Tidings

Bihar
Bengal
Orissa

1956
Fourth Quarter
American Baptist Bengal-Orissa Mission
BENGAL-ORISSA FIELD DIRECTORY

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Mrs. Ethel Roadarmel
Miss Hazel Smith
Miss Naomi Knapp
Rev. Burt Weidman
Mrs. Patricia Weidman

Midnapore, Bengal
Miss Ruth Daniels
Rev. Herbert Long
Mrs. Mabel Long

Khargpur, Bengal
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Mr. John Gilson
Mrs. Alice Gilson

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Miss Elsie Kittlitz
Miss Susanne Powers
Rev. Lynn Hunwick
Mrs. Marilyn Hunwick
Rev. Herbert Howson
Mrs. Aileen Howson

Bhadarak, Balasore District, Orissa
Miss Nina Bowers

Hatigarh, via Jaleswar, Orissa
Rev. William Osgood
Mrs. Jane Osgood
Miss Lillian Brueckmann

Salgodia, Hatigarh P.O. Orissa,
Vacant.

Nekursini, Midnapore, Bengal
Rev. Louis Kau
Mrs. Wilma Kau

Jhargram, Bengal
Rev. Glenn Hill
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On Furlough
Miss Beatrice Ericson

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THE CITY CALLS

By Alice Gilson

With Bea Ericson, the Assistant Treasurer’s furlough due and the Home Board and the Christian Service Society insisting on the finishing of the survey of all the Society’s property in Bengal and Orissa, started years ago, it was voted that we should move to Kharagpur, West Bengal. This is where the central office is located, and the most central place from which to reach all the stations.

After pulling up our roots, that had sunk very deep after thirty one years in the same place, we moved 72 miles from Balasore, Orissa to Kharagpur, West Bengal.

Do I hear a murmur about 72 miles not being much of a move? Just call a moving van and they will do it all! Oh, that it had been so easy. There are no bridges, except railway ones, to cross the rivers on; no vans anyway to carry our things, and because there had been a railway strike just before we moved we were unable to get a railway car to take our things.

Taking many, many trips by train and putting a few things each time in the Baggage van, and when arriving in Kharagpur taking things either in a Jeep and trailer or by rickshaw, we finally got moved.

Of course we had several amusing things happen over the month some not so funny and some really nerve shattering. One amusing incident—and it was even amusing at the time—while moving our oil stove we found the dirty oil had clogged the pipe while we were letting it out,
so John said, "Step back and I'll blow through". I stepped back, but what I should have done was run away. Anyway he blew. Dirty oil and water hit me on the head, on my glasses, down my front and dripped on my shoes. All he could say was, "It is a good thing you were there or it would have hit the wall"!

Then the question was what to do with 8 large rooms of things to fit them into 5 smaller rooms. By using the screened veranda as a room, and part of the pantry for our trunks, we have a place for everything.

So we country folks got moved to the city.

Our first impression was noise and dirt. On the west about 150 ft. is the railway line with passenger trains running every hour going each way to Midnapur and then many freight trains. Within two blocks are two level crossings and loud and long whistles for each. Just a few yards beyond this is the moving picture house with a loud speaker outside to draw the crowds. East of us is the main road from the railway workshops the bazar, and the main road to Midnapur with busses going every ten minutes, and all night long rickshaws, trucks and loud-talking pedestrians.

This road also leads to the burning ghat. The Hindus' custom is to carry their dead on a stretcher with a canopy of flowers and bright colored cloth over them to this ghat to burn. Some are carried in a chair-like litter with also flowers and canopy over them. Before the corpse goes the band. One of the instruments is a horn that they blow with one minor note like a wail. This sounds all the time.

The temple is just over the way so all the festival days, which are many, are celebrated all night and all day with loud speakers, fireworks, and all kinds of shouting.

The wedding parties also go by this road, and if the wedding is near the loud speaker goes also all day and all night, also fireworks. Sometimes there are only two or three records. These are very colourful times, everybody and their things gayly decorated.
But now after three months we hardly notice the noise only when we try to talk when a couple of trains pass on the level crossings. We always give way to that noise. I still am not used to the funerals; sometimes there are five or six a day.

The Oriya Church gave us such a nice welcome and seem so pleased with our coming as we are the only Oriya speaking missionaries they have ever had here at this Oriya speaking people’s church, so we feel right at home.

Then the English church here is such a friendly church and it is nice to have a chance to worship there with Rev. Sanford’s helpful sermons.

I have enjoyed teaching a Sunday School class of junior boys and girls. Just now the practice for the Christmas program is very interesting. The Christmas season has begun. With helping in both churches it will be a busy, happy, season.

So as we start in a new place, with work that is not our first choice, may we always have peace in our hearts and remember the song, “Where he leads me I will follow”, no matter how hard it is.

“In Everything Give Thanks” I Thess. 5 : 18

RECIPES FOR THANKFULNESS

BY NINA BOWERS

For health— I am grateful for health and strength to carry on a very full program in villages and churches. An adolescent boy who cannot walk, one to whom the Lord has given skill in painting and drawing, has painted a poster we are using in the churches. Considering his inability, I am glad I can walk miles.
For a comfortable bed— Sleep for two or three weeks on a thirty-inch wide cot under a mosquito net that keeps out both breeze and mosquitoes. Follow this with a few nights on a spring mattress, and appreciation thereof is guaranteed.

For food— This year when thousands are homeless and have had standing crops washed away by floods, we are grateful for food and safety. Particularly with respect to food we have learned with Paul in whatsoever circumstances we find ourselves, therewith to be content.

For electricity—After months of using lanterns, those smoky, flickering dispensers of dim light, we rejoice that we have electricity in the house. Occasionally I am home to enjoy reading at night and the luxury of dresses properly ironed.

For Privacy—Children and their elders maintain constant interest in the way I eat and sleep, bathe and dress. I do appreciate the little house with doors that lock so no one can peer in or come in.

For hospitality—How kind folks have been in the villages to prepare for our arrival! One pastor lent us his house which was then empty. Before our coming he had it leeped and ready. Nor will we soon forget the Punjabi woman who put two beautifully embroidered clean sheets on a bed, bade us be seated and told her daughter to talk with us while she prepared tea. She had never seen us before, and all conversation was in Hindi, neither her mother tongue nor ours. How deep is the fellowship between fellow believers in Christ!

For consecrated leaders—I think of a group of well-educated Sunday School teachers who carried on a lively discussion and
made far-reaching plans. I remember a church secretary who gave three days of his vacation to take us to the homes of church members. We now have for the first time a young man with a B.D. degree.

For Salvation and the privilege of making the way known to others—When we see the elaborate floats and decorations, hear the fireworks, and realize the money spent for puja worship and the fear and superstition that produces such worship, we rejoice in knowing God who must be worshipped in spirit and truth.

For Bible, Testaments, and Christian literature to more nearly meet the demand—We were able to supply a Bible to a group of lepers seeking to learn about God.

For greater interest in women’s work—This year twelve more churches gave to the women’s special project of supporting a nurse. Many women came to the Conference for the first time, including four village women whose husbands have never before let their wives leave home without them. The awakening interest among Kora women is particularly encouraging.

For churches which are giving a larger share of their pastor’s salaries—Many people set aside a part of their rice crop for this purpose.

For those who are being saved—Young people, young parents, older folks. I think of the joy in the faces of a young couple who were formerly Muslims.

For young people whom God is using and preparing for His service—How the memories come tumbling along: a group of young men who wrote, memorized and put on two plays, lasting
for four hours; young men and their wives in Bible school entering enthusiastically into the celebration of a Christian Home week; a girl married this year for whom her mother-in-law had genuine praise and thanksgiving that God had sent the right daughter into their home; young men teaching Sunday School classes; ten junior high boys who used part of their vacation to teach Bible Schools in their own villages.

Please join me in giving thanks for these blessings.

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PRAYER VIGIL IN HATIGARH

BY L. BRUECKMANN

The 24 Hour Prayer Vigil brought many blessings to the church in Hatigarh, Orissa. The Vigil was observed from 6 p.m. November 9 until 6 p.m. November 10. It was through the interest of the members of the women’s samiti that the church decided to take part in the Chain of Prayer which is being carried on throughout India during 1956. From July until November the need for more concerted effort in prayer was brought before the women. The plan and purpose of the Prayer Vigil, as well as reports of its observance in various churches, had been published in the Prabhati Tara, Oriya Christian Magazine. These articles were read by the women in their Wednesday afternoon meeting. The women agreed to observe the Vigil and one of their members presented the matter to the church in a Sunday worship service. House to house visitation was done by a group of twelve people to stimulate interest among the church members and to enlist as many individuals as possible for definite hours in the Vigil. Approximately 150 persons signed up for at least one hour. A leaders prayer service was held three days before the Vigil. This was conducted in the manner in which each leader would be expected to conduct the hour of prayer for which he was responsible. A sheet giving
the general prayer objects as well as specific objects of prayer or each hour, a suggested list of prayer hymns, and scripture portions, was given to each leader, as well as a list of the names of those persons who had signed up for his hour of prayer. On a large sheet was prepared a schedule of the 24 hours, giving the names of the leader and of each member of the prayer group for each hour. Any one was free to participate at any time during the vigil but those who had signed their names for a certain hour felt they had a special obligation to be present at that time. This schedule was posted before the congregation on the previous Sunday and several times during the week. A number of young men were present throughout the night hours.

Many have testified to the deepening of their spiritual lives through this Prayer Vigil, several individuals and families who had been estranged, in one case for a period of three years, were reconciled. A number of people have suggested that the Prayer Vigil be repeated at least once every year. Another suggestion has been made that prayer cells be started throughout the village and at least one such group is meeting in a home each Friday evening. Several gave testimony that the time of the Prayer Vigil passed very rapidly and had they been asked to continue another 24 hours they would gladly have done so.

FROM A HATIGARH STATION LETTER

By W. C. Osgood.

The population growth (net gain of births over deaths) is approximately 365 times the growth of the church in the Bengal-Orissa area so the need for evangelism is very evident. The development of a new community which shall carry forward Christ's work is central in mission and church work in this or any other land. At the moment in the Hatigarh area we have three teams of pastors and Bible women working out from three of our small Santol churches with projectors and slides and
gramophones and records and a good supply of appropriate Christian literature trying to spread the message and to enlist members of the local church in witness.

Our literature funds have helped on 16 titles in three languages which are either in the press or recently off it. These include a wide range of subjects. Bible Correspondence and Study Booklets for Christians and non-Christians, Hymn and Evangelistic songbooks, Christian Home materials, Youth program materials and the like. A number of other titles are in preparation. The Oriya Bible Correspondence courses are belatedly following the Bengali off to a good start. Help has been given on Adult Literacy materials and theological textbooks as well.

So far this year, in our particular area the 6 times higher quotas on self support accepted by the churches have been largely raised though for the most part it has been the tithes of workers more than widespread response of the rank and file of the church membership that has made the advance possible and even here it has been somewhat patchy response. Much more stewardship emphasis will be necessary to broaden the base of support. We have just completed a series of four Bible studies and four sermon outlines for use on a field wide emphasis on stewardship in January 1957. Quite a number of young people from the area are taking home study-courses for lay training and a number took the preliminary examination for admission to Cuttack Bible School. The Young People's Institute on the Oriya end of the field was attended by nearly 90 and had a satisfying result in changed lives. My share in the Institute included talks on Young People and Social Problems and leadership of a discussion group.

Mrs. Osgood was one of several group discussion leaders at the Annual Mission Meeting where the reviewing and consideration of Donald McGavran's book "The Bridges of God" with reference to the application of some of its ideas for increasing the rate of church growth on our field was given major consideration. The revival we long to see is not
yet here in full power but with the help of your prayers we hope to see it break out in power before long.

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**THIS AND THAT**

The 119th Annual Mission Conference was held in Balasore from Nov. 20-22. "Go ye therefore and make disciples" was chosen as the theme of the Conference and Mr. Romanjulu, pastor of Christ Church in Jamshedpur, brought a series of inspirational messages. Considerable time was devoted to a discussion of Dr. D. Magavran's book "The Bridges of God" very ably led by Rev. C. G. Vichert. Three members of our mission expect to retire before the next mission Conference, Miss Elsie Kittlitz and Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Long. Following one of the evening sessions Miss Ruth Daniels and Miss Naomi Knapp made farewell speeches and presented them with gifts.

At one of the afternoon sessions, Brian Hunwick and Sharon Howson were dedicated with Dr. W. C. Osgood conducting the service.

It was a disappointment that Mr. and Mrs. Burt. Weidman were delayed so that they did not arrive in time to be welcomed at the conference but nevertheless, a very warm welcome is extended to them as they begin their work in the Mission.

Mrs. Herbert Long was dismissed from Vellore Hospital in time to attend the last day of Conference with Mr. Long and it was a real joy to know that prayer on her behalf is being answered. The last operation has been declared successful and she hopes to discard her crutches soon.

Rev. Norman Roadarmel, elder son of Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel, who is under appointment of the Presbyterian Mission for service in India, writes that he will be at Cornell University from Jan. 8th to Feb. 3rd for the agricultural course for missionaries. Following this he will attend a ten day extension course in Washington, D. C. which
ties in with the one at Cornell and is sponsored also by Rural Missions, Inc. If visas are granted in time, Norman and his family will sail from New York on February 20, 1957, in company with other Presbyterian Missionaries Appointed to India.

We, as a Mission, extend our deep sympathy to Rev. Luman F. Marsh and his family in the sudden home-going of Mrs. Marsh. We regret that the word of the tragic automobile accident which occurred on August 28th did not reach us until after the middle of October. Luman and Ruth Marsh came to India in 1930 and were in charge of the English speaking church in Jamshedpur until 1934 when Luman was transferred to Rangoon, Burma. Unfortunately, Ruth's health made it impossible for them to continue in the Orient and before the end of 1934 they returned to the U.S.A. Luman accepted the pastorate of the Trinity Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio and continued in the ministry there until this year when he accepted a call to Clasper, Iowa.

Those of us who knew the Marshes have happy memories of their gracious hospitality. Ruth was a gifted pianist. She loved children and opened the first kindergarten of our Mission in Jamshedpur, rearranging her home so that it could be carried on there. She welcomed as a part of her family Gordon Roadarmel when he was only six months old, and Norman, who was four years, when their mother had to be in a Calcutta Hospital. Her heart, as well as her home, was open to the people among whom she served both in India and the U.S.A.

Rev. Leonard Gittings, formerly a missionary in the Belgian Congo, who was served in the Dept. of Missions at Northern Theological Seminary, and who now is on the staff at Berkeley Divinity, writes that he expects to arrive in India towards the end of June, 1957, for a three
weeks visit. During this time he hopes to visit our Assam Mission and the stations in Bengal-Orissa which are located on the railroad en route to Madras.

Dr. August Hintz, pastor of the No. Shore Baptist Church, Chicago and President of the Foreign Mission Societies is to direct a tour to Mission fields sponsored by the Foreign Mission Boards and the C.M.C. leaving New York on Feb. 6, 1957. There will be 18 members in the party. This round-the-world tour is to be completed in 45 days, so the time in India will be very limited. Here they will divide into smaller groups for visiting Mission work, so that not more than six, and possibly only three persons will be in any one area at the same time. Mr. Roadarmel, in correspondence with Dr. Farnum, is working out an itinerary for Bengal and Orissa. Members of the tour are arranging their own expenses so that no funds of the Societies will be invested in this trip.

Dr. Hintz visited in our Mission for a short time in January, 1953. We look forward to having him and the members of this tour in our midst.

Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Osgood are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Luella Lee, to Richard Spirup, on Christmas day, in Concord, California. They expect to live in Newberg, Oregon, near Portland.

FROM THE VISITORS BOOK

"I have just completed a two week stay and visit to the Balasore Technical School. These two weeks were spent working with students and staff as a Fulbright Teacher in India. I found both student body and staff very cooperative in my study. The standards and training of the students are on a high level and compare much better than the other technical schools I have visited."

FLOYD LOWELL JACKSON,

December 20, 1956.
The Christian High and Technical School was privileged to have Mr. Jackson and his wife visit and share in the life of the school for 2 weeks in December. Mr. Jackson has been a professor of Industrial Arts at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, since 1946 and is spending his sabbatical leave in India as a Fulbright Teacher. Especially equipped to analyze and assist the Government of India in the field of technical education, Mr. Jackson's services were made available through the Ministry of Education and the All India Council for Secondary Education. The actual programming of institutions for Mr. Jackson was done with the cooperation of the United States Educational Foundation in India and by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Isabella Thoburn.

Mr. Jackson was welcomed by the staff and student body upon his arrival at the Railway Station in Balasore and followed an outline of activities drawn up by a steering committee of the Technical School Teacher's Association. Mr. Jackson's activities included a program of work in the school and familiarization with the locale by meetings with the people and visiting points of interest in the area in and around Balasore Town.

To acquaint Mr. Jackson with the community, he was shown the Balasore bazaars by rickshaw. Then, accompanied by the Civil Surgeon, he toured the local hospital, jail, nearby agricultural school, new electrical power station under construction and saw historic landmarks dating from the 16th century. So that he might see something of rural India, he went by jeep and boat to a neighboring village where one of the teachers demonstrated the harvesting of rice and entertained him in an Indian home. The Jacksons also viewed the Bay of Bengal from the Proof and Experiment Beach at Chandipur. Two teas were held to introduce Mrs. Jackson to the staff wives and the other ladies of Balasore.

Mr. Jackson's work in the school included spending time in each department and analyzing and assisting in solving problems with the
instructors. He demonstrated Industrial Arts techniques in specific shops and was the guest speaker at a Teacher’s Meeting—where he ably fielded questions from the group and gave helpful suggestions for the improvement of the school. He participated in the conducted tour through the Technical Section for the Governor of Orissa and along with the Governor planted a teak tree in front of the hostels.

Entering into the life of the schools, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson shared typical rice and curry meals with both the Academic and Technical Sections. At the conclusion of the Annual Sports Day the Superintendent thanked Mr. Jackson for his assistance and presented him with a bookrest and models of an Indian plow and a folding ladder.

Mr. Jackson’s visit has been an enriching experience for the Technical Section particularly because he has been one of the few visitors to stay long enough to appreciate the conditions under which the school operates and make constructive suggestions for the improvement of instruction. In addition, Mr. Jackson has shown some of the untapped educational resources available to schools such as this and demonstrated the feasibility of a direct teacher-exchange program with other countries.

L. P. Hunwick.