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Local subscriptions from Mrs. C. C. Roadarmel, Midnapore, Bengal
BEGINNINGS IN KHARGPUR
(Taken from the reports of the late Dr. J. H. Oxrieder)

BY ETHEL N. ROADARMEL

Christian work in Khargpur began with missionaries of the Free Baptist Missionary Society making the trip from Midnapore, ten miles away, either by bullock cart or bicycle. Miss Lavina Coombs, who first came to India in January, 1883, started the first Sunday School in 1899 when the first houses of the new Khargpur Railway Settlement were completed. English-speaking children, mostly Anglo-Indians, were gathered together on an open veranda in front of one of the railway offices to sing hymns and hear Bible stories, and memorize Scripture verses. At first only ten children came, but the numbers increased during that year to 30 on the roll, and 20 in regular attendance.

The church service began with only a few in attendance; never more than 15 at any one service and often only 4 or 5. Brother J. B. Rao was the first to conduct these preaching services. We do not find his name among the pioneer missionaries, so conclude that he was a Christian layman. "In September, 1900, he was obliged to give up the work on account of ill health, and he soon passed to his heavenly home. At the time he was obliged to give up the work, Rev. H. E. Wyman was asked to take over the work of the church, and Mrs. Wyman to care for the Sunday School."

"On the first of August, 1900, the first business meeting of our Society was held and Mr. J. E. L. Bunyan was elected Treasurer, but almost no money was ever given except for Sunday School, so the Treasurer had little to do. About this time Rev. and Mrs. H. E. Wyman
felt that a man and his wife should be sent from home to take charge of this English work and of Indian work also in Khargpur, as it developed. Few of the missionaries on the field were interested in the English work, considering it outside of our program, but after much discussion, and Mr. Wyman's continual urging, a motion was passed asking the Home Board in America to secure a man and his wife for this work.

"In 1902 Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Oxrieder were sent out to take charge. That year regular work among the Indian people was begun and sustained. During the year an appeal for money for a church building and parsonage was made to the Home Board, but, although a family had been sent, even in America not much interest could be aroused for English work. It was felt that it was no part of the Free Baptist program to do work among the European population. That should be left to the British."

As the editor reported in Tidings, second quarter, 1959, the difficulties and discouragements that Mr. and Mrs. Oxrieder faced as new missionaries make challenging reading for present-day missionaries. In fact, Mr. Oxrieder's report of this pioneering work should inspire all who read it. And so, I quote from this report.

"Mrs. Oxrieder and I arrived on the field, the second Sunday in December, 1902, taking up our work at once. Rev. and Mrs. Wyman consented to keep charge until the beginning of the new year, as they knew about the Christmas program which had already been planned, but they were not to be expected to take any church services or help with the Sunday School. They were very busy getting ready for furlough, as well as doing the Midnapore station work. Full charge of the work was turned over to us on January, 1st, 1903. Among the residents interested and helpful in this work from its earliest beginning were Mr. and Mrs. Watkins-Ball, Mr. and Mrs. Walters and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bunyan and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Facer and family. These good people with
others gave much assistance and encouragement to the new missionaries in the difficulties that confronted them in the early days when the work was being established.

We lived at Midnapore from the time we came to this work for about three years, because the Railway would not rent us a house, neither would the Railway Officials allow us to stay overnight at the station.

The services were then held in the District Traffic Officer's office; a room about 14' by 16' in size, at 5 P. M. on Sundays. Attendance varied from 4 to 30, but more often we had during the first six months 6 to 12 people. The Sunday School was held in the same room. After the first six months both Sunday School and the church services began to grow. The S. S. soon had an enrollment of 108, and the church services grew to 40, so we were compelled to move outside on the veranda.

Mr. Wyman had tried hard to secure a site for a church building and a Mission house. After we came we did our best to get the Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to consider our appeal favorably. He either refused us outright, or told us to show just why we should be granted land for church purposes. Letter after letter was sent in, and petition after petition signed by the people of Khargpur asking that land be given, but we were only told that the Company could not see its way clear to grant land for such purposes. Still we did not give up, but kept presenting our case.

The attendance at services kept growing. In 1905 there came a new man as the District Traffic Officer. One Sunday, shortly after he took charge, he became angry, for what reason we were never able to learn. He kicked our chairs off the veranda and smashed them, leaving word that we were not to hold services there any longer. This necessitated our finding a new place at once. Mr. and Mrs. Facer, who lived just across the road from where we had been meeting, come to us and kindly offered us the use of their veranda, which we accepted.
I wrote to this officer asking for an explanation regarding his conduct in breaking up our furniture and his refusal to let us use the room and veranda which had been given us by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Agent, but he never replied. I then wrote to the Agent, applying for use of the B. N. Railway Institute, which had been refused by the officers at Khargpur, but on receiving a reply from the Agent saying that if we were refused the use of the D.T.O’s office, he was sure that we could use the Institute, I forwarded this to the Secretary of the Institute and its use was voted to us. Through the influence of Khargpur people, who were members of the Institute (a center for non-official folks of the Railway), we were able to secure the use of it from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Sunday. The Secretary made this grant just a month after I had applied, but we received the notice on Dec. 13th, 1905, two months after the application. Two weeks later we moved our Sunday School and church service into the Institute. From this time on, the work grew in numbers and interest. Soon the Sunday School had an enrollment of 130, and the church attendance ran as high as 125, with an average of about 90.

All this time we were not idle regarding land on which to build, but each time met with the same reply or excuse from the Railway officials. At this time we began trying to purchase land outside the Railway grounds for a home. Here also for a time we met only with refusal, until in Oct. 1905, we succeeded in buying a piece of land about 1 ½ miles from the Railway Station to the southwest. This land lay just east of the track that goes to Balasore. After much trouble we at last secured title to it on Nov. 16th, 1905.

There was great rejoicing among us all, for now we would be able to build a house and live in Khargpur. We then decided to rent an old two room mud house, which had a corrugated sheet roof, and to move to Khargpur. Soon we were in our little house and we began to feel there was some hope for the work. Appeal, after appeal had been sent to the Home Board asking for money for this work, but no response had come.
No one seemed interested. Rev, M. J. Coldren, D. D., one of our oldest missionaries at the time, felt so strongly that there was no call for this work that he urged us to give it up, saying one great proof was that no land could be secured from the Railway Company and that no money was forthcoming from home. He advised that we give up the English work, but still carry on the Indian work through missionaries located at Midnapore. Within three months after his urging this course, a man at home sent $3,000 to build a house. He never would let his name be known, saying only that he was a friend of the Oxrieders and wished to help. Also, $5,000 had been given by Mr. I. T. Stone for a church building, providing land could be secured from the Railway Company within one year on which to build.

At this time a new Agent, Mr. Manson, had arrived. He seemed a different type of man and one thoroughly interested in Christian work. He was a Scotsman and a fine man. The Mission Conference voted for Rev. Griffin and Rev. Oxrieder to see him and lay matters before him. We now had the money and could state just what we could and were prepared to do. Mr. Griffin talked with him and he agreed to look into the matter at once and to give us an answer within two weeks.

On Dec. 12th, 1905, I was asked to call on the District Engineer at Khargpnr with reference to the selection of a suitable site. There was considerable difficulty at first. The District Engineer did not wish to give us any piece of land which we felt would answer our needs. Finally, a site was selected, near the Officers' Club, which was not what we would have chosen. We were disappointed, but the very next day I was called to the office of the D. E. and was told that because of the objection of Mr. Jellett, who at one time had been D. E. and who was much interested in our getting a good location, we could not have the land selected the day before. But he thought they could give us land that would suit us just as well. When we were taken to the place and were told that it was ours if we
liked, well, we surely felt that through all our struggle the Lord had been on our side. Money was in hand, the people had been faithful, Sunday School and church services had grown beyond all expectation, and now we were given one of the most choice sites in the city. We certainly ought to praise His name and take courage.

At the time of writing these words the house is nearly completed, and the foundation of the church is laid. The corner stone is to be laid this week, July, 26th, 1906. So we are all rejoicing in the blessing which the Lord has bestowed upon us. May His blessing ever rest on the work which has passed through such hard times, and has at last emerged into better days."

Rev. and Mrs. Oxrieder continued in missionary service until 1931 when ill health made it necessary for them to return to the U.S.A. Mr. Oxrieder passed away in Granville, Ohio on Nov. 21st, 1938. Mrs. Oxrieder still lives in Granville and through her interest and prayers continues to help in the work in India.

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A LIVING WITNESS
(Glimpses into the life of a humble and happy Christian)

BY MISS TORULATA DUTTA

In the small Santal village of Chainasole there lives a humble and happy Christian, the oldest man in his village. In 1914 Sushil Hansda was one of the first in Chainasole to break away from the animistic religion of the Santals and accept Christ as his personal Saviour. Hatred and persecution followed on the part of the non-Christians, including his own relatives. Even his wife refused to stay with him and went to be with her parents, where she remained for seven long years. Sushil faced this opposition in a truly Christ-like spirit, knowing the courage and strength
that comes from doing God’s will. Much time each day was spent in prayer and Bible study, a habit formed as a young Christian which has continued all through his life.

By the witness of his life in his work and the use of his time he showed that Christ had transformed his life. He started a Primary School in his house to which the village children came, after some of the opposition to him had died down. Even at night he conducted classes. Sometimes children from distant places came to his house and always found welcome, with food and shelter.

Today, by Indian standards, Sushil Babu is an old man, as you can see by the cover picture of this issue of Tidings. You can also see that he is a happy man. In his younger days he had a fine physique and he was fond of manual labor. One could see him every day working in his garden or his rice fields. Because of his love of the land and his hard work he always had rice, and plenty of fruit and vegetables in season. Many shared in the results of his labor. In an area where many are very poor, Sushil Babu is considered to be well-to-do. His generosity is known to all. In his home his motto is: “Give and it shall be given unto you.” He believes that the supply increases as one gives to others.

Many in Sushil Babu’s village are now Christians, and all of his relatives are now followers of Christ. At the end of his day’s work village folks would gather at his home where he would lead them in Bible study and prayer. Since his wife rejoined him and found Christ, she, too, has made their home a centre where Christ is glorified. The picture of this happy, old couple reading the Word of God was printed on the cover page some years ago of the American Baptist publication, Crusader. Their daughter, Sukumari, has been for many years a teacher in the Girls’ School at Bhimpore.

Today, because of physical limitations, Sushil Babu feels that he cannot do much, but the life of this godly person is a beautiful and shining light. “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, who is in heaven”. Matt. 5: 16.
"Sir, I am glad you are publishing the truth. Why do you not publish the whole Truth? The Constitution of the land and the assurance of Sri Nehru on more than one occasion guarantee the freedom of speech and expression." Thus wrote a non-Christian, living not far from Calcutta, to the Secretary of the Calcutta Branch of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon. The implication that the whole Truth was not published is based on the fact that St. Mark's gospel is being published regularly in the Sunday editions of a Bengali newspaper, in serial form. The questioner must have known that this was only part of the Christian Scriptures.

Newspaper evangelism is one of the many ways being used to reach the educated non-Christian people of India. Mr. R. N. Das, formerly professor of Economics at Serampore College and at the Scottish Church College, Calcutta, is now Secretary of the Calcutta Branch of the B.S.I.C. He is a Baptist and at one time taught in our High School at Bhimpore. His report of what is being accomplished through the circulation of the whole Bible, the New Testament, and portions of Scripture is encouraging reading.

The Bengali daily newspaper in which the Bible Society has Scripture readings has a circulation of about 80,000 copies. St. Mark's gospel has also been published in serial form this past year in the Oriya language in a daily paper in Orissa. The managers of these two secular newspapers gave very considerable reduction for the space used, and both felt the project was worth-while. From the letters that come to him from inquirers who have read the Scriptures in newspapers Mr. Das says "I was amazed and thrilled to have this fact of deep thirst for the Word of God in the hearts of men and women revealed to me."
In his annual report for 1958, he says, "In Orissa, a non-Christian had almost decided to commit suicide, but the Word of God, read in the newspaper 'Samaj,' opened up his mind. He has been a great help in distribution of Gospels among non-Christians. There is still another who has definitely come out from sitting on the fence by open confession and has been an agent in voluntary colportage. How wonderful are the ways of God to lead men and women to the foot of the Cross and the Saviour!"

Gospel portions in different languages are given to inquirers and some who learn of the Bible Correspondence Courses that are available enroll for one of these.

Students who have passed their School Final examinations, the equivalent of High School graduation in the U.S.A., are given copies of the Four Gospels and Acts; college graduates are given the New Testament and Psalms. The distribution of gift Scriptures through the Bible Society in W. Bengal, Bihar and Orissa for the past year was 5,297 copies.

"Some Christian workers are regularly distributing in hospitals and clinics Scriptures, along with personal contacts and conversations with the patients. At the request of the Inspector of Prisons in Orissa, Bibles in Oriya have been supplied to 12 District jails of the State."

By means of a Bible Society van with an evangelist, remote rural areas are reached with the Word of God and Christians in these isolated areas learn how they can help in evangelistic work through the use of Scripture.

Since 1955 the Bible Society of India and Ceylon has been stressing the fact that there should be a complete Bible in every Christian home. This, of course, means in the language of the family. This campaign still goes on in co-operation with the local churches. Bibles are sold at a
subsidized price to poor Christians who could not afford to pay even the equivalent of one dollar for a copy. Miss Subarna Sahu serves as a full time lady Secretary and spends much time visiting women's and children's groups. Through her visits to Bhimpore and Midnapore the Women's Societies of these two Baptist churches of our area learned more than they had known before of the outreach of the Bible Society and decided to make the annual contribution which makes them members of the Society.

We agree with Mr, Das in his conclusion of his Annual Report, from which the above information is taken, that, “We need a corporate effort, deeper fellowship and wider vision of the vast field of work in this sub-continent of India. There is a vast field of uncovered areas where the light of the Gospel has not yet penetrated. Opportunities are many, but consecrated laborers are few. Every church should have an evangelistic outlook and evangelistic out-reach. There is an appeal to every church for making it a center of distribution of the Word of God.”

Editor’s Notes.

The information contained in this article has been taken from “The Annual Report of the Bible Society of India and Ceylon for 1958, Calcutta Auxiliary.”

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GROWTH OF WOMEN’S WORK

By Satyabati Behera

Chairman Women’s Work Committee

We have cause to rejoice over the growth of the Women’s Work in the areas where we serve in Bengal, Orissa and Bihar States. The first Bengal-Orissa Women’s Conference was held in Jaleswar, Orissa, thirty-six years ago. It was organized by Miss Barnes and Miss Coe who were
missionaries at that time. Miss Coe sent her greetings to the 1958 Conference in which she commented on the fact that several of the women who had parts on the program were just young girls at the time of the first Conference.

In 1938 women from nine churches took part in the Annual Conference and Rs. 178 (approximately $45.00) was given in the offerings. In 1946, which was the 25th Jubilee year of our Women's Conference, twenty-one churches participated. Offerings for the support of women workers amounted to Rs. 367 ($92 approx.) In addition to this, a Special Jubilee Fund was raised to which women from twelve churches contributed and which, with personal gifts from friends, brought the total amount of giving to Rs. 1,064 ($266 approx). This fund was used to subsidize the publication in Oriya and Bengali of the book, "The Child in the Midst," by Dr. Bryce. This book still continues to be a blessing as it is read in many homes.

The number of churches represented at the Conference in 1954 increased to forty out of the fifty-one in our field and the offering totalled Rs. 847 ($175.00). From these annual gifts of the women five Bible-women workers were supported between 1938 and 1954. Since 1954 Miss Surodhoni Hansda, a trained nurse, working with a Bible-woman in a village Medical-Evangelistic Center, has been supported by the gifts of the Women's Conference. The work at this Center has been difficult, but gradually a spirit of confidence in the workers, in the use of medicines dispensed, and in the Word of God, is replacing a feeling of prejudice on the part of certain members of the community. Women are making every effort to increase their contributions to the Lord's work through the Christian Service Society, which is responsible for the appointment of pastors and for work through the village churches, and thus to increase the spirit of self-support among the churches.
During the past year through the organizing of women's conferences in the Dampara area in Bihar and the Belda area in Bengal, among Santal and Kora villagers respectively, the women's work in these areas has been strengthened. Even with crop failures, the increased zeal of these tribal women has meant an increase in giving. When the conference in the Belda area was called six women arrived a day early, having misunderstood the date. At the close of the meetings these six women came aside quietly to express their sincere gratitude for the help they had received.

At the first conference of Santal women in the Dampara area more than 70 women attended. Training was given in how to conduct family worship, Sunday School, and local women's group meetings.

The women of the nine churches of the Hatigarh area, Orissa, have been carrying on their own area conference for the past twenty-one years. This has brought about considerable growth in interest and in the development of leadership among the women.

There is an annual retreat for pastors' wives which has helped to make these women of greater assistance to their husbands in the work of their respective churches.

In Balasore a Vacation Bible School for girls has been held for the past five years. The girls have entered into this program with great enthusiasm. We are grateful to the young women who voluntarily have helped in the program.

Christian young women who have studied in our Schools, some of whom have gone on to college and training schools, are serving as nurses and teachers. Miss Aloka Marndy of Bhimpore has her medical degree from Vellore Medical College and is taking advanced courses there. Another Santal girl has completed her nurses training at Vellore and is serving there, and a Kora girl is in training. Miss Tushar Tudu is a
member of the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal. Three young women have completed the two-year course in the Cuttack Theological School and have begun their evangelistic work. Doris Chapman, an Anglo-Indian member of our Khargpur Union Church, is a graduate of the four-year course at Yeotmal Seminary, and is serving among her own people, and also assisting in village work as opportunity comes.

We are thankful for renewed interest among the women of several of our city churches. It is a cause for rejoicing that during the past twenty-one years the number of our women evangelistic workers has increased until now we have a total of twenty-two full-time, paid workers for our entire field. Pray for continued growth in this work among women both in the villages and in the towns, and especially for God’s guidance for all who are sharing in this work.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD

"I was born and brought up in a Christian family. My father was an earnest Christian and he made a deep impression on me in my childhood. As the years went by, I came to love the Lord more dearly. I was given the opportunity of helping my husband in Christian work. I found real joy in it, but I knew all the time that I was lacking something.

Attending the meetings of the "Life in Christ" Campaign in Khargpur, my mind was disturbed. Dr. Haqq in one of his messages preached on: "The Leaven of the Pharisees." The Holy Spirit opened my eyes and I began to see myself as a wretched sinner who was miserably self-righteous. I had taken self-pride in all the talents that the Lord had given me and I also never lost an opportunity of criticizing other people. Satan kept restraining me from responding to the altar call, and told me that I was not ready yet to take my stand for Christ. But the
Holy Spirit was present there, too, and warned me that I would not have this deep longing for God if I kept putting it off. In the meantime I had been washing the feet of the Lord with my tears. Then I heard the choir sing: “Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling”...how could I ever forget the graciousness of my Lord! I walked to the front, determined to do my part and leave the rest to the Lord. With a broken heart I prayed: “Please, Lord, do not let me go empty-handed. I shall never be able to bear it, and will be more wretched than I was ever before.” Then, I experienced a strange peace flooding my soul, like cool showers falling without ceasing. After all the years of my struggle in vain to live a good Christian life on my own, the Lord came to take complete control of me. He has planted my feet on high places of personal fellowship with Him. I am still overwhelmed by the wonder of it. On the night of my encounter with the Lord, even on my way home in the bus, I was conscious of the peace of God permeating my whole being, my mind and my soul. Since then everything is changed; I cannot be my old self again.”

The editor counts it a privilege to have known for a number of years the one who has shared her high spiritual experience. Her deep interest in the work of God’s kingdom, her faithful prayer life, and her freedom in talking of spiritual things has always been an inspiration. How true it is that those who live closest to the Lord “are conscious most of sin within!” We all need to search our own hearts in the light of Christ to discover wherein we fall short of the fruits of the Spirit.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

By Miss Tushar Tudu

Long, monotonous summer vacation is generally disliked by the children of Bhimpore. As the days drag on and on there is only one expectation, that is the summer Vacation Bible School. When at last the-
attractive posters go up in different important places, the boys and girls crowd around them to see the date, place, time and the things they are going to learn in the Bible School. From that day the preparations begin.

The Bible School was later than usual this year because we did not have any rain until the last week of May. As the Primary School was to reopen on the 14th of June we had to start our Bible School on the 3rd. The plans and preparations had to be made rather quickly, but we have a fine, ready group of young people who volunteer to help in any work.

The new feature this year was that classes were restricted to students up to Class VIII (equivalent to 2nd year H.S. in the U.S.A.), and our college young people, home on vacation, took charge of teaching the classes. This was a great help both to the children and to the young people. The children found these college young people more easy to approach than older folks, and for the ones who took leadership this was a real opportunity to learn more from the Bible as they made preparation for their classes.

The theme of our Bible School was “Jesus Calls,” and the lessons for the different sections were prepared accordingly. There were four sections and two young people took charge of each section. At 6 o’clock in the morning the school bell rang and from that time one could see the children around the compound of the Girls’ School, where their one week Bible School was held. As I stood on the veranda of the School, watching the children come, my heart was filled with joy, for I could see them running from all directions towards the School so that they wouldn’t be late. Nothing could prevent them from being on time or from being present, not even a cloudy, rainy day!

Our day’s program began with a 15 minute quiet time. This was led by our Pastor, Rev. Jyotish Kisku, and Miss Parul Tudu, who had come from her work as a Bible-woman in other areas especially to help.
us. The quiet time set the right atmosphere for the beginning of the day’s work.

Next we had our lesson hour. During this time, in their respective classes the young teachers were very keen in teaching and explaining things from the Bible, and the children were very attentive, for they love to learn new things. One reason, perhaps, for their being so attentive and absorbing all that was taught, was the attraction of an announcement that was made on the first day. This said that on the closing day of the Bible School there would be a short test in each section on the lessons they were studying. Each one getting 80 p.c. or above would be given a prize. I am glad to say that in the end out of 110 students, 20 of them got 80 p.c. or above, and about 25 had between 50 p.c. and 80 p.c. We felt very encouraged by the results, all of which cannot be measured in terms of percentages.

In order to break the seriousness of classes, we had a quiz time and a singsong each day. The pupils loved this time, because they discovered many interesting and new things from the Bible, and, of course, they all love to sing both in Bengali and Santali.

During the handwork hour the children were very lively, but kept at their assignments. The girls in the upper classes were seen knitting woolen bags, and making cardboard boxes. The boys of the same age group made calendars on which they printed Bible verses. The younger ones were busy with crayons, writing Bible verses, and making scrap books. How they love to do things with their hands! After this period the School closed each day with prayer.

Most of the pupils were regular in attendance. The ones who did not come every day had rather sad reasons for staying home. Sometimes it was to help with family work; sometimes children from the same family had to take turns staying home thus making it possible for some to attend.
I hope the day will come when all the children will be able to attend every
day and have a chance for spiritual teaching.

On the closing day the students put on a program for their parents,
to show what they had learned. I am sorry to say very few of the parents
came. But, while this seemed discouraging to those of us who had worked
on the program, the children were not discouraged by the empty benches
in the hall. They repeated their Bible verses, sang their choruses, and
then put on a short drama depicting God's call to the boy Samuel in
the temple. The children had had only one practice of this play, but it
was a great success. We were delighted with their natural, dramatic
talent. Finally, the pastor distributed the prizes and offered prayer at the
close. The pupils returned home happy, carrying in their hands the things
they had made, and things that had been given to them.

The Bible School experience made me think seriously. I felt how
eager the children are to learn, how the college young people are ready to
help, but how often we older ones are not ready to direct them or use them
for His glory. But, I do believe that if we surrender all to Him, He will
use us for His glory, though we feel unworthy to do His work.

Editor's note.

Miss Tushar Tudu is a graduate of Madras Christian College. She
has taught both in our Boys' High School, and our Girls' Junior High
School at Bhimpore. She is a member of the Legislative Assembly of West
Bengal. When the Assembly is not in session, Tushar returns to her
home village of Bhimpore and is always ready to accept opportunities for
helpfulness there. We are grateful to her for taking the responsibility for
the Vacation Bible School when the Bhimpore missionaries were on
vacation.

First Fruits of Medical-Evangelistic Work

Miss Lillian Brueckmann, who is engaged in evangelistic work in
the villages of Balasore District, writes about a baptismal service during
the early part of the hot season at a village three miles beyond Panchkaharnia. Twelve persons from three families were baptized that day. These are the first ones in that village to come out openly for Christ and are some of the first fruits of the work at the Medical-Evangelistic Center at Panchkaharnia, where an evangelistic woman worker and a nurse are located.

"It was a long and hot day from 6:30 in the morning until 7 at night. The baptisms took place in an outdoor pond at 1:30 P.M. and the sun was beating down unmercifully. Not everyone had an umbrella to give even a little protection from the sun's rays.

At about 3 p.m. we sat down to a meal of rice and curry in the home of the one family from which seven members had been baptized. Yes, it was a long, hot, and tiring day, but we were happy that we could share in the joy of these new Christians. How much prayer and pastoral care is needed for these who are the first Christians in their village!"

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW MISSIONARY

We are happy to report that Miss Clara Dorn, whose visa was granted by the Government of India, has a scheduled sailing from New York on September 15th. We do not know on what ship she leaves the U.S.A. but we have been informed that she sails from Naples, Italy on the "Asia", which is scheduled to arrive in Bombay October 14th. So, by the time you read this in America, Clara will be at her new home in Midnapore, Bengal. We thank God for answered prayer in thus opening the way for her to come to India.
Clara received her B.A. degree from the University of California at Los Angeles with majors in History, English and Elementary Teaching. She has been studying this past year for an M.A. in Education at Los Angeles State College. With a year of study at Biblical Seminary, N.Y. and two years at Fuller Seminary, California, she was granted the M.R.E. degree. Clara has a teaching credential and for two years was an elementary school teacher in the Los Angeles City School system. For four summers she served in the field of education at Los Angeles State College.

While studying in New York she served as Director of a Junior Church Program in a New Jersey church and for one year was a released-time teacher under the auspices of the N.Y. City Mission Society. Another year she carried on a similar program of released-time religious teaching for the Monrovia, California Church Federation.

In all this study and activity we believe the Lord has been preparing Clara Dorn to fulfill His good purposes for her in service in the Bengal area of our Bengal-Orissa Mission. Her missionary and national colleagues pray that she may find abiding joy and satisfaction in being in the center of God's will, even though there will be times of discouragement, perhaps even of disillusionment. Those of us who look back over more than thirty years as missionaries hope that Clara, too, may have an equally long and rewarding period of service in this land where Christians with a vital witness for Christ are so desperately needed.
HALF A WORLD AWAY

By C. L. Kau

In a few hours, and a half a world away, we realized more vividly than ever that a vast gulf still separates our two worlds. In spite of our familiarity with India, it was a startling experience to be transported so suddenly from one way of life into another. Because of this sudden transition the conditions of this land stand out in sharper contrast than ever before. In spite of advances and changes there is still appalling poverty, disease, ignorance, superstition and a population increase that cannot be curbed. These terrors cast a dark shadow over this land. Perhaps conditions out here for most people can be best described as a desperate bid for survival. People are grasping for any straw and seizing on anything that promises a better material life no matter how flimsy the promise may be.

We left New York on June 8, and spent a pleasant day in Rome among the ruins of ancient places, forums, fallen temples and the massive Coliseum. The next day in New Delhi we received the usual warm summertime reception. After a quick check through with the Police and customs we left for the Himalayan city of Mussoorie where the children started immediately in a new year at Woodstock School. They seemed quite happy to return to surroundings more familiar to them than any other place in the world. After the family was fairly well settled I went on to our station at Nekursini.

The reports on the condition of the churches, schools and literacy work in both the Kora and Santal fields were exceptionally good. Bon Singh Hembrom and Ruben Giri among the Kora churches, and Bahadur Kisku in the Jhargram Santal area, have provided excellent leadership in both of these fields. I am grateful for the opportunity of working with these men, as well as with the pastors and teachers of these two areas.
They have not hesitated to mention some of the problems which face the Christians and churches in these areas. Perhaps the most pressing and difficult problem which they all face is the result of a poor rice harvest this year. Rice is scarce and the price is rising rapidly. Many people are in desperate need. Such widespread want can only be met by immediate Government action. This does not rule out our responsibility in bringing assistance and relief to the extent of our ability. Certainly it is time for us to take bolder steps to help the churches in rural areas to deal with their economic problems, particularly in ways which will make possible increased agricultural production. The Mission has made numerous attempts over the years to point a way toward solving this problem, but it continues to remain almost untouched.

Throughout the field there are incidents of oppression and persecution towards those who have recently become Christians. Social ostracism, false accusations, loss of property and threats of beatings are used to try to turn people away from their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In trying to settle some of these problems we have come into contact with people who are antagonistic to the Gospel, but in some cases they have finally opened their hearts to the message of Christ. For most of them they have yet a long way to go before they finally yield to Him.

Many of the problems that continue to face us are related to spiritual growth. There are rudiments of superstition that linger on, the temptation of liquor drinking, and non-Christian marriage practices to which some have resorted. The action of pastors and churches this past year in meeting these problems has emphasised the high standard we expect of Christians in their moral and spiritual lives.

From day to day people come to me worried and concerned over the sickness of family and friends and there is so little we can do about this problem. Now we live in hope that in a very short time there will be a hospital for this field here at Nekursini. It will have to be a small
one for the present with only one doctor available, but it will be a tremendous answer to the difficult and pressing medical problems of our field.

For some time Bahadur Kisku and I have been much concerned about the Christian witness in Jhargram. There are only a few Christians in this large city and no pastor to minister to them. Nor do we have anyone available who is capable of taking the responsibility of evangelizing this city. Over more than a decade we know of no one who has been won to Christ in Jhargram. We have prayed that at least one family might come to Christ which would open a door to reach others. Today a man came here to Nekursini from Jhargram, 60 miles away, to say that he wanted to be a Christian. In the course of the conversation I asked him why he didn’t try to see us in Jhargram and he said that he was afraid of what might happen if his neighbors found him coming to us. Perhaps this may be the answer to our prayers and an opening to the hearts of this city.

There are many other towns and villages in this field where we have not been able to preach the Gospel. These are also a burden on our hearts that they might hear the Word of Life.

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OUR PRAYER CORNER

"My God shall supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

Sunday. We give thanks for answered prayer in the appointment of Miss Alice Maureen Brians for service in Bengal-Orissa Mission. She will help meet the need for evangelistic and village uplift work among village women about which you prayed, if you followed Our Prayer Corner Requests in the
second quarter issue of Tidings. Maureen is a member of the 1st Baptist Church, Pomona, California and has been a member of its staff for eight years, doing part time work while studying at California Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pray earnestly that the Government of India may give favorable consideration to her application for a visa. When this is granted, Tidings will give you more information about her fine preparation for the Lord's work,

Monday. For definite guidance in the development of medical work, especially in the working out of plans for a small base hospital from which there may be a medical-evangelistic outreach to villages whose people would otherwise have no health services. That the Lord may provide the right staff for this work, doctors, nurses and others with a zeal for witnessing for Christ.

Tuesday. That as a result of women's conferences, young people's institutes, laymen's retreat, Christian workers' refresher courses, and other training institutes our churches may be re-vitalized and individuals and families realize afresh the challenge to make the meaning of the Christian faith real by their lives, as well as by their words.

Wednesday. That those who bear the name of Christian and have brought shame upon the Christian community through lawsuits against others who bear that name may see the far-reaching, sad results of trying to settle quarrels in court. That all may realize that only as we forgive others can God forgive us.

Thursday. That all who are engaged in the Lord's work may be controlled by the love of Christ and be radiant with His joy that all whose lives they touch may find some blessing.
**Friday.** That Christian qualified teachers may be found for the vacancies in our High Schools at Midnapore and Bhimpore, and continued prayer for all who are in charge of Christian schools and hostels in our Bengal-Orissa area, both in towns and villages.

**Saturday** That somehow the thousands of homeless people, victims of floods in Kashmir, Assam, and other areas and the countless numbers who never have even the bare necessities of life in this vast land may have their needs met. That they who wander as sheep without a shepherd may find the true Shepherd of their souls.

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**NEWS ITEMS**

**Missionaries**

The Italian liner on which Dr. and Mrs. William C. Osgood set sail from Bombay on June 9th was held up at Karachi, the first port of call in West Pakistan, due to a strike of the crew which had been called from Italy. After a few days of considerable inconvenience for the passengers, the Lloyd Triestino Line Company arranged for air passage to Rome for all passengers. This change in plans meant arrival in Italy six days ahead of schedule and so more time for site-seeing in Europe. We hope baggage, which remained on the ship and which would be sent directly to New York from Italy, would catch up with the U.S. passengers upon their arrival in New York.

The Osgoods will visit their son, Fred in Washington, D.C. and meet his wife and little girl for the first time, before proceeding to Portland, Oregon. When we learn where they will make headquarters during their
urlough, we will publish their address. We pray for their joyous reunions with family and friends, an opportunity for relaxation and recreation before undertaking speaking engagements, and God's clear guidance for their return to our midst in due time to complete their full term of service in India before retirement age. Their long years of experience, their firm faith, and their outgoing love and friendship mean that they are sorely missed.

What a joyous occasion it was for the missionaries who were on vacation at Landour when Louis and Wilma Kau with their five lovely children arrived there, fresh from the U.S.A., on June 11th! The Kaus had left New York by plane on June 8th and arrived in New Delhi the night of the 10th. After having supper there they came by car to Landour, travelling all night. They reached the toll gate on the mountain road at 3 a.m., but cars are not allowed to proceed from there until 6 a.m., so there they waited for 3 hours. It was about 8 a.m. when, to the surprise of their neighbors, they walked to their door. They, too, were happy to be back in India after a year in the U.S.A., but were very tired from the quick trip with little sleep.

Wilma is again making a home for her children in Landour, so that they can be day scholars at Woodstock School, while Louis courageously and smilingly has again taken up his work among the people of the Kora and Santal villages on the plains. It will be more than five months before his family joins him at their home in Nekurseni when School closes in the Himalayas during the coldest months of the year.

Missionaries and nationals alike rejoice in their return and we pray that this term of service may be richly blessed of the Lord for them and all associated with them in village work.

Our sympathy goes out to Hazel Smith in the home-going of her father, the news of which reached her by cable the last week in June.
had been ill for some years, and so the end came as a release from suffering. We extend our sympathy also to Hazel’s mother, and her brother and sister and their families in the sense of loss that is theirs.

Miss Alice Maureen Brians was appointed as a missionary at the American Baptist Convention in Des Moines in June and designated to the Bengal-Orissa field. We shall be delighted if her visa is processed and granted as readily as was done by the Government for Miss Clara Dorn.

Miss Clara Dorn should have arrived in India before this 3rd issue of Tidings reaches subscribers in America. Her address will be: Baptist Mission, Midnapore, Bengal, India. Clara comes to us from California.

Missionaries, Children:

Bill Gilson and his wife Mari Anna cabled the news of the arrival of their first baby, Julia Ellen, born May 17th at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa to the paternal grandparents in Balasore. Bill graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College on June 8th. This fall he will be teaching Senior English in the High School at Keokuk, Iowa. His address is: 718½ Concert Ave., Keokuk, Ia. Alice and John now have eight grandchildren.

Gordon Berg, second son of Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Berg formerly missionaries in our area, and now living at Adoniram Judson’s birthplace in Malden Mass., received a special grant for study at Yale University this summer. He has accepted a teaching position at Scarsdale, N.Y. for this fall. Roger Berg the eldest son, has become pastor of a Baptist church in Rhode Island, while Dr. Milton has a new assignment on an Indian reservation. Arvid, the youngest, is with an insurance firm in Fargo, N.D.
Visitors:

**Dr. Edward Willingham**, General Secretary of the A. B. F. M. S., and his wife arrived at the Calcutta airfield the night of August 4th. They were met in the city by Mr. Roadarmel, Mission Secretary, the morning of the 5th and proceeded by passenger train to Khargpur, a journey of 72 miles, taking 4 hours! By car they were able to be in Midnapore for lunch with the Roadarmels that day. In the afternoon they had a brief glimpse of classes at the Midnapore Girls’ School, with some opportunity for learning from Miss Mookerji, the Headmistress, of the problems and the hopes for the future.

That night Mr. Roadarmel took the Willinghams to Bhimpore where they were able to meet with leaders in the church and Schools. They were able to see something of what is being accomplished through the Schools as they attended chapel services and had a quick look at some of the classes.

We greatly regret that their visit to our Bengal-Orissa Mission was so limited in time and therefore so hurried. There was one day in Balasore, and on the return trip a few hours at Nekurseni with Mr Kau and some of the Kora workers, which gave them some insight into the possibilities of a Medical Center there with outreach to the villages.

Sunday, the 9th, they spent in the industrial railway town of Khargpur. Here Christian work is carried on in several tongues: English, Telegu, Oriya and Hindustani. Dr. Willingham brought the message to the English-speaking congregation at the Union Church that evening.

Nationals:

**Miss Phulmoni Murmu**, Headmistress of the Bhimpore Girls’ Junior High School, was married on June 15th to Mr. T. C. Marndy, who is employed by the W. Bengal Government in tribal welfare work.
with headquarters at Jhargram. It was with real regret that Phulmoni’s resignation as Headmistress was accepted, but all extend their good wishes for her happiness.

Miss Sandhya Sircar, a teacher in the Midnapore Girls’ High School, was married on July 13th to Mr. Asitendu Jana of Midnapore. Asitendu is Secretary of the Midnapore Baptist Church, and is employed in one of the S. E. Railway offices in Khargpur.

Miss Suddha Mookerji, Head mistress and Secretary of the Midnapore Girls’ High School, was a patient for nearly two weeks at the S. E. Railway Hospital, Khargpur in July. She is following the treatment prescribed, after many tests were made, and we trust that she may now have good health.

As Tidings goes to Press word has come of the sudden death, following a heart attack on July 21st of Rev. Clarence G. Vichert who with his wife, served in our Mission at Jamshedpur from 1951 to 1957. He had completed his thesis for his Master of Social Work degree on the 20th and was to begin work in a new position when he was called to higher service. Our hearts go out in deep sympathy to Mrs. Vichert and three sons.