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Arabia Calling

Number 250

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Steven Staal has a party with his Arab friends in Basrah, Iraq.

Canal scene at Basrah.

The Arabian Mission

OF THE

Reformed Church in America, 475 Riverside Dr., New York 27, N. Y.

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(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

Arabia Calling

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Arabian Mission

by JEANNETTE VELDMAN

God says that 100 years are to Him as a day and a day as a thousand years. Then what is a mere twelve months? True, twelve months make up a solar calendar year—and it is good to review and scan that which in the past twelve months has been accomplished for lasting glory to our God. You at home and we at the front are in this together. This is *our* Father's business. We must take this inventory and study it together. Have we used the best way to carry on for our Master? Are there better ways or more effective methods? Some are as old as missions are—are they still good for 1962? Have the *earnings* of 1961 been worthwhile, from our Master's reckoning? THE LABORERS ARE FEW! Why does our Master have difficulty in obtaining a full staff?

This is not a complete report of all the work done; it is by no one person. It is by all of the missionaries in the Arabian Mission, at home or out here, and their co-workers, as well as all of you in the United States who so loyally support this part of God's business by your prayers and gifts. It represents the work of the R.C.A. in four countries: Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Muscat. The first crying need is for more evangelists filled with the Holy Spirit, zealous in the Lord, eager to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Arabic language—evangelists who will have time and ability to sit with the people.

This annual report was named, before it was written and by others than the writer, ARABIA CALLING. I find myself asking, "Calling whom? Calling what? Calling *for* what? Is Arabia really calling in 1961 to us? to the R.C.A.?" Five times daily we in the Arabia area hear the call to Muslim believers to pray to God—also declaring that "God is great and there is no god but God." We Christians can wholeheartedly agree thus far to this calling and call. All true Muslims are thus called five times daily to remember the one and only God. Of the thousands around us, 99% call themselves Muslims, that is, followers of the religion known as *Islam*, the religion whose name means complete submission to God, the religion begun in the seventh century with dislike, even hatred, and yet respect for Christians, "the people of the Book." All true Muslims and all true Christians worship the one and only God and yet religiously they are miles apart, decades apart. As we study Islam and the Old Testament we learn that Islam

and Abraham's religion have much in common, many of the same religious customs and attitudes toward God. The Muslims greatly respect Jesus as God's special prophet, but believe Mohammed succeeded Jesus as God's final prophet.

It was in answer to God's call to help these Arab friends learn to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, that the first Reformed Church missionaries came to this area about 72 years ago. They were NOT called by Arabia then! Dr. Zwemer got off the then slow-moving ship at Bahrain with no N.O.C., no permission to stay. But as he felt God's staying hand upon him he "got lost" in Bahrain and when the ship's whistle called to him he "did not hear" its call and "stayed lost" until the ship left without him. This was the beginning of our response to Arabia Calling before we knew she was calling. No, Arabia was not calling us then. The men evangelists went into the coffee shops, sipped coffee and talked with the ever present men. The evangelists tried many and various ways to make contacts. We must have contacts before we can hope to give the message to the people. They went into the bazaars, worked with the gardeners, the carpenters, the bricklayers—to win the confidence of the people.

Decades have come and gone. Our predecessors succeeded in making hundreds of contacts, creating great wells of good will, trust, friendliness to the mission and missionaries, much respect and many good friends. We in 1961 have come into this heritage. The contacts are made. Now we ask, "How can we best use these contacts for our Lord?" Some of them have gone to America—how are we using them there for our Lord and for the building of the Church of Christ?



A happy family of Bahrain. The husband and father, Abood, though blind is an active Christian leader of the community.

The Church of Christ

On the mission field the usual ways continue to be used: the church, the school, the hospital—and the greatest of these is the church. Like the pearl of great price, small and pure and sparkling and often found in big shells hidden in the center, so the Church of Christ is here surrounded by great shells in the way of bustling hospitals and buildings large in comparison to the church building. It is often surrounded by hospitals overcrowded with patients, all very welcome and recognizing the needs of their physical illness but afraid to enter the Christian Church and unaware of their spiritual illnesses, not knowing that the needed cure is more often in the church than in the hospital.

In *Basrah*, Iraq, the church—humanly speaking—is in the hands of the Christians descended from those Christians who walked and talked with our Lord Himself in the Holy Land, almost 2000 years ago. Unfortunately, since the 7th century their environment has almost closed their mouths in sharing the Gospel except with those within the Christian community. Keep praying that God's Spirit may work in them so that they too may soon hear Arabia calling and God's command to "go into all the world." The missionaries continue to share Jesus' Gospel as they go into the homes, into the classrooms of the boys' and girls' schools, and with the girls in their clubs.

In *Kuwait*, 80 miles from Iraq, and an entirely different country, the church has its building on the mission compound. This was the only part of the then-desert where permission was granted by the government to carry on Christian worship services. Today this building is much in use throughout the week and various languages are heard: Arabic from Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon; several Indian dialects, Armenian and English. Mis-



A part of the Kuwait group; back row, left to right, Rev. Donald R. MacNeill; Mrs. MacNeill; Mrs. Lyle Vander Werff; Rev. Lyle Vander Werff; Dr. Lewis R. Scudder; Mrs. Scudder; Mrs. Alfred G. Pennings; Dr. Pennings; Dr. Allison. Front row: Sue and Liz MacNeill; David Vander Werff; Pamela and Ted Scudder.

sionary pastors, the Arab pastor from Egypt, laymen, the consecrated Christian Egyptian doctor in the mission hospital—all share in giving the message in the many weekly services. The Kuwait Christian Arabs are "the indigenous Church of Christ in Kuwait." In true oriental custom, the Kuwait Arab congregation has a woman as a member of the consistory.

There is Sunday school for about 35 English-speaking children of Arab, European and American families and on Friday for about 40 Arab children who must attend government school on Sunday and are therefore free only



The new hospital for men in Bahrain.

on the Muslims' meeting day, Friday. Mrs. Pennings, Mrs. MacNeill and many other Christian co-workers teach these children. Mrs. MacNeill writes that the home visiting with the women of the Arabic Church continues and "opportunities for work among women, both Muslim and Christian are many . . ." more than the present staff was able to cope with in 1961. Keep praying for more workers for this witnessing among the women.

The church has no day school in Kuwait. It was closed many years ago for want of funds and personnel. This means that all the Christian and Muslim children must attend the government's Muslim schools. How very, very important this makes the Sunday school and other periods of teaching given by the church to the children of the congregation and community.

Pastor MacNeill reports that during the *troubles* in Kuwait in the summer of 1961, help was given to men of the British and Saudi Arabia troops which opened new contacts for service and that some heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time. Keep praying that the Holy Spirit may *follow through* in their hearts and minds even as they return to their homeland, closed to the teachings of Christ. Mr. MacNeill began his report, as each missionary might do, "The necessary has been done, and the rest postponed for future days that never really came." **THE LABORERS ARE FEW!**

In Bahrain, 250 miles south of Kuwait, and 330 miles south of Basrah, the Church of Christ is also active with Arabic services on Saturday night and Sunday morning, midweek Arabic-English services, and a youth group for the Arabic-speaking young people. Also Sunday evening there are

English services mainly for the many Christian Indians and Europeans coming to this part of the world for more opportunities, that is, *larger salaries* due to the presence of the oil companies. Pastor Holler, assisted by such consecrated Arab Christians as Mr. Naseef Seffo, 72 years old and finishing 50 years with the mission this year, and Mr. Joseph Haider, take the responsibilities for these services.

The English Sunday school meets each Sunday morning with Miss Teumer guiding it and the Arabic one Sunday afternoon with Miss Nienhuis and Mrs. Holler. The latter reports a weekly morning meeting with a few interested Muslim women for Bible study and an informal cup of coffee as they sit on the floor in true old Arab style. The *Khairee* or the Ladies' Aid Society of the Arab congregation meets weekly with Bible study being led each time by various members. "One of the highlights of the year was The World Day of Prayer Service—when the response to roll call was given in Dutch, Hindi, Persian, Arabic, English—with a feeling of being a part of the Christian women around the world, in one fellowship."

Pastor Holler speaks of a very important FIRST in history—THE GULF YOUTH CONFERENCE which met in Bahrain, March 22-29, 1961. "It was first conceived by the Church Leaders' Conference in 1960. Most of the planning was done by a young man of the Church of Christ in Bahrain, Mr. Joseph Haider. The theme was BE AN EXAMPLE, 1 Tim. 4:12. It was held in a quiet, lovely date garden and the young delegates came from far and wide. One boy, a recent convert to Christ, paid his own fare from and to Aden." Leadership came from Beirut—Mr. Wm. Haddad—and from Kuwait—the Rev. Yusef A. Noor. Mrs. Kapenga came from Muscat with four young people and acted as counsellor. Mr. Holler from Bahrain was the mainstay as conference director. Christian fellowship, worship, classes, recreation, food—the usual setup for youth conferences—were all there. "A candle lighting service was held on the last night. It too focused our attention on the need for consecrated lives in our witnessing and example in the Gulf Church of Christ . . . The numbers were few—14 young people and four leaders, 18 in all . . . The sharing of faith, experience, ideas and fellowship were the most lasting and important parts of the conference. The testimony of the boy from Aden impressed everyone. The Muscat delegates with their native dress, their profound grasp of the meaning of their faith, and their ability to break spontaneously into song, held the admiration and attention of all the other delegates . . . General consensus was that a youth conference should be held annually."



A builder is a missionary, too! Mr. Casey DeJong inspecting the veranda of the new men's hospital in Bahrain.

Muscat, Oman, is 500 miles south of Bahrain and 830 miles south of Basrah and is the southernmost area of our R.C.A. work. The Church of Christ is in Muscat too. It is the only congregation in this area that is composed entirely of converts from Islam. In each of the other congregations are descendants of those Christians who walked and talked with Jesus when He was on this earth. In Muscat, none of these is found. Mrs. Thoms tells us about the new *mejlis* or small cement block, lacey structure built to replace one that had been taken over for living quarters: "How should



The new mejlis (meeting place) in Matrah, which was built by the Arabs.

we use this new building? The one it had replaced had been used for social activities, games evenings, Christmas and New Year's dinners as well as for prayer meetings . . . This new open cement block structure, a perfect thing, how should we use it? The end wall alone was solid masonry and on it we all visualized a cross, a large one of hard wood. This then set the character of this house and we all knew it was to be a place of prayer . . . a place of worship to our God . . . Around the mejlis is a new garden which reminds us that the fruits of the Spirit turn our hearts into God's garden." This building is used for weekly Sunday school, midweek prayer meetings, Sunday evening vespers and morning prayers for staff.

The report of Pastors Kapenga and Dunham inspires and challenges: "The Mission looks forward to the day when there shall be a truly national Church of Christ in Oman. A church of Arab Christians, supported by Arab Christians working with the world-wide Church in the mission of the Church. The question we face is, what can we do to help make this dream a reality? . . . The Church of Christ in Oman needs responsible national leadership. Where shall she find it? What can we as a mission do to help her develop such leadership?"

"In Oman today this problem . . . is not the Church's alone . . . this is a country that has not produced a skilled worker or a professional person who is qualified to assume leadership of any kind in any field of human endeavor . . . Every skilled worker, with the possible exception of a small clan of carpenters, is an alien . . . True, the members of the Church of Christ in Oman have been denied the social-educational opportunities that we so easily take for granted as American citizens. Yet, it is even more true for us to remember that God has called these same people out of the world that is Oman, to worship and to serve Him in Oman. If the Church of Christ in Oman is to be truly the Church in Oman, the mission must continue its efforts to subordinate itself to the leadership of the national church . . . it means turning over the leadership of the church to the partially trained, uneducated laymen . . . The educated, trained missionary will more than ever need to learn to discipline himself to live under the discipline of the Holy Spirit as he manifests himself in the lives of Moosa Juma', Wadia', Muharak, Rubsiya, Rasoon and the others . . . this outlook calls for re-examination of the church's doctrine of the ministry and the sacraments . . . The R.C.A. has long recognized the validity of lay ordination . . . and on one hand holds the sacraments to be equal, on the other it has long recognized the validity of lay baptism but not lay administration of the Lord's Supper. The leadership and administration of the church and its affairs must continue its gradual but real journey into the hands of the laity—either ultimately to be a committee of lay people or the ordination of one particular person. Which it should be still remains to be seen."

"The outreach of the Church to the whole community . . . is still in the developmental stage. Major emphasis has been placed in the development of a visitation program, as this seems to offer the best opportunities to follow-



A Scripture text of Persian tiles has been placed on the front wall of the new Mejlis—"God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself." in Arabic.

up contacts made in the hospitals, and to utilize the resources of the anticipated *Voice of the Gospel* programs in Arabic; and also to further the Bible correspondence course, for people have taken Bibles and the first two lessons with them to their homes but then are lost to contact . . .”

These two fellow missionaries have here expressed what is in the heart of each of us. What do we leave that is permanent, lasting, should we have to leave tomorrow? The church **MUST** be indigenous in order to carry on in these days of nationalization everywhere. Leaders from the local congregations must be trained and we can begin to train them only *where they are*. It is being done somewhat. There is much more to be done. Keep praying that God's Holy Spirit will find us all guidable and teachable in this important work He has called us to do.

Education

Education of mind and heart is essential to the growth of a nation and the church. The early missionaries realized this and began teaching the young children the three R's as well as the Bible. In the beginning theirs were the only schools in the various communities. But today the governments of the four countries (Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Muscat) in which the Arabian Mission works have established schools also.

In *Basrah, Iraq*, the mission maintained girls' and boys' schools, before the time that education was a part of the local culture. However, a new school building is urgently needed and plans are in the process which, it is hoped, will fill this need. It may then be possible to have the boys and girls in the same area.



The two young men at the left are recent graduates of the Basrah Boys' School and are now in Teacher's Training. The boy at the right, standing next to Rev. George Gosselink, is attending the school.

ARABIA CALLING



The new addition of the Bahrain Girls' School. Note the minaret in the background.

The Rev. and Mrs. George Gosselink report that progress has been made but the usual difficulties prevail due to lack of sufficient funds to pay salaries commensurate with those paid by the government, resulting in a shortage of qualified instructors. This year the pupils paid small fees, more as a form of appreciation of the teaching received than in amounts adequate to be of much monetary value. The curriculum is prescribed by the government but regular Bible classes are permitted. Students speak with great appreciation of instructors and co-workers of many years and also for the presence and loyal efforts of both the Robert Blocks and the Harvey Staals.

Mr. Gosselink ends his report by saying, "This may be the last report of Basrah Station as part of the Arabian Mission . . . Basrah is to be transferred to the Iraq Fellowship and the Joint Committee (U.M.I.) early in 1962. We covet the continued interest and support of the Arabian Mission and the Board of World Missions . . . in a joint venture of faith of the Church of Christ in all the world."

We in the Arabian Mission will miss George and Chris Gosselink as active members with us. Our hearts, love and prayers remain with them and we rejoice that geographically they will be near us as previously.

The United Mission in Iraq, of which the R.C.A. is a part, also maintains the Baghdad High School, an active girls' school. At present no R.C.A. missionaries are on its staff but it is hoped that within the next year more R.C.A. personnel may be able to obtain visas for Iraq.

In *Kuwait* there is no organized school program. However, the missionaries here are responsible for the Bible Correspondence Course in the Arabic language directed by the Rev. Donald MacNeill. A young Jordanian Christian couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bishara Hanhan, have given much of their time and talents voluntarily to this project. The lessons on the Gospel according to John have been completed in Arabic and a small number of men have

finished this course; each was presented with an Arabic New Testament. It is anticipated that the next set of lessons will be on the Gospel according to St. Matthew. This is a significant venture in the Muslim world. Pray!

In *Bahrain* the Girls' School which includes kindergarten and the first six grades is under the leadership of Miss Nienhuis and Miss Teumer. They report having taken most of the English and Bible classes themselves. The Bible classes are taught in Arabic; the Arab teachers take the rest. This year there were 140 pupils and nine teachers. Miss Holmes also continues the important home education of five children in the orphanage.

The mission's school in *Muscat* has outgrown its building with more than 70 girls attending. They now have two kindergartens, three miles apart, as the original could accommodate no more and the parents were insistent. Due to lack of space, entrance examinations for kindergarten were given! Fifteen of the 24 taking them were accepted: nine had to be turned away. The school was organized for the purpose of helping to educate and train the children of the church and of employees. However, it is the only formal education offered for girls in the whole country and now many families are desirous of educating their girls too. Mrs. Kapenga, in charge of the school, reports a shortage of teachers. Mrs. Bosch, Mr. Kapenga and Mr. Dunham teach a few hours weekly, assisted by four of the local young people with fourth to sixth grade education only. This school "is a service project of the Christian church in an area which provides no education for girls," says Mrs. Kapenga. Boys are still admitted but this year only ten were accepted as compared to 29 five years ago. At present the government has several schools for boys taking them through the sixth grade.

The Ministry of Healing

Each missionary has come here for the same reason and with the same purpose, in response to God's command, "Go . . . preach, teach, heal . . ." "You are the light of the world; let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these you have done it to Me . . . and if you have not done it to one of these you have not done it to Me."

Needs of the body are always clamant in all the world. They are so very evident, often troublesome and usually the easiest to relieve. Thus the mission hospitals do not lack work or patients to treat medically—the people, the patients and their many visitors and companions who "see the good works"—but do they glorify our Father in heaven because of them? Some few perhaps remember to return thanks to God but the others gladly, quickly run away about their own business. All too many still think we are here to "gain merit in heaven" by helping the sick and needy. Each hospital reports an extremely busy year with many frustrations; the physical ailments are so clamant, the patients so numerous, the trained staff too small and the work too strenuous. The crying need continues to be trained Christian nationals.

In *Kuwait*, Dr. and Mrs. L. Scudder, Dr. and Mrs. A. Pennings, and Dr. M. Allison, with their 136 trained and untrained co-workers, report



Dr. Mary B. Allison consults with an Arab mother about her baby. The Indian helper is standing by the desk.

in part as follows: "The combined women's and men's medical work in Kuwait passed another year in an increasingly complex social situation. The population of Kuwait has grown from 80,000 in 1946; to 250,000 in 1956; and to 325,000 in 1961. People have come from almost every part of the world, lured by the attraction of money which the oil brings . . .

"The Outpatient Department is a little smaller than last year, yet with three or four doctors on hand each patient can have only 5-10 minutes time. Obviously this is not ideal. A further decrease is desirable to relieve the stress although this would mean an undesirable decrease in income from patients' fees. Most of the patients are Arab-speaking, with most of the educated staff from India; therefore communication by words is minimal. Improvement requires greater allocation of time by the mission doctors to the patients. Direct evangelism by the missionaries is usually impossible. Patients are grateful and heartily approve of our humanitarian efforts. Do they see Christ? Are we trying to serve God and mammon? Increased income is needed for the maintenance of the buildings and salaries of the non-missionaries and the day-by-day operation of the hospital. Without adequate income from patients' fees the hospital must close as there is no other source of income.

"There was also a slight decrease in men inpatients but an increase of women-inpatients. New mothers with their babies, in most instances, had to leave on the second day as other new-mothers-to-be were awaiting beds. Some had to be turned away. These shortened stays also cut down effective contacts.

"It is as yet impossible to interest Kuwait girls in nursing. However, it is gratifying that at least two of them are studying abroad to become doctors. Surely that comes from seed sown by Christ's mission here." One of the girls is a member of the Church of Christ in Kuwait. Without the love of Christ in one's heart there is no willingness nor desire to serve one's fellowmen.

"The staff gathers for daily morning prayers in English and later there is a Bible talk in Arabic for patients and the Arab staff. The inpatients are visited in their rooms regularly by one of the two Arabic-speaking evangelists employed by the hospital. Gospel bulletin boards with pictures and Scripture from the life of Christ are of interest and changed frequently. Gospel portions are sold daily. Your prayers are needed to *water* this seed sown."

In Bahrain, Dr. and Mrs. Heusinkveld, Dr. Storm, Mr. Dekker and Miss Veldman with their 73 trained and untrained co-workers are responsible for the Christian medical work. Oil has changed Bahrain too in the last ten years, but since it flows in thousands of barrels a day there, as compared with Kuwait's millions of barrels, Bahrain tends to be more stable. This government, too, has its own hospitals and clinics in many villages, but the mission hospital continues to be very busy, duplicating many of the consequent difficulties reported from Kuwait. The crowds are less but still they press in; the staff is smaller and each clinic patient is allotted two or three minutes time by one of the four doctors.

The nursing department has been training local boys and girls as nurses' aides to help in the clinics and hospital; there are only four at present. The nursing profession is not yet respected enough by the community to encourage daughters of the members to enter it. We thank God for our own graduate Arab Christian nurse, Miss Ruth Saeed who is in-



The Gosselinks of Basrah are flanked by Dr. W. Wells Thoms at the left and Dr. W. Harold Storm at the right, representatives of the Arabian Mission at the transfer ceremonies of Basrah to the United Mission in Iraq.

deed a pioneer. Pray for her. We wish we could multiply her by ten or twenty. The local government is pioneering in a school of nursing—they have two graduate nurses who were sent to England for study. History teaches us that schools, hospitals and nursing have been founded on Christian principles.

The laboratory X-ray department, under the guidance of Mr. Dekker, has trained a local boy this year who is now able to do routine procedures required there.

Mr. C. DeJong continues to supervise the building of the two new hospitals. Progress is rather slow; we had anticipated moving in about October 1961, but this had to be extended into 1962. The mission is indeed grateful to have an experienced builder on the spot. This is the first time in the history of the mission that a builder has been sent out by the Board. Without him, as in previous years, the doctors, ministers and others would have had to squeeze time from their already crowded programs to work on the buildings.

Gospel bulletin boards call attention to the life and teachings of Jesus. Daily morning prayers for staff continue and faithful Um Mariam comes regularly to talk with patients in the clinic or in their rooms. We are praying and searching for a full time Arabic-speaking evangelist who would be welcomed into their homes too. The field is ready—the laborers are few. Who should come? Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers SOON, before the now wide-open doors close.

The plan for 1962 includes speakers in vital places of the hospital over which Christian messages and music will be transmitted. Those in patients' rooms can be turned on or off at will. This is a new project in this area. Pray for it and for those giving the messages.

In *Muscat* the oil has not yet been reported as flowing and thus the hospital work there continues to be carried mainly by the mission. Doctors



Signing the testimony of transfer of Basrah to the United Mission in Iraq. The Goselinks, with R. Park Johnson, field representative, at the right.

Thoms, Bosch, Draper, VanderZwaag and the Misses DeYoung and Boersma, with their 70 or more co-workers, compose the medical staff. They report that they cared for 1,836 inpatients and some 40,000 outpatients, and that 815 babies were born in the hospital this year. Ten years ago the missionaries were endeavoring to get the mothers to come to the hospital and urging them to stay ten days; today the mothers are eager to come and are disappointed when they are requested to leave in six or eight days. They have learned the value of the pills, and the needle is magic to them. They hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, too, during their sojourn. All who come to the hospital must bring an attendant who also hears the Gospel story.

It is very encouraging to see the local boys and girls respond to teaching and to watch their progress in accepting responsibility. Two of the local girls can now take normal deliveries. Several of the boys, although lacking in theory, demonstrate considerable progress in attitudes and abilities.

This year two extended medical-evangelistic tours to the interior, and many short ones, were made by various members of the staff. Always a doctor, nurse and an evangelist with other helpers travel together. In March four teams alternated going to Sohar, each remaining for a week. During these four weeks many hundreds of sick people were treated, over a hundred eye operations were performed, and many Scripture portions were distributed. Pray that these may be read and that the story told bears fruit. The medical staff reports, "Jim Dunham's arrival has given an evangelistic boost. He has made many friends among the patients and staff members. He has stimulated interest among the inpatients in the reading of the Bible and religious novels . . . One patient purchased a Bible, a hymn book, and copies of *Quo Vadis?*; *The Robe*; *Ben Hur*; *The Silver Chalice* and *The Big Fisherman*—all in Arabic, of course." Pray that the Holy Spirit may speak to him and lead him to Christ.

Daily morning prayer sessions are attended by the Christians and some of the non-Christians; also Bible talks and prayers are held with the patients in the clinic.

Is Arabia calling, and is God calling to Arabia? Mission contacts are now about 500-1000 daily. How many of them are counting for Christ? Doors are still wide open and who is entering? Today the school, the hospital, the Church continue; and the greatest of these is the Body of Christ, the Church. The gates of hell cannot prevail against it. There are now very small indigenous Christian congregations in the Gulf area, but **THE CHURCH IS HERE**. The power is limitless. God's flag must continue to fly. Is it the school and the hospital that must continue as *the church in action*? Let us examine together this inventory, pray together and be ready for God's guidance and orders in establishing new or continuing old methods.

"God, give us grace to accept what You do not want changed,
 Courage to change what You do want changed,
 And wisdom to know one from the other, to Thy glory always."

Necrology

I. Mrs. Fred Barny:

The Arabian Mission wishes to pay tribute to the memory of one of her pioneer missionaries, Mrs. Fred Barny, who died January 3, 1961, at 97 years of age. Mrs. Barny came to the mission field in 1898, in the days when living conditions were still primitive and there were no modern amenities such as ice, electricity, and modern plumbing. In those days typhoid fever and malaria were common afflictions and women missionaries were few. Hers was an austere and lonely post to fill. But in a noble and courageous spirit Mrs. Barny always made it her first task to establish a Christian home in each station to which her husband was appointed. She was a mother and a home maker not only for her family but also in the earlier days for the bachelors of the Mission. Her home was her workshop. Here she received her many friends, Arabs and others; here she shared her love for music by playing for others and by teaching many pupils; and here she and her husband held various Sunday and weekday services in the name of Him whose love they had come to proclaim.

Mrs. Barny had a great affection for children and in turn was loved by them all. She had a heart of compassion, kindness, and love. She could never turn a deaf ear to the cry of the poor and afflicted, in particular the blind beggar by the wayside. Animals too were treated by her with kind and tender care. Truly the life she lived spoke of the abundance of her love for Christ.

We give thanks to God for the many years of her life that she gave to Arabia, her adopted land, in witness to her Lord and Saviour and for her quiet devotion to the task at hand. For her we rejoice that there has come the peace and rest that awaits the Saints in Light.

To her daughter, Esther, and her son, Fred, the Arabian Mission wishes to express sincere sympathy.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Dorsch:

Roy Dorsch was a friend of the Mission and a devoted member of the Church. He and his wife Vala showed great interest in the work of the Mission, and they contributed heavily with time, interest, and substance to the life of the Mission and the Church which it represents. Roy was an able member of the Board of Managers of the Mission Hospital in Bahrain. His probing questions and keen eye for the absurd helped the hospital immeasurably in the carrying out of its affairs. His sense of humor was a delight. An understanding kindness was at the heart of his personality, and tempered his flair for business efficiency. Teamed with Vala's keen interest in all people, he played a great part in the life of Bahrain. The loss of the Dorsches aboard the ill-fated DARA is a great one. Therefore, be it resolved that the Arabian Mission record its deep joy over its fond memories of Roy and Vala Dorsch, and its sense of profound loss now that they have departed from us for a while.

3. Miss Pushpa Ebenezer, R.N.:

Medical work as a whole and nursing in particular is still in the pioneer stage in Bahrain. Arab nurses can only be obtained with great difficulty. Twenty years ago it was impossible to find any. It was thus that the Mission looked to India for Christian trained doctors and nurses and in 1940 Miss Pushpa Ebenezer, although naturally a timid person, came to our Bahrain Hospital. Her brother-in-law and sister had preceded her a few years and this helped. In those days the Mission Hospital was the only hospital in Bahrain. Miss Pushpa was often one of two women nurses working with missionaries to care for the women and children. Loyally she gave of her time and energy from 1940 to 1961. The Bahrain women counted on her as one of their special friends.

During these twenty years she regularly sent money home to help her family in South India. One of her special concerns was the education of one of her nieces. The marriage of this special niece called Miss Pushpa home on an early leave in April of 1961 and her joy at being able to be present at this wedding showed in her joyful and happy smiles as she said goodbye to us at the hospital. This is the way we especially remember her for we did not see her again. The next news was that she was not to return due to the burning of the DARA, the ship on which she sailed in the Persian Gulf and on which she lost her life.

Miss Ebenezer's memory is fresh to many colleagues and friends—Indian, American, and Arab. Regularly the Arab women still like to stop and talk about their and our friend 'Rabab', their Arabic name for her. We thank God for Pushpa's long friendship and service to her God and the people of Bahrain. To her family the Arabian Mission expresses sincere sympathy.

(Continued from Inside Front Cover)

Dr. and Mrs. W. Wells Thoms	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Medical Work Furlough summer of '62 15 months
Mrs. Mary Bruins Allison, M.D.	P.O. Box 80 Kuwait, Arabian Gulf	Medical Work
Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Scudder	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Medical Work
Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Nykerk	270 College Ave. Holland, Mich.	On Furlough until September 1962
Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Luidrns	Box 235 Beirut, Lebanon	Radio evangelism
Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Kapenga	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Ed. & Evan. Work
Miss Jeanette H. Boersma, R.N.	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Medical Work
Miss Anne R. De Young, R.N.	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Medical Work
Dr. and Mrs. M. M. Heusinkveld	P.O. Box 1 Bahrain, Arabian Gulf	Medical Work
Rev. and Mrs. G. Jacob Holler	P.O. Box 1 Bahrain, Arabian Gulf	Ed. & Evan. Work
*Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Staal	1848 Godfrey Ave. Grand Rapids, Mich.	On Furlough until June 1962
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur G. Dekker	P.O. Box 1 Bahrain, Arabian Gulf	Medical & Evan. Work
Rev. and Mrs. Donald R. MacNeill	P.O. Box 235 Beirut, Lebanon	Radio and Literature Work Furlough summer of '62 12 months
Dr. and Mrs. Donald T. Bosch	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Evan. & Medical Work
Miss Madeline A. Holmes	P.O. Box 1 Bahrain, Arabian Gulf	Educational Work
Rev. and Mrs. James W. Dunham	Muscat, Oman S.E. Arabia	Evangelistic Work
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard L. Draper	1412 Champaign Lincoln Park, Mich.	Leave of Absence until 1964
Miss Nancy A. Nienhuis	Room 1831 475 Riverside Drive New York 27, N. Y.	On Furlough Spring of 1962 18 months
*Rev. and Mrs. Raymond E. Weiss	American College for Women, Box 4080 Beirut, Lebanon	Educational Work
Dr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Pennings	P.O. Box 80 Kuwait, Arabian Gulf	Medical Work
Miss La Donna Mae Teumer	P.O. Box 1 Bahrain, Arabian Gulf	Educational Work
*Rev. and Mrs. Robert J. Block	P.O. Box 53 Basrah, Iraq	Educational Work
Miss Christine Anker	P.O. Box 80 Kuwait, Arabian Gulf	Language Study
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Vander Aarde	P.O. Box 80 Kuwait, Arabian Gulf	Language Study
Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius DeJong	Bahrain; Muscat, Oman Autumn of 1962 S. E. Arabia	Builder
Rev. and Mrs. Lyle L. Vander Werff	P.O. Box 80 Kuwait, Arabian Gulf	English Congregations, Kuwait

