of the Gospel without complete commitment to Jesus Christ. That there are many who come, “but few are chosen” is made increasingly evident as we talk with groups and individuals. Some have come saying they want to be Christians when they really only want material assistance, or need the help of the Church in their village quarrels or court cases, or because of a marriage opportunity, or because they have been cast out of their own society for some offence.
These pretences come to light during a period of instruction and examination. Some do come in their sense of need and helplessness and hear the good news of hope in Jesus Christ and have stayed to receive the blessing of His salvation.

In December, the final action was taken for the formal organization and recognition of the Russelpur Church. They are a small group of 28 members in a rather unresponsive area. We hope that this acceptance of the full responsibility as a church will also impress upon them the opportunity for witness. We have just heard that five new members were baptized and received into their fellowship on New Year’s day.

The progress of securing pastors for all the churches has been slow, partly from the lack of men available for these rural churches and partly because some of the churches are unwilling to carry their share of the support of the pastors. Two of the Jhargram churches were strongly opposed to supporting a pastor, but now they are much more ready to accept their share of the responsibility. We still have a great deal to do to encourage them to accept their financial responsibilities. Their members are few and scattered and they are proverbially poor. Where a few of the churches are giving their share, there is a measure of blessing upon them that I wish the others could experience. In the Kora field we have three churches without pastors and five in the Jhargram area.

This year one of the smaller Kora churches (Manikora) undertook a big responsibility in building a new church building with a thatch roof. This was all done at their own initiative and expense. We are thankful for the progress which the churches have made in assuming the responsibilities for their buildings and property, along with the repairs. It has removed a heavy load from us and also given them an opportunity for working together as a church and a sense of accomplishment in doing the job themselves.
One of the brief, moving experiences of the past months was the ordination of Purna C. Basky to the Gospel ministry. He is the pastor at Mosaboni Mines, a copper mining town. The little church set in a garden on a rocky hillside was filled to overflowing for this occasion. The blessing of fellowship in worship with these people and the cordial way they received us left a lasting impression.

These experiences along with blessings we received in our Mission Prayer Retreat in August, and the two weeks of Bible study with the pastors in September, have refreshed us in mind and spirit. All of these events continually renew our experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst and give us a sense of the presence of Christ as we go about our ministry.

Wilma and Louis Kau

GREAT IS HIS FAITHFULNESS

By Hazel E. Smith, Bhimpore.

It is good to look back over the events of a year for in so doing one catches glimpses of a pattern which often is not evident in day to day experience. As I look back over 1959 my heart echoes the words of the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." For in the midst of our variableness, moments of inspiration and moments of discouragement, our small successes and failures, He remains the same, leading and guiding and over-ruling. Truly, great is His faithfulness!

We began the year with a trip to several of the Santal villages, and the memory of the light in the eyes of Sukumari Hansda's aged father and mother, and of the veteran school teacher, Mr. Ranu Murmu, who sang us a welcome song in Santali, stands out clearly at the end of a year.
when we have not had an opportunity to see these Christians again. But we are assured that He is still the light of their lives and it is a joy to remember them and other faithful Christians in the scattered village churches.

School and office work seem to claim most of our time. We had been looking forward to having Phulmoni Murmu return as headmistress. While she was on study leave I was acting as Headmistress of the Girls' Junior High School. When we heard the news of her expected marriage in May we were disappointed for ourselves, but happy for her. Her husband is an official in the Tribal Welfare Department, a former teacher in the Boys' High School here, and the witness of their Christian home will be an influence for good in Jhargram, where they are now located.

Through this we had another evidence of how wonderfully God provides, sometimes even before we are conscious of our need. Phulmoni's marriage took place during the summer vacation, and at the end of it we had not one, but two graduate teachers, both Christians; Soudamini Murmu was raised in our orphanage, and in fact is the only one of the original group of orphans to go to college. Both she and her class friend, Suhar Bansri, received their B. A. degrees this year from the Calcutta Women's Christian College, and joined our staff. With these two girls, and our faithful Sukumari Hansda, Monika Hansda, and Amyia Hembrom, we have a full staff for our four-class Junior High School. Mr. P. N. Baske, the station cashier, teaches mathematics, and Mr. Sannagrahi, from the Boys' High School staff, teaches Sanskrit.

Having a full staff in School meant that I could accept an invitation to teach the Book of Numbers at the pastor's Refresher Course. This was a great privilege indeed, and I was especially grateful to have the
opportunity to pass on to them some of the methods of inductive Bibli study which I had received at Biblical Seminary in New York while on last furlough. I am still amazed at the wealth, (frequently neglected wealth !) of truth in the Old Testament.

While the number of orphanage girls is now only 16, still we need a matron to live with them. We count ourselves very fortunate to have found Mrs. Karuna Tudu, daughter of a veteran pastor of our field, the late Rev. Chotrai Tudu of whom old friends of the Bengal-Orissa Mission will have heard. Karuna is a widow, a fully trained teacher, who worked as a substitute in our School last year. She is good at accounts so, in addition to work of matron, helps with accounts of the girls' dormitory, making out bills for parents, etc. Her cheerful spirit makes her a very valued co-worker.

The year had its share of disappointments. Though our Dr. Aloka has finished her courses at Vellore Medical College and returned to our area, she felt that she could not work here in Bhimpore without the equipment and resources of a hospital available, and so has taken a position in a Mission Hospital in Bihar. During this last year it was finally decided that our proposed Mission Hospital should be built at Nekursini, as this location is more accessible to different areas of our field. It is hoped that when the hospital is built Aloka will return to work there. We know that her consecration will lead her to make a real Christian witness wherever she is. While she was in Bhimpore she did the annual medical examinations for the Girls' School, and the School is proud of its first doctor.

We in this village continue to be grateful for the advice and help of the medical staff at Sarenga, a British Methodist Hospital about twenty five miles from here. The chief deterrent to our having greater help from this hospital is that there is no real road between the two.
places. Parts of the year it can be reached by ox-cart or jeep; the other times by a long journey by bus, train and bus, starting in the opposite direction! Priti, one of our orphanage girls, has just passed all her nursing examinations and joined their staff as a fully trained nurse, and her younger sisters in the orphanage are proud of her.

Our faithful trained nurse, Probha, continues to serve in the small dispensary in Bhimpore. She not only tends to all who come to her during regular hours, but is on call for all needs in the village. There is scarcely a home in Bhimpore where she has not watched all night with loved ones, and often been the only medical help available in sometimes serious cases. It would be interesting to know how many of the younger generation in Bhimpore and neighborhood she has brought into the world!

Though there has not been time to spend with her in villages, it has been a joy to hear something of the work done by Miss Parul Tudu, Naomi Knapp's successor as supervisor of women's work, in the Santal villages. Parul is a dignified, patient, hard-working person, humble and sweet-tempered, and accepted by all. I saw her at work during the three-day Women's Conference in the Santal field, in the village of Leda, when about 40 women gathered for Bible study and fellowship. Parul led them with such thought-fulness and grace that it was a joy to watch her. We are very fortunate to have such a person for work in our area. She makes her headquarters in Jhargram, and goes out from there to the various villages. Two younger women, Sukesi and Sujhata, also trained by Miss Knapp, are working together in the Dompara area and are developing and growing in ability as Bible women.

The Bhimpore Church has had a difficult year, with one serious problem following upon another. It was thought that nightly prayer meetings, each night in a different home in the village, beginning about
three months before and continuing until Christmas, would bring about a healing and a deepening of spiritual life. While people seemed to appreciate these meetings and each family attended in full force when held in its own home, still the breaches do not seem to be healed and the church still is much in need of spiritual awakening and true repentance.

One of the bright spots in the local church life is the group of very fine young people who call themselves "Friends of Bhimpore", who now study or work in other places and come home only for holidays. At Christmas time it was our privilege to participate in an afternoon and evening combination Bible study and discussion group, with them. Our local missionary, Rev. B. Weidman, led them in a study on the first chapter of Romans. There was a fine spirit of openness on the part of all. Quite a few of these young people have not yet made profession of faith. We try to encourage them to attend church in the places where they are now living. Sometimes we think we should have an extension department of "Bhimpore in Calcutta" because there are so many of our young people there. They need special shepherding.

For myself personally, it has been a year of rather poor health which has made it difficult to meet the opportunities which simply flood upon one in a situation like this. A trip to our Mission Hospital in Gauhati and some suggestions from our fine doctor there have resulted in improved health, for which I am grateful.

Late in October we received a very special gift from the church members in America in the form of a beautiful new station wagon. Before Boren, the faithful driver, took it on the road for the first time, Rev. Bunten of our Union Church in Khargpur had a prayer of dedication for its use. Then two days later, in the course of the Youth Retreat at Jhargram, Rev. Bahadur Kisku led in a full-fledged dedication service, during which he
thanked the friends in America who make such tools available for
the Lord's work out here, and prayed that the car might be used for
the spreading of His kingdom. It is a joy to have the use of this new
car and we are grateful to the friends at home whose gifts made it
possible. It has been on the road almost every day since its arrival.

The end of the year brought the news of the death of our former
colleague, Rev. August Berg. The news made us sad, but brought to
mind many happy memories of fellowship, and the inspiration of his
example in devotion to Christ and especially to the task of bringing each
one whom he met to know Christ as his personal Saviour. If this
singleness of purpose were mine as well, I know that Christ would more
richly bless our ministry here in Bhimpore. I pray that in the coming
year it may be more nearly so.

THE CHALLENGES of BHIMPORE

By Burton E. Weidman

The close of 1959 makes three wonderful years that God has allowed
us to serve in India. His call to service is still a clarion call that sounds
ever stronger as each year goes by. Pat and I look upon the acceptance
of this call as a high privilege and our hearts are warm with gratitude as
we recall with wonder the events and victories of the past year and look
forward to new challenges lying ahead.

Perhaps the greatest challenge which faced us this past year and
continues to demand the very best from us is the splendid opportunity to
work with the young people here. As far as the boys are concerned,
these are divided into two groups: (1) The hostel boys; and (2) The
village boys. At a recent conference of Baptist Christian workers and
laymen, I discovered that nearly 50 per cent of the young men in
attendance had either graduated from Bhimpore Santal High School or had taken some training here. So, the spiritual life of our Hostel boys is of great importance. Under the direction of the Assistant Supt. of the Hostel, the boys have morning and evening prayers and, of course, the regular chapel service every morning in school. In addition to these activities, the Hostel boys have Bible classes every Sunday afternoon and occasionally special speakers and special programs such as slides, dramas or flannelgraph presentations in cooperation with the Girls' Hostel. However, it is felt that these activities, as helpful as they are, do not completely meet the need. This past year, Mr. James D. Issac, Travelling Sec. for India Christian Endeavor Union, came to Bhimpore and made a fine presentation of the C. E. program, showing how it is closely related to Christ and the Church and the development of Christian leadership. The Hostel girls are already members of the India C. E. Union and the Hostel boys are thinking about starting a C. E. Society.

For a number of years, there have been two boys' hostels in our School. Both are under Christian auspices with the same type of evening and morning prayers but, unfortunately, one having a different mess system and having predominately Hindu boys has become known as the Hindu Hostel. This was certainly not intended and in 1960, if it can be worked out, there will only be one hostel which we hope will have an active C. E. program of Bible study, prayer and youth activities. According to the C. E. constitution, non-Christian boys may be taken in and share in all activities as associate members of the Society. When our new school year begins in March, we are hoping that these things will be worked out and the spiritual life of our Hostel will be considerably strengthened.

There is another group of young people with whom we realize we must work more closely. This group is composed of those boys who have
finished school or have dropped from school and continue to live in Bhimpore, and those boys who are working outside of Bhimpore or attending college. It is a group which is varied in level of education, interests, and proximity to the Bhimpore Church, but looks upon Bhimpore as its home village. Until the first of this last year, the older young men used to meet every Saturday night for Bible study, hymn-singing and prayer. Some time ago one of our key leaders went away for graduate study and, since I was tied up with other activities and away from my station three months because of sickness, this group stopped meeting. However, during vacation in October, this group, augmented by a large number of young men home for the holidays, met by themselves without Christian guidance. This group named themselves "The Friends of Bhimpore" and elected officers. At Christmas time when the officers of this group came home to Bhimpore from college and places of work in Calcutta and Khargpur, I went to them and asked them if they would be interested in coming to our house for tea, Bible study and a general discussion about the Christian faith and its implications for young people today. About forty young people met for nearly three hours. We had a thirty minute Bible study which was followed by tea and then divided into four groups, taking questions which the young people had expressed previously. Miss Hazel Smith helped immeasurably in the planning and carrying out of this project. It was a very moving and thrilling experience for all of us to see the earnestness and sincerity with which those young men discussed their problems and opportunities in a Christian frame of reference. There is still much to be done to draw them into closer fellowship with the Church. Even though there was real danger that these idealistic young men would no longer accept leadership from the Church, it was a great joy and a humbling and challenging experience to see them return to Bhimpore at Christmas time and respond to that glorious message of hope, and sincerely attempt to face life, accepting
the implications of the incarnation, the Cross and the resurrection. We look forward to another year when we can at least try our best to find more time for these all important future Christian leaders.

In many respects, this has been a most difficult year for the High School. For some time after leaving Bhimpore, Mr. Roadarmel continued as Secretary of the school for which I was very grateful. This made it easier for him to step back in as Acting Secretary during my illness from August 20 to November 18. Our number one problem is still the problem of how to keep a full teaching staff without paying above governmental scale, which we are not able to do. At present, we are attempting to run the School with only seven teachers; our full teaching staff is ten. Two teachers, one Christian and one Hindu, have been deputed for more training. It was thought that the Christian teacher, D. C. Murmu, would complete his M. A. by December 1959 and return to his position, but he has now requested additional study leave of a year and three months. We trust that by the beginning of the new school year we shall again have a full staff. Because of this fact and the pressure of time, we are grateful that even though Bhimpore Santal High School is to be raised to a multipurpose school, little has been done by Government to encourage us to begin the change over. We are working and praying to the end that, with the right kind of spiritual life program and the extension of the challenge of Christ to our young Christian college students, some of them will accept the call to teach. What we can do for Christ in the years to come through the witness of this school depends entirely on whether or not our own Christian young people will be willing to accept a somewhat lower standard of living, which goes with teaching in a village, in order to serve Christ. We have touched some upon this subject in Bible study groups and conferences, but the young people need much more help in how to intelligently invest their lives so as to be able to serve best.
In the last Managing Committee meeting, two sub-Committees were appointed to help the Headmaster in the matters of admissions and promotions. The first action of the sub-committee on promotions was to severely limit the number of students who would take the School Final Examination (a State-wide examination for all H. S. seniors). This year, of the twenty-six students who took the pre-test, only ten are being allowed to take the School Final Examination. This, of course, results in more students being retained and will affect class sizes all the way down to class five. This coming year, the admissions sub-committee will introduce our own full-length entrance exam in order to control the number and quality of the students entering class five. This should, in a year or so, reduce class sizes to a point where the teacher can do adequate teaching. We have found in looking over the records of the last five years that the size of classes has steadily increased and the number of students passing in the School Final Exam has decreased. Therefore, we are seeking to remedy this situation.

The Bhimpore Church is a key Church not because its present evangelistic outreach is good, but because people in this whole area look to this Church for Christian example as the home Church. This year several things have happened within the fellowship to tarnish the example of this Church. It is not within the scope of this report to dwell on the details of what is wrong, but rather to admit that these are signs of spiritual weakness and try to point out some causes and possible remedies. There is a great need for the right kind of Bible teaching; i.e. the kind which encourages and challenges people to truly study the Bible and not just accept the limited viewpoint of one person. We need a more adequate Christian education program and the leadership—pastoral and lay—which will see that boys and girls have a real chance to meet and accept Christ and correctly interpret and accept the implications of His teachings. We need a fresh study of stewardship and all that is involved in the meaning of that word.
And now a few words about our family. Teresa has completed a very successful time at Woodstock School. She has enjoyed her classes and received good grades. We are thankful because of her happy and cheerful adjustment to life in India. She is perfectly at home here in Bhimpore with her Bengali-speaking friends and playmates. Teresa was slightly shy when she first returned from school in Dec. for the 3 months' holiday because she had forgotten most of her Bengali. Within a week of her return, she had recalled enough essential phrases to be able to enter into almost any activity. Except for two weeks of chicken pox and a few minor colds, Teresa has stayed very well this past year.

David is our number one Bengali, since he knows very little English. He quite frequently turns a deaf ear to anyone using that language. This is very satisfying and amusing to our village friends who engage him in conversation just to hear his Bengali. We thought that when Teresa came home she would teach him some English, but quite the contrary has happened. He has helped her recall her Bengali and they chatter in it together. David, also, has kept very well this past year, for which we are very grateful.

Pat and I have had a very good year, despite the fact that I was down with hepatitis and she with a combination of urinary infection, amoebiasis and tonsilitis. We were both hospitalized at the same time and fortunate enough to be put in a double-room together for most of the time. This was a valuable experience for us both for many reasons. We had the opportunity to see and feel the concern and love with which our missionary colleagues in this Mission and our many Indian friends dealt with us and helped us during our time of illness. We felt the prayer of many and we saw what Christian love means during a long, discouraging period of illness. We also saw and felt the splendid witness for Christ which is being put forth by the whole staff of our
Gauhati Mission Hospital in Assam. Even though we were sick, we found ourselves strengthened and encouraged spiritually. Our stay in hospital was also a blessing, because it gave us long periods of time for Bible study and devotional reading. We did give some time to language study during the last three weeks, but only informally.

The language still continues to be a constant source of frustration, particularly for me, since I see so many things which need to be taught, but which I can neither teach nor find adequate time to become prepared to teach. I am constantly feeling the urge to teach and preach, but I cannot, except through an interpreter which is a very sad substitute for being able to do it yourself. Also, as I accept more and more responsibility in the School and Mission, I am feeling more and more that I am unable to communicate properly. For this reason, I shall once again attempt to crowd one or two things out of my schedule to make room for at least an hour's language study each day, as consistently as possible.

Pat and I are both grateful for all our colleagues and particularly for Hazel Smith, with whom we have had a very close and deep Christian fellowship this past year. It is a great honor and privilege to work with a missionary of her caliber and courage and we are grateful to God that He has helped us to move through the severe testing of this last year with our fellowship growing deeper every day. The same can be said of all our Bengal-Orissa colleagues, but, of course, not on such close terms, for Hazel is with us at Bhimpore to share in all our concerns. We are all very happy and grateful for Clara Dorn. She is a very honest and straightforward person, and deeply spiritual, loving Christ and His concerns.

We feel that the picture of Missions and missionary work is changing very rapidly in India. We understand that it may be that the role of
missionaries in educational institutions may be drastically changed in the next two or three years. However, we still see countless ways in which a missionary can serve, if he is willing to adapt himself to changing conditions. As we move into another year, we are trying to do so humbly and with the thought in mind that changes may come. We know, however, that the One who called us is perfectly able to keep the doors open, so that His Good News can be heard, and we are so grateful that we have been used in some small measure and will continue to be used, if we are faithful and obedient and trust Him completely.

GOD'S HELP IN OUR SCHOOL

BY MISS SUDDHA MOOKERJI, HEADMISTRESS & SECRETARY

It seems to me that our Midnapore Girls' High School is the result of the prayers of many fine and devoted Christians. I believe that today also there are many who are praying for us and our School. So the work of the School goes on smoothly, because God answers prayer.

We started our Multi-purpose syllabus from January, 1957. Today, at the beginning of 1960, we are sending our first group of girls to appear for the Final Examination, which is the same throughout the State, and comes at the close of Class XI. Until the School was upgraded, in accordance with the new plan of Government, we had ten classes, and the State Final Examination came at the close of Class X. Class XI is the equivalent of 1st year college and girls who pass the required examination are ready for second year of college. The Government plan is that eventually the colleges will have only three years to complete the degree courses.
When I think through how many difficulties we have faced in preparing the girls of Class XI for this examination, I cannot believe that we surmounted these difficulties by ourselves. But, because of the prayers of many, God has helped us to overcome all the obstacles. When we began Class XI in 1957, we did not have an adequate staff, nor a syllabus (to know what Government expected), nor equipment, nor laboratories. Miss Daniels worked extra hard in order to get the work on the buildings finished, and equipment secured before she left in 1958. So, by the end of 1958, we had the laboratories and some equipment, but not a single microscope! With this limited set-up we started 1959.

When Class XI was first opened my teachers said they could not teach science subjects that were required. Our teacher with M. Sc. degree agreed to teach Biology, but there was no qualified teacher for Physics or Chemistry, because the syllabus had courses of college grade, and we now had the new, fixed syllabus. I did not know what to do, but God showed me the way. I summoned up courage and went to the Principal of Midnapore College. He is a veteran educationist. I consulted with him about my difficulties and also explained to him how impossible it was to get the necessary qualified teachers. He was very sympathetic and arranged for two of his senior professors to teach Physics and Chemistry in our School. Later I wrote to the State Education Director about this and got approval for the services of these two professors. Thus the teacher problem was solved.

From America Miss Daniels wrote to Dr. D. M. Sen, the Education Secretary for the State of Bengal, about the need of money so that I could buy microscopes. He at once sanctioned Rs. 5500 (more than $1,000), so we have good microscopes now, as well as other equipment which this made possible.
I myself do not know anything about science subjects and laboratories. In a wonderful way God has sent a teacher who is a great help to me in view of this defect. She tells me what is needed and where to buy, and looks after the laboratories with such an interest that one would think they belonged to her. One of the professors who comes from the College has made arrangements with a person who himself brings the necessary science equipment, when we order, so that there is no danger of damage in transit, and if we are not satisfied with anything, it can be returned.

The Principal of the College was also very kind in providing a trained young man as helper in the laboratories. He prepares whatever is necessary to have things in readiness when there is to be a practical class period. The professors, teachers, and I feel like a team working towards a common goal. We hope the sixteen girls who will appear for the Higher Secondary Examination will be successful, so that they will have the satisfaction of achievement and our efforts will be rewarded.

The Home Science teachers buy their own equipment and whatever is needed for their classes. I think they are doing very well. For example, they asked me one day to be the examiner for cooking. Seven girls had prepared Irish stew and all of it tasted the same. It was fun to see seven girls cooking on seven small oil stoves. I hope they will be able to please their examiners with their cooking as much as they pleased me.

The financial needs of the School are met by both the Christian Service Society (associated with the Bengal-Orissa Baptist Mission), and the Bengal Government. For a long time we did not get any Government aid, but from 1959 we have been regularly getting ad interim grants. The Government is quite ready to spend money for Multipurpose Schools, since it wants to make this new venture in education a success.
We now have more than 700 girls in the School, from what would be first grade in America through Class XI, or 1st year college. Perhaps 5 per cent come from Christian homes. Of the eleven teachers in the Primary School ten are Christians. Of the 16 teachers in the High School (excluding the two Professors who are part time) 7 are Christians. So of our 27 teachers 17 are Christians. We also have two clerks and both are Christians. We were very sorry to part with our old, faithful Hindu clerk on his retirement. I have seen very few people who are as good as he. I miss him very much. However, he still comes voluntarily to help me, because he cannot stay away from the School to which he has given so much of his life, and I value his help.

Bible classes are held three times a week. Assembly prayers are conducted three days a week also. The Thursday Assembly is considered special because on that day there is some special emphasis on Bible teachings. In 1959 I had 18 girls in my Scripture class. Purposefully, I set only the Scripture test for a Saturday, thinking many would be absent, but all 18 girls appeared. They did so well in giving good answers that I was very pleased.

We had 56 girls living in the Hostel, of whom only 12 were Christians. Miss Hemalota Dey is a very devoted and faithful matron who looks after the girls just like a mother. Since I am busy for six full school days a week, I have not been able to give the Hostel girls the spiritual help that they should have. They have regular morning and evening devotional periods. I consulted with the Christian Service Society and Mrs. Roadarmel was asked to help especially with the Sunday evening devotionals and in any other way so that these girls might know more about the Christian faith. We hope that Miss Dorn will assume responsibility for the spiritual life of the Hostel when she has learned Bengali.
Miss Daniels left in Sept. 1958. Her going, after so many years in Midnapore, was a great loss. We can never forget her and no one can take her place in quite the same way. Yet we believe He who brought her here now needs her elsewhere, so it is His will that she should be in America. I always feel that her prayers surround me wherever I go. I cannot adequately express my thankfulness for all her love and helpfulness. My affection for Miss Daniels was full of respect, because of her long years of experience. Now I have a different kind of affection for Clara Dorn, who is new to India and is much younger than I. It is a great privilege to live with her and to teach her Indian ways of doing things. She is a lovely person and I fully believe that, as He used Ruth Daniels for the School and to His glory, He will use Clara Dorn also in an equally important way. We are very thankful that He has brought her here, and we pray that her service may be very fruitful in Midnapore.

As I said in the beginning, I believe the School is the result of the prayers of many, and that many people still pray for our School. From what I have written you will understand why I feel this way. My request is: Please pray for our School as you are doing, because I am sure, like us, all of you believe in the power of prayer.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

By CHARLES C. ROADARMEL, Midnapore

Mrs. Roadarmel and I united with the Midnapore Church early in 1959 by letter from the Bhimpore Church. The former pastor of the Church left at the beginning of the year to serve in a church in Orissa,
his native State, and thus far no one has been found to take his place. On New Year’s day he baptized 17 young people and older folks, with whom he had had an instruction class for some time previously. Since he left, I have taken the church service nearly every month on Communion Sunday, and on a few special occasions. Occasionally there have been outside preachers, and at the other services laymen have taken the responsibility of leading. Sunday School has continued regularly and the Womens’ Society has had weekly meetings. The women accepted the responsibility for the necessary arrangements for holding the Annual Bengal-Orissa Women’s Conference at Midnapore. This entailed a great deal of careful planning and a great deal of work on the part of voluntary workers. Rice and curry was cooked and served twice a day to 105 women, besides quite a number of small children whose mothers could not leave them at home. Mrs. Wade McKinney of Cleveland, Ohio met with the Women’s Society on Dec. 23rd and afterwards, at our home, showed slides of her husband’s church and some of the work being done there, to a group of the women and school girls.

We are praying that the impetus given to the young men’s group by the visit of Mr. James D. Isaac, travelling secretary of the India Christian Endeavor Union, may produce results in the current year.

During the latter part of the year I had the privilege of serving on the Church Committee. An effort is being made to secure a pastor. Pray with us that the right man may be found.

My principal task throughout the year has been that of serving as Mission Secretary. This has involved a constant succession of committee meetings, correspondence, study, and counselling. In this period of
transition to greater Church responsibility, these duties are particularly challenging and demanding. Problems of organization, property, budgets, etc. may seem taxing at times, but we realize that it is the effective working out of these that makes possible the outreach in personal contacts and spiritual development through the institutions and individual workers.

The Annual Meeting of the Mission, instead of being held at the end of 1958, was postponed until Jan. 28th to 30th, 1959 and was held in Khargpur. There was much discussion relating to proposed changes in Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules. A change adopted, among other constitutional amendments, at the Dec. 1959 meeting is significant of the changing emphasis. The name of the organization of missionaries has now become the “Bengal-Orissa Missionary Fellowship” instead of the “American Baptist Bengal-Orissa Mission.”

The visit of Dr. and Mrs. Marlin Farnum in Bengal-Orissa, during most of the month of February, gave time for fellowship and joint consideration of many of the problems and needs of the work here. The members of the Christian Service Society and the heads of institutions met for a two-day consultation, and then Dr. and Mrs. Farnum met with the missionaries for one day. Until the return of Louis Kau from furlough in June, I gave what help I could to the Christian workers of the Belda and Jhargram areas. The workers gathered together for a day at Jhargram and on another day those of the Belda area, working in the Kora field, met at Nekursini to tell the Farnums of the progress of their work and their hopes for the future. At the request of Dr. Farnum, immediately after his leaving Bengal-Orissa, a three day meeting of the Secretaries and Treasurers, both national and missionary, of Assam, South India, and Bengal-Orissa was called in Calcutta for consultation with him on common problems.
In August, our General Secretary, Dr. E. B. Willingham and Mrs. Willingham made their first visit to Bengal-Orissa. Although travel was somewhat restricted during the rainy season, they were able to gain some first-hand acquaintance with the work in the accessible centers. As with the Farnums, it was a joy to have them in our home which served as headquarters while they travelled about.

Much of the administrative work has been concerned with the meetings of the Mission, Reference Committee, the Christian Service Society and its Executive, Evangelistic, Educational, Balasore Workshop Committees and various other special committees.

Among the co-operative phases of the work I served as representative of the Mission on the Governing Body of the Union Christian. Training College, Berhampore, and on the Santal and Bihar Christian Councils. At the end of October I attended the National Christian Council's Triennial meeting at Ahmednagar in Bombay State, as representative of the Societies. This, like the preceding Triennials at Guntur and Allahabad, was an enriching fellowship and a stimulus to better understanding.

I had the privilege of helping with Bible study and worship at meetings outside of Midnapore such as the Half Yearly Meeting of the Churches at Bamradhi in the Dompara area in March, discussions on Faith and Order at the Congress of the Baptist Union of India, Pakistan and Ceylon at Cuttack in May, four periods on the Book of Leviticus at the Workers' Refresher Course in September at Jaleswar, and eight worship periods at the Bihar Christian Council at Chandwa in November.

Until August 1st I continued as Secretary of the Bhimpore Santal High School, which necessitated now and then trips to Bhimpore from
Midnapore. Then we were happy to have Burt Weidman appointed to that position. When illness required his leaving Bhimpore for medical care, I served as Acting Secretary for three months. At Midnapore I have been President of the Managing Committee of the Multipurpose Girls' High School of which Miss Suddha Mookerji is Headmistress and Secretary.

We were delighted to welcome Miss Clara Dorn to Midnapore in October. She comes as a new appointee in place of Miss Ruth Daniels, who retired in 1958. Miss Dorn has started with enthusiasm on the study of Bengali and already has shown a commendable spirit of devotion and adaptability.

Mrs. Roadarmel has proven, as usual, an invaluable helper during the year. As editor of "Tidings", the quarterly news magazine on Baptist work in Bengal-Orissa, she has faced perhaps more than usual difficulties due to the few on our reduced staff who can be counted upon to write articles. As Chairman of the Publicity Committee she has helped to organize the planning of the program for the Prayer Retreat, held at Midnapore in August, and the Annual Mission Meeting at Balasore in December.

Unofficially, she has often helped with Secretary's correspondence by typing, and in attending to urgent matters that have arisen when my frequent trips have taken me away from Midnapore. In the Woman's Society work and in a ministry of personal helpfulness to many in the community she has taken a vital part. A Christian blind woman, who was an inmate in a home for women in Jhargram which was to close down, is grateful to her for being able to arrange for her to secure a teaching position in "The Lighthouse for the Blind" in Calcutta, whereby her needs are met. In the maintenance of a hospitable, loving home and in making her husband's work possible she has made her own indispensable contribution.
In looking back over the year we realize that much of what we had hoped to see accomplished has not been done. As the years go by, we feel the urgency of the task of preparing Indian Christian leaders in the churches who will be devoted, consecrated, discerning, and skilful workers for Christ. Pray with us that we may use our time most effectively toward the end of making Christ known and creating enthusiasm on the part of others to witness for Him.

THREE MONTHS IN INDIA

By Clara Dorn, Midnapore

It was with great anticipation and excitement that I approached Bombay by ship on Oct. 20th and beheld the land of India for the first time. I was finally arriving in the land of God's choice for me. It was even more thrilling arriving in Khargpur and then going to my home in Midnapore. The warm welcome I received was very much appreciated.

After three months in India I have not conquered the Bengali language; I have not solved all the problems of the Christian community here; and I have not become acquainted with all the local cultural patterns. I have not even succeeded in securing my freight from the Customs Office in Calcutta.

However, I am learning so much. With two teachers each day, I am gradually coming to understand, speak, read, and write the beautiful Bengali language. Then in March I shall proceed to three months of Language School at Darjeeling. As I have travelled around to the various stations of our Mission field, I have gained some perspective.
regarding the needs and problems of the work. I am learning to appreciate this Eastern culture, as I learn new habits and customs each day. My life has already been greatly enriched by the dear people I have come to know and love.

I certainly am happy to be in India. As I consider the many needs of this strategic country, I pray that I might become a vessel that God can freely use. I do not know what my particular area of service will be after I have completed the two years required for full-time language study, yet I am thankful for the opportunity that is mine of sharing the Christian revelation with the people of India.

“LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

BY BEATRICE ERICSON, KHARGPUR

“A Chain of Prayer”

The year 1959 began with a “Chain of Prayer” from midnight to 12 noon of January 2nd. Members from all five of our churches in Khargpur and from two of the “groups” here all joined in this prayer effort—a part of the preparation planned by the Prayer Committee for the evangelistic meetings conducted by Rev. Abdul Haqq. Each person or group was given a fifteen-minute period, each in his or her own home or church as desired, but every minute of the time someone was praying, and a real prayer fellowship was experienced. The meetings themselves, showed the evidences of the power of prayer, for many were revitalized in their Christian life, and many new decisions were made to follow Christ.
"A missionary Church"

Mary Wang, a Chinese neighbor, always calls herself "a missionary." She thinks of this name for herself for she became a Christian many years ago in Jabalpur, where "missionaries" were. However, the "missionary church" of which I am now speaking is not that kind of a church necessarily. True, missionaries have been here in Khargpur, too, but I am happy to say that this term has been used often by the pastor of the First Telugu Church, Khargpur, and he thinks of it as meaning that each church member is really a "missionary" in the sense of witnessing for Christ right here in Khargpur. He himself has had real zeal for the Kingdom work, being tireless in preaching, leading groups of young men in street preaching, holding evangelistic meetings in villages nearby, in speaking the Word to all with whom he comes in contact, and in leading the church in "missionary giving"—in raising a fund to engage evangelists as special "missionaries" supported by the church to preach the Word.

As a result of the witness from this "missionary church", about twenty have come to accept Christ and follow Him in baptism. Many of these were formerly Hindus, but some also were from families where some other member had already become a follower of Christ.

"A ministering Church"

The Telugu Union Baptist Church, under the leadership of a new pastor, ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of its members. There was much sickness—one man having been in hospital for many months—and pastor and people were very faithful in calling upon and praying with these sick members as well as in preaching the Word. Here, also, a witness to the Hindu community has been made, and there have been about fifteen baptized during the year. 

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"Gathering Together"

It seems to me there has been an unusually large number of meetings this year—Half-Yearly Meeting, Yearly meeting, Young People's Conference, Women's Conference, Pastors' and Workers' Retreats—but all have meant a fine spiritual fellowship. It has been my privilege to attend a number of them—leaving an audit of one of the stations to go for one day to Workers' and Pastors' Retreat; leaving the busy desk of the Treasurer to attend Yearly Meeting; taking a number of women to Women's Conference for one trip of a couple of days and returning to work in Khargpur for a day or two and taking another group for last two days of Conference. To Yearly Meeting, also, the Jeep Station Wagon went with a car-load of our Telugu folks from Khargpur and pastor and workers from Jhargram.

The Yearly Meeting at Nekurseni seemed a really high point, both in spiritual uplift and in getting down to the task in the business meetings. Acceptance of the task as their own, our national Christians showed specially keen interest in all the work and ready to do their part in making the Hospital Project a success.

"An Open Door"

At the close of the year, our Missionary Fellowship met at Balasore, with the theme of "An Open Door" of opportunity. While recognizing the "adversaries" which are always present, the real challenge of our day was keenly felt by all. Our prayer is that we all—missionaries and nationals—will enter that door of opportunity.
GOD'S GOODNESS AMIDST CHANGES

By Rupert L. Bunten, Khargpur,

Christmas 1959 was the third one we had spent in Khargpur. We knew then that this would be our last Christmas with this wonderful fellowship. God has put in Khargpur an exceptionally fine group of Christians, and we are more like a family than anything else.

Nineteen hundred fifty-nine has not been too generous to the Union Church. We have seen many people go. Two years ago our church treasurer left to join a firm in Calcutta. Then Gloria Sylvester moved to Chandigarh where she is working for Dr. A. Haqq. One of our key young men, C. J. George, was transferred to another station, and Diana McCrahan accepted an opening for training in Kalimpong. Certainly our young people's group has been hit hard, but we are thankful that wherever these young people go, their presence will mean a testimony for the Lord.

Our graduates from the Bible School are well placed. Denzil Baker is working with the United Missionary Service in the railway colonies some distance from here. I will be assisting him in an evangelistic campaign from the first of February in one of these railway towns. Conrad Halyburton, who felt the need of further study, is now in the Yeotmal Biblical Seminary. Noel Baker has left us to study in the Calcutta Bible College, and I see from his report that his work is very well received. Doris Chapman surprised us by attending an Evangelistic Conference and finding someone who proposed to her. She was engaged last month and is to be married sometime this year.

In February of this year Mr. and Mrs. Naug will be leaving to settle in the United States. Those who are familiar with the affairs of
Union Church will understand just how severe a loss this is going to be. Mr. and Mrs. Naug with their family have been connected with this Church for a great many years. Mr. Naug was the Sunday School Superintendent when I came here, and Mrs. Naug was the Church Secretary. The children, too, have been active in all the youth programs of the Church and they will be missed by all. With them also go the Rolfe family. These folk will be emigrating to England. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe have been regular teachers in any children's program we have had in the Church. They have been an inspiration to our young people, but they are looking forward to new fields of service in England.

Old faces are passing, and new ones keep popping up. In the Sunday evening services I look into many new faces, most of them young and enthusiastic. I see an ever increasing number of students from the Institute of Technology. I am out at the Institute at least four or five times a week and meet other students each time I go. Some of these students share my interest in photography and, on occasion, use my darkroom. It has been a delight to contact these boys with their fresh minds and to have them worship with us.

One of the problems connected with our going away was the question of a church pianist. Now we have a young lady, whose family has just moved into Khargpur, to play for our services. Church services are very well attended. Our youth activities have gone forward consistently. Many of our young people have enrolled for Bible correspondence courses, and there has been much interest in the junior section of the church. Our club for Hindi speaking children has also introduced these correspondence courses, and the children spend hours with their assignments.

We leave on a French ship, the Viet Nam, on the 22nd. of March from Bombay. It will be good to see my family again after over ten
years, and Hilda is looking forward to seeing her sisters after just as many years. Nevertheless, we are dreading the parting from Union Church, but the Lord has been good in providing another couple in our stead. I have mentioned before in "Tidings," how Archie Shear led both Hilda and me to the Lord, and we have been close friends ever since. We went through Bible School together, belonged to the same church, worked on the same evangelistic teams, and we were ordained together. Archie is a young man from Darjeeling, who has been a Christian for many years, and he is a very effective personal worker. On New Year's Day he was married to a Chinese girl from Calcutta and we know that a fruitful ministry awaits them here. I know, too, that they will be as graciously received by the people of Union Church as we were. Archie and Maise are looking forward to joining the work in Khargpur.

Right now we are in the middle of our Annual Young People's Convention. Each evening from 4 to 6 we meet with 40-45 youngsters who work at their lessons with an enthusiastic determination. We have dinner together for these ten nights and close with a brief devotional period. We have become part of them and they have become part of us. The Lord has indeed been good to us.

Our plans for the future are uncertain, but we are nursing a secret hope that it may be in the will of the Lord for us to return again to this land of our birth.
OUR MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

By Ethel N. Roadarmel

Can it be that there are only 13 American Baptist missionaries in all of our extensive area of responsibility in the States of Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar? What a small group we seemed as we gathered for our Annual Bengal-Orissa Missionary Fellowship at Balasore from the afternoon of Dec. 28th through the evening of Dec. 30th. Some think this is the smallest number of missionaries on our field in 100 years. Only Dr. and Mrs. Osgood, Rev. and Mrs. Hunwick and Suzanne Powers, who are on furlough in the U.S.A., were missing. By the time they return, Nina Bowers and the Roadarmels will be on furlough. We were happy to have Clara Dorn, who arrived for the first time in October, with us.

Formerly this annual gathering has been known as Mission Conference or the Annual Meeting of the Bengal-Orissa Mission. This year the name was changed to be more in accord with the times in which responsibility for direction of the work, and the necessary business connected with it, belongs to the Christian Service Society rather than to the missionaries as a body, although they are represented in the C.S.S.

Morning and afternoon devotional messages, led by Louis Kau, Burt Weidman, Clara Dorn, Hazel Smith, and John Gilson, centered around the theme: "Christ, the Door." Together we considered the meaning of Jesus' words, "I am the door", of Paul's statement, "a great door and effectual is opened unto me and there are many adversaries" of "the door of fellowship" open to any man who will let Christ into his life, of "a door for the Word", and finally, emphasis on the fact that God has set before us "an open door which no man can shut."
It was with deep feeling that on the first evening a memorial service for Rev. C. G. Vichert and Rev. August A. Berg was conducted by Mrs. Roadarmel. Prayers of remembrance and thanksgiving were offered. We thank God for the witness of the lives and work of these two missionary colleagues, for the call which brought them to India, and for their service in the homeland also. The memory of them is a benediction, and we pray that their dreams and prayers for the furthering of the Kingdom in this area may be brought to fulfillment through us and our national colleagues. A "Remembrance of Clarence Vichert" appeared in the Fourth Quarter, 1959 Tidings, and an appreciation of Mr. Berg, is to be found in this current issue.

The daily morning and afternoon business sessions dealt largely with the new Constitution and By-laws for our Fellowship, necessary because of the changes in the purpose of our annual meeting and of our work as missionaries, when increased responsibility for leadership and direction of work is in the hands of nationals. Reports were made by missionary representatives of the Utkal (Orissa), Bengal, Bihar, and Santal regional Christian Councils which are interdenominational bodies. Mr. Roadarmel also gave a report of the National Christian Council Triennial Meeting.

Mrs. Roadarmel, as editor of Tidings, reported that during 1959 an average of 680 copies of the magazine have been printed each quarter by the Orissa Mission Press at a total cost of Rs. 1451, slightly over $300. This includes the sending of U.S.A. subscriptions in bulk to Mrs. J.A. Howard, but does not include the postage either in the U.S.A. or India. Tidings could not be published were it not subsidized from other sources than subscriptions.

Rev. B. E. Weidman was re-elected Chairman of our Fellowship and so also becomes Chairman of Reference Committee, which is made up
of 7 missionaries and deals with only matters relating to property, not yet
turned over to the C.S.S., and with matters concerning the Fellowship
directly. Rev. C.C. Roadarmel was again recommended to the Boards
for appointment as Mission Secretary, as his present term of service
expires in May. It will be necessary for an Acting Secretary to be
appointed later as Mr. Roadarmel goes on furlough in October.

On the second evening we forgot business sessions and problems and
became again as children under the leadership of Nina Bowers in a happy
social hour, following a delicious dinner to which the seven children sat
down along with their elders. Had you witnessed the hilarity and excite-
ment both young and old exhibited as they batted a balloon back and
forth across the long table, or racked their brains for correct answers to
an historical quiz, or hunted through magazines for words to cut out and
put together to form a Christmas thank-you letter, you would never
doubt that missionaries are human and can have fun.

At the closing evening session, with business behind us, and blessed
memories of our Fellowship in our hearts, we were led in a meaningful
consecration service by Mr. Roadarmel. Doors may keep out or keep
in. Doors that seemingly shut us out from opportunities can be
opened. "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." Jesus stood
among the disciples after His resurrection, tho' the door was closed.
When He shuts one door, it is to open another. We were conscious of
"the tie that binds" as we shared together in partaking of the bread, His
body broken for us, and the cup, His blood shed for the remission of our
sins.

As we separated to return to our respective areas of work we left
with the consciousness that we are bound together in a Fellowship that is
a source of mutual strength and encouragement, and God Himself is in
our midst.
In Remembrance of Rev. August A. Berg
Sept. 9, 1895—Dec. 3, 1959

By Ethel N. Roadarmel

It was with deep regret and a profound sense of loss that we learned by cable of the home-going on Dec. 3rd of our beloved friend and missionary colleague, August Berg, as the result of a heart attack which took him suddenly. Although August had been prevented from returning to India in 1951 because of a serious heart attack and again when he was planning to return in 1953 by a slighter attack, still the word of his going came as a shock for he had been in good health, and a letter from Mrs. Berg in Sept. had spoken of his serving as Associate Pastor at the 1st Baptist Church Malden, Mass. from June 1st to Oct. 1st. During the summer the work was mostly pastoral which he greatly enjoyed. He was loved by young and old, but found he could not keep up with all the activities of the various youth groups when these were resumed in the fall. In a letter since his going she has said that August was busy with preparations for a trip south when he was stricken, just three days before they had planned to set out by car.

Our hearts go out in deep sympathy to all the members of August’s family. Those who knew and loved them in India share in their loss and are remembering them in their prayers. August himself would be happy to enter into the presence of the Lord he loved so deeply and served so well.

We know of no missionary who has maintained a deeper spiritual concern for the people among whom he served, after leaving the field, than August Berg, nor any one more deeply loved through all the years than he. His ministry among the Santals has gone on, since he was obliged to remain in the States, through his tape recordings of sermons.
and hymns in Santali, often accompanied by his music on the saw. These recordings have been made available through Louis Kau. August and Ruth have maintained a continual prayer ministry for the work in Bengal-Orissa. They were fluent in the Santali language, and were the only missionaries of our area to carry on their ministry through this vernacular. August was known throughout the villages as "the Hor sahib", or Santal man. Wherever he went he won the love and respect of people.

The Bergs first came to India in the fall of 1926 when their first son, Roger, was only a few months old. They were the first missionaries since the days of the pioneers to learn the Santali language. The work dearest to their hearts was out in the villages, even though when they lived at Bhimpore August had much responsibility in connection with the Santal Boys' High School. He was happy to take up residence at Jhargram even when, with improvements, the house there was still not much more than a rest house in accommodation, in March of '32. First furlough came in 1933-34 and our two families made the sea voyage to the States together. In the fall of 1934 we travelled back to India together by way of the Pacific. The Bergs took up residence in Midnapore, but continued with the work out in the Santal villages.

In 1938 the Jhargram house was completed and they took up residence there, at the center of the field in which they were working. August did a great deal of touring with the preachers, and did much personal work among non-Christians. He also gave much time to training of the preachers in methods of evangelism and in preaching.

Because of shortage of staff when next furlough was due in 1941 it was felt that our two families could not both be away at the same time. August had not been well and so it was decided that the Bergs should go, while we remained. August had major surgery while at home, but regained complete health. The entrance of the U.S.A. into the War
delayed his return, and our furlough. August returned without any of his family in 1944 by a roundabout route, and was held up for some weeks in Australia. Ruth returned with Arvid, their youngest son, to join her husband in 1946, leaving the three older boys in the U.S.A.

In December '44 August was elected Chairman of our Annual Conference and of Reference Committee. He was our Mission representative on the Santal Christian Regional Conference. In Nov. '46 he was elected Mission Secretary to serve until our return from furlough in the fall of '47.

When the Bergs again left on furlough in 1950, they fully expected to return. Always their hearts have been in India and it was a keen disappointment that medical approval could not be given for them to come back. When we were to sail for India in July '54, following our last furlough, August and Ruth came from Mass. to N.Y. to spend part of two days with us. It was characteristic of him, as the time came for them to leave, to suggest that the group, gathered in our hotel room, should join hands while he offered prayer.

I quote from Tidings, June '41, in which Mrs. J.A. Howard, then editor, in a Missionary Chronicle writes: "It is said that one of the chief characteristics of saints is serenity. (The other two are gentleness and strength). Serenity is surely an outstanding characteristic of the entire Berg family, but especially of the parents,......serenity born of inner confidence, a calm trust in an unfailing God. By their calmness of soul they calm and cheer others and give a good witness of their faith in God.

"August was ever a brother man to men,—worked for them, prayed for them, believed in them. He was in charge of the educational and evangelistic work in the Santal field. It grieved him that the oversight of more than 100 village Primary Schools took time from evangelistic effort." Yet he realized the need of literacy for Christians to grow, and
of education for effective service, and he himself helped with the adult literacy program.

In the next issue of *Tidings* there will be a reprint of the article appearing in the June '41 issue, in which August tells of his conversion and his call to service on the Mission field. We pray that because of the consecrated life of this man of God there may be young people, whose lives he has touched, who will consider God's claim on their lives for overseas Christian service, and that the seed he has sown in India and in the U.S.A. may continue to bear fruit for the Kingdom of his Lord and Savior whom he loved and served so faithfully.

**Mrs. Wade McKinney**  
(*On Our Front Cover*)

It was a great joy to have Mrs. Wade McKinney of Cleveland in our area for nearly five days during the Christmas season. She was at Bhimpore Dec. 24th and 25th. Christmas eve ten adults and the two Weidman children gathered for a devotional period to hear again “the glad tidings of great joy” and to thank God for His Gift of a Saviour for all mankind. When the time came for gifts to one another, Mrs. McKinney was presented with the sari, which you see her wearing in the picture on our cover page. At the church service on Christmas morning she wore this Indian costume, which greatly pleased Bhimpore folks. At that time she brought greetings from the Christians of America to their Indian brothers and sisters.

Mrs. McKinney is well known among American Baptist women, for the church of 3000 members of which her husband is pastor in Cleveland, Ohio, is doubly aligned with the American Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention. She is a graduate of Spellman College, Atlanta, Ga. She is a member of the National Board and the Executive Committee of United Church Women. Her visit amongst us brought blessing, and established another link between the Christian women in particular of this area and their Christian sisters in the U.S.A.
OUR PRAYER CORNER

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast."

Sunday. We give thanks for answered prayer for Rev. and Mrs. B.E. Weidman (Burt and Pat) in their recovery after an illness of three months of which two months were spent at Gauhati Mission Hospital.

Monday. The prayers of many have been answered in the decision of the Christian Service Society to build a small hospital at Nekursini. Pray that the necessary funds may be forthcoming to supplement the amount granted by the Foreign Mission Boards, and that the Lord may provide the right doctors, and other staff needed for this new venture.

Tuesday. Pray that the rumor that has been circulated that the visa for Miss Maureen Brians has been granted may become a fact. To date there has been no official reply to the application for visa made to Central Government.

Wednesday. For the young men who constitute "the Friends of Bhimpore," (See "The Challenges of Bhimpore," page 23), that whether in college, or away at work, they may be truly Christian in the witness of their lives.

Thursday That the right man may be found to become pastor of Midnapore Baptist Church, which has been without one for more than a year.
Friday That Christian young people who are in college may seek God's will in the choice of a vocation and be willing to make financial sacrifices for full-time Christian service.

Saturday That many more Christians may share their faith with non-Christians in an earnest desire to win others for Christ.

NEWS ITEMS

Missionaries:

Miss Nina Bowers has sailing for May 16th, leaving for furlough in the U. S. A. She plans to spend May, June and July in Christian camps and Baptist seminaries in Europe. She expects to reach N. Y. late in August.

Miss Clara Dorn will be a student at the Bengali Language School for Missionaries at Darjeeling from the middle of March until the middle of June. Her introduction to the Bengali language before then has been through study with private tutors in Midnapore.

Pastors:

It was with deep regret that we learned of the resignation of Rev. Rupert L. Bunten, pastor of Union Church Khargpur where he and his wife have served so well in the English-speaking work since June 1957. Mr. and Mrs. Bunten expect to sail in March for England. Their four children will remain in boarding school at Mussoorie this year. At the end of that time the parents hope that they will be able to provide also for the passage of the children to join them.
Rev. Archie Shear, who has been Assistant Pastor at Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta has accepted the call of Union Church to take over the work of Mr. Bunten. His experience of both an English and a Hindi ministry will give him an enlarged field of usefulness in the railway industrial town of Khargpur.

Our Missionaries at Home:

Rev. A. A. Berg, our beloved colleague and friend, went to be with the Lord on December 3, 1959. (See "In Remembrance of Rev. A. A. Berg, page 50). Surviving him are his wife, Ruth, and four sons. Roger, the eldest, is pastor of the 1st Baptist Church, Rumford, R. I. Gordon is a High School teacher at Scarsdale, N. Y. Milton is a doctor serving on an Indian reservation in So. Dakota. Arvid is in insurance work in Freeport, III.

Rev. H. I. Frost writes of celebrating his 73rd birthday November 13, 1959. He is pastor of the Danville Union Church, within easy reach of where he and Mrs. Frost reside, 121 Granite Street, Auburn, Maine. Mr. Frost baptized their son Wilbur's daughter, 13 years of age, and dedicated the baby boy when on a visit to this son's home.

Mrs. H. C. Long writes from Pomona, Calif. that she and Herbert are happy to have their daughter Mary and her family only 1 1/2 hours journey by car from them, and their son Paul only 22 miles away. Judson, the eldest, is in Mainz, Germany and has recently become engaged to be married. Mr. Long had the joy of baptizing his grandson, Mary's 12 year old boy, this past year.

Mrs. J. A. Howard writes that their son, Dr. Lee, left January 2nd for an 11 weeks joint training institute planned by WHO and ICA, in Jamaica. In May he and his family expect to fly to the Philippines for special service under the International Co-operation Association. This is God's leading for the present, but Lee has not given up hope of someday returning to India.
Special Meetings:

Miss Satyaboti Behera, Chairman of the Women's Work Committee and supervisor of our women's work in Orissa, and Miss Sureobi Sahu, President of our Baptist Women's Conference, will attend the Baptist Assembly for women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, February 12th to 16th Kakinada, So. India. The Women's Dept. of the Baptist World Alliance has planned this meeting and is meeting the costs.

Mr. Sushil Bepari, who will take over the work of Executive Secretary of the Christian Service Society from Rev. Roma Kanta Sahu, who is retiring April 1st, has been appointed as our representative to the Baptist World Alliance at Rio de Janeiro, June 26th to July 30th. We have been informed also that Rev. W.C. Osgood, on furlough in the U.S.A., will be another representative at the B.W.A. from Bengal-Orissa.

Visitors:

Miss Abbie Sanderson of Sendai, Japan and Dr. Velva Brown, formerly of Swatow, China and of late Health Advisor on the U. of C. campus, Berkeley, Calif., were the guests of Miss B. A. Ericson from Jan. 14th to 17th. They are making a trip around the world prior to Miss Sanderson's retirement. Besides showing them the Christian work in Khargpur, Miss Ericson took them to Nekursini and to Midnapore.