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TIDINGS



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1962
FOURTH QUARTER

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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Mr John G. Gilson

Mrs Alice Gilson

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FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUES

JANE OSGOOD

The past two issues of "Tidings" have contained news of the Gilsons' illnesses over a long period of time. When we last wrote both John and Alice Gilson were leaving shortly to enter Vellore hospital for further observation, and from there to go on their vacation. Retirement was due for them in April 1964 and we were all hoping and praying that they might stay on until then. John was hardly able to speak by the time they arrived in Vellore. They confirmed his illness as myasthenia gravis for which they could find no cause, or cure, and since the progress is so unpredictable, and he constantly needs good medical care, they strongly advised immediate return to the States. Long before you receive this issue of "Tidings" they likely will be settled in S. California, as they are due to fly from Calcutta the morning of the 29th and arrive in Los Angeles at 9 p.m., same date! (actual trip time some 27 hours). Their temporary address will be in care of Alice's sisters, Misses Carrie and Esther Webb, 341 N. Auburn, Sierra Madre, California. While at Vellore Alice had hernia operation from which she made a good recovery. Seems as though there isn't much left for them to experience in the line of illness!

They came to India first in 1925, both graduates of Des Moines University, to have charge of the Balasore Technical School. John was first challenged to Christian service during a Life Work Conference sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. in 1917. During his college years he considered foreign mission work, but as he did not feel called to be a minister he gave up the idea. However in 1922 he surrendered whatever talent he might possess and joined the Student Volunteer Band. God can use any

talent in India. Today the call goes forth from Indian churches for agriculturists, engineers, doctors, nurses, specialists of all kinds whereas forty or fifty years ago most missionaries were ministers or teachers. In a report in "Tidings" of 1938, when John received a silver Kaiser-I-Hind medal for distinguished public service, from the King of England, signed by the Governor of the province of Orissa this statement was made by one of the provincial commissioners, "in my opinion no other institution in the province of Orissa is doing so much toward the training of Indian mechanics of the higher order, and training village youths in those arts and crafts which they can pursue in their own villages." Over the years new courses have been added, improvements made, and the Gilsons have had the joy of seeing most of the graduates get good jobs on completion of their courses. For a time recently it seemed as though graduates from the Mission Technical School were having difficulty getting jobs, specially welders, when Government set up a number of competing Technical Schools, shorter courses, and with a guarantee that their graduates would be given preference. Time proved that short cuts do not pay, but the more thorough, carefully trained young men were the ones getting the good jobs. As John has worked toward improving the school he has been training a staff of nationals who are now completely in charge of the school. John and Alice can leave with the satisfaction of knowing they have built well. Over the years Alice has given much care and attention to the boys living in the Hostels. It is a source of satisfaction to both of them, and their colleagues, to occasionally follow up these "sons" and see the many places of service they have found. Their interest has not only been in the technical side of their training but in character building and their spiritual lives. A number of young men have accepted Christ during their training years in the Technical School.

One comes to India with the idea of "this one thing I do". If John thought of the Technical School as his only job he

was in for a big surprise! Aside from many Committees he has served on he has given much time as Property Committee Chairman and Advisor and also adding Treasurer's work to his list of duties. There is much more one could add concerning the thirty seven years of service Alice and John have given to India, but you will have to read between the lines, and also realize mere words do not begin to express the deep appreciation of their colleagues.

Their work has been distributed among many people, largely to nationals and there will be no general missionary living in Balasore unless a miracle happens and we start getting replacements, which isn't likely, for the many couples who have retired, or gone home for other reasons. When Gilsons came to India there were four families and three single ladies living in Balasore alone. He says this is perhaps an extreme example of the trend in Mission work over recent years. The house they have lived in so long will be used as a guest house for missionaries who come to Balasore for meetings. The other bungalow has been completely turned over to the Christian Service Society for offices, meeting room, guest rooms and the residence of the Executive Secretary. With Gilsons gone we are left with just four couples for the whole field, as compared to four for Balasore town alone when they arrived in 1925. Visas for new missionaries for our field are hard to come by and while we continue to hope and pray for new recruits it perhaps is God's plan that "missionaries decrease, and nationals increase." We are thankful to God for the many fine, capable national leaders we have and no doubt the most important work a missionary can do is helping to raise up leadership.

We reluctantly bid farewell to Alice and John, the *first* missionaries we met on the field when we arrived in 1928. We spent our *first* month in India in their home learning a bit about the country we had come to serve, and had our *first* exposure to the Oriya language in their home. Our *first* vacation in India in

the hills was spent with the Gilsons, and their two little girls. Now they have two sons in addition to the daughters and five grandsons and five granddaughters. Their home has been open to our comings and goings over the years and we shall surely miss them. We pray that both may come back to good health once again, in sunny California, and know that He will lead them into new avenues of service in His own good time. Mizpah.

‘‘COME YE YOURSELVES APART’’

CLARA DORN

I left home with my suitcase and basket full of such items as saries, a Bengali Bible, an English Bible, Bengali hymn book, clip-board, note books, tracts, badminton set, a small football, flashlight, Sunday school books, 2 dozen eggs, a small plant, bracelets, etc. I returned 12 days later without the plant and eggs but with lots more books, plus a happy feeling of inspiration and accomplishment from the Christian fellowship and instruction I had enjoyed.

Where was I? At our Annual Refresher Course for pastors and Bible women which met at Jaleswar from September 3-14. What did we do there? We got up at 5:30 a.m., so that we would be ready for our Bible discussion groups from 6:00-7:00. Some New Testament Epistles were studied in each small group. After breakfast we assembled for one and a half hours of panel discussion. We considered such themes as The New Christian Marriage Laws, Christian Education, Worship, the Pastor's Responsibility, and How to Preach to Non-Christians. Each topic was discussed for two days. Study time followed. We used this time to prepare the Bible study leaders and panelists for their presentation on the following day. After the recess we all sat down for our noon rice and curry meal.

After prayer time and rest we met for a Bible study together from 3:00-4:00 p.m. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel were considered. Next we had tea and played games. By now our pastors are quite expert at volley ball. We gathered together again at 6:00 for a time of singing. We sang in Hindi, Oriya, Bengali, Santali and English. Sometimes we sang a familiar song in whatever language we knew best. Rev. Shear played his accordian part of the time as well as serving as song leader. Then the time from 7:00-8:00 p.m., was given to our special speaker. Our speaker traced the life of a different Biblical character each evening.

Paul Sudhakar Menon was our special speaker. He is the nephew of the Defence Minister of India, Krishna Menon. He also studied Philosophy for 15 years under the President of India, Mr Radhakrishnan. He was converted to Christianity 15 years ago. We found our special speaker to be a very interesting and intellectually stimulating personality. His home is Kerala, but he spends most of his time travelling around speaking to Hindu groups about Christ. As one thoroughly versed in the Hindu Scriptures he could tell us how to reach the educated Hindus. I feel this was his main contribution to us. He told us how Hindus think and shared with us ways of working with them.

What did we accomplish? It is always difficult to evaluate, but I think we did learn more about how to study and teach the Bible, we received some practical helps and suggestions on how best to carry out our Christian work; we found out about books and materials to make our ministry more effective; we gained new insights into the Hindu religion; we learned several new songs; and we shared together the experience of Christian fellowship. We trust that the blessings of this experience together might bear fruit in our personal lives and in the particular work to which God has called each of us.

OPPORTUNITY UNLIMITED

W. C. OSGOOD

The percentage of literacy in India is constantly growing. There are several million new readers every year as a result of increased school facilities, literacy classes and the like. What will they read? Many groups are vying for the attention of these. A flood of new literature is being produced. How much of it is Christian in purpose or able to meet the spiritual needs of the nation depends, in large part, on all out effort by Christian writers, publishers, givers, distributors, translators and the like. Supplies of good, cheap, attractive and well written books in the major languages of the area are woefully short from the Christian standpoint. Books are needed for new literates, for children and youth, for the Christian home, for evangelism, for Bible study and the building up of the life of the church, for the fields of social concern and for theological education. Biographies, novels, story books, and books of devotion are all limited in numbers. Sales are apt to be limited, authors of original works few, supplies of various skills such as artists and block makers short, and the number of languages in which books are needed many. We have co-operated this past year with 38 different organizations, publishers, Councils, associations and the like in the effort to help the production of Christian literature. These represent 9 different countries, 4 Christian Councils and greatly varied interests and denominational background. It is no wonder that we have to supplement what we can do co-operatively, with some publications of our own. It takes time, for instance, to reconcile Lutheran, Baptist, Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist views to say nothing of others so as to attain an agreed program. We have given grants this year to 8 different

organizations and publishing agencies aside from our own direct work. We have given major support to two different writers and translators, one for Bengali and one for Oriya.

During the last twelve months, for the first time since 1880, there has been published the first volume (439 pages) of a proposed two volume "Helps to Bible Study". The second volume is just starting through the press though most of the writing and translating has been done. There has been nothing remotely comparable to a Bible Handbook or Bible Dictionary hitherto available in either Oriya or Bengali. It is hoped to put the present Oriya volume into Bengali. There are approximately 115 short articles in the first volume giving background material of help to lay-people, Sunday School teachers and all workers who have not access, either because of insufficient knowledge of English or for other reasons, to the more comprehensive books in English.

The 400 page book of daily devotions, written by our now retired literature worker, Mrs Christian, has appeared in Bengali and is being greatly appreciated. Compared with the wealth of devotional books in English we have but three or at most four in Bengali and Oriya, among them "Daily Light," and excerpts from "The Imitation of Christ". An attempt has been made at various times to provide daily readings like the Upper Room, on a quarterly basis, but without wide success. In both Oriya and Bengali another original work, by Mrs Christian, has appeared during the year called, "Adam, Son of God", tracing something of God's purpose of salvation as it develops in Old Testament history, prophecy and typology, through the coming of the Messiah and His work, the family of God and His coming again to reign. This might be described as a survey of the message of the Bible. It, too, is being blessed. A book of Christian heroism and biography, Christ of the Korean Heart, made available in Bengali, by the Bengali Christian Book Club, has been produced by us in Oriya. Also published has been a book giving guidance for

church business meetings and the management of church finances. There have been published a series of 6 evangelistic tracts and a book of Bible studies intended to help make "Every Man a Bible Student" (title of the book). In Oriya too we are venturing on the ambitious project of an Oriya Christian Book Club in which we plan to have for next year a book of Christian Stories, short biographies of Carver and Carey, a book on Christian guidance, entitled He Leadeth Me, and a commentary on Genesis to Numbers. Giving 4 or 5 books, for the price of three, will take substantial subsidy but will, we feel, educate a public in Christian reading. We need your prayers.

In Bible correspondence work we have published a new but well proven course on Christian Ethics called Daily Light, using a text book already available through the Scripture Gift Mission. Many hundreds of lessons have been sent out in the six Oriya courses we use. Over 1000 have applied for new courses this year bringing the grand total to around 13,000, while over 750 have sent in the first lessons of the new courses and 536 certificates have been granted for completed courses. Students from non-Christian background write in expressing gratitude for the courses that have helped them to know Christ, and asking for more books about Christian things. Correspondence is involved in answering students' eager questions: "Where does Jesus stay and in what form is He at the present time", a Brahman writes. Some are persecuted or ridiculed for taking the courses but eager to continue. One writes, "I have received great benefit from these courses and believe I should accept Jesus Christ and am seeking an opportunity to do so". "Please write me how one accepts the Christian religion", writes another.

Aside from a number of books and magazines to which our workers have given time, and effort, and we have given monetary help, some 2,600,000 pages have been printed by our group, or the books containing them, though started earlier, have come off the press in the last 12 months.

On the distribution side substantial improvements have been made in reading rooms and stocking centers in Balasore and Kharagpur and better business arrangements worked out for the supply and distribution of our publications. All the work done in Santali this year has been on the co-operative basis. 48,000 four page Santali-Bengali tracts on 8 of the parables was the major effort this year though several more things are in the press and some will be out soon.

Your prayers are requested that each piece of literature, gospel, tract, Bible correspondence lesson, magazine or book club book sent out may be used of the Holy Spirit to win souls to the Master, to build people up in the faith and inspire them to witness and to true Christian living. Pray that God will raise up a host of enthusiastic salesmen who shall see that myriads of books and tracts are sold or distributed; that needed authors, translators, artists, publishers, and other workers involved may be raised up; that the co-operation of all groups interested in Christian literature may be such that needless delays may be avoided; that the Indian church may wake to its responsibility and privilege in this field and turn resources of men and money into it. That libraries and reading rooms and sales depots may be established in many places where such facilities do not exist. We know that one of our churches which now has 100 members was established some years ago because a tract in the hands of an illiterate person opened his mind to the truth as he had it read to him again and again. God's word does not return unto Him void but shall accomplish that for which it has been sent.

“WORK HEARTILY, AS SERVING THE LORD”

SUSANNE POWERS

Much clapping was heard during the first business session of the Annual Women's Conference in Balasore in October. Many of the churches in our Bihar-Bengal-Orissa area had increased their special offering and some church groups had given for the first time. Even the nine or ten Christian women of Mitrapore, most of whom earn only about ten or twelve cents a day, breaking stones, which is barely enough for their daily rice, gave about \$1 for their offering. One woman had been given a goat earlier to raise, the profit to go to the special offering. She brought in nearly three dollars. In all the women gave more than Rs 1400 or almost three hundred dollars. This was given happily by our women, many of whom are very poor, to help in spreading God's word in this area. Most of the money is used to support a nurse who lives with a Bible woman in a dispensary in a jungle village. Both have learned to cycle so they can reach more people in that area for Christ.

At the close of the second day's business one woman from Mosabani Mines asked to speak. She said that only four or five women attend their weekly women's meeting, except when they specially visit their homes and invite them, so she asked for prayer for her group. Despite discouragement, they continue inviting and this year for the first time two women with the pastor's wife came for the Conference, from that relatively well-to-do copper mining town. When she sat down a second woman, from a very jungle village, stood before all of us to testify how her faith had been tested. While cutting grass for her cow she was bitten by a snake. The villagers wanted to call the man,

who by blowing the bite and by incarnations, could get rid of the poison. Against the wishes of her villagers, she didn't have the man called, but was healed by prayer in the name of Jesus. With the inspiration of the Conference, these women and the other delegates returned to their villages and towns to work more heartily for the Lord.

At all the meetings I caught the feeling of not wanting to rush away but wanting to stay together for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. The words of Paul in his letter to the Colossians stirred each of us to wanting to do greater work for the Lord. Daily the first forty five minutes was used for prayer, in three groups—Bengali, Santali and the Oriya languages, with Mrs Preaballa Dey, Miss Rani Tudu and Miss Arun Das leading.

For an hour and a half following the prayer time the women stayed in their own language groups for a rather thorough study of Colossians led by Mrs Satadal Barick, Miss Clara Dorn and Miss Parul Tudu. All "passed" in the quiz given orally at the end of the Conference. Mrs Konan Das, Miss Suddha Mookerji and Miss Lillian Bruckmann emphasized the theme verses found in Colossians 3:23, 24 as follows: 1. "Whatever your task, work heartily . . ." 2. "as serving the Lord and not men . . ." 3. "knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. . . ."

The special speaker was Mrs Bina Dutta of Calcutta. Her first message centered around the incident of Jesus' healing Peter's mother-in-law. She spoke of Jesus' *look*, his *command*, and his *touch* in healing Peter's mother-in-law's fever and in healing us of sin. After receiving forgiveness of sins we should minister or preach to others. The second night Mrs Dutta centered our thinking around the sinful woman who bathed Jesus' feet with her tears in the Pharisee's house. We need the same humility, the same repentance, and the same dedication as this woman before revival can come into our lives and into our churches. On the last night she told about the room that

had been built for Elisha and the things in that room. Just so, in the Christian life, the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, dedication to God and the Word are indispensable. As well as her messages, her presence with us was much appreciated.

The delegates, many of whom brought their small children, stretched out their mats and mosquito nets in the girls' Primary School class rooms and made themselves comfortable for their four nights at the Conference. Each day, before the noon meal the women bathed in the girls' hostel pond, which was a little inconvenient for the "city delegates" who are used to running water in their homes.

Rice and curry were cooked over two big mud stoves built under a large tamarind tree. The women of the Balasore church worked hard in helping with the cooking and in serving their guests. Two village Christian men were the "chief cooks" who made the tasty curries which we all enjoyed. Plates made from leaves fastened together were good substitutes for American paper plates and made dish washing practically nil. Hands were our eating instruments.

One evening the Balasore women and their children acted out the story of the raising of Jairus' daughter and the imaginary portrayal of her adult life. At the fun evening the Santali women showed some typical Santali folk dances with even the "youngest" Santali, Maureen Brians, joining in. Skits and dances gave lots of laughter to all.

Miss Satyabati Behera, our Balasore area Bible woman, kept the whole program running smoothly and on time. All the women left the Conference realizing the words of Paul were for them, as well as for the Colossian Christians. "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ."

CHANGING PATTERN OF LIFE

(As published in "The Statesman", leading English newspaper)

A socio-economic survey of a village, about 30 miles from Calcutta, has revealed certain aspects of the slowly changing pattern of semi-urban life. There, one will find people too poor to buy lanterns, using uncovered lamps (tiny bowl, with wick, using cheap grade of oil) at night. Few families possess kerosene stoves, bicycles, gramophones or radio sets.

The 900 people who live there, in 182 families, are divided into 26 castes. Their economic life presents a picture of poverty—indebtedness is fairly widespread. Nearly 65 per cent cannot afford to buy milk products or fruit, fish or meat or eggs.

The village is situated on the outskirts of Chinsurah, the district headquarters of Hooghly. It is one of the 50 villages in West Bengal selected for a thorough socio-economic study by Mr J. C. Sengupta, Superintendent of Census Operations. The survey has been completed in eight districts and is continuing in five others.

In recent years there have been two inter-caste marriages there. The dowry system still prevails.

Of the 182 families, four are engaged in the cultivation of their own land; families of agricultural labourers number 38; 10 families depend on the raising of livestock and production of milk; six families are employed in domestic service; and 59 families do other kinds of work. Eighteen families are engaged in the wholesale and 27 in the retail trade. A number of people are engaged in the transport and storage business. (This is not on the scale we think of in Western countries).

The number of households possessing bedsteads, chairs, tables and mirrors is 38. Thirty-four families have bicycles

and 22 radio sets. Washing soap is used in 116 houses and toilet soap in only 79. In many families women do not wear ornaments except only glass bracelets or glass bracelets with brass neck chains and earrings. (Even poor women usually have silver rings, bracelets, neck chains, etc., and many middle class would have these in gold).

Economically grouped, about 21 per cent of the villagers are fairly solvent, 15 per cent nearly solvent, 21 per cent on the verge of poverty and nearly 43 per cent very poor.

Coal is used as fuel by 107 families, wood by 72. There is no electricity in the village except in the house of a railway employee. The widespread use of coal as fuel is indicative of the urban influence on village life. Nearly 150 families regularly drink tea. Over 50 families read newspapers, 22 listen to the radio. The impact of industrialization on village life is breaking up the joint family system.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

KARTICK P. BEHERA

The days and months pass by quickly and everybody looks forward to Christmas day, when we can be at home with our family and friends. Last Christmas I had had to be away from my home attending an all India Educational Conference. This Christmas surely I could spend the holidays with my family who were pressing me to stay with them. It was difficult to pacify them when I received a call from the Education Department to join the Refresher Course in English at Puri during the Christmas holidays.

It was with a heavy heart that I bade farewell to my family and friends in Balasore knowing I would not be back until after the New Year had begun. At the same time my heart was full of gratitude to God for His constant flow of blessings throughout

the year. I can never forget with what compassion and sympathy he saved me.

Farther and farther away the train moved leaving one station after another until at last we reached Puri just before dusk. Among all those gathered for the Conference I found not a single Christian, all having come from non-Christian homes from different parts of the State. I felt very much alone but tried to fit myself into the group. Often I had a feeling that I was not one of them. We had a lovely view of the sea from the College hostel building where several of us were fortunate enough to stay.

It was December 24th. My mind was heavy with thoughts of how I could happily spend Christmas day. It was a new place to me and I knew no one there. Christmas morning, the birthday of our Lord, was welcomed with bright sunshine. I felt completely cut off from the joys we have in spending Christmas in a Christian atmosphere. I remembered the Christmas cakes and other home made sweet meats I'd be having if I were at home with my family. I remembered the children of the Mission compound who would be presenting their gifts to other families on the compound. Such scenes kept coming to my mind and nothing seemed to comfort me, though I was thankful for the opportunity of seeing another Christmas Day.

Suddenly at about three o'clock in the afternoon I heard the sound of a big bell. I hadn't realized I was near any Church. I said to myself, "I think that must be a church bell, it rings just like a church bell". Then I saw people rushing toward the church. I wasted no time in getting ready for the service and reached the church within a few minutes, and found a large congregation had gathered. The pastor read Matthew 1:18-25, an appropriate portion for Christmas service, which continued for an hour and a half.

On returning to the hostel I found my Hindu friends curious to hear about Christmas which I was able to explain to them in

a very simple way. This was an opportunity to preach Christ among non-Christians who knew nothing of our religion. I hope as they came together to hear the story of the glorious birth of Christ that I was able to satisfy them. One asked me to keep in regular touch with him that he might know more of Christ. I advised him to purchase a Holy Bible which will enlighten him, and this he promised to do. I hope he will progress each day and one day will accept Christ as his only Saviour.

I was overcome with great joy when I remembered that Christmas had been rightly spent even though I was away from home. May God use us and bless us as we take advantage of the opportunities that come to tell others of Christ, the Saviour of the world.

SHARING CHRISTMAS

LILLIAN BRUECKMANN

Far into the night on Christmas eve many hands are busy preparing rose cakes, coconut filled pastries, steamed cakes and other favorite sweet meats. Early Christmas morning plates filled with the freshly made pastries, sweets and fruits are carefully covered with a napkin and entrusted to the hands of children to be delivered to the homes of friends and neighbors with a cheery smile and a happy Christmas greeting. Usually the plates are returned with an equally generous share of good things to eat, as a token of goodwill and Christmas cheer. This sharing of what we have prepared in our own homes is, to my mind, the loveliest Christmas custom in our Indian villages.

God shared with mankind the glories of His heavenly home that first Christmas, when Jesus was born of Mary. Are we, His children, eagerly sharing that greatest love gift, the knowledge of salvation in Jesus Christ, with those close at hand, and with all mankind?

APPRECIATION

This is a bright, sunny day in October. By the time this reaches you Christmas will have passed and the New Year will have begun. We look back over the year and think of so much to be thankful for. Uppermost in our minds are the many friends in the homeland who have remembered us in prayers, thoughts and gifts. We give thanks to God for each one of you and with Paul say "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Last Christmas a very special friend sent this little poem, called "My Cherished Friend", which I would like to share with you, for it expresses so well how we feel toward the many friends who never forget: "My friend is one who speaks to me. . . . And takes the time to write. . . . Who has a thought to spare for me. . . . Whatever day or night. . . . Who comforts me and wants to make . . . My worry his concern . . . Who does a favor but expects . . . No favor in return . . . The one who knows the faults I have . . . But does not criticize . . . And who is always at my side . . . To help and sympathize . . . He is the brother of my soul . . . Forever good and kind . . . And he is first and foremost in . . . My grateful heart and mind . . . My friend is one who keeps me in . . . His every memory . . . And now and then will turn to God . . . And say a prayer for me".

We are thankful, too, for national leaders who have gladly taken on more responsibility, as missionaries have decreased. God's ways aren't always our ways, but He knows best. When you can count the number of couples left on our field, on one hand, even leaving out the thumb, and the number of single ladies on the other hand we sometimes wonder what His plan is. Does He want us to decrease and national leadership to increase? We are always so happy when another piece of work can be cared for by Indian leaders. Give thanks with us that God has

called out some wonderful people in this country and pray with us that many, many more may answer His call during the coming year.

Many prayers have been answered this year for which we all give thanks. We are thankful that vacancies for some graduate teachers have been filled. We can remember when all our schools had missionaries as principals or secretaries, but now we rejoice that nearly all of this work has been taken over by capable, devoted nationals.

We are thankful too for increased production of Christian literature, for those who give their time to this important work, and to the many new students who have enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Courses.

We rejoice that enough cement has become available to complete the work on the second Training Center building in Jaleswar, and to continue work on the hospital buildings at Nekursini. We are grateful too that the Larsons, appointed to work in this hospital, are willing to wait if necessary for more than one try for their visa. Some have had refusals several times and in the end been granted visas. Let us continue to unitedly pray for the Larsons visa and for other much needed staff for the hospital.

Another year is finished. Blessings and disappointments have no doubt come to all of us, but let us with Paul say, "Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

May our Prayer be:

We open here our treasures and our gifts;
And some of it is gold,
And some is frankincense,
And some is myrrh;

For some has come from plenty,
Some from joy,
And some from deepest sorrow of the soul.
But Thou, O God, dost know the gift is love,
Our pledge of peace, our promise of goodwill.
Accept the gift and all the life we bring.

HERBERT H. HINES

Sincerely,

JANE OSGOOD,

Editor and all your friends in India

OUR PRAYER CORNER

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word”. (Acts 6:4).

“Prayer is a trellis, supporting the vines and flowers of the spirit, as they climb heavenward, consisting of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance”.

Sunday: Pray that the few missionaries we have left may know best how to use time and abilities and to maintain good health.

Monday: We need to remember young people away in training, in Bible Schools, Seminaries, Colleges, Nurses' training, Doctor's training and other training, that they may ever keep before them the goal of serving Him.

Tuesday: That more may learn the joy of giving, tithing, that more of the work may become self-supporting.

Wednesday: That more funds may be available to maintain the two beds our Mission has reserved for T.B. patients in the Union Sanatorium in Ajmer, Rajasthan. They are always filled, with others on the waiting list.

Thursday: That all Christians may realize they are responsible for helping others to know Christ, by living Christ, as well as speaking for Him. Our actions speak louder than our words!

Friday: If it is the Lord's will that missionaries should continue in this part of India pray that visas may be more readily available and that there may be more volunteers for foreign service.

Saturday: Pray for the rulers of nations, and for countries that are threatened by Communism. Once communism comes in freedom to worship as one chooses goes out.

NEWS ITEMS

Missionaries

In the last issue of "Tidings" we reported that Gilsons had gone to Vellore for further medical treatment, hoping to go from there to the mountains for their vacation. After spending a month in the hospital the doctors felt that Mr Gilson should make immediate plans for return to the States, where he could be near good medical help. Elsewhere in this issue you will find more information about them, and their temporary address in California. Since the article has been written we hear they have arrived safely home. They will be greatly missed.

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Mrs Roadarmel underwent major surgery in Vellore on the 5th of September. She was making good progress when some

"virus" attacked her, and caused a real set back. We are thankful to say that she was able to return to Midnapore on the 7th. of October, accompanied by their son, Gordon, who had gone to be with her when her return was delayed. Gordon had three days with his parents in Midnapore before returning to Allahabad for further study of Hindi Literature. Last month we wrote of his expected arrival, under a Fullbright Scholarship, to work toward a Ph.D. in Hindi.

New Arrivals

Rev. and Mrs Archie Shear, of the Union Church, Khargpur are rejoicing in the birth of a little daughter in late September. She will keep her little brother, Raymond, company.

Rev. and Mrs C. C. Roadarmel, have announced the birth of another little grand daughter to their daughter, Mrs Wm. G. Kowalske, of Eau Gallie, Florida. They have the ideal family now, of two boys and two girls.

Visitors from Abroad

We were happy to welcome Rev. and Mrs A. F. Merrill to our midst the first of October. He is Regional Representative of S. Asia, for the Foreign Board. They returned to the States some six years ago after many years of missionary service in Assam, so are able to see the needs, problems and opportunities from both sides. They met one day with the Christian Service Society Executive, hearing plans being made for the work and offering helpful advice. Our Missionary Fellowship met one day with the Merrills exchanging ideas and information, and being brought up to date on trends in the home land.

We were glad to have them in Balasore for the first day of the Women's Conference. Mr Merrill brought the afternoon message in the church service, followed by communion, which was world-wide communion Sunday. It is a wonderful feeling to know that there is such a strong bond of fellowship and love throughout the world among Christian people. Both Mr and Mrs Merrill brought special greetings to the women in the evening, when they were garlanded by Indian friends. This custom of garlanding friends is a very lovely one.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are grateful for those who have subscribed to "Tidings" during the past year. However, we need more subscribers. If all remembered to renew subscriptions there would be no difficulty, but some forget. Please renew promptly and get your friends to subscribe also. Also if you are moving be sure to let Mrs Howard know your new address.

