Tidings

First Quarter 1962

American Baptist Bengal-Orissa Mission

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BENGAL-ORISSA FIELD DIRECTORY

Bhimpore, W. Bengal
Rev. B. E. Weidman
Mrs Patricia Weidman
Miss Hazel Smith
Miss Maureen Brians

Balasore, Orissa
Miss Susanne Powers
Mr J. G. Gilson
Mrs Alice Gilson
Rev. W. C. Osgood
Mrs Jane G. Osgood

Midnapore, W. Bengal
Miss Clara Dom
Rev. C. C. Roadarmel
Mrs Ethel Roadarmel

Hatigarh, Via Jaleswar, Orissa
Miss Lillian Brueckmann

Vacant
Jamshedpur, Bihar
Khargpur, W. Bengal
Bhadrapur, Orissa
Salgodia, Bengal
Jhargram, Bengal

Nekursini, W. Bengal
Rev. C. L. Kau
Mrs Wilma Kau

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

Local subscriptions from Mrs W. C. Osgood, Balasore, Orissa.
ANNUAL REPORTS

'THY HAND SHALL LEAD'
BURT AND PAT WEIDMAN

In 1956 the Managing Committee of the High School sent in a request to the Secondary Board of Education and the Dept. of Public Instruction of West Bengal to consider Bhimpore Santhal High School for upgrading to a Multipurpose High School, with two added subject areas of Humanities and Agriculture. Since that time further votes have been taken, and personal visits have been made by the Secretary and Headmaster to the District Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, and to the Chief Inspector of Schools, Calcutta, to convey these votes with the idea of gaining permission and funds to go ahead with the upgrading of the High School. During these personal visits the discussions disclosed that there are various conditions which have to be met by any school which wishes to be considered for upgrading. I have never seen any of these conditions in writing and they seem to vary slightly, depending on the Government official from whom the information is being extracted. But a general picture of the conditions goes something like this:

1. The school must have an enrolment of at least 350 students.
2. The matriculation (H.S.) pass record of the school must be an average of 50 per cent of those sent up in the last three years.
3. The school must have at least a 2nd class pass M.A. or M.Sc. for its Headmaster. We have a 3rd class M.A., but we have appointed him as Headmaster and we shall try to work for his approval as 2nd class Christian M.A.'s are hard to find.
4. There should be at least one other M.A. on the staff or better two, as well as two honors graduates. All of the staff should be trained teachers, if this is possible, i.e. should have had a
year's course in teacher training. (5) The District Inspector of Schools has also stated that if the program is to include agriculture, there must be at least 7 acres of agriculture land, and that this land must be in the name of the Managing Committee and not the Mission. A recent survey indicated the great need for a multipurpose High School with a more varied and practical curriculum. Ironically enough, according to our present understanding of the Government rules, any school wishing to be considered for up-grading, must use the old system, which they are trying to do away with, in order to qualify for receiving an opportunity to try the new system, so badly needed. How long can you patch up an old cart so as to earn enough money to live on and still save enough to buy a new cart so as to do a better job?

We saw recently that parents in all 4 of the communities (Christian, Hindu, Tribal groups, and Mahatas) here are awake to the need for education, at least in order for their children to qualify for the jobs that are all too few. This is in contrast to the early days here when the missionaries had to pay parents of promising children before they would let them attend school.

A new development this year was that all Government aided schools were required to reconstitute their managing Committees (School Board) but a clause was added that all mission schools could petition for a special Constitution, i.e. with effective control of the school still in the hands of the Mission, or in our case the Christian Service Society (formerly Home Mission Board).

When we submitted our special constitution to the Board of Secondary Education and Director of Public Instruction, West Bengal, we clearly stated the Christian purpose of the school and the objectives to be carried out through the school program. I quote this section from the constitution as approved by the Board of Secondary Education and the D.P.I.:

"Like all other schools sponsored by the Christian Service Society, this school was established by the American Baptist
Foreign Mission Society upon the principles and in the name of Jesus Christ. This school seeks to provide more than merely secular education. Christian education requires, along with the teaching of secular subjects, the maintenance of Christian instruction, emphasis on Christian principles, development of Christ-like character, and the knowledge of God as He is revealed in the Holy Bible and in the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. On this basis, this school seeks to serve the greatest number of all communities consistent with efficiency. It seeks the well rounded development of the pupils in body, mind and spirit”.

Christians almost lost the majority of members on the managing Committee recently. In case of a tie the Headmaster had the deciding vote. He of course voted for two Christians which made the majority of the Committee Christian. This very close call has served one good purpose. For three years now I have been saying to this Christian community, individually and in groups, “If you are not willing that your sons and daughters sacrifice the high paying Government jobs (Tribals get preference for Government jobs until 1970) to teach in your High School, then this school will not remain Christian much longer because we will have no Christian teachers teaching in it”. After coming so close to losing control of the school, as a Christian school, they are finally awake and on fire to do something to see that the Hindus do not get control. Already two families have said that they will see that their sons come to teach in the school after passing their B.A. examinations in March, and one boy is working on his honors paper in Science and it is well known that he plans to come here to teach. If we can get at least three more Christians, or better four on the staff, I see no reason why this High School cannot continue to make a very real contribution to providing trained leadership for the task of evangelism which is waiting to be done on all sides.

We have had a very good year in the hostel but there is still much to be done. The average grades of Christian boys and girls
have consistently been better than those of the non-Christians. However, this margin has been getting less and less. Particularly did we notice a drop in the grades of hostel boys. This past year we have had a very fine Christian M.A., B.T. teacher who has been tutoring the hostel boys every night for a period of two hours, and this year's final exam results have shown that the same boys who were not doing well last year at this time have improved.

This year our pastor has taken leadership for the Hostel C.E. program. Some of us have led Bible studies once or twice, but he has done nearly all of the work in this regard. He has helped the boys to lead themselves, which is of course what a well run C.E. program is meant to do. The boys are organized according to the C.E. pattern, and although they have little time for outside evangelistic activity, they have maintained a good program within the hostel. Still much remains to be done in: (a) A plan of Bible study which is not too difficult or advanced for Hindu boys and yet is challenging enough for boys who are already baptized or are sons of pastors or Christian teachers or other Christian leaders. (Bringing more boys to the point of decision for Christ and acceptance of baptism while they are still in the hostel.) Who can tell when one of these boys, perhaps much later in life, may find the Lord on the basis of an experience in a Christian hostel. Just a few days ago we baptized a boy who had been such a student in this school years ago. When he came before the baptism committee I asked him if he had known the Christian faith to be the only saving faith at the time he was in school, and he said yes he had, but could not accept because of his parents and other relatives, as well as the Hindu community. How good a Christian he remains to be seen. It would be interesting reading if the truth could be had from some former Hindu students who lived in Christian hostels if they spoke to the question, "Why I never accepted Christ". I know that as far as our formal hostel
program is concerned, no boy could say, "Because I was never given an opportunity to accept Christ". But I am learning that it is not so much the formal program, as important as this is, but it is those close personal contacts where boys can see and feel the presence of Christ in the lives of his friends, teachers, and pastors that may give him the chance to come to Christ himself. The unspoken plea of most young men directed toward me seems to be something like this, "We know what Christians are supposed to stand for, what we want is an introduction to Him who helps men stand for these things".

After the survey of the hostels was completed the rule was established that all hostels should have a work program compulsory for all the boys in the hostel. I have advocated this for as long as I have been in this work but there are two main problems for the boys’ hostel at Bhimpore, i.e., water and fencing for the garden. The only work program that will really contribute anything to the hostel budget is the hostel garden, providing the boys will do the work and the goats and cows can be kept out of the garden. In this country the sign of an educated man is still that he does not have to get his hands soiled. This is a huge handicap to the nation not to mention to the church and to the cause of village uplift, village church improvement and a dozen other ways. If there cannot be a successful work program in connection with the hostel then the hostel is not being used as a teaching medium as it should be, compared to the amount of money that is poured into the program every year.

This year it was again my joy and duty to be convener for the Youth Conference planning committee. In the planning sessions the Secretary of the Conference indicated that one of the needs of Christian young people is to know some of the differences between Hinduism and Christianity. We had Pastor Ratnum from Kharagpur, as one of the main speakers, who gave three messages comparing the Hindu and Christian
concept of God, Man in a general way, and some of the social and moral implications of these differences. These messages and the discussions which followed were most helpful to this missionary and I know that they were just as helpful to the young people. The main point which has stuck in my mind is that while Hindus believe that it is God's purpose on earth to destroy the wicked and save the righteous, Christ came to *save sinners* and *not* the righteous.

Our own Executive Secretary, Rev. S. K. Bepari gave a fine series of messages on the subjects of Baptism, the Holy Spirit, and the Lord's Supper, as well as leading the consecration service and the communion service. Rev. H. Singh from Jamshedpur led the evening devotional services. This year the emphasis was less on full time Christian service and more on the responsibility of every Christian to understand what he believes and why, and to openly and courageously give an answer for his faith and witness for Christ by speaking for Him, as well as living for Him. When the call came for those who would be willing to go just then, at that very hour to the bazaar to witness for Christ, 28 young people came forward. During the new year we hope and pray that the pastors of the churches will surely call on these young people to make their stand openly preaching or witnessing for Christ, not only for the purpose of reaching others, but to give these fine young men and women a chance to grow spiritually.

All in all the Weidman family has been in fair health during 1961. Just as I write these last lines, word has come from Gauhati, Assam, that we have another son in the family, Timothy, and they are both doing fine. Terry has adjusted very well in school and has gotten good grades. David is learning to handle the English language nicely but quite frequently slips into Bengali when he gets excited, angry or very happy. We are all looking forward to furlough with its opportunity for a changed perspective, catching up with the world by more study, getting to know
loved ones and friends again, and sharing the work with the
faithful ones in the churches at home who make all this possible.

There is so much yet to be done for Christ, rather to let Him
do through us. We feel that we are just now learning what
missions is all about, and how poorly equipped we are spiritually
to deal with all the problems and the wonderful opportunities
each new day brings. We can honestly say as one man of God
once said, “We are tired in it, but not of it”. We trust that by
God’s great grace we shall be able to yield to Him more and more
that He can use us to His glory in this place, or any place He
puts us.

MEMOIRS—1961

Rev. S. K. Bepari
(Executive Secretary, Christian Service Society)

We are glad that in 1961 we were able to introduce a new
scale of pay for our Evangelistic workers, bringing it to the
level of the scale prevailing in neighboring Churches. This
has been possible as two or three workers have been dropped, for
one reason or another, and others have been taken on by self-
supporting Churches, and contributions to the Central Fund,
by churches and individuals, have increased.

We have sent Miss Kalpana Biswas for training in the Vellore
Medical College with a view to employing her in our small,
rural centered hospital, at Nekursini. She is doing well in her
studies. Construction of the Central hospital building is
progressing and is expected to be completed by the end of 1962.

We have appointed two new nurses this year, for Medical-
Evangelistic Centers at Chordiha and Panchkahania, where
there were vacancies.

Scholarships have been granted to 8 students this year for
studying in Colleges. Two of our former scholarship holders
are at present serving in the Union Christian Training College, Berhampore, W. Bengal, and in the Christian High School, Balasore.

Our Literature worker, Mrs L. Christian has retired from service and Mr Joseph Sahu has been appointed to replace her. We are most grateful to Mrs Christian for the valuable services she has rendered for the cause of Christ, through literature, during these past years. We believe that we have found an able successor to Mrs Christian in Mr Sahu, who is her brother.

We have four Bible students in Yeotmal Biblical Seminary, three due to graduate in March 1963 and one in 1965. We expect to send three more students to Yeotmal in July.

Earlier in the year Mr Noel Baker graduated from Calcutta Bible School and has been appointed pastor of Christ’s Church, Jamshedpur.

Miss Nalini Sircar has graduated from Cuttack Theological School and has been appointed to serve in the Chordiha Medical-Evangelistic Center. We are happy to have 9 students in Cuttack Theological School this year, six men and three women students.

The Pastors’ Wives’ Retreat was held in Jhargram, March 20-23. Mrs Osgood, Convener, reported 24 wives attending, 5 Bible women who helped with the program, one lay guest speaker, Mrs Konan Das, and three missionaries. It was a very fine Retreat with all speakers having carefully prepared their parts and the teaching given was excellent. This was also a training period for the Pastors, including myself, for in addition to their regular duties, they had practice in cooking and housekeeping.

During the Pastors’ Retreat, or Workers’ Refresher Course, held in September at Jaleswar we studied in I and II Kings, Psalms, Jeremiah and Galatians. Rev. Motilal, a lay preacher of the Presbyterian Church in Central India brought inspirational messages. This Refresher Course makes a great contribution to the lives and teachings of our pastors.
Balasore and Midnapore District Youth Retreats were held in Jaleswar and Jhargram respectively. The Balasore Youth celebrated their Silver Jubilee this year and paid tribute to their founders, Dr and Mrs Osgood. Delegates from out of our field, Assam and Cuttack, attended this Retreat. Dr William Stewart, Principal Serampore College, was the guest speaker. The Spirit of the Lord worked in the hearts of many young men and women who offered themselves to be faithful witnesses to the Lord.

Lay Leadership training classes were held at Jaleswar, and Raghunathpur (Mennonite area), with students from English Methodists, United Missionary Society (Mennonite) attending as well as our own Baptists. The example of our Lay Leadership training has encouraged the Utkal (Orissa) Christian Council to hold their second Lay training this year, in Jaleswar.

We had the privilege this year of opening two new Christian Centers and a hostel (for men) at Kharagpur. We hope the Christian atmosphere will help Christian young men to have a closer walk with Christ, and through games, audio-visual aids, prayer meetings, etc., to attract non-Christians. We have appointed a full time Assistant Director to help develop this program.

This year some more responsibilities have been taken over by Nationals. Mr J. G. Gilson has relinquished responsibility as Secretary of the Christian High School, Balasore, and Mr K. P. Behera has become Secretary. Mr I. D. Nayak has assumed further responsibility in the Technical School, as he has taken over the Principalship from Mr Gilson. This will give more time to Mr Gilson for Mission and C.S.S. Treasurer’s work which he has recently taken over. We are hoping to appoint an Assistant Treasurer from among the Nationals in 1962.

The Women’s Conference held in Bhimpur during October was a time of great inspiration and fellowship. Mrs Lahey of the Australian Mission, Baripada, was the guest speaker.
The 125th Jubilee Anniversary of the Mission was celebrated in Khargpur this year in our yearly Convention meeting. We reviewed past work and dedicated ourselves for greater work in the future. We were honored on this occasion by the presence of Dr and Mrs John Skogland of A.B.F.M.S.

Sri Rameswar Singh, third year student in Yeotmal Seminary, was privileged to attend the 2nd Asia Baptist Youth Conference in Tokyo, Japan. This Conference enlarged his vision as to what God can do through consecrated young people.

Four from our field, Dr and Mrs Osgood, Miss S. B. Behera and myself had the opportunity of attending the 125th Jubilee Anniversary of the Baptist work in Assam. There was a huge gathering of six to eight thousand joyful, colorful Baptist friends of Assam, praising and glorifying God who called them out of darkness into His marvellous light. The celebration was magnified by the presence of great Christian leaders from around the world.

We have had the privilege of welcoming into our midst, during the past year several distinguished guests, among them Dr M. D. Farnum, Dr Charles Boddie and Dr V. E. Devadutt of A.B.F.M.S., Rev. Donald McCracken, pastor Baptist Church, Concordia Kansas, and Dr and Mrs Carpenter of I.M.C.

We are very short of missionaries in our field. We are thankful to the A.B.F.M.S. for designating two missionaries to our field in response to our requests. We have applied for visas for Mr and Mrs Tuck who are expected to take charge of our Rural Life Program, and Dr and Mrs Larsen who are expected to supervise and develop our medical program, but to date do not know whether or not they will be granted.

I had the privilege of baptizing 5 believers from Christian families this year, into the body of Christ, of addressing Retreats, Convention and Conferences, of taking Church and Communion services and of making personal contacts with Christian and non-Christian friends. Through all these activities I have received
abundant joy in my heart and blessing from our loving, Heavenly Father. All praise and glory be to the Lord.

My joy knew no bounds when we were blessed with a second son in our family, "Abesh", on November 28th. My soul joined the Psalmist in singing "Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits".

I should like to close my report by giving sincere thanks to my colleagues and friends who have given valuable help to my work during the past year.

**TOWARDS DEVOLUTION**

**J O H N A N D A L I C E G I L S O N**

"Devolution", or placing the responsibility for the work in the Mission fields upon the indigenous church, has been an ideal for our work since we joined the Mission 36 years ago. Now some progress is being made toward that goal.

**I. Christian High and Technical School**

The Christian High School was among the best in the District as judged by the percentage of passes in the High School Final Examinations of the Board of Secondary Education. Twelve passed out of a total class of 14, 3 of them in 1st division, 2 in second division and 7 in third division. However, only one Christian boy, Susil Behera, passed in second division which entitled him to a Scholarship. He is now in the Pre-University course at Serampore College. Simeon Sahu, the pastor’s son, passed in third division and is living at home while studying at Fakir Mohan College.

In the Technical School 20 students completed full time courses; two received the Technical Diploma, 14 the Artisan Certificate, and three Commercial certificates. Six certificates
were issued in Book-keeping, 11 in Shorthand and 14 in Typewriting. The Commerce courses are very popular now as all students are employed immediately on completion of their courses. In fact many of them leave to take employment without waiting to pass the final examination and take their certificates.

The school teams did well in sports and games. The Technical School team won the District Championship in the Track and Field sports, and Benjamin Mahata, the individual champion, again took many prizes in the Orissa Olympics and competed with the Orissa team in the National Olympics at Jullundur. Benjamin is now an instructor at the Jhargram Polytechnic. The Christian High School teams won the football championship of the Balasore District High School Association in both senior and junior grades. The Headmaster, Mr K. P. Behera, is the Secretary of the Association.

Mr Rameswar Singh, who had been the Chaplain of the Technical School for the past year, left in July to attend the Asian Baptist Youth Conference at Tokyo. On his return from Tokyo, with only one day at Balasore to report, he went back to Yeotmal to complete his course for the G.Th. at the Union Theological Seminary. We were fortunate to secure in his stead Mr Kalyan Basu, I.Sc., B.D., who is not only the best educated chaplain we have had but an experienced and very enthusiastic youth leader. He is serving both as Chaplain and Hostel Master and putting on a full time program for the residential students.

From January 1 the experiment of combining the two schools to make a Comprehensive School ends, and the post of Principal is abolished. Each school will again have its own Managing Committee. The Headmaster will be Secretary of the High School Managing Committee. Our responsibility will continue only as Secretary of the Technical School Managing Committee. The Superintendent will have full responsibility for the Manage-
ment of the Technical School and Workshop. This is official recognition of a situation which has been developing ever since the time of the Missionary Principal has been so largely taken up with other duties, and also serves to free us for the additional duties now given.

II. Education Committee

The position of Education Advisor was abolished last year, and all the responsibilities given to the Education Committee of the Christian Service Society. The chief work of the Committee during this year has been the allotment of Scholarship for College and Professional training. For the first time we have sent a student with Scholarship for M.B.B.S. training at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. The candidate chosen was Miss Kalpana Biswas, daughter of Mani and Amiya Biswas of Balasore. She is doing well in her first year of the Pre-Medic course which now has to be done at the Medical College instead of at Science College.

Another important work which is still continuing is a study of the management of our School hostels with a view to making them more effective in the Christian Training of the students, and of having more uniformity in staffing and program. The chief accomplishment so far is to replace some of the more incompetent Hostel Masters and Matrons and to start a work program in all the hostels where there had been none.

For the new year Mr Dulal Murmu, the new Headmaster of the Bhimpore Santal High School, has been elected Chairman of the Committee.

III. Property Committee

The position of Property Advisor still continues, and the local correspondence this year fills a file 1½" thick, not to mention files of plans and estimates, correspondence with the New York office, etc., but now most of the decisions have to be made in
the Property Committee of the Christian Service Society, of
which the Advisor is Chairman. Our building boom still con­
tinues. Most of the buildings are small, but small buildings
take almost as much red tape for planning and approval as big
ones, and alterations on old buildings take more than that.

Buildings and alterations completed during 1961 include:
Midnapore Girls’ Higher Elementary School extension (5 rooms)
for Humanities section; Nekursini Hostel extension (1 room);
Nekursini new bridge for approach road; Jaleswar Training
Center Girls’ dormitory; Balasore Technical School Septic tank
latrine; Christian High School Craft shed; Kharagpur Workmen’s
Hostel complete reconditioning (after 20 years of Government
occupation) and alterations to provide quarters for the Assistant
Director of Christian Centers; and new permanent roofs on
the following buildings: Jamshedpur Emanuel Baptist Church
parsonage, Bhamradihi Church, Jhargram Supervisor’s house’
Gengtabani parsonage, and Bhadrak Second Preacher’s House.

Buildings under construction include: Nekursini Hospital,
Dr and Nurses’ Quarters and other small buildings in the Hospital
program; Nekursini servants’ quarters; Bhimpore godown and
servant’s quarter; Jamshedpur alterations on the Mission Bunga­
low to make suitable accommodations for two pastors’ families;
and Hatigarh wall around School yard. Work is being delayed
on account of the difficulty of getting cement due to the railway
transportation bottle neck which is the chief hold back on the
rapidly developing industries of India.

The following buildings are in various stages of planning
for construction in 1962—1963: Balasore, additional rooms on
parsonage and extension of Girls’ High School; Behera church
roof; Bhamradhi Medical-Evangelistic centre; Bhimpore, ex­
tension of Santal High School; Hatigarh, Headmaster’s house;
Jaleswar, Men’s dormitory and latrines for Training Centre
and reconditioning and alterations of the old Mission Bungalow
for occupation by the Osgoods; Jhargram septic tank latrine
for staff quarters and alterations to the cottage acquired from Rev. A. L. Maity to make it suitable for a lady missionary; Nekursini, surgical unit and another wing of the hospital building. Most of the planning and estimating is done for the committee by Mr Sachin Mahapatra, Property Supervisor of the Christian Service Society.

IV. Treasury

Miss Beatrice Ericson, who has been Treasurer of the Mission and the Christian Service Society, was asked to return to the U.S.A. in November on very short notice on account of her health. As we had had previous experience of the office we were asked to take over from her as an emergency measure, even before a new Treasurer was appointed. Since then we have been elected Treasurer of the Christian Service Society (they can now elect their own) and subsequently received a Power of Attorney as Treasurer for the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. The C.S.S. voted to move the Treasurer's office to Balasore but the move has been delayed on account of the difficulty of making suitable accommodation for the clerk and accountant, so for the time being we are having to divide our time between Balasore and Kharagpur. The Service Society's budget for 1962 amounts to more than Rs 300,000 ($60,000) and covers 32 typed pages of details, so their accounts take a great deal more time than the Mission's accounts these days. The Society plans to appoint an Assistant Treasurer as soon as possible to work with us, and to be prepared to take over as Treasurer when we retire.

V. Balasore Church

Mr Benoy Seth, who had to resign as pastor last year, died at his home in Jaleswar in November. Sri B. K. (Boria) Sahu came to Balasore as Pastor from Bhadrak in April, 1961, and is
proving a very capable pastor. He is to be ordained in the Balasore church on January 14, 1962. Gospel teams, made up largely of the staff and senior students of the High and Technical Schools, have been active throughout the year. There were 11 baptisms at Balasore during the year and several of the High School students were baptized in their own village churches.

1961 REPORT OF THE C.S.S. WOMEN’S WORK COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

MISS SATYABATI BEHERA

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

In the field of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa God’s unseen hands are working among the Churches, especially through their women folk.

The Annual Women’s Conference of this area, consisting of women from all the churches, was first organized in 1922 and has been growing steadily for the past 40 years. From October 23rd through the 26th some hundred women gathered in Bhimpore this past year and had rich fellowship together and inspiration and help from the leaders who had spent much time in preparation.

The theme verse of our conference was Lamentations 3:40, “Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord”. We must search our own hearts, we must know if we are following His ways if we are to be good servants of Christ. If we have been following our own desires then we must again turn to the Lord for his guidance. There is much food for thought in this little verse.

In past years often women have had financial help, perhaps on travel, or fooding expense, but this year practically all attend-
ing paid their own expenses. This is great cause for rejoicing for it is a sign that self support is coming to our whole field.

When the love gifts were brought in it was found to be more than we had ever raised before: Rs 986.94 for the nurse we support at Panchkahania; Rs 346.31 for the Central fund which is used over the whole field to help finance weaker churches, and in other ways. With the evening offerings of over Rs 36 and Rs 35 income from goats or cattle it brought the total to over Rs 1,400. God is truly working through His women.

Balasore stood first in the amount raised this past year, Midnapore second and Bhimpore third. Among the smaller churches Choinesole stood first in Dompara area, Santali churches. Special reward of Rs 15 was offered to these four Churches to be used during the coming year to increase the fund. Some may raise vegetables and give the profit, or chickens and sell the eggs for this fund, or in other ways.

The sincere labor of the Women’s Societies proves that the Churches of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa can stand on their own feet to glorify their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This year the regional Women’s Conferences of Dompara area (Santali) Belda area (Kora) and Hatigarh area (Santali, Kora, Bengali and Oriya) were held in Chukripara, Ranisorai and Salgoria respectively. By introducing and organizing these regional Women’s Conferences the women of the rural Churches can participate in singing songs, offering prayers, reading their Bibles and putting on dramas in their own languages. These smaller Conferences have shown real spiritual growth in the lives of many. These three regional Conferences, as integral part of the big Annual Conference have contributed much help and moral support in helping to reach the common goal of increasing gifts for the Evangelistic centers, and for the Central fund.

We have started a campaign to educate the adult illiterates of our field, introducing night schools. Many Santali men and
women, both Christian and non-Christian, are getting opportunities for regular instruction by our Christian teachers. A short time ago in some of the Churches we observed an “adult literacy Day” to examine the students. To our great pleasure they could read the Bible, recite Bible verses and the Lord’s prayer very well, and entertained us with singing of Christian songs. Through the efforts of one of the night schools a young Oran lad, Benudhar Ram, was won for Christ. The woman who taught this class suffered much persecution, beating etc., but she stood the test and is working with double encouragement.

Bible Schools during the summer vacation were held in some of our Churches.

Three girls have been in Bible training during the past year, in Cuttack Theological College. One has graduated and been appointed to the Medical-Evangelistic center in Chordiha and the other two are returning to complete the course.

Let us remember to pray for Kalpana Biswas, the young girl from Balasore who is studying to become a doctor to serve her own people, in the fine Vellore Medical College.

The nurse who was supported by the Women’s Conference, 24 years ago in Panchkahania Medical-Evangelistic center has been re-appointed and is again serving in this same Center. We hope a new Church will be organized before too long in Panchkahania.

As we celebrate the 125th birthday of the American Baptist work in this area women of the Annual Conference have promised to raise funds for the Central fund through Religious dramas and in other ways. We pray that these words of encouragement may bring inspiration and help to many throughout Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR
MAUREEN BRIANS

With the swiftness known to all adults and equally unknown to all children, another year has passed. The last Christmas ginger bread boy (sans ginger but with icing coat and raisin eyes) has been eaten. Dying the slow death of first having one arm bitten off, then the other, then the legs, the head and finally the body, the last “boy” went the way of his brothers and they are just happy memories in the minds of the orphans here. Now with metronome regularity, a dhinki (a rice-pounding instrument) can be heard as the girls pound rice into flour to make special cakes for New Year’s Eve. These are but two indications that the end of the year is here and it is time to recall the highlights of the year.

As with nearly all new missionaries most of my time was spent in language study, or in trying to find time to study. We all realize the absolute necessity of learning the language and learning it well. In January of last year my language teacher and I spent ten days in Chukripara, a village in the heart of a large Santal area. We stayed in a home where I learned much about village life, some Santali, and many essentials for one who will be doing village work, including how to bathe by a well. It was a happy time, but there were deflating moments too. Occasionally in wild flights of fancy, I envision myself being able to speak Santali fluently some day. It was in just one of those rare moments of high expectation in Chukripara that a village woman said to my teacher, “Do you mean she has been studying Santali three months and she can’t speak yet?!!” I know these folks can’t understand how hard it is for us to maneuver our tongues into positions to which they are unaccustomed, not to mention the mastery of Santali grammar which, although
consistent, is not simple. Nevertheless such a comment does crush the aspiring linguist. We had some pleasant, if strenuous times, in walking to all the nearby villages. I think we visited all the Christians in a ten mile radius. The study trip was topped off by a journey to a distant, isolated mountain-side village, Bhamradi, to see Christians there. Water buffalo were shooed from their stable and after the place was swept clean it served as our bed-room and the place for the prayer meeting that night. We wanted to stay longer to see all the Christians in that area but a sudden heavy storm forced us away the following day, lest the rains prevent our leaving for many days. We were glad we had gone even for the brief time. It was a joy to meet the people there and we were able to bring a badly burned baby to a mission hospital for treatment and plastic surgery. These people are miles and miles from medical care of any kind.

In February it seemed like going home to go back to Chukri-para for the annual Santal women’s Conference for that area. I was amazed at how far some of the women had walked, carrying a child and a bundle of clothes, bedding, rice. How I enjoyed the warm hearted fellowship of the women, both at this Conference and at the other Santal women’s Conference the following month in Nekursini. Sharing the inspiration, the singing, the laughter, and most important of all, the same Saviour made us so aware of our oneness in Him. At the Nekursini Conference I was a reluctant Daniel in a religious drama which almost became a comedy when I spoke my two or three lines in Santali. I knew I would ruin the play but the producers insisted I was the one for the part. So although the play was about Daniel they worked it out so I spoke little. The drama critics were absent at that performance. Never was such a bumbling thespian proclaimed such a success. The lion’s den was an overturned table with sides enclosed giving a boxy look. I almost stopped the show by getting the dhuti they had dressed me in hung up
on one table leg as I climbed into the pit. Unrehearsed, so unexpected cock crowing by off-stage members of the cast (to let the audience know it was morning) almost broke up Daniel's morning prayers too!! It seems strange that if I was as good as they said that I haven't been asked to be in another play!

More feelings of reluctance came in May when it was holiday time. I just didn't feel I should be away from my study, nor that I deserved a holiday, but in the backward look I can see how valuable, spiritually, mentally and physically it was. Hazel Smith, the missionary with whom I live, Suddha Mookerji, headmistress of our Mission Girls' High School in Midnapur, and I shared a house in Kodaikanal, in the beautiful hills of S. India with three Canadian missionaries. It was good to rest, relax, meet new people, meet our missionaries from S. India, many of whom were there on holiday at that time, and to renew some old acquaintances. The highlight of the time was a 56 mile, 4 day trek with Marjanet Worrell, Dr Marion Boehr, and Betty Bruce from our S. India field. Then it was back to language study with new vigor. A month in the neighbouring state of Bihar in the Santal Parganas district was very helpful. It was stimulating too to see the work of another mission (American, Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish Lutherans). They felt old ties between our Missions were being strengthened again. The people, Santals and missionaries alike, were most cordial and kind.

Since the middle of October when Miss Smith went away for medical care, I have been trying to help out with her work in the Girls' Junior High School, hostel and with the orphans. Competent, dedicated teachers and staff have done their work well. But with this additional work and study, I have been busier than a bed bug—and I fully comprehend the meaning of this statement because of numerous personal encounters with these creatures.
The end of October the Annual Bengal-Bihar-Orissa Baptist Women’s Conference was here in Bhimpur and I had the privilege of being hostess to the leaders and speakers. A few days after this Conference I was off to Bihar for my first language exam which to my great surprise and relief I passed.

December has been a month of running the gamut of emotions here. It was the end of the school year and the beginning of Christmas celebrations at the same time. So many girls failed in school, but you wouldn’t think this strange if you could see the tiny villages from which they come. They have so few experiences to prepare them for their education. And believe me I know what this means. The hardest stories for me to comprehend in my first year Santali books were those about the palm and banana tree, about which I knew nothing. So I can sympathize with the girls. Then too, almost all the girls are Santals, many of whom have spoken Santali at home, then they have to study in Bengali at school. They study Bengali, Hindi, and English in the lower grades, as well as geography, history, math., etc., and in addition they have to study Sanskrit in the upper grades. Well, there have been many tears, some from those who failed, some from disappointed mothers, some from those whose school fees haven’t been paid so they didn’t receive their marks, and even some tears of joy and relief! Then there is the great joy as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. The fun of the parties for school girls, teachers, and orphans, the many fine programs and plays and services at the church are over for the most part but some sort of celebration continues until New Year’s day. Christmas was especially happy for us at Bhimpur because Clara Dorn, missionary from Midnapur, and her mother on a visit from America came and spent a couple of days with us.

Sometimes I have wondered why I am studying Santali when it seems so many people speak Bengali. Then just yesterday I sat on the edge of a bed by an old Santal lady who had recently been knocked down by an ox cart. The frail little woman,
severely bruised and almost blind, will probably never get up out of her bed. When she finally realized I was there she grasped one of my hands in both of her bony ones and she poured out her heart to me in Santali. And again it came to me how people love to speak in their mother tongue and how for some this is all that they know well enough to really express themselves. My prayer is that I will know Jesus Christ and Santali so well that I can express His love to those He has called me to serve.

GOD'S FLOWER GARDEN
LILLIAN BRUECKMANN

What a joy to watch a rosebud unfold petal upon petal! But far more beautiful to see the blossoming of Christian character in a life. Raimoni, a young Santal woman, in an obscure village, longed for something nobler than her village surroundings provided. She was attracted by the worship services held by the small congregation of Christians in the village church near her home and occasionally attended. When she heard of a two week Bible Class to be held for Santal women, in January 1961, nothing could prevent her from attending. During the two week period she applied herself most diligently and at the close of the class was reluctant to leave her new found friends to return to her home. The door of knowledge had been opened to her as she, with fifteen other women, learned to read, listened to the Bible messages, joined daily in prayer, and met Christ face to face. When she returned to her village home she attended regularly the Sunday worship services of the Christians, although no other member of her family was interested. In December she asked for baptism. Her brothers sought to hinder her, saying they too would become Christians later and she should wait for them, but Raimoni had no desire to delay and on December 17th joyfully expressed her faith in
Jesus Christ as Lord by following Him in baptism. Eagerly she awaited the announcement of the next Bible Class and at the first opportunity enrolled for another two week period of training. Planning and helping the Bible women to prepare for such Bible Classes, planning for and participating in the week end conference of the women of the nine Churches of our area, and the Pastors’ Wives Retreat for the entire field, brought the joy of seeing Christian character blossom forth in the garden of God.

During 1961 I have come to a new realization of our great responsibility and opportunity to witness for Christ through the production and promotion of Christian literature. The details involved in arranging for the publication of a single book are numerous and at times frustrating but the joy of seeing a new book come off the press to carry God’s message to thousands of readers is sufficient reward. Through the Orissa Bible Correspondence Institute the Gospel message has reached thousands of individuals during the past year. During the year 1961, 1010 students were newly enrolled in the five courses and 454 certificates were issued to students upon the completion of courses. One new course has been added to the curriculum during 1961. I have enjoyed having a small part in our Literature program. The Committee is hoping to make great strides in production of Christian literature and distribution promotion during the coming year.

Precious, too, have been the lessons learned during the ten weeks I spent in hospital. I praise God for His immeasurable love, His healing power, and for the assurance that underneath are the Everlasting arms. For the first time I experienced the loving care rendered to patients in Christian Mission Hospitals and thank God for their ministry.
FURLough OPPORTUNITIES
CHARLES AND ETHEL ROADARMEL

Our report for 1961 is really an account of our furlough which included two months of 1960 and two weeks of 1962. We feel that this period has brought us many rich experiences of rest, refreshment, fellowship and inspiration. These elements were so blended together that it would be impossible to separate them. The change in climate and freedom from responsibility meant the gaining of fresh resources of physical and mental strength.

Our journey to the U.S.A. by air, mostly by jet, was quite in contrast to the five weeks from London to Calcutta on our first journey to India in 1926 by ship. Each stage of the flights—Calcutta, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Honolulu and San Francisco and back with Manila in place of Tokyo required only a few hours. We were reminded that by direct flight we could have reached San Francisco the same day we left Calcutta, but we preferred to stop over with friends along the way.

Our family reunions were widely scattered. We spent two weeks and later a month with our older son’s family, including four grandchildren in Thailand. Two weeks on arrival and a month before returning gave us a chance to visit with our younger son in Berkeley, California. We had two and a half months in Florida in the winter with our daughter’s family, and she and the grandchildren had two months in our home in Ohio during the summer. Each of the usual meetings with brothers, sisters and cousins had its own joys.

We found unusual opportunities on this furlough for visiting with Bengal-Orissa friends, including some 21 former missionaries, 5 parents of present missionaries, 25 children and 35 grandchildren of former and present ones in at least 9 States and countries. Visits with the Tucks and Larsens challenged
us to continued prayer that the visas may be approved for these new families under appointment to Bengal-Orissa.

Speaking engagements for us included the usual variety: Churches, State Conventions, Associations, House Parties, Camps, Schools, Rotary Clubs, etc., in some 16 states. We found that more Americans today are interested in India and ready to ask thoughtful questions. The Missionary Mobilizations in Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Ohio, Portland, Ore., Providence R.I., and the Tristate area (Utah, Montana and Idaho) each meant sharing in a united effort to make a solid impact for Missions on a group of churches.

The sessions of the National Council of Churches held in San Francisco soon after our arrival helped introduce us to some of the vital issues before the church today. The American Baptist Convention in Portland, Ore., and the National Missions Conference in Green Lake brought contacts with many of our denominational leaders. Attendance at Foreign Board meetings at Cleveland and at Portland and a few days consultation in New York helped us in appreciating even more fully the labors of those who are more immediately responsible for our work abroad.

We come back to our service in India with fresh enthusiasm, renewed strength and a deepened conviction that Christ is ready to work through us to accomplish more than we dare to ask or think.

THANKS BE UNTO GOD

Sue Powers

"... He gave His only begotten Son...." Although God's great gift is His Son, yet daily God is continually giving to us. I look back on 1961 with thanks to God for all his gifts, those I enjoyed and those that helped me to learn.

God gave good health among our hostel girls in 1961. Colds, coughs, boils, burns, malaria, one case of typhoid and minor
illnesses occurred, but with a local doctor and medicines the girls were soon well. Besides looking after the hostel girls during the daytime, Miss Bindu Behera, our experienced hostel matron, was up for two nights with some of the girls trying to bring the typhoid fever down to 103, until the medicine took effect. We decided we need more help in the hostel but haven't any extra money. However, one of our former hostel girls, who has completed teacher training, was posted in our fourth grade by the Municipality. As a hostel girl, Sunandini Das, had always been very helpful in caring for the sick, etc. Now she has gladly fit into the hostel program, as well as the school.

September and October seem to be the months when I catch uninvited germs. This year I had an ear infection, followed by a cold, and ending with an abscessed tooth. The ear infection was cleared up within a week by penicillin injections given by a local doctor and by the help of our hostel matron and headmistress who kept my temperature chart and kept the boarding girls away from the house for several days.

To drain the abscess a local dentist brought his foot pedal drill and other instruments to my house in a cycle rickshaw. Within minutes my living room had become a dentist's office, much cleaner than those in the local bazaar. I thought my neck would break in two while sitting on my dining chair until I made the wall my head-rest and then I sat in perfect comfort while Dr Kumar drilled.

God has given the needed health to our headmistress to carry on her work well even though her duties continually multiply and increase. Efficiently and quietly she keeps the school running smoothly. I do thank God for her Christ like spirit. Even in July, while working at school, when she received an unexpected telegram from her mother saying, "Father expired . . ." she quietly continued with no one knowing of her deep sorrow, until the close of school.

In February her father, who was then Additional District
Magistrate in Balasore, presided at our school prize-giving function. The school girls had plays in five different languages besides marches, solo dances acting out stories, and singing, including “Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World” in English.

God gave teachers for our two schools for this year, but we will appreciate your prayers for teachers for the next school term in June. Several weeks after the new school term opened on June 26th, two local college graduates applied and joined our staff for this school year. Although they are not Christian, we are thankful for their help and the fine way they are fitting into the school program. All the teachers happily join in the teacher’s “Bible study-birthday party” which we have every second month. The life of Christ by colored slides has been studied this year. One staff program that started, and stopped, was having prayer meeting in the homes of the teachers with their families. We met together just twice in that way, but perhaps later we will begin.

One staff prayer time that has continued is the few minutes of prayer that the seven primary school teachers have each morning before school begins. God does give patience and understanding to them as together they ask God’s help and direction for that day. Until April 1, 1961, we had boys only through third grade and then in fourth grade the girls went to the high school building and the boys went to the Christian Boys’ School. Now the Orissa government wants the first five classes to be in one school an Upper Primary School. This year the fourth grade boys have stayed in our school and next year the fifth grade boys will be studying here. That has meant changing the staff around as well as finding more space in our crowded primary school building. In a few years’ time the number of students in our schools has increased from 300 to more than 500 in 1961, so we are planning on building this year. This year 26 of our girls will be writing the state exam for high school
graduation. This is the largest senior class our school has ever had.

God has widened our program of witness this year. Each morning at 6.30 or 7.30, depending upon the season, the hostel matron and peon, the school peon and sweeper, the gardner, my cook and part of his family, the cooks for the teachers and the little hostel girls, any carpenters, cement workers or other laborers or parents who might be about the compound come to my house for prayers together. These are led by a hostel student or by one of the teachers. It seems nice to hear men’s voices singing God’s praises on this girls’ campus. Desiring that the families of these workers, most of whom are Hindu, will also hear about Christ, our hostel girls and teachers have been going to four of these homes once a month to tell Bible stories and teach a Bible verse or song to the families. All of us look forward to these times and in some homes twenty-five to thirty people, from tiny tots to old grandfolks, join us. A Hindu living about half a mile from our gardner asked why we always went to our gardner’s house, but never taught the Bible in her home. At Christmas the hostel girls, with the teachers’ help, gave from their little pocket money Rs 15 which was divided among five servant’s homes. Two of our teachers have Sunday schools in Hindu villages each Sunday, and these also are visited monthly by some of the girls and teachers when we go to the other four villages. At Christmas we gave 300 used Christmas cards to these six villages. Each card had the Bible verse “John 3:16” written in Oriya on it.

Another program we have started this year is visiting the homes of hostel girls who live in nearby Hindu villages. The hostel class mates go along and tell the Bible story, teach a Bible verse and song to the family, etc. In some places this is the first time the Bible has been brought to that village.

This year God gave a new jeep station wagon for our work here. I wish some of you friends who give and pray for our
work could join our “Gospel teams” as we go singing along the
“highways”, all of which are “one lane”, which makes it challeng­
ing when another car or ox cart comes along.

Another use of the car has been in our S.C.M. work. Some
of the college boys have been eager to begin a S.C.M. for the
fifteen or sixteen Christian college students in Balasore. Having
had four meetings so far, we hope soon to become members
of the national S.C.M. of India. I do pray that through the
meetings God will direct the young people in the present and
in their decisions for the future. Truly here the fields are
white unto harvest, but the laborers are few. God gave His
Son “that whosoever believes on Him should not perish . . .”
“. . . But how are they to believe in him of whom they have
never heard? How are they to hear without a preacher?”

God gave a good hot season holiday at the YWCA at Naini
Tal with Miss Lillian Brueckmann and many new friends. It
was thrilling hearing E. Stanley Jones speak twice, once being
on “reasons for suffering”. He showed how the sufferings of
people, Christians, are to bring glory to God by giving examples
of those who had used misfortunes in their lives to glorify God
greatly. One day six of us were able to bus and hike to E.
Stanley Jones’ ashram at Sat Tal, the place where many of his
books have been written.

God gave friends who remember our work here in prayer.
The line on my Christmas greetings for which I am the most
thankful and yet humbled is, “Susie, I remember you every
day in prayer.” How important are your prayers for us as we
tell this part of the world about God’s “Great Gift”, eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
OTHERS HAVE LABORED AND WE ENTER INTO THEIR LABORS

BILL AND JANE OSGOOD

As we look back over the year 1961, aside from the usual routine of accounts, correspondence, committee meetings and the like involved in ordinary administrative responsibilities, that seemed a bit heavier than usual because of serving as Acting Secretary of the Missionary Fellowship, we think of the more than thirty different churches, association meetings and the like in which we had one or more opportunities of presenting God’s word. Participation in the life and work of these church groups gives us reason for rejoicing in the Spirit of God at work in the life of His Church, as well as a realization of how diligently the Evil One seeks to find and use people for his purposes, within the church as well as outside of it.

Conferences with individuals, times of individual and group prayer, the encouragement and provision of financial support for students preparing for leadership in the cause of Christ in India, seeking to support and encourage leaders in the responsibilities they have undertaken bring countless opportunities for counselling and fellowship around the Word and the Throne. We are thrilled by the evident growth in spiritual life and sense of responsibility on the part of a substantial number of people with whom we have been intimately associated. We cannot but thank God for the prayers and gifts which make possible enlarging the opportunities for training of so many.

Looking back over the year and the training program, in which we have had some share, we remember the Pastor’s Wives’ Retreat, the Young People’s Institute, Two Lay Leadership Training Camps, lectures in the Cuttack Theological School, and the Workers’ Refresher Course, the experiences connected with
these bring hope and confidence for the future and the frustrations so common to missionary experience fall away. The advances made possible in developing the Jaleswar Training centre and increasing its capacity for service are a joy. The fine, new building completed and the prospect of another, and greatly improved facilities in 1962 are the fulfilment of long prayer and planning. Serampore College and Theological University has moved ahead in great strides so that, however minor our share as member of the Council may be, it still gives much satisfaction. The needed staff quarters are nearing completion, the Carey library is being catalogued afresh and its unusual resources opened to scholarship around the world. The long dreamed of women's hostel has become a financial possibility through additional gifts received during the year. A larger number of Baptist students from our own mission areas, though most of them not from Bengal-Orissa, are attending than ever before.

A very little contribution to the cause of Christian literature has been possible such as the publication of depth Bible study guides in Oriya and Bengali, or the Navigator's Bible memory course, of "Why Give at Least a Tithe, and the preparation of manuscripts on Ezekiel and First Timothy for the One Volume Oriya Bible Commentary, working with the new Oriya literature worker toward the production of the final material for the first volume of the Oriya Bible Handbook, which should finally appear before the end of February, and the completion of nearly half of the articles for the second volume thereof have been possible. Much more of course has been done through the Literature Committee, and co-operative organizations, both of original work and translations, and reprints. Suggestions for Effective Gospel Witness, Adam, Son of God (a series of Bible studies on salvation), the Christ of the Korean Heart, a book of Christian stories, the Oriya Christian family magazine, Prabhati Tara (Morning Star), the Bengali edition of the Smitten Rock are among the other publications.
This year has been one in which more literature was sold than any year in the history of the Church in this area. 3600 people applied during the year for our Bible Correspondence Courses that brought into their hands one or more gospels or scripture portions or tracts, aside from the actual lesson papers.

Some real progress has been made in reorganization of the Convention of Churches on this field in such a way as to make abundantly clear that the mission organization, as such, has gone out of existence to a very large extent and the Church is actually functioning as the responsible body in relation to the work of the whole field. They have raised approximately double what they did last year for the co-operative work of the Churches, as opposed to their local expense. Ordination of three pastors during 1961 and two more during the first two weeks of 1962 has given a spiritual stimulus not only to the individuals concerned but also to their churches.

While it was our privilege to share with others in the marvellous celebration of the 125th anniversary of the beginning of mission work in Assam, and catch a vision of the manifold fruits of the amazing grace of our Lord in that area, our own very modest celebration of a similar period of work gave opportunity to assess what God hath wrought in this area, and challenge to a new period of advance. We have been asked to expand and publish the historical study of the development of the church in this part of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. One is humbled by the costly sacrifice and dedication in which that church was born and nourished. The Indian church is producing men and women to bear the major burdens of the day. We rejoice in several new leaders taking up responsibilities or older ones taking additional burdens. Five people started first year Bible School, one completed second year, and three are in third year. Others have volunteered and at the time of writing this we have reason to anticipate, in 1962, the largest number in preparation for the ministry and Bible women's work we have had at any one time in many a
long year. This group includes members of four races. Another joy is that nearly 40 per cent of the group are High School graduates, or above, whereas in all the history of the church in this area, the number of leaders who have been able to take higher grade Bible training could be counted on one hand. Other students in medical school, nurses training and college, whether part or full time, as they organize in student Christian movement activities, or gospel teams, inspire others.

Participation, by national delegates, in the Triennial All India Sunday School Convention, an All India Stewardship Conference, the Asian Baptist Youth Conference in Tokyo, Adult Literacy Supervisors’ Training course, a writers’ Conference, a conference on distribution of literature is bearing fruit in the lives of those who had these privileges, in inspiration, new zeal and skills.

There have been opportunities to serve in various ways in connection with the regional Christian Councils and co-operative institutions. Here we work together in fostering evangelism, there in union Bible training, at another point in developing theological literature and elsewhere share in Christian teacher training or in confronting those negotiating on church union with Baptist principles and our difficulties in relation to their plan of union. The ramifications of the Christian enterprise in India are illustrated by the variety of these contacts. Yet within any situation what contributes most in the long run, to the advancement of the Kingdom, is that quality of spirit that bespeaks long and intimate contact with Christ and a depth of sharing of his love and purpose in whatever the relationship may be. Our mission as individuals and a church is to faithfully show forth Him, that He being lifted up might draw all men unto Himself.
BENGALI, BENGALI, BENGALI

Clara Dorn

My main aim in 1961 was to complete my formal Bengali language study. I spent three months at Darjeeling Language School in addition to my study at home with private tutors. I took my Second Year Bengali Examination the first week of December. Since I have passed this examination I am now free to learn Bengali in a more practical way.

I have had several opportunities of service this past year. I taught the 11th grade Bible class at our mission school for one quarter using my own material on “What is Christianity?” I have led the boarding girls each Sunday night in their devotional program. I have served on the Managing Committee of Bhimpore Boys’ High School. I have had a few opportunities to speak at our weekly women’s meetings.

I have tried to learn more about the work of our mission through attendance at various conferences and meetings. I am really looking forward to getting to work.

Pray for our work at Midnapore. Needs include Christian teachers for our school, a pastor for our church an adequate teaching ministry within the church, and an evangelistic outreach into the community.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”.

“Prayer is essential to a full-flowing of the spiritual life. The soul deprived of the experience and inspirations of prayer is like a plant that comes to the point of blossoming, but never blooms.”

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Sunday: Let us give thanks for the young people who have responded to the call to full time Christian service. We have more men and women in Bible School and Seminary than we have had for many, many years. Do remember to uphold them in prayer.

Monday: Miss Powers asks specially for prayer for several trained Graduate teachers for the Girls’ H.S. Also for greater physical strength for her headmistress, Miss Taru Garnaik, who is not strong and carries a heavy load.

Tuesday: Isaac Nayak has been given full responsibility for the management of the Technical School and Workshop with Mr Gilson acting as Secretary only of the School Managing Committee. Mr Kartick Behera, present Headmaster of the Boy’s High School, has become Secretary also of the H.S. Managing Committee. We thank God for leaders able to take on such responsibilities and they too covet your prayers.

Wednesday: May we give thanks for the scholarships that have been made available for students, many of whom will become future leaders of the work here in Bengal-Orissa, and pray that the funds needed to keep a number of students in High School may be forthcoming. $5 a month means, in several cases, continuing in school, rather than having to drop out for lack of help.

Thursday: I want to mention again the need for prayers for visas for the Tucks and Larsons. The united, daily prayers, of many friends around the world will bring results.

Friday: March and April are filled with Retreats and meetings of various kinds. As you remember the Pastors’ Wives Retreat, Lay Training, etc., in prayer give thanks with us for funds received to improve the training Center at Jaleswar.

Saturday: Let us pray for an increasing realization, on the part of all Christians, of the importance of Christian literature for their own families, and helping in distribution to others.
NEWS ITEMS

Missionaries

As this issue of Tidings goes to press we are happy to announce the return of Rev. and Mrs C. C. Roadarmel, from furlough. Mr Roadarmel will resume Secretary’s work, relieving Mr Osgood who has been Acting-Secretary, giving him more time for other phases of the work.

Rev. and Mrs B. E. Weidman are rejoicing in the arrival of a little brother, Timothy Burton, for Teressa and David. All the world loves a baby is surely true. We “grandmothers”, with our children and grandchildren far away claim “part ownership” in young Timmy.

Miss Beatrice Ericson who flew home in December, can be reached at 1421 10th Ave. S. Fargo, North Dakota. After a period of much needed rest she will be taking up work in the States. Mr John Gilson has been appointed Treasurer both of the Mission, and the Christian Service Society, for the present. This means a heavy load for him to carry along with his other responsibilities.

Missionaries’ Children

Luella and Dick Spirup were so happy to welcome a little daughter, Tracy Lee, into their home October 2nd, to keep Peter and Paul company. For nearly four years Osgoods had had only one granddaughter to six grandsons so this was happy news for them also.

Janet and Claiborne Erickson, of Maulmein, Burma, had little faith that their fourth child would be a girl, after three boys,
so the little daughter, born January 11th, had not been named when the Osgoods received the joyful news of yet another granddaughter.

Rev. and Mrs Rupert Bunten, former pastor of Union Church in Kharagpur, were called recently to become pastor of Crayford Baptist Church in Kent, England. Their new address is 176, Iron Mill Lane, Crayford, Kent, U.K. We rejoice with them and pray God’s blessing upon them and the church they serve.

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