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THE NINETY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE SANTAL MISSION
of
THE NORTHERN CHURCHES
(The Indian Home Mission to the Santals)
For the Year 1958
and
The Ninth Year
of
THE NORTHERN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
(The Ebenezer E. L. C.)
CHURCH OFFICE, BENAGARIA

DUMKA
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THE SANTAL MISSION OF THE NORTHERN CHURCHES

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From America:

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Bjerkestrand Rev. & Mrs. O. S., (April, 1925) Benaga. furl.
Frickson, Miss Lucile, (Dec. 1952) Santipara, furlough.
Gjerde, Miss Hilma, (Jan. 1946) Mohulpahari, furl.
Jorgensen, Miss Anne E. (Jan. 1957) Santipara.
NIELSEN, Miss Muriel,  (Nov. 1950) furlough
SCOTT, Dr. & Mrs. W. R.  (Jan 1955) Mohulpahari.
TORKELSON, Miss Naomi,  (Dec 1952) Dumka, furl.

From Denmark:

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BINDRUP, Miss Elly Jensen,  (Nov. 1951) furl. Haraputa.
GJERMANN, Miss Ella,  (Oct. 1920) Mornai.
HOILUND, Dr. Else,  (Nov. 1946) Rajadighi, furl.
KROGH, Rev. & Mrs. Thoft,  (Jan. 1947) Benagaria.
KROHN, Miss Elisabeth,  (Oct. 1933) Haraputa, furl.
OLSEN, Rev. & Mrs. Jens V  (Nov. 1957) Narainpur, Suri.
PETERSEN, Mr & Mrs Kurt,  (Nov. 1949 &
PETERSEN, Miss Lilly,  (Dec. 1947) Eklakhi.
ROMER, Miss Helene,  (Nov. 1950) Benagaria.

From Norway:

AUSTAD, Miss Borgny,  (April, 1946) furl. Haraputa.
CLAUSEN, Miss Gunvor,  (Nov. 1948) Chondor. Maharo
DORDAL, Rev. & Mrs O.,  (Nov. 1950) Bargsarai, Bena.
DRAGOL, Miss Elise,  (Feb. 1953) Maharo furl.
FOSSLAND, Rev. & Mrs. G.,  (Nov. 1937) Santipara, furl.
GLAD, Rev. & Mrs W.,  (Nov. 1934) Chondorpur.
GULBRANDSEN, Miss E.,  (Nov. 1946) Eklakhi.

HANNEVIK, Miss MABGIT (Jan. 1947) Saldoha.


LANDE, REV. & MRS. P., (April, 1946) furlough.

MALTERUD, Miss ELLA, (April, 1946) furlough.

NORDBY, Miss BETZY, (Nov. 1946) Rajadighi.


RINGHEIM Miss KARI, (Nov 1946) Saldoha, furl.

SIGURDSEN, Miss EDLE, (Nov. 1934) Maharo.

SOMMING, Miss SOLVEIG, (Feb. 1933) Gaorang.


Sulen, Miss Anne Marie, (Oct. 1958) Saldoha.


WESTBORG, REV. & MRS DAVID, (Jan 1943) Gaorang.

The Swedish Cooch Behar Mission:


PIHLQUIST, Miss ELSA, (Deo. 1938) Dinhata.

WITANDER, Miss ADA, (Nov. 1947) Dinhata.

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THE
NINETY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1958

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

"Unto me - who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ," (Eph. 3: 8)

St. Paul considered it a great privilege to have been chosen by God to preach the Gospel. His task of being a pioneer was not easy, but he never complains. He is so filled with the greatness of the task and the blessedness of the glorious Gospel that he considers it a grace, an undeserved favour, that he should be honoured to do this. Because he once had his mind set against Jesus and had persecuted His followers he could never cease to wonder at the confidence and trust that Christ put in him by calling him to be the apostle of the Gentiles.

We have to confess that we so often feel unworthy to be the servants of God and inadequate to the great work before us as missionaries. It is so easy to become discouraged and downhearted when we look at ourselves and our shortcomings. So many times we complain and are subdued by difficulties and disappointments. But we should rather be glad and rejoicing in the fact that we have been counted worthy of God's calling.
It is a grace, a great favour and an undeserved privilege to have been chosen as Christ's ambassadors to proclaim His glorious Gospel among those who do not know Him.

St. Paul speaks very humbly of himself, he considers himself less than the least of all Christians, but he speaks very highly of Jesus and His Gospel. The more humble and low the heart is, the more high and glorious the Gospel appears, and the more one can discover and grasp of the unsearchable riches of Christ. "There is a mighty treasury of mercy, grace and love laid up in Christ Jesus and that both for Jews and Gentiles." This mighty, inexhaustible treasure is available for all who care to receive of it as much as desired.

Surely here is no room for boasting or pride. We are unworthy to be servants of God, and we have to admit our many shortcomings and failures in so many ways. The searching question that comes to our minds in looking back on the past year, is, how did we actually use all the opportunities we had to share with others of these unsearchable riches in Christ?

But even if much more could have been done, we may, after all, rejoice in the fact that our Lord did grant us another year of work. He has again proved His faithfulness, He has been with us every day and kept His promise. For this we are truly thankful and pray that we, as individuals and as a mission, may always have the assurance of His continued blessing and guidance.

In reviewing the past year we remember with thankfulness one of our friends who has been called to his eternal rest. Dr. Silas Andersen died in September. He served for a number of years as a member of the American Board and was the medical adviser to our missionaries.
After several visa-refusals we were able to welcome one new missionary to the field. Miss Anne Marie Sulen from Norway arrived in October and is now studying Santali in Saldoha. In December word came through the National Christian Council that visas had been granted to Dr. & Mrs. Egil Ofstad. This is very good news both for our friends at home and for the Mission and Church out here. We welcome Dr. Ofstad to come and serve in the land of his birth. He is the son of our veteran missionary in Norway, Rev. J. J. Ofstad, who served in India for several years.

The following missionaries returned after furlough to India during the year: Rev. O. J. Landsverk and family in July, Miss Alice Axelson and Borgny Austad in August, Rev. Kjell Clausen and family in September, Miss Elly Binderup and Mrs. Alvild Stronstad in October. Although they are not formally on the missionaries' list, it may be recorded that the new teacher-couple at the Norwegian School in Shillong, Mr. & Mrs. Aardal, arrived in India in August.

Quite a number of our missionaries went on furlough during the year: Rev. G Fossland & Fam. and Rev. I. Hoyland & Fam. in January, Miss Elise Dragoy in March, Dr. Johs. G. Andersen & Fam., Dr Else Hoilund, Misses Kari Rinheim and Naomi Torkelson in May, Miss Elisabeth Krohn in July, Miss Hilma Gjerde and Rev. H. Kvam & Fam. in November.

We are sorry to put on record that Rev. & Mrs. S. Johansen had to leave India in March because of the illness of Mrs. Johansen, and they may not be able to return to India for the same reason. We pray for her recovery and thank them for the more than 20 years of faithful service on the field.

The American Board has informed us that Miss Muriel Nielsen will not be returning to India for health
reasons. Also word has come from Norway that the Landes will not be coming to India again because of the ill health of Mrs. Lande. We sympathize with these friends who are suffering from ill health, we remember them in our prayers and we thank them for their devoted service out here.

In May Rev. and Mrs. O. S. Bjerkestrand left India after more than 33 years of service in India. I think we can safely say that none of our present missionaries know the whole work, the people and our actual situation in the church and the mission better than they do. None have served in so many places and capacities as they have, both in Assam and in Bihar, therefore we miss them very Much. Rev. Bjerkestrand was one of the trustees for a number of years, he served a term as secretary of the Mission and was elected the second General Superintendent of our Church, an office he held for more than 2 years. As they now have retired from the field we wish to express our appreciation for the willing and valuable service they have rendered to the Santal Mission and the Church on the field.

At the end of the year we had 73 on the list of active missionaries: 10 Americans, 1 Canadian, 20 Danish and 40 Norwegians, with 2 from Sweden in the affiliated K. M. A. Swedish Mission in Cooch Behar. Of these 15 were out of India on furlough, making a total of 58 in India.

In October we had the pleasure of a short visit of Dr. Eastvold, president of the Pacific Lutheran College and Vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Towards the end of the year Dr. S. Aske from The Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, visited our field. He spent Christmas in Santal Parganas and was present at part of the Synod meeting in Mornai. We are thankful for these visits.
The annual missionary conference was held in Dumka 14-18 Nov. There is always a heavy program of business to get through and the time usually gets too short at the conference, but even so did we, in addition to the business sessions, get time for very profitable Bible studies, prayer and spiritual fellowship, which for us all is considered the highlight of the year. Some conference members had to be accommodated at Maharo and Koroya as last year.

During the year no less than 5 meetings of the Mission Executive Committee were held. It was at its first meeting in February that an invitation was extended to our Home Board chairmen to visit the field. There is always the need for a close contact between the leaders at Home and the field, especially for our Mission, which is supported by three separate Home Boards. We were very happy that they all accepted the invitation, and on the 9th December Dr. Stensvaag from America, Bishop G. Schioler from Denmark and Rev. H. E. Wisloff from Norway arrived in Calcutta. They were present at the two enlarged Executive Committee meetings in December, as well as attending the Synod meeting, which this year was postponed till New Year’s time. As the Synod met in Mornai, they were all able to be present at the big New Year’s day gathering in Grahampur.

Several matters of great importance to the Mission and Church were discussed with our leaders from Home, as the minutes from these meetings show. In between the meetings our guests were able to complete a very heavy program, visiting all the 25 mission stations where we at present have missionaries working, as well as taking shorter visits to several village congregations and Non-Christian villages. Dr. Stensvaag was even able to spend Christmas with the Ottesens in Rajshahi, East Pakistan.
The situation in India as a whole and in the Mission and Church in particular has changed much since the last visit from Home, eleven years ago. It was therefore both necessary and desirable to renew the personal contact between the Home Boards and the field, and we do want to express our gratitude to our leaders from Home for their visit. We received valuable advice from them and they certainly contributed much to the solution of our problems with which we are faced at present. It was a real help and a great encouragement to us all—missionaries and Indian leaders alike.

Our leaders at Home as well as the many friends and supporters of our Mission have a real concern and a great love for the work, and we do want to thank them all for faithful and continued support in constant intercession and sacrificial giving. It is indeed a matter of great relief that the financial situation at the close of the year was so much brighter than last year.

Further steps were taken during the year in the matter of transfer from Mission to Church, or perhaps it is more correct to say integration of Mission and Church. When all our institutions from the First January 1959 are to come under the administration of the Synod, practically all our work will become a church-matter.

This will of course, not mean that there will be no more place for the Mission or the missionaries. But the overhead structure will be the Church, and the Mission will have its place in it. — As long as about 75 percent of the present church budget and practically all outside financial support for the institutions, excepting the Government grants, is coming from abroad, it is evident that the Mission will have to assist and support the Church with money and missionaries for many years to come.
We do, however, sincerely hope that the Church will reach the goal of self-support as far as the strictly congregational work is concerned, by the target date of 1. January 1965. Mission support for this part of the Church budget is consequently to be gradually reduced by one sixth per year. Every effort must be made to encourage local contributions within the Church to increase proportionately, so that the congregational and evangelistic work may be kept up. Not only be kept at status quo, but rather increased and extended. The harvest truly is plenteous and the possibilities for extension are numerous.

The rest of the work is to be kept on a separate budget, which will continue to be subsidized from Mission funds as long as possible and desireable. The proposed Institutional Board was formed and held its first meeting in November. The budgets were reviewed and the general policy of running the institutions was discussed. The recommendations made had this time to go to the Missionary conference first and thereafter to the Synod. The usual procedure in future will be to forward the recommendations of the Institutional Board to the Synod for decision and approval of the budgets, and thereafter commented upon by the Conference or its Executive Committee.

We are happy to put on record that the Church has got its first National leader. At the Synod meeting in April, the Rev. Munshi M. Tudu B. D., was elected General Superintendent for a period of five years. Even if he is young for such a responsible position, he has already proved to be the right man for the job, and he has won the respect and confidence of all sections of the Church. May God richly bless him.

It has proved to be no easy task to agree on a final from of the Church constitution. The Synod in
April decided, however, to change the name of the Church to "Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church"; and succeeded in formulating several amendments to the constitution, which we hope may be finally decided upon at the next Synod. As soon as the Church Constitution and its By-laws are finalized, the Synod will be able to elect a new Trust Body, to which all properties may be handed over in a legal form. There should be no delay in completing these formalities.

Towards the end of the year Messrs. Norinco (Private) Limited tendered their resignation as managing Agents for Mornai Tea Estate. with six months' notice, and it has now, in consultation with the Home Board chairmen, been decided to appoint new managing agents for Mornai.

The Mission is thankful to Rev. Eie for the efficient way in which he has continued to conduct the big business which Mornai really is. No grant could be made to the M. T. E. Charitable Fund this year, which was not really to be expected due to the general difficulty in the tea industry. It has caused great relief to all concerned that the prospect is so much brighter that we have good reasons to hope that we shall be able to keep the Tea Garden, and that it will continue to be a great influence for good.

Regarding the work in detail throughout our extensive areas in Assam, West Bengal and Bihar the reader is referred to the separate reports on the following pages, as well as to the appended statistics for the Church and institutions.

There were many opportunities to serve and the glorious Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ was presented publicly and privately in so many ways. Our prayer is that it may bear fruit to eternal life for many both inside and outside of the church.
In order to relieve the church budget, efforts were made to hand over to the Government four or five village schools in Dumka circle. But it is not at the time of writing, clear whether or not the authorities are prepared to take over the schools. It has also been argued by our local church-leaders that the Mission or Church ought to run its schools as long as it can possibly afford to do so. Unfortunately, however, the Junior Basic Training School at Kaerabani has had to be closed mainly because of insufficient funds available, and no definite promise of Grant from the Government was forthcoming.

For Government grant to other schools and institutions both in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam we do express our great gratitude, as well as for the happy relationship we have enjoyed with all Government officials in all three states.

May God's kingdom continue to grow in this great land, and may His church be strong!

A. E. Stronstad.
WORK IN SANTAL PARGANAS

BASETKUNDI DISTRICT

When the Hoylands left in January the responsibility for this place was entrusted to us. Report on the church activities in this area is the task of the Circle—chairman, Pastor Bhiku Tudu.

The responsibility for this station takes us on frequent visits to Basetkundi. Being a member of their Executive and also a principal of the Middle school it goes without much telling that Basetkundi takes whatever time I can give to that particular work.

If it could be helped (can it?) we would put in a very strong and urgent request for a missionary—couple to Sultanabad district.

Many in Basetkundi had hoped to have the Hoylands back again, in accordance with the F. U.'s proposal, but the Conference decided otherwise.

The work in this district seems to be marked by a peculiar hesitancy and slow-moving.

The Church attendance is not too good, with the exception of Basetkundi.

Church—offerings are far from promising. (Sultana—bad is not alone in this respect.)

With a program of selfsupport before us, indicating a gradual cut in the budget of the Church, (Evg. activities') every year until it finally reaches full self-support in 1965, we are a little disturbed by the future aspects, especially in Santal Parganas.
In this part of India the soil is as poor as it can possibly be. The land on which the farmers are dependent becomes smaller every year, divided and cut up in accordance with the alarmingly growing population. There is no industry and not much of any economic development.

Hunger very frequently visits these parts of the country. May be every other year, or every third or fourth year.

It is an open question when the Santal Parganas, by unavoidable circumstances will be forced to face emigration.

The year under review had to face serious hunger in many districts, with people moving all round to get a little to eat. Some had not had anything to eat for days. Swollen limbs and ugly sores on account of eating leaves and un-eatable plants from the forest.

This situation did put an almost unbearable strain upon the missionaries. With hungry people rumbling around the house and even close to the door of our dining-room it was hard to swallow the food, and naturally enough the appetite was gone. The food had no taste.

During the worst months we got some help from the relief-work, U. S. A, enabling us to distribute some wheat and milk-powder to the most destitutes. This certainly put a heavy strain upon the missionary's wife, who at all times had to be ready to help, distribute and comfort, hindues as well as muslims, santals as well as mahales.

We submit this report with thanksgiving in our hearts for God's sustaining grace.

Yours

William Glad.
Another year has passed. A year with the privilege to be in the service of God, to proclaim his Gospel and show forth the love of Jesus Christ.

During 1958 several changes took place in the staff of our congregational workers.

Pastor Sodanondo Baskey, Sulunga, was pensioned from April after many years of faithful service.

Pastor Ruben Soren, Jithia, who also for many years has served in our mission, went on pension at the beginning of the year.

Two students from The Santal Theological Seminary who finished their four years' course in April were placed in Benagaria circle.

The one, Barka Murmu, took over the work in Gamhar-Sulunga after pastor Sodanondo Baskey.

The other, Jakob Soren, was placed in Matiajuri.

Residential quarters have been built in Gamhar and Matiajuri, and Matiajuri church has been rebuilt.

Pastor Nitanondo Marndi whom we know so well from Dhorompur district has taken over the work after pastor Ruben Soren, Jithia.

Pastor Bhogon Murmu who last year came to Beldanga from Haripur moved over to Itor at the beginning of April.

In Murshidabad district residential quarters have been built at Dhitpur and Bidyanagar, and we hope from 1959 to get a pastor and a teacher for the work in these two places.
In May Belbuni church was dedicated after being rebuilt. Shortly after our evangelist there, Khela Kisku, died.

It has been a happy experience to see the co-operation and the growing sense of responsibility among our christians. Along with the pastors many laymen have taken part in the congregational work.

In May eighteen young people were confirmed in Benagaria church.

Thirty nine non-christians were baptized during the year, and thirty seven are under instruction for baptism.

Among the greater events was the Benagaria circle mela in February. In spite of the poor harvest in our area we got Rs. 902/-netto as a help in the congregational work.

The third Sunday in March was "Youthday", where a big group of young people from Benagaria and Narainpur were gathered for church service and meetings.

Weekly meetings for young ones have been held on Wednesdays, and occasionally we have had many along when visiting the surrounding congregations. Our leader for "Luther League", Samuel Soren, became the acting treasurer under the Synod and moved to Koroya in February. In his place was chosen one of our teachers, Jetha Baskey.

Our Sunday School here in Benagaria has an enrollment of 120 children and has been carried on by the help of our teachers and some women from the compound. "Children's Day" where the surrounding Sunday Schools took part were held in Novb., and in March we had a picnic with the children.
In Asanbani, three miles from Benagaria, the wives of the Seminary students under leadership of Cundki Hasdak' have taken care of the Sunday School regularly. We are very thankful for the help rendered in this important work. Here is an enrollment of 20 children.

In Sapadoha and Itor the teachers take care of the Sunday School work, and a new Sunday School with about 20 children has been started at Tatbandha.

Women's meetings have been held on Thursdays here at Benagaria and on Fridays at Hatpara.

Weekly meetings have been started at Gamhar, Tatbandha, Jithia, and Matiajuri, and from next year we hope to start women's work in three villages more.

In October the yearly meeting for women from the whole district took place. About 350 women attended the meetings for 2–3 days.

Our four village schools in the district have gone on as usual without any difficulties. The major number of children are children from christian homes.

These four schools are not recognized L. P. Schools, but follow the syllabus used in government recognized schools.

Our M. E. School here in Benagaria has an enrollment of about 300 children, of whom 60% are christian children. Our headmaster Elia Hasdak', and seven teachers have taken care of the daily work.

Permanent recognition of our M. E. School was given by the government. Furthermore school grants may be forthcoming. Several applications have been sent during the last four years, but always with the
remarks that only schools in possession of permanent recognition were entitled to grants from the government.

A small boarding for school boys are maintained, and the children are carrying the expenses themselves. No grants are given either from the government or from the mission.

**Benagaria Industrial School.**

In January six new students were accepted in the carpentry and three in the weaving section.

Four carpenters finished their three years' course in Dec. with good results.

In both sections we have in all 28 students.

Our teacher in the weaving section, Jetha Besra, stayed in Calcutta from January to April to learn modern dyeing. He was also taught in stuff-printing, and we would like very much to start that new work here, but as long as we get no grant from government we are afraid it will be too expensive for us.

We have used many day-workers in order to get a stock of nicer things, which the students are not able to make.

During the hill vacation at Kotagiri we sold for Rs. 1,140.— from Benagaria Weaving School.

In all, seventeen men have had permanent work in 1958.

The carpenters have been busy in building houses, repairing roofs and making furnitures both for our own and other missions. There seems to be a growing market for our products in the area around Benagaria.
A part time teacher has taken care of the theoretical training of the students in both sections.

In place of Samuel Soren one of our teachers, David Marndi, became "Hostelfather" for our boarding.

Together with a grant from the mission of Rs. 4,500 the Industrial School have had an income of Rs. 21,632.21. The expenses came to Rs. 23,113.32.

The deficit Rs. 1,481.11 is fully covered, as we pr. January have outstanding bills for over Rs. 2,000 and a stock of timber, thread and weaving materials for about Rs. 3,500.

Benagaria Mission Farm.

Within the last four years many changes have taken place in the agricultural work. We got a tractor in order to cultivate more of the mission land and to try modern methods for farming. In the beginning there was much scepticism among the farm workers that anything good should come out by using machines. But as time has passed our workers have been happy to work on the new lines, and the fact that more people are making a living out of it has encouraged them to go forward.

So far we have only been able to get back our expenses, but that is due to several facts. When we took over the fields from the bhagdars they were in a very poor state. The ridges were not kept up, and on most of the fields manure had not been applied for many years.

Furthermore many new rice fields have been made and water channels dug. The tanks have been cleaned, and by use of fertilizer, green manure and cowdung the ricefields are now in a proper fertile condition.
Within a year or two we expect the farm work to be self-supporting.

The last two years have been difficult for cultivators due to drought and late monsoon rains. However we had a fairly good harvest, due to our irrigation facilities.

Thirty-six people have had permanent work with the farming.

**Benagaria Mission Press**

The work in our printing press has been carried on faithfully by our staff of eighteen workers under the leadership of the assistant manager, Mr. Mongol Murmu.

Two apprentices finished their two years course in September with good results.

The printing work is too often slowed down due to poor types. We have sufficient types, but at least half of them are worn out. We need new types.

However, under the circumstances the work has gone on very well.

Several manuscripts have been handed over for printing, but due to urgent work we still have manuscripts not being printed.

One reason that delayed some other work was that the government of West Bengal recognized three textbooks, published by the Santal Christian Council Literature Committee, and we had to reprint revised editions of them in 1958.

In September we installed a 3 KW generator in the press and put up temporary electric light. It has
been a considerable help to us, as we have had to work overtime in order to get the publications and other work out in right time.

In the beginning of 1959 we hope to get permanent electric light in the press, as well as in all compound houses and schools.

Some repairs have been done, as the security arrangements for the machines were not properly erected.

The following books have been printed during 1958:

**Santali:**
- Patiau reak' Pura Dular: 1000 Copies
- Bancaok' reak' Hor: 2000 "
- Girja Itihas: 1000 "
- Budgaria: 2000 "
- Ontor Arsi: 2000 "
- Kristan Bapla ar Hudis akat' Gharonj: 1000 "
- Pahil Puthi: 2000 "
- Sari Kahniko: 1000 "
- Maran Din Puthi: 1000 "
- Santal News Letter: 500 "
- Hospital Sunday: 300 "
- Annual Report: 300 "
- Panji 1959: 2500 "
- Synod Report: 900 "
- Champa Magazine: 750 "

**Under Printing:**
- Seren Puthi: 5000 "
- Hormo Niropon: 1000 "

Besides these books our weekly paper "Pera Hor" has been printed in 1600 copies.

The total income for 1958, including the balance from 1957:

- Rs. 31,189,35

**The Expenses**
- Rs. 23,512,42
Leaving a Balance of Rs. 7,676.93

The balance is bigger than last year, but as we are almost out of stock of paper it will be approximately the same balance.

BOOK SALES DEPARTMENT

The need for more literature both for our christians and for our evangelistic work among the non-christians has been stressed time after time, and we are happy to be able to report that there has been a remarkable progress in that branch of our mission work.

A number of new books have been published, and the sale of books are increasing, as more people become literate.

Still there is much to be done in the way of distributing christian literature.

One of the questions in our Literature Committee has been how we can get the pastors and other congregational workers actively interested in the work of distributing and selling christian literature.

Through the daily correspondence, through the numerous orders of books, small orders and bigger orders, we have come to know how many people around in the villages want to read the christian message and learn the christian way of life. It is our responsibility to reach all those who may still hesitate to go and listen to a preacher, but are willing to read the message about Jesus Christ.

Also for our christians there is a great need for the written message that they may come to a fuller knowledge and deeper understanding of our christian faith.
We are thankful to everyone who gives time and work in preparing new books, and to those who are working with us in distribution of literature. We hope to have a final plan ready for granting a commission on books in the beginning of 1959.

In closing this report we want to thank all our co-workers in India and the home countries. May God bless all of us is His service.

Hanne and Aage K. Jensen

CHONDORPURA

To give a report from Chondorpura district or from Jubdi is no longer the task of the missionaries placed in these areas. The Missionaries within Jubdi Circle, four in Saldoha and two in Chondorpura are all assigned to special posts, outside the direct district-work.

Report from the district is now given by the chairman of the Circle, a national pastor. We shall therefore refrain from giving account of any detailed, evangelistic activity in this area.

Nevertheless some "snap shots" from this place may be in order.

In June 1958 we moved to our old station, Chondorpura. This place was our first station when we arrived in India in 1931, and worked here for eight years. This became our four children's first home, and thus many dear memories linger here.

But not only in regard to our family. During these years we experienced God's wonderful saving power in hundreds of new lifes. During that time several new
churches and schoolhouses were built. All but one church are still in use. Some young boys and girls from that time are in active service in our church. One of them is the new General Superintendent, Pastor Munshi Tudu. Others of the young folks from that time are faithful church-members.

Miss Gunvor Clausen was transferred from here to Maharo as it was necessary to have a well qualified nurse in that large, important school-center. We know that the time Miss Clausen worked in the Bibleschool for young girls here was a happy time both for her and for the pupils. It is to be regretted that the situation for the missionaries often makes it necessary to take them from places where they really find they can do a work, but sometimes it can not be helped.

Now then the time seemed ripe for the Synod to act on a proposal from the Santal Parganas Church Council, given three years back, to have a national leader for this school. To the satisfaction and joy of us all Raode Hasdak’ was appointed the new leader.

The Synod asked the missionaries in Chondorpura to give full co-operation to Raode in her work. This we are trying to do. Mrs. Glad as a teacher in the Bible-School, and the undersigned with advice and otherwise whenever called upon.

Our, in Denmark and Norway well known friend, Pastor Naran Soren, is the pastor in this congregation. Both Naran and Raode are our old fellow workers from years back, and we do count it a privilege and joy to have them as our close co-workers.

On Pastor Naran's request I have consented to take Church-services here in Chondorpura every other Sunday. Besides that we are trying to cope with all the requests from other congregations in Jubdi. As we
also are tied up with the big Sultanabad district we often wish there were more Sundays in the month.

A great number of people have been baptized during the year and the general work seems to be progressing all round us.

Yours

William Glad.

DUMKA CIRCLE

Under the grace of God the congregational work here in Dumka has progressed well in the year just gone by. Because of crop failure and famine last year, this year also has been difficult for many people, also for some of our Christians. But in spite of hunger and other difficulties, the congregational gatherings have been going on as usual. And we do thank the Lord for His abundant grace and help. It is our prayer that the Lord will stimulate our Church anew to go forward with His power and courage, that we may continue to serve Him with greater zeal so that the work may continue to progress.

For this purpose there has been held two Circle Conferences in which we were able to discuss the different church matters. — In Dumka Circle 67 children from Christian families have been received into the Church through baptism, and 38 young people were confirmed.

In the Circle there are 14 primary schools with 31 teachers, and 908 children have attended. In the Sunday Schools 13 teachers have been teaching the Bible to 378 children.
Dumka Circle is divided into 16 local congregations covering 157 villages. All in all, church members are 2719 from 574 Christian families. In this spiritual ministry we have 6 pastors and 5 full paid evangelists. Amongst these two of them are new, and have worked with us only since last May after having finished their theological training. — One is Munsi Hasdak' who read at the Theological Seminary in Benagaria. He has been assigned to work in the Honja congregation in Dhorompur District. The other one is Kisun Hasdak' from Ranchi Lutheran Seminary where he passed his L. Th. He is working here in Dumka. Besides these workers we also have 5 evangelists who are taking Sunday duties for which they get a small allowance.

In order to make it more convenient and satisfactory for the work Jalwae congregation has now come under Koroya District.

The church building which did belong to Indarmuni congregation was destroyed by a storm 2 years ago, and as they have not been able to rebuild it yet, and ground to build on has not been given,—the church has been moved to Mundha village. One of the Christians here has given a piece of his own land to build the church on. We have the hope that they will be able to finish their church building in the near future.

May our heavenly Father bless the Dumka Circle, so that from this Circle also the Gospel of the abundant grace may be spread abroad. For we have this very promise from the Lord:

"And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end."—
"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in generations all".
Psalm 90: 1.

Bhikulal Hasdak',
Dumka.
As the figures for Dhorompur have been included in the short report on Dumka Circle, only a few remarks are added here regarding the work in Dhorompur District.

The three congregations, Dhorompur on the north side of the hill-range and Honja and Nijhor-Jetke on the south side, have lived their normal, quiet life, served by the pastor Baijun Murmu.

The total number of Christians is reported to be 224, consisting of 47 families who are living in 17 villages, surrounded on all sides by a compact Non-Christian community. The attendance at church services is somewhat irregular, because the few Christians live far apart in villages scattered over a wide area.

The whole area is rather backward and isolated, and the people do not easily respond to the preaching of the Gospel. The old "bongas" have still a tight grip on the minds of the people.

The need for local Christian leaders of initiative and a greater sense of responsibility for their fellow-men, is very great. The small Christian community has not yet become the strong leaven it ought to be to ferment into the people around. But the church is there and we pray that it will grow.

It is good to know that we again got a trained evangelistic worker posted on the south side of the hills when Munsi Hasdak’ moved to Honja in May. Already there has been baptism of a family of three in that small congregation, and we hope more will come. But the field is hard, and the Christian worker is not readily accepted by the people. Up until now the few Christians have gathered on the verandah of the evangelist’s
house for worship. A church building is very much needed, and for this some outside help will have to be given from the circle.

In Nijhor-Jetke a small school with 25 children has been held part of the year, but since the circle budget could not provide for the salary of the teacher, the school has had to close. Regular Sunday services have been held by the teacher Ruben Tudu in the small temporary mud house which was also used as a school house. There is now a move to have the church building at Amgachi re-dedicated, so that Sunday services may be held there again.

The Dhorompur bungalow has remained empty, but it will soon give room for one of the classes of the Upper Primary school, and possible a small dispensary in one of the end-rooms, if only a compounder could be obtained to open such a dispensary, for which there is a great need in that area.

Pastor Baijun Murmu has, in addition to his regular trips across the hills, had to look after the Sunday School, the confirmation classes and the congregational gatherings, as well as supervising the cultivation of the land belonging to the Dhorompur mission station.

The bungalow is rather neglected, but the church building has been kept very nicely whitewashed and clean.

The U. P. school at Dhoronpur has grown so that there are now an average attendance of 84 children, with the following four teachers: Durga Marndi, Munshi Soren, Babulal Marndi and Punta Baske. The teacher-couple Hiskiel Hadak' and his wife left Dhorompur in June to be admitted into the Theological Seminary in Benagaria.
Let us pray and work for a rich harvest in the big Dhorompur district. It is for us to be faithful in planting and watering, and God will give the increase.

A. E. Stronstad.

DUMKA

Dumka district, under the Dumka Circle, consists of five congregations, organized in two pastorates. Pastor Sibram Marndi is in charge of Dum, Chukapani and Mundha (formerly Indarmuni), while Dumka and Ranga are being looked after by pastor Bhikulal Hasdak.

We are glad to put on record that baptisms have taken place during the year under review, in four of the five local congregations. In Dumka church 24 adults and 16 children of Christian parents have been baptized, and in Chukapani 12 adults and 3 children have been received into the church by holy baptism. At the end of the year there are still some more people being instructed for baptism.

Besides the Dumka Mission compound the members of the Dumka local congregation, making a total of 445, live in 15 villages round about Dumka bazar. Efforts are being made by regular village visits to help all these to bear a real, living witness for Christ in their own village. These efforts are already showing some results.

Sunday School has been held regularly in the compound, and the youth group has had a steady attendance of thirty or more at their gatherings each Sunday after the church service. Women’s meetings have been held on Thursdays throughout the year. Once a month there has been a larger gathering not only of the women of
the compound, but from the nearby villages as well. Until her going on furlough in May, Miss Naomi Tor-
kelson was supervising the Sunday School, Youth work
and the women's meetings. After Mrs. Stronstad's
arrival in October, she has taken over the responsibility
to see that all these activities are being carried on.

The annual "mela" was held in December, and atten-
ded by a good crowd as usual. The proceeds of gifts
and of the sale amounted to Rs. 200.−, which is about
the same as last year.

In March the big five year "sabha" or convention
for the whole of the Santal Parganas Church Council
area was held in Dumka. Several hundred attended
from all the five circles from Kaerabani in the West to
Sultanabad and Nankar in the East. There were lots
of singing, several choirs participating, and people lis-
tened attentively to the inspiring messages, from mor-
ning till evening for three full days. A youth conference
which was held during the week-end immediately after
the convention, filled the large church to its capacity,
which was an inspiring sight to see.

The highlight of the year was, however, the visit
of the three Home Board chairmen, who visited Dumka
the one after the other. Bishop Scholer preached at
the worship service on the fourth day in advent, and
performed the baptisms which took place on that day.

It has been very encouraging to notice the big group
of young people coming regularly to church from the
High Schools, the college as well as from the surround-
ing villages. We have now great hope that the plans
for opening a college hostel in Dumka compound may
materialize some day. A special gift for this project
has already been promised by friends of the Santal
Mission in America.
In June we were glad to welcome the new evangelist, Kisun Hasdak', L. Th., who had just graduated from the Gossner Theol. Seminary. He has been a good assistant to the pastor in reaching out to the villages and making good contacts with the High School-and College—students living here in the Dumka bazar, which still continues to be a great challenge to us. Much more could be done here.

For a long time there has been some talk of opening a book shop in the midst of Dumka bazar for distributing Christian literature, but so far nothing has actually been done about it. We already have a very suitable location for it at the "Santal Hotel", and it is hoped that some young Christian may come forward to take up this work.

The church income stands much on the same level as last year, amounting to an overall average of about Rs. 3.00 per individual church member for the Dumka congregation only. A slight increase has however, been noticed lately in the Sunday church collections.

There is now a definite hope of replacing the old, cracked tiles on the church building with a permanent and rain-proof corrugated aluminium roof. This is being made possible by a liberal grant from the Mission, a substantial private donation and special local collections.

The Upper Primary School in the compound is overflowing with children. As there is not enough space in the small-class rooms, some classes are held outside in the shade of the big trees. The Christian teaching which is given to all Christian pupils as extra-curricular subjects, has its great value for the new generation. Some difficulty has been experienced in the teaching of Santali language, which is the mother tongue of 99% of the children attending our primary school. The local school authorities are putting pressure on the
teachers to adopt the Devanagri (Hindi) script, while the whole Santal population—Christians as well as Non-christians—definitely wants to retain the Roman script for the Santali language. This is a problem facing all schools for Santals in Bihar, and we do hope it will be satisfactorily solved in due time.

In order to lighten the burden on the Circle budget, more applications were submitted to the local Government to take over our Primary village schools, but so far there has been no positive reaction. There seems to be a reluctance to do anything in this matter, both on the part of the teachers concerned and the local school authorities.

As for the outlook of the evangelistic work in this area we feel that the great need is for warmer hearts and more ardent Christian witness on the part of each individual church member. But that is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart, and that is why we must continue to pray for an outpouring of the Spirit, which will result in renewal and renewal of God’s children, and extension of His kingdom even here among us.

Alvihild & A. E. Stronstad.

MAHARO DISTRICT

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (Hebr. 13:8.)

Also in the year of 1958 by His grace and help the Lord Jesus has guided and stood by in the work of the congregation.

In the past year some changes have taken place in Maharo District in that the evangelist Bhator Tudu
in Dumbria congregation has retired on a pension. In his place came from Nayadi evangelist Daniel Tudu. But after a short while he left in November because he also retired on a pension.

In May the Missionary nurse Miss G. Clausen came here. Besides her dispensary work and taking care of the children in Maharo School, she also does congregational work in ministering to the sick ones and bringing the Word of God to the people.

This year the missionary nurse Miss E. Dragoy went out camping with us for one week in order to reach the Non-Christians with the Gospel.

There has been some sickness among the Christians during the year, and some of them have even left this earth. There was a time when people in different places suffered from hunger and starvation. At that time we received some help from friends in America who had sent wheat to the country. Thus we were able to help those in need, both Christians and Non-Christians. We thank God for this great help.

The number of Christians in the four congregations under Maharo was 727. From the Non-Christian Community 10 were baptized, and 10 children were baptised from Christian families.

We have Sunday School work in two places, Haripur and Babupur congregations. In Haripur the students from Maharo Training School are conducting the work. About 25 children are attending. In Babupur, the students from Maharo High School go to teach. About 20 children come to this class.

There are 4 congregations under Maharo District: Maharo, Nayadi, Asonthar and Dumbria. Two pastors and two evangelists are serving these congregations.
In the district there also are 4 village schools, where 2 teachers and 2 lady teachers are working. Besides the ordinary subjects the Bible is also taught. When these children have passed Lower Primary, they are transferred to other schools.

We also have some new ones being under religious instruction and preparing for baptism. They also come to church on Sundays.

Peter Murmu

KAERABANI DISTRICT

According to a number of past reports this Western-most district of our Mission has seemed to be in great need of more missionaries. The need is no less today than ever before. Here we have two missionary bungalows where for five months in the past year there were no missionaries in residence at Kaerabani. However, the work carried on by our National brethren has been encouraging and although there have not been many baptisms from the Non-Christian community to report they have had a chance to carry on by themselves in a way that has served to strengthen a wholesome self confidence in our congregational leaders.

Kaerabani congregation now with about 589 members living in 22 villages near our station area is faithfully served by Pastor Suphol Hembrom, who is also President of the Circle wherein he is also actively responsible for a number of visits to the other churches within the Circle during the year. He has regular meetings with the lay officers of the congregations whereby much help is obtained for visitation work and for financial collec-
tions for support of the congregational work. The Sunday School continues with an average attendance of 85 children who are taught by volunteer teachers of the L. P. School staff and others. The young people of Luther League age led by Artemas Hasdak has had an active year with meetings after church twice a month and by turns they have continued doing S. S. work in Dum and Tilia villages from where it is too far for the small children to walk. In the hostel for our school boys a separate S. S. service is held every Sunday with one class in English Bible for the older High School age group.

Jambua congregation with 211 members is the second largest in the circle served by Pastor Mongol Besra until November when he was transferred to Dhopona. There has been much struggle in this congregation in recent years between members but largely due to the untiring efforts and much prayer by their pastor it is once again a united and active church. A partial result in the past year was the addition of two baptisms from Non-Christian homes. The Sunday School has together with the church services shown very good attendance. The L. P. School with 45 students is led by Karan Murmu who with his wife is also leader of the Sunday School work.

Babondiha, our Northwestern most church, is led by Ram Murmu, the old Housefather at Kaerabani. This third largest congregation is continuing to grow in a healthy way. Per capita contributions to the budget from this church was the highest in the circle averaging about Rs. 2/- per member. Sunday School and youth work continues active. As a congregation they held their own “mela” last year where they all had a chance to do something together. Our elder here is a young rat-heart old man who takes great interest in the youth of his church. They have made a number of visits to
Non-Christian villages in the area to preach the Word of God. One of the results is a request by some six or seven families in a remote area across the mountain range nearby to have their own church. As this has not been possible in past years by the mission the congregation is now being challenged to help these families, who have about five miles to come to church, build a church for themselves. There are hundreds of Santal homes in this far Northwestern corner about 20 miles from Kaerabani itself where the people are receptive to the Gospel. One of the young converts from this area is a student at Kaerabani High School with a real burden for relatives and friends who have not yet become Christians. We need to pray that the "Lord of the harvest" will send forth laborers in a greater measure to win more of those still in heathen darkness to walk in His marvelous light.

To the Northeastern corner of our circle we have Dhobona with Pastor Muni Marandi as the leader. This has now become the fourth largest congregation and is growing every year. The church continues to serve as school building for more than 50 students. Gudu Tagu as teacher began serving here in 1957 when his predecessor, Hiskiel Hasdak, enrolled in the Seminary at Benagaria. A regular Sunday School is taught by the teacher and other members of the congregation by turns, while active lay officers conduct services in absence of the pastor who also serves Holy Communion in Sagra and Monhorchuck congregations as well.

The next largest congregation is at Dighari where elder Paul Hembrom serves. In the past this has been one of the "problem churches" in that attendance at services has often been poor in comparison to the membership. During the past year of two, however, the attendance has increased and there has been a definite awakening here. There was one baptism from the Non
Christian community the past year and according to reports there are many asking for instruction in this area. At Rakh, the old mission station nearby, we still have no Christian families. The recently established L.P. school there has continued well with Somae Hembron as teacher. Further West at Manpur we have our newest church with about 20 members. The L.P. school being taught by Silas Soren is making a consistent Christian witness in that area. Although most of the students are Non-Christian they are attending more steadily and there is hope of further additions to the church also here. To the East of Kaerabani we have Monhor, Domkata and Pahrudi. Eldest of our elders, Danial Marndi at Monhor has been in failing health the past year and the work there has not gone forward. A younger leader is very much needed to take up work there. Domkata, served by Sundar Murmu is continuing steadily, but attendance has not been up to previous averages. The L.P. school in charge of Simon Murmu is doing well with a good percentage of Christian students learning to read and write. Pahrudi L.P. school following erection of a new Gov’t. school nearby has gone down to only 16 students, so except for the help needed by the teacher Munka Hembrom to look after a large tract of land there managed by the mission, there does not seem to be much justification for our school to continue many more years at Pahrudi. Most of our rural L.P. schools are not aided by Gov’t. nor do the teachers longer receive any help. Repeated attempts have been made to obtain the necessary recognition to get aid for these schools, but for various reasons unknown to us no grants have been received for many years. The Christian witness of our teachers and the Christian children to whom the Word of God is taught cannot be underestimated but with more and more responsibility being taken over by Gov’t. for primary education we may do well to turn over selected L.P.
schools to the Gov't. Some of our schools need separate buildings for instruction and much better facilities to do the kind of teaching expected in this day and age. Unless we can give our teachers better equipment we cannot expect teaching that will compete favorably with the newer Gov't. schools.

It is always a pleasure to attend the monthly meetings of our district workers where after a devotional study together we discuss plans, purposes and problems. In November we had a three day teacher's conference where our village teachers had a refresher course from several of our Kaerabani staff teachers. On December 17th we had a special treat when during the visit of Dr. John Stensvaag we could meet and he gave us a very helpful Bible study on the life of John Mark, and again on Dec. 22nd the workers heard special greetings from Denmark through Bishop Schioler's visit that day.

In retrospect we are happy to be back at Kaerabani to work with the churches and schools in the outlying villages and we look forward to the months and years to come and pray that somehow by God's grace we may also be used to help establish the churches. "The field is ripe unto the harvest, but laborer's are few" certainly applies to Kaerabani District. We thank all who have remembered our brethren in faith out here with your prayers and contributions. We continue to ask your prayers and support that not only the 1600 or more Christians in our district living in approximately 92 scattered villages may grow in faith but that through them God's Word will reach home in the hearts of thousands of their relatives, neighbors and friends, still living in superstition, darkness and unbelief.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen and Obert Landsverk
MOHULPAHARI—TILABANI CIRCLE

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."

( Psa. 145: 3 )

In a large Circle which includes Tilabani and Karikador as well as our own of Mohulpahari, the need for proper and efficient national help is augmented by the fact that there is no full time missionary in charge. It is the responsibility of us at Mohulpahari Hospital to oversee this work and to supervise the mission station at Tilabani. Of course, the actual administration of the church and schools in this area is under the Synod of the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church; nevertheless it is good for the morale of the pastors, evangelists and teachers to have stimulating visits by the missionary. It gives them a boost in their efforts and often provides a means to contribute to their effectiveness in witnessing to the people.

Pastor Nicodem Marndi is President of the Circle and it is my privilege to center this report of the work in 1958 on his analysis of the year’s efforts as he submitted it to me. Although he has been ill with a recurrent bout of tuberculosis which cut short his effective ministry to the surrounding villages, he has nevertheless shown an active interest in the maintenance of the program. Through his efforts 43 heathen Santals were baptized into the faith and 14 from Christian parents. At present he has more than 20 under instruction and they come regularly to his home to hear the Word. Even from his sick bed he radiates the spirit of Christ in his ministry to the unsaved. It is thrilling to see his enthusiasm in using the gospel records in Santali and Bengali as he plays them to gather the people. The small portable gramophone has
become a part of his equipment in getting the Gospel out to the people. He uses the Santali version of the Way of Salvation correspondence course in continuing the study of the Word by the many who seem interested. His participation in the work of the Hospital administering communion to invalid patients, encouraging others with prayer and meditations, and performing funeral services for those called home, has added much to the effective witness of the ministry of healing as well.

Mrs. Marndi, wife of the pastor, has been active in teaching the women of the village whose families attend classes of instruction. Her warm and winning personality has reached into the hearts of many who have long been without Christian love. She has been valuable in visiting the homes of expectant mothers and teaching them the value of modern obstetrical care. This enables her to teach the nurses also methods of personal evangelism.

The Sunday School work has been encouraging. Upwards of 65 pupils regularly attend classes. Mrs. Scott has been developing visual aids and has helped the national teachers prepare materials to make the classes more interesting. She has been teaching herself and has expressed great joy at seeing the Word of God sinking into impressionable minds. Deep interest by the children in memorizing Scripture verses and using the illustrated lessons has given hope of reaching into the homes with the Gospel where other methods have been unproductive. The lessons learned in childhood will create a fertile soil in which the Seed can grow and bring forth rich fruit in the lives of the students as well as their parents.

Tilabani congregation is about 12 miles from Mohulpahari and I have made frequent trips there this year. It has been good to come apart and visit with
our friends Pastor and Mrs. Siblal Hasdak. They were blessed with a beautiful baby girl born at Mohulpahari God touched them with a special blessing through a difficult time after the delivery when it appeared for a time that they would lose her. But now all is well and she is a bounding happy child. Siblal Pastor was used of the Lord to lead 9 souls from heathendom and there are 12 more under instruction. The Christians number 210 and meet together in a lovely church on a beautiful compound.

The Ambajora congregation of 146 people are doing a wonderful job of building a new church. It will be of brick and asbestos and should be a model church for the district. Five villages are represented and there is a remarkable personal interest in seeing the work completed. It will indeed be a monument to God’s glory here in Santal Parganas and a token of what a small congregation can do to help itself.

We indeed have a great God. His greatness is unsearchable in manifesting His grace. We who see 64 new converts from heathenism joined to our membership of 1265 souls rejoice at being privileged to “Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.” (Psalm 96: 3 ) May God grant the increase.

William R. Scott M. D.
LITERATURE WORK

The literature work is indeed a source of encouragement, and of great expectancy as to its power to penetrate into practically all spheres of human life.

The literature does not only come on a short visit. It come to stay, and thus it works and continually penetrates into all the corners of human activities, moulding the character, preparing people for the future.

The spoken word may be forgotten. The written word is always at one's elbow to be referred to. Thus it is a constant assistant at present, and a leading star into the future.

The literature reminds us of the past, makes preparations at present, draws the curtains back and peeps into the future.

It is indeed excitingly interesting to follow its course in the history of humanity.

It gets a broader view and carries a deeper significance when it leads us into the very footsteps of the Saviour of mankind.

Thousands of new literates are turning out from our schools every year. What shall these new thousands read? This question ought to be a matter of deep concern.

The literature which falls into the hands of our young people will, to a very great extent, mould their outlook on life and decide their future.

It is therefore a matter of vital importance that these people get real thought-provoking and character building, Christian literature that can set them moving in the right direction.
In regard to our literature work we are obliged to say that our present situation is not one of merely writing and translating new books and manuscripts having them printed and stocked, but to get it circulated:

The written word is indeed a circulating mass of thousands of books and tracts finding their way into towns, villages, in the low-land as well as on the hill-sides; in the market places as well as on the road-sides: Wherever people are the literature finds them, and very often becomes the lonely traveller's faithful companion.

The work during the year under review has taken us through Malda, Cooch Behar, Assam, to the border and even a short trip into the land of Bhutan.

Thousands of books, pamphlets and tracts have been sold and distributed. The people in and around Parkijuli were especially eager to get hold of literature. One patient from our hospital there bought three sets of books. Each set comprising eight books. When asked what he wanted to do with all the books, he answered: "Give them to my family, relatives and friends"; That's the spirit.-

We have had many encouraging experiences during the last month. Although these, in fact, belong to the 1959, but writing this report in January, we are still under the pleasant influence of the marked enthusiasm aroused at our very first Layman's Institute. Here the literature was one of the most important Subjects.

The first and immediate result was a new order for books from our printing press at Benagaria.

A sceptic may say that this is only a local occurrence, but even so it may prove to be a fire spreading with more or less speed into other areas of our large field.
As a matter of fact there are signs that this has already become a reality in several places, but we openly admit that the fire needs more fuel.

Here is therefore a real challenge, in the first hand, for all our missionaries, pastors, evangelists and teachers. Secondly, to all the literate church members, to make a broad scale drive for Christian literature. Please let us have you ALL enlisted in our ranks in a unified effort. Then our literature work will be a success to the glory of God and the furtherance of His kingdom.

Along with the literature work we have taken part in several Bible-courses.

The Bible-course in Parkijuli under the able leadership of Rev. Haugstad was a real inspiration to us. We had also the privilege to give a few Bible-lectures in Joema on returning from Kamrup.

It was a thrilling experience to have a "mass-meeting" in the big hall in Mornai. Everything in Mornai is on a large scale and this meeting was no exception. Rev. Eie certainly knows how to handle both a large tea-garden and "mass meeting."

This time also we had the opportunity to have a evening-meeting in Gaorang church. We also visited Bongaegaon and Santipara.

In September we had the annual Pastors refresher course here in Chondorpura. Especially this course was marked by a deep spiritual conviction of mistakes, carelessness and shortcomings, but also by sincere prayers for new, spiritual strength, and earnest concern for the salvation of souls.

If any thing has been accomplished, to God be the honour and the glory for ever and ever.
We then humbly present this report from the field of literacy and Bible-course work entrusted to us.

Trusting in the Lord we go forward and upward, seeking His guidance in all our work for Him.

Greetings,

William Glad.
EDUCATIONAL WORK IN SANTAL PARGANAS

KAERABANI SCHOOLS.

"Train up a child in the way that he should go and he will not depart therefrom".

(Prov. 22: 6)

Although the above reference from Scripture refers to home and family training of our children in particular, it is no less an admonishment for all who are interested in educational work. When we recently returned from furlough in September we returned to Kaerabani. We are happy to report our schools have shown considerable progress again in 1958 in spite of unusual changes in the Principal’s position. Most evident is the increased enrollment in all departments which at the end of the year totalled 716 students enrolled—a new high for Kaerabani Schools—at one time in July last year it was up to 776.

On March 9th Rev. & Mrs. S. J. Johansen unfortunately had to return to Norway because of Mrs. Johansen’s failing health. Their absence was keenly felt by all because of the large place they filled in the hearts of everyone with whom they worked. In their absence Mr. Gora C. Tudu served as Acting Principal from the time they left until the 4th of November when he took leave for further study. This marked the first time Kaerabani Schools and District has been managed for such a long period by an all-Indian staff. It was encouraging to learn how well the work was managed
under Gora's able leadership in spite of financial difficulties. From the new term in July the hostel enrollment was up from 150 to 187 with an increase in the percentage of Christians from 80% to 84% of the boys in boarding.

The hostel boys did very well in their gardening projects where the competitive spirit of seeing who could grow the most vegetables prevailed. Records kept by the hostel leaders show a total production of Rs. 718/- worth of vegetables were harvested from July to December. In the end a cup was presented to the Basetkundi room which had the highest production valued at Rs. 187/- in all.

In Bihar state this year it has been decided again to open the new school terms from January instead of July, from 1959. So two actual school terms were completed in 1958; one in May and one in December. This was quite a gain for the students class wise, but to complete the required teaching did not make it easier for the staff. A number of ordinary vacation days were omitted and a concentrated program was carried out from mid-June to December. Attendance in the High School was about 98% for the year with 299 enrolled from June. Matriculate results in the State exam. showed better than 52% with three in first division and twelve in the second division out of total of 54 sent up from Kaerabani High School. There were very few changes in the staff last year with Mr. M. Roy, B.Sc. who left in November for further study, being replaced by Mr. P. S. Sahay, B.Sc. Mr. Prafulla K. Dutta was transferred to the High School when the training school of which he was Headmaster, was closed in June last year.

Largely because of financial lack of repeatedly solicited Gov’t aid for our Junior Training School department
it was voted by the Managing Committees to close the training school in June last year. As a J. T. school it has been operated since 1952 with full Gov't. recognition with an average enrollment of 35 students being trained for lower primary school teaching. Perhaps the results of the State exam. last year were the best we ever had when 34 out of 38 passed with five in the 1st division. We have had continued Gov't. aid for the High School, and for the Middle School, separated from the High School since July, 1956, we are anticipating substantial aid for its continuance in the future. With the continued growth of the High and Middle schools we have been faced with lack of space also to accommodate the training school without adding to our present building facilities.

The students of the High school have done exceptionally well in inter-school sports competitions last year. In March they began by winning the Sub-Divisional sports championship at Jamtara from where nine of our boys were selected to compete in field events in the District and Divisional tournament where three were successful in placing first. In football and hockey events held in July and October respectively both teams won the Sub-Divisional championship. Eight of our hockey players were selected to compete in an all-State team that won second place in an invitational tournament for secondary schools held in Orissa last December. The football team placed second in the divisional tournament at Bhagalpur.

The Middle School with a record enrollment of 301 from June with two sections from class IV to VII has had a good year. Since Benjamin Pauria, Headmaster, went for studies in the U. S. in Nov. '57, Mr. J. Herenz has served well as the Acting Headmaster. Our top problem has been delayed grant-in-aid from the Gov't.
since it was separated from the High school in July, '56, but in recent months the teachers have received Gov't. D. A. for two years at Rs. 15/- per month and our grant applications have been forwarded to the state headquarters from where we are expecting a reply soon.

There have been no changes in the teaching staff in the past year except that Mr. Minz was transferred to this department from the training school in July, and it was, with considerable shock to all, when Mr. Soiland Modi suddenly passed away in February. He had been a very faithful teacher for the past five years and his absence was keenly felt both in the training school and in the Middle school where he served. His willing attitude as a Christian teacher will long serve as an example and memory to us all.

The lower primary school with Mrs. Priscilla Tudu as headmistress and four very faithful Christian teachers continues with an enrollment of 176 from June. This model L. P. school has for years served as a practical center for our training school and continues to receive praise from the Gov't. inspectors. Grant-in-aid D. A. and enhanced salary for the teachers has been paid quite regularly, and we are thankful to Gov't. also for supplying daily rations of powdered milk for the students that has helped much in maintaining regular attendance. The number of girls enrolled these days, now most half of the student body, is one of the encouraging aspects of recent years. For this reason inspectors have suggested that this school which is separated from the high and middle school building should in the future become an upper primary school so the girls, especially, may continue up to class V in this department, whereas now they must discontinue after passing class III.

Among special events of the year, a Youth Ashram for the Ex-matric students was again held in March 12-19,
became one of the spiritual highlights of the year when about 25 Christian students stayed on after appearing for their matric exam. Local pastors with several teachers and one or two visiting missionaries combined to make this a period of fruitful Bible study when many testified of finding much help and in some cases a new found faith and peace in their hearts. A special thanks is hereby extended to an interested Christian group in Norway for helping make this event financially possible.

The National holidays of Republic Day, January 16th, and Independence Day, Aug. 15th were observed with fitting ceremonies in our schools. The high school band was for a time not active because of many instruments in disrepair, but it has recently again begun to take part in all public events. The annual mela on Nov. 27th was again a special event for the school children and staff as well as the Christians from our district churches when Rev. A. E. Stronstad gave the main address.

The year ended with an unusual climax when we received visits from the home board Presidents of Denmark and America in December. The teachers and students were thrilled to have an opportunity to meet these gentlemen and to receive them with garlands of thanks for these past forty-eight years. Kaersabani Schools have been faithfully supported by the prayers and gifts of our Santal Mission friends from overseas. The responsive greetings from Dr. Stensvaag and Bishop Schiøler and Dr. Aske, who accompanied Bishop Schioler were received with much joy. In a special gathering of the teachers in our schools Dr. Stensvaag also gave a Bible study from Jeremiah in which he pointed out the privileges of being a teacher and the overall importance of imparting an evangelical faith in Christ to whomever we teach. We will long remember the visits
of our home board Presidents and the words of encouragement they gave us. Rev. Wisloff from Norway visited Kaerabani in January.

We thank God above all for His blessings and guidance throughout the past year. There are many evident changes in India these days. Here at Kaerabani we have noticed not only the better roads, daily bus services, and now the availability of electricity extended by Gov't. but there is a resurging interest in education. More and more are aware that without degrees in education the future is becoming less secure. As a consequence all schools are becoming rapidly filled to capacity. For our Christian people it is very important that they are given a Christian education if our Church is to have leaders tomorrow equipped for their task in modern India. We are encouraged to note that in spite of many new Gov't. Schools being opened to which our Christian young people can go from their homes, we are having a gradual increase in our hostel of Christian students, some of whom really sacrifice to get a Christian education. There is but one Christian High School in this area of our mission for boys. Though it has problems at times not easy to solve we solicit the support and prayers of all who read this report that Kaerabani schools may continue to be the Christian influence it has been established to be.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen & Obert Landsverk
MAHARO
SANTAL GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL
AND WOMEN'S TRAINING CLASS

Looking back on the year 1958 we wish to begin this report by expressing our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for having permitted us to carry on for another year in His work in this school. The Lord has given strength as it was needed for each day and each hour throughout the year and again proved His faithfulness to us all.

When Dr. Aske of The Lutheran World Federation visited Maharo in the month of December '58, he was very surprised to find the Christian girls in such an overwhelming majority, (95 per cent of the Girls). He had never witnessed such high percentage in any Mission school before. And because of this the 250 girls living in the school hostel is to be considered a big Christian family living together for 9 months of the year.

In such a big family the question of health is of much importance to the well-being and work of this place. Miss Elise Dragoy who had been in charge of the medical and congregational work here, left for Norway in the month of March. In her place Miss Gunvor Clausen was appointed, and she arranged for the annual medical examination of all members of the school and compound which took place in the last part of August. Dr. W. R. Scott of Mohulpahari Chr. Hospital came and conducted the examination and gave us very valuable assistance in every way. We are also thankful for the opportunity we have to send sick girls and co-workers to the hospital in Mohulpahari where they always receive the best treatment. When all the girls could leave in good health for their Christmas vacation, we surely had to praise God for His abundant mercy and care throughout the year.
The new School year began from July, and lasted only for 6 months, so we had the experience of having two annual exams in one year. The reason for this was the change over to the old system, commencing the school year in January for the whole state of Bihar. We find it is a change to the better to have the annual exam held in the cold season. We had on roll in the middle school 171, and in the High School 64, and in the Training Class 16 students as usual. The students in the Training Class will sit for the final exam in April 1959, as no change has been made in their school year. In Matric class 5 students appeared for the Matriculation exam, but unfortunately one of them did not succeed. In the Middle School the result was that 1 failed of 20 appearing in the final examination.

It has been really encouraging to see how in the last years our school has attracted girls from a wide area, from all parts of Santal Parganas and even from distant places like Purnea and Ranchi. And it is also very encouraging that so many girls have been awarded the Scheduled Tribes' Stipend from the Government making it possible for these girls to read in High School. This covers nearly all their expenses here in the hostel and school and means a great help for these girls.

In our school staff we had only one change during the year when Miss Sipora Soren, First teacher in the High School left in the middle of the year, to take up work in the Govt. Girls' High School in Dumka. It surely meant a great loss to our new High School that this teacher left us so soon, but in spite of this we are grateful to her for the good service rendered. And the other teachers have done their utmost that the class work should not suffer. We have a
staff of faithful co-workers who are always ready to share the responsibility and burden of the work in this institution, and that surely means much for the growth of the work here. The teachers are always willing to give a helping hand to the hostel—girls taking them to the river for bathing and supervising the girls during their study hours. It is in this way that we always have the feeling of being one big family.

This year also we had the joy of having Mr. S. Pandit conducting meetings here. It was a time of blessing and meant new strength and heart-searching for some of us to follow Jesus more closely in our every-day life. During his visit we had a Youth-Day on Sunday in which many young people from outside took part. The girls have taken care of, the Sunday School classes here and out in two villages and they have enjoyed this service for the Lord. We know it will bear fruit when the seed is sown in the hearts of children. The Good Shepherded is calling these small shepherded boys and —girls into His Kingdom for salvation and eternal life.

The last Sunday in November was as usual a festival—day in that 18 girls were confirmed in the church by Rev. A. E. Stronstad. May this day of dedication and witness follow these young ones through their life and help them to be true followers of Jesus Christ.

Just before closing the school for Christmas—vacation we had the great joy of having the President of the American Home Board visiting us. His message to the staff and the girls will surely be remembered, inspiring as it was to these young ones to live and witness for their Lord and Saviour. As the President, Dr. Steensvaag, came as representative for our friends and supporters in America, we also took the opportunity of expressing our gratitude to these faithful
friends for what they have accomplished for this mission with their gifts and prayers through many years. After the New Year we are hoping for visits of the Danish and Norwegian Home Board Presidents who also have arrived out here.

Before closing this report we desire to give expression to our gratitude to the Indian Government for its financial grants and cooperation during the year. Without that it would have been impossible to accomplish the work so smoothly. Likewise the members of the staff ought to be remembered for faithful and efficient work from day to day. And our thoughts also go to them in distant lands who so faithfully are upholding us and the work in prayer and with their support. May God's blessing and reward be theirs in abundant measure. And above all God be thanked and praised for all His grace and mercy.

Gunvor Clausen and Edle Sigurdsen

SANTAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"——an eternal Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people".

Revelation 14, 6.

We would certainly like to know the whole situation out here, India of today with her hopes and problems, and to what extent we as Christians are influenced, what it means for the work of church and mission at present and for the outlook. We who
proclaim the Gospel or are preparing ourselves for a service in the church of God will only be able to find our "bearing" by looking back to the starting point. The Gospel is not a thing which we shall have to accommodate to changing conditions. It is: "—an eternal Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people". We ourselves shall have to accommodate ourselves to "become all things to all men that we may by all means save some". The Gospel is eternal. Let us always keep in mind that it is so. That will keep the outlook bright, also for the workers in Santal Theological Seminary, for the students and teachers, and for all the co-workers who support this institution. May we in Santal Theological Seminary prepare ourselves to bring the impression of the eternal Gospel to men's innermost heart.

During the year 12 students passed their final examination, the first group that finished the new 4 years' course. 4 passed in I Division and all the rest in II Division. It had previously been decided by the sending bodies where the candidates were to be placed, therefore they could go from the Seminary directly to their appointed places. One however, whose appointment was in East Pakistan with The American Churches of God Mission, was unable to get the necessary visas and so he was employed as a temporary worker by Bengal Baptist Union. Later this arrangement was made permanent.

May God bless each one of them and their wives and help to bring the impression of the eternal Gospel to the heart of man.

A list of the names of these new workers is given here:

54. The Santal Mission of the Northern Churches

3. Hopna Tudu, Missionary to Nepal.
4. Parmenas Tudu, Balurghat, West Dinajpur. Bengal Baptist Union.
10. Sanicar Murmu, Chondorpura, Santal Parg. (Mahle)
12. Jitman Bosumathary, Parkijuli, Kamrup. (Boro)

Samuel Murmu and Parmenas Tudu were ordained as pastors in the Baptist Church at Balurghat on December 9th.

At present there are 15 students in the men’s classes and 12 in the women’s classes. 1 family is reading their last year. 5 families and 1 single are reading their 3rd year. 1 family and 1 single are reading their 2nd year. And 5 families and 1 single were admitted from July 1st this year. These 1st years students are as follows:

From Santal Parganas Church Council:

Hiskiel Hasdak' with family, Dumka Circle
Lawrence Hembrom with family, Dumka Circle

From North Bengal Santal Church Council:

Paul Murmu with family, Malda–Purnia Circle

From Assam Santal Church Council:

Nathaniel Hembrom, Darrang–Kamrup Circle

From Boro Church Council:

Debendro Narjary with family, Gaorang Circle
From Brethren in Christ Mission: Patras Hembrom with family, Banmankhi, Purnea.

In April the Rev. M. M. Tudu was elected General Superintendent of the N. E. L. C., the first Indian to hold that office. Even though this election meant a loss of a permanent teacher for the Seminary it is a source of joy that one of our Indian brethren now has been elected for the highest office in the church. Our prayer is that God may grant him wisdom and love from day to day sufficient for his great task. We are thankful for the work he has been doing in the Seminary for more than three years. And we are happy that he in the future will help, as time permits, in the teaching and also in the marking of examination papers. As president of the Santal Theological Seminary Committee Rev. Tudu will still have a strong connection with the Seminary.

The Synod takes with one hand and gives with the other. It has been a great help that Rev. & Mrs. Dordal were transferred to Benagaria. Though there has been much work to do in the Church office they both willingly have taken upon themselves the responsibility of teaching in the Seminary. They have rendered a very needed and most appreciated help.

The other teachers have been doing their best, and this year the work has not been hampered by any sickness, neither in the staff nor among the students.

For the first time a Theological Education Sunday was observed in several places on Trinity Sunday. We have received collections from Eklakhi, Khoribari, Joema and the Santal Colony Circle for which we want to express our gratitude. The Seminary Committee decided to allow the collections to be used towards covering the cost of the printing of the Handbook.
The following books were printed in 1958:
SANTAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, HANDBOOK 1958.

With confidence we begin the year 1959 trusting that God will supply all our needs and guide the Synod in its decision regarding the points raised in Santal Theological Seminary Committee report of November 10, 1958.

We acknowledge with great thankfulness the receipt of some few books from a friend in Denmark. Most of all we thank for the help and encouragement we had got from friends in the home countries and out here, nationals and foreigners. The aim is not that the mission must decrease so that the church may increase, but that we all submit ourselves to the yoke of the eternal Gospel—that Christ may increase.

On behalf of students and staff

Johs. Thoft Krogh
MEDICAL WORK IN SANTAL PARGANAS

BENAGARIA CHRISTIAN DISPENSARY

At a Dispensary in a poor district with about 200 primitive villages we will in the patients gathering on the dispensary veranda see an average of the diseases of the whole continent of India. Here we see the tropical diseases: Malaria, Dysentery, Kala-azar and Leprosy beside the more common diseases: Pneumonia and Bronchitis, these last mentioned are common in the children, especially in the cold season, and the reason is that they do not have warm clothes. And to this we can add the many kinds of malnutrition. Especially the last cause has been predominant during the year under review. Not only was there a failure of crops during 1957, but also in 1958 the rice crop has been quite insufficient in many places here in Santal Parganas. Therefore it has been very difficult for people to get food enough.

The number of T. B. patients is very much increased. As far as I can see, T. B. is a greater scourge out in the villages than Leprosy. The danger of infection is terrible, and hygiene is a complete unknown matter in the homes. It is only very few of the patients, who can afford to get expensive Streptomycin and isonex-treatment. But it is very gratifying to help at least some to that treatment. For several months they have to come here for ambulant treatment, and we have the chance of teaching them a little about hygiene, the important matter of good nutrition, and
also that they must keep themselves isolated as far as possible, so they do not infect the family. It is my impression, that they are very much afraid of this disease—not without cause is the name of this disease in Santali “Raj rog” (The king of diseases). This fear makes the patient anxious to come twice a week to get his injection.

In the number of Leprosy patients I cannot see any decrease in the daily work. But the patients are coming at an earlier stage of the disease to get treatment, because they have heard of the results of the new medicine. When they believe that they really have a chance to be cured, they are less tempted to hide their disease, as was very common years ago. Here in the state of Bihar at least 3 1/2 % of the population are suffering from Leprosy. In the Indian newspaper “Statesman” of December 14th 1958 the Health Minister of Bihar expressed his great anxiety over the widespread incidence of Leprosy in this particular state, and that the public health was very much endangered thereby. The Government is very willing to mobilize all resources to help the patients suffering from Leprosy, but there are great difficulties connected with securing qualified helpers—doctors and nurses—to do the work in colonies and clinics. Many non—Christians may not be willing to nurse and care for patients with this disease. In our mission work has been done for this kind of patients in Saldoha since 1922, and later the same kind of work was started in Assam at Santipara. Also small clinics have been erected outside the Leprosy colonies for ambulant treatment, and all the treatment has been given free.

It would also be desirable, when in the consultation room we discover T. B. in a patient, that we had a T. B. fund from which such a patient could get help.
The statistics for 1958 are as follows:

Patients treated in the Dispensary in all 7,126
Leprosy patients treated in the
Leprosy clinic in all 3,901

My two Santal helpers, Compounder Paul Murmu and Jasmi Marndi, who has had some nurse's training, have during the last year done a fine work. Both of them have shown great interest and willing spirit, to get the work done as carefully as possible. Jasmi Marndi has the special task to evangelize amongst the patients and their relatives. Every time she can get opportunity she will gather the people waiting on the veranda and proclaim the Gospel unto them. She has a very special gift for speaking in such a way that people really will listen.

Every Friday the Leprosy patients will come for treatment. Usually long time before the treatment starts they will be gathering in the shade of the big Sal-trees outside the small primitive Leprosy clinic. While they are waiting for treatment also these will have an opportunity of hearing the Gospel proclaimed. For the most part of the year the students from Santal Theological Seminary will preach and sing for them.

The greatest number of patients are non-Christians, and it is our hope and prayer, that also this work in Benagaria Dispensary may be a part in the greater work—to pave the way for the Kingdom of God.

During the year under review I have given the wives of the theological students 2 weekly instructions in Obstetrics, Hygiene and Tropical diseases. A teaching most needed as out here sinister prejudices are prevailing in all these three domains. The women are very interested. They carefully write all the lessons down as no printed book in Santali on these objects is
available yet. When there is an opportunity they will in the delivery-room see the birth of a child and get a practical instruction in care and hygiene for mother and child.

In the service of God we can be confident and cheerful, though we always have to confess that we cannot do as much as we ought to or would like to do. In the presence of God we must acknowledge that “we are unprofitable servants; we have only done that which was our duty to do”.

Helene Romer

MOHULPAHARI CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

As we recapture the events of 1958 to portray a clear picture for analysis we are reminded anew of the challenge we face. “Let your lives be lived on a level worthy of the staggering privileges God has given them.” As we bring into focus these scenes of a year gone by we reflect on many failures and inadequacies in meeting the challenge. But we also see evidence of God’s grace and enabling which worked through us to complete another year in His service. At many points what was last year’s planning has become this year’s reality. The fruit of prayer in behalf of the aspirations of our hearts is taking form and we see much for which to give thanks. The generous gift of $5,000.00 from the American Home Board enabled us to start work on the long needed doctor’s house with enough left over to build student doctor’s quarters as well. Sudden remarkable interest in the vast problem of meeting the challenge of tuberculosis
we face daily prompted the American Home Board to appoint a fund raising committee to gather sufficient money to build a Tuberculosis Sanatorium under the management of the Hospital. This drive is now under way and shows great response with prospects of a real advance in the future medical program at Mohulpahari. The installation of government electricity replacing our old and rapidly failing Tudor battery plant was completed and with the proceeds of the sale of the old plant we were enabled to provide a standby alternator and switchboard panel. At the Annual Conference approval was given to proceed with the new well construction and funds for its completion are to be solicited from friends of the mission.

All these advances this year are but visible tokens of what He can do to encourage His work and us who do it. All is in His hands and we accept with joy the appointment to work as He directs. Through it all we are reminded again and again of Jesus' own words: "Ye did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide".

Not so visible perhaps but even more abiding is the fruit we see in the lives and heart-responses of our fellow workers and patients to whom we minister. It is to these we have come and it is in lives of men and women that we wish to develop the fruit which abides. This is the challenge. A staggering privilege indeed, and apart from God impossible. His secret plan is being revealed and He promises each of us a share in the eternal outcome of His program. The fruit of our labours will be His and His ours. When we give Him our full confidence in all these matters He responds by sealing them with the "promised Holy Spirit as a guarantee of purchase". Our work is thus enabled by
His presence, our strength assured by His grace, and our fruit blessed by His nourishment.

God's Pattern

A pattern has been set. It is revealed in many ways. To us it bears evidence of Divine guidance. Daily we see new manifestations of His grace working out through the lives of our National brethren. We are assured that what at any one moment may seem contrary to prevailing winds is only the vehicle by which His ultimate purposes will soar and accomplish His own perfect work here at Mohulpahari.

One such pattern is found in the book of Leviticus in the 19th chapter. It is on this analogy that we base this year's annual report. It has remarkable similarities to the calendar events of our first term. We take hope also in the promise of Jeremiah 31:5. "The planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit thereof"

"And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit thereof as uncircumcised; three years shall it be as uncircumcised unto you: it shall not be eaten of". Lev. 19:23.

For the past three years we have been planting. We have introduced Bible study programs, correspondence courses, public witnessing and prayer with the patients. There have been administrative changes with new rules and regulations and staff meetings to carry them out. We have been training new personnel in accounting, statistics and supervision. We are trying to stimulate them to more creativeness, efficiency, thoroughness and neatness. We daily instruct in the purpose of our witness in the operating room, on the wards, and in outpatient clinic. In the Nursing School young Santal
women are being taught and guided in the art and science of modern Christian nursing care. These are but a few of the trees that have been planted. Some we found growing steadily from earlier days, others have needed nurture and pruning. Still others have needed encouragement to develop further. A few are now beginning to blossom but it is not yet time to use the fruit. A wise man has said "Not to let fruit trees bear in their earliest years, but to pluck off the blossoms; and for this reason, that they thus thrive the better and bear more abundantly afterwards." Although we see much tender fruit sprouting in the lives of our colleagues we feel they are not yet fit for full use. They must be made to develop further. We must continue to nurture their talents so as to bring out a richer fruit in the years to come. Although our institutions are being turned over to the Church from January 1, 1959 the missionary still has a continuing role to play in cultivating its leaders.

In 1958 we appointed a new cashier cum clerk, in-patient collection clerk, a stock room clerk and a Christian social worker. Now together with our national administrative assistant and office secretary the entire aspect of the administrative department has brightened. Their training and subsequent adjustments to their jobs have put us a step forward towards full Indian administration. New accounting and book-keeping procedures have been inaugurated, banking facilities made available, stock inventory and asset and liability accounts made possible. New methods of prescription writing and levying charges together with increased fees have produced a healthy rise in hospital income. Separate accounts for cash and credit payments, for insurance and charity concessions, for billing and paying has refined the keeping of our records. The consolidation of all medicines and drugs under the direct supervision
of the pharmacy, made possible with a new special medicine room and indexed stock registers, has given rise to a more rigid control of hospital supplies and expenditures. Regular staff meetings with the doctors, supervisor, and senior administrative staff have given new and firm direction to the training of National leaders in all the departments. Minutes of each meeting are typed and distributed to each member and by indexing them annually a permanent file of operating principles and procedures is provided. Grand rounds on the wards bi-weekly have given opportunity to teach basic surgical and medical principles. They also supply the incentive to apply what has been discussed in staff meetings in regards to administrative policies.

Miss Alice Axelson's return to her post after furlough in America with improved health and renewed vision together with abundant enthusiasm has been a strong encouragement in the work. We are thankful too for the energy and help Miss Hilma Gjerde gave to these tasks before she returned home for a well deserved change. Without the talented energetic skills of these two co-workers all this would have been impossible.

In September Dr. Chatterjee returned from his study leave in the United States full of praise and enthusiasm about his experiences and eager to begin his work again. Dr. Paul Mnrmu is planning to attend the course in Arogyavaram, South India, leading to a diploma in tuberculous diseases. This will equip him for the next stage in the TB expansion program. Miss Elizabeth Hembrom was sent to Indore, M.P., for training in Ward Sister course at the Mission Hospital there and will be gone for six months.

At the newly organized Institutional Board of the Church which held its first meeting in November, authority was granted and later confirmed by the Mission-
ary Conference, to separate the Nursing School from the Hospital budget and thereby created a new Institution with its own budget and managing committee. This further strengthened the nursing program and insured its continuance under Government recognition and Mission support. It also relieved the Hospital of a heavy expense which was becoming more difficult to carry. The "Red Card" insurance scheme long sponsored by the Church and Mission for its workers in Santal Parganas and Birbhum was modified so eventually it will cancel itself out. This was also a relief to the Hospital budget and a necessary step towards basic selfsupport, so vital to a Nationally administered institution. The difficulty in maintaining high standards of medical care on a self-supporting basis in a poor country like India is recognized. We also know that our friends in the home countries will not forget and will continue to support the growth of this ministry of healing. For this we give thanks to one and all.

The fruit shall be holy

"But in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the Lord withal" Lev. 19: 24.

As the mangoes blossomed this year in overwhelming numbers following a severe draught and failure of the rice crop to give our people a token of God's unique mercy, so in the lives of many staff workers we are seeing rich fruit to praise the Lord. Gopal Prasad has come through his training period on the job with flying colors, and he has proved himself worthy of the efforts made to develop his abilities. The account books are accurately kept, the payroll regularly met, weekly shopping efficiently organized and petty cash expenditures correctly maintained. He
supervises the outdoor department and office staff, oversees the upkeep and repair, and serves as interpreter in dealing with my patients and problems in the clinic. Despite serious illness and threat of outside influences he has met the challenge and continues in a wonderful way to bring praise to His name.

Mrs. Nicodem Marndi was appointed as Christian Social Worker in August. Her task is to contact each new admission and enquire as to their economic and spiritual welfare. Much used of the Lord her fruit is bearing peculiar honors. Testimonials of patients are written in her monthly reports and serve to guide our program of evangelism in the Hospital. Together with Mrs. Das, our Bengali speaking Biblewoman, Mrs. Marndi has had opportunity to dispell fears and doubts in the minds of the patients and give them hope. Most of the 80% non-Christian patients are eager and willing to listen to the Gospel message and, form the fertile soil into which the Seed is sown. Many have never heard the name of Jesus. One man was suffering from a serious disease. One day he said I believe what you preach is a good religion. I see none but the Christians who can nurse patients with such care. He was told that these workers are but following the example of Jesus in His dealings with the sick and suffering. Another patient said "At Mohulpahari we receive two kinds of medicines, one for the body and one for the soul." This is the essence of our dual ministry and is embodied in our Hospital Motto: "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85: 10.

The literature program has had its first tender fruit this year. Philip Hasdak has been a faithful untiring worker as Secretary of the Way of Salvation course committee. He has shepherded the program with a
real vision of service. More than two hundred students have registered in the course by year’s end and of these 105 completed the five lessons. Their testimonies of God’s dealing with them show a purpose in our making the effort to have the course translated and printed into Santali. We thank God for the part we have been able to play in encouraging the extension of this vital outreach to the Santal people. New awakenings in dead lives, opening of new vistas for service, channeling wrong conceptions into the way of truth, leading souls to deeper understanding of God’s Word are but a few of the fruits of these efforts.

Yielding the Increase

“And in the fifth year shall ye eat of the fruit thereof, that it may yield unto you the increase thereof; I am the Lord your God.” Lev. 19: 25.

His promise to provide has been proved. We are standing at the threshold of a new era. The Church is assuming its responsibilities and we are tasting of the fruit. We are pleased with what we see and feel that before long God will provide the increase to dispell any doubts about His plans and purposes. We at Mohulpahari sense the urgency of the times. The efforts put forth by our predecessors and by what we have been able to accomplish in these past few years have been directed at this goal. When we leave the field we may expect full participation on the part of the National Church to provide a continuing program to His glory.

In a book entitled “Health and Healing” by Phyllis Garlic we read of a report of the C. M. S. Medical Commission in 1939 in which is quoted: An inefficient and slovenly hospital, unkindly or neglectful treatment of patients or subordinate staff, incorrect or poor
teaching, or evangelism neglected or crowded out, will each in its own measure undo the message of the mission, preached by lips but not exemplified in life, and be an unworthy representation of His Whose likeness the missionary staff are trying to reproduce in the lives of their patients." At Mohulpahari we have had a vision. The vision which takes shape in our own minds is that of the Christian ministry of healing committed to making relevant the best that has been discovered and used in medicine and surgery and integrating that with the Christian faith. If this remains alive and active in our thoughts and plans an unusual pattern of events will develop. God will act. And as God acts He possesses us at the center of ourselves, and then what we discover in this intimate fellowship must bear in upon our work: its feelings, its motives, and its hopes. With this vision before us nothing can enter which would distract from the true purpose of our witness. Like our Pastor, Rev. N. Marndi, who although an arrested case of Tuberculosis, did not cease doing his part to bring the Gospel message to those who hadn't heard, until one day suddenly God allowed him to be stricken again while preaching in the village. Through it he was enabled to see anew God's will and in the quiet of his convalescence came again into contemplation of God's greatness in saving us from the fatality of endless busyness, forgetting the deeper purpose, that of coming closer to God, and resting in His knowledge.

In the study of statistics and reports one can become lost in a maze of accomplishment and forget the more important medium of expression, the communication of ideas. Here in Mohulpahari we too get lost in busyness, in meeting deadlines, keeping to schedules and find little time to think. We are finding that contemplation has an important role to play:
"Action must spring from thought... from thought that is seated in worship, in worship that is worship of God." (Henry Zylstra) We trust that you all will have gained a little deeper insight into our work that will enable you to pray more purposefully for this great venture of the kingdom of God.

William R. Scott, M. D.

A. OUT—PATIENT DEPARTMENT

| New Patients | 9,151 |
| Repeat Visits | 9,111 |
| Total Visits | 18,262 |

| Christians | 2,887 | Laboratory Test | 10,814 |
| Santals | 4,464 | Injections | 3,632 |
| Hindus | 8,467 | Dressings, etc. | 598 |
| Muslims | 2,444 | Fluoroscopies | 1,727 |
| | | X-ray Plates | 138 |

| Men | 10,276 |
| Boys | 1,807 |
| Women | 5,020 |
| Girls | 1,105 |

B. IN—PATIENT DEPARTMENT

| Admitted during 1958 | 1,473 |
| Average Hospitalization | 15 days |
| Number of Deaths | 68 |

| Christians | 246 | Men | 646 |
| Santals | 426 | Boys | 535 |
| Hindus | 569 | Women | 189 |
| Muslims | 232 | Girls | 103 |
| Literacy | 35% |
| Illiteracy | 65% |
C. SURGERY AND OBSTETRICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedures</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operative Procedures</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Procedures</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Procedures</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Abdominal</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroidectomy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynecological</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radical Mastectomy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genito-Urinary</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Glands, etc.</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orthopedic</td>
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<tr>
<td>EENT</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forceps</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herniorraphies</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Deliveries</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures show a reduction in total amounts since last year. This is due to several factors. The famine of 1958 prevented many from coming for admission for lack of funds and food. We are somewhat pressed for revising the charge and perhaps the increased fees discouraged some from coming. This was a necessary step to meet rising costs. Generally the income per patient has risen and the cost perhaps thereby was neutralized. We are facing an era in which Government dispensaries are performing more and better service than previously and this too has taken away some of our patients. On the whole the figures show a healthy status and we are thankful for the increasing responsibility our National brethren are taking in making this a worthy institution for the Church, in which God's name is glorified.

William R. Scott M. D.
MOHULPAHARI NURSING SCHOOL

The foreign visitors, and national friends, and officials, who have visited Mohulpahari this year have without exception, some time in the course of their visit in wards, classroom, or hostel, expressed, "The nurses have such happy faces." The consistency of this observation by casual visitors has been a very real source of encouragement; for we have set before us as motto for our day by day work the exhortation of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12, 6-7 "And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us let us give ourselves to our ministry; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

From the depths of our hearts we would raise thanksgiving and praise to our God for this evidence of His work among us; for it is He who gives the grace, He who works in us to will and do, He who gives the joy; so that in the student nurses' life of learning a multitude of strange new facts and developing a wide diversity of skills there runs a connecting thread of cheerfulness in showing mercy, and it may be said of them, "They look so happy."

The University of Dublin Mission Hospital continues graciously to give Mohulpahari girls the second and last year of their training, since our hospital does not yet qualify as a teaching center for Midwifery. However, only three, at six months intervals can be accommodated. Missionary staff on furlough without replacements in the teaching and nursing administrative staff have made it impossible as yet to stabilize a regular time for admission of student nurses. For these reasons the enrolment during the year is variable.

In 1958 the very first two students completed their course. One of them passed the State Examination, and the other was not successful. Five younger students
have successfully passed their first year State Examination, and have gone into their Midwifery training.

Willing and proficient teachers have again been found among hospital staff members to teach sections of the syllabus that relate to their specialities; the laboratory technician, a pharmacist, a head nurse, a doctor, our pastor’s wife and social worker, and our faithful friend, the farmer on the Nursing School Committee. Hilma Gjerde and Mrs. Scott carried the major teaching load in first half of the year.

The great responsibility that attaches to being house-mother for a girls’ dormitory was faithfully carried by Miss Rebeca Tudu in spite of days and weeks of illness. At the end of the year she was released to return to Maharo girls’ School where she was previously employed.

In weekly prayer and fellowship-meetings student nurses are encouraged to be aware of their patients, deep and many-sided spiritual needs; roughly 85% of the patients are Non-Christians. They are encouraged to give witness of their faith in the great Physician, the living Christ, with their lips as well as their service. It is also a time of sharing experiences in the area of our work.

In the last three months of the year weekly home visiting has been done in 10 walking-distance villages under the leadership of our pastor’s wife. We feel that this outreach will be fruitbearing in mutual benefits to student nurses to followed-up patients, as well as new contacts.

The school has not in this year passed any specific milestones in its development, although we see them set before us both in the needs of the hospital and in
the need to reach the standard set for it by the State accrediting authorities. Facilities are still inadequate. Teaching equipment is incomplete; classroom space, cramped, and the greatest need is for additional quarters for more student nurses. As we plan for the fulfillment of these needs, we pray for an ever greater trust in Him who is able above all that we can ask or think, to supply for that which is His work, and for patience to wait for His appointed time for its various faces of its development.

In the meantime we praise Him for the signposts along the way that the Nursing School is becoming established, and that it is fulfilling a known need in the Santal Christian community,—providing an opportunity for young Christian women to fit themselves for Christian service in ministry to the sick.

Alice Axelson

SALDOHA LEPER COLONY

At the close of the year we have to stop and reflect on what has happened and what has been accomplished in the past year. The first we like to do is to express thanks to God who helped through this year also. Thanks be to him who helped us through the many problems, and thanks to the co-workers and friends who stood together with us in the work.

To meet the increased expenses steadily rising in the cost of living, we had to reduce the total number of patients to 300. Three hundred and eighty four lepers have been treated during the year in the colony.
Fifty were discharged as non-infectious under observation. Such results give encouragement to those that still are left behind and also for us who are working among them.

The statistics for this year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Symt.</th>
<th>Slightly</th>
<th>Same</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saldoha L. C.</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saldoha outdoor</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarni outdoor</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>.144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In January the Baromasia Out-door clinic was handed over to the Govt.. But still we had 12470 consultations at the two other Out-door clinics. Dr. J. M. Roy has been the Medical officer. Due to lack of quarter for Dr. P. Murmu at Mohulpahari, he stayed here in Saldoha for some months and helped in the medical work. Many patients with tropical ulcers were operated on by him, and many show good results. We were also able to send lepers to Mohulpahari for surgery, X-ray, fluoroscopi etc. One of the female patients has been bedridden for many years, but thanks to a mission friend at Voss, Norway, she got a peg-leg and is now moving around. Besides the doctors five compounders have been working faithfully together with them. One of them is away for further laboratory training at Vellore. After sister Kari Ringheim went on furlough in May, Mrs. A. Sture has been in charge of the hospital. The thirty beds in the hospital are always occupied and very often the place is too small. Many leprous patients from out-door were admitted for shorter periods. Six patients have helped as nurses in the hospital. When one leaves a new one has to be trained. Miss Sulen arrived in October and has been occupied
with her language study. When Miss Hannevik goes on furlough in March, Miss Sulen has to take more responsibility for the work.

In the colony the work went on as usual. In spite of the hot and dry summer, we got more crops from our field than the year before. This year we introduced wheat for the inmates in the colony, so they get mostly half rice and half wheat in their diet. From National Christian Council through Benagaria we got wheat, powder milk and cheese as gifts from America.

In the Industrial section — weaving and carpentry, the work was led by two ex-patients. All the linen and bandages as well as bed-straps has been woven here. Besides that all the patients got each a piece of cloth as a Christmas gift. The carpenters have done all the repairs in the colony. Mr. D. P. Lai has been the caretaker and Chunka Besra the over-seer in the colony.

A new well was completed. The water supply has always been a problem here in Sadoha. One well after another dried up. Last summer only 2 wells besides the new one held water.

By grant from the Central Govt., and gifts from Stavanger and K. M. A., Norway, we hope within a short time to have running water for the hospital buildings. For the future we hope for more funds so we may be able to solve the water problem for the staff quarters as well as for the Colony.

As before Pastor Salhae Marndi has been leading the congregational work. He has preached mostly in the one church for the staff and villagers, and he has also participated in the work among the patients with church services, meetings, devotions and instruction for
baptism. Last year two were confirmed and eighteen were given baptismal instructions for nearly one year. They will be baptized in the month of January 1959.

The word of God has been sown every day through the year either in the church or in the hospital, schools and villages, and we pray and hope that it may root and grow. Many of the patients who went home, were Christians. We ask every one of you to remember them in your prayer that they may be able to live as true Christians and that they may win others for Christ.

We have been very fortunate to have visits from Missionaries who have taken one or more meetings. The Church Suptdt. Rev. M. M. Tudu and his wife visited Saldoha one Sunday, and all 3 congregations were together outside of the church as usual when we have guest—preachers. In December dr. Stensvaag, the Chairman of the American Board and Bishop Schioler, the Chairman of the Danish Board paid us a visit. Dr. Aske, Ass. Dir. of the Luth. World Fed., Geneva, was on a trip through our Mission field and spent 2-3 days during Christmas. One day in January we are looking forward to have Rev. H. E. Wisloff among us. We are thankful to them and the home—countries for their visits.

Miss Margit Hannevik has been in charge of the dispensary and hospital for the Non—Lepers. The nearest hospital is far away so the consultations have continually reached a big number. Last year the dispensary was visited by 8000 patients, and 200 were admitted in the hospital.

Before we close this report we want to express our thanks to the Government of Bihar for its financial grants and co-operation during the year, and to the staff for faithful work from day to day. Likewise we express our thanks to the Mission to Lepers and all
friends in America, Denmark and Norway who so faithfully stand together with us in offerings and intercessions.

Aslaug and Jens Sture
WORK IN BENGAL

COOCH BEHAR

Another year has passed by, and when we look back, we realize again that the Lord's word has come true, saying: "And lo, I am with you always". In many ways we have felt His blessing hands upon the work in Cooch Behar also in the gone-by year.

BENGALI WORK:

The Swedish Mission started its work among Hindus and Mohammedans more than sixty years back. This work is still continuing among the Bengalis, the main places to-day being Cooch Behar town and Dinhata. Our old Bengali pastor, J. A. Roy, and the two Bengali evangelists, all three residing in Cooch Behar town for the present, have this year also worked and witnessed for Christ among Christians and Non-Christians.

A small reading room at the mission station here, has proved to be quite frequently visited both by our own youngsters and also by students coming from different institutions in the town.

For the local congregation here it has meant a lot that some Christian high officials in the Government service regularly have attended the church services.

For many years the Mission used to have a school in Tufanganj, about 15 miles east of Cooch Behar. An evangelist was also placed there. But a few years back the school was closed, and there has practically been no work done in this area since. The Circle meeting has now decided to place one of the two Bengali evangelists, Ruben Biswas there from the beginning of 1959. A new house will be built for him on some land owned by the Mission.
The work amongst the Hindus and Mohammedans is a difficult one. Not difficult in the sense that we have no opportunity to work among them. There are certainly many opportunities, and many are eager to listen to the Gospel. Just to give an example we may mention that a dentist in the town sent a man to the Mission station in order to get a New Testament as he wanted to know something about Christianity. And there are many like him.

During the big Raj mela, a yearly mela in Cooch Behar, we had a short Bible course here, and those who attended went out to the mela in the afternoon, distributing tracts and selling Gospels.

The opportunities are there, but when it comes to the question of becoming a Christian and receiving baptism, then there are hundreds of obstacles. And the longer one lives among the people, the better will one understand their difficulties, and humanly speaking also very much sympathize with them.

**Tribal Work:**

The larger number of our Christians belongs to the tribal peoples. We have now Christians from among the Garos, Boros, Rabhas and the Santals. They are all different tribes with different social customs and languages. Still they are all united in Christ. An example may be given. In the village of Puthimari there are two congregations, a Garo and a Boro congregation. They had earlier two separate church buildings and two schools. This year we have built a new school in the village. The school house contains three fairly big class rooms with an extension of the middle room which is set aside for church use. Sunday the 19th of January the church room was dedicated. That day our Home Board Vice President, Miss Maria Dillner, was with us. Our Garo pastor Ajen Chisim
gave a short resume of the history of the congregations, ending it in this way: "Earlier we were worshipping God in two places, we were two congregations. But now we have united and have become one congregation, and we worship our Lord Jesus together."

This year we have had only two full time Garo workers, pastor Chisim and the evangelist Moni Sangma. They have been faithful in their work, and especially pastor Chisim marks himself out as a good Christian leader and teacher.

Our Santal work is still in its beginning. The school in Jidpur where Gopal Kisku and his wife Ruth is placed, is doing well. The children have come quite regularly to the school, and their progress is evident. But the villagers there are in a very miserable condition. Almost all of them suffer from goitre, and they are very much accustomed to excessive drinking of "handi," a kind of intoxicating rice beer. Usually you will find them completely drunk a day or two in the week, both men and women. However they show more interest in listening to the word of God now, and they have become really interested in the school. The old headman has leprosy, and is suffering very much from his illness. During a visit in the village a short time ago, he said: "Earlier we were living in the darkest of the jungle, but after you started to visit us, it is as if we have been lifted up on a high mountain." And when we sang for him in Santali about the love of God, he exclaimed: "How wonderful that I should hear such a song in my own language."

Our newest Santal work is in a village called Bengdoba, near Jorai railway station in Jalpaiguri district. About two years ago some 25 Santal families moved in there from Assam. Among these are 11 Christian families. Among them some have been baptized
only this year, and a new family is soon to be baptized. There are also other Santals in the neighbourhood besides Rabhas and Oraons. Our Santal elder, Gopal Kiaku, goes now regularly to Bengdoba and visits the Santals there.

To the above mentioned remarks about our work in general I would like to add a few lines about some occurrences and problems we met with during the year.

**MEETINGS AND BIBLE COURSES:**

"Two Circle meetings have been held during the year, and regularly workers’ monthly meetings have also been held. At the end of February we had our annual meeting in Puthimari. The main speakers in the conference was Mr. Subodh Pandit of the Children’s Special Service Mission. In continuance with the conference we also had a short course for Sunday School teachers conducted by Mr. Pandit. Later in the year, in the month of June, we had another Sunday School course in Cooch Behar. Some of our preachers got the opportunity to attend the "Pastors’ Conference" in Calcutta in August, and returned richly blessed.

**STUDENTS:**

Some of our young people are in training in different places. A Garo boy, Kedar Nath Marak, will finish his three years’ Theological training in Malda towards the end of February 1959. A Boro elder, Basiram Narjary, and a Garo boy name Mohindra Marak are both at present attending a half year’s course in Malda. Benjamin Howe is continuing his theological training in Cherrapunjee, Khasi Hills. Bilash Chisam, a Garo girl, has entered her third years’ college studies in Cooch Behar. The last year she received some stipend from the Government."
S elfsupport:

We have discussed the problems of selfsupport and self-guidance in many of our meetings. In the annual meeting in Puthimari a resolution was passed, saying "that all members of the church above 18 years should pay a monthly membership fee of 25 naya poesa. It has not been possible to realize this fully, but it has helped to raise the funds substantially. The income of the Church has now been raised to more than Rs. 2/- per head, which is a good deal more than in earlier years. With the help of money given by our mission friends, we have also been able to buy land in Puthimari. This land will be utilized to the benefit of the Church. Two local melas, one in Dinhata and one in Cooch Behar have added good income to our funds.

G overnment Aid.

The relationship with Government circles has been the very best. The school authorities have given aid both to the new school in Puthimari and the Primary School in Cooch Behar. We receive now full salary for four of our teachers.

The Tribal Welfare Department has also given help to some of our people. A night school has been started in Puthimari with the aid of this department, and as only a few of our tribal people have got their own land, we have also taken up the question of getting land for the landless ones, and there is a good hope for a satisfactory solution of this problem now. This will mean a lot both for the individuals and for the Church as a whole.

Twelve persons have been baptized from Non-Christian communities this year. In closing we wish to express our heartiest thanks to K.M.A. and mission
friends in the home countries, and to our co-workers on the Mission field.

And at last we again underline the word of our Lord Jesus, saying: "And lo, I am with you alway." (Math. 28: 20) We are happy to be in His service.

With greetings,

Brit and Olav Hodne

DINHATA

Every time when sitting down to write the Annual Report one feels like there is nothing of importance to write about. But something has to be written and perhaps even that, which we do not regard as great happenings, may be of interest and value for the reader of the report.

The year started with a very happy event. We got a visit of Miss M. Dillner, the Vice President of our Home Boot. When she arrived here after darkness, she was met by all the children carrying lamps in their hands. The garden was also illuminated, and the whole became a picture we will not easily forget. We thank Miss Dillner for all the encouragement she brought to us during her two days stay here.

When we think of the evangelistic work done in this area our hearts are filled with sorrow. All around us we have lots of people ready to listen, but we have no one to preach the Gospel regularly. While the Church is striving towards self-support the number of paid evangelists has to decrease, and as long as the individual Christians are not aware of the obligation
to witness for Christ, we will certainly have to face a stagnation in this work. But let us pray and hope for a revival within the Church, which will not only help her towards self-support, but first of all make her as witnessing Church.

In June we were happy to have Mrs. Ghosh here, who for many years worked out in the villages as Biblewoman in Cooch Behar. She got a very warm welcome in the homes and was very much encouraged to continue this work. We hope that she will come back this year also and stay for a longer time.

The Dispensary building mentioned in last year’s report was ready for use in March. Just then we had chickenpox amongst the boarders, so we were thankful to be able to isolate the worst cases in the new sick-room. Many outsiders have as usual received help and treatment during the year. Dr. Paul, a Hindu doctor in Dinahat town, is always willing to render his help in the medical work, for which we are very grateful. The milk distribution to T.B. patients and expecting mothers has also continued.

Some words may also be mentioned about the School work. The staff of teachers has been the same as last year. The Headmaster, who formerly had his living quarters at the boys’ boarding, was thankful to get a new quarters which was ready for him to move into in May. He invited us all for a house-warming party and all rejoiced with him and his family and thanked God for His great gift.

The Prize distribution in the school took place in April and became a great event because of the visit of the District Inspector of Schools as well as of other visitors too. Some time afterwards we received a letter of recognition for our school, which we have long been
waiting for. About 90 children have been enrolled in the school. Amongst them 50 are Christians and the others are Hindus and Moslems. In our two hostels we have had 48 students, of whom 40 attended the School here and the others are High School students in town. The work amongst children and youth is much encouraging, because we realize the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. They have also experienced how God several times in answer to their prayers healed sick ones, and their faith in prayer has thus got strengthened. Amongst the High School boys we have had 3 Non-Christians. One of them was baptized in December. Now we are praying that the other two also may come forward and accept Christ as their Saviour. At several occasions the big boys have been helping in the evangelistic work. By doing so we hope that they will get inspired to further voluntary service in the Kingdom of God.

In closing this short report we do want to express our hearty thanks to the Home Board and all the mission friends for their faithful support in the work. May we bravely go forward, knowing that our sufficiency is of God, and He remains faithful forever.

A. Wittander
E. Philquist

NIMASARAI MISSION

Four successive years the rice crops have failed in Malda. Because of this 1958 was a difficult year. Among our Bengali Christians very few have their own land. Most of them work as day-labourers. But last year many landowners had so little rice left over for sowing that they did not need, or did not dare to hire any helpers for the work on their land. To help people in distress the Government fortunately started construction of several new roads and repair of old
ones. In some places this sort of work had to be stopped, because too many poor people flocked around. And they were only paid 2½ seers of rice a day. This shows something of how grave the situation was.

The work in Nimasarai Mission compound was to a great extent influenced by this situation. Fortunately we received plenty of Powder Milk from the National Christian Council of India for free distribution. Some whole wheat and cheese we could also distribute. Nearly every day we have had an invasion of approximately 200 poor people coming for these distributions. Our workers have used a lot of time handling all this, but we have been glad to be able to give this social service. How often however, we have had to just listen to the lamentations of poor people in distress, without being able to give further help.

Scarcity of food has again caused more sickness in the district. As Dr. E. Hoilund of Rajadighi Hospital went home on furlough at the beginning of the year, we could not, as a mission render proper service to the sick ones. Here in Nimasarai distribution of medicine and dispensary work in a small scale has continued.

The work in our Primary School and Boarding has been hampered because of the food-situation. People simply have not been able to send their children for education. We got only about half the usual number of boarders. Daily attendance in the school has been about 70. The same staff of teachers have carried on the work.

The one section of our work which has been least effected has been the Divinity School. But we have had to give the students more in food-allowance because of the high prices of rice. The running of this school has also this year taken the best part of our time. The second school year was finished at the end of
May. From June to August the students took part in congregational work from their homes. From September, the 3rd and last school year started. This continued to the end of February 1959. The following subjects were taught during these months: The Gospel of St. John, 1st Tim., Dogmatics, Liturgic, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology and the Augustana Confession. Practical classes in preaching and church-service were held weekly.

From September a new 6 months junior-class was started besides the senior-class. Because of the extra work this involved we were given Rev D. B. Jha by our Bengali District Council to help with the teaching. The Second teacher, Mr. L. C. Konai continued as before. Rev. K. R. Ghose and Mr. S. Pandit also helped with the teaching on shorter visits.

The final exams at the end of February 59 showed the following results: Passed in 1st division,—Norendra Nath Bhandary 80%, Sahendra Bosumaty 79%. In Second division,—Probhod Kayal 74%, Kedar Nath Marak 71%, Shyamapodo Chakrabarty 69%, Surja Das 67%. In third division, Gongaram Mehediar 55 percentage.

The teaching of the wives of the students in Bible-knowledge, sewing, Hygiene etc. was continued. It was encouraging to notice the progress they made during this year. Four of them finished most of the junior course and got their certificates together with their husbands at the close of the term.

Now our students have taken up work in their home-areas. May they be used as tools in the Lord's hands in years to come.

The district work in Malda and Dinajpur was continued with the same staff of pastors and preachers. We can not give report of great visible results. 4 have
been baptized from hinduism and 5 are still receiving instruction for baptism. The effect of the distress situation in the districts our workers felt badly in their homes and congregations. Such time is not opportune for spiritual growth. We have felt this still more this year because we have made special effort to encourage our congregations to make a drive towards self-support, trying to come in line with the general program of our whole church. But how can a group of Christians, who often have to see their own children starve, be pressed to raise considerably more funds for their church? If the standard of living is not improved among our Bengali christians, it is evident that the proposed proportional cuts of congregational budgets in the years to come will not foster self-support, but simply mean cutting down of essential work with stagnation as an inevitable result.

Fortunately the rice crop at the end of the year 1958 was a good one. This should mean better economic conditions in the year 1959. May the Lord soon also let us see a richer spiritual harvest here in Malda and Dinajpur. We wait and pray for this. We thank you all in the homelands who follow also this part of the Lord’s vineyard with offerings, interest and prayer. We have the promises of God that it shall not be in vain.

With best greetings

Solveig & Per Kjölberg.
EDUCATIONAL WORK IN BENGAL

EKLAKHI GIRLS' SCHOOL

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Psalm 127:1

This is a word that we often need to be reminded of. All of our work is really a work of God and for God. At least that is what it was meant to be. We walk in those works which God has before ordained. In a wonderful way this is just what we have experienced this year here in Eklakhi.

The old straw thatched school building was in a very bad condition. We had to have a new one, but had no money. The Conference in 1957 allowed us to ask the L. M. F. in Norway for help. The request was submitted to them, and already in early January we had the answer: "Rs. 10,000.- sent for school building in Eklakhi". That day was a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving. There would be a new school building after all! Now we could with confidence apply to the Government for grant. In March we received the reply that Rs. 9500.- was granted, but the building would have to be completed before 31st March. After another application the grant was transferred to the current budget year.

Sunday the 13th April the Secretary, Rev. A. E. Stronstad laid down the cornerstone. A day which we always will remember with thankfulness. The new building will be a permanent one with sufficient space for the 5 primary classes. But the construction could not be
completed within 1958. We had to wait so long for permit to buy the iron. Now the iron is here and we hope to have the building finished during the month of February.

**THE SCHOOL**

When the old school building fell down there was no house available for the 5 classes, so they have had to be anywhere—in the boardings, on the verandahs and out in the open. Many a time this made it difficult for the teachers, but they did take it in a good spirit. In spite of all these difficult circumstances the work has progressed steadily and nicely. All the teachers are the same as those we had last year. We have had 136 children in the school. Of these 112 were Santals and 24 Bengalis and others. Day-scholars from the surrounding villages have continued to be very few, only 23 have been coming.

The Inspector of Schools, Gazole Circle, inspected the school in February and November. Each time it was a different man. The reports were very good.

From the School Authorities we have received the same amount of grants as in the previous year. This means that 70% of the expenses for the 5 primary classes is being paid by the Government.

We are very thankful for the good will and all the help which we have received from the Authorities.

**THE BOARDING**

In this section also the co-workers are the same as before. We have had an average of 106 boarders; of these 22 were boys. Because of the poor rice crop it was a great problem to provide food for so many. But in this also the hand of the Lord was not shortened
to help. Through the N. C. C. we received much help in the form of wheat, powdered milk and cheese, and we are very thankful for all the help we have received in this way. It is evident that the health of the children has improved. At an average they have gained in weight 2-3 pounds per month. The children have been very active which shows that the general health has been very good.

Apart from a few very serious cases there has not been much sickness considering the big group. The Health Inspector from Pandua has also this year visited the school frequently. All have been vaccinated against smallpox, and twice they have had inoculation against cholera. In the hot season there were many cases of smallpox in the villages round-about, and several died from this disease. The hot season was indeed very hot and long-lasting. The school had to close two weeks earlier than originally planned because of the scarcity of water.

In March the Tribal Welfare Department had provided us with a tube well, and that a very expensive one too, but it did not work very satisfactorily, and at last there was no water at all to be had. After a number of letters written, and several visits made, it was repaired at last and has since been in constant use.

**Spiritual Work:**

Like the previous years we have had our usual Bible classes, devotions, Thursday-meetings, L. M. F. gatherings and the regular Church services. The women's meetings have been attended by a faithful group; every now and than some more have joined them. A mela was held here in March, the proceeds of which was Rs. 186,- to the Church Treasury. In April Mr. Pandit from the Children's Special Service Mission had a
series of meetings for nearly a week. The children were very eager to come and were just as attentive at the singsong and devotional meetings as when there was lantern slides. I am confident that much of the seed sown fell on good ground. Further on in the hot season Miss Milde conducted a series of meetings for the women. She had attentive listeners whether they were small or big. May the Word bear fruit in the lives of each one of them.

From September on a confirmation class has been held twice a week in which 12 of our school girls took part, and on the 21st December 7 of them were confirmed by Pastor Jonas Hasdak. It has been a matter of great joy to us that 6 of our big girls have confessed their faith in Jesus Christ and have asked to be baptized. They are now under instruction for baptism. They are a fine group to work with, and it has been a great pleasure to instruct them. In the beginning of the year we were privileged here in Eklakhi to have a pleasant visit from Denmark. It was Sister Maja Boving and Sister Johanne Kjaer who came here to stay with Sister Lilly Petersen for some time; and we experienced something of what it means to look at people and circumstances with a newcomer's eyes.

One Sunday we had an unexpected visit of the new District Magistrate and the new Tribal Welfare Officer in Malda. The District Magistrate took part in the Church service, and Mr. Mitra came to inspect the hostel buildings. They are both interested in the school here and are doing much in order to help us.

Sunday 21st December Dr. Stensvaag visited us, and it was a great joy to us to see and hear the Chairman of the Santal Mission Board in America.

Reviewing the days and happenings of the past year, I feel that there is so much to be thankful for. To
be true, there has been famine, lack of money, drought and water scarcity, illness and various difficulties, but even so, there is much more to be thankful for. How happy we are that in spite of lack of money, it became possible after all to build, and this time we hope that the building will stand for many years to come. In spite of scarcity and famine, the health of the children has improved, thanks to all the good gifts which we have received.

From day to day God has been a mighty fortress for us and our daily refuge. He has kept his hand over us and delivered us from evil. He has given us of His abundant gifts and kept us in His care. Indeed much to give thanks for.

I also would like very much to thank all you faithful friends and co-workers who are helping and supporting this work in the Lord’s vineyard. But most of all I want to thank you who in the secret closet day by day are touching the right hand of the Almighty.

Eldbjorg Gulbrandsen

NARAINPUR GIRLS' JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The annual report from Narainpur for 1958 will mostly be about the school and work, done out from the school, because Miss Krogh Nielsen has been on furlough.

The work in the School has followed the usual traditions. There has been very little change in the staff. Minu Dutta has left for further university study. Of the eighth class students 8 are continuing to School
Final exam. in Ushagram Girls' High School. The school has had 160 students, and of these 127 boarders. The scholarships from Government and the examination results prove that good work has been done. The leading hand behind all the school activities is the head mistress, Neela Das. She believes in strict discipline,—some think it is too hard, but many parents express their thankfulness and say that it is just what they want,—and what India needs.

The morning and evening prayers in the school hall for all are led by the teachers, one each day. Through the last two years we have read the New Testament chapter by chapter with a short explanation by the teacher. In this way we know that the children have heard the whole New Testament during their school time. The scripture teaching in Secondary Section (all Non-Christians are joining in) is based on the syllabus from Nimasarai Divinity School, so that the students at the end of class 8 has the knowledge required for the first part of the Bible School Training.

During the year we have had visits of several evangelists. Mr. Pandit from Children's Special Service Mission,—Miss Sahu from Bible Society, and a few others who have had 3–4 days' meetings. The teachers' Bible study, L.M.F. meetings and the women's meetings have continued as usual. Three Mohammedans are being instructed for baptism.

We have had contact with a great number of the village population this year because of the distribution of milk, cheese and wheat from friends in America through the National Christian Council. The need has been great and we have been thankful for being able to help, but the crowd, who wanted help has been so big and undisciplined, of fear for not getting their full share, that it has been nearly impossible to organize
them,—so the days of distribution did not give us the opportunity of Christian witness that we had hoped for.

In spite of Government and private help many have been suffering, and children died because of lack of food. In order to provide work, Government had to start relief schemes, and due to our helpful District Magistrate, we also got advantage of this relief work in having a great tank made on our fields, so that artificial watering may be possible in the future.

It was a great disappointment that the F.U could not allow us to receive a Government Grant of Rs. 45,000.— for very needed class-rooms and teachers’ quarters for the Secondary Section.

In many respects this year has been a sad year for the Bengali Work.—

When I say the Bengali work I think more of the higher caste—than of the low caste—work, because the higher castes are just as far from the Santals and Tribals as Europeans in regard of mentality and way of living. Our Mission has mostly worked among the low castes, and the work among the higher classes is only in its beginning, but we believe and hope that we shall see fruit in the future. At present we have 32 Brahmin children in our school, and the talks and correspondence with their parents are encouraging. Their hospitality, help and thankfulness give joy in the work. We feel that there is a great need for work among these educated Hindus who have lost their faith in Hinduism, but have nothing to replace it. The present organisation of our Church with 3 Santal Councils, one Boro and one Bengali Council, makes it possible for the Bengali group to decide in their own affairs, and according to their own way of thinking without interference from another group with quite a different
mentality. Because the Bengali Christians are more or less scattered about, the Bengali Church Council is the gathering link and the place for renewed effort, - in fact the main connection in the Bengali work.

It is now understood that a re-organization has to be carried out at any price, so that our Bengali Council could be replaced by a geographical council of both Santals and Bengalis. Because the Santals are in majority, there is a tendency that Santal mentality will be the dominating one. Our scattered Bengali Christians will be divided into 3-4 councils, in which the language will be Santali, which they do not understand, and they will never have a chance to be heard. This arrangement can only be a hindrance for the Bengali work. We feel that each group of people has a right to have their congregational life in their mother tongue and fitting to their way of thinking. On the last Bengal Church Council one Bengali expressed his opinion on the matter in the words: "Oil and water are both good and necessary, but they cannot be mixed."

It is a great responsibility the Santal Mission and our Church is shouldering by abolishing the now existing Bengali Church Council. Some of our best Christians, teachers and leaders, might find the fellowship they need by getting work in other Bengal Missions, but what about our Church's responsibility for the 99% Non-Santali speaking Hindus and Mohammedans within the borders of our mission field? Have we right to hinder other missions to take up a Bengali work within our borders? For many of us it is a great puzzle why a change from the existing councils has to be forced through.

The answer: That the travel expenses to the Bengal Church Council is too high because of our vast field - does not hold good, when so much is lost by the change. Naturally the proposal creates suspicion.
I am closing with a few words written by the new Norwegian missionary among the Mohammedans in Pakistan, Arne Rudvin. He gives three reasons why he wants to give his life for work among the Mohammedans:

(1) Because Islam is the neighbour of Christianity.
(2) Because it is a neglected mission, still in the pioneer stage.
(3) Because it is the most difficult mission. He says: "It is not easy for a Muslim to leave Islam and accept Christianity. Therefore the results are not encouraging. This has often given the missions an excuse for leaving this field and starting in easier fields. But it ought to have been the opposite. Because the task is so difficult, much more effort should have been put in there. It is the work of God to create faith. It is our task to proclaim the good tidings of salvation through Christ. This most important work of the Church is not finished until the Gospel has been preached to all people, also the Mohammedans."

These words are also for us in our Mission and Church. We have 99% Hindus and Mohammedans of a vast population which are our responsibility.

Santals and Boros might be able to win the lower castes, but are not also the caste people our responsibility? Let us give each other brother hands and divide the work between us so that all can be reached.

Ellen Laursen
MEDICAL WORK
IN BENGAL
RAJADIGHI HOSPITAL

No doubt most of the people who live round about here will remember the year of 1958 as a very difficult year. Hunger and distress has so to speak been the daily guest in many homes the greater part of the year. Many people were not able to have a satisfactory meal each day. When it was at its worst people even gave a sort of palm juice to little children to hush them asleep so that they should not be able to feel the burning sensation of starvation. One day I happened to see an old grandmother give her little grandchild a piece of brick to suck on, because the little one cried so from being hungry, and the grandmother did not have anything else to still the hunger with! Because of the unusual hot and dry season the water situation also was worse than ever.

In the hospital also we have had to meet with difficulties of different types. Our two wells dried up in the early part of the hot season, so both for the hospital and for the compound people the water had to be carried all the way from the rail road station, a distance of about one and a half mile. Dr. Hoilund left for furlough in May. From June 1, to July 10, an Indian lady doctor helped out, but for the remaining months of the year we have had no doctor at the hospital. Because of that we have not been able to admit patients to the hospital, except some of our Christians and school children. We also had to limit the number of patients coming to the dispensary. We have only treated people from the close-by villages, and
have said no to such ones who came from places with local hospitals and doctors.

Our senior nurse, who also is a trained midwife, has rendered a very valuable service the whole year and has been a great help in the work. Renu Sarkar, who has been here from the beginning took sick in the summer vacation. The remaining months of the year she has been very sick, and even now at New Year’s time she is still in Mohulpahari Hospital, and we do not know whether she will fully recover or not. Both the hospital staff and those who come and go here miss Renu very much. Two of our auxiliary nurses left here in the beginning of the year in order to finish their education. They were of great help while they were here, and we have the hope that they will return when they have finished their education and training. Then of course they will be able to render much better service than before. The others of the staff have worked well and faithfully the whole year.

In March our nurses were able to move into the new nurses’ building, and they are very happy and thankful for the good living quarters that has been provided for them.

This year also we have received a grant through the Tribal Welfare Department, the amount being Rs. 4000/-. This money together with Rs. 1000/- from the Mission has been made into a fund of Rs. 5000/-, which is to be used for the help of tribal people here in Malda, of which most are Santals. Regarding the Government we are free to use this money according to people’s need. As tuberculosis is spreading year by year and the treatment for same is both expensive and of long duration, we felt that the best way of spending the money was to help T. B. patients by giving them treatment. This year also we have been greatly encouraged
as several of these patients have recovered to full health from this disease which was considered hopeless before.

When hunger and distress was at its worst gifts arrived from America through THE COMMITTEE ON RELIEF & GIFT SUPPLIES of the NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF INDIA. First one Railway carriage and later one more, with milk powder. We opened a Milk-center here, and the children flocked to the place in order to get each a cup of milk. For a long time we had 7-300 children coming in daily to drink their milk. For many of them this milk was the only food of full value which they had at that time.

After the hot season came heavy rains, and the country was flooded. But we were very fortunate in this that we just then had received 400 bags of wheat which we could distribute to the flooded villages. Later on we also received milk, cheese, wheat, rice & cornmeal. Besides the daily giving out from the Milk-center here and from some village schools, we can also give to each one of those suffering from Leprosy & Tuberculosis who come here once a month for medicine. They receive milk, cheese and wheat to take home with them. This is a great help both for the sick ones and for their families. We would like to send our American friends a warm THANK YOU for all the gifts and all the help which we have received during the year.

All of us here in Rajadighi feel that we like to thank all our friends in Denmark, America and Norway for all the loving care, self-sacrifice, and prayers with which we have been surrounded in the past year. Most of all we do thank God who gave each of us a calling to work for Him.
STATISTICS FOR 1958:

Admitted: patients 284
Dispensary 7940, of which 3005 new ones, and 4935 re-visits
of 7940 2864 were Hindus
2572 " Mohammedans
1904 " Tribals
471 " Tribal Christians
127 " Others

Treated patients for T.B., in the Dispensary: 76
" " Leprosy 50

Delivery cases: 40

Betzy Nordby
WORK IN ASSAM

BONGAIGAON MISSION

Most of the year was spent in Shillong, where we stayed at the Norwegian School, Brown House, with my wife teaching in the School and I taking care of accounts and administration besides the translation work. Only occasional trips could be made to Bongaigaon.

In the last part of August the Aardals arrived to relieve us of the duties at Brown House, and we could move down to Laitumkrah for a while, and then in October to Bongaigaon.

Rev. Malsing Mosahary has shouldered a heavy burden, and his task has been complicated by a division among the congregations in the circle. In spite of this a new congregation started functioning in Khagra-bari, South of Gandabil, where there are a few Christian families.

The Convention held at Gandabil was a great event, both the attendance and the interest shown in it by the local people, was encouraging. For next year the convention is planned to be held at Bongaigon.

It was decided to close the M. E. School in Bongaigaon and to use the school and hostel buildings for an M. E. and High School Christian Hostel. The savings on the salary budget contributed part of the cost of building a new primary school on the plot of land in front of the Mission bungalow.

The 20 years’ lease on the land where the school was situated, expired during the year, but as a nominal rent had been paid, it was given over to the Mission
in final settlement. The question of the land in front of the bungalow was more complicated. In order to show that the plot was occupied, the old paddy godown was rebuilt as a house for workers and placed there, and as mentioned earlier, the new Primary school was also built on that side. This plot has also now been given in final settlement to the Mission. As it is situated between the mission house and the local road this plot of land is quite important.

**Boro Translation Work**

The translation of the Psalms was continued during the year up till August. It was not found possible to finish the work this year as planned. The task is complicated by the fact that it is going to be a test translation, and we have to try to make it acceptable to the various Boro groups representing different dialects. This means also keeping in contact with them. In order to facilitate that Mr. Joseph Doimary from Darrang, who has read up to B.A., was appointed assistant translator, besides Rev. Maguram Mosaharya. Mr. Doimary gave up a Government job in Shillong in order to join this task. We also in Shillong got in touch with young Boros, or Dimasa from Cachar where there are numerous Boros, but no Christians as yet. Several of the Dimasa boys attended services conducted in the Boro language, and one of them who is reading in class Ten, is going to be baptized in January at Haflong in Cachar.

Regarding the question of Roman or Assamese script for the language there is still uncertainty. A meeting of the Boro General Sobha in Lanka, Nowgong District, did not pass any resolution on this subject. The Boro Christian Board on the other hand at its session in Shillong confirmed its previous decision that the Psalms should be published in Roman.
The meeting in Shillong was important, as for the first time all the Christian Boro groups, including even the Roman Catholics, were represented. Two members came from the Baptist Association of Darrang.

It was decided that the Boro paper "Phunni Hathorkhi" now should be published as a Magazine by the B. C. Board, with Moniram Mosahary, Shillong, as editor, and assisted by an editorial Board, mostly Boros staying in Shillong. The difficulty of finding a suitable press in Shillong delayed the publication of the first issue of 30 pages, and it was ready for publication only towards the end of the year. If this sample issue is well received, publication will continue.

There seems to be no real difficulty in combining the dialects of the Assam Valley into a common version, but the question of the Dimasa and other dialects of Cachar is more difficult. It seems that in this case a mutual adaptation by stages will be necessary in order to achieve a common literary language. It appears though that the Dimasa Boro may enrich the language by supplying words that are lacking elsewhere. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Boro Literature Committee decided to adopt the Dimasa word "ji" for the numeral Ten. There is no proper Boro word for Ten in the Assam Valley, only for Twenty.

In the translation work we have had to give a lot of thought and attention to the question of words of Sanskrit and other origin that have been adopted by the Boros, some apparently very long ago, some more recently. In the books published before 1930 these words were used fairly as in the spoken language, but after that time there was an attempt made to "purify" the language by substituting indigenous words for foreign ones. We have very carefully and thoroughly gone through this matter and have come to the conclu-
sion that more of such adopted terms have to be used than has lately been the practice. In several cases we find that the loan word that has been cut out, has another meaning than the word used to substitute it, and that both are needed to get a clear division between various concepts. But in cases where a Boro word has been found which exactly represents the word of outside origin, there is of course no objection to the change.

It was a privilege to attend the Translators' conference in Shillong arranged by the new Translations' Adviser to the Bible Society, Rev. Culshaw, from 6-8 November, with Assam Auxiliary meeting on Sunday the 9th. This meeting was attended by translators from all parts of Assam. There is a rapidly growing christian community in this state, but the division into many different language groups makes the task of supplying all with the Scriptures in their own language a heavy one. The conference gave much useful instruction on translation problems and a very interesting survey of the whole area. The Boro tribe apparently is the largest tribe in Assam, but it is spread over a very wide area, the field is distributed among many different missions with different practices, and the percentage of Christians (ca 10%) is much lower than is the case with most other tribes. For these reasons the Boros are lagging behind in the question of translation and publication of the Scriptures.

In the last two months of the year much of the time was spent on the planned new edition of the Hymn Book and some on the revision of the Church rituals.

H. Halvorsrud
The work under the Dingdinga Circle has more or less gone on as usual. Pastor Senoram Karmakar has been the only full time worker. He has been occupied with work within the few congregations we have, and I regret to say, that the evangelistic work among Non-Christians is still a future programme post.

But we are happy to state that a younger brother of Senoram will finish his theological training in Malda at the end of February 1959. We hope that more evangelistic work may be taken up after his return.

The honorary pastor, J. Biswas, has also this year paid much attention to the congregational work as far as time and health has permitted him. Mr. K. Roy in Mornai has voluntarily taken Sunday services in the different congregations. He is also the treasurer of the circle.

Two Circle meetings were held during the year. We have also our monthly workers' meeting. Unpaid elders and congregational leaders attend the workers' meeting. The annual meeting was celebrated on the 31st of December in Dingdinga. Members from all the congregations were present.

The Circle gives the salary for a teacher of a primary school in Soaugutti, and gives aid to a school in Dingdinga. We have had good reports from both the schools.

In closing I would like to stress as much as I can that we ought to both as Mission and Church—do more for the work among “the other races in Assam.” It is a wide field and is practically untouched and neglected up to now.

Brit and Olav Hodne.
"Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mispeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying: Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

(1 Sam. 7:12.)

When we at the beginning of the New Year pause a moment to look back and dwell on the work we had a share in from January-December 1958, the word Ebenezer comes to us. Together with Samuel, with Boerresen and Skrefsrud and innumerable others we also are able to say: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us".

First of all we wish to express our great joy and gratitude to the mission friends in the homelands to the Missionary Conference on the mission field and to the Synod of The Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church for the good working possibilities, both financial and in regard to the fine co-operation with our Indian brethren in furthering the cause of the Kingdom of God. If the work has borne no fruit or has proved to be a failure we ourselves have to take the blame for that.

Regarding the work we have had an extraordinary good year, may be the best we have had in this term. Above all we return our thanks to Him Who has given us strength and grace, joys and days of blessing, He from Whom every good and every perfect gift is bestowed upon us.

The year 1958 was initiated in the church in Gaorang by Dinesh Ch. Narjary who conducted the service. He is the deacon of the congregation. Besides that most of the year he has served as secretary for the Boro Church Council and has helped us with arrangements for council meetings, Bible courses and other
arrangements which go together with the work. In addition to all this he has also continued to work on the English—Boro Dictionary. The first draft which cover 10,000 words has now been typed and will be given over to Rev. H. Halvorsrud and Rev. Maguram Mosahary for correction and completion before it is sent to the press. But the question now is whether we will be able to get the money needed to cover the printing expenses.

Rev. Maguram Mosahary has continued to be the president of the Boro Church Council. He himself will mention what he has found of interest and worth while. I will just take the opportunity now to thank him and the other representatives of the council for good cooperation, as we are about to part in order to go on furlough. May the Lord continue to bless them in our common task, to strengthen that which is weak, encourage the faint-hearted, guide those who have lost their way, and proclaim peace for those who are far off and for those who are close by.

During the year two meetings were held in the Boro Church Council at Gaorang, one in January and one in October. In the first one among other things the nomination of the General Superintendent took place. In the second one chiefly the budgets for 1959-60 were discussed. In addition to these two meetings the members of the Executive Committee have come together twice, respectively April and October. I have myself taken part in the B C. C. as Vice President and got real joy out of it.

The total budget for the whole Boro work for 1958 came to the amount of Rs. 31,578/-, out of which not less than Rs. 27,000/- was covered by the Synod. Nevertheless it seems so that the course is at a turning point. The proposed budget for 1959 is Rs. 33,227/-, of which Rs. 17,905/- is for school work, and Rs. 15,322 for
congregational work. Yet the B.C.C. did not ask the Synod for more than Rs. 20,711/-. We have heard that they have cut the budget still more in order to fit in with proposed grant from the homelands.

This is something that gives us a strong impression that the development has taken the right course. And even though the burden will be heavy, we have the hope and pray that God will give them grace enough so that they may be able to carry on the work satisfactorily, so that work of importance will not have to be cut down.

I take the liberty to mention some of the items of the budget:

**THE LOAN FUND**

Rs. 2,000/-. This is a very important item. We regret that we have not been able to give the Boros education to the extent that one could wish for. At the present moment we have four who are having benefit of this fund: Birendro Bosumaty, studying at Theological College at Cherrapunji, Assam; Manoronjon Narjary, studying at Barapani Christian College; Shaisingra Mosahary (son of Maguram Mosahary), studying medicine in Shillong and miss Sudhamati Bosumatary, studying at the University of Guwhati, whom we hope will be able to go to Gaorong Girls’ School as soon as she has finished her study.

For students preparing for the ministry Rs. 680/-(travel exp. incl.). We have 3 students in the Theological Seminary, Benagaria: Khirtiman, Khorgesbor and Debendro. One, Sahendro, is in Nimasarai. All of them are happy and grateful for the privilege given them to study in both places. And we are under the impression that Rev. Thoft Krogh and Rev. P. Kjolberg on their side also are pleased to have them. We hope that they
may be a blessing to the Boro work when they have finished their study.

**THE STIPEND FUND**

Rs. 1,500/- Mrs. Westborg has been the treasurer. During the year 17 boys and girls have received help to read at different Christian High Schools, Grahampur and Gaorang Girls Schools included.

**BIBLE COURSES**

Rs. 900/-. During the year 4 such courses have been held. Two for evangelists, one in April where 18 attended, and one in October to which 22 came. At a Bible course in June only 10 came. The reason for this was the financial situation just then. They had not received their salaries for May, and because of that they had no money for travel.

At a council meeting in October it was requested that the women also ought to be admitted at these courses. Mrs. Westborg took charge of this together with a programme committee. As there was no money left for this on the budget, Gaorang Circle gave Rs. 50/- and Bongaigaon Circle gave the same amount, so that we were able to hold our first course for women. No less than 24 came from the surrounding villages of Gaorang and Bongaigaon. It was mostly Bible women and those who conduct the ordinary women's meetings in the villages.

That these courses turned out to be such a big success, is not only due to the help and interest rendered by the Boros, but just as much to the missionaries in the Boro work. Rev. and Mrs. Halvorsrud, Miss Somming, Miss Gjermand, Miss Binderup, and even a missionary to the Santals, Rev. P. Pedersen, from Joema, who gave lessons in drawing at the teachers'
course. Therefore we take the opportunity to thank our co-workers, and also the teachers at Gaorang Girls' School and our own pastors and evangelists, who most willingly came and took their share in the programme.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK

Has been carried on by the teachers at Gaorang Girls' School. Among other things they have been collecting Rs. 30/- for a dish of brass for the baptismal font. It has the engraved design of vine branches, grapes and crosses. By looking at this design one is reminded of the Norwegian hymn: "Oh to be the least little spray on Thy Vine, Lord Jesus Christ."

Mrs. Westborg has had a CONFIRMATION CLASS, and a reading class for women. Rev. Tarini Iswary conducted the service here on June 8th and six of them were confirmed. The following Sunday 7 Santals were confirmed by the Santal pastor. Miss Somming had instructed them.

From 20th to 26th October we had a series of meetings in various homes in the congregation during the Christian Home Week.

But the most interesting thing that we did experience was when we the 6th of November started a mission association here in order to help the work in Nepal. Miss Somming held a firing speach on, Our Calling and Responsibility. Since then they have gathered once a month. According to what we have heard 9 more such associations have come into being here in Gaorang Circle.

Miss Gjerman has given a talk on Martin Luther together with lantern slides. She has also shown pictures from the life and work of Christ, and has been teaching hygiene at our courses and on other occasions.
The 14th of September we had an unexpected visit of the Health Minister of Assam, and the Minister for Tribal Welfare. The Health Minister Mr. Rupnath Brohmo is a Boro. The Tribal Welfare Minister, Captain Williamson Sangma is a Christian Garo. We know him from the last world war when he visited us in Bongaigaon. We had a meeting in Gaorang school. Both of them expressed their appreciation for what the Mission has done. But Captain Williamson Sangma was not content with just saying, thank you, he also emphasized the necessity of the missionaries’ continued work. Even if the Government had progressed very rapidly, also in regard to social uplift, he said that for several years ahead there would be a need for missionaries.

The old year went by, and the New Year brought a most welcome visit from the homelands. First came Rev. H. E. Wisloff after him Dr. Stensvaag, and finally Bishop G. Schioler. Their visit will long be remembered both at the mission station and out in the villages where they talked to the people, and gave words of exhortation and encouragement to those who already have accepted the Gospel. Our deepfelt thanks to all three of them!

We have otherwise also had visits which we appreciated very much. The Secretary of the Mission, Rev. A. E. Stronstad He went along out to Santal and Boro villages. We also had a visit of the General Superintendent of the Church, Rev. O. S. Bjerkestrand with Mrs. Bjerkestrand and son Joel. Besides visiting the villages they also attended a Circle conference in Hatigarh.

Rev. and Mrs. Glad and Rev. Riber have occasionally had meetings in the Church here in Gaorang at which both Santals and Boros have attended.
At the end of the year, we ourselves had the pleasure of being together with the Rev. Hodne in Cooch Bihar, on a trip to the village Puthimari where the congregation is made up from Garos and Boros. Rev Hodne used Bengali, and we kept to our Boroni. It is a live and appreciative congregation for which there is a great hope for the future. Mrs. Westborg and Mrs. Hodne had a meeting for the women, which Mr. Hodne and I were not allowed to attend. But I have no doubt that it was a very good meeting with encouraging words both for the women in the villages, and for those who belong to the congregation.

We have found that this holds good also on the mission field that it is the women who are the most faithful and persevering, and no one appreciates the work like them. We are happy and thankful for this. Because it is the women who first of all have to bring up the children and give them the Word of Life.

Finally I shall just mention that besides what already has been said, we here at Gaorang have had our daily morning devotions in my office for the workers and those otherwise interested. Every Wednesday evening there has been meetings in the Church, and women's meetings every Friday.

We are looking back on the old year with thankful and happy hearts, for the Lord gave strength and grace and innumerable opportunities. Should we mention any regret as we enter the New Year it is that we did not make use of them as we should have done.

David Westborg
GAORANG CIRCLE

By the grace of God the work in the Gaorang Circle during the year 1958 has proceeded smoothly and well.

A Circle Conference was held at Hatigarh on February 5-6, and another Conference was held at Jambuguri on September 26-27.

Bible Courses were held at Gaorang in April and October. Then in December Mrs. Westborg presided over a Bible Course for women with great zeal and a warm heart, and we hope earnestly that similar courses may be held in the future!

There has been no trouble in our congregations during the past year, but we feel that our brothers and sisters are weak in faith.

At Jambuguri the members of the congregation have given gifts and worked with joy in order to put a roof of corrugated iron on their church building. In other churches they are trying to do the same. Thus at Dumbajhar they have already collected money and bought corrugated iron for their church.

From among non-Christians 17 have been baptized and added to the fold, and 14 boys and girls have been confirmed during the year in the Gothaibari church.

I have great joy in my heart because God in His grace helped us and blessed the work. Therefore we thank God and pray that He will be with us during the New Year. May the Name of God be praised and glorified! Amen.

Sd. Upen Mosahary,
Chairman,
Gaorang Circle.

David Westborg
This year we have had the sad experience of seeing the wiles of the devil in those congregations in which we have had the best progress in later years. Because of family problems etc. some of the leaders were involved in the troubles too. Thus the pastor of Rollghutu had to be released from his work for some months with the result that the evangelical work has suffered. This again led to the consequence that less people have been baptized in this particular area. However 40 new ones have been added to the congregation.

As there was crop failure too in some places, the income has been less. The after crop was somehow better, but even so some of our Christians have fallen into the money lenders' hands. But in spite of all this the income to the Circle has gone up in a few places like it has in Jollesori, where they have been able to collect Rs. 1000.- for a new church, which they will build as soon as they have settled legal arrangements in regard to the land.

The congregations in Kolabara have been without a pastor, because pastor Chatur Soren did not move into the new parsonage that was built for him in Athiabari. He served Kolabara out from Joema until he moved to another district. In his place then Kisun Marndi was ordained to be a pastor in order to look after the work there. He has his home somewhere in that area, and he seems to be a good worker. He has been very faithful in instructing new converts. He will also have to look after two of Arjun pastor's congregations in order to relieve him a little from his many responsibilities.

We do not hear much about expansion in the congregations round about Gaorang. Some years ago one
of the evangelists was dismissed. Now he has got hold of some of the Christians in Amguri and he has built a small house where they gather for themselves for services. Otherwise Pastor Budhan Hembrom is able to go on with his work. He seems to be a trustworthy and reliable man. In that area, Daleragaon, they are building a new church and hope to have the roof on before the rains.

In Siripur a new church was dedicated the 8th of June, and the money needed for building they themselves had raised. They had first bought tiles but these were damaged partly by the transport, and partly by a hailstorm, so they had to be content with a thatched roof.

Here in Joema an entirely new congregation has come into being. A few families have received baptism and some more are under instruction. The Lord has set before us an open door, and because of that no man can shut it. There is the young boy Siriam who after having led one of his own to Christ is now surrounded by a group of inquirers who have asked him to instruct them for baptism. They are very anxious to have their own church built, as their village is too far from Joema to attend the general Sunday Services. Most likely it will be Siriam who will be taking care of this too, at least to begin with. It is a good thing that bridges and roads have been repaired on the way out there, so now we can reach most of the places in the rainy season also, places which were difficult to reach even in the cold season. There is a bus service too now.

In the 21 congregations in Joema District there are only 9 Christian village schools. With the exception of one school there is only one teacher in each school. And as there are few Sunday schools too, there is still much work waiting to be done. In different places Lower Primary schools are beginning, but for us the
task is to teach our children to observe what the Lord has commanded us. Therefore we feel that there is not so much value in giving over our village schools to The Educational Department, at any rate not as long as as we have not found other ways of giving them religious instruction. It is not so easy to find voluntary qualified helpers for this.

In the Middle School here in Joema we have 5 teachers of whom 3 are Christians. Three teachers are being paid by the Government, and because of that the Government has a right to transfer them. Two of our Christian teachers were close to the point of being moved, but fortunately for us the decision was changed.

In 17 places faithful women have come together every Friday, and it is not so little what they have collected of money during the year.

All in all, 70 have been baptized during the year and added to the fold. It numbers a little less than last year.

This year also we have had our ordinary Bible courses. One for the teachers, one for voluntary workers and one for the pastors. Also a course in each of the two villages Jollesori and Galajhora.

May the Lord of Harvest, pour out His Spirit on us and send forth labourers into His harvest, and may we be found faithful in the service to which He has called us. And so we will continue steadfastly in prayers and the ministry of the Lord. And we thank you, our dear Mission friends, because you by your prayers and love, are making it possible for the work to progress.

Asta and Petter Pedersen.
Compared with the previous year 1958 was a less difficult year for our Tea-garden. The price of tea in the Calcutta market increased a little but expenditures continued at the same high level and food prices went up very high due to the scarcity of food-stuffs in Assam and in India as a whole. According to law, rice is to be supplied to all employees at a certain fixed rate. On this one item only the Garden had to face large expenditures. In spite of all it is not expected that the loss on the year's working (if any at all) will be a big one.

Provided prices remain at their present level we may look forward to 1959 with confidence, especially so because Government have exempted us from the obligation of erecting labourers quarters during 1959. This will mean a very substantial saving, and given fair weather conditions for tea-cultivation there should now be hope for a better financial result during the coming year.

The relationship between labourers and management have as a whole been cordial. Tea garden labourers are now organised in labour unions and we are happy being able to report that Mornai is one of the tea plantations in Assam where our efforts for labour welfare is commended very favourably on by the union. As a mission and church it must give us great satisfaction to know that we are not lagging behind with regard to social welfare of the labourers for whose well being we are responsible.

Towards the end of the year rumours spread that the mission might dispose of the tea-garden due to the difficulties experienced in 1957, and the Mission Executive and Synod meetings, which happened to begin at Mornai on the last days of December were eagerly
awaited by many labours and other employees. It was known that the Home Board Chairman, who were present at the Mission Executive and the Synod meetings, were here also in order to help to take decisions regarding the future of Mornai tea garden. There was evidently great relief both in the garden and in the colony when it became known, that the mission had decided to continue as owners and administrators of the tea-garden.

It is clear, however, that at least for a few years to come the mission cannot, and should not, expect to receive financial aid from the tea-garden. The Management of course, realizes the fact that this sudden stoppage of financial aid to the mission, which had almost become a customary tradition, must aggravate the financial difficulties which the mission is facing during the present day. This fact must be regretted, but it cannot be helped.

In all our adversities our main consolation lies in the fact that we are still in a position to carry out our religious, social and cultural work here. Most of all we rejoice in the fact that our church services and church activities are being carried on. As is no doubt well known, we have church services and meetings in three languages, Santali, Mundari, and Bengali, in order that all may hear the Gospel in their own mother tongue. The hope lies in the fact that the church regularly gathers people of many races to worship, to hear the word, to witness baptisms, and to partake in the Holy Communion. This is of course recognized as the most essential fact all over the mission field, and so also in Mornai.

The school is always a source of encouragement. The number of children has risen to 234 and there is hardly room for them in our school buildings. The
carpentry section for boys is popular and so is the sewing class for girls. Gardening is also appreciated both by the children and the school authorities, who now a days lay much stress on such practical subjects.

The number of children in our Sunday School has exceeded 250. Many meetings took place during the year in our Hall, not only with entertaining programmes, for which there of course is a need in an institution like this, but also with lectures, lantern slides and films on educational and religious subjects.

In many ways the Gospel is made known, which gives us the satisfaction that we still have possibilities for promoting the most essential cause for which we are here.

In conclusion we thank all our faithful friends in the Home countries for their labour and intercessions for all the work that is being carried out. May it all be to His glory and to the building up of His church also here at Mornai.  

Ingeborg and Oluf Etc.

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PARKIJULI MISSION

It is not easy to take care of a mission station located 250 miles away from one's residential quarter. No doubt the work will suffer. So we and all our friends round Parkijuli were really disappointed when the Landsverks had to abandon Parkijuli for Kaerabani. But one may judge that the work at an old school center is more important than that of a fairly new station. We tried to visit Parkijuli once monthly by car, train, bus, oxcart, dyke and on foot according to the season.
Only once I had to return from Rangia owing to heavy rains. The time up to April 18th when we had to move to Sevapur was quite busy in the medical and the congregational field.

MEDICAL WORK:

It was a great asset for the doctor and compounders to have the new medical unit and the greater facilities for better work. In the first months of the year many came for treatment. Especially the Bhutanese and Tibetans showed up in greater numbers under the Darranga Market season. We hope they also carried along to their homes an impression of Christian altruism and love. The number of patients came up to 2387 with 118 indoor patients until the midst of April. But the total numbered 4414 for the whole year. Evidently the people have got a greater confidence in the service of our compounder Komokanto, which promises good for the future. Dodjee Lama was also giving an able hand in the compounder work. From May to October he was helping out in Sevapur and then left us for half a year of leprosy training in Santipara. Services in Santali were conducted every morning on the hospital veranda, and daily devotions for outpatients in several languages alternately.

CONGREGATIONAL WORK:

It is encouraging that so many Boros go to church regularly. One will not easily forget the sight of “the jungle cathedral” close to filled with men, women and children. They speak and sing very loudly, may be to overcome the loneliness of the jungle. Many of them look rather dirty and ragged but they listen with ears and hearts to the good tidings. We tried to conduct communion services monthly in our church and now and then in West-Parkijuli, which was much appreciated and well attended.

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SANTAL CONVENTION:

From 17-23 February we arranged a kind of Bible course for Santals, the very first of its kind in Parkijuli. Rev. and Mrs Glad helped us and also Mongol Besra, the only pastor for Santals in Kamrup and Darrang. Quite an extraordinary feature it was to find 40-50 heathens in the church on the opening of the course, but very few found their way back to Parkijuli for the rest of the week as they just then performed the Sohrae festivals. But Christians came from as far off villages as Behongopur, Paharpur, Lalpur and Buliapur, 15-20 miles east from Parkijuli. They stayed on their own expenses, slept in the old dispensary and on the hospital veranda. They listened eagerly and expressed their thankfulness for the meetings. We concluded the week with a service when a fallen Christian of Angarkata village, Peter Soren, with his un-baptized wife, children and grandchildren were all received into the Christian fold. Eight people of the family were baptized and two couples got the church's blessing on their matrimony. The service ended with communion in which 30 Santals took part. The rest of Peter's family which was away at that time, a family of 3, was baptized a week later. Thus the kingdom of God has got a new start in Peter's family and in Angarkata village. The congregation there of 12 members has promised to build their own church.

DEDICATION OF CHURCHES:

Two small Santal churches were built in the hot season in Behongopur and Buliapur at the members' own expense. The 12th April was a day of rejoicing in the Lord for the new congregation of Behongopur. About 50 Santals were crowded in—and out-side for the dedication of their nice little church. On the same occasion 'Sórkar' was baptized. He stayed for many months in Parkijuli for T.B. treatment, and his whole
heart opened for the Saviour. His father and relatives in Hajrigaon village have expressed wishes to join later. April the 14th saw the dedication of another small village church and the founding of a new Santal congregation at Buliapur, 20 miles south east from Parkijuli. Mongol pastor was there, and 5 young people from Lalpur congregation were baptized. About 50-60 Non-Christians were assembled to listen and watch when this small congregation of 20 souls was started. On the whole this was a happy year for the Santal work in Kamrup with the founding of two new congregations Angarkata and Buliapur, both with possibilities for expanding the Kingdom of God in that area.

SCHOOL WORK:

The promising project of a new big building in Parkijuli for this purpose did not materialize. Only one little extension of the old house was completed. But the number of teachers are raised to 4, of whom Thaneswar from Gaorang is the head master. Still the Boros have in mind to raise the standard up to M. E. School, but time will show whether it can mature or not.

DARRANGA HAT AND DEWANGIRI:

It is always an excitement at Darranga Hat Market, when it starts in December. Such a throng of hill people with their donkeys, horses and baskets of red pepper and oranges. After bargaining they leave heavy loaded with salt, rice and weaving-thread etc. Lots of merchants are capturing the minds of the Tibetans and Bhutanese, and we also tried to present them with the very best, the Gospel in words, pictures and songs. It may seem like throwing flour for the winds, but it may also sometimes strike home. Master N. J. Dann was busy also this year in this work up to March. Unfortunately he did not return to Dewangiri afterwards. But we learnt later that he went to Darrang district and is in charge of
a liquor shop on the border of Bhutan. Evidently the King of darkness has won a battle in his heart, which may have raged for a long time, tempting him by brandy and prospect of greater profit. And we have all to face and share his failure. Poor wife with 7 children left in Dewangiri! Personally Mr. Dann told us that he was very much against that the Dewangiri School should be under the Boro Church Council, from 1/1 1958. But this may only be the outward opportunity he sought to desert his post and place. Let us try to pray him back into the fold. The Boro Church Council is now trying to get another Christian teacher fam. for Dewangiri, as Mr. Dann has not returned as yet.

The two other Christian Bhutanese boys behaved well. Soonam Paul has finished another fruitful year at the Dr. Graham's Homes' schools in Kalimpong by some help from the Hofrennings and the rest from the Mission. It seems that God has answered our prayers for his future, as we have got promise from the Finnish missionaries Jokisaaris in Darjeeling, that they will help him further in Govt. High School there. Kotcha Lama did well in the Parkijuli School, and gives some small help to the compounder in return for the small money he gets from the Mission for food and stay.

Visits from Home:

Before Christmas we had the great joy to accompany Rev. H. E. Wisloff to Parkijuli. Dr. Stenswaag and Bishop Scholer took the trip along in the beginning of January. These visits were appreciated very much. Rev. H. E. Wisloff went along to the new congregation in Bohongapur and met with the Santals for the first time in their homes with washing of feet and all their ceremonial greetings. He preached in their neat church, visited Darranga Hat and got a ride on a huge elephant. Saturday night we had a Christmas party in the bunga-
low for the Parkijuli workers, and on the 21st. December service with communion for the Boros and Santals, interpreted into both their languages. Certainly they all appreciated his visit. Now we all look forward to welcome the Hoylands to Parkijuli as decided by the Conference, when they may be able to arrive after the rains.

In closing we thank all friends for their support in prayers and gifts. "God is able to do everything, abundantly more than we know to ask Him".

Edel and Magnus Haugstad.
EDUCATIONAL WORK IN ASSAM

HARAPUTA GIRLS’ SCHOOL

It was a great joy to come back to Haraputa again after my furlough in Norway, and find that the work was going well. The boarding was full, and there were more pupils in the school than for many years. The average enrolment for the whole year was 183. New pupils admitted were 67. The average in the boarding was 89, the highest in ten years. We certainly have needed the new, beautiful boarding, no. 1, which was rebuilt in 1957.

There has been very little change in the staff this year. Miss Emely Soren came back from Martha Maria Bible School in June, and joined the staff again. Miss E Krohn left in July for Denmark, and I took over the work in August. I want to express my deep gratitude to Miss Krohn for the excellent way that she has led the work here. So many things witness about her love for the children and people here. Miss Kusum Murmu left the school in July for further studies, and Mr. Samuel Hembrom joined in her place. So we have now ten teachers, all Christians. The spiritual fellowship and good co-operation among the teachers certainly is a good witness to the people around here, and is a very valuable contribution to the moral standards of present day India.

The teachers and older pupils have also taken part in the work of our congregation here, especially in Sunday—school work, and it is heartening to feel their joy and enthusiasm in the work. The L. M. F. meet-
lings have also been held as before, and children's Saturday & Sunday meetings have been held regularly.

The school received the same Government Grant-in-Aid as before: Rs. 80.00 a month. 3 girls passed their M. E. examinations.

In closing I again want to thank our mission friends for spiritual and material help in the past year. Especially I want to express my gratitude to the friends in Ungdomsmisjonen, Norway, for all sympathy and interest shown for our work in Haraputa, and for the liberal gift given to me to buy materials to use in our work here. The Sunday school pictures were very welcome indeed. It is with deep gratitude to the Lord who blessed the work and helped us through that I close this report. He has given us an important corner of his vine-yard to look after. Let us rejoice in the responsibility given to us, and work together in the coming year to the progress of our people here in Assam, and to the spiritual strengthening of our Church in India.

Borgny Austad

**GAORANG GIRLS' SCHOOL**

The beginning of the year 1958 was not too bright here at Thajoubari. With great regret we had to accept the resignations of our two senior trained mistresses, Miss Voilet Boruah and Miss Rupashri Borgwary. They had both been connected with the school for many years, and we miss them very much. But we thank them for the very valuable service which they have given the school during their stay here.
In spite of several changes in the teaching staff, the school has been progressing under the able leadership of our headmaster, Mr. Uttam Chandra Brahma, B.Sc. 100 new pupils have been admitted during the year, and the enrolment has been higher than ever in the history of the school. 84 children were enrolled in the secondary sections, and about 100 in the primary section.

Only 3 students sat for the Middle English examination 1957-58. One passed in 2nd Division and two in Third Division.

By the end of the year our headmaster had to leave us in order to serve his community and his own village. We are very thankful for the great help he gave us and wish him success in his new work.

An average of 72 students resided in the hostels. Their health was very good during the year. One student had to leave the school on account of T.B. Otherwise we had no serious illness. In this connection I want to thank Miss E. Gjerman for her very efficient care of the children. She also had to leave us by the end of the year to go on regular furlough to Denmark.

In May we had the joy of welcoming back our own girl, Gambae Bosumathari, from the Martha Maria School at Chondorpura. She had profitted greatly from the training there and he has given very valuable help in looking after the hostel since her return.

Two Santal girls in class 6 were baptized during the year, and 7 Santals and 5 Boros from the school were confirmed. The teachers have also this year taken charge of the morning devotions in the school and also of the religious instruction in Bible classes and Sunday School. The girls have conducted morning and evening
prayers in the hostel and also their Sunday afternoon young people's meeting in the school hall.

It is our hope and prayer for the future that we may be able to get graduate teachers from the Christian communities here in Assam, devoted people, who are willing to put up with loneliness and some discomfort in order to help their own young men and women to grow in wisdom and favour with God and man. At present there is a great shortage of well qualified teachers, and we have to manage in some way with underqualified people or temporary ones.

We solicit the prayers of our friends in the home lands for this institution, that it soon may be strong enough to fill its place in the Church in educating its young people for service in the Kingdom of God.

Solveig Somming
MEDICAL WORK IN ASSAM

SANTIPARA LEPROSY COLONY

Once more we have experienced to move from the Mornai Tea-garden to Santipara. It is true that, the geographical distance is rather big, but after all, the work amongst the patients here is a development of the work begun in Mornai years ago. And furthermore, for about 20 years aid has been drawn from the Tea-garden’s Charitable Fund for this particular work.

The work amongst the lepers has continued as in previous years. According to their ability the patients have been occupied with nursing, farming and other activities, so that the number of staff workers from outside has been limited. For instance, in the farming department we have only one man from outside, and he is one of the tractor drivers. Of Indian co-workers in the medical department we have besides Dr. Majumdar 4 compounders and one teacher for the 28 leprosy children. Having the majority of workers chosen from the inmates of the Colony is of course a great help regarding the economy, and the work itself has great therapeutic importance in each individual case. This also has to be remembered that the patient by doing a piece of the daily work, realizes that he after all is a useful member of the family, he is not being put “on the shelf” any longer.

Besides the co-operation with our Indian staff we also have had the joy of having Miss Jorgensen’s valuable help in the work.
Because of crop failure during the past year it was impossible to keep the full number of patients which the Colony can hold. However the last few months we were able to admit more patients. All in all we have had 255 inmates in the Colony receiving treatment, and 452 receiving treatment in the 6 different Leprosy Clinics. In the hospital ward there is always a great number of patients who get ulcer—and skin-treatment. The new T. B. ward for leprosy patients is also filled up with 10 isolated cases.

Of the 255 patients in 1958 four were discharged as completely healed. 34 left before they had had the full treatment, and 3 died. The condition of those left in the Colony is as follows:

87 much better.
75 slightly better
24 about the same
8 got worse
20 had to stop the treatment.

Besides those suffering from leprosy 5844 sick people with 12000 consultations were receiving treatment in the dispensary.

Close to the end of the year the young Christian Bhutanese, Dojee, came from Sevapur to learn leprosy treatment with a view to work out from Parkijuli Mission station.

Before he left for furlough Rev. G. Fossland was able to get ready a place of recreations for the patients. Every day through the whole year this room has been occupied by quite a large number of patients, which shows the need and importance of such a place. Reading classes have been well attended especially in the rainy season. Together with treatment we also try to
give the patients some education in order to equip them for the village life when they leave here. Therefore they are getting some elementary instruction in common subjects, and also they are taught farming, how to raise cattle and so on.

The congregational work is getting on as usual, and the inmates of the Colony are faithful in going to church. Women's meetings and the two Sunday Schools for the sick and non-leprous children have been very well attended.

A great joy was experienced on Sunday the 16th of February when, for the first time an ordination took place in Santipara. The General Superintendent at that time, Rev. O. S. Bjerkestrand, ordained the Boro, Durgachoron Mosahari for pastoral service among the Boros in Darrang District, and also the Missionary Kurt Petersen was ordained for service in Santipara.

Among the many who have visited us during the year we will mention the Deputy Commissioner Shri J. N. Dass from Dhubri, and the new Civil Surgeon Shri J. N. Chakrawarti also from Dhubri, and Deputy Director of Health Services, Lower Assam Region, Gauhati.

Like the previous years we have this year also received considerable grants from the Government of Assam, from The Mission to Lepers and from The Santal Mission. Furthermore it must be mentioned that the Community Project in Sidli has assisted in fighting the insects, — making available artificial fertilizers, and supplying dry milk and other things.

The malaria Control Unit sprayed the whole Colony against mosquitoes.

These different types of aid received we have tried to distribute according to need, and so that as many
as possible could be reached, and accordingly we have a big group of thankful patients.

Years back it was said that the work amongst leprosy patients was to prepare them to die. Today we can say that this work has developed in such a way, that the purpose of it is to prepare the patients to live.

Our prayer for Santipara is that the message of the Voice: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, may be fulfilled.

Solveig and Kurt Petersen

SEVAPUR HOSPITAL

The year started with the 10th. anniversary jubilee and ended with thanks giving because we were able to start completing the surgical-and delivery wards. Thus we have a real cause to rejoice in Sevapur.

It was in January 1948, when Rev. Dixen, Rev. Thorman and Rev. Hallen visited the field that the inauguration of this hospital took place. And invited by Dr. Andersens it was a great joy for us to join in the 10th. anniversary jubilee on January 2nd. One could hardly believe that so many changes had taken place at Sevapur since we as new missionaries started our work here in 1950. Among the outstanding features were: electric light, erection of a big surgical and X-raybloc, although only half of it finished, nice quarters for indian nurses etc. No wonder that the missionaries and staff were inclined to jubilate. The little staff church was over crowded and the hymns of praises went high in the early morning service. One just could not avoid to choose a text about the healing of
our Lord Jesus Christ for such an occasion, and the challenge for our church to do likewise.

The gladness in sharing these responsibilities was the theme for the whole day—also when all the staff and families, former workers and missionary friends gathered for the jubilee meal of rice and curry in front of the doctor's house in the afternoon. One extraordinary greeting we got from The Santal Theological Seminary with staff and students who joined us. In the evening they had a very nice performance under the umbrella roof of the unfinished surgical block. Rev. O. Bie and Miss E. Krohn who both shouldered the big work in the start of this place, were telling how Sevapur came into existence. Afterwards the theological students sang and showed drama of Pilgrims Progress till late in the night to the great joy of the many visitors and hospital people.

Most of these progresses we ascribe to Dr. Andersen and his untiring staff headed by Miss Malterud and Miss Fiske. As we arrived here medio April we found a busy life with crowds of patients and operations going on just until the Andserns left on the 22nd. for a well deserved holiday in Denmark. And thus the year has been filled with work and responsibilities among sick and sound.

Staff changes: Unfortunately the senior compounder Sagram Kisku had to leave Sevapur in January owing to misconduct. He was on the staff from the very beginning and was a very able worker. Certainly it was not easy when he and two nurses had to leave simultaneously. But our nursing Superintendent Miss Fiske secured new ones, one of whom had finished her course at the Martha Maria Bible School. But it takes much time and patience to teach newcomers in hospital nursing and midwifery. Fortunately the old staff showed
their abilities both in managing the work of the operating theatre and elsewhere. 1958 gave us another difficult time when we in September had to dismiss our very able senior nurse Grace Hembrom for misconduct, and send her back to her home in Santal Parganas. So far all our efforts to get another senior nurse with midwifery training are without success. But we are still hoping to get two well trained nurses in 1959.

In September we were very glad to welcome back on our staff Peter Murmu after he had passed examinations in laboratory training at Argyawaram T. B. Centre. Some help we also got from the Bhutanese, Dojee, who stayed here for training from May to October when they kindly accepted him in Santipur for learning leprosy treatment.

Congregational life: When Sagram Kisku had to leave, Miss Fishes cook, Mongol Kisku was elected elder for the congregation. He has tried to do his job nicely, conducting services whenever asked, and linking up with the other congregational workers in the Santal Colony. Also the women's meetings and Sunday School have both run smoothly. And after the rains we started a Kindergarten School for all minor children in the compound, who are unable to attend school in Haraputa and Grahampur. As we have one trained teacher among the workers this was easily done, and this enterprise has the consent and interest of all the staff. It is a great joy to conduct services for the staff and join in their morning devotions or the hospital veranda. In order to stress more the Gospel aspect of our work we have daily short devotions in Assamese and Bengali for the outdoor patients, which seems to have the interest and goodwill of all coming for treatment. During the year we saw 13,574 patients of whom 4,165 were first consultation. 2,776 got laboratory examinations.
The indoor figures came to 925 with 91 confinements. The total of 561 operations were undertaken and 185 for X-ray.

For these opportunities to bring Christian witness to the suffering people we thank God and also all our supporters in prayers and donations in our three homelands and also all our well wishers and authorities in India. We only wish that we could do more and in a more efficient way. Future may grant us this when early in 1959 we will have completed the new surgical and obstetrical wards, adding another 22 beds to the existing 30 in use. Special thanks are extended to the givers of an extra grant totalling Rs. 5,000/00, (five thousand), from friends in Norway. This encouraged us to start building, and we are glad it is soon finished.

It was a great privilege to have Rev. H. E. Wisloff as our Christmas guest. We missed his wife very much. He preached several times in Sevapur, as well as in the Assam Cathedral of Haraputa for more than 2000 and in Ranzaupur for about 1000. His simple stressing of the Gospel among us was much valued by our brethren. Bishop Schioler & Dr Stensvaag came in January. With hope and trust in God we ended our 10th anniversary jubilee year.

Edel & Magnus Haugstad.

HARAPUTA MISSION DISPENSARY

The statistics for the year 1958 show as follows:
Leprosy Treatments 6 116 with 158 on the roll.
Other treatments 15 097
Of these: 4 946 were Muhammedans
3 492 " Hindus
2 744 Christians
1 915 " Non-Christian Santals & Boros


Village visits : 29
Indoor patients : 26
Confinements : 7

4919 patients were treated for Malaria.
31 patients received regular treatment for T. B.

In the month of July Miss Elisabeth Krohn left for furlough. The three compounders, Jotin Das, Sitol Soren and Aphae Murmu, of whom the two first ones have been here for many years, carried on the work faithfully. On my arrival here late in October it was a joy to find it going so excellently.

Elly Jensen Binderup
EBENEZER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 1958.

General Superintendent: M. M. Tudu
Church Office, P. O. Benagaria Santal Parganas.

SYNOD

President: General Superintendent
Vice-President: Rev. Jonas Hasdak', P. O. Bairgachi
Secretary: Rev. O. Dordal

Members:

Santal Parganas Church Council:
    President, Rev. Bhikulal Hasdak', Rev. Suphol Hem-brom, Mr. Raska Murmu (substitute for Mr. Benjamin Pauria).
    North Bengal Church Council:
        President, Rev. Jonas Hasdak', Rev. John Mardi, Mr. Ruben Soren.
    Assam Santal Church Council:
        President, Rev. James Soren, Mr. Mathias Tudu M. L. A., Mrs. R. Kisku.
    Boro Church Council:
        President, Rev. Maguram Mosahary, Mr. Dinesh Ch. Narjary, Rev. Malsing Mosahary.
    Bengali Church Council:

Trustees:


Missionary Conference Representative:
Miss E. Sigurdsen.

Missionary Advisers to the Synod:
SANTAL PARGANAS CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Rev. Bhikulal Hasdak', Dumka.
Secretary: Rev. W. Glad.
Members: (The first mentioned is Circle Chairman)

Kaerabani Circle: Rev. Suphol Hembrom, Mr. Ram Murmu, Mr. Bhonde Soren.


Sultanabad Circle: Rev. Bhiku Tudu, Mr. Daniel Soren, Rev. I. Hoyland.

Mohulpahari Circle: Rev. Nicodim Marndi, Mr. Simon Soren, Rev. W. Glad.

Benagaria Circle: Rev. A. K. Jensen, Mr. Enos Hembrom, Mr. K. Kisku, Mr. B. Tudu.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Johon Hasdak', Koroya, 1933, P. O. Dumka.
Karan Soren, 1934, Benagaria, P. O. Benagaria.
Naran Soren, 1934, Chondorpura, P. O. Katikund.
Bhikulal Hasdak', Mission House, Dumka.
Bhogon Murmu, 1938, Beldanga, Murshidabad.
Bajun Murmu, 1939, Dhorompur, P. O. Kumrabad.
Sibram Marndi, 1938, Dum, P. O. Gando.
Joseph Hasdak', 1940, Ranga, P. O Lakrapahari.
Suphol Hembrom, 1941, P. O. Kaerabani.
Munshi Hembrom, 1941, Lukhipokhor, P. O. Pakuria.
Rüben Soren, 1941, Jithia, P. O. Deocha, Birbhum.
Peter Murmu, 1943, Maharo, P. O. Dumka.
Mongol Besra 1946, Jambua, P. O. Garsara.
Chaitan Soren, 1947, Simoldohi, P. O. Debinagar.
Bhiku Tudu, 1948, Haripur, P. O. Pakuria.
Abraham Murmu, 1948, Ranga, P. O. Amrapara.
Salhao Marndi, 1948, Saldoha, P. O. Mohulpahari.
Munshi Marndi, 1951, Dhabona, P. O. Kaerabani.
Nitaondo Marndi, 1952, Honja, P. O. Baskuli.
Joseph Marndi, 1953, Tarni, P. O. Pakuria.
Lodo Hasdak', 1955, Sapadaha, P. O. Benagaria.
Siblal Hasdak’, Tilabani, P. O. Asanbani.
Rangal Kisku
Amdi Murmu, Kakjol, P. O. Pakuria.

NORTH BENGAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Jonas Hasdak’, Rajadighi.
Vice-President: Rev. O. Dordal, Bagensai Mission.
Secretary: Rüben Soren.

Members:

India Side:

W Dinajpur Circle: Rev. John Mardi, Mr. Ruben Soren, Mr. Ramroy Tudu.

Pakistan Side:

E. Dinajpur Circle: Mr. Joseph Soren, Mr. Daniel Marndi, Mr. Paul Hasdak’

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Budhrai Hasdak', 1937, Jogdol, P. O. Dhamoirhat, Rajshahi, E. P.
Samson Tudu, 1957, Badhair. P. O. Mundumalahat, Rajshahi, E. P.

ASSAM SANTAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: James H. Soren, Joema Mission.
Vice-President: Rev. O. Eie, Mornai.
Secretary: Mr. Mathias Tudu, Grahampur.

Members:

Colony-Mornai Circle: Mr. D. Soren, Mr. M. Tudu, Mr. & Mrs. L. Baske, Rev. H. N. Riber, Rev. L. Hembrom, Rev. O. Eie.


Santripara Circle: Rev. N. Murmu, Mr. Jetha Murmu, Mr. Samu Baske.

Kamrup-Darrang Circle: Rev. Mongol Besra, Mr. Somai Soren, Rev. Budhon Hembrom.

Dingdinga Circle: Rev. J. Biswas, Mr. K. Roy Rev. S. Mediar.
PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Lokhon Hembrom, 1930, Mornai, P. O. Dingdinga.
Kanhu Tudu, 1939, Haraputa, P. O. Haraputa.
Nimbi Murmu, 1941, Moknaguri, P. O. Barabazar.
Ruben Murmu, 1942, Ransupur, P. O. Dingdinga.
Jatu Murmu, 1942, Bilanpur, P. O. Dingdinga.
James H. Soren, 1942, Joema, P. O. Gossaingaon.
Ratu Marndi, 1944, Kolabari village, P. O. Senphanguri.
Choto S Murmu, 1948, Grahampur, P. O Dingdinga.
Arjun Murmu, 1951, Janali Dhorompur, P. O. Kochugaon.
Jacob Biswas, 1952, Mornai, P. O. Dingdinga.
Gupinath Hembrom, 1954, Santipara, P. O. Bongaigaon.
Budhon Hembrom, 1957, Dobragaon, P. O. Haltugaon.
Mongol Besra, 1957, Hingaon, Udalguri.
Sonaram Mediar, 1957, Sosoghatu, Dingdinga.

BORO CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Maguram Mosahari, Parkijuli.
Vice-President: David Westborg, Gaorang.
Secretary: Dinesh Chandra Narjary.
Treasurer: Rev. H. Halvorsrud.

Members:

Gaorang Circle: Rev. Upendra Mosahari, Rev. Tarini Iswari, Mr. Mukhiram Bosumatary, Mr. Mohendra Borgawary, Mr. Hejon Bosumatary, Mr. Gobind Narjari, Mr. Norendra Bosumatary.

Bongaigaon Circle: Rev. Malsing Mosahari, Mr. Baisaram Narjari, Mr. Mohendra Narjari, Mr. Rajeswar Bosumatary, Mr. Romesh Ch. Narjary.

Kamrup Circle: Rev. Maguram Mosahari, Mr. Jogendra Narjari.
Darrang & North
Lakhimpur Circle: Rev. Maguram Mosahary, Mr. Bangda Bosumtary, Mr. Bahadur Goiary, Mr. Joseph Goiary, N. Lakhimpur.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Tarani Iswary, 1942, Gaorang, P. O. Haltugaon.
Maguram Mosahary, 1945, Parkijuli, ,, Menoka.
Upendro Mosahary, 1945, Goladangi, ,, Haraputa.
Malsing Mosahary, 1947, Bongaigaon, ,, Bongaigaon.
Biswanath Narjary, 1952, ,, ,, Bongaigaon.

BENGAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: K. R. Ghose, Suri.
Secretary: J. N. Das, Suri.

Members:

Birbhum–Murshidabad Circle: Rev. K. R. Ghose, Mr. J. N. Das, and Mr. Theophilus Arun Biswas.
Santal Parganas Circle: Rev. Daniel Jha, Rev. David Jha, Mr. P. K. Dutta.

Cooch Behar Circle: Rev. J. A. Roy, Miss E. Pihlquist.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Maharaj Bhandary, 1937, Nimasarai, P. O. Old Malda, Malda.
John Jotadhari Das, 1940, Luth. Church, P. O. Nalhati, Birbhum.
John Anondo Roy, 1941, Swedish Mission, Cooch Behar.
Daniel Jha, 1944, Daugalpara, P. O. Dumka, S. P.
Haraknath Pramanik, 1944, Luth. Church, P. O. English Bazar, Malda.
Kumud Ranjan Ghose, 1946, Mission, P. O. Suri, Birbhum.
# The Santal Mission of the Northern Churches & Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Circles & Church Districts

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<tr>
<th>Dispensaries</th>
<th>Hospitals &amp; Leprosy Colonies</th>
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<th>Station Sch.</th>
<th>Middle Sch.</th>
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### Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church

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<th>Community</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Ministrations</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>Church Collections</th>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Canna Other Offerings and Local Income</th>
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<td>Christian Families</td>
<td>Total members of Christians</td>
<td>Commanders Members</td>
<td>Ministers Preachers Elders Biblewomen Unpaid Biblewomen Total Workers</td>
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<td>Baptized from outside</td>
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"The people which sat in darkness saw a great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, to them did light spring up." Matt. 4:16

The year 1867 will ever be remembered in the history of the Santal Mission and the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church, for in that year the pioneers—Boerresen and Skreiberud—of the Santal Mission brought the Gospel to this land. At that time the people had no hope of life, nor had they any future. They were practically sitting in darkness. Further they were under constant fear of spirits and gods. The fear of death was ever present in them. Then the Word was preached to them. This opened their eyes, and they began to see. The darkness disappeared and the fear vanished. The word gave them light and made them free. A great joy was experienced. Now they knew a way to follow and a future to hope for. Ninety two years have past. During these years over thirty five thousand people have experienced the same joy, and they have shared it with others. Having received the light they never sat back quietly, but in turn went out to their fellow-men saying, we have found the "light", and they brought them to it, just as Andrew did when he first found the Messiah (Joh. 1:41, 42a). Thus they always made some followers. Let it be a duty of every Christian today.

The number of christians mentioned above is nothing but a drop in the ocean when we think about the vast population of India which numbers pretty close to four hundred million. The Church has a big task before it. What is it going to do about it? This question is very pertinent. And this is the burden of the Church today.
During the year Bible study courses were conducted in all the districts of the Church, in some of them with special emphasis on lay leadership and stewardship. This very important work deserves our constant prayers that God may bless the Word which is taught.

Young men and young women get theological training in the two Seminaries and Martha Maria Bible School for future service in our congregations. We thank God for these institutions and for the fine young people whom He calls to be His servants.

Prayer meetings and women’s meetings have been held in many places with an object to develop spiritual life and impart more Christian knowledge. Youth meetings have also been held. In a number of congregations the work among the Youth is well organized and is making good progress. We hope that the others will learn to do the same.

The Sunday School work is going on nicely in all the stations and most of the village congregations. We thank God for the many faithful Sunday School teachers in the Church. And we are also thankful for the Christian parents who bring up their children in the fear and nurture of our Lord.

Classes have been held for further instruction of new converts and adult Christians. Confirmation classes have been conducted to prepare them for greater knowledge and for participation and fellowship at the Lord’s table.

During the year two were ordained to the holy ministry of the Church, namely Kurt Petersen at the request of the Santipara Circle Conference and the Assam Santal Church Council, and Durga Choron Mosahary at the request of the Boro Church Council. The ordination service took place on the 16th of February officiated at by the then General Superintendent the Rev. O. S. Bjerkestrand.
In the annual statistics a decrease from last year appears under the headings "ministrations", "Sunday Schools" and stewardship. Decrease in this last mentioned is a matter of great concern to us. Of course the reason for this year is obvious. The membership of the Church comprises mostly of farmers who during the year under review suffered a great failure of crops due to scarcity of rain in many places and due to flood in some. About the decrease under the first two mentioned headings is to be said that it is due to difficulties in collecting statistics from the many congregations scattered around in remote places. Therefore we realise that the given figures are often somewhat approximate. Anyway we would have liked to see an increased number of this all. An increase is shown in the total membership of Church.

In November and December we were honoured by a visit of the three Home Board Chairmen and Dr. S. Aske of the Lutheran World Federation. They travelled the length and breadth of our Church and visited many congregations and met many Christian brethren. Their visit was very much appreciated. The annual meeting of the Synod was held at Mornai from the 31st of December, 1958 to the 5th of January, 1959 while our friends were still amongst us. Their presence in the Synod meeting was very enlightening. Their wise counsel and assurance of support and co-operation was most encouraging. May this visit strengthen the tie between the Mission and the Church.

The presentation of the budget proposals to the Synod led to a very interesting discussion. The budgets have to be cut proportionately every year in order to make the ministerial work of the Church completely self supporting by 1965. Though the members felt that the cuts were made far too deep at some places, they realised that there was no other way out, and that it had
got to be cut to attain full self support by the set date.

During the Synod meeting it was decided that the rest of the institutions—the major institutions—be transferred from the Mission to the Church and also that the Church take over the administration of all property from 1st of January, 1959. All this responsibility is entirely too heavy for a new born Church like Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church. Therefore it will have to continue to depend upon our good friends in western countries with regard to finance as well as personnel for some years.

It was also decided that the two Circles in East Pakistan constitute themselves into a separate Church, as it has not been possible to work together and we have not been able to give them any help.

During the year my tour as General Superintendent of the Church took me to many places within the two Church Councils, namely the Santal Parganas Church Council and the Bengali Church Council in the so called “old country”. The people seemed to be worrying and getting concerned about how to shoulder and carry the burden when everything was being transferred from the Mission to the Church before they were prepared for it. But happily a good number of them have begun to understand their responsibilities as christians and have gathered courage; in fact quite a few of our leaders have already started to think out plans and programmes for self support and building up of the Church. Further the co-operation between the missionary personnel and the Indian leaders is very encouraging. This strengthens our hope for the future of the Church.

In the month of June Rev. and Mrs. O. S. Bjørkestrand retired from the work in India and left for their home in the United States of America. The Rev. Bjørkestrand arrived in India in April, 1925 and has
served for thirty-three years as district missionary, Manager of Mornai Tea Estate, field Secretary, and as the second General Superintendent of the Church. The election of his successor took place during the Extra Ordinary Synod meeting at Mornai on the 18th of April, and in connection with installation service on April 20th a farewell service for Rev. and Mrs. Bjerkestrand was held. The Church at Mornai was too small for such an occasion. Therefore an open air service was arranged. The place was beautifully decorated. Thousands of people attended the service. The representatives from the five Church Councils expressed their appreciation for the many years of devoted service of the Bjerkestrand's and a number of gifts were presented to them as a token of appreciation and love.

We express our gratitude and thankfulness to the Bjerkestrand's for the many years of devoted service and for the fellowship that was enjoyed through the years. They loved not only the Lord, but also His people. They will ever be remembered by those among whom they went in and out during their stay in India.

In closing this report we give praise and thanks to God our Father for His abundant love and mercy. He kept us well and gave us opportunities to do His work. He has showered His blessings upon us throughout the year. He has granted us faithful workers. We are also thankful for all the faithful friends of the Church who have supported us through their prayers and material gifts.

"For of him, and through him, and unto him, are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen."

Rom. 11: 36.

Respectfully submitted

M. M. Tudu
The Santal Mission of the Northern Churches.
Dumka P. O., Santal Parganas.

Dear Sirs,

We report that we have checked the books of the Mission for the year ended 31st December, 1958, as follows:—

MISSION GENERAL CASH BOOK

The entries in respect of payments appearing in the Cash Book have been examined with the Subsidiary Books, Station Cash Books and acknowledgments of cash produced to us and found to be in order with the exception of those detailed in attached Statement ‘A’. *

We have verified the receipts from the American, Danish and Norwegian Mission Boards during the year and have found the entries appearing in the Cash Book to be in order. The Bank Pass Book has been checked by us and found to agree with the Cash Book. We have had produced to us a certificate from the Calcutta Branch of the Chartered Bank in confirmation of the balance with the Bank at 31st December, 1958.

EBENESEER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND MORNAL TEA ESTATE CHARITABLE FUND AND “MISSIONARIES ACCOUNT” CASH BOOKS.

We have examined the payments recorded in these Cash Books with the receipts produced to us and have found them to be in order. We have seen certificates

* Only technical details, which have since been rectified.

A. E. S.
from the Chartered Bank and the Netherlands Trading Society in confirmation of the balance with the Banks at 31st December, 1958.

STATION CASH BOOKS

These Books have been checked as follows:

The remittances from the Mission, Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church and Mornai Tea Estate Charitable Fund have been checked into these books and found to be in order with the exception of those detailed in the attached Statement 'A'. *

We have carried out a test check of the payments recorded in these Cash Books with the receipts produced to us. In some cases receipts were either not available or were written in languages which we were unable to translate. Those which we were able to check were found to be in order with the exception of those detailed in attached Statement 'B'. *

INDIAN WORKERS PENSION FUND

We have checked the payments appearing in the Cash Book and found them to be in order.

INVESTMENTS

The investments of the Indian Workers Pension Fund, as detailed in the Fund’s Book and the closing balances of various other Funds viz: Emergency Fund, Bhiku Endowment Fund and Passage Fund as described in the books of such Funds were verified by reference to certificates from the Treasurer, Bankers and by examination of the Scrips for the Government Securities, National Savings Certificates and found to agree therewith.

Yours faithfully,
Lovelock & Lewes.

* Only technical details which have since been rectified.

A. E. S.

THE SANTAL MISSION OF THE NORTHERN CHURCHES
AND MORNATI TEA ESTATE CHARITABLE FUND

INCOME:

Balances per 1st Jan.  Bank  Rs. 101,939.73
Cash  "  6,253.26
Rs. 108,192.99

Received from America  "  202,314.72
Received from Denmark  "  204,760.14
Received from Norway  "  595,568.09
Rest of Central Obligation Fund cashed  "  97.62

June 26, Interest on current a/c  Rs. 85.00
Less:

6. 3. 58. Discount on cheque Rs. 0.65
10. 9. 58.  "  "  "  0.65
30. 10. 58.  "  "  "  4.00
25. 11. 58.  "  "  "  5.00
27. 12. 58.  "  "  "  1.25
Rs. 11.55

EXPENDITURE:

Medical Work:

Mobulpahari Hospital  Rs. 9,000.00
Saldoba Leper Colony  "  38,000.00
Benagaria Dispensary  "  1,720.00
Kaerabani Dispensary  "  1,720.00
Narainpur Dispensary  "  500.00
Rajadighi Hospital  "  11,000.00
Rs. 61,940.00

Educational Work:

Kearabani Santal H. E. School  "  34,718.84
Maharo Girls' School  "  14,430.00
Benagaria Industrial School  "  4,500.00
Narainpur Girl's School  "  13,719.00
"  67,367.84
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**Total**  
Rs. 71,915.50

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**Total**  
Rs. 67,788.14

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**Total**  
Rs. 1,111,004.01
Statement of Account for the year 1958

NORTHERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

INCOME:

Received from the S. M. N. C.  Rs. 263,841.01
Received from the Boro C. C.  ,, 514.00
Received from the Bengali C. C.  ,, 160.00

Rs. 264,515.01

Received from Swedish Mission  ,, 33,400.00

Total  Rs. 297,915.01

EXPENDITURE:

Deficit from 1957  Rs. 2,306.10
Santal Parganas Church Council  ,, 98,416.91
Bengali D. C. C. (Incl. Cooch Behar Circle)  ,, 61,810.50
Assam Santal Church Council  ,, 40,000.00
Boro Church Council  ,, 28,000.00
North Bengal Church Council  ,, 24,000.00
Santal Theological Seminary  ,, 16,970.00
Martha Maria School  ,, 2,600.00
Print of Rev. Rosenlund's Manuscripts  ,, 4,500.00
Grant to "Pera Hor"  ,, 2,000.00
Church Office & Salary  ,, 7,222.41
Synod meeting & travel expenses  ,, 1,000.00
Grant to Indian Workers' Pension Fund  ,, 3,000.00
L. W. F. Board of Publication  ,, 200.00
Debit interest on overdraft  ,, 1.31
Bank Balance  ,, 5,887.78

Total  Rs. 297,915.01
Statement of Account for the year 1958.

INDIAN WORKERS PENSION FUND

NORTHERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Debit:

Balance per 1st January Rs. 6,941.34
Received from N. E. L. C. .. 3,000.00
Contribution from members .. 5,455.09

Rs. 15,396.43

Credit:

Pension paid to members Rs. 10,412.49
Contribution refunded to members .. 1,018.09
Balance per 31st December 1958 .. 3,965.85

Rs. 15,396.43

CAPITAL ACCOUNT:

Balance per 1st January 1958 Rs. 44,423.54

CAPITAL INVESTED:

Government of India Loan Rs. 15,628.54
Postal Saving Certificates .. 28,795.00

Rs. 44,423.54