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TIDINGS



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AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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Mrs. J. A. Howard, 1708 No. Grand Ave., Pittsburg, Kansas.
Yearly subscription (4 issues) \$o. 50.

Please send in renewals promptly as one reminder only can be sent.

Local subscriptions from Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel, P. O. Bhimpore,
Dt. Midnapore, Bengal.

TIDINGS

ANNUAL REPORT NUMBER

DEMONSTRATING CHRIST'S LOVE

BY C. LOUIS KAU, NEKURSENI

Enthusiasm was reaching a high point in the meeting of the Kora pastors as we totalled the records for the past year's work. They were unaware of the possibility that this year's number of baptisms, although the relative small number of 62, would be almost double the number of baptisms for any of the preceeding ten years. The number of inquirers at the close of the year was also much larger than usual. Added to this has been the return of a number of backsliders which has helped raise the total membership of these ten churches to an all time high. The Lord has richly blessed the churches of this area in increased attendance in giving, and in a wider witness to the wonderful hope we have in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Pastors, who have experienced the bitter resentment of caste Hindus toward them, are now having the opportunity of speaking freely to a larger number who are asking about the Christian life. With the breaking down of the caste system, which has been a corner stone in Hindu society, there are many who feel free to inquire into the meaning of the Christian life. Persecution is not yet entirely a thing of the past and it is often a deterrent to many people in accepting Christ.

The Christian witness has been strengthened through the development of a system of literacy centers. Laymen, as well as pastors, volunteers, and also paid teachers have helped in the literacy work.

Petitions have come from new villages for literacy instruction. Most of these requests are from non-Christians among whom are a few who are interested in the Gospel. By having the backing of the whole village there is a spirit of co-operation and a willingness to give financial support to the project, as well as an interest in the ministry of the Word. This program has opened a new opportunity for the churches to witness to a whole village, rather than to one or two out of a village.

Each time I have helped in one of these schools I have felt afresh the wonderful possibilities of how we can demonstrate the spirit of Christ's love to our brothers by helping them to arise from the mental and spiritual darkness in which they have been groping. We cannot teach them in the spirit of Christ's love without their sensing our love and concern for them. This past year 350 people have received instruction in ten literacy centers with seven full time teachers on the staff. Plans for the new year call for an increased staff and opening of new centers. The financial load of this work is met by village contribution, special gifts from friends, about half of the expense from the Mission Boards and a small grant from the W. Bengal Adult Education Association.

This year the new project of a boys' boarding located on the compound, with the boys attending the government school at Nekursini, has progressed quite favorably. Only nine boys were in the Boarding this year but, now that the hostel buildings are almost completed, we expect to double this number for the new school year. We do need a better qualified hostel master, although the present one is a fine Christian man and has contributed to the spiritual life of the boys. Along with their schooling each boy has his own garden plot which will help toward his expenses.

Another group of nine boys are making good progress in the Bhimpore school. Three of them are among the top five in their classes. Five of these boys made their decision for Christ this year and were, or will be, baptized in their village churches.

This year Parbhoti Singh, the first Kora girl, passed her Matric. examination and is planning to enter nurse's training. Her brother, Sankor, passed his exam the year before and is now in teacher's training school. Another accomplishment among the Koras was the first Kora boy, Joseph Singh, to pass the Intermediate Science 2-year course with examination held by Government, at Serampore college. He is now helping in this area before going on for his bachelor's degree. Not all of the students are able to make the grade and some have returned to their homes to farm and take their place in the church. In almost every church there is one or more of these young people and their contribution has brought new life into the church fellowship.

The milk distribution program has continued to grow with forty distribution centers and about 5,000 participants. This year we have handled 50.5 tons of powdered milk, three tons of cheese and 2.5 tons of beans. These supplies have come through the Church World Service relief program. The milk is a real help in the health building program for school children and in several cases it has been the only food some people have had for several days. In such a poverty-stricken country there are always a large number who live on the border of famine. The cheese, as well as the milk, has helped in a number of T. B. cases. In this program I have had an opportunity to meet many more people, although most of them go away disappointed because we are not able to supply milk to their schools. There are a few who tarry to inquire into the spiritual food of life. We pray there will be more who will seek after the true "Bread of Life."

Another encouraging sign of the spiritual health of most of these churches is the willing way in which many of the members are beginning to tithe. It has not been easy for some of them to give and some have refused, but where the Holy Spirit's blessing is upon them they have given joyfully. One Sunday a pastor pointed out two small rolls of bills wrapped in a scrap of paper which were the three months' tithe of a woman who

was working, and two months' tithing of a man. The total amounted to \$3. 57. This seems to be a small amount, but the total giving of this church is almost triple the amount they are now paying their pastor. With increasing numbers and such a spirit of giving these people will be able to assume a greater responsibility for the Christian witness in this country. The acceptance of this full responsibility has taken on a new urgency since our Mission staff has decreased so rapidly and will continue to drop as others retire this year. The church is now coming to a place of prominence and will accept a greater share of the responsibility for the evangelism of her country while the foreign Mission will decrease and merge itself with the Indian church.

“DOGWOOD AND WILD STRAWBERRIES STILL BLOOMING”

BY M. RUTH DANIELS, MIDNAPORE

A year of losses and discouragements in Midnapore. In May Rev. and Mrs. Long left for retirement and no one takes their place. Amala Marndy, the wife of Bhallukonia Christian Center, left to be married in another Mission in March. An inexperienced young lady, Chandmoni Singh, has taken her place. Our efficient Bible woman, Subarna Karmakar, was transferred in June, but no one has come in her place and Kenaram Maity, the evangelistic worker located here for some time, was also transferred at that time with no successor. The major loss has been that of unity in the church, causing a blight on all the work in Midnapore. Yet, prayers are going up in every house, even by the children, for a transformation in the church.

During the depression of 1931-1933, a bank official telephoned another regarding the condition of their banks - "Such a bank had to close yesterday, another is about to fail and our third one will fold up

soon," and after a short pause, "but the dogwood and the wild strawberries are still blooming."

Losses—apparent losses and real losses—in Midnapore in 1957, but prayers like dogwood, and sincere witnesses, sincere seekers, like the wild strawberries, are still blooming. The Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation. Young men desirous of learning more about Christ and the Bible come to call. One inquirer writes in June, "I daily read the Bible and today I have no doubt in my heart that Jesus Christ is the only true God. As a Hindu, I have still to overcome some obstacles to accept Christ openly as my Saviour." In September he writes, "It is difficult to express in words the inner experience that comes to a man when he accepts Christ and surrenders completely to Him. It was a difficult decision for me to make as I shall have to leave my mother, brothers and sisters and they may not like to keep in touch with me, but I shall accept my Saviour openly no matter what consequences I may have to face for it."

This year my side-line of building has crowded itself into the main line. Government gave our Midnapore Girls' School grants for Basic Primary School building and Teachers' quarters in 1956. We began making the buildings on January 1st, and they were finished in September. In January, we again received from Government a large grant for a ten room addition to our High School building, with furniture and equipment to be used for Science and Home Science courses in the Multi-Purpose plan. So on July 1st, we began this new building which we expect to finish in February. This is a pleasant diversion for me, but also plenty of work and trouble.

Our true task is building people. We pray for spiritual power in the lives of our Christian teachers to use these buildings to build girls into constructive Christian influences in India. Fifteen of our twenty-one teachers are Christians and eleven of the staff members were once our own students.

Twice in 1957 I had the opportunity to visit Vellore Hospital, the second time on a trip south with Miss Mookerji in October. There two of our former students have graduated, Aloka Marndy as a doctor, and Champakalika Murmu as a nurse. It was a joy to see Miss Mookerji's pride in these two girls who were her students and they are of the quality in Christian character and professional efficiency that makes all our Mission proud of them. We look forward to their service in our field in the near future.

In November, one morning I was asked to attend Primary School Chapel. Along with our other building, the old Primary School with straw roof and mud walls has been made over with asbestos roof, and cement plastered walls and one partition removed to make a large room for assembly. There in this light, clean, airy room, some 250 children were seated: quiet, reverent and attentive, as an older boy, the son of a prominent doctor, conducted the chapel service. The prayer song, with the children's heads bowed, was beautiful. Another older boy told the story. Children who gave for the booklet, "Jesus, Friend of Children Everywhere," to be published in other lands, take note! He began, "A few days ago I received a booklet of stories about Jesus. One of them I liked very much and I will tell it to you now." It was the story of the Good Samaritan and he told it well. You may be glad that we had 300 of these booklets in Bengali to distribute. The quiet reverence and life in that newly finished room made my eyes moist with the sense of God's presence.

Miss Mookerji has carried on the whole school, introducing the new courses for Multi-Purpose School and starting the Basic Primary, but a qualified head is required for the latter to promote its ideal of learning through activities, so she can be free for the High School only. In 1957 all the girls sent for School Final Examinations in March passed, 19 altogether. One girl from our school went for Bible Training to Cuttack in January.

This past year was all beyond the time when I should have retired and sometimes facing the discouragements, I have felt my enthusiasm, physical strength and even faith waning, but I start the new year with new faith and hope. "He is abundantly able . . . according to the power that worketh in us." "For the weapons of over warfare . . . are mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds."

VARIETY IN SERVICE

BY NAOMI KNAPP, Bhimpore

January is here and with it the knowledge that the editor of *Tidings* will be saying, "Report, please." It is a good thing for us to have to stop and review the past, thus gaining help for the year ahead.

Hazel Smith left for her furlough the latter part of May. We tried to find someone to help here, but no one was forthcoming. So, for most of the year, I have been working alone. Before Hazel left she helped two of our orphanage family to get married. One married a teacher and is in Balasore. She also is teaching now. The other married a farmer and seems very happy in her new home. During the year several of the orphanage girls have been baptized. One of the boys, who had been ill for more than a year, died during the summer. One girl finishes High School this year and another passed her Intermediate Arts Examination (2-year college course) and has gone on for her third year in college. Still another has finished the two year Industrial Arts Course at Bankura and hopes to have work soon. All are growing up and this year several who have reached 18 years of age will no longer receive financial help from the Government. This means we have to find funds for their support until their training is finished, or they are married.

There are several others from Bhimpore village who passed their Intermediate Arts or Intermediate Science Courses (both 2 years of

college). Among them, one of the girls is Indira Mondol. Her grandfather, grandmother, and mother have been teachers in this school and we hope she will return to follow in their steps when she has graduated from college.

After Hazel left I had to take charge of the Girls' Junior High School (equivalent to 7th grade through second year H.S. in the U.S.A). Phulmoni Murmu returned in April to the work of Headmistress and has taken the English classes. After summer vacation the only one on the staff who could teach Mathematics resigned and I had to be "it." It has been fun, for we have had to learn together, I, the Bengali terms and they, Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry. Miss Murmu is very faithful and always ready to do anything asked of her, cheerfully. In fact, all the members of the staff are so co-operative that it is a joy to work with them. Each Wednesday we meet after school for the teachers' prayer meeting. There are eighty-three girls in the Junior High School, while the Primary School, of which Mr. Baburam Pator is the Secretary and Mr. Horendra Kumar Kisku the Headmaster, has 194 pupils.

We are still hoping to have a new Primary School building. The old building had become so dilapidated that it could no longer be used. The children's classes are scattered: two are in the Boys' Hostel rooms, two in the former Girls' Orphanage house, which has been condemned because the beams are rotting, and one class is in the hall of the Junior High School. One of the relief projects for giving employment to the needy was tearing down the old building, clearing the place, and cleaning the good bricks and piling them up ready to be used for the new building. Rev. Weidman is trying to get permits for cement, and for the coal needed for burning the rest of the bricks that will be needed. The School held a sale during the year to raise funds for the new building. Many are ready to give of their time when the construction work begins.

With so many of the missionaries returning to the U.S.A. this year, added work has fallen on others. So, when Mr. Roadarmel went to the

U.S.A. to attend the Consultative Conference for Mission Secretaries it meant that those of us left in Bhimpore had added work. Also this year the shortage of rain in the eastern part of Bengal meant that those who usually went there to work in the rice fields had no way to earn anything with which to feed their families. There were plenty of corners on the compound which needed attention, so we tried to find enough work to keep some of them employed and earning a little. Thanks to gifts from friends in the U.S.A. we were thus able to get the grounds around our homes and the schools well cleaned and to help several families to keep alive.

The milk from America helped much. Four centers in Bhimpore were opened, so that people needing milk could get it. When many from the surrounding villages began coming, another distribution center was opened at our dispensary for children, and mothers with babies. Mothers brought the children to the nurse and were given a ticket which entitled them to get dry milk once a week. On that day the dispensary compound looked and sounded like a county fair. Over 300 received milk from that center regularly. Also milk powder was mixed and given out in the school for most of the year for the primary school children to drink. Parents have said that only because of the milk were they able to keep their children well during those hard months.

In the dispensary the efficient and faithful nurse, Mrs. Prohbaboti Tudu has given nearly 5000 treatments, in addition to those given in the school hostels and in the village homes. She is there early each morning, except on Sunday, ready to care for those who come to her for help and then she is off to the hostels or village. No matter when a call comes for a delivery case, she is soon ready, be it day or night. This year several mothers have been brought into the dispensary to have their babies where everything needed is at hand. Our nurse keeps an eye on the whole village, coming to me for advice, or when she thinks someone should go to our nearest Christian hospital, the English Methodist Hospital in Sarenga. Just now one of the girls who has finished her high school

course and wants to go for nurse's training is helping her. This girl, Parboti Singh, is the first girl among the Koras (a tribal group) to pass the Matriculation Examination (Government examination required at end of last year High School). When she returned from her Christmas vacation her face glowed as she told me she had been baptized while at home. While here she is studying to improve her English, with my help, for if she goes to Vellore Christian Medical College Hospital for training she will have to do all her course of study in English.

In the Hostel there are a large number of girls this year. We have more non-Christians than in former years. There are Christian girls from 17 village churches. Mrs. Santobala Hembrom, the matron, is very quiet in her work, but looks after the girls very faithfully. Since vegetables are not easy to buy, the girls work in their own school garden and with the help of one gardener get enough fresh vegetables for the cold months. This year because of the high price of rice, hostel expenses have increased, making it very difficult for us to manage the finances.

Miss Molina Marndi, our senior Bible woman, and I spent some time during the month of January with our newest Bible women trying to help them to get started in the work in their own churches. Some of the villages visited were places where thirty years ago the people were ready to kill any of their number who became Christian. Now, in some of those villages, there are Christians living unmolested with their neighbors, ready to listen to the Gospel message. In fact, the parents of these two Bible women were not Christians thirty years ago. During the rainy season the girls came to Bhipore for further training and worked here in Sunday School, Church and School. Since Sukeshi had had some experience as a teacher, it was helpful to have her here where she could be called to substitute in the Primary School whenever a teacher was absent. Late in the year Miss Satyaboti Behera and Miss Nina Bowers spent a week with them in the Dompara field.

Junior church had been discontinued because some of the children wanted to go to the 'big church.' However, Molina was asked to start it again and she has been doing so. She is very capable with children, able to keep their attention as she tells the lesson story, without needing any visual aids to help her. Miss Amiyo Hembrom and Miss Monica Hansda are the sponsors of the Girls' Young Peoples' Society. Miss Molina Marndi is Superintendent of the Primary Sunday School. Miss Monica Hansda is Superintendent of the senior girls' Sunday School. During the fall vacation period two of our teachers went to a Girl Guide Camp in Siliguri and came back, pleased to have seen Darjeeling, and with many new ideas to use with the Guides and the younger Bluebirds.

Miss Molina Marndi and I have spent quite a bit of time in meetings. The ten day refresher course for workers of the Jhargram and Belda fields held in Jhargram was very helpful. In October, the Women's Annual Conference was held at Bhimpore. In spite of having to travel by bus over the very bad road, many came. Our women had everything well organized and all worked together to make it a very good conference. The Yearly Meeting of the Churches was also held in Bhimpore in November. We moved two classes of the Primary School, so that the delegates could be cared for conveniently. Of course, we were pleased when we heard many say that this was one of the best meetings ever held. Youth Conference and several meetings of the Jhargram Branch Society called us to Jhargram. These meetings, to say nothing of the gardens, the girls' and our own, the compost pits supervised, the cows and goats tied up before they ate our flowers or vegetables, the tutoring, and meeting the people who come for help, physical, financial, or spiritual, have kept me occupied.

We hope and pray that as we minister to the girls in the school and hostel, to the people in their homes, or to the streams of people who come to our veranda that something of the love of Christ may reach them and help them to know Him whom to know is life eternal.

LEARNING BY DOING

BY BURTON E. WEIDMAN, BHIMPORE

A missionary's first year on the field may be compared to the life of an old bird who has been carried to a place in the world which is so different from his former home that he must learn to fly all over again. Birds of a feather flock together and as a family of American birds we have been trying our best to change as many of our feathers as we can so that our Indian friends will adopt us, not because they must do so, but because they want to do so. The problem of an American Christian coming to India is not so much that he be able to get about in this part of the world, but that he shall learn to make himself accepted and understood. If one is to be understood, he must be able to communicate. In our Bengal-Orissa Mission alone there are five languages in use: Bengali, Hindi, Oriya, Telugu and Santali. Our major job this past year has been to learn to talk like a Bengali bird.

After two months of language study in our own home here in Bhimpore, utilizing the High School teachers and staff, we flew to Darjeeling for three months concentrated study. Some thirty-five young missionaries from eight different countries and representing ten denominations gathered every morning for classes together. The countries represented were England, Sweden, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Scotland and America. We had a grand fellowship together and made many new friends for the coming years in India.

After the completion of this school, we returned to the steaming hot plains just in time to welcome the monsoon. We continued our study, as all three of us anticipated the arrival of the newest little Weidman missionary. Because of a dysentery attack he might have been side tracked, but an intra-venous injection of glucose and a timely thirty-three mile journey to the hospital helped mother to carry him the full time and on October 1,

1957 little brother Davey came to see what it was all about. We have loved every minute of caring for him and keeping him entertained. Teresa, our five year old, has welcomed Davey wonderfully and takes such good care of him.

In December of this past year, we went to Calcutta to take our first year language exams. The written exam covered the following areas—translation of textbook material, translation of unseen material, grammar, composition and poetry. The oral exam, included story-telling, conversation, reading aloud and dictation. The written and oral exams required three days of about five hours each day. We both passed the oral exam, but the results of the written exam are not yet available. We are continuing our language study at home and the last of April we shall go to Landour to co-operate with the Hindi language school, based on the American system. We will, of course, be using Bengali pundits.

The work in Bhimpore is beginning to take shape more definitely in our minds. This past year we have become acquainted with some of the opportunities, as well as the problems of trying to keep a Mission school solvent while maintaining its' Christian witness in terms of staff, teaching standards and efforts to present the Gospel, so that the implications for everyday living are understood, accepted and put into practice by the young people.

We have been able to make a little progress in gathering the materials for the construction of our new primary school. It is a great revelation to me as to how things are accomplished in India. It is a good lesson in patience. The old mud and thatch school building we trust can endure one more rainy season while we make our own bricks and finish construction of the new building.

This Christmas season resulted in the traditional activities in terms of evangelism. Every year a team is sent out to provide a Christmas service for several isolated Christian families in an outlying district. This

year I had the privilege of attending and I received some valuable insights into the possible reasons why the Christian community remains so small in India. Just as in America, most Church members agree that the Gospel is of great value and should be shared with all, but the personal cost of giving it away is somehow a very real deterrent.

The young people are very enthusiastic in terms of evangelism and this past year has indicated that they must be given more chances to share the Gospel if they are to continue to be loyal to the Church. The few who have had the opportunity to share their faith with others, even in small ways this past year, have been blessed and have given a blessing to others. The Christian community of Bhimpore is very high in potential leadership among the young people and the future is bright, if we can find the ways and means to co-operate with God in deepening their faith and training them to be responsible leaders, who are willing to show some initiative for Christ. Any group of young people who are willing to sing from house to house all night for two nights, Christmas eve and New Year's eve, to raise money for the Church, surely can be led into other areas of discipline and sacrificial service.

This past year we have been getting acquainted with some of the possibilities and problems connected with an agriculture program for our school. On a small scale we have raised a garden of our own to learn the techniques of gardening in India. Of course, we have profited by our mistakes and our successes have resulted in a few very tasty vegetables. The agricultural experiment station at Midnapur and the poultry experiment station have been most co-operative and helpful. It has been a pleasure to think ahead and discuss possibilities with them. Correspondence with Allahabad Agriculture College has indicated that we have a second ally in the realm of higher education. We have succeeded in getting new fence posts placed about the high school garden and it has been plowed again for the first time in several years.

The future of the industrial arts program was made brighter by the interest of the director of Industrial Arts for the state of Utah. A chance contact with this gentleman, relative to some industrial arts literature, resulted in each of us doing the other a favor. Through our correspondence this last year some of our needs were mentioned and now the Utah Industrial Arts Association has collected and sent on to us forty-five pounds of used hand tools to use in our school shop. More tools are on hand to send, if it turns out that the duty on the tools now enroute is not too high.

As we look ahead in Bhimpore, the future is indeed bright, especially if our young people can catch a vision of the challenge of Christian living and sharing the Gospel wherever God calls them to serve. We trust that all you who read this little magazine have discovered the deep joy of doing your share toward the extension of His kingdom wherever He has placed you. May we all live disciplined and obedient lives as we strive to share His precious Good News with all men.

PRIVILEGES IN AND BEYOND BHIMPORE

BY CHARLES C. ROADARMEL, BHIMPORE

In Bhimpore this year we have been greatly encouraged by the presence of Burt and Pat Weidman, studying hard on the Bengali language, in preparation for taking over eventually our part of the local work. For us the year has meant again a combination of local and Mission-wide responsibilities.

I have had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Bhimpore Church Committee, under the devoted leadership of the pastor, Rev. Jyotish Chandra Kisku. During the year there have been 20 baptisms. Six of these came from non-Christian backgrounds. One man, whom

folks considered hopeless because of his addiction to drink, was put on probation for 4 months, and during that time proved that Christ had given him power over this habit. The largest group came from girls in the Orphanage and Boarding with whom Miss Smith and Miss Knapp had done personal work and counselling. The Church as a local unit has continued to be self-supporting, but could have a much wider ministry, if the members could gain a better understanding of the needs of the whole field. There are villages some 15 miles or more from here where there are so few Christians that they do not have a church. The only ministry they receive is when the pastor or others make the trip from Bhimpore to hold a service. Some work has been done on a new constitution for the church, but this is not yet completed. I have taught a Sunday School class of men on the Sundays when I have been here, Some have the feeling that Sunday School is only for children. This class, as well as the one for women, taught by Mrs. Prohaboti Tudu, helps to overcome that feeling and to emphasize the fact that growth in Christian knowledge should continue through life.

The Bhimpore Santal High School, of which I have been Secretary, has had this year some 290 pupils, the largest enrollment in the history of the School, at least since the Primary School was separated from it. Sri Pradyot Kumar Biswas has proved a capable Headmaster and has worked hard to improve the School. He has also had a large part in the work of the church. I have had special responsibilities for the hostels and for the craft classes in carpentry, weaving and sewing. We are praying that more qualified Christian teachers may be found, who are willing to serve in a village high school. We believe also that the Christian witness through the Bible classes, daily prayers in the School and hostels can be made more effective than it is at present and that the whole atmosphere of the School can be more definitely Christian with a larger Christian staff.

This year, Sri Dhanaram Hembrom, after some 30 years of service as teacher, was forced to retire because of illness. Miss Tushar Tudu, who had been appointed last year as the one lady teacher on the staff, after the introduction of co-education in the two top classes, was honored by being elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly in the State of West Bengal. Unfortunately, this meant the loss of her services as a teacher.

Of the 23 students sent up in 1957 for the School Final Examination, which is held by Government for all seniors before they can graduate, 10 passed. There were about the same number of Christians as non-Christians who took the exam. and an equal number passed. One of the Christian boys, the son of a teacher in the school, passed in the First Division.

An application has been made for the changing of the school into a Multi-Purpose High School, with departments in agriculture and humanities. Mr. Weidman, with his special training in the teaching of industrial arts, will be able to help in further developing the craft classes.

The taking over by Government of the "jungle" (forest) here, which had been Mission property, has brought some lessening of detailed supervision, but there has been an increase in the difficulty of getting fire-wood and lumber for the schools and for the village needs. All forests in West Bengal are now in the hands of Government.

Outside Bhipore, my responsibility as Mission Secretary has taken me into a variety of activities. The taking over by the Christian Service Society of many phases of the work, formerly handled by the Mission, has meant as much or more time required for consultations and committee meetings. There is the great advantage, however, of more sharing in the planning with the Indian Christian leaders. As they grow in experience, and as some of the problems of turning over of responsibility are worked out, we see the promise of decided advance.

For several days in April of 1957 at Pachmarhi, I shared as an observer in the discussions of the Negotiating Committee for the Church of North India in which seven bodies, including that of the churches associated with the Baptist Missionary Society (British), were finalizing the plan for submission to the groups concerned for their decision. Considerable provision has been made in this plan of church union for some of the emphasis for which Baptists have always stood. I have been impressed with the sincere desire on the part of many Indian Christian leaders for united action in some form, especially considering the fact that Christians are only about 3 per cent of the whole population. For those bodies which approve, it is anticipated that this Union can be consummated in 1961.

Dr. Leonard Gittings, Professor of Missions, Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, California, made a brief visit to our Mission area, going first to Jamshedpur for Sunday, June 30th. I met him upon his arrival in Calcutta and made the trip with him. Rev. M. Singh Ramanjulu, who is pastor of the Church of Christ, which has an English speaking congregation, was a student of Dr. Gittings when studying at Northern Baptist Theological School, Chicago. The next day, we returned to Khargpur by train and then by jeep to Bhimpore, stopping for a short while at Midnapore on the way. Balasore was the only other place where we have Baptist work that he was able to visit, but in the space of a few days he had seen a large steel industrial city, where a much stronger Christian witness is needed, a railway town with ministry to Anglo-Indians, and Christian schools in towns and village, as well as our Technical School and workshop in Orissa.

In August, I met Dr. and Mrs. Gaines Dobbins of the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Berkeley, California, in Calcutta and brought them by train to Balasore, where our missionaries had gathered for a Prayer Retreat. Dr. Dobbins was making a tour under the auspices of the Baptist World Alliance. He and his wife had only one day with us.

One of the high privileges of the year was the opportunity of attending, as Mission Secretary, the Overseas Consultation in America. As it was not possible to have an Indian representative from our area, it was particularly necessary that considerable time be given to consultation here before I left, so that I might be better able to interpret the field viewpoint, between my departure from India on Sept. 17th and my return on Dec. 7th, I attended group consultations in New York City, Washington, D.C. Green Lake, Wisconsin, and Indianapolis, Indiana, did deputation work in churches in New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Indiana. I visited also, our daughter and her family in Melbourne, Florida, relatives in Ohio, our younger son in Berkeley, California as well as other friends there, a college classmate in Honolulu, Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong, and our older son and his family in Bangkok, Thailand. At the Consultative Conference there was a rich fellowship in sharing experiences, opportunities, and problems with 13 national leaders and the other 9 Mission Secretaries from all the American Baptist Mission fields, together with the staff and Board members of the Foreign Societies, and contacts with other denominational and interdenominational leaders. The discussions ranged over a wide field, including the workings of the various departments of the Societies, the relationships with other denominational bodies, evangelism, educational and medical work, leadership training, field administration, preparation and work of the missionary, next steps in indigenization and co-operation, unity and union.

It would never have been possible to accomplish by correspondence the widening and adjusting of viewpoints that came in the interplay of discussions face to face. The results of much of this will be seen in changes gradually worked out in the councils regarding overseas work both in America and in the various Missions and Church bodies abroad. In this whole experience I have been impressed by these facts :

That a great group of devoted Christians in America are deeply concerned and eager to further the world-wide sharing of the Message of Christ.

That in each land, overseas churches, composed of earnest Christians at various stages of development, are more and more taking their part in this concern and devotion.

That the training of national leaders and turning over of larger responsibilities to the churches abroad is of first priority.

That opportunities, as well as difficulties, abound, and that when one door is closed, others are ready to open if we are ready to let God lead us to them.

That eventually we can look forward to a time when American churches will be part of a world mission, shared mutually with the churches in many other lands.

Ethel attended the Young Peoples' Conference held at Jhargram Oct. 21st to 24th. Nearly fifty went from Bhimpore. Some of the young people did extra work to earn the necessary money for expenses, four delegates were sent by the church, and many were helped by gifts from friends in America through the missionaries. In her article "Varieties of Service," Naomi Knapp has reported this Conference. Immediately following and continuing through Oct. 31st., Rev. Subha Pandit and Rev. Cecil Johnstone of the Children's Special Service Mission held special evangelistic meetings at Bhimpore. This constituted a Christian Emphasis Week for the students with those of both the Girls' and Boys' School attending the chapel period each morning at the Boys' High School, with opportunities for presenting questions to be answered by the visitors, and personal interviews and discussions each afternoon. Meetings open to the people of the village were held in the church each evening. At the closing service forty young people responded to the call to put Christ first in their lives.

Ethel has continued with her service of helpfulness, particularly in the hostels, including the 6 weeks or so when flu turned them into emergency hospitals, calling in the homes, especially where there was illness,

and going for delivery cases whenever our nurse called her to accompany her. She has made several trips to Khargpur taking sick folks from Bhimpore for admission to the Railway Hospital or to consult with the doctors there. A sad service was that of packing Mrs. Long's trunks under her direction, but when she was completely confined to bed. Together with Mrs. Osgood she helped in packing the Hills, things, for their return to the States, while Mrs. Hill was in hospital at Landour. She has served as Editor of "Tidings," the quarterly news magazine of our Bengal and Orissa Mission. She has often helped me in typing of secretarial minutes and correspondence, and has kept up a voluminous correspondence with churches in the U.S.A., friends, and relatives.

Before the school boys left for Christmas holidays there was the usual Christmas social, but this year it was held in the Girls' School hall, rather than in our home, and Burt Weidman directed the games. The singing of Christmas songs, reading of the Scripture, prayer, and then the telling with great effectiveness the story of "The Other Wiseman" by our Headmaster, all contributed to a joyful and helpful evening. Gifts from friends in America, who wanted to help with Christmas here, again made possible refreshments for all the boys, and a tea for teachers, which was held on Roady's December birthday. Each teacher also received a Christian Scripture calendar. An impressive candle-light service was held in the church the Sunday before the boys and girls left on holiday.

I was asked to bring the message at the Christmas morning worship service. That evening village boys took part in a Nativity play. As the year 1957 came to an end our church bell rang and in the distance we could hear the boys singing hymns of joy as they went all through the village.

As we enter the new year, the drastic reduction in the numbers on our missionary staff makes it more urgent than ever that we work at our

best on those tasks which are most important. Pray with us that we may have the wisdom to see them and the courage and patience to do them, that Christ may be known and loved and served more widely and devotedly.

PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS

BY NAOMI H. KNAPP, Bhimpore.

Two of our promising Santal girls, having completed their training for Bible women's work, entered into full time Christian service in January. Sukeshi Hansda and Sujata Hembrom are members of the Chukripara and Behera churches respectively. These churches are about two miles apart. The girls are living in the same village and working together. An older woman, or one of the pastors, accompanies them when their work takes them to distant villages which can be reached only by making their way through jungles and lonely stretches. The area they cover is served by three churches. To make contacts with both Christians and non-Christians these evangelistic workers often have to walk four miles each way. Molina Marndi, who has been in women's work with me for many years, and I have spent some time in these villages. Many of the people are illiterate and part of our work is in teaching them to read and write in their own language. During the rainy season, when travel becomes impossible in this area, Sujata and Sukeshi came to Bhimpore. Here they helped in the local Sunday School, the Primary School, and also did village work. Under my direction they continued Bible study and methods of work,

During January, Glenn Hill spent some time in Chukripara helping to get an asbestos roof on the church there. With Rev. Bahadur Kisku, supervisor of the Jhargram Branch Society area, he visited the Santal churches of the Dompara area, continuing the tithing and self-support

program. The Christian Service Society has set as a goal towards self-support that each church contribute half of the tithe of its membership, based on their income, towards the pastor's salary. Many of the churches feel that this is exceedingly difficult. The income of many is what they get from their rice crops, and often they raise only just about enough to feed their own families. Others, who do not own land, earn a meagre income from day laborer's jobs, and there are many unemployed as far as receiving any cash income for their work is concerned. Much emphasis has been placed on the necessity of self-support, of tithing crops and products of the land, as well as money, and the blessing that comes when one gives sacrificially for the Lord's work.

Mr. Hill also supervised putting a new roof on the church building at Chainasole and in getting two more buildings finished for the Christian Training Center in Jhargram. The possibility of a training center was first the dream of Rev. August Berg. At the time American soldiers were in our area, during World War II, gifts received from these men were set aside for that purpose. Unfortunately, Mr. Berg was not able to carry out his dream, due to illness preventing his return to India following furlough. This opportunity came to Glenn Hill, who also envisioned the possibilities of such a center. During the past year and a half using the funds saved by Mr. Berg, together with other gifts from the U.S.A., he saw to the construction of a pastor's house, where Rev. Bahadur Kisku lives. This house has three rooms and a kitchen. One of the rooms was large enough to be used as an assembly room, for worship services, or to provide sleeping accommodation for men when they come for meetings. Recently, another house that can be used by folks coming for conferences, and training, and a lovely small chapel have been completed. Plans are also underway for buying a house nearby which has room for further sleeping quarters and one large room which can be used for meetings. While all this construction work was in process, meetings were being held. Pastors of the Jhargram Branch Society have come together several times

for consultative and training conferences. After the second house was finished the workers of the Jhargram and Belda areas gathered for a ten day Refresher Course which was very helpful. Rev. Bahadur Kisku led a brief devotional service each evening following which one or more of the pastors shared experiences and problems and then time was given for special prayer. Satyaboti Behera, Rev. Bhupoti Sahu, and Dr. W. C. Osgood of Orissa, and Rev. C. L. Kau also shared in the leadership of these days. Through Bible study periods, meditation and prayer, and time being allowed for discussions and exchange of experiences, the 25 pastors in attendance returned to their different areas truly refreshed.

In May, some of the people of the Bonkati church, with their pastor and Rev. Ramchoran Murmu, went to a village for a baptismal service. Here where there were no Christians one man had come through to a faith in Christ and had requested baptism. A crowd was on hand to prevent the Christians from entering the village, and they attacked some of the group that had come, causing minor injuries. Nothing could be done there, but this one man, a Christian in his heart, continues steadfast in his faith and is waiting for the time when through baptism he can acknowledge his Lord and Master. We hope that some Christian teaching can be carried on in that area this cold season.

There have been many changes during the year. Some of the pastors have been transferred. One pastor was transferred from a village church to take the church in the industrial town of Mosaboni. Rev. Chotarai Tudu, a pastor who has been unable to work for some three years, was called home, and an active pastor, who was treated at Sarenga Hospital, lived only a short time after he returned to his village. We sympathize with the families left. Both have children in school. Three young men, who had been receiving Bible training, returned at the end of the year. Two had completed two years of the course, while the third had finished his training. Others have gone for lay-training and one

such is working in two villages where there is much interest in knowing more about the Christian faith.

It was a great blow to the work, and to all of us, when it was found that Glenn Hill and his family would have to return to the U.S.A. because of Shirley's health. We all questioned, as one of the workers expressed it, "Why does he have to go when 'his mind is set' to the work?" or, as we would say, when he has just gotten into the work so well and is eager to carry it forward. There is no answer to the question, but we are praying that out of disappointment God may work in such a way that somehow His kingdom may be advanced. Rev. C. L. Kau has taken over responsibility for the work that was in Glenn's hands, at the request of the Christian Service Society. Louis adds this to his already large area of service in the Belda field among the Kora people.

The Annual Young People's Conference came at just the time the Hills were leaving. It was decided to have the dedication of the chapel, in which meetings were being held, although it was not entirely finished. We were happy that the Hill family could be present at this service. Before they left that day, the Jhargram church folks had a special farewell for them in the chapel. Rev. Bahadur Kisku spoke of the joy he had had in working with Mr. Hill and of the vision they both had for the future of the work in this area. He expressed the sadness of all that after only two years since their return from furlough, they should have to give up their work.

For the Conference about 130 young people filled the chapel. There were corporate worship services, Bible study, and discussion groups. Rev. Adhikari of Calcutta led the worship services each morning. Rev. Bahadur Kisku shared in the inspirational meetings and was kept very busy with the details of meeting the needs of such a gathering. Miss Tushar Tudu gave herself unstintingly for the success of the conference, tending to each person's needs and seeing that everything ran smoothly. Mr. Dulal Muru acted as chairman.

As the young people listened to different ones tell of their spheres of work they were challenged to dedicate their lives to Christ anew. Miss Labonga Soren, engaged in Public Health work under the Government for some ten years, stirred all with her recounting of the struggle she had before yielding to God's call to enter health service. She was a successful and beloved teacher in the Girls' School, Bhimpore when opportunities were offered by Government for young women to go into health work. She was urged to take nurse's training, but felt this was the one vocation she could not endure. Finally, she became so convinced of God's will in the matter, she accepted work in a Government dispensary. Recognizing her abilities, the Government sent her, after 3 years there, for a 3 year training course in Public Health Nursing. Upon the completion of this course, the Government assigned her to a locality where there were no Christians, and all of the work rested upon her. Never before had she realized what it meant to be without Christian companionship. In the midst of great responsibilities; and great loneliness, the Lord was her Helper and Friend. His call is what has kept her in this work. She now has others working with her. In her ministry to the sick she has given and continues to give her Christian witness, but she remains the only Christian there. Labonga lighted incense sticks and, as they burned, she said that by giving themselves the sticks spread their perfume. In like manner we must be willing to give up ourselves completely for Christ and in so doing our influence would spread like the incense. Some of the young people surrendered their lives to Christ for the first time and have since been baptized by their own pastors. Others reconsecrated their lives to Him and returned to their schools, colleges, or to their villages or towns for work more determined to let their lights shine for Him.

“A great door and effectual is opened and there are many adversaries.” We ask your prayers for the growth of this area during 1958 and for God-given strength to those who have the responsibility for carrying it forward.

PARTICIPATION IN EVANGELISM

BY WILLIAM C. OSGOOD, HATIGARH

The year 1957 began with the baptism of young men of two races from our schools and the turning back of another young man, who was to have been baptized, because of group pressure. He later committed suicide. The turmoil in his mind caused by trying to act as an individual in his acceptance of Christ, when his whole life was geared to group decisions, proved too much for him. Later several other members of his family came out openly for Christ. The wedding of two young people of yet another race followed, illustrative of the gradually extending influence of the Christian home. This couple has since spent many months carrying on an adult literacy center which is typical of others scattered here and there, being carried on both as a service and an effective witness.

Early in the year it was possible to give seven or eight of our pastors and evangelists the opportunity of hearing Dr. Abdul Haqq, outstanding Indian evangelist, and several other speakers at the All India Evangelical Conference in Calcutta. Much time and energy was spent in trying to help young people, laymen, and Christian workers to the sort of literature, camping, conference, and refresher opportunities which build Christian life and character and bring home the sense of call and Christian vocation. It was possible to provide for the first time for the full year, in two languages, Youth Fellowship Topic Notes. A dedicated young seminary student spent two months of his vacation in visiting some of the church and student centers. In the fields of co-operative work Mrs. Osgood and I have had many opportunities for happy fellowship and service. These have come through the Council of Serampore College, the Board of Woodstock School, Landour Community Hospital Board, the Landour Missionary Conference and the Cuttack Theological School. Then there have been the meetings with various sub-committees of the Bengal and Orissa Councils, working with other groups on literature in three

languages, and helping to revive the Baptist Union of India. I have also been guest speaker or special lecturer at two union Christian institutions.

Participation in evangelism and the building up of the life of the church comes in a variety of ways, ranging from improvising a stereoptican lantern out of a kerosene tin, a Coleman mantle light, and the cast-off parts of a long discarded acetylene machine to spending time trying to settle church quarrels and organizing prayer vigils. It has also involved furnishing transportation to out of the way places where roads and bridges do not exist, but where a way can be improvised for the versatile jeep. There have been weekly Bible classes, sermons, and personal work with individuals. There was the need to help get into print and then to see to the distribution of four different Bible correspondence courses. A unique opportunity was organizing the recording of a series of new Santali records for Gospel Recordings, Inc. to distribute.

Travels often are varied, from crossing a flooded stream in a hollowed-out log to riding on a bus meant for 26 onto which 109 have someway climbed, while it crawls the 20 miles from Midnapore to Bhimpore in something over four hours. Then again one may find moderately good roads or so muddy a track that it is scarcely possible to move on it by foot, bicycle, or cart or jeep. Trains, too, may be relatively comfortable or so desperately crowded as to be an endurance test in the heat. Yet each year includes its several thousand miles of varied travel, each with its opportunity for witness, as well as for testing.

As one watches the progress of young people through schools for which he is responsible and tries to multiply spiritual contacts with them, and as one helps them go on to higher training in various lines and at last sees them come back to positions of responsibility and service, whether in our own area in Mission or church, or elsewhere in Government service or in industry, one realizes afresh some of the rewards of the teacher, preacher, missionary and has increased hope for the future. Toward the close of the

year we attended the wedding feast held for one of six orphan brothers from Hatigarh, who had been brought up largely through Mission help. All of these young men are established in useful service in various departments of Government and industry, and each has established a Christian home of his own. The time spent on budgets, accounts, correspondence, committees, and following through the endless red tape of departmental rules and orders, in building repairs and getting boarding supplies, etc. is perhaps worthwhile after all.

Working with the lepers and the sick through clinics and dispensaries brings moments of satisfaction and times of heartbreak as well. We do so little in the midst of such great need that one longs to see this phase of our work extended.

The work of the agricultural department of the School and the craft department has seen some improvement this year, and there has been additional financial support, but the problems of rural life and village economic life need far more attention. A modicum of relief has been possible through Church World Service gifts, but supplies have been irregular, and finding the leadership to provide satisfactory distribution has often been difficult.

In the field of literature production, the most ambitious project of trying to get the long delayed *Oriya Bible Handbook* moving toward the press has cost many hours of labor and produced somewhat disappointing results, although we still feel hopeful about the possibilities. There have been half a dozen more articles written, a larger number assigned to others and the manuscripts of some approved for printing. Much more than half the total is ready for passing in the committee. Some sixteen new titles and reprints have been published during the year by our Bengal-Orissa literature group in three different languages, aside from those in which we mainly co-operated with other groups.

Entering upon the thirtieth year of service in India and celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of one's ordination, one realises how much of all that is accomplished through the years is dependent upon the helping hands, prayers, gifts and talents of many people to which one contributes but a small part; that it is through what one is, rather than what one does, and the closeness of one's relationship to the Master that anything of permanent worth is accomplished; that an essential ingredient of effective work is an unquenchable belief in the perfectability of people, the ability to see not a man's faults, but what by the grace of God he may become; that what ultimately matters most is the sort of love and concern for people that cannot be content to see them missing the fullness of life available in Christ; that the Cross is not merely an event in history, but a continuing Way of Life to be shared by the Christian, if his life is to bear fruit.

GOD'S QUILT PATTERNS

BY NINA C. BOWERS, Bhadrak

Once again it is time to think over the work of a year that is past. As I was remembering events and experiences, I thought of the patchwork quilt which the Iowa women gave me several years ago. Just as with most quilts, the pattern is repeated in rows of blocks. How like that is to a person's work when compared with that of other years! The same kinds of experiences in many of the same places with some of the folks make up the fabric from which most of the year's achievements are drawn. This year I've made approximately thirty trips to various meetings and villages. To get there, and on to the next place, I've travelled well over six thousand miles, which is quite a bit more than last year. When I hear someone who no longer finds it necessary to travel by ox-cart speak of that as an outmoded means of travel in modern India, I feel compelled

to say that this very year I've sat in one of those conveyances, as I jogged along, for a total of eighty-four miles. I don't enjoy such slow uncomfortable travel, but when a cart is the only mode of transportation available in some of the places at the times I need to visit, I go that way I've also walked many a dusty mile.

The pattern of life during the year has been made up of pieces. Because most of my work has been in the industrial and rural churches and villages, my time has been divided in pieces of time spent in many different places. Usually I have stayed one or two weeks in a locality, but sometimes when I have gone for meetings, I have stayed only three or four days. Occasionally, after a particularly strenuous time which included frequent travel and sleepless nights on a train so I could arrive at the next place in time, I've thought of crazy patchwork quilts I've seen.

One well known pattern is the wedding ring. I started the year by being in one of the villages when our youngest pastor was married. Since events moved on in an unhurried manner, I had time to go to the homes of the bride and groom, and the church, and take pictures showing the progress of the participants. I even remember the noon wedding feast for which serving began well after two o'clock.

The log cabin pattern brings to mind the places I've slept and eaten. Sometimes I've stayed in a tent, which resembles an oven or icebox, depending on the season. Usually I live on a veranda of church or school, though at times a room is made available. Always I am grateful for the courtesy and kindness of those who plan for my stay.

The flower garden design helps to recall some of the lovely memories of the year—thoughts of those who are accepting added responsibility and have acceptably carried it, those who have been cheerful in times of difficulty, those who are persevering in obedience to God's call to serve Him, those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, those who have gotten new visions of work to be done for God and have not been

“disobedient to the heavenly vision.” I think, too, of some of the encouraging experiences in women’s meetings and in connection with Christian Home festivals.

In many quilts the same material is used repeatedly to carry out the design. These are some of the phrases that have occurred again and again in my diary—collected books and medicine, packed everything, late to bed, up at 4 a.m. to go to the train, arrived an hour or two later than expected, darned socks, visited all the homes, got ready for evening meeting, very tired, unpacked and ordered supplies, went for cement permit, have answered all my letters. Now if you mentally sew these together and join them with some additional information, you will have the background of living and planning that is necessary for me to get to folks with the Good News of the Way of salvation and to present it for their acceptance and growing understanding.

Some quilts are made of pieces that are left over from sewing or have been in the house awhile. But some buy new pieces. The new experiences of this year form a variety. The biggest new piece was two months spent in Hindi language school at Landour. I enjoyed the cool climate, the nourishing food, English church services, music, and fellowship with other Christians, but these did not interfere with eight or more hours of study every day. Another new job is responsibility for examinations in Sunday Schools throughout the province. It takes much work and planning, but I feel it will be a real help in strengthening the work of the Sunday Schools. I’ve always said I wanted to learn to cook Indian food, and because of having no satisfactory cook for a considerable period of time, I’ve had both need and opportunity to learn. I’ve met a good number of folks in shops and market, while doing the buying, that I never have met before. And you may be sure I will use some of the lessons learned as illustrations. This year for the first time I have been elected to serve on the Christian Service Society. Another first has been opening of the Ujurda dispensary and giving the nurse there help in her work.

In every quilt there are both gayly colored and dark pieces. There have been many discouragements and disappointments this year, along with the encouraging things. And there is always a measure of dissatisfaction with visible results of work and prayer. Yet I would liken the fine stitches of the quilting to God's patience and the patience we ought to have, but often do not have. When God is acknowledged as Lord and His commandments are obeyed, His pattern will be worked out. God's plan in the churches of this area and in the individual lives of people here is not yet completed. I think of the verse in Philippians which reads, "For I am certain of this very thing, that He who began the good work in you will go on until the day of Jesus Christ to complete it."

GIVING THANKS IN EVERYTHING

BY SUSANNE I. POWERS, BALASORE

"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." As I think back over 1957, I can think of many, many happenings for which it is easy to give thanks, and also of some things for which it is hard to thank God.

In 1957, as well as in every new year, the Mission auditor, Mr. John Gilson, came. My not being an accountant, gave him opportunity for suggesting improvements in my keeping of accounts. In most of the school accounts I had no idea what I was doing, but just did as Elsie Kittlitz and the missionaries before her had done. I did as Elsie had showed me, or else I did according to the dictates of my own reasoning and imagination. Surprisingly enough, many of the Primary and High School accounts were fairly right. I do thank God that this has been a year of learning in the keeping of accounts. Whereas it used to take me two weeks, after really hard mental labor, to finally get all school accounts to balance, now all the strange figures and procedures have been sort of

figured out and the accounts can usually be laid aside as done after one or two days. I continually thank God for that.

For the schools, too, we thank God. In our Primary School (for boys and girls through third grade) in October of 1956 we were granted by the municipality another teacher in the kindergarten class. We now have six Christian young women teaching the 230 children in that school. All the classes are too crowded, with between forty and fifty-five energetic children in each one. School is always opened with prayers, a Bible story, and the singing of a Christian song,

Our Girls' School (from 4th grade through High school graduation) has about 230 students, the largest enrollment the school has had, as far as I know. Each day this school begins with our chapel program conducted by one of the eleven Christian women teachers, or by one of the two Hindu men, the latter giving current events.

In our schools, and in our school office also, we try to reflect the love of Christ that the many non-Christians who come might desire to know the love of our Saviour. I am thankful for the opportunity to teach English in the High School and thus to become better acquainted with the girls. I thank God for Miss Bhagyaboti Das, our Christian Headmistress, and for her faithful work for the school's betterment. Without a Christian Headmistress, my work at school would certainly have been doubled. Miss Das will retire in May of 1958, so we do need your prayers that God will give us another fine Christian Headmistress.

"In everything give thanks..." How easy it was to thank God during the last HOT season which I spent in the Himalaya mountains of Kashmir with a German nurse and other new friends from England, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, France, India, and, of course, the U.S.A. How nice it was to be able to worship in English with them in church, and also to climb snow-capped peaks! It was fun being in the snow again.

I do thank God for my many friends here. I enjoy playing tennis and badminton, riding horseback, or just talking with the Army colonel and his wife. She is a doctor, donating five mornings a week to the city hospital. I thank God for the two Christian Indian families in the cities of Cuttack and Baripada, with whom I have spent some relaxing and happy week-ends, and for the Assistant Railway Engineer and his wife in Balasore, who arranged for me to go riding on a railway inspector's little trolley. They, and Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick, and I sometimes go to the seaside for picnics and we meet together each Monday night for prayer. Until July, when Elsie Kittlitz and Herb and Aileen Howson flew to the U.S.A., we had them in our prayer group also.

It has been difficult to thank God for Elsie Kittlitz' retirement and for the Howsons' return to the States for furlough, but yet in everything we must give thanks for "this is the will of God." With Elsie's leaving I lost a good helper and instructor in the ways of accounts, etc., and also I inherited from her more responsibility and more accounts. Now the Girls' Hostel work is mine also. I do thank God for all my contacts with the 55 girls living in the hostel. Most of them come from Christian families, who are very poor, living in villages where there is no high school. I am thankful, too, that Elsie has left enough money to pay the Rs. 250 (about 50 dollars) needed each month to help meet the cost of education for these girls. How long we can continue to help the girls financially depends, of course, on how many gifts we get for the hostel in 1958.

I thank God, too, for the two new teachers, a college graduate and her sister, who live in my small bungalow with me. We have breakfast and tea together and in the evenings often listen to the radio or correct school papers in the living room. This coming June we will need to hire two more college graduates. I feel confident that God will guide the right ones to come to us.

Sunday, the day of rest, is a day for which I am thankful. Accounts, school books, etc , are forgotten. At 7 A.M. we have our Sunday School. Of the twelve children in my 3rd grade Sunday School class, three boys have been much above the average in mischievousness. I am thankful for getting to know these little ones so well and being able to tell the Bible stories to them in Oriya. After Sunday School the brothers, sisters, parents etc., of the hostel girls come to visit them. When one little girl calls the "sisters" to come to our veranda to see their relatives, often talk with the visitors, Hindu and Christian. I may even use that time to write a letter home.

At ten o'clock the girls of one of the four hostel dormitories come, and we plan the Christian Endeavor program for the following Sunday evening. The girls themselves, or occasionally a hostel teacher, tell a Bible story or other Christian story, often with the help of flannelgraph or pictures. Sometimes the girls have a "major dramatic production" based on a Bible story or some other story. In time all girls will have participated in some way and thus have learned how to help in their own village women's meetings when they leave school.

On Sunday noons I eat rice and curry with girls of one of the dormitories. They do their own cooking, which is usually quite good. Our church service is in the afternoons on Sunday, and in the evenings we have our C.E. meeting. That is followed by my Bible class, which I conduct mostly in English, with the girls reading from their Bibles in the Oriya or Bengali languages. This is with the High School juniors and seniors. We usually sit on the beds in their dormitory. I am thankful for Sunday which is God's day, and also the day of rest from the regular duties of the rest of the week.

We realize that in 1958, too, in everything we can give thanks, because God's presence and Spirit are constantly helping us and also "this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us."

JAMSHEDPUR AS IT STANDS TO-DAY

BY M. SINGH M. RAMANJULU

A strange subject, isn't it? But let's see what it means in three aspects: physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Physically: This is an industrial city with the biggest Iron & Steel Co. in India, ever sending its flames through the blast furnaces proclaiming "no matter what people do, I keep going on forever." The city is a vast one, stretched out for miles in three directions; on the fourth side it is stopped by a river. It is a very well planned city and a well paid city. The climate is very hot in summer, with the temperature reaching 118 degrees, but in the winter the thermometer goes down to 40 or 50 and that is pretty cold for Indian folks.

Mentally: The city with its industries calls for the genii of India and foreign countries and there is no doubt that they are here. People are well educated and since quite a few foreigners are here, my Indian brethren have learned enough of the English language to make themselves understood. People are well up in society.

Spiritually: There are many churches of various denominations here in Jamshedpur. The Roman Catholics are in the majority, Then there are Baptists, Lutherans, Anglicans, Seventh Day Adventists, Assemblies of God, and the Church of South India. There would seem to be enough churches to minister to the needs of the people, but they find it a very difficult task. There is much to distract people from church attendance, but we know that when Christ has the central place in a person's life, then that person will also wish to be a part of His church, and to support it loyally.

Mrs. Ramanjulu and I came here to serve the Church of Christ on the 2nd of July, 1956. When we saw the physical and mental side of the city, we were really happy and thanked the Lord for bringing us here.

After sometime we had to change our minds and then re-change them. We changed because we were disappointed to see that the level of the spiritual life of the city was so low compared to the mental and physical levels. After much thinking we re-changed our minds and thanked the Lord even more than at first, because He had brought us to a place where we have lots of work to do for Him and where our strength could be tried.

The Lord has been merciful unto us and has blessed our work for Him with such astounding results as 90 to 100 per cent increase in the Sunday School, 17 per cent increase in church membership, and 75 per cent increase in attendance at church services. We thank the Lord for these. Besides, we had the privilege of witnessing to two Telugu speaking Hindu young men, who have since become members of the local Hindi speaking Baptist Church.

Dreams Fulfilled : We had three dreams and prayed that the Lord might grant them, if according to His will. First, to give us more children for the Sunday School, for we think of it as the feeder for the church, and this the Lord granted. Secondly, we asked for the local Christian nurses that we might be able to minister to them. Around seventy of them could not attend the church service on Sunday as the timing conflicted with their duty hours. To-day, we have a special worship service, which takes place in their hostel (dormitory) between 8.45 and 9.45 p.m. when most of them can attend. Surely, it is an odd hour, but not for the work of the Lord. Thirdly, we prayed that we might open a small meeting for the illiterate Telugu-speaking women. This was the dream of Mrs. Ramanjulu. Oh! how happy she is, and I join with her in thanking the Lord for giving us a group of around 40 elderly women, 95 per cent of whom are Hindus, who come to our bungalow every other Sunday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon to hear Bible stories from Mrs. Ramanjulu. They are very keen and ask many questions with regard to their salvation. We cease not to pray that the Spirit of the Lord might work in the hearts of these women folk and bring them to Christ. An encouraging factor in the

realization of this dream is that women, since they are interested in the Word of God, are bringing their men folk, too. Surely the Lord is gracious.

Dreams not Fulfilled : As I have said, this city of Jamshedpur stretches out for miles on all sides. To build up the Christians in their faith, and to witness for Christ, one needs to be on the run for Christ twenty four hours of the day. Mrs. Ramanjulu and I are thankful that God chose us, insignificant as we are, for such a challenging work. We dreamt that we could cope with it, but for several reasons have not been able to do so. One is that our salary from the church is not sufficient for a family of seven members in a city like Jamshedpur, where living costs are higher than in many other places. Consequently, I have had to supplement my income by accepting employment from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday, with the Kaiser Engineering Corporation that is now carrying out a special project for the Tata Iron & Steel Co. A second reason is that we have no better means for getting about to call on people than a bicycle. That means that many people whom we would like to visit do not receive a pastoral call for months at a time. However, we thank the Lord for physical strength to ride the ups and downs of Jamshedpur roads. We pray that the way may be opened for me to give full time to the Lord's work and be relieved from the necessity of outside employment, and that I may have a faster means of transportation. With these dreams unfulfilled, we are praying that He may teach us the patience of unanswered prayer.

We covet your prayers for our work and ourselves, for prayer alone is the stronghold by which all may stand in the presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN A RAILWAY TOWN

BY RUPERT BUNTEN, KHARGPUR

It is now nearly eight months since we have been with Union Church, Khargpur, and again we must acknowledge the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. It has been a period of great blessing, and, though in the beginning we felt totally inadequate for the work, we have been forcefully reminded again and again, that after all, this is the Lord's ministry, and that we are only co-laborers with Him. Throughout this period the truth of II Cor. 12:9 has become deeply significant for us. Truly, His grace is sufficient, and His strength is made perfect in weakness.

In Union Church, we have three groups worshipping: The First Telugu Baptist Church, The Telugu Union Church, and the English-speaking congregation of Union Church of which I am Pastor.

In the First Telugu Baptist Church, which is pastored by Rev. Appaswamy the attendance at the services and at the Sunday School has been fairly consistent. The young men belonging to this church have shown a real interest in a study of the Word of God. Since June, there have been five baptisms, and it is with much interest that we watch the progress of this work. Pastor Appaswamy, who has been a faithful minister, now feels that a younger man should take over the leadership from him. Our prayer is that someone of the Lord's choosing might be sent to shoulder this responsibility. This is a difficult field in many ways, but we are sure that the Lord is guiding someone into the place that is being vacated by the present pastor.

While the congregation of the First Telugu Baptist Church has grown slowly, that of the Telugu Union Church, under the capable leadership of Rev. Peter, has increased rapidly. It is encouraging to see the burden that the Lord has placed on the heart of this man. Certainly, he

has helped create a new interest in spiritual things, and his sermons give evidence of much prayer and preparation.

It has been my joy to work alongside these two groups, and I have enjoyed the fellowship of both Rev. Appaswamy and Rev. Peter. We look forward to a year of real blessing among our Telugu brethren.

Closely connected with the Telugu work is Miss Beatrice Ericson, the Acting Mission Treasurer. Her contribution is essentially behind the scenes, but the effect of her counsel and prayer has doubtless helped both groups to "grow in the Lord". Those who have shared in a prayer fellowship with Miss Ericson know the extent of her concern for the Telugu work, and we believe that the Lord is honoring her deep and sustained interest.

On the other side of town, Pastor Kritibas Behera ministers in Ward Memorial Church. His age is as much a mystery as his source of boundless energy. I have had the privilege of speaking in his church on several occasions and always to a packed house. Here the language is mainly Oriya, but Bengali and Hindi are frequently heard. Pastor Behera looks back on many years of fruitful ministry, but he is looking forward to many more years in the service of Christ. At Nimpura his son, Samuel Behera, ministers to yet another church, for which his father also has responsibility. This is some three miles from Ward Memorial Church.

• In the English-speaking church the attendance has been an average of 85 at our evening service. This figure shoots up during the winter months when we have had, on occasion, as many as 165 at worship. Sunday School is held in the morning. We have seen the impact of the Word of God on the lives of many of our people, and we realize afresh that the "Lord's arm is not shortened that it cannot save, neither His

ear heavy that it cannot hear." We have watched the Lord take hold of lives and transform them completely. This is what makes the Christian ministry worth while. There is nothing to equal the thrill of watching the Lord snatch a life from sin and degradation, and begin the process of fashioning that life into the image of His Son. We have three people, now preparing for baptism, that the Lord has wonderfully converted, and they are indeed, "new creatures in Christ."

For many of our young people, the highlight of the year was a Summer Camp held during the school holidays in October in a suburb of Calcutta. This is an attempt to provide a holiday in a spiritual atmosphere, and the success of the adventure can only be gauged by the increasing number that seek admittance year by year. This camp is organized by the Carey Baptist Church of Calcutta. It was our privilege to take about 16 of our young people to share in this camp, and it was a profitable experience. The recreational facilities were numerous, but there was also the opportunity given to hear the Gospel and to face up to responsibilities as Christians. Two of our young people were converted at this camp, and many others have confessed that they have never been the same since that time.

In our Christian Center activity there has been an emphasis on outside Christian witness. We have had many wonderful open air meetings when the Word of God has been preached in the bazars and in the surrounding villages. The response has been tremendous, and often we have run out of copies of the Gospels because they have been bought up so quickly. Many of our people have expressed their desire to take part in this ministry, and have helped distribute literature to the crowds that came to hear the preaching of the Cross.

In our Youth Fellowship on Monday nights, we have been giving courses in Old Testament and Church History. About 20 attend

regularly. At examination time there is an understandable absence of some, but about 12 are taking the exams. It is a pleasure to work with these young people, and to see their developing love for the things of Christ.

On Tuesday evening we meet with a teenage group, who are simply bubbling over with energy and good humor. Half an hour with their incessant activity is enough, but, by their own request, the time now covers $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. We begin with games, then have a time of singing, and close with devotions. These are the children who will be taking up the leadership of the church of tomorrow, and our prayer is that God will enrich their lives with the sweet presence of His Son. Some of them come home only for their Christmas vacation from boarding schools, but it is a joy to have them with us over this period, to share in their abounding youth, and to direct them to Jesus, whom to know is life eternal.

A vital part of our church program is the hospital visitation, as there is a Railway Government Hospital in Khargpur. Many of our young people visit the sick and distribute magazines. One of the aims for this year is a properly organized visitation program.

Our three young people in Bible College are an inspiration to young and old alike. Doris Chapman will be graduating in March, after three years at the Yeotmal Bible Seminary. She hopes to minister among women and children. The field for evangelistic work among children is practically untouched, and we hope that Doris will be able to contribute greatly to the Sunday School activities in Khargpur. It is a work that needs trained leadership, and the kind of enthusiasm and devotion that Doris has. Denzil Baker and Conrad Halyburton have been in the Calcutta Bible College since June. Denzil's reports are excellent, and it is a delight to see the Lord shaping his life for use in His service. Conrad will probably never be classified as an "A" student, but his life and sincere testimony have touched the hearts of many people. Here is

a life that the Lord has captured. We know there are others who are thinking in terms of full time service. There is a sense of urgency among the people, and they are prepared to face the sacrifice in order that they might be in the fields that are "white already to harvest,"

All over our land of India there are people waiting upon God for an out-pouring of His Spirit. Pastors, missionaries and laymen are alike convinced that God has yet to bare His mighty arm in India. This knowledge is driving the people of God to their knees and leading to a fresh turning from sin and a humbling in His presence. In Khargpur people are becoming dissatisfied with the 'mercy drops' and are seeking for showers of blessing. The resources of our Almighty God have barely been touched. We need the prayers of Christians the world over, for if there is anything that the multitudes of India need, it is a personal knowledge of Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

We thank God for sending us here, and we trust that He will make Himself known through the Church worshipping in Khargpur.

VIEWING THE WORK FROM BOTH FRONTS IN 1957

BY BEATRICE ERICSON, Khargpur

When I went to the U.S.A. in late 1956, I felt that the work here in India was pretty discouraging, in fact, the task seemed so big and we seemed to be making such a small dent, I doubted the wisdom of even trying to do anything. These thoughts were not expressed, however, and thankful I was that I had not made them into words then! For viewing the work from the Home end, on my wonderful furlough, put things in their proper perspective, and I began to think over some of the blessings, and some of the ways in which the Lord was working out His purpose in

Bengal-Orissa. I also had opportunity on the way to the U.S.A. to visit other fields: Burma, Bangkok, Phillipines, HongKong, and Japan, and what an inspiration that was! So, while on furlough, it was possible to review with many something of the big task in which we are all engaged; to see the high spots, as well as the low ones, and the places where we were "standin' in the need of prayer."

The first two months of the year were spent with my family and friends in Fargo, North Dakota. It was good to get so well acquainted with the folks in Fargo First Baptist Church, and to share with them some of the experiences on the various fields where I have worked. I surely did enjoy the wonderful fellowship with all of them. My mother had her 80th birthday in February, and it was a real joy to be with her for that day, as well as to have had time for real visits with her in previous weeks.

From the middle of February through August, the opportunity of giving the message and enjoying being in churches in So. Dakota, Iowa, No. Dakota, and Nebraska brought inspiration to myself and preparation for the task back here. It was really wonderful to know just how keen friends, in churches everywhere I went, were to understand more about and to be able to help more with our mission task around the world. Since it had been my privilege to visit in so many places, as well as to work in three fields, we could think in world terms. The young people at summer camps in South and North Dakota, with their deep consecration and commitment, gave me new courage for the task on this front.

It was with renewed vigor and hope that I returned to the field in late September. The problems of the previous year had somehow been reduced; some of them remained, but with new power to meet them, many melted away. While in America, I had heard about the division of our Telugu Church, and I had been heartsick about it. I did not know where to turn, or what to do. I had not been back but a few days before

I realized that all welcomed me as "their" missionary; I had no ill-feeling, and am able to work with both Telugu churches. For now we have two Telugu churches: The First Telugu Baptist Church, and the Telugu Union Baptist Church. The Lord has used the troubled times of the past year for His own glory! The two churches are each carrying on; both meet in the Union Church building. Every Sunday morning there is First Telugu Baptist Sunday School and church, then the Union Church Sunday School, and the Telugu Union Baptist Church Sunday School and church service. All worshipping, working for the common task, with no ill-feeling, but each church working better by itself than it did as one Telugu Church, More people at prayer meeting, church services, Sunday School, and Women's Meeting, than in the one church before! More real witnessing for Christ in each, and deeper spiritual life! A Christian Endeavor has been started in Telugu Union Baptist and we hope for one in First Telugu Baptist before long. There is more witnessing to the Hindu community than formerly. I go out with the pastor of the First Baptist church and his wife one afternoon a week, and with the Telugu Union Baptist pastor another afternoon. We visit and encourage church members, and witness to Hindu neighbors as we visit. There have been quite a few baptisms in each church.

Pastor Bunten of the Union Church, with English speaking congregation, is a fine leader and that church has shown real progress. I attend the Sunday evening service there only, as one of my Telugu churches has prayer meeting on the same night as Union Church has its prayer meeting. We are thankful to God for sending to us such a fine pastor and his very helpful and capable wife, both working together for the Kingdom work.

The Christian Center activities have not been as promising as we had hoped. There are games and Bible classes in the Center at the Union Church parsonage, and the same at Winifred Villa Telugu Center. We are starting milk distribution for poor children of that community.

We need very much the plot of ground next to our present building, so we can have a larger building for public meetings, the showing of lantern slides, and others activities. Pray with us that the way may open for this. We also hope to fix up our worship center in the central room, but need chairs and other equipment.

How thankful I am to all of you who helped in making it possible for me to have the Jeep Station Wagon! With the money from the South Dakota women, and other women whom they contacted, and the Iowa women, as well as those in Fargo and other places in North Dakota, plus an appropriation by the Board, it was possible to get the station wagon a few weeks after my arrival on the field. It is put to use every day, either in visiting, getting to meetings, taking someone to hospital, on business for the Treasurer's office, or carting some needed material from one place to another.

Since the Gilsons left for furlough in early October, I have been Acting Mission Treasurer. While I had been Assistant Treasurer before, and we had the treasurer's office here in Khargpur, there are naturally more tasks now that I have the full responsibility as Acting Treasurer. I have also had to attend Christian Service Society and Yearly Meetings. Though I cannot understand the Bengali language in which these meetings are conducted, the Executive Secretary is good about translating for me on matters which are of special concern to the Treasury Department, and the minutes come in English, so I can keep in touch with the progress of the work. It has been a real inspiration to meet with the Indian leaders in these meetings. Pray that we may find just the right man to succeed our present Executive Secretary—such a fine man he is and how zealous for the work, but he will soon be reaching retiring age, and he has asked us to look for another to succeed him.

The Lord has blessed us as we have worked for him. May He bless all of you as you carry on the Home front, while we carry on here.

TOWARD HIGHER GROUND—1957

By LYNN P. HUNWICK, Balasore.

“ We may take for granted that as long as schools remain under our supervision we shall make every effort to strengthen the Christian influence of the schools. Government regulations may prevent direct religious instruction but there is nothing to prevent the witness of Christian character. We shall probably have more freedom in our hostels than in our schools and therefore adequate provision should be made for religious service and religious instruction within the hostel. We do not, however, subscribe to the view that we should withdraw from our schools and put our resources into hostels. For maximum results in Christian influence the school and hostel should be a unit.”

—from *A Ten-Year Programme for the Bengal Orissa Bihar Churches*, “ Education,” p. 21.

To those unfamiliar with mission school systems in India the possibilities for a strong Christian influence in Christian sponsored schools should be axiomatic, obvious, and a convincing witness. Those familiar with the present-day scene, however, realize that concepts taken for granted in predominantly Christian countries are goals toward which one must work in this country where Christians total a minority of less than 3 per cent. Especially is this true when the attitude and “set” of the mass of the people is directed toward gods other than God in Christ.

As the first effort of Christian witness by American Baptists on the plains of India, Balasore has provided an interesting vantage point for observing the effect of that witness through the years. Taken as but one scene from the unfolding drama in the educational field, the year 1957 provided some unique opportunities.

Through the leadership of the Educational Advisor, the Christian High and Technical School at Balasore was able to secure the services of

an enthusiastic and personable young seminarian, Barnabus Bhonsle, to conduct a week of Christian Emphasis before Easter. The School Chaplain worked with the local church to make the best use of the speaker's time and to present an integrated church-school program. Five boys registered their decisions to seek to follow Christ as a result of these presentations and the Chaplain effectively followed up in the necessary area of realizing the meaning of discipleship.

The middle of April the School held Open House to demonstrate to parents and members of the community the type of education offered. And, whereas the Technical Section had often demonstrated the machines and products of its departments, the emphasis this year was a combined effort directed toward capturing the interest of both parents and students in the breadth of training available to them . . . in contrast to the "typical" situations where there is a sharp division between the academic and technical fields.

The closing of the School at the end of May was ably handled by the Headmaster of the Academic Section and the Superintendent of the Technical Section. The reopening of School the middle of June was delayed, by a Government order, for 15 days because of the 'flu' epidemic (ordinarily the Technical Section has only a 15 day summer vacation and the Academic Section about one month). Dr. Gittings of the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, on a mission fields tour, presented a Merit Scholarship for the Technical Section to a boy who is a product of the Bhimpore mission schools. The boy, Benjamin Mahata, stood first in the entrance examinations in which 57 took part but only 19 were accepted because of lack of facilities to accommodate more.

With the beginning of the new semester, religious study cards were completed for all Technical Section students to help assess their needs and assist the Chaplain in directing their activities. Three months after the opening of School, Rev. Solomon Sahu, a trained teacher with a diploma in theology, was secured to replace a former Technical Section

student who had been temporarily acting in the capacity of Chaplain. As one of several teachers resident on the compound and serving both sections of the School, the present Chaplain is Hostel Master for the Academic Section and in the position to unite the life in hostel, school, and church into a purposeful Christian combination for the students.

The end of August, Isaac Nayak returned home after a year's study in the Industrial Arts Department of San Jose State College in California. Isaac had many kind words about the fellowship of the Christian people he met while there (he lived in the home of the Pastor of San Jose Grace Church) and was eager to begin to work out some of the useful ideas and projects of his study. Isaac is now acting as "Supervisor of Instruction" in the Technical Section, besides teaching the Engineering Sciences. Isaac's return has made a noticeable difference in the life of the School already and he will undoubtedly have further opportunity to exercise his talents in positions of greater responsibility in the future.

September is an average month for student statistics and the Academic Section roll showed 335 in attendance and that 20 of 31 who sat for the matriculation examination were successful—3 from Christian families. Education through the Academic Section, however, is largely a service to the community as there are only 5 Christian teachers (3 of them sharing responsibilities with the Technical Section) of the 15-member staff and only 48 students come from Christian homes—often 3 or 4 from the same family. The Technical Section enrollment was 82 in September, of whom 63 were full-time trade students and the remaining number part-time Commercial Department students taking short unit courses. 14 certificates were granted to those completing trade courses and 16 to the commercial students. 43 students in the Technical Section this year represented 6 distinct national Christian or mission groups and came from 3 different Indian States and East Pakistan. When the Governor of Orissa visited the Technical Section the last of October he noted in the Visitor's Book that, "I found a good atmosphere about the place, the

relationship between the teachers and students being friendly and co-operative." The Governor also planted another teak tree in the row of trees in front of the Technical Section hostels planted by distinguished visitors.

The highlight of the year's activities for teachers was the Teachers' Convention of the Christian Service Society held in Midnapore, West Bengal in November. For the first time in several years the Program Committee did not exclude the Hindu teachers working for the Society, but offered major addresses with a professional as well as inspirational purpose. One feature of the Convention was a field trip to the Indian Institute of Technology at Khargpur. Subsequent evaluations of the Convention from the 21 representatives from the Christian High and Technical School indicated a favorable reaction to the Program Committees planning and an enthusiasm for a similar type of program in future years.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you." I Thess 5:17-18.

Sunday. For our new missionaries, John and Lily Phillips, as they study the Oriya language and as they face new experiences that they may be richly blessed in the certainty that they are in the center of God's will,

Monday. For Naomi Knapp that she may have complete health following two major operations and be able to accomplish the things she most desires before leaving India in September.

- Tuesday.** For consecrated Indian Christian workers to replace those who retire :—
1. A headmistress for Balasore Girls' School.
 2. A trustworthy, trained accountant.
 3. An Executive Secretary.
- Wednesday.** A pastor for the Midnapore Church who can be used of God to unite the members into a Spirit-filled body.
- Thursday.** For Christians working in non-Christian environments that their lives may witness for Christ.
- Friday.** For continued blessing on the Literacy Centers among the Koras, and that such centers may be started by the churches in other areas.
- Saturday.** For guidance in developing a more extensive and intensive health program and for faith to go forward with large plans for ministering to the sick in Christ's name.
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NEWS ITEMS

Missionaries :

Miss Naomi Knapp has had to undergo major surgery at the Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore. It is uncertain how long it will be necessary for her to be under medical care. We ask your prayers that she may have a complete recovery. We are thankful that Wilma Kau could go to Vellore with Naomi and be on hand to help in her capacity as a trained nurse, as well as a friend and missionary colleague.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gilson's address while on furlough is: 437 Hayward Ave., Ames, Iowa. John wrote: "We got 5 days delay en route for Dick on his way from Fort Knox to his posting in Alaska by appealing through the Red Cross, as it is the only chance we would have to see him for another 6 years, so we had a good visit with him. He stood highest in his specialist training class (radio operator) at Fort Knox."

Rev. and Mrs. Glenn R. Hill are living at 1902 W. 81st St., Los Angeles, California. We are happy to report that Shirley's health is much improved and that all the family are in good health.

Rev. and Mrs. L. P. Hunwick announce the arrival of Keith William at the Elgin Nursing Home, Calcutta on January 17th. So Beth Anne and Brian have a brother.

Rev. C. C. Roadarmel was one of the guest speakers at the Convention of Baptist Churches in Assam, held at Jorhat January 21 to 26 inclusive. Messages in English were interpreted in some 6 languages all at the same time.

Miss Hazel Smith has sailing from New York to return to India in May.

New Missionaries :

Our biggest news is that after nearly two years of waiting *Rev. and Mrs. John Phillips* have been granted Government approval for missionary service. By the time *Tidings* reaches the U. S. A. we expect them to be in India. They will be located at Hatigarh, Orissa for study of the Oriya language. More about the Phillipses in our next issue.

Missionaries' Children :

Rev. and Mrs. Norman Roadarmel and their three little daughters arrived in Bangkok, Thailand on Nov. 22nd. They are attending Language School there, studying Thai for two years before undertaking

missionary service in a permanent location. Their address is c/o Presbyterian Field Office, 138 Sathorn Road.

Luella Osgood (Mrs. Richard Spirup) announces the arrival of Peter William, named for both grandfathers, on October 26th, 1957, her first child.

Fred and Ann Osgood announce the arrival of their first baby, Lucinda Lee, on December, 30th, 1957.

Carolyn Roadarmel (Mrs. Wm. Kowalske) announces the arrival of Kenn Mackey on October 31, 1957, a brother for Kerry Lynn.

Annual Conference :-

Our missionary staff, totalling only 15 on the field at present, met in conference at Balasore, January 2nd. and 3rd. The theme of the conference was, "Walk Worthily of the Lord." With Colossians 1:9-14 as the Scripture basis, this theme was developed in the devotional periods by Wilma Kau, Naomi Knapp, and Ruth Daniels. Burt Weidman led an impressive candle-light communion service on the last evening. On both days Mr. Roadarmel reported on the Overseas Planning Conference in the U. S. A. from which he returned December 7th Mr. Isaac Nayak, who returned last year after study in the U. S. A., gave us an interesting account of his observations of church life in the U. S. A. He had first hand experience of church work, as he lived in the home of Rev. Henry Cross, Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, San Jose, California, while attending the university there.

At a dinner where we all sat down together tribute was paid, both in a humorous and serious manner, to Miss Ruth Daniels and Miss Naomi Knapp who will be retiring from service in India in September. Before another conference Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Kau will also be in the U. S. A. on regular furlough. Our numbers will remain the same with the return from furlough of Hazel Smith and Lillian Brueckmann and with John and Lily Phillips arriving before that time.

Cover Page :

The picture showing part of our Mission family was taken during Annual Conference at Balasore by Rev. C. C. Roadarmel. Wilma Kau, Jane Osgood, and Naomi Knapp are also missing from the picture. Beth Anne and Brian Hunwick are the two children who can hardly be seen. The door in the right leads into the Hunwicks' apartment. The door on the left opens into an unoccupied apartment that was used for the Conference meetings.

Members in the picture are :

1st row, left to right : Burton Weidman, Patricia Weidman, Ethel Roadarmel, Ruth Daniels, Susanne Powers.

2nd Row, left to right : Marilyn Hunwick, Louis Kau, William Osgood.

3rd row, left to right : Nina Bowers, Lynn Hunwick, Beatrice Ericson.

The statement about ownership and other particulars about the newspaper entitled "Tidings" as required to be published under Rule 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules 1956.

FORM IV

1. Place of Publication ... Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack
2. Periodicity of its publication ... Quarterly
3. Printer's Name ... Sri P. K. Pradhan
Nationality ... Indian
Address ... Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack
4. Publisher's Name ... Sri P. K. Pradhan
Nationality ... Indian
Address ... Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack
5. Editor's Name ... Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel
Nationality ... American
Address ... P. O. Bhimpore, Dist Midnapore,
6. Names and Address of Individuals who own the newspaper ... W. Bengal
... American Baptist
Bengal Orissa Mission
P. O. Bhimpore, Dist
Midnapore, W. Bengal

Printed and Published by Sri P. K. Pradhan at the Orissa Mission Press
Cuttack, for Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel, P.O. Bhimpore, Dist. Midnapore.

