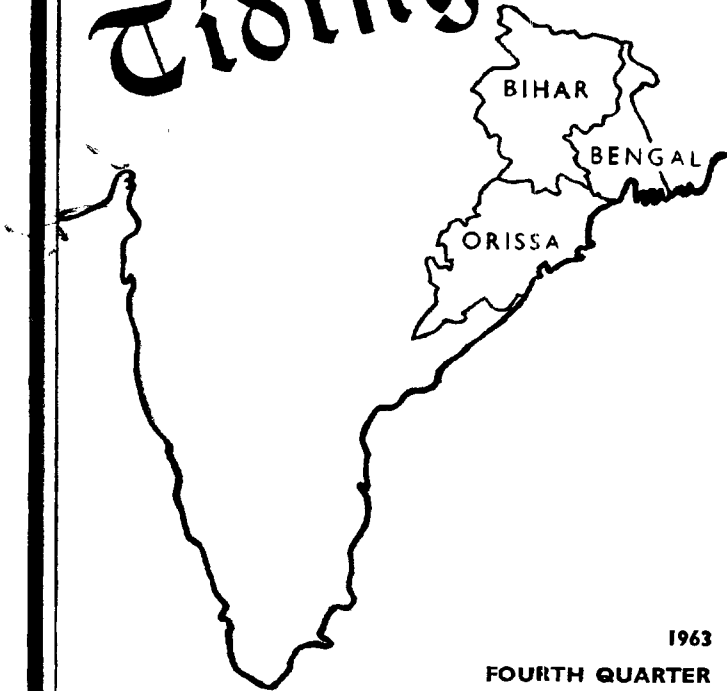


YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



3 9002 09912 6162

Tidings



1963

FOURTH QUARTER

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

Yale Divinity Library
New Haven, Conn.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A Venture of Faith—Our First Hospital	Ethel N. Roadarmel ... 3
Invest in Relief of Suffering and Saving of Life	... 11
A Chosen Race	Susanne Powers ... 12
Improving Our Hostels	Clara Dorn ... 13
All-India Fellowship	C. C. Roadarmel ... 15
Hatigarh Leprosy Home	Ruth Filmer ... 18
Furlough, A Time of Sharing	Pat Weidman ... 21
Times of Refreshing	W. C. Osgood ... 24
Lighten Our Darkness	Maureen Brians ... 26
Our Prayer Corner	... 28
In Memory and News Items	... 29

We request that if any material in "Tidings" is quoted or reprinted a credit line, indicating the source be given.

BENGAL-ORISSA FIELD DIRECTORY

Bhimpore, W. Bengal

Miss Maureen Brians

Rev. B. E. Weidman

Mrs. Patricia Weidman

Midnapore, W. Bengal

Miss Clara Dorn

Rev. C. C. Roadarmel

Mrs Ethel N. Roadarmel

Khargpur, W. Bengal

Dr. R. R. Larsen

Mrs. Norma Larsen

Vacant

Jamshedpur, Bihar

Bhadrak, Orissa

Salgodia, Bengal

Jhargram, Bengal

Balasore, Orissa

Miss Susanne Powers

Jaleswar, Orissa

Rev. W. C. Osgood

Mrs Jane G. Osgood

Hatigarh, Orissa

Miss Ruth Filmer

(C.S.S. employee)

Nekursini, W. Bengal

Mr. William Green

Mrs. Sheila Green } Temporarily

On Furlough

Miss Lillian Brueckmann

Miss Hazel Smith

Rev. C. L. Kau

Mrs. Wilma Kau

U.S.A. subscriptions to *Tidings* may be secured from Mrs J. A. Howard, 1708 No. Grand Ave. Pittsburgh, Kansas. Yearly subscription (4 issues) \$ 0.50.

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

Local subscriptions from Mrs W. C. Osgood, P. O. Mohammed-nagar-Patna, Via Jaleswar, Orissa.

A VENTURE OF FAITH—OUR FIRST HOSPITAL

ETHEL N. ROADARMEL

“Smallpox Eradication Week.” Red banners with large white print in Bengali and English stretched across many of Calcutta’s streets, urging people to be vaccinated. Calcutta with a population of about seven million is attempting by a special drive to get everyone vaccinated who has not had this done. Earlier in the year, when cholera was prevalent, a special drive was made to give the necessary preventative injections. By a concerted effort, over a number of years, with technical and dollar aid from the U.S.A. the malaria carrying mosquito has almost completely disappeared. Formerly malaria was the No. 1 killer. Now T.B. has that distinction. There are waiting lists for beds in all Government T.B. hospitals. Mission sanatoriums are filled to capacity. Domiciliary treatment is effective, but even when available there is much red tape involved to make this available to the sufferer, if he has any way of knowing about it in most places. Just now a little four year old boy of a neighbouring Christian family is ill with infectious hepatitis. A village boy of 18 years, working as a day laborer for the Railway in Khargpur, developed typhoid. He could have been admitted to the Midnapore Government hospital but his father, not knowing it was typhoid, took him back to his village. The local doctor’s charges were more than the family could pay, and medicines very costly. The boy would have died had not most of the costs been met from gifts received by a missionary “to help in your work.”

It was not until after a little daughter choked to death in her mother’s arms, due to whooping cough, that the mother learned there is a vaccine to prevent the disease. Typhoid, cholera and

smallpox are preventable. In towns and cities the Health Dept. will provide what is necessary but still there are many who do not know this, or who out of superstition or fear, will not do the needful. Much health education is needed. And what of the villages where 80 per cent of India's people live? Only a small proportion have health centers, although it is within the Government plan to have one within five miles of each village. This ideal will be difficult of attainment if only from the problem of sufficient trained personnel. Amoebic and bacillary dysentery, hookworm, laryngitis, ear troubles, eye troubles, and a host of other physical ailments need a doctor. Serious cases need hospitalization.

For some thirty years our Bengal-Orissa Mission has not had a doctor and we have never had a Mission hospital. We are grateful for Government doctors and private practitioners who have been willing to help, for the Railway Hospital at Khargpur (by a recent regulation of Government only Railway employees or their families may be treated) for the British Methodist hospital, some 28 miles in dry weather, over bad roads, and 50 miles in the rainy season by a different route, from Bhimpore village. Long journeys by plane or train have been made to our Baptist hospital at Gauhati, Assam, to Vellore in the South, or to the Women's Christian Hospital in North Bengal. But travel costs, as well as costs of treatment at these more distant hospitals make it impossible for most Indian folks to take advantage of them.

So we rejoice that a hospital was approved by our Mission Boards for our Mission area, and that part of what has been planned in buildings, is nearing completion. It is located at Nekursini, about 25 miles from Khargpur, on the Mission property where Louis Kau and his family had their home, and where there is a hostel for Christian boys attending the Local Government High school. Louis Kau has had a keen interest in the hospital project. Under his supervision much was done on the buildings,

but in June he and his family were obliged to return to the U.S.A. for furlough.

“God moves in a mysterious way”, quoted Sheila Green in a letter to me. Sheila, a remarkably fine, graduate nurse, with more than 20 years experience, with her husband Bill, is now occupying the above missionary residence. “Who would have thought that after retirement Bill and I would be working again and on special work for our Lord, for so we take this hospital to be”.

Sheila and Bill Green drove to Nekursini in May to see the set-up and to visit with Louis Kau. As they were leaving, Bill jokingly said to Louis, “If the hospital needs a registrar, keep me in mind.” It was during the night that Louis pondered these words. How he regretted having to leave his work when the hospital buildings were not completed and there seemed no one to give the needed time to this job! Construction would be at a standstill for who knew how long. Dr Larsen, arriving from the U.S.A. in October, could not be expected to undertake this work before having Bengali language study. To Louis it seemed that God had spoken. Early the next morning he drove to Khargpur and almost his first words when he saw the Greens, then living temporarily in a small Mission house, were: “Are you serious about helping at the hospital?” Promptly Bill replied, “I’m serious, if I can be of help.” Louis then outlined how he could supervise in the construction work, order necessary supplies, see to getting carpenters and other workmen as needed, etc. Sheila would be equally needed in the planning of equipment. The next step was to offer their services to the Christian Service Society to which our Baptist churches are affiliated, and then to get the approval of the home Boards.

On July 5th the Greens moved to Nekursini. It was not until the Property Committee had their meeting there in September, and I tagged along with my husband, that I understood Sheila’s part in the work. It was she who took us all on a guided tour of the hospital, pointing out how this room would best serve as

the doctor's office, how another room should be for receiving patients rather than the one marked out in the plan; what was needed for the laboratory, the X-ray room, the kitchen; how the room for maternity cases, intended for six beds, was not large enough to have bassinets attached to the foot of the beds. "Babies will have to stay in beds with their mothers," she said.

At the morgue she pointed out that a place must be built outside, just a shelf, for bodies of non-Christians, as superstition would prevent some relatives of the deceased from entering a morgue. Of course we would like to think the morgue would never have to be used!

"Here must be the washerman's house and here the shed where clothes can be hung during the rainy season." On and on she went with explanations which no non-medical person would have thought about in such detail. Some of us wished that Sheila had been in on the planning from the beginning.

How wonderfully God has answered prayer in providing this consecrated couple for this work! After 37 years with the South-eastern Railway, from the days of his apprenticeship training, Bill retired. Due to the "emergency", occasioned by the Chinese aggression, Bill has to be on call, so could not leave for England as he had expected to do. Furthermore, restrictions are such that he could not take his savings out of the country. He has accumulated over two years leave with half pay and so is giving his services free to the work at Nekursini. Sheila receives the equivalent of \$75.00 per month through our Christian Service Society. They have the use of the Mission house until such time as it is needed by the Larsens.

Who are these fine folks? For many years they have been active members of our English speaking church in Khargpur. Bill has served as a deacon. From their lovely garden Sheila provided the flowers for the church nearly every Sunday of the year. India is their home, although they come of British stock. A son is in England. Sheila also has a sister there, a sister-in-law

with children, and a married sister with her American husband, lives in Canton, Ohio. During the war years Bill was with the Engineers in the Middle East. He was promoted in his position with the Railway until he reached the top position of Chief Mechanical Engineer.

Sheila graduated from the American Methodist High School at Naini Tal in the hills. She took her nurse's training in Calcutta. During World War II she worked for two years as a clerk in the General Stores, in an American Air Force base near Khargpur. Her longest period of nursing service, some 13 years, has been with the Railway Hospital, Khargpur. She is loved by all who know her. Many of our missionaries, some now in the U.S.A. have benefited from her comforting, healing ministry at hospital or in their homes. Many instances of her efficiency and kindness could be given, but perhaps the highest tribute was paid in 1961 when she was invited to go to New Delhi, the nation's capital, by the Central Government Railway Ministry. This is reported in the S.E. Railway Magazine, May '61, in an article entitled, "Railway Men receive Awards for Outstanding Service." Despite the title it is Sheila's photograph that appears on the first page of the article.

A special ceremony was held at the Railway station, New Delhi on April 16th. I quote: "Mrs Sheila Green, a nurse at Khargpur hospital, is one who was in the select band of railway employees honored by the Railway Ministry this year with a gold medal and a prize bond worth Rs 500 (just over \$100). This was presented by the chief Railway Minister.

For 13 years Mrs Green has been at Khargpur and she has won the hearts of all who had occasion to come in contact with her. Besides her professional skill and earnestness she is endowed with many other sterling qualities and a magnanimous heart.

She often helps poor patients with cash and is particularly kind and affectionate to sick children. We are proud of Sheila Green who may be connotated as an embodiment of kindness."

Is it any wonder that the District Medical Officer is begging Sheila to return to the Khargpur Hospital? When I said to her, "I wish you could stay on as head staff nurse when the hospital is opened," she replied with her customary modesty, "There will be others as fully qualified who will be happy to come." We can think of no one else as well fitted by temperament, Christian character, and by training, to help Dr Larsen at the beginning of his medical work in a land of many customs unfamiliar to him. I said to Bill, "I hope you can serve as hospital administrator until such time as you can go to England." With his engaging smile, he replied, "I wouldn't mind."

If the Greens can stay on after the Larsens take up residence at Nekursini, we will be faced with the problem of accommodation for them. The main purpose of this medical project is to reach out to the villages where there is no medical help. Dr Larsen's main interest is surgery, but he will be called upon for much else at the hospital. A second doctor is needed as physician, who will be able to go out into the villages with nursing help and treat cases in their homes or by the roadside. Accommodation is provided for such a person, even if married. But that there should be a couple, both of whom could serve, was not in the planning. Something must be done, even though no funds at present are available, if we are to have the services of these two fine Christian friends, after Dr Larsen is ready to take up his work.

Always, always it is **MONEY** that is the problem. We shall have accommodation for 16 patients, or rather there will be 16 beds. If our hospital is like all others, the time will come when there will be patients lying on mats on the verandah, unless they are turned away. In a burst of enthusiasm at the annual Convention of the churches in 1960, when the hospital project was put forward, Rs 12,000 (\$2,500) was pledged. Only Rs 2,000 of that has been received to date. No one ever imagined that China would attack India, that defense measures would come into

force, that prices would soar, some commodities more than doubling in price. Yet, despite the poverty of many Christians, the Christian Service Society continues to press for donations for this work. Some will be forthcoming, but even if the Rs 12,000 is given, much more will be needed if our first hospital is to function effectively, and our new Doctor family not be frustrated through lack of facilities and equipment.

A leaflet, printed in Bengali and English, is being circulated to the Indian churches of our Mission and to interested friends in which these are some of the facts set forth:

“The hospital will be equipped room by room as funds become available. The opening date depends in part on YOU. We can reach and surpass the goal of Rs 10,000 still due on the promises made by representatives of the churches, IF—

1,400 people give Rs 3 each
250 people give Rs 5 each
35 people give Rs 10 each
30 people give Rs 15 each
16 people give Rs 25 each
8 people give Rs 50 each
6 people give Rs 100 each
5 people give Rs 300 each
2 people give Rs 500 each.”

The rupee is approximately 21 cents, or roughly 5 rupees to the dollar. It may help Indian folks to have the above table, but even Rs 3 per person is difficult to give when most families, do not have an income of even Rs 3 per day. The services of the hospital will not be limited to Christians and we hope there will be others who will respond to the financial appeal.

Continuing, we are told, “If you would rather as an individual

or a Church furnish a room or buy a particular piece of equipment see the list of needs below": (The amounts needed are given in rupees for Indian folks, but for U.S. readers I will put them into the approximate need in dollars).

	<i>Cost of furnishing rooms</i>	<i>Cost of equipment</i>		<i>Needed No.</i>
Operating theatre	\$1,500.00	Surgical bed	\$100.00	2
Instrument supply	600.00	Steel filing cabinet	50.00	1
Nurses quarters	450.00	Steel cupboard	50.00	2
Linen supply	350.00	Desks	75.00	2
Doctor's consulting room	450.00	Steel examining table	40.00	2
2 wards, each	450.00	Steel and glass cupboard	40.00	2
Doctor's quarters	300.00	Dressing trolley	35.00	2
Dispensary	250.00	14 steel beds, each	25.00	14
Reception room	200.00	3 panel screen	18.00	2
2 private rooms, each	200.00	Lockers, each	15.00	16
Dressing room	225.00	Oxygen or saline stand	15.00	2
Nurses' station	110.00	Basin stand	10.00	3
Enamelware scrub up	75.00	Treatment tables	10.00	10
Babies' bathroom	40.00	Chairs, each	9.00	8
Other rooms such as labor delivery, sterilizing, laboratory, etc.		Many small items ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00.		

INVEST IN RELIEF OF SUFFERING AND SAVING OF LIFE

*Lay up treasure in heaven; bank of maximum safety and largest
return*

Some day we believe we will have an equipped, mobile van for work in the villages, but first our hospital must be equipped. We do pray that the Lord will open the hearts of people in other places besides our own Mission area to give sacrificially that this center of healing, under the direction of our newest missionary, Dr Robert Larsen, may be used of the Great Physician, and be a place also for the healing of souls and a witness to all of the love of God in Christ as mediated through his servants.

We ask your prayers for Sheila and Bill Green in their difficult work, for God's leading in discovering a Christian Indian doctor to assist Dr Larsen, and finding of the right nursing staff, and for a laboratory technician, and others who will be needed in lesser positions. Pray, too, for Bob and Norma Larsen with their two little daughters that they may be spared frustrations, and may find great joy in being in the place God has chosen to place them where the need is incalculable. Pray, too, that soon the hospital may have Government recognition. We are grateful for whatever the Larsens have been able to bring for the hospital by way of supplies or donations towards equipment from friends in America.

Our hospital is a venture of faith, and Jesus Christ has said, "According to your faith be it unto you." Great must be our faith in these difficult days in a land where millions do not have the bare necessities of life. We know that "with God all things are possible" and to Him we look to supply all our needs that He may be glorified and all praise be given to Him as we go forward in a ministry to the whole man—body, mind, and soul. Your prayers and ours will bring the victory.

A CHOSEN RACE

SUSANNE POWERS

“When will you come back?” “Will you come each week?” More than 40 Hindu women and children had gathered on the front verandah of a Hindu home on September 14th for the meeting conducted by the Women’s Missionary group of the Balasore church. Mrs Alahadini Behera, one of the group, had told the story of the Prodigal Son with flannelgraph. The Hindu women had joined us in singing and praying. They seemed to feel with the father, in his sadness, when his son left home, and in his deep joy and rejoicing when he returned. I’m sure they understood a little bit of God’s love as explained by Alahadini.

The women’s group, at the church in Balasore, has been trying a new type of programme. Instead of having just a regular meeting each Saturday afternoon, in the church, they are varying their programme. The first Saturday afternoon of the month they have their own Bible study with one of them leading. They have been following a book of programmes written by Dr W. C. Osgood. The second Saturday afternoon the women go to a Hindu neighborhood and have a meeting for Hindu women and children. Whether the home is large or small there is a feeling of congeniality as Christian women worship with their non-Christian neighbours. These non-Christian women show a genuine interest in the Bible story which is usually presented with flannelgraph so they may understand more readily.

On the third Saturday, after Bible reading and prayer, the women sew slips, blouses or children’s dresses for the poor members of the church. These needy and welcome gifts will be given at Christmas time. For the fourth Saturday afternoon an outside speaker is invited. Among these speakers have been

Rev. R. K. Sahu, retired Christian Service Society Executive Secretary, Mr Vincent Behera, Christian Service Society Treasurer, Miss Satyabati Behera, Bible woman and supervisor, who suggested this programme to the women, and Miss Tarulata Garnaik, our Girls' School Headmistress.

This varied programme has not only increased the activity and out-reach of the women, but also their interest. Whereas several years ago only three or four women attended the meetings, now between fifteen and twenty are usually in attendance and participating in the programme.

We all in our own areas and throughout the world are missionaries of the wonderful Gospel. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

IMPROVING OUR HOSTELS

CLARA DORN

Recently we had a special two day meeting with the heads of our educational institutions, hostel masters and matrons, and others of us concerned with our Christian schools and hostels. Our purpose was to consider plans for better hostel management, to more clearly define the responsibilities of the various members of the teaching and hostel staff, and to examine both school and hostel religious programmes to see how we can make it more effective.

As perhaps you know hostels, or a boarding school, connected with a school are a common practice in India. Perhaps one reason for this is that India has followed the British system of education at least to a certain extent. Thus boarding schools are considered an important educational institution. Also, despite

the considerable advances that have been made in India since Independence in the field of education, village children and young people do not generally have a High School near by or even adequate elementary schools. So hostels are considered necessary assets for these and other reasons.

At this conference Dr Osgood and Mr Kalyan Bose presented papers discussing the problems and presenting specific suggestions toward improving our hostel programme. We all agreed that one pressing need is to secure better qualified hostel masters and matrons. It was suggested that they should be at least high school graduates with some Bible training and with a real concern about training Christian leadership. Refresher courses could be provided for them from time to time.

Mr Bose discussed the relationships between the hostel master and other leaders in the school. He stressed that in order to maintain a Christian atmosphere in our hostels we should not allow more than 25 per cent of our hostel students to be non-Christian students.

Dr Osgood listed some of the reasons why truly Christian hostels are important:

1. We are likely to be able to maintain Christian hostels longer than Christian schools and maintain a better Christian versus non-Christian ratio.
2. The hostel has the pupil 16-19 hours a day versus the schools' 5 to 6 hours, nine or ten months a year.
3. Most students in hostels are in the age group of 9-22 during which adolescence occurs and they are most impressionable and need the love and understanding of a home away from home.
4. It is an age when important life decisions are made and habits that carry on throughout life formed.
5. People of these ages are anxious to do something, and unless guided into constructive avenues of service will express themselves in indiscipline and destructiveness.

6. It is a time of hero worship and the most suitable time for accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and becoming established in the fellowship of the church.

7. Many so called Christian homes provide neither the Christian instruction, nor example that is requisite to improving the standard of Christian living in our churches; and hostels can do much to supplement and strengthen Christian knowledge and conduct.

Various proposals were presented: establishing hostel committees, providing an adequate pay scale for hostel masters and matrons, arranging for the complete separation of hostel and school budgets, using the hostel master or matron to help plan the school devotional programme and perhaps teach a few Bible classes at school, maintaining a much closer relationship between the school and hostel and the church in a particular community, etc. We hope to translate these proposals and suggestions into action in the near future.

ALL-INDIA FELLOWSHIP

C. C. ROADARMEL

At the Triennial Assembly of the National Christian Council of India which met at Madras, September 25-30, 1963, Rev. Sushil K. Bepari was the representative of the Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention and Rev. C. C. Roadarmel was the delegate from the A.B.F.M.S. Actually the "Triennial" Assembly met this time after four years, as the meeting due in 1962 was postponed to allow time for planning after the meeting of the World Council of Churches in India.

The Main Theme of the Assembly was "Christian Stewardship" with Rev. Paul Lindholm bringing the introductory address. In a Reporting Session, some of the successful stewardship teaching

projects were presented, and a panel discussion brought out some of the varied questions involved in the subject. It was emphasized that stewardship must be placed in a setting of worship to be effective. It must be a stewardship of all of life based upon a sense of the greatness of God's gift to us, but the inclusion of all of life must not be allowed to become so vague that it does not involve a definite sharing of our money and other material possessions.

The Bible studies led by Rev. C. Murray Rogers and two by Dr D. T. Niles of Ceylon pointed to the closely related topic of "Faithful Discipleship." It is planned that during the next three years great stress will be placed upon definite Stewardship education throughout the churches.

The Assembly divided into some twelve Committees each of which, in five separate meetings, discussed and prepared a report on its particular phase of the Christian enterprise, particularly trying to see what part the National Christian Council should have in it during the next few years. The very names of the Committees indicates something of the variety of concerns: 1. Adult Education; 2. Education; 3. Christian Medical Work; 4. Evangelism, Laity work in Industrial Centres; 5. Relief, Rehabilitation, Refugee and other Service Projects; 6. Public Questions, International Affairs and Government Relations; 7. Regional Christian Councils; 8. Ecumenical Relations; 9. Financial Support, Budget, Secretariat; 10. Youth Work; 11. Co-operation of Men and Women in Home, Church and Society; 12. Christian Literature. So many areas were found in which increased co-ordination and stimulation are needed that several new workers would be required to meet the situation. A careful study of priorities is called for to determine which can be implemented.

Dr D. T. Niles presented the urgency of "J.A.M." (Joint Action for Mission) as put forward in the three Situation Conferences held in Asia this year. It is felt that this should be

brought to the Churches and Missions throughout India for study and action. In the rapidly changing conditions in India today, it is urged that it is not enough to be content with more "comity" with each group working in its own area without any particular clash with others. Consultation and joint planning with others is essential if the opportunities are to be met in newly developing areas such as rapidly growing industrial centers, neglected sections of cities, and promising responsiveness in a place where the Church or Mission nearest it does not have the resources to take advantage of the working of the Spirit. It is hoped that each Regional Council will seek to encourage at least one such consultation and action in a particular situation which might serve as a demonstration of the possibilities of the idea.

The Assembly appreciated the hospitality of the Women's Christian College in providing the facilities of its campus. The care and thought in arranging hostel accommodation, meeting rooms and meals were deeply appreciated. It was realized that this was no easy task with people from many parts of India and several visitors from abroad. The Tamilnad Christian Council gave a welcoming reception for the delegates with food, music and fellowship.

The beautiful setting of the college chapel added much to the morning and evening prayers, and to the first all-Council Communion Service held according to the form of the Church of South India. The Anniversary Service of Worship in the Cathedral drew attention to the fact that the Council will be 25 years old next February. Dr William Stewart of Serampore brought the Anniversary message.

For the first time in the history of the National Christian Council, a woman has been elected as President. For the next Triennium that position will be held by Miss Renuka Mukherji, the capable Principal of the Women's Christian College, on whose campus we were meeting. She has already gained renown in international Church gatherings.

Throughout the Assembly the interchange of thought and fellowship both in the sessions and between times made this a memorable experience for all of us.

HATIGARH LEPROSY HOME

RUTH FILMER

I feel rather inadequate to write a report on the Hatigarh Leprosy Home and Clinic as I have been here just a few months. There is much that one sees at first glance, and much that is discovered bit by bit as the days pass.

Until the end of last year treatment at the Colony was carried out by a Government doctor, Dr R. N. Ghose, who, after giving twenty years of faithful service was transferred to another Government dispensary. I have never met Dr Ghose but from the glowing testimony of the patients concerning him, I understand that he cared for them with a fatherly concern. After many hours of eyestrain and headache I wish I could say that the records had received the same loving attention! I fear that the history of some of the long term patients will never be clarified.

There are three hundred and fifty one patients on the register, and of these only a few are outpatients, but I have been encouraged lately by those who come seeking medicine with the assurance that they will be allowed to remain in their own homes. One such was a young man who came a few days ago, not to the clinic, but to my home. He had recognized the fact that he had leprosy, though there were not many outward signs. His family, too, knew and were quite willing for him to take treatment while remaining at home. I asked the Bible woman to speak to him while I brought the medicine and for over an hour she had the undivided attention of a very interested listener as she told him of the remedy for a disease far worse than leprosy. As she spoke

of Christ's love and death his eyes filled with tears. "There's so much hate among people," he said. He started on his six hour journey home with enough medicine for a month and a number of Bengali tracts and booklets. It is incidents like this that make one realize the two-fold duty to these people.

The more able bodied inmates of the Colony are able to get some work, especially at this time, in the fields, but for many touring the surrounding villages on swollen, crippled feet to beg a handful of rice here and there is the only means of living, or perhaps it would be more correct to say existing.

Many suffer from acute vitamin deficiency. A few days after I arrived I was just leaving the clinic when a man asked me to wait to see his son. "He's coming," he said, and a few minutes later Dukhi, a boy of about eight years arrived. His feet and hands were grossly swollen, two frightened eyes peered from slits in a puffy face and walking the few yards from his house had left him panting and exhausted. When, after questioning his father I found he ate nothing but a little rice, I felt my initial suspicion of berri-berri disease was confirmed. It took a while to win Dukhi's confidence but he soon thawed out and I gave him a course of vitamin injections and tablets. That was several weeks ago. Last week a group of children outside the home greeted me, and one bright, shyly grinning face under a mop of tousled hair caught my attention. "Is that Dukhi?", I asked. It was, and a very different Dukhi from the one I had first seen. But he is once again eating a diet which is completely deficient. and if this cannot be rectified he will soon be in the same condition as before.

There are many like Dukhi, and sometimes it is too late to help them. Ten days ago Sanbat was brought to me. About two years old I could see at a glance there was little hope. "I'll do what I can," I told the parents, "but I can't promise any benefit for I think he is beyond help". I gave what I could and told them, "Bring him back to me tomorrow, if he is still alive."

There was no sign of them when I arrived at the Clinic next morning, but a few minutes later the Santal death wail coming from the river told me all I needed to know. Malnutrition had claimed another victim.

And the future? I have hopes that the patients themselves can be educated to exercise proper care in such a way that much suffering will be prevented. Most of them could grow enough vegetables to prevent deficiency diseases, if they only understood. Here, as among leprosy sufferers everywhere, there is the great problem of injuries to anaesthetic hands and feet because they do not understand how to care for themselves properly. They laugh at the idea that clawed hands can be straightened. Perhaps the use of physiotherapy, and in some cases, surgery will convince them in that respect. My dreams also include the hope that one day it will be possible to have two small wards, one for men, one for women, adjoining the clinic, where bad reaction cases can be kept for a few days. Recently a man with high fever had to walk miles to his home because there was no place for him to stay. At the moment no educational work regarding leprosy is being done in the surrounding villages. The need for this and the problems it presents can be easily recognized.

Last, but most important of all, the spiritual aspect. Services are held regularly in the little Colony Church conducted by the pastor, Mathura Hembram, himself a patient. Though the Christians are not in the majority, I feel their standard is a high one. Recently at the monthly Communion service a professing Christian who had fallen into sin was quietly but firmly disciplined. This was done entirely by the members of the Leper Church themselves.

The mid-week women's meeting which had lapsed was started again last week with about twenty attending. We hope to start regular meetings for the children very soon. There are about fifty children here and their education and future is a problem indeed.

As I think of our Lord's compassion for such people during His earthly ministry my thoughts turn to the glorious future with Him, and one dear woman comes especially to mind. Her hands and feet are shockingly deformed, she hobbles slowly with the aid of a stick, but her face is radiant with Christ's joy and the hope set before her. She never fails to witness for Him, affirming earnestly that there is but one Saviour. Surely for her, and those like her, pain and deformities forgotten, "They shall be mine," saith the Lord of hosts, "In that day when I make up my jewels."

FURLOUGH, A TIME OF SHARING

PAT WEIDMAN

"How happy we as a Church are to welcome you back into our midst after a year of rest in America." This was one of the remarks made today during a short welcoming service at our Bhimpur village church. The idea that furlough is a year of nothing but rest for the missionary is held by many people here in India and in the United States as well. But, the vote of the Christian Service Society of Bengal, Orissa and Bihar under whom we carry on this work reads, "Moved that we approve the transfer of Rev. and Mrs B. E. Weidman . . . to the U.S.A. for study, rest, medical treatment and service . . ." This left no misconception in our own minds as to what to expect. We felt it was a time profitably spent and we were able to return to Bhimpur and the people here refreshed in mind and spirit.

We were indeed grateful for the first three months after arrival when we were free to visit our many relatives. They enfolded us all but were especially interested in getting acquainted with our two "Indian boys," David, who was born soon after our arrival in India, and Timothy, who was born just five months before our departure from India.

Soon we plunged into what seemed like a never ending cycle of visits to doctors to obtain our medical clearance and then to be released for deputation.

Because it was Burt's desire to take some additional study at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School for one semester, we decided we had better plan to spend the entire school year in Berkeley, Calif. so Teresa and David would have an uninterrupted year in school. Teresa particularly enjoyed not having to go into boarding for a whole year and above all she prized the second hand TV. in our living room. David, never having been to the States before, was forever saying, O yes, I remember this or that person as the case might be. He was not going to let his big sister have the jump on him by being familiar with all our relatives. David's kindergarten experience in Berkeley was very satisfactory and although he is in the youngest age group of his class at Woodstock this year, he is advancing normally for a first grader. One sad day we became aware of the fact that David had forgotten all of his Bengali. Whereas, just one short year previously he had spoken only Bengali, he was able to speak only English. We are hoping that much of his fluency in Bengali will return when he comes to Bhimpur for the three month Christmas vacation.

Not far from Berkeley, the women of the Coastal Valley Association prepared for our coming in a wonderful way. Kitchen and linen showers were held by various women's societies of the association. Others pitched in supplying us with a lamp, sewing machine, mixmaster, waffle iron and many other useful items to be used in our third floor apartment home. We felt truly encircled by thoughtful Christian friends. What a joy it was from time to time to visit in many of those women's societies sharing stories of how God is at work in the hearts of people in India.

Burt also had many opportunities to show slides and present some aspects of the work as it is carried on to bring men and

women to a saving knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are encompassed in India on all sides by great need, both physical and spiritual, and we were grateful for the opportunities to share these needs with interested friends in America. Specific prayer is one of the best ways for friends in America to help bring about solutions to these problems.

The courses Burt took at B.B.D.S. were very helpful. They were: Christian Education of Adults, Creative Teaching, Seminar on Hinduism, Case Studies in Pastoral Counselling, Marriage and Family Counselling, and Exegesis Seminar on the Holy Spirit. How much he appreciated the academic atmosphere of the school and the library where he spent many hours of research and study. And anyone who has ever attended B.B.D.S. knows what the school spirit means to all.

Yes, our year in America after being absent for five and a half years was full to overflowing. The visits we had with missionaries from India included a two week stay with Lynn and Marilyn Hunwick and shorter visits with Herb and Mabel Long, Art Sanford and son, Herb and Eileen Howson, Glenn Hill, Naomi Knapp and Ruth Daniels. You can imagine just how fast talk flew back and forth. Then, too, we had the opportunity to become acquainted with new appointees soon to come to our field. We pray that, as the Dr Larsen family received their visa and will soon be arriving in Bombay, the Skillman and Bass families will soon receive their permission from the Indian government and be able to join in this great task of witnessing to the thousands of people without hope of fellowship with God as we know it in Christ.

Our furlough was of further benefit to us to enable us to work more effectively among Bengali speaking people because we spent the remaining two months of the allocated time in the hill station of Mussoorie, U.P. in concentrated study of Bengali. Two teachers connected with the Hindi Language School were Bengali speaking and proved to be a great help to us in pulling together

the loose ends of our language study giving us a more efficient tool with which to proclaim the Love of God.

We look ahead to this new term with expectancy knowing that God will continue to lead us into ever widening circles of service as our dedication and commitment is deepened.

TIMES OF REFRESHING

W. C. OSGOOD

From September 2nd to 13th there gathered at Jaleswar Training Center some 53 of our evangelistic staff, missionaries and guest speakers. One of our guest speakers was a pastor of a Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon who had been attracted to Christianity by a tract received ten years ago. He is still the only member of his family who is a Christian. His simple messages from a heart aglow with love for His Lord, and his flock, were a blessing to all. An older colleague, also of the C.I.P.B.C., retired principal of the Union Theological Training School at Behala, Calcutta, who still continues to pastor a college church in Calcutta, gave a series of inspirational addresses and taught 5 classes on pastoral visitation, its importance, joys and problems. Bible Women, Pastors and missionaries alike gained much from the ten days of lectures on Homiletics presented by Rev. E. L. Wenger, for many years district missionary of the Baptist Missionary Society, in what is now East Pakistan and more recently professor in Serampore College. He also presented the North India scheme of Church Union from the Baptist point of view, while Canon J. K. Shah gave the Anglican slant thereon.

It was our privilege to have our own A.B.F.M.S. missionary, of Scottish birth, Rev. Ian Douglas, Principal of the Henry Martyn Institute of Islamics, with us for two days to give more understanding of the Christian approach to Muslims. We still

have about 400,000 Muslims in the area of our Bengal-Orissa responsibility and are doing little except through personal contacts here and there, for their conversion.

The power of the Word of God was emphasized in the 11 studies prepared by Miss Dorn for use in the 45 minutes of private devotion planned for each morning. She also presented excerpts from the spiritual biographies of 5 outstanding Christian leaders. Mrs Osgood, with Miss Satyabati Behera, planned a very effective time of prayer fellowship each evening in which every church and worker, and the major institutions, and varieties of the work were remembered by name in prayer. Forty-five minutes a day for each other brought a rich sense of fellowship and oneness.

The time spent with Rev. Archie Shear, in studying methods of and the use of God's word in personal evangelism, will surely contribute to the effectiveness of many a pastor and Bible woman.

Our Executive Secretary, Rev. Sushil Bepari, out of his experience as teacher and pastor, gave five periods to the Teaching Ministry of the Church. The obstacles to improving the content of the faith of the average Christian and removing the religious illiteracy of the masses are very great, especially in the scattered village churches, but we were all inspired to more diligent efforts toward this end.

It was possible to have good library facilities and a display of most of what has been published in the line of Christian literature in recent years. Five sessions were given over to a presentation of the importance of Christian literature and the types most suitable for the varied needs of people within and without the church. This presentation fell to my lot as Chairman of the C.S.S. Literature and Bible Correspondence Committee. We were also able to supply Rs 30 worth of new books to 7 of the workers who have not hitherto been able to get help from the scheme to supplement the libraries for our staff.

How grateful we all are for the opportunity to come apart in such pleasant surroundings for this 11½ days in fellowship with each other and with our Lord. Playing together, praying together, feasting together both from the Word and from a bountiful supply of good food with the opportunity to share our joys and sorrows, difficulties and victories brought a new unity, strength and enthusiasm which can already be felt in the work of the field. We thank you whose prayers and gifts make possible both the existence of this Retreat center and its continued operation.

LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS

MAUREEN BRIANS

“Lighten our darkness” is not a phrase from a prayer but it is taken from an advertisement in a leading newspaper in India. The accompanying illustration shows a villager going home after work to his dimly lit mud house in the greyness of the falling night. The advertisement continues, “India’s millions, through the years, have prayed for illumination to dispel the darkness of ignorance. . . the shadow of famine, drought and pestilence . . . the sombreness of night.” Then we read on how a certain brand of flashlight batteries is “. . . chasing away the fear of darkness . . . turning night into day . . . making possible further steps toward the illumination of mind and spirit.”

“Lighten our darkness” continues to be the prayer here, if only the unspoken one. A small, pretty little girl lay exhausted on her bedding on the floor of our school hostel. She had had several epileptic seizures during the day and now it was growing dark. “Eat quickly and come right back”, she begged. I turned back to her and crouched beside her, “I will,” I promised, “but you shut your eyes and go to sleep now. After you sleep you will be well.” “I can’t go to sleep,” she answered in a trembling

voice. "I'm afraid to sleep." I cannot say just what was in her mind but I suspect she was afraid of evil spirits. The scar between her eyes was silent witness that in a previous attack someone (in this case, her father) had taken a burning hot cowrie shell and held it against her head to bring her back to consciousness.

"Lighten our darkness" many a villager in Bhimpur prays as he walks along the path near the tree reported to be the lodging place of evil spirits. Some do not dare to walk near the tree at night.

"Lighten our darkness" should be the prayer of every American these days too. The pall of darkness, the hatred, and horror of the racial strife is known throughout the world, the news reaching even into small villages. One woman from Alabama wrote this week, and I quote her, "We are not doing anything wrong to the Negroes." Another, also from the same State, "Here the women of our Church contribute to your cause (she is speaking about the missionary cause in general, A.B.M.) and you talk about our Gov. Wallace because he is doing what we elected him to do. . . . I shall never contribute another dime to India."

The advertisement continues, "In India's 560,000 villages, Estrela (the name of the battery) . . . spreads enlightenment through light to the most remote hamlets." I wouldn't know, I muse, for I never heard of this battery before and I have never seen it in operation. And many in India's 560,000 villages don't know about the Light of the world, the One in whom there is no darkness. They may never have heard His name and probably have never seen a Christian, one who really shines with the light of His love. "Dedicated to India's brighter future!" the ad. concludes. And so are we—dedicated to India's brighter future available in Jesus Christ. And so are you, we pray, dedicated to America's brighter future which too will only come when His light dispels our darkness.

"Lighten our darkness!"

OUR PRAYER CORNER

“O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.”

“Prayer lights a candle in the soul, by whose light we discover the God-shaped space in our heart, reserved for Him in our creation.”

Sunday: Thanks for recovery of Bana Behari Barick from T.B.

He has taken up the job of teaching the children at the Leper Colony in Hatigarh. We give thanks for this answered prayer for the school teacher we have been searching for and ask your prayers for him and the children. Also for his six year old son who has T.B.

Monday: Prayer for finding just the right, dedicated people for our various school boardings, where needed, that the religious life of the students may be strengthened.

Tuesday: Prayer for sufficient funds to finish the hospital buildings started and for other buildings that are needed.

Wednesday: For more Christian teachers for the Balasore Boys' High School.

Thursday: For strengthening of the Christian Home program; that each Christian home may have daily family devotions.

Friday: For more funds for T.B. patients. We will have to give up the two beds we have reserved in Madar T.B. Sanatorium, Ajmer, Rajasthan, unless more funds become available, and T.B. is on the increase. Our two beds are always full.

Saturday: The poverty of this land continues to distress many of us. Prayer for greater industrialization of India, that more may have jobs.

IN MEMORY

The following word has just been received from the Boards: "On July 28, 1963, at the age of 93, Dr R. H. Murphy passed on into the presence of his Lord. A memorial service was held in Sunset Home Chapel on July 30, but the funeral service was held at Olathe, Kansas, where Dr Murphy's first wife lies buried.

Howard R. Murphy spent twenty-five years as a missionary of the A.B.F.M.S. in Bengal-Orissa from 1900 to 1925. He was the only doctor among a population of 500,000 people. Besides his medical work, he also did much in the field of evangelism in establishing and helping Indian churches. He has been secretary and superintendent of Santal education by appointment of the Government. He was also, for a time, Mission Treasurer and became the author of several books and many articles on missions. He worthily represented and served his Lord and Saviour, American Baptists, and the people of India."

NEWS ITEMS

The Burma Baptist Convention has invited representatives from our Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Yearly meeting to share with them in the celebrations of the JUDSON SESQUICENTENNIAL and 150 years of Baptist work in Burma, 1813-1963 to take place in December in Rangoon and other cities and districts of Burma.

Rev. S. K. Bepari, Executive Secretary of our Christian Service Society, Rev. C. C. Roadarmel, Mission Secretary, Mr Vincent Behera, Christian Service Society Treasurer, Miss Tushar Tudu, and Rev. W. C. Osgood are to attend as delegates. Miss Tudu, a Santal young lady from Bhimpore, a Member of

the Legislative Assembly of W. Bengal, is to represent the women of our area, Mr Behera the Youth, and Mr Osgood the men.

These delegates will go on to Hong Kong after Christmas for the Consultation on World Mission Conference. "... under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the Consultation will have highly significant results for the extension and strengthening of the Christian witness we wish to make, both as individuals and as churches."

* * * *

Ethel Roadarmel expects to join in the celebrations in Burma and she and her husband go on to Thailand, he *en route* to Hong Kong, to have Christmas with their son Norman, and family.

* * * *

Some of you will remember that the Osgoods, when they returned near the end of 1960 from furlough, expected to divide their last term of seven years, into two three-year terms, with a nine month furlough in between, which was due this November. Because of the acute staff shortage, particularly in the Orissa end of our field, it seemed best not to take this furlough, but to continue until the spring of '66, which would be a normal term of service. They are most happy to report that the Board has kindly sanctioned a three month furlough for Jane, beginning around the middle of December, after a two weeks visit with their daughter, Janet and family, in Burma. This short furlough is being granted because of Bill's willingness to stay over until '66, without a furlough. By that time we hope to have some more nationals ready to take over more responsibility and also at least one new couple for Oriya work. Bill will have Christmas in Moulmein with the grandchildren and their parents, and Jane expects to be in St. Paul, Oregon, with Luella and family, and son Gilbert. Her address from December 15th until she leaves

in March to return will be c/o Mrs R. A. Spirup, Star Route, Box 25, St Paul, Oregon.

* * * *

Dr and Mrs L. C. Kitchen, formerly missionaries on this field, but since 1935 a member of the staff of MacMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, expect to arrive in India toward the end of October. Mr Kitchen has just recently retired from the University. They will be making Jhargram their headquarters while in India. He will be speaking in various meetings and holding Conferences from time to time for the pastors. Also hopes to do some studying in Bangalore, on Hinduism. They expect to join in the Judson celebrations in Burma also. We welcome them to our midst.

* * * *

We rejoice to hear that Lillian Brueckmann continues to improve all the time, and hopes to return to India some time next year for another term of service. Surely the Lord has answered prayer for her.

* * * *

Word has come that the Skillmans, appointed for Oriya work, are now Studying in Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Their present address is Rev. and Mrs. E. L. Skillman, 114 Catherine Street, Apt. 3, Ithaca, New York.

