THE 87TH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE SANTAL MISSION OF THE NORTHERN CHURCHES
FOR THE YEAR 1953

AND

THE FOURTH YEAR OF
EBENESEER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

DUMKA

Published by the Santal Mission of the Northern Churches
Printed at the Mission Press, Benagaria.
1954.

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THE
EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE SANTAL MISSION
of
THE NORTHERN CHURCHES
(The Indian Home Mission to the Santals)
For the Year 1953
and
The Fourth Year
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EBENESER EVANGELICAL
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CHURCH OFFICE, BENAGARIA

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THE SANTAL MISSION OF THE NORTHERN CHURCHES

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HOILUND, DR. MISS ELSE, (Nov. 1946) Rajadighi.
KAMPP, REV. & MRS. H. P. H. (Nov. 1915 & Mar. 1918)

Nimasarai.

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From Norway:

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DRAGOV, MISS ELISE, (Feb. 1953) Shillong.
GAUSDAL REV. & MRS. J. (Nov. 1915 & Jan. 1919)

Benagaria.

GLAD, REV. & MRS. W (Nov. 1931) furlough.
GULBRANDSEN, MISS E, (Nov. 1946) furlough.
HALVORSBUD, REV. & MRS. H, (Oct. 1938 & Nov. 1937)
HANNEVIK, MISS MARGIT, Gaorang.

(Jan. 1947) furlough.
HOLNE Rev. & Mrs. O., (Jan. 1948) Sevapur, furlough.
HOYLAND, Rev. & Mrs. I., (Jan. 1947) furlough.
JOHANSEN, Rev. & Mrs. S., (Nov. 1935) Grahampur.
KJOLBERG, Rev. & Mrs P., (Mar. 1947) furlough.
KLEVEN, Miss Ingeborg, (Nov. 1948) Saldoha.
KVAM, Rev. & Mrs. H., (Nov. 1946) furl. Kherabani.
MAITERUD, Miss Ella, (Apr '946) Sevapur.
MILDE, Miss Hildur, (Oct. 1923) Tilabani.
NESSET, Miss Sofie, (Mar. 1932) Bongaigaon.
NORBY, Miss Betzy, (Nov. 1946) furlough.
OGNEDAL, Miss Gerd., (Nov. 1951) Now Mrs Bonarjee.
REIN, Miss Ragnhild, (Nov. 1946) furlough, Maharo.
RINGHEIM, Miss Kari, (Nov. 1946) Saldoha.
SIGURDSEN, Miss Edle, (Nov. 1934) furlough.
SOMMING, Miss Solveig, (Feb. 1933) Maharo.
STRONSTAD, Rev. & Mrs A. E., (Nov. 1934) Dumka.
STURE, Mr. & Mrs. Jens, (Nov. 1946) furlough.
TORKILDSEN, Mr & Mrs Kjell, (Oct. 1947) furlough.
TROMBORG, Rev. & Mrs. K., (Sep. 1920 & Oct 1923) Benagaria.
WESTBORG, Rev. & Mrs. David, (Jan. 1943) Parkijuli, furlough.

The Swedish Cooch Behar Mission:

PHILQUIST Miss Else (Dec. 1938) Dinhata.
WITTANDER Miss Ada (Nov. 1947) Dinhata, furlough.

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THE
EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR OF 1953.

Acting Secretary's Annual Report for 1953.

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

St. Mark 16: 15.

When the Apostles were first sent out, they were forbidden to go into the way of the Gentiles, and were sent out to the lost people of Israel only. They were to start with their own people, but certainly not to stop there. The Crucified and Risen Lord later gave them this enlarged and final commission. The Gospel should be preached to every human creature in all parts of the world. The command is very comprehensive and definite. The Gospel is for Gentiles and Jews, for all races of all religions at all times, and the responsibility to make it known to the uttermost parts of the world rests with Christ's followers. A tremendous task, far beyond their ability humanly speaking, but He has promised to be with them everyday. The first disciples obeyed and Jesus kept His promise, and so the biggest world movement ever was started and still goes on.

A small part of this world-wide movement of proclaiming the Good News is played by our mission. But we want to give thanks and praise to God because He has
accepted us as His servants and He has kept His promise also to us. He has been with us and blessed our work in a wonderful way.

We have to admit that even after 87 years of work the task committed to us is far from accomplished. We may need to remind ourselves that we as a mission are responsible for proclaiming the Gospel to all within the field of work entrusted to us, to all races, of the various language groups and religions, and of all walks of life within our reach throughout Bihar, Bengal and Assam.

A couple of years ago a Santal who for various reasons had to be dismissed from his work in the mission, tried to create an opposition movement under the motto, "The Santal Mission for the Santals!" So far he has not been able to accomplish anything besides create some trouble here and there. Nobody else but a few backsliders or people under church discipline have cared to listen to him, because his motto is certainly not in accordance with Christ's command to preach the Gospel to all creatures.

True enough, the work started among the Santals, but we are certainly not to stop there. We are proud to remember that the Santals, especially in Assam, have brought the Gospel to their neighbours of other races and we do pray that will continue, for God's command also to us in our time as mission and church still is the same; "Go ye and preach the Gospel to all."

We humbly admit that we are not equal to such a great task, but we rejoice in the assurance that God has found us worthy and we pray that we may always be true and faithful to Him who called us to serve Him and our fellow men, whatever the future may have in store for us.
In reviewing the past year, it can be stated that the work has been carried on much as before along the established lines throughout our extensive field and we are thankful that the way has been opened for missionaries to come and go.

At the end of the year we had all together 96 missionaries on the active list. Fifty-eight were in India and 38 at home, of these five are new ones who were accepted during the year but have not yet been granted visas to enter India.

During the year the following have gone on furlough: *To America:* Rev. Bjerkestrand and family; Rev. Riber and family. *To Denmark:* Mr. Aage Jensen and family; Miss Lilly Petersen; *To Norway:* Mr. Kjell Torkildsen and family; Miss Edie Sigurdsen, Rev. Olav Hodne and family; Miss Asbjorg Fiske; Rev. D. Westborg and family; and Rev. G. Fossland and family.

The following have returned from furlough to resume their appointed work on the field: *From America:* Miss Hilma Gjerde. *From Denmark:* Rev. and Mrs. Thoft Krogh; Miss E. Laursen; Miss E. Krohn; *From Norway:* Rev. H. Kvam and family; Miss R. Rein.

We have also had the privilege of welcoming the following new missionaries: *From Denmark:* Dr. Johs. Andersen and family; Miss E. Gjerman. *From Norway:* Miss Elise Dragoy who is temporarily lent out to the Norwegian School in Shillong. We wish them many years of happy service in India.

Two have on their own request retired from service in our mission, Miss Karen Sindal, for health reasons, and Miss Gerd Ogedal who in December was married to the Mr. V Bonarjee, District Magistrate of Malda. We miss them in our midst and thank them for their
faithful service. Miss Sindal very reluctantly had to leave the plains here in the North because of recurring severe attacks of malaria, but we are glad that she has regained her health in the hills of the South and has accepted a position in the Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital. Half of her maintenance is still being provided by the Danish Board of the Santal Mission.

Although we have had some illness in the missionary family, we are very thankful to God that the health has been generally good. Some of us have had to fight with the usual attacks of malaria and dysentery and Mrs. Thoft Krogh was ordered to bed by the doctor because of spine trouble and Mrs. Lande has had to be examined and treated in hospital for some time. We do feel with those who have to cope with bad health in a trying climate and we pray for their speedy recovery.

Benagaria with its four bungalows and the spacy Divinity School building with the chapel in the midst presents a very suitable place both for the meeting of the conference and the accommodation of our entire missionary family group. The annual mission conference was held, therefore, in Benagaria from the 26th of November to the 1st of December and we were very glad that all except two could be present. It was, no doubt, very busy days but a great inspiration to us all. The revised mission constitution and working rules were finally adopted and took effect from this conference.

Also this year it has been a real inspiration and joy to have friends and honored guests visit our fields. The journalist, Per Vokso arrived from South India about the same time as Bishop Arne Fjellbu came from Lucknow and together they visited several stations in Santal Parganas and Assam and talked to crowds of people. This is the first time that a Norwegian Bishop visited the mission field on Royal Norwegian Government orders.
In the hot month of May, Sokneprest O. Henriksen, one of the Norwegian Board members, spent some three weeks in Santal Parganas, Malda, and Assam. He really did a missionary's job, talking, touring the villages and preaching. He was on his way home after serving six months as Army Chaplain with the Norwegian Hospital unit in Korea. Three theological students likewise took the opportunity on their way home from Korea to visit Shillong, Malda and some places in Santal Parganas.

During the year there has been much speculation, discussion and writing about the attitude of the Indian Government regarding foreign missionaries. As far as can be judged no change of policy has been decided upon with regard to granting visas to foreign missionaries. It has been repeatedly stated by the highest government authorities that missionaries would be welcomed to do humanitarian and social work but it is not desirable that they aim at conversions. To this we can only say that the very motive of all Christian mission work must necessarily be to obey Christ's orders as stated above. We certainly do not want to force Christianity on anybody, but we must say with Saint Paul, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel", and why should India not allow us to share with her the spiritual riches we have experienced? We dare say that it is the love of Christ which compels us to help wherever we can to dispel ignorance and superstition by education based on Christian principles, and heal and relieve suffering and sickness as far as strength and money permits. We do hope that we may be permitted to do this as long as God calls forth people to work in this corner of the Vineyard and provides the means for mission work. And we want to express our gratitude to the central Government for having granted visas for our missionary personal who have arrived during the year.
One was refused visa to return after furlough and since the reason for the refusal was not made quite clear a fresh application has been submitted.

It appears from the report by the General Superintendent that the Church has grown and been strengthened during the year. The relation between the church and mission may best be expressed by the words of John the Baptist who said about Jesus, "He must increase but I must decrease." It is definitely our aim as mission to decrease while our main effort must be to plan and work for the further strengthening and growth of our church. The governing of our local congregations and other church affairs has already been transferred to the established church committees and councils with the Synod as the final authority. But we dared not to make the handing over of authority dependent on progress in self support. Therefore, the mission has still to make grants to the church equal to about 75% of the total expenditures. The large institutions such as high schools, training schools, hospitals, and leper colonies still remain under the mission administration. But plans are being worked out to transfer it all to the church as soon as possible, during a specified number of years. We are glad to report that the local income is steadily growing, and a greater interest is being taken in church affairs by national church leaders.

The task of training nationals for responsible positions as leaders in the church and institutions must have top priority in all our planning. It is a great pleasure to put on record that the first Santal to go abroad for studies has earned his B. D. degree and is now taking a year of post-graduate study in theology, namely M. M. Tudu.

During the year Dr. Paul M. Murmu completed his medical training and after working temporarily in Sal-
Doha Leper Colony is now busy at work in Mohulpahari Christian Hospital. We are planning to send one or two more young men for further studies abroad.

A number of young students have as usual been granted stipend-loan for study in various colleges here in Indian.

About the work in detail which has been done out from our 27 mission stations, in the institutions and in the villages, the reader is referred to the reports on the following pages as well as the church report and statistics for the year.

It might, however, be pointed out that special grants from America and Norway have made it possible to complete the new hospital building at Santipara, a permanent roof on the bungalow in Eklauchi and on the first bungalow built by Boerresen in Benagaria, and an aluminum house is being built for Dr. Murmu in Mohulpahari. We are glad to report that a Government grant has been received in Malda for building a ward at the proposed Rajadighi Hospital. Some bricks have been made for the building of a Santal Station in Malda Bagbarai, but the building has been stopped on account of lack of funds. The school building in Grahampur High School is being completed.

It has been reported through the General Superintendent that plans are being worked out for a substantial amount of money being raised in Norway for an agricultural institution to serve our church areas and plans are now being worked out to utilize the money for providing agricultural training facilities and to do agricultural research work in connection with our two high schools for boys, that is, Kaerabani in Bihar and Grahampur in Assam.

During the year the suggestion was brought forth that one of our home countries take over the work in
East Pakistan under separate administration. The matter is being discussed and we hope that the new year will see some of our missionaries placed in East Pakistan. That part of our field is very promising.

Because of the crisis in the tea industry in 1952 we did not dare to expect anything towards the mission budget from Mornai Tea Estate, but fortunately the time improved so that we, towards the end of the year could get a grant to cover otherwise an unavoidable deficit. Thanks are due to Rev. Eie for able management of this great concern as well as to the managing agent in Calcutta, Messrs. Norinco Limited for bringing us so well through a very difficult period.

After many years of talk and consultation, the preliminary work of revision of the Santali New Testament has now been started in earnest by a committee under the Santal Christian Council with a view to get one version acceptable to all Santal churches. So far the Gospel of Saint John and the Epistle to Ephesians have been completed.

We acknowledge with thanks the grants received for our various institutions from the Governments of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar. We remember again with affectionate thoughts our many known and unknown supporters and intercessors in the homelands, and we are full of thanks to our home boards and secretaries for their untiring efforts to collect the necessary funds for our ever growing work. Without their constant prayers and sacrificial giving the work could not have been done.

Especially we give thanks to our Lord and Heavenly Father for His great faithfulness and forbearance with us.

May His kingdom continue to come and may His will be done!

A. E. Stronstad.
WORK IN SANTAL PARGANAS.

BASETKUNDI AND HARIPUR.

"For I say unto You. Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields. For they are white already to harvest". St. John 4: 35.

With the exception of Benagaria, Basetkundi district is a large one with work going on in many places. It has the greatest number of Christians of all the districts in Santal Parganas, namely 1794. These Christians are found in 470 families, living in 98 villages, forming 12 local congregations, the largest one in Basetkundi Mission Station. If all were true Christians, the leaven of the Kingdom would have a great chance of fermenting the whole community. In spite of backsliders and weak Christians we believe, there are many true witnesses of the saving power in the Gospel, spreading rays of light into the darkness around them.

It is always emphasized now a days that the missionaries should try to hand over the responsibility and the work of the mission field to the Christians themselves and prepare to withdraw as soon as possible. However true that may be as a principle, it presents great difficulties in practical application. We may be said to have progressed far in that direction right here at present. We have empty missionary dwellings, widely separated in 3 neighboring districts while we, a missionary couple, in the 4th district are supposed to look after them all.
We feel that the work is suffering a great deal. I do not believe I am exaggerating in saying that many a congregation in the home countries would suffer less by being without a regular pastor than the small congregations out here can carry on alone surrounded by non-Christians on every side. Personally, we feel that our Christian brothers and sisters would have benefited from more Bible courses, conventional gatherings, and visiting in different places than we have been able to arrange for and give.

If we had known a year ago that it would take so long time before a missionary would return to Basetkundi, we would have hesitated more than we did before we agreed to be somewhat of a "missionary-in-charge" for that area. When this is written, we are glad to know that Rev. and Mrs. Hoyland probably will come there before long.

In spite of difficulties we must say that the work has been encouraging and progressing well. The Christians have been grateful and shown a spirit of cooperation wherever we have met them.

During the year 70 children of Christian parents have been baptized, and 68 persons from among non-Christians. The congregations contributed Rs. 1255/13/- towards the budget of the church.

At the end of the year the workers were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>WORKER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basetkundi</td>
<td>Siburam Marndi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baromasia</td>
<td>Sagram Hembrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kormo</td>
<td>Kalidas Marndi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simolduhi</td>
<td>Jujhar Soren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatimara</td>
<td>Kanso Marndi</td>
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<td>Kakjol</td>
<td>Kistu Hembrom</td>
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Village Schools.

The five village schools have carried on as usual.

If and when we find good teachers to take care of the children, there are great possibilities for helping the younger generation to grow up to a useful life and also to give them religious instruction. We think the money used for village schools is well spent, in spite of disappointments many places.

Middle School.

The Middle School at Basetkundi has carried on well during the year. The attendance has been good. We render our hearty thanks to the Government for liberal grants towards the middle school, and payment of arrears of grants and allowances back to 1950.

We gratefully greet you dear friends who are with us in prayer, supplication and thanks.

K. Tromborg.

Benagaria.

"And he said unto them, Thus it is written and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations." Luke 24: 46-47.
Since the pioneers, BørreSEN and Skrefsrud and their helpers began to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sin here in Benagaria district 87 years ago, the light of the Gospel has penetrated and influenced the community so that we now figure there are 405 Christian families spread out in 82 villages. As far as we know and are able to count there are about 1830 members in our 13 local congregations. During the year some of our Christians have gone on before us to the land of victory. Some Christians, we are sorry to mention, had to be excluded from our member list as their behaviour showed that they were not Christians by heart.

Sixty-four children of Christian parents have been baptized and 17 persons from the non-Christian community. We remember with special joy some of these baptisms. One Sunday after we had come out of the hot season three young men or boys were baptized in the big tank close to Benagaria big church. While the whole congregation was gathered on the banks in shade of the old trees, the three young boys and the pastor with them went into the water up to the hips, to be “buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6: 4. Three babies were also baptised at the same time. And before we left the church to have baptisms, 26 young people were confirmed, having confessed their loyalty to Christ.

The church attendance should be better. Still we are thankful for what we have in our gatherings out in the village churches and here at Benagaria where a fairly big group comes every Sunday. The majority are young people listening attentively to the Word of God, as far as we can judge. It is often an inspiration to look at the audience, giving earnest attention to the message of the Lord’s servant.
The Women's weekly Thursday meetings have good attendance, usually from 40 and upwards, sometimes to a hundred. In April five days of special meetings for women gathered many. In October five days convention for women was held at Benagaria and a special speaker, Miss Bonner from Calcutta, gave many good messages. A number of our Christian women confessed sins and backsliding and took a new stand for Christ.

Confirmation classes were conducted in the spring and in the fall. In this work we find a great ignorance and lack of Christian knowledge. We must do much more for our young people if we want to make them strong and happy followers of Christ. On the whole it has been a joy to gather the boys and girls for Christian instruction, prayer, and singing. Forty-eight have been confirmed.

The greater part of September the pastors, preachers and workers from the whole of Santal Parganas were invited for a refresher course of Bible study and fellowship. At a testimony meeting before the close of the session, many of our co-workers testified to how much they had received.

As the weeks and months have gone by we have been reminded again how much more we ought to do on every side. But especially so in the area south and south-east towards Burdwan. May the Lord grant us more workers for that region before long.

The working staff in our congregations has been the same as before, except for a few changes. Pastor Sodanndo Baske has been asked to take charge of Gamar-pahari church with Sulunga, while pastor Baijal Hasdak still is very interested in the work, but he has been down with illness for long periods. He preaches once in a while when he is able to.
In December the elder in Beldanga, Nikodem Marndi was ordained into the ministry to work here at Benagaria where he and his wife now are full-time workers. The Headmaster of our Upper Primary school at Benagaria, Joseph and his wife, have gone over to Beldanga to take care of the school and congregation there. At the end of the year we find our paid workers in the following places:

Nikodem Marndi  
Pastor  
Benagaria.

Pastor’s wife, Cura,

Mary Murmu

Randhon Marndi  
Bible women  
Benagaria

Ruben Soren  
Pastor  
Sapadoha

Pastor’s wife,

School Teacher

Mongol Hembrom  
Pastor  
Buruamchua, Matiajuri, Jithia & Domdoma (Birbhum District)

Chambru Baske  
Elder & Teacher  
Buruamchua

Lodo Hasdak  
Elder  
Jithia

Lodo’s wife  
Bible women  
Jithia

Sodanondo Baske  
Pastor  
Gamarpahari

Peter Murmu  
Pastor  
Itore, Beldanga & Burdwan District

Joseph Murmu  
Elder  
Beldanga

Joseph’s wife  
School teacher  
Beldanga

Musuc Hasdak  
Elder  
Kistipur

Adolpahari, Narainpur and Belbuni have been visited by workers from some of the nearest stations from time to time. We are also thankful for help by the Divinity School students in visiting these places.
Pastor Peter Murmu regularly visits Bedianagor and Dhitpur in Burdwan district where we have one school teacher, and one part time worker as elder.

There is some increase in church collections, income from the Christian “mela” and the Women’s Thursday meetings, if the total is compared with previous years. But we must help our Indian Christians to get further on in Christian giving.

VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

There are only six village schools in our district at present. The new Government of India is doing a lot for arranging with village schools, and from that point of view effort and money might be saved in closing mission village schools. But from another point of view it is of the greatest importance to start Christian instruction with the children. Wherever the right teacher can be had, the village school is good mission work. A short time ago we had the joy of baptizing a young man, the only Christian in his family. When I asked him how he had come to decide that he would become a Christian, he referred to the little, poor village school, about five miles away. “We read Bible stories there,” he said, “and the teacher gave us Christian instruction.”

UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

There has been a great request from the community around Benagaria to get the school promoted to the standard of Middle School. The District Church Council of Santal Parganas has recommended that the school should be raised to the standard of Middle School and the Synod has done likewise. The visiting school inspectors and district authorities have also recommended that it be made into a Middle School and they have given us hope of financial help. We have, therefore, made the necessary changes and appointed two new teachers with higher training as required for Headmaster and
second teachers of Middle School; but we are still waiting for Government grants and financial support. In the new year we will apply for recognition as Middle School.

THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

We have applied for renewal of the previous Government grant-in-aid; but up until now no Government sanction has been given, although they have given us some hope for the new year. As the situation is, we have not been able to admit many new boys, although quite a number have appeared from time to time and asked for admittance.

The boys of the carpentry section were quite useful this year helping to put asbestos roof on the first missionary bungalow at Benagaria built by H. P. Boerresen, 87 years ago.

The weaving section is very busy. Some old students have also been working there, paid by the yard.

The Government is very interested in basic training of the young people. A higher school inspector recently expressed his great satisfaction with the possibilities of our institution. We think ourselves, too, that this kind of training is very suitable for the young men from the villages and may be a help for them in the future.

THE ZEMINDARY.

The Government has made known its intention of taking over the management of the Zemindaries or land properties in India, charge for the management and pay profit to the owners. So far only those with a profit of above Rs. 50,000/- have been taken over while the smaller ones, like ours, is left alone. The collection this year has gone on as usual. Rs 3,000/- has been paid into the mission funds. To help the "Grow More Food" drive a motor pump has been bought on the Zemindary account to help pumping water into the rice fields wherever water is available when rainfall is short,
The accounts of the Zemindary shows the following totals:

**INCOME:**
- Balance of 1952 brought forward Rs. 331-15-9
- Rent collections etc. Rs. 7389-14-0
- Refund of court expenses „ 81- 3-0
- Dearness allowance from Mission „ 121- 8-0 Rs.7975-4-6

**EXPENSES:**
- Paid to Mission treasurer Rs. 3121- 8-0
- Staff salaries „ 1869- 8-0
- Part payment of irrigation pump „ 500- 0-0
- Special road work „ 250- 0-0
- Office, travel & management etc. „ 1053-15-3
- Registration & salami on old hospital tank at Benagaria „ 447- 6-0
- Legal expenses etc. „ 732-15-3 Rs.7975-4-6

**BENAGARIA MISSION PRESS.**

The printing work in our press has gone on very well during the year. There has been enough work for all hands. The SANTALI TO ENGLISH section of Dr. Campbell's dictionary, 816 pages, has been nearly printed and will be available in the beginning of the new year. The second portion from ENGLISH TO SANTALI, about 400 pages will be ready next year. Besides this big work, we have reprinted a dozen sold out editions and half a dozen new books. Most of our books are small, and with the exception of the Hymn book and New Testament we seldom print more than one or two thousand copies of each edition.

Very optimistically figured, we may count on one third of our Christians being able to read a book. Perhaps we might suggest the same number from other missions which would bring the number up to 20,000 with a few hundred from the non-Christian community. But that
may be drastically changed in a short time, as the Government has it on its program to provide schools for all the children, so we must prepare.

When we hear of hundreds of new books on the market at home we wish we had a dozen new books to offer here. We are greatly in need of people who can write new books, and translators who can find valuable literature and render it to the people in good Santali. If only we had more funds for literature we would find the right authors and put them aside for this work.

This year we have had a very tempting offer of a monotype machine for one third of its original cost i.e. Rs. 12,000/- But as we have not the money to pay for it, we have to leave it alone! During the year we have increased our stock of new types and will continue to do so as funds permit. This is so much the more needed as we in the new year, when this is being written, will have the church paper "Pera Hor" come out every week.

THE BOOK SALE.

The book sale section of our work has had a good year. There has been an increase in sale of books from last year. To further the sale of books we have given 25% commission to our Indian workers on book sale. It has not, however, stimulated the selling as much as we hoped. In our literature work we also have to create and stimulate interest in reading, as well as provide the literature.

In closing this short report on the work in our big districts, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to the many friends who are with us in prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. We hope you will continue in intercession that the blessing of the Gospel may spread out to many more people, still living in darkness and fear.

Lolly and Kristian Tromborg.
When writing an annual report it is tempting to wish that one could report on great joys and great progress. Revival is something we all pray for and are waiting for. Revival, as we usually speak of it, we cannot tell about, but the Spirit has also in this year done its awakening work in the hearts of many, and created more desire for the Word. And God's Word has brought forth fruit, not many, but a little flock here in this district also have turned from heathendom to Christianity, accepted the Truth, and in Baptism accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The working staff is nearly the same as the year before. The number of elders decreased by two, as two of the old ones went on pension. There was a transfer so that a new pastor was placed at Ranga in place of Philip Elder who was moved to Amgachi. The new pastor, Abraham Pastor, was transferred from Benagaria to Ranga here in the district and we are very happy to get him as pastor there. He is energetically on the go around in his congregations and always has some for instruction for Baptism. Thus, he has had the joy of baptizing 19 from the non-Christian community. In Chondorpura congregation there have been 11 baptized, in Amgachi 8, in Chirapator 2, and in Gadiapani 1. There has been held monthly women's meetings on all stations and around in the villages within Chondorpura congregation. The collections from these (mostly rice which is sold) has been received as a good increase in the income from the district.

Our yearly congregational sale here on this station gave the greatest profit than any time before. At Gadiapani, one of the out-stations, where for the first time they had their sale, the result was very encouraging
which has given them a willingness to have a sale next year also. Beside our Sunday Schools in Chondorpura and Chirapator, this year a Sunday School was also started in Amgachi. There should be Sunday School on all our stations, but it has been difficult to get volunteer workers to do it.

In June we had a "Youth Sunday". It was successful with good attendance at the Sunday morning service and at the afternoon meeting which Miss Milde led. Many took part in giving testimonies.

Our schools here in the district create many real problems. The enrolled students appear to be encouraging, but the daily attendance can certainly test the patience of both the teachers and the school secretary who have the supervision of it. Beside rice planting vacation, absence on grounds of sickness and weddings, there is the numerable national and heathen holidays which shall be observed with permissible and unpermissible free days. A big per cent of the students, I believe, do not have more school days in the year than the number of weeks in the year and some even less. Thus, the result is in accordance with that. Nevertheless God's Word is sowed in the heart through Bible History class and God's Word says: Ecclesiastes 11:1 "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." One of the 11 baptized from the non-Christian community here in the Chondorpura congregation this year, was a boy who had heard about Jesus in the Lower Primary school on the station here. Now he is attending a Government Middle School, but comes regularly to Sunday School. Therefore, as far as our daily schools here in the district are concerned, we get grace to continue forth in faith and hope that it is not in vain.

During the course of the year there have been held 4 short Bible courses for women invited from all over Santal Parganas. One course was for young girls and
women that could not read. The next was for women who could read. Then we invited all the Bible women and I held a course in Basetkundi for women invited just from that district. At our missionary conference it was decided to go ahead with a one year Bible course for women which will be held here in Chondorpura. That will begin from January, 1955.

At our monthly workers' meetings we have had good fellowship around God's Word. We have heard about each other's work, shared the joy and encouraging, sorrow and disappointments of each other. We have had special teachers' meetings during the course of the year with great joy and benefit for those who do not have the easiest place, the teachers among our village children.

The health among the workers has been good. We have been spared from difficult and serious sickness and from death. For this we thank God.

With this would we send all our friends in the homelands our hearty thanks for steadfastness in the work and prayer for the advancement of God's congregation also here in Chondorpura district.

Revelation 21: 12 "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to render to each man according as his work is."

Magnhild Buttedahl.

DHOROMPUR.

As far as I have been able to keep in contact with the four congregations in Dhorompur, Honja, Nijhor and Kolha, it can be reported that the work has been carried on faithfully by the same staff of paid and honorary workers as last year.
The pastor at Dhorompur, Bajun Murmu, has regularly attended the monthly workers' meetings in Dumka, as well as the quarterly meetings of the Dumka Circle Executive Committee of which he is a member. Naturally, since the Jensens left he has been the spiritual leader in Dhorompur. It is encouraging to notice how well both he and the pastor, Nitanondo Marndi in Honja as well as the other local leaders there have been doing their work. They have, in fact, managed it very well all by themselves.

It was a great joy to visit Dhorompur and notice that the church building was kept so nice and clean, white washed and decorated for Christmas.

Baptisms have been performed in all congregations, which is a very healthy sign, and regular Sunday services with Communion services once a month have been held in all four places of worship. The women's meetings have been continued under the leadership of the two pastors' wives and the Bible women.

The local income has increased in Honja only while there is a marked decrease in the other three congregations, especially in Dhorompur.

The pastor at Dhorompur has occasionally visited Masanjor and talked to the hundreds of Santals and others who are working on the big dam construction there. Some have responded to the invitation to come to church in Honja not very far away.

The Lower Primary schools at Dhorompur and Nijhor have been kept going as usual, but with a slight decrease in the daily attendance.

The Sunday School work in Dhorompur has been kept up with 19 children in regular attendance.
The land has been cultivated as usual and a fairly good crop was harvested. By that income we hope to be able to meet a great part of the expenses in putting tiles on the roof of the newly built godown and cowshed in Dhorompur.

No medical work has been done as no trained compounder was available. There is a definite need for continuing the dispensary and the people of the vicinity are eagerly waiting for the return of the Jensen family to Dhorompur.

A. E. Stronstad.

DUMKA

The changes in the staff mentioned in last year’s report have taken effect. The congregational work has been done under the energetic and able leadership of Pastor Naran Soren, who is also the President of the Santal Parganas Church Council and has for that reason been travelling a good deal visiting the neighboring congregations to take Sunday services, conduct congregational meetings and settle disputes.

In April old Simeon pastor and his wife, Aeno, moved from Dum to their own house in Amgachi village near Saldoha and Chunu Murmu has been in charge as pastor at Dum from April.

The elder, Raska Murmu of Kusumdih, was pensioned from April, but I am glad to report that he is still taking an active part in the affairs of the congregation.

Ranglal Kisku was transferred from Dumka to Kera-rabani Circle in February, and we feel the need for an evangelist here in Dumka to replace him.
The outstanding event of the year was the big convention which was held in Dumka in March, when Christians from all the 6 circles in Santal Parganas came together for three days of Christian fellowship. The big church was filled to capacity and we believe the blessings of those meetings have had lasting results.

A confirmation class was held by Naran pastor in April and May. We were very happy to have one of the members of the Norwegian Home Board, the Rev. Henriksen, to preach the sermon when the eleven young men were confirmed.

A mela was held in November. It was a very happy day for all who came and the net income for the congregation was encouraging.

In December, Youth Sunday was observed with good attendance both at the morning Sunday service and at the afternoon meeting.

The Sunday School work is growing under the guidance of Miss Torkelson.

The Lower Primary schools at Chukapani, Kathijuria and Ranga and the Upper Primary schools at Dum and Dumka have had a fairly good attendance and the teachers have met for monthly meetings together with the teachers of Koroya and Maharo districts.

Monthly workers' meetings for the whole of Dumka circle have been held at which we have first had Bible reading and prayer and afterwards discussions on how best to serve not only on Sundays but through all our daily work and problems.

Two circle conferences for Dumka Circle were held here with representatives from all the 17 congregations in this circle. At the first in April the circle-office-bearers for three years were elected, and at the second the main task was to prepare the budget for the next year.
A new congregation is being formed at Indarmuni where a church building is being erected. The timber has been provided from Dumka and the rest is being done by the small congregation.

The women's meeting have been held as usual once a week in all the congregations and not a small sum has been collected and paid in to the circle treasurer.

We notice with satisfaction that the church collections are on the increase in Dumka, Ranga and Chukapani while there is a slight decrease in the figures for Dum.

With the exception of Chukapani baptisms have been performed in all four congregations under Dumka, the details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children of Christians</th>
<th>From the non-Christian Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dumka</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indarmuni</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranga</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dum</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of Christians in Dumka district is now 859 living 41 villages, while the figure for the whole circle, i.e. Dhorompur, Koroya and Maharo districts included at the close of the year is 2517. Comparing this figure with the population of this area we are strongly reminded that the Christian community still is a tiny minority, but we trust that it is an influential one, which by the grace of God and the faithful endeavors of His servants may continue to grow and always remain a true salt of the earth and a light of the world.

We thank all faithful friends in the homelands who have been with us in thoughts and prayers and supported the work with their gifts, and we still solicit your intercessions.

Alvhild and A. E. Stropestad,
"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ." Romans 10:17 (R.S.V.)

In God's universal plan of salvation Paul tells us that His Word is given for all people of all nations to hear. With thanks in our hearts we look back on the past year and count with joy those faithful believers in this part of God's Kingdom who daily preach and practice the Word of God in their lives. How many have found new faith, new hope and new courage through what they have heard in the past year we cannot say, but we are happy to say God's Word has been preached and in some places it has been heard effectively.

Worship services have been held Sunday by Sunday in all congregations and by reports at meetings with the workers they have been fairly well attended. We found time to visit all congregations at least twice during this year and some more often. Thanks to the willing help of some of the teachers who went along, translated and preached it was possible to contact many responsive worshippers who came to church and we trust who really heard God's Word. In many ways this has been a year of testing in this circle where there has been no full time missionary until November when Rev. H. Kvam arrived. Perhaps this has served a good purpose in that the pastors and elders have had to see more fully the sacred task which is theirs to spread the Gospel. There have been periods of severe testing for the workers when many backslidden Christians felt it their duty to join forces with Nunku Soren and his followers to discourage giving of offerings to the organized church. They succeeded somewhat in doing slight damage with vicious propaganda but it also gave the workers a chance to fight opposition with a clarified understanding of what real Christian Stewardship is.
Highlights of the year were the Easter sunrise service, held again this year out near the cemetery. It was an impressive service planned entirely by the youth of the congregation. The annual mela held on November 19, was as usual the most interesting social event of the year. Rev. Kvam, who had just arrived, was the speaker and the day was filled with programs and activities for all who came. The drama, held in the evening, this year was centered on the life of Daniel. The hostel boys also contributed a short comedy drama. Tickets were sold and the proceeds were sent to the Bible Society of India and Ceylon.

The women continued faithfully to have devotional meetings on Thursdays, and as before they and the young girls gathered to sew articles for the mela. The annual women's meeting was held October 22-25 and was well attended by women from every part of the district. The program was taken care of entirely by the women of the circle as speakers; a compound women's choir was ready with songs for every session.

The Sunday School in Kaerabani church has had regular classes for about 90 children, including the younger hostel boys every Sunday. We have had six classes with six faithful teachers who have spent much time in teaching the Bible stories to the children, teaching them Scripture memorization, prayers and songs. Periodic Sunday Schools have been held in four of the village churches held by the village teachers and their wives in our district schools. It is our aim to teach our lay people how to assist in this vital program for the youth. More are responding to appeals for help in this and we pray that this movement of training small children and young people in Bible knowledge will grip the minds of our Christians to make this program take full place in their church work. The Sunday School children played a large part in making the Christmas festival service again a living
one, with their presentation in drama and song of the birth of the Christ Child. The congregation gathered Christmas Eve for the candlelight service, and besides the children's drama there was a short devotional service. The regular festival service Christmas morning was well attended.

There were no changes in the number of working personnel in 1953. Ranglal Kisku was transferred from Dumka Circle in February, 1953, to Sagra where the service of an elder was much needed. Our Domkata congregation elected a part-time elder to help fill the vacancy caused by Pastor Joseph Hasdak who was transferred to the Dumka Circle. We feel the need of at least two more pastors in this circle and we hope God will continue to send forth young men to become pastors of the church.

At the election of circle officers held in May, Pastor Suphol Hembrom was elected President, Elder Ram Murmu, Vice-President, Elder Ranglal Kisku, Secretary, and Mr. Barkha Murmu, Treasurer.

Village schools have continued to be a strong contact for the church wherever they are. Dhobona Lower Primary School has enjoyed the finest progress with 18-20 more students added to the roll. Mr. Hiskiel Hasdak is the teacher.

We thank God, for the joy that has been ours to have had a very small part in working with the Christians of this circle during the past year; We pray God's rich blessing on Rev. and Mrs. Hjalmar Kvam who have now begun their work in Kaerabani District. As we gather for our nightly prayer meeting with the compound people and the teachers, we pray and ask you to pray too, that as they hear the Word, that their hearts will not become hardened, but that through God's spirit the Word will bear fruit in their lives. Many thanks to the
friends who have remembered us with prayers and the many home friends who have given gifts to encourage the work in this area.

Helen and Obert Landsverk.

KOROYA.

THE ORPHANAGE AND MISSION.

The orphanage this year has been under the supervision and management of the Biblewomen, Manjhan. There have been some changes among those at the orphanage, which can only be excepted. Ruel passed His Middle School examination at Kaerabani and is still at Kaerabani, but under the care of his father. Paul was home for a time, during which time he was confirmed and now has been accepted at the Benagaria Industrial School. In the month of June we had a double wedding. Dulungi was married to the pastor, so she is really still right in our midst, but in a different house in the compound. Punta was married on the same day and is very happy in her new home. Salgi, who had been at the orphanage some years previously, returned again this year with her two small children because of difficulties in the home. Her husband became mentally ill, but we are glad that he is recovering satisfactorily at this time. Ruth returned from Saldoha, where she was cured for leprosy, and she was again admitted in Maharo School.

The first Sunday in November the customary Sunday School day was observed, and the speaker this year was Raode Hasdak, the pastor's wife from Dumka. The children had arranged a very nice program using candle light and singing. The mela was held as usual in November, and the congregation and the compound people were very enthusiastic about the mela. The young people's group
as well as the children of the school had an active part in the mela program also. The mela was a success and everything which was donated was sold.

In January, Punta had to leave her work in the school, and in her place Naomi Soren, the gardner's daughter began her work. The teachers have worked conscientiously and faithfully together during the year being led by the headmaster. The children had made several thousand bricks to be used in the making of a new well, which they had dug in the school garden. They also helped in making the brick kiln for burning the bricks, and as far as possible they helped the mason with the masonry work in the finishing of the well. As in previous years they had their Indian corn festival and harvest one day during the month of August.

MAJDIHA SCHOOL AND MISSION.

In April the pastor was transferred and in his place the Evangelist Dasmath took over. This has proved to be an improvement both in the congregation and the compound. Dasmath's wife and the headmaster's wife have worked together in gathering the women of the congregation every other Sunday after morning services for meeting. They have taken an interest in keeping the church nice, bought brass vases and a cross for the altar as well as the material for the cushion of the altar ring. They have also made the cushion themselves. Majdiha had its mela and many people gathered, and a good sale was held.

In addition to the other teachers in the school this year, Dasmath's wife began teaching the small children as well as sewing classes for boys and girls. The roll number has not decreased in spite of the fact that a new school has been started nearby. The surrounding people have confidence in the work which the teachers are doing for the children.
During the Christmas holiday the headmaster from the Majdiha school and the headmaster from the Koroya school together with Dasmath and some young people went on a camping tour north of Majdiha. The purpose of this camping trip was to preach the Gospel, give health lectures and to urge people to join adult literacy classes. One of the young people who went along on the camping trip was a young man, who on his own initiative had gone to Allahabad to study adult literacy for two months during the year. As they moved about continually, they contacted many different groups of people who listened to their message. They returned to their homes filled with thanks and joy.

During conference in November fervent prayers were sent up to God from one of the small homes in Koroya asking God to find a way to place missionaries in their midst again. Their prayers were heard, and they look forward to the day when they can welcome the missionary family which has been placed in Koroya.

Erika Lowe.

MAHARO.

I am not the person to give a report of the work for the past year as I returned from furlough as the year was closing. Therefore, I just can mention briefly what I have picked up.

The work seems to have continued as before. There are some changes though. For years we have felt the need of having two pastors in the district instead of only one, and it has been discussed many times. Now we have that wish fulfilled. In March Pastor Joseph B. Hasdak' was transferred from Kaerabani to Maharo
district. He is living in Ranga where he has his land and has responsibility for the churches in Nayadih Asan-thar and Dumbria. It seems to work very well. Pastor Chaitan Soren is living here in Maharo as before and has the responsibility for the Maharo church and that of Jlawae.

The elders are the same as before, but Lodea Marndi stationed here at Maharo has been pensioned since April. We have found no one to replace him.

There are 4 village schools in the district. There used to be six, but the Maharo village school has been included in the Girls' School, and the school at Dumbria has been stopped. The latter should be reopened, but there are some local difficulties that has not made it possible yet. There are so many children of school age there.

Thirty-six children of Christian parents have been baptized and one heathen during the year. He is a young boy now studying at Kaerabani.

The women are gathering in more places than before for their women's meetings once a month. The men, however, do not show very much interest in church activities. In October the yearly women's meeting for Dumka Circle was held here in Maharo. It was well attended and the meetings were very good.

The attendance at church has been far from what it should be. It is really disappointing to see how few gather to church on Sundays, especially on the men's side. We surely need a revival. We pray for it, and will you in the homelands help us in this prayer? I know you have many to remember in your prayers, but I feel the need of this place so hard that I cannot help asking you to remember us especially.

Ragnhild Rein.
It was a great privilege for us to be able to join in the work of the five congregations in our district. We must admit that most of our time is spent inside the Colony. Therefore, the greater joy we feel when we can take off some hours to visit the out-stations and we are very much welcomed. We also keep in close contact with the work by the monthly workers' meetings in which we try to impulse them to greater efforts both in the congregations and in the schools, and by regular Bible—studies to strengthen their spiritual life.

The total number of Christians in Saldoha District according to statistics from each congregation is now 824 souls, by congregations and ministrations as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christians:</th>
<th>Baptized</th>
<th>Non-Chrs.</th>
<th>Confirmed</th>
<th>Att. of Commits.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saldoha</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musnia</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhalsungia</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarni</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>824</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leaders:

Saldoha: Salhae Pastor
Saldoha L. C.: Jonathan Elder
Musnia: Joseph Elder
Bhalsungia: Bhoton Elder
Tarni: Joseph Pastor

Besides these the Colony Bengali congregation is very active, although the number of Christians is only about 15. Sunday services are conducted by the Elder and Caretaker, D. P. Lall and will gather 60-80.
The team of workers is very little changed from previous years. Mansing Pastor was pensioned from February by the Santal Parganas Santal Church Council, and our elder in Bhalsungia, Joseph Marndi, moved to Tarni and was ordained in November. Bhoton Marndi of Bhalsungia, previous unpaid elder, is now in charge of the congregation there.

A new school was also opened at Tarni in March, and the attendance is quite satisfactory with some 28 pupils enrolled. Some signs of spiritual uplift and new life are to be traced in Tarni and Bhalsungia, which is a vigorous 15 year old congregation. Also in older congregations good signs are observed. Fallen came back to the fold and youth work is progressing Church collections amounted to Rs. 1187-11, which is only little of the total expenditure of nearly Rs. 7000/-, of which the greater part is teachers’ salaries.

There are 10 schools with about 300 pupils and 14 teachers. As far as we can judge, the teachers are trying to influence the pupils by Christian behaviour, lessons, devotions and songs. Thus, we may call them Christian schools, although the non-Christians are in majority. Diverse grants from the local school authorities amounted about Rs. 800/- for which our thanks are due.

The women’s work was taken care of by the lady missionaries, Sister Kari Ringheim, and Sister Ingeborg Kleven and two Biblewomen. The big women’s meeting took place as usual with good attendance.

Days of more outstanding feature were these: Easter day when 21 were baptized in the Colony church, after long time of instructions and having permission from their relatives November 1st when we had the visit of our General Superintendent, Kalu pastor and other pastors taking part in the ordination service of Joseph Marndi in Saldoha. Both the morning service in the Colony by
Kalu Pastor and the ordination service where old Tika Pastor took the sermon were extremely good. We had the feeling that our church is well founded when we are able to listen to the evangelical and Christ-centric witnesses of such servants of the Lord.

So we feel inspired to work on in the name of Christ, until His day.

Edel and Magnus Haugstad.

TILABANI.

This is a two years annual report, namely, for 1952 and 1953.

Outwardly the Tilabani congregation has not grown very much. A few persons from here and there and a few families have been added to the congregation. But, inwardly we notice growth and spiritual awakening.

Something which has given us joy and hope in the work is that the young people’s work is continuing to grow. In this period of time there have been held several young peoples rallies, with visiting speakers both from our mission and other missions. Several of our young people have also had the opportunity to travel to big gatherings and summer schools held at other places. This has thus brought them back rejoicing and the result is that they have begun a young people’s organization here in Tilabani. This is functioning very well. On their program they have Bible hours and go out in the villages for to proclaim the Gospel. It is our hope that our Christians themselves begin to feel the responsibility for their own people, and that it will help in the outward growth of the congregation.
We experience the truth of Jesus' words, "The harvest is great but the laborers are few." It is our prayer that the Heavenly Father will drive out more volunteer workers. We are thankful for the very fine work the pastor and teachers have done here.

The church attendance has been steady, and in the congregational work and in some families things have happened which we can take as the answer to prayer.

Then a thanks to all mission friends for their prayers and a thanks to our Lord, whose work the mission is, for blessing and advancement in the work.

Hildur Milde.
EDUCATIONAL WORK IN
SANTAL PARGANAS.

SANTAL DIVINITY SCHOOL.

In the end of January, 1953, Rev. and Mrs. Stronstad moved to Dumka in order to take over the post as Acting Secretary of the Mission. It was a great advantage for the school that the General Superintendent of the Church, Rev. Johs. Gausdal and Mrs. Gausdal could take over the charge of the school for some time, as my wife and I did not arrive in India until February. On the 17th of February we were able to take over the school. It has been a great help, that we could get advice and inspiration in Dumka from the Stronstads and from the older missionaries here in Benagaria. Rev. J. Gausdal has from time to time given some lectures in the school, and Mrs. Gausdal has all the year had her weekly Bible studies with the students’ wives.

Kalu Pastor and his wife have carried a considerable part of the daily burden. Kalu was a student in Steinthal’s last course. After some years of congregational work and 15 years as a teacher in the Divinity School he is an experienced and valuable helper. We hope, that he will be with us for still a long time. In November 1951, he had a stroke, but it seems that he has now recovered completely. His wife is a good help as she is teaching the students’ wives.

As for ourselves we have been happy to enter into this work, although we were not too well prepared as
we worked amongst the Boros in Assam the most part of our first term. But as we knew, that we could not do this work in our own strength, we learned to pray the prayer of Sct. Augustine: "Lord, give, what Thou command, and then command what Thou want". In this we have both experienced that we received sufficient for the daily work, not more and not less.

The students we have now, 12 men and 9 women, will complete their course in April, 1954. They had their second year's examination in April this year and all passed, one of the men and one of the women in first division. They were all present at the great "sabha" in Dumka in the end of March. In October the men had the opportunity to attend the Youth-Conference in Pachamba. And the New Year we celebrated at Saldoha, where the students gave life to some parts of "Pilgrim's Progress" before the patients and many from the surrounding congregations. Otherwise, the teaching has taken its quiet course. A short summary shall be given of the subjects we have gone through during the year 1953.

OLD TESTAMENT:
Introduction and cursory reading from Book of Job to Habakkuk by Kalu Pastor.

NEW TESTAMENT:

CHURCH HISTORY:
Selected portions of European Church History from year 1500 up to the present time, and the Indian Church history by Kalu Pastor.
HISTORY OF RELIGIONS:
Hinduism and Islam by Kalu Pastor.

DOGMATICS:
I have dictated notes on the Christian Faith up to the 3rd Article of the Creed, based on MSS prepared by Rev. Rosenlund. His dogmatics is divided into 4 parts: 1. The Christian Faith 2. The Lutheran Faith in God 3. The Lutheran Faith in Jesus Christ 4. The Lutheran Faith in the Holy Spirit

ETHICS:
Based on MSS prepared by Rev. Rosenlund I have dictated notes on the Christian Ethics out from the following major points: God's Commandments, Our personal obligation towards God's Commandments, obligation towards God's Commandments in the family-life, Our obligation in the world.

ENGLISH:
I have gone through a part of the Bible Lessons for class 8, with translation to Santali, conversation, grammar and translation from Santali to English.

The women have had 5 school-days a week with 4 periods in the forenoon and 1½ hours study in the afternoon. The children have been taken care of by two ayahs.

Kalu Pastor's wife has gone through the Old Testament and the Catechism, besides giving a special teaching in reading and writing to two of the women, who came here as illiterates. Mrs Gausdal has continued exegetic studies of St. John's Gospel. And my wife has gone through The Acts, besides teaching in practical subjects. From January to April and from November to December, they have once a week been visiting the nearby villages.
We have had a few guests from outside to help in one or more periods. Raode Hasdak', the pastor’s wife in Dumka, has talked to the women, and Miss Milde has taught them the use of Flannel graphs. We are very grateful for the help we get from our fellow-missionaries, our pastors and pastors’ wives. A guest may often bring a new inspiration.

Both men and women have had singing, and they have in turn conducted the morning devotions. They have practiced Sunday School teaching here in the compound for a time and also conducted Sunday services in two small congregations which were without pastoral help. We have tried to gather them all in our bungalow once a month for singing, lectures and discussions.

Much of what we had hoped for, we did not achieve, and much could have been done better, we are sure, but what counts most for us is this, that we have been tied to these men and women, who are preparing themselves to serve in the Church.

There have been some cases of illness, but mostly not serious. On the 20th of November my wife had to go to bed, and most probably she will have to stay there for a long time. But also this is strengthening the ties between them and us.

When we look back on the year 1953, we are filled with thanks to God and to men for everything. And we are looking forward to the year 1954 with confidence trusting that God will give courage and health, and that friends out here and in the homelands will make intercession for us.

Magda and Johannes Thoft Krogh.
This has been a year of many challenges for mission work in a rapidly changing part of India. After our first language exam and one year in this country, we have accepted both the school and district responsibilities gladly, but not without some apprehension for the challenging tasks it proved to be. Naturally, we have been very limited in what we have been able to do largely because we still feel the burden of communication in the native tongue, but somehow by God’s grace and the fine co-operation of fellow workers we are happy to report some progress also this year in our school work here.

It was perhaps most gratifying to receive the Matric Exam results of the 1953 State exam, which proved to be the best in the history of the High School Department. Of the 14 sent up for the honors exam in March, 13 passed; 1 in first division, 5 in second division, and seven in third division. Emmanuel Murmu of Dumka won the distinction of being the second Santal from this school to place in the first division. Of the eight sent up for the Supplementary Exam in August, four of them passed making a total of 22 sent up for examination, 17 received Matriculation certificates. Needless to say, these results were good for the morale of the teaching staff who are working hard to maintain a continued high standard of training for all the students here at Kaerabani. The Matric class from July numbers 29 among whom we hope for at least one in the first division, but there have been several changes again in courses prescribed by the Government that may hamper some from success.

The average enrollment for the year numbered 451 who had better than 90% attendance for 1953. An average of 121 of these have been hostel residents with whom
we have perhaps the greatest opportunity for Christian service. The general health of the students and staff has been good. With the expection of a small epidemic of mumps in August we are thankful that there has not been any contagious epidemics. The timely visit of Dr. and Mrs. Forman in August, who gave all students and staff members check-ups, helped to starve off dangers that might have been difficult to stop.

After several months of searching we obtained a science teacher to fill that position. Mr. U. N. Ambasta, B. Sc., joined the staff in November. He has done a good job in organizing a science laboratory in one of the vacant class rooms. He has a graduate scholarship which he plans to use from next July, but by that time one of our own Santal Christians will have completed his I. Sc. and we are looking forward to having one of our own graduates filling this post also. Mr. Manase Tudu I. A. went to our Proposed Middle School in Benagaria and he has been replaced by Mr. Subodh Dutta I. A., also one of our graduates. We are looking forward to having Mr. Silas Hasdak now in his last year B. A. course at Ranchi College with us also from next July.

Bible class instruction has been carried on well by the Christian members of the staff in a well organized way. The classes are held before school hours and during the hot season it has meant Bible classes beginning at 5:45 a.m., but even so there is enough voluntary interest for students to have kept an average attendance of about 86% for the year. Ten boys received perfect attendance for the entire year, and one of them had walked three miles a day to be here for Bible class.

It is gratifying to note the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the Christian students and teachers alike who sincerely want to know more about the Christian faith as revealed in God's Word.
The Lower Primary School had an average of 187 enrolled with better than 80% attendance. The school sustained a temporary loss when Asst. Headmaster, Philip Hasdak took ill with T. B. in September. He is taking treatment at Mohulpahari and recovering nicely so we hope he will be able to return sometime within the coming year. Mr. Barka Murmu, the Headmaster, has proved to be a most capable administrator in the Lower Primary School and much of its success has depended on his leadership. As this department is now under the Church Circle here there was less responsibility for us directly this year. There is a growing concern by our church officers for proper education of their children, and this is encouraging.

We are very thankful for the aid given by District Board to our Lower Primary School and the aid received from the Government for the High School. Visits were made by the Divisional Inspector of Schools, The District Inspector and the Sub-Inspector. Their written reports are not yet received but judging from oral remarks, there is hope of receiving more grant-in-aid from Government towards developing more agricultural subjects in connection with the High School. We are keenly aware of the need for practical teaching along the line advocated by the Government Basic Training Plan. If an agricultural graduate will be furnished by Government for our staff we will be in a good position to develop more from our mission lands and teach our students more profitable methods of farming.

The largest teacher’s training class in the school history enrolled in July with 26 students. With two assistants, Mr. J. Minz is working well as usual to make this department a fully recognized Junior Basic Training school. With spinning, weaving, and several other practical courses introduced together with agricultural subjects including gardening and paddy farming they have been
given a busy schedule. Some fertilizer experiments were conducted by the paddy raising course that proved to them to be very worthwhile. We have a fine group of 21 Christian students in this class who have been good leaders in the hostel and we feel they will be valuable Christian workers in our village Lower Primary Schools where ever they may be placed.

Organized extra curricular activities of the High School included three Boy Scout troops under the direction of Mr. Soiland Modi, the band and choir of 25 members, directed by Mr. Benjamin Murmu, and debate society organized by Mr. J. Minz. These groups have had regular meetings throughout the year with the band and scouts taking part in our public activities of the year.

We were honored with visits during the year by two Norwegian churchmen, Bishop Fjellbu of Nidaros, Norway and Rev. Henriksen, Chaplain, on his return from Korsa and a member of the Norwegian Board of the Santal Mission. For our annual prize distribution day this year we had the Chairman of the District Board as our guest speaker.

Under the fine leadership of our Headmaster, Mr. P. K. Dutta, the students and staff have had a well organized program of activities throughout the year. Social service classes in the school have built dams on nearby rivers for water, reservoirs and many smaller projects such as road repairs in village streets, well cleaning and repair work in nearby villages. The work of adult education along sanitary practices, crop improvement, and not least teaching adults to read has been done by the Teacher's training school in evening classes since September of this year.

After our first year in responsible work, we look forward with thanks in our hearts for the privilege that
is ours to help train young men to take responsible positions in the new democracy of India.

We are thankful to all our mission friends for their faithful support in prayers and gifts to enable this work to continue. Government grants-in-aid have been received for both the High School and the Lower Primary School for which we are thankful. We solicit continued prayer and financial support that this work may continue to prosper and grow.

Helen and Obert Landsverk.

MAHARO GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TRAINING SCHOOL.

"Praise the Lord, for He is good and His mercies endureth for ever."

This is the most appropriate head line I can find for this little annual report. God has indeed been good to us in the past year.

We have had no serious illness among the school children. Except for a long drawn out epidemic of mumps and slighter cases of fever, dysentery, etc., the children have kept in good health. Several of the teaching staff and compound workers, however, have suffered from very serious illnesses. We have had one case of Tuberculosis, one of Pleuresy, one of Pneumonia, one of Typhoid, and several have suffered from amoebic dysentery. But they have all recovered, and will soon be back to work. In this connection, I wish to extend our thanks to the doctors and nurses at the hospitals of Mohulpahari, Dumka and Deoghar for their efficient help. We were also very thankful that Miss Lucile Frickson, who arrived from
America in December, 1952, was placed here for the year 1953 to help with the children besides studying Santali. She also helped many people from the neighboring villages with medicine, especially in emergency cases. Otherwise, the dispensary was not open to the public. Miss Frickson left us again in December after having passed her first Santali examination, and she has now taken up the work for which she was called among the many sufferers from leprosy.

In November Miss Ragnhild Rein was welcomed back again to Maharo after her furlough in Norway.

As may be known, the beginning of the school year was changed here in Bihar from January to July 1. As the last Training Class finished its course in December, 1952, we had no Teachers' Training the first 6 months of the year, but a new class of 19 girls was opened on July 1. At the same time we also admitted girls for Class IX, and were happy to get 15 students for that class. In the new Class VIII we have had 11 students, and in the Primary and Middle Sections we have had an average of about 200.

Classes VIII and IX are the two first classes of a Proposed High School, and we have applied to the Government of Bihar for recognition of the same. Teachers of the High School section are Miss Diyani Hans, and Mrs. Hemloota Lall.

Two permanent teachers of the school, Miss Phibi Jha and Miss Baha Murmu, left during the year. To fill the two vacancies the committee appointed Miss Subasini Murmu, Matr. Senior Trained, and Mrs. Alice Hasdak' Middle English, Junior Trained.

It has been a great joy to me to see how faithfully the staff has worked and with what interest the different members have taken part, also in the extra curricular activities of the school.
In September our Training Class Mistress, Miss Lalit Hans, had leave to attend a one month's course in Social Instruction. All expenses were covered by the Government, and the course was exceedingly well conducted, so we found it very profitable. We intended to send more teachers for the same training, but at that time several of the staff fell ill, so we could not spare any.

In February we were fortunate to have Mr. Subba Pandit from the Children's Special Service Mission here for one week of special meetings. The children were very attentive at the gatherings, and they received great help and encouragement.

In October we had the Women’s meeting for Dumka Circle here in Maharo. The gatherings were well attended, and many received great blessing from the well prepared and spiritual talks given.

On December 6th a group of 23 girls were confirmed in Maharo Church by Rev. Stronstad, Dumka. It has been a great joy and encouragement for me to teach them, and I feel convinced that their confession of the Faith was honest and sincere.

Now I want to close with heartfelt thanks to all friends who contribute to the work. Thank you for patience and perseverance in prayer and intercession.

Solveig Somming.
MEDICAL WORK IN
SANTAL PARGANAS.

MOHULPAHARI CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL
and MOHULPAHARI DISTRICT.

Here at Mohulpahari the work has gone on as usual, but with a steady increase in volume, thus intensifying the responsibilities of all.

As was foreseen and stated at the previous conference, the missionary nurse’s work demanded more time and physical energy than could possibly be given by one person. Therefore, during the vacation periods relief was given by Ingeborg Kleven and Ragnhild Rein, and we take this opportunity of thanking them for the help.

From November, Helene Romer was needed at Beragaria to give nursing care to Mrs. Thoft Krogh, after which the conference assigned her to Benagaria Dispensary. Hilma Gjerde replaces Miss Romer at Mohulpahari.

The instruction of nursing students has continued as much as time has permitted, so it cannot be said that the nursing school has been entirely stopped.

Although the hospital has a bedspace of 76, the patient census frequently rises above that number. All have been cared for by the nursing staff whose number is comparable to that of a 50-bed hospital. Continued efforts to recruit more nurses have met with small success.

In spite of the pressure of hospital work, the nurses have taken time to visit the nearby villages for preaching the Gospel, and for spreading information about the hospital.
Among the in-patients, Mrs. Das, the Bengali-Bible-women, has zealously continued her evangelistic work as in the past years. On the other hand the elder from the Santal congregation has not given the help that we had hoped for.

Some cook houses for patients have been built, but the total number is not yet sufficient to cover the need. A well begun by Dr. Hagen has been completed and various necessary repairs have been made and more left for the coming years.

The Station Upper Primary school is growing in enrollment. However, the church council found it necessary to discharge two teachers because it was not possible to pay their salaries. We are very thankful for our faithful and conscientious headmaster who effectively reaches the children. It is his wish and ours that the hostel which at present accommodates 20 children could be at least doubled in size. Many parents, the greater percentage of whom are non-christians, Santals, bring their children for admission to the school and hostel and must be refused, and they go away disappointed. We believe that it is a missionfield that could and should be developed much more.

The district work has continued about the same as last year under the leadership of pastors, Kudia Marandi and Daniel Jha. There is a small church under construction in Torko village, the congregation contributing a share toward the expense.

The densely populated villages round about, with their high percentage of children, compel us to remind you again of the words, "The harvest truly is plentious, but the laborers are few."

Ely and Otto Forman
NURSING SCHOOL.

In spite of the 1952 conference decision to suspend development of the nursing school for this year because of the lack of funds and housing, three of the first students chose to stay and continue hoping for a Government recognized school at Mohulpahari Hospital. Five left, one to work as a dispensary nurse's assistant, one to high school, two for midwifery training, and one to help the parents at home. These were by far the best prospects in scholastic ability. During the year four prospective students and one nurses' aid have come. Classes have been carried on for these seven as far as we have been able to fit them into the heavy work schedule on the wards. Because one of our fundamental aims is to awaken and develop in the student-nurse a consciousness of their responsibility for telling the good news of Jesus to those all around us who have not heard, the last few months have seen a small group of nurses going to villages within a walking radius nearly every week. One presents the Gospel simply to the villagers who gather; another instructs and admonishes concerning the most obvious health problems. All visits exchange friendly news, and urge folk to come to the hospital early with their ills. At this writing the visit of the Inspector of Nursing--Schools being sent from the provincial Nursing Council, is expected daily. On her report depends the immediate future of the “School”.

We still believe that the preparation of Santal nurses for Christian service by a recognized standards of nursing is a field into which God is calling the working force of the Mohulpahari Hospital. We would, therefore, repeat the reminder of the above report, from Mathew 9: 37-39, and add, “Pray ye therefore.”

Alice Axelson
A. OUT—PATIENT DEPARTMENT

Out—Patients 10.884
Repeat Visits 6.508
Total Consultations 17.392

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<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Christians</td>
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<td>Laboratory Tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santals</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Injections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hindus</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Abscesses</td>
<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammedans</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Tooth-extracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>Plaster of Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>Other minor operations</td>
<td>573</td>
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<td>Women</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>X-Ray Fluoroscoop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
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B. IN—PATIENT DEPARTMENT

Total Patients 2.053
Christian 19.3%
Santals 16.0%
Hindus 44.3%
Mohammedans 20.4%
Men 44.4%
Boys 12.0%
Women 36.0%
Girls 7.6%

C. SURGERY AND OBSTETRICS


1. MAJOR PROCEDURES:
   a. OPHTHALMIC (54)  c. GLANDS AND TUMORS (13)
      Cataracts 28  Thyreodect 4
      Iridect. 5  Tb.c glands 7
      Others 22  Amputat mam. 2
   b. NOSE & THROAT (16)  d. GENERAL ABDOMINAL (83)
      Tonsillectomi 7  Appendix 5
      Nasal polyp 6  Hern. incarc. 4
      Mastoidect. 2  Hern. ingv. 36
      Other 1  Hern. Epigastr. 5
                  Cholecystect. 2
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<td>Resect. ventr.</td>
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<td>Hysterect &amp; ovar. cyst</td>
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<td>Obstruction</td>
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<td>Uterussusp.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ileo-colestom</td>
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<td>Descens genit</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Liverabscess</td>
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<td>Lap. explorat.</td>
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<td>Hydroceles</td>
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<td>Nephrectomy</td>
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<td>BONE AND JOINTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rectal &amp; Operation</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Normal delivery</td>
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<td>Pneumothorax</td>
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<td>Minor cysts</td>
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<td>Joint-punct.</td>
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### Anaesthesies

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<td>Spinal Proc.</td>
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<td>Spinal Proc. &amp; aether</td>
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<td>Chlorof aether</td>
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<td>Chloroform</td>
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<td>Aether</td>
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**SALDOWA LEPROSY COLONY**

The year in review has been very encouraging in all aspects of the Colony life. We are glad as we have got remedies at hand against such a dreadful disease, but the sight of such a number of hard afflicted people is nearly unbearable.

Patients are crowding in much larger number than we can deal with them in the colony, and those admitted are very much confident in our work to cure them. A general change has taken place in the Colony’s face. Old beggars asking to be taken care of for lifetime are fewer, and more young fine men and women in their best age are coming forth, willing to stay away from homes and dear ones with great personal sacrifices, in order to get cured. **And they are staying with hope**, as we now dare to say that a patient coming for treatment early enough is regarded to be able to leave as cured within 4–5 years if he is strong enough to stand the intensified treatment of the Sulphones.

About 2/3 of the inmates were on the new treatment, and 70 percent of the total number are lepromatous cases, whom we give preference on admission for the sake of segregation. Statistics are tedious but useful, so for-
give us some figures which show different sides of our work during the year:

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<th>No. of Pats.</th>
<th>New Reex. Admitted</th>
<th>Total Discharged Treated Cured</th>
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<td>1/1/53 Colony 350</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>Saldoha L. Annual Attendance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarni L. Clinic</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>14</td>
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The monthly average number in the Colony has been about 365, and per 31/12/53 we had 378 inmates.

Miss Kari Ringhein has been in charge of the nursing in the leprosy hospital, assisted by 6 patient nurses. And Miss Ingeborg Kleven was taking care of the Children's Home with some 10 children, and was in charge of the dispensary and ward for non-leprosy patients, where 5382 were treated and 130 were admitted for hospital treatment.

We also received good and very useful help by Doctor Paul Murmu for three months in the end of the year, but he had to leave for Mohulpahari. He showed real interest for leprosy, and behaved well as a Christian doctor.

On the 13th November we managed to open a new leprosy clinic at Tarni. After consulting the local congregation and church council, a fallen house of the compound was turned into a neat well serviceable house for this purpose. And people are crowding for medicines as the villages of Sultanabad are very much infested with leprosy.

The daily life in the Colony has been busy as usual. The patients are kept working for 6 hours a day, thus giving a strong hand in the struggle towards self-support, although the goal is far away. Our faithful sordar is glad
to tell that we received about 4 tons of paddy in excess of previous years, and new fields were made out of jungle plots both for rice and potatoes. The crop of vegetables such as cabbage, turnips, tomatoes and a variety of Indian vegetables was abundant this year.

We saw the carpenters' and weavers' nice workshop completed, giving ample space for work and storage so that a ward used as storeroom could be turned back to the patients, thus enabling us to admit 15 more.

The spiritual life was encouraged as we have the strong feeling that spiritual uplift is the enemy of laziness and all kinds of immorality. About 50 adults learned reading and writing in the evening schools, and the patients are crowding for the services in the church and for the evening devotions in the separate villages.

Thanks are due to all friends for their gifts and intercession and to the Government of Bihar, Mission to Lepers, and the District Board for grants and contribution, thus enabling us to go on in the name of God.

Edel and Magnus Haugstad.
WORK IN BENGAL

BENGAL WORK IN BIRBHUM, SANTAL PARGANAS AND MURSHIDABAD DISTRICTS.

Also this year we had to look after all the three districts from Suri which means quite big distances to travel. What we try to do feels often just like a drop in the big ocean, but we thank God for still giving us the chance to work.

Our Indian workers have practically been the same as last year, only fewer. As a temporary arrangement we had to lend our Pastor in Suri, Rev. K. R. Ghose, to work in Benagaria in the press and the office until they could get some one else to take over that work. We were happy to be able to render that service to Benagaria, but due to lack of ordained pastors, we now are very glad to look forward to have him again as a full-time worker in the congregation. Atul Biswas, our faithful preacher at Rampur Hat was ill for more than a month and had to stay in hospital. But we are glad to see that he is well again and has fully taken over his responsibilities as a preacher. In spite of this the missionary had to take pastoral duties in two congregations.

This year, two, we have seen a few new ones being added to the congregation, but we are praying and longing that some of those who have received the call would get power and grace to break out of the bondage, which Hinduism and Mohammedanism puts upon their followers. A strong tendency of syncretism is felt many places, which involves a great danger for so many a seeker. When in spite of all this, one soul by the power of God the Almighty, breaks into the fold, the joy is unspeakable. Among those we
now have received is a young Brahmin boy in Suri. For several months he has received instruction and is now ready for baptism. He seems to be a youth of great promise, impressed by the message of the Holy Bible. His ardour in preaching the Gospel for non-Christians is greater than we find among the older Christians. We are looking forward with hope and pray that he may become a useful vessel for the Lord Jesus.

God has also given spiritual awakening to some of our Christians and we thank God who shows us that He is still working among us.

On the whole we have tried to sacrifice much of our time and prayer to get the two fractions in our congregation in Itor joined. The old trouble continued. But after many excursions, camping tours, and meetings, the two parts seemed to come to an agreement. The situation has improved, but we feel sometimes that for many of them it is only an outward action. We are still praying for a deeper revival among them, and that the doors will be more open among the non-Christian people in their village too.

This year we were happy to be able to start with the hostel for Christian school boys here in Suri. Due to lack of houses we were not able to accomplish the idea before. As a matter of fact, our mission so far does not have any school for Bengali boys. Studying in Government Schools, our Christian boys are very much influenced by both Hinduism and Mohammedanism so it is often difficult for them to keep their faith in such environments. In the hostel they get like a Christian home, instruction in the Bible, hymnsinging and prayer. It is merely a start, but we hope to be able to receive more boys later on. We all felt a great joy when all the boys were promoted in their classes at the end of the school year. We know that you will help us to keep up this work also by prayer, so these boys will grow strong and take their responsibilities as
personal Christians whether it will be as pastors, preachers or laymen in the young churches.

Our preacher course we had to put off until the school holiday in November as we have to use the hostel rooms. For three days quite a few of our workers were gathered for Bible study, conversation and devotional meetings. It was rather encouraging to see how thankful they all were for having the opportunity to join in this course, they only wished it could last for more days. Personally, we feel that for the future such courses will be one of the most important works of the missionary. And the Indian workers really need help, guidance and instruction in order to be able to carry out their difficult task. The command from the Lord is still there; "Feed my lambs."

We have also this year had some connection with college students in Suri. Although we are not allowed to hold meetings for them, we see them coming to our station to borrow books and ask questions about Christianity. Recently we have experienced quite definitely how the Word of the Cross has impressed them. These young boys are our subject for daily prayer.

In a low caste village named Kulera, outside Suri, we have had the opportunity to help the people to start their own evening school. The children and the young people are very anxious to learn. The only one in the village who is able to read has been willing to be a voluntary teacher. They have also asked us to come from time to time to look after the work and also to preach the Gospel. But almost every day we find the adults drunk. We are reminded about Skrehsrud and his first time among the Santals, the only difference in this village is that the women also drink. But we know that God has also created and loves these poor slaves of evil and he is longing for them even as much as he longs for us. They need therefore special prayer and intercession.
In many of our congregations we have kept on with the family prayer in the homes. Through these we have a good opportunity to get into personal contact with the Christians and to preach the Gospel.

The year 1953 is a significant year for our work, as at the election of office-bearers the Chairman in both the districts is an Indian. The missionary is only a member of the Council and the Executive Committee. We are praying that the two elected ones, Rev. David Jha for Santal Parganas and Rev. K. R. Ghose for Birbhum and Murshidabad will receive wisdom and grace to become humble and wise chairman. But we are in great need of more workers, both pastors and preachers, young men with an ardent desire and definite call to serve the Lord in this most difficult work. After a few years many of our workers will retire on pension and so far we do not have enough to replace them.

Besides the work among the woman which our three Biblewomen and the missionaries at Narainpur Girls’ School faithfully have been carrying on, the Women’s Association at Suri has been going on. The members have not always shown the same interest, but some faithful girls and women have joined in work and prayer. At the end of the year they were able to hand over to the treasurer of the church a nice sum of money from the sale of their handwork.

When we look back over the past year our hearts are filled with thanks to God for his guidance through all difficulties. He has turned our defeats into victory. He is faithful who called us.

Last but not least we also want to send a warm thank to you, our faithful workers at home, who have supported us in prayer and work.

Kirsten and Peder Lunde
When we look back over the year which has just passed it is with great thankfulfulness in our hearts for all of God's grace towards us and for the many ways in which we have seen his working in the hearts of men, women and children and for His transforming power to break down the strongholds of the enemy and set men free. But we also remember our shortcomings and failures to use the opportunities as we should. And again we feel that for the task which lies ahead we are still suffering from lack of workers to reach both the Christian congregation scattered far and wide and the many villages where the women up until now, alas, have never heard the Gospel.

Up until July, owing to the fact of my being in charge of the Girls' Schools, there was no opportunity to do much outside touring, but our two lady-evangelists, Mrs. Dutto and Mrs. Puno Das had a very encouraging camping tour in Santal Parganas District near Tilabani. They stayed there for some time and visited the surrounding villages and they came back full of joy and told us of many opportunities and how they had listened to the Gospel in the women's quarters, and how they had called them into their houses eager to hear more. If only we had one who could have carried on and followed up, but we have none. We need much more systematic training of workers whom the Lord can use to go in through the open doors. Mrs. Dutto is working in Dumka having many contacts with the different homes in the town. She is working in the two congregations in Dumka and Maharo village, and visiting the scattered Christians around about. In Dumurgram, one of the biggest Bengali congregations, Mrs. Biswas and Mrs. Puno Das are working. It goes slowly. The congregation is very poor and very dependent and need much more instruction. But so it is all around.
In November and December in connection with the "Old Students' Meeting" a Bible course was held. This time our preacher, Mr. Dutto kindly helped in taking some classes in Hinduism and Moslem belief. They finished up with an examination in which they all passed. The Bible courses seem to be a great help for our workers. A few years ago none of the Bible women had any training, they just carried on as well as they could and felt the need of some answers to all the perplexing questions they were met with and much more knowledge for themselves also. They are always full of questions when they come and it is always a joy to have the fellowship with them. The women's meeting and sewing class was carried out regularly through the year here on the station. A confirmation class also was held. It was an unusual interested group. All confessed to believe in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour so it was a special joy on their Confirmation Day.

Through the dispensary many contacts have been made with the women from the great village near by and from the surrounding villages. They have asked us to start a reading and sewing class among them and to tell them more about Jesus. Therefore, we do look forward to welcome among us a new trained Bible woman who especially will take up this follow up work and help me also with the teaching in the Bible courses.

It is very difficult in a report like this to give you a living impression, but we want to say that the work goes on in spite of all the difficulties and problems. May we then, who have come from abroad, be able to live such lives in this country so that the people through us may be drawn to Christ. For this especially we ask your prayers. We thank you all for the fellowship in the work this year also. We could not do without it.

Inger Krogh Nielsen.
Swedish Mission Cooho Behar.

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say Rejoice."

In the Mission work it is particularly comforting to know that the joy in the Lord is not synonymous with joy in the work. It is possible to "rejoice in the Lord always," but in our work experience the truth that joy and sorrow are close companions. But in reviewing the work in the past year, it is mostly the joy which stands out in our memory.

Our annual Garo conference took place in January in a newly cleared jungle where some Garo families have been settled. The attendance was not so great as the previous year due to rain and cold, but we had good fellowship at the meetings. Especially the Sunday service will remain in our memory. At the baptism service we brought three little baby girls, one Bengali, one Garo and one Norwegian to the Lord, and in this way we had an object lesson in the unity of the Christian congregation.

Later in the Spring we had a Bible course in our Boro congregation at Puthimari. The congregation there gave food and housing to all who came, and we had four days of good fellowship with Bible Study, singing, and prayer mixed with games and sports. By conducting this course out in the moffusil we had a very good opportunity to gather the non-Christians from the surrounding villages to our evening sessions, where we showed slides every evening.

Our slide projector has given us many contacts in non-Christian villages, and we have constant requests to come and show the pictures. It is still too early for us to evaluate this method for evangelising work, but it gives us a lot of opportunities to bring out our message.
Our home board gave us a new Land rover car in the spring, and this has proved an invaluable help in our big district. Many of our congregations are still relatively new and unstable, and the car helps us to visit them very often.

During the year we were again handicapped with workers, as several of our evangelists were in training at Rev. Kampp's during six months. They have taken their last examination now, and we hope that their training will bear fruits in the congregations in the days ahead. It is a particular joy to us that Pastor Roy apparently has had a real spiritual awakening and he is always on the go to visit the congregations.

Many of our congregations have no preacher staying permanently, and we therefore tried an experiment last year. We made a "preacher program", so that every congregation gets a preacher every Sunday and once during the week. This has proved successful both the preachers and the congregations are very happy about it.

We have had some rather big changes with our schools during the year. We planned early in the year to close the school at Tufangunj. We have no Christians there except the preacher and the teacher who lived there, and it was considered unprofitable to continue the school. We met some opposition from the local people, but then got an unexpected solution. The teacher first of all resigned his job, and it was impossible for us to get a qualified Christian teacher to take over. While we were looking for a new teacher we had a typical spring storm which blew the whole school house to pieces. This we saw as a sign that we should close and we never rebuilt the school.

In the town of Cooch Behar we had two schools, but two of the four teachers were not qualified. We then received notice that we would lose the Government grant
we received if we continued to keep unqualified teachers. We, therefore, combined the two schools and hired a new qualified Christian teacher, and we now have a school with nearly 100 pupils, and we get the same grant as before.

At Mathabangha the situation was more or less like Tufangunj only here the headmaster was a Hindu. He has been in charge of the school during the twenty years it has existed, and we had absolutely no Christian influence in the school. Besides the preacher and his family, there were no Christians there except the assistant teacher and one family living on the mission compound. We met strong opposition here from the local people when we talked of closing this school, and we were even threatened with court action by the School Inspector. But our District Magistrate, a Hindu, backed us and the school was closed without any trouble at the end of the year.

No decision has been made yet about the mission property there. Our Indian leaders, however, have in the Circle Conference expressed their opinion about closing this out-station and use the money and our forces for a boys' boarding school in some rural area, and we are investigating the possibility at present.

Two of our workers left us during the year “to be forever with the Lord.” One was Mandal babu, one of the first workers of the mission in this district. He had been ill for several years and only wanted to “go to Zion”, as he expressed it the last Christmas he was with us. The other was a young teacher, daughter of Jakob Babu in Mornai. Her health was far from good for a long time, and her heart broke down, in spite of intense medical treatment. They died, by a strange coincidence, on the same day.
Finally, we want to thank for all we were privileged to experience during the year. We want to thank our Indian colleagues, our missionary fellow workers, our home board in Sweden and the authorities in the district for all understanding and help. And we thank for all prayers which help us through the difficulties, but most of all we thank God for His mercy towards us as He helps and guides us and keeps us in good health from day to day.

Anlaug and Ragnvald A. Pedersen.

D I N H A T A.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4: 6.

As this word has become more and more real for me, during the past year, I want to put it as a heading for the annual report. How often we strive in vain because we do not let the Spirit come in as He wants. But where the Spirit gets in we see wonderful things happen which fill our hearts with joy and praise.

In the beginning of the year, much time was given to have the school and boardings extended. Now we are happy to have enough room for both boarders and day—scholars and we thank our dear friends in Y. W. C. A. Halsingborg and Dagryningen, Stockholm, who so generously contributed towards this work. The children have been keeping in good health and have often been a source of joy for us. We have had several prominent visitors during the year and all seem to have been praising the discipline in school and boarding, a thing which I think will mean so much for the future of these girls who have come to us straight from the jungle.
It was a great event of joy when we in March could dedicate a small church-room attached to the school. By having a room like this we are able to turn the whole school into a church during Sundays. Now we feel we have a worthy place for worship. Besides the regular Sunday services the girls gather there every Sunday night for a time of prayer and singing. At one occasion nine of our big girls who have come from the Baptist Mission were baptized and at another occasion six young people were confirmed. We realized the presence of our Lord in a wonderful way at both these occasions. May God bless and keep all these young people in His loving care.

Another event I want to mention is the visit of Mr. Pandit from the Children's Special Service Mission. He was conducting meetings here for six days in September. Many Christians came from our village-congregations and God worked mightily amongst them all. The last two meetings were held in the church and opportunity was given to all who wanted to go forward to the altar and dedicate or re-dedicate their lives to God. At that time wonderful things happened which filled our hearts with joy and praise.

We have missed Ada Wittander who left us in March for furlough in Sweden very much. Just before she left we had a Bible course for women. A number of 30 women came from outside and especially the Garo women who are used to labor hard in the jungle seemed to enjoy sitting down like Mary, only listening to the Master's Word. We missionaries have also at several occasions stayed for some days out in some Garo-villages teaching the Bible. But we are in great need of some Bible women who could work amongst these illiterate women. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into His harvest."
After Miss Wittander left, Mrs. Dahlberg a former secretary of our home board, has been helping me in the work. Thanks to her being a nurse, we have been able to keep up the medical work to a certain extent. Most of the work has been out in the surrounding villages where we were able to see much of hidden and untold suffering especially among the women. When it comes to the medical help we have not been able to give them much, but still we have often realized how our Lord has blessed our small efforts and also given us opportunity to tell about the Great Physician, who is able to heal not only the body but also the soul. Though we have not seen any fruit in this work as yet, still we believe that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. One day of harvest will come. But we have always to remember that it will not happen by might, nor by power, but by the spirit of the Lord. "Faithful is he who calleth you, who also will do it."

E. Pihlquist.

NIMASARAI BENGALI WORK.

Conditions in this district were somewhat easier this year than the last years have been as we had a normal rainy season and so a normal harvest of crops which again caused prices of food to become what will now have to be taken as normal. Still most of our Indian workers find it difficult to get through with the salaries they are drawing, and so they are inclined to continue what extra work they had found to supplement their income during the lean years, instead of spending all their time on their evangelizing work. It was a great disappointment for them when the new scale of salaries
was enacted during the year, that this gave practically all of them less than they were receiving before, instead of the increase they had been hoping for and certainly less than they could earn in other work, e. g. if they worked as ordinary coolies. Thus, one of the students of our Divinity School had formerly served as a gardener. Now after finishing his course and being appointed as preacher he would have less pay than in that former job. Meanwhile an additional resolution was carried that no one should actually have their salary decreased by the new scale. So what they lose now is only their increased contribution to the pension fund. But they still feel their economic difficulties as a heavy burden.

Also most of the members of the congregations feel themselves poor. That is one reason why we have so far had little success in teaching them increased offering for the work of the congregation and progress in spiritual activities.

One point where some progress is noticeable is in regard to Sunday Schools. These are now working in nine of the congregations. In this connection we may also mention the night schools which primarily aim at adult education. Such are going on in five different places. A small grant from the Bengal Christian Council committee concerned is helping to keep this work going.

Another source of encouragement is a beginning youth movement. On their own initiative young men and women arranged a youth convention at Nimasarai in November and have planned various activities. This may be a further development of the regular weekly youth meetings held every Saturday evening at Nimasarai by the so called "Udjug Somiti." These meetings were particularly successful when the Divinity School students were here and took a leading part in the meetings.
Like other missions and congregations we have as in other years had a special "witness week", where we tried to get all Christians to partake in preaching and witnessing activities in their own locality. Some good has been attained, although we hope for still better response in the future.

We have always been longing for a church building at English Bazaar, the capital of Malda. So it was a great joy shortly before Christmas to be able to dedicate a small new church there. It is not yet finished, but the walls and the roof are there so it can be used in that condition. Meanwhile the congregation continue their efforts to raise sufficient funds to complete the building. It is a great help in this connection that the District Magistrate, Mr. V. S. C. Bonarjee is a Christian and a faithful member of this congregation.

The school at Nimasarai has continued as before with three teachers and four classes with a total of a little above 100 pupils, that is no more than before the school was made "free compulsory". It is thus more than half of the children under obligation to attend the school that are never seen there. The authorities have not yet found any way of applying compulsion. The hostel for boys at Nimasarai also has continued as before. It is mostly Santal boys who live there. The Bengalis mostly keep their boys at home and let them attend school from there. But they certainly need more help in the shape of stipends for school books and fees than we have so far been able to give. Some also need help for food and clothing as otherwise their parents cannot afford to keep them in school for higher education.

In connection with school, hostel, etc, an annual Sports and prize day is held at Nimasarai where all partake with great delight.
During the year we had a collection of Bible Stories printed in Bengali, which we expect to give great help in the work. It was published by the Christian Tract and Book Society, Calcutta, and seems to be well accepted also in other Christian communities. The main toil of translating it from Santali was done by the teacher at Dhamua-Eklakhi school, Miss Sneholota Sorkar. Originally the book was written in Norwegian and has been used among the Santals since the days of Skrefsrud.

Dr. Else Hoiland's weekly dispensary at Nimasarai has been running its regular course every Thursday. It has attracted a great number of patients while we also often have occasion to feel that her activities at Rajadighi contribute to the opening of doors for evangelistic work.

Besides sixteen children of Christians 16 people from the non-Christians were baptized during the year, only one from Islam, the rest from Hinduism. In the statistics this year Maharaj Pastor has put the number of workers higher than previously having counted some as "voluntary workers" that is, unpaid helpers in the work. Besides, three of the young men who finished their course in our Divinity School were appointed as preachers in this district from the 1. December, 1953. We hope they may prove a real additional strength to the evangelistic forces of the district. Further strengthening is sorely needed. Thus, nearly the whole area of Malda west of the Mohanondo River, not far from half of the district is still mainly untouched by our work. In a survey with a map appended which the Bengal Christian Council has published during the year, this area is shown as unoccupied by missionary forces.

As before we strongly feel guilty of neglecting the evangelistic work among the educated. There seem to be opportunities for work among them. It is an exacting
task, but it feels urgent both here and all over our mission field.

Work among women has continued quietly as before and is still in great need of extension. So we rejoice at the prospect which the last missionary conference provided of a lady missionary coming to this district for evangelistic work among the women all over, eleven years after Miss Inger Malmstrom was transferred elsewhere from this work.

On the new national highway running through the district the Ramkrishna Mission has established a centre about a mile and a half from here with a village school at a place called Naranpur. And still closer to us at Mundilpur the movement that works for Hinduising the Santals, called Sottong Sibon, have established their headquarter, formerly in that part of Dinajpur which is now in Pakistan. So we seem to have competition and opposition quite close.

Signe and H. P. H. Kampp.

SANTAL WORK IN NORTH BENGAL.

The greatest problem in this work is still all the difficulties resulting from the partition of India. This applies equally to Bengal and Santal work. As to Bengal work we have practically had to give this up entirely for the time being inside Pakistan, although it is rather more urgent since partition. We can only hope for new opportunities for this work when our whole mission work in this region is reorganized. But among the Santals we have so many congregations inside Pakistan that we cannot possibly neglect them entirely. Nominally the two areas are still united in one “district” under one joint District
Church Council, but practically the two halves have to work separately, although in name Pastor Jonas Hasdak' is still the joint president of both parts of the Council. The report also naturally falls in two parts.

In India, sometimes called Hindustan:

Pastor Jonas Hasdak' has collected the accounts and figures as given in the statistical tables. These show that during the year 17 new ones were baptized from the non-Christians, as well as 38 children of Christians in the two Circles within India. The total Christian Santal community here is 1291 strong, scattered over 85 villages, with three pastors to serve them. Their total church collections amounted to Rs. 1169/12/10½ only. In the Malda-Purnea Circle, Pastor Jaeram Hasdak' of Khoribari has been elected chairman for the next three years, and in the West Dinajpur Circle, Pastor Munshi Murmu of Narayanpur.

In his report Jonas Pastor also says: "During this year a Bible course was held at Khoribari for pastors, preachers and lay people, particularly young people of Malda-Purnea Circle. For two weeks we were able to share with one another the riches of our Scripture, and in the end a convention was held for three days for members of all the congregations. At the conclusion of this convention the young men and the young women formed a Young people's Association with a committee for active undertakings in order to stimulate Christians in the various congregations into active Christian endeavours. There seems to be hope of more progress during the coming year."

Unfortunately, it seems necessary to add that some opportunities look like being lost through neglect on the part of some preachers in teaching and taking care of whole 'villages asking for' instruction and guidance.

In West Dinajpur Circle Pastor Munshi Murmu has been working at Narayanpur, since he moved over from Pakistan.
But conditions there are still by no means easy. Parties in the congregation create serious difficulties. Their former Middle English school has practically come to a standstill. Now they have hope that Government may establish a basic school there instead. Their church is being rebuilt in about half the former size, the congregation constructing the walls and the Synod and Mission contributing iron roof. But congregational members find it difficult to agree on fulfilling their part.

In Rotonpur pastorate the first choice of the congregation for a new pastor was rejected. The new election has not yet taken place, so there they are still without a pastor.

The plans for the new mission station for Santal work at Bargarai has been further developed. One small house has been built there in which Mohendro Hembrom as preacher has moved in with his family, together with a mali in another room. A few Santal families at nearby places have even been gathered together, some of them refugees from Pakistan as the beginning of a Santal congregation there. Seven hundred thousand bricks have been made, but lack of funds has prevented further building during the year, so Rev. K. Clausen and family still have to reside at Dhannua, meanwhile there taking charge of the Eklakhi Girls School. But the need for speedy construction of the new centre for Santal mission work at Bargarai is still exceedingly urgent and should be attended to without any delay whatsoever.

IN EAST PAKISTAN:

Up to the time of writing, complete figures or reports have not yet been received from any of the two Circles inside Pakistan. This in itself tells its tale of difficulties in keeping connection with the work and the workers there. During the year, Baptist missionaries at Dinajpur have declared themselves willing to take over all our work in the northern circle of this area, while our Lutheran Christians are not so willing to join the Baptist Church. In
the southern circle the London Presbyterian missionaries of Rajshahi have on the other hand declared themselves agreeable to any plan our mission may be able to take up for constructing a mission station and placing a missionary in this area. Negotiations have been going on with our Home Boards in this connection and a proposal has been put forward that the Norwegian Home Board might undertake such a task as a separate branch of our mission with direct connection between Pakistan and Norway, thus avoiding the complications of detailed supervision from India.

Meanwhile, in the Southern Circle, in Rajshahi District there has been considerable movement towards Christianity during the year. Pastor Budhrai Hasdak has had to call the former Pastor Lopsa Soren to his assistance, as he was unable to tackle all the work singlehanded or with the help of his preachers only. One report says that they have baptized as many as 89 new converts from the non-Christian community in 1953.

In the northern Circle, inside East Dinajpur District, there has been less activity. At Routnogor, the old pensioned pastor Mongol Kisku, has passed away and no successor has been found for him. It was resolved that the other pastor’s residence should be moved from Phoridpur to Rajapur, from where it should be possible for one man to give pastoral supervision of the whole Circle. But for some reason it has not yet proved possible to complete new quarters for the pastor at Rajapur and Bajnath Baske, who was ordained as the new pastor for this area, was not able to move in there until the very end of the year, and it still seems doubtful whether he will be able to discharge his duties there.

May God grant a better arrangement for the Pakistan work to be found during the new year.

Kjell Clausen and H. P. H. Kampp
EDUCATIONAL WORK
IN BENGAL

THE BENGAL DIVINITY SCHOOL

The work was carried on during two terms according to the usual plan, one from April to July and another in October-November. The regular schedule for the 3rd year Senior Course was followed. The class consisted of 10 students. Of these one, Gopal Biswas, left before the end of the course. Musha Mondol, the young Muslim, was baptized during the year and attended the class for some time, but did not attempt the exam.

Sonaram Kormokar and Stephan Jha finished last year's examination at the beginning of this year; Sonaram with an average of 53% and Stephan with 55%. A new comer in the class was Noron Hadima, a Garo from Cooch Behar. He was enrolled in III Senior class, but also read some of the subjects of the previous classes. He has a good knowledge, i.a. in English, which he perhaps uses more freely than any other of the students, but he is mainly self taught or has picked up his knowledge through years of military life in many places all over India.

The subjects of this III year Senior Course were:

1. Psalm
2. Islam
3. Philippians
4. Dogmatics
5. Acts of the Apostles with reference to all Epistles
6. Ethics and Eschatology
7. W. Carey & Indian Missions till now
8. Prayer in Christian Life
9. The Augsburg Confession
10. Constitution and Rules of our EELC
11. was a test in conducting a complete Sunday service in church with sermon.
12. Test in singing and text of hymns.
   Further English was taught as a subject, but no exam required.

The final examination was held by the end of November. The result was as below, and certificates have later in the new year been awarded accordingly to the candidates through their respective Circle chairmen:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passed in Class</th>
<th>Per.</th>
<th>Of full marks.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Komol Roy, Cooch Behar</td>
<td>2, ,, 70% ,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Ajen Chisim, Cooch Behar</td>
<td>2, ,, 68% ,,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jogendronath Banjuria, Malda</td>
<td>2, ,, 62% ,,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Noren Hadima, Cooch Behar</td>
<td>3, ,, 59% ,,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Stephan Jha, Santal Parganas</td>
<td>3, ,, 57% ,,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sonaram Kormokar, Assam</td>
<td>3, ,, 57% ,,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sodanondo Adhikary, Cooch Behar</td>
<td>3, ,, 55% ,,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Jogendronath Pramanik Malda</td>
<td>3, ,, 53% ,,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Suren Pramanik, Malda, was ill during part of the examination and so will finish the last subject later.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No outside assistance in teaching was available this year. Only the last week or so Babu Lokhon C. Konai assisted with lectures in a couple of subjects, otherwise, the whole course with the students was mostly a one man show. Mrs. S. Kampp as usual, took all the singing classes with the students and others interested and also had charge of the teaching of the wives of the students and other women of the mission assisted by the Bible women, Mrs. Snehobata Khan and Mrs. Duli Kormokar. The wives of the students have been given general certificates of their abilities and attainments after a final examination without assigning numbers.

As usual, the students were given daily opportunities for various sports and exercises. Weekly debating or "Udjob
Somiti meetings were held every Saturday evening. Preaching was practised regularly on the local market and in surrounding villages.

After the end of the course, the nine students have all been appointed in service as preachers in their respective places. May God bless and guide them all to develop into useful and faithful servants and workers in His Vineyard.

H. P. H. Kampp

EKLAKHI MISSION GIRLS' SCHOOL

The year 1953 brought some changes for the school. The authorities in Malda have for some time expressed a wish that our school should be upgraded to a Middle English school, and would also give a grant for that purpose. This question was brought up before the missionary conference, and it was resolved that the grant could be received if it meant no extra expense for the Mission. The grant given was Rs. 2500/- and for this sum we constructed a small building with classroom for class five and an office for the teachers. Within the sum we also managed to buy some furniture. The question of teachers for the new class solved itself as some of our teachers have senior training. In January, 1954, class five will start. After one or two years we hope to add one room to the New school building so we can get room for class six.

In the rainy season we had exceptional heavy rain this year and one wall of the old school house collapsed, and the two boarding houses were damaged quite a bit. It looked as if they also would collapse, so we let the girls sleep in the church for several weeks. Thus, we had a year which did a lot of damage to the houses. More than the usual number of children had heavy and long attacks of malaria.
In April the Minister for Tribal Welfare came to these parts, and he also visited our school. He was very interested in seeing this school as it is the only boarding school for tribal girls in Malda District.

Among the teachers there was a lesser change. No one came or left, but Sneholata Sorkar who has been Headmistress since Sara Murmu left, though it was not right for her to go on being Headmistress as she was not senior trained, even though she had many years of experience. So in a school committee meeting it was decided that Koruna Tudu who is senior trained should be her successor when the new school year starts.

Now we have come to the end of 1953, and another big change came for the school. Gerd Ognedal who was in charge of the school since August 1952 and under whose supervision the work had been run smoothly, became engaged to the District Magistrate in Malda, Mr. Vernon Bonarjee, and was married to him in December after taking leave from the school. It was a great loss for the school and for us to lose her so soon although she lives nearby and visits and helps us. We all hope that she will be happy and that she will carry on even though in a somewhat different way the mission work which began for her at Eklakhi School. Her husband, Mr. Bonarjee, is always willing to help and advise us.

The work here was given over to us who had already been living in Eklakhi for more than a year. And as there is no station built for us in Bapsarai yet, there need not be any more change here in Eklakhi for the time being.

We hope the school with its new class will run as well as before and that the Word of God may spread also from this place and that the children studying in the school may bring His Light into their homes in the villages around.

Tineke Clausen
NARAINPUR GIRLS’ M. E. SCHOOL.

In 1953 we had 94 students on the roll of which 18 were Santals, and 16 Hindu girls from Narainpur village joined the school as day-scholars.

Inger Krogh Nielsen was in charge of the school until I returned in June. Three students were sent to Rampurhat for the Upper Primary Scholarship examination and 6 students passed the Upper Primary examination here. Six students were sent for the Middle English scholarship examination in Rampurhat but the result is not yet known.

During the year eight students were confirmed.

The year of 1953 has been a year of disappointments and joys as previous years. The event of special joy was the “Old Students,” gathering from 30th of October until the 8th of November. The older students in school also took part. At the morning prayer meetings in the church we aimed towards getting a true picture of God and a true picture of self. After quiet time we gathered in the bungalow for the Bible Study led by Mr. Pandit from Pakur. The subject was “Our Witness for Christ.” After Bible Study we divided into three groups for discussion. The work in these groups were perhaps the most valuable. The time passed away too quickly and all were disappointed when the bell for meal rang at 12 p.m. All were eating together divided into table groups as in a summer camp at home.

The evening was reserved for public meetings for the non-Christians in the surrounding villages. Mr. Pandit led the meetings and showed his magic lantern series: “The Life of Christ,” “Pictures of the Heart,” “The Life of Daniel,” and “Pilgrim’s Progress.” The first evening about three hundred Hindus and Mohammedans joined and the following evenings there were also big crowds.
Several Bible tracts and books were distributed. At the close of the gathering the usual thanks were given but suddenly the program changed atmosphere. A student from Murshidabad asked for her friends' prayers. She confessed that she during this week had seen how far she was away from God and now she wanted to go back and confess her fault and try to walk in the Light she had seen. It was an honest witness and it worked. A long pause followed in which we all felt God was working. Then one after another confessed that they needed to be cleansed. A girl from an orthodox Hindu home who had joined our school one month earlier, had followed the meetings with great eagerness. She also gave her witness and said, "I feel I have learned much day by day the last month, but this last week I have learned most. I understand now that the gods I have believed in are not able to save me and change my life. The only one who can save me is Jesus Christ. I want to be a Christian and be baptized." As she is not yet 18 years her parents will decide, but she is a living witness of her new faith. It has also been a joy to be with the children in the boarding in the weeks following.

"Too many girls in our boarding are getting free boarding, but it has not been possible to avoid it. It has been the only way to save them from being forced into Hindu marriage or from starvation. It is a joy to see these girls finish their examination, get married and start Christian homes. We have not yet had any disappointments among these girls."

"May God make it possible also in the future to "Love Him and feed His Lambs.""

Ellen Laursen.
MEDICAL WORK IN
BENGAL

RAJADIGHI CHRISTIAN DISPENSARY.

"Indeed, whatever you say or do, let everything be done in dependence on the Lord Jesus, giving thanks in His name to God the Father." Col. 3: 17.

During the year 1953, the work was carried out under the same primitive conditions, under which it started in 1952 in one end of the missionary bungalow. In the beginning of the year, quarters for nurses and helpers were finished. During the first part of the year, the work in the dispensary was carried on with temporary helpers. After long waiting, the nurse we had been expecting, Mrs. Renu Sarcar, finally got her visa and came from the Church of England, Zenana Mission Hospital in Kushtia District in East Pakistan to join our staff here.

During the year 10,615 out-patients were treated here in Rajadighi, and in Nimasarai where a weekly out-door clinic has been held on Thursdays, the dispensary was visited by 2,002 patients, a total of 12,617 patients. Thirty-two patients were treated in our temporary kacha sick-room. Besides the ordinary dispensary work there has been all together 65 outside calls where patients have been visited and treated in their homes in the nearby villages.

Miss Gunvor Clausen has taken care of the women’s work among the Santals. Sunday School has been held on Sundays, and besides our own children usually a
number of the village children have come to listen to the teaching and singing, and the grammophone.

In June, Miss Salomi Murmu came from our own mission in Benagaria to work here as a Biblewomen, and later in the year Mrs. Chatterjee came from Cooch Behar to work as a part time Biblewomen among the Bengalis. They and Miss Clausen have been visiting a number of the nearby villages. During the last days of October a three days’ women’s conference was held at Eklakhi, and many Santal women came from all over the district and stayed together for three days of Bible teaching, prayer and fellowship.

During the last months of the year we started making bricks for the new dispensary building which we hope will be built during 1954.

We thank the friends in the homelands, without whose continual prayers and support we could not carry out the work.

Gunvor Clausen, Else Hoilund.
WORK IN ASSAM

BONGAIGAON

In the year 1953 the work in the villages has been carried on by our two pastors and their helpers, the village preachers. My share has mostly been office work, as I had to stay in the hospital for more than two months at the beginning of the year. Malsing Pastor's wife also stayed in the hospital most of the rainy season desperately ill. That tied the pastor at home too much and made it very difficult for him for a long time. Fortunately, we are now both recovering and can take our share of the burden.

Our yearly big gathering was held at Gandabil. The weather was fine this year and a big crowd gathered together. It was a blessed few days which brought great encouragement both to the local people and to the visitors.

The church collections have gone down from last year, mostly due to the fact that the price of paddy is much lower this year and so the yearly collection of paddy did not bring in the expected amount of money.

The statistics show that in 60 villages we have 381 Christian families. Total number of Christians are 2334. Number of Baptized children of Christian parents is 136. Number of baptisms from heathens is 42. There are 10 village schools with approximately 232 children.

At Bongaigaon itself we have had a small primary school. From 8 to 10 boys have lived in our high school hostel while attending the Birjhora High School.

The Christians from the Railway Colony tried to have their own Sunday services in one of their homes, but it
did not work. Now most of them have come back to our Boro services. They feel the need of a church very much and we have decided to start collecting money for that purpose. That we hope will unite us and they will feel more at home in their own church than in the school hall where we now are gathering.

In the end of May, Rev. and Mrs. Hofrenning left Bongaigaon to take up work in Kamrup District. But at the end of December we had the joy of welcoming Miss Ella Gjerman from Denmark to Bongaigaon and the Boro work. May God bless her as she studies the language and takes up work amongst the sick and suffering.

Sofie Nisset

GAURANG

The total number of Christians in the 22 congregations in Gaurang circle is now 2321.

The new congregation at Bharotnogor seems to be getting well established and 10 more people from the heathen community have been baptized there. This new church forms a further link in the chain of congregations in the forest area.

Apart from Bharotnogor no substantial group of new converts was baptized except in Jambuguri. This congregation is growing and now 11 people are being prepared for baptism. A similar number of the same category are found in Gaksa, Dumbajhar and Bosguri. The latter church has grown now to the same size as nearby Mothambil, partly by the accession of former Roman Catholic Christians.

The situation in the Patgaon area has become more stabilized and conditions are peaceful.
One new congregation has been established, Shilghagri having been divided from Samaguri as it is difficult for the Shilghagri people to cross the fields in the rainy season. The establishment of a separate church seems to have stimulated the people at Shilghagri and the school there too has been strengthened. A young man from Gothaibari has been appointed teacher-preacher.

The village school at Samaguri was re-started, increasing the number of village schools to eleven, outside the Mothambil Middle English School. The work at Mothambil school has been carried on well. The headmaster, though not himself a Christian has worked with great zeal for this school. Work has been started on a new permanent school-building with corrugated iron roof, and it is hoped that it will be completed before too long, though all the money needed may not yet have been collected.

The yearly big "Shobha" was held in the far north of Bongaigaon circle this year and only a few from this side took part. On the other hand the Women's Shobha was arranged in Mothambil (in the north-west of Gaurang Circle). The local people showed great enthusiasm in making the arrangements and provided rice, vegetables and firewood free of cost for all coming from outside. The attendance was very good, though mostly local people coming and going as Mothambil is in the centre of a big group of Christian villages. At the peak there were more than one thousand people present including men for whom there were held some separate meetings.

A small youth conference was arranged in Mothambil in the beginning of the rainy season by a joint committee of the churches there. The meeting was successful and it was decided to try again next year.

For the first time the annual Bible course was held in a village congregation, in Gothaibari. This big church was
able to give free all the rice needed. The attendance was not very big, and only two pastors were able to attend as teachers, but it was reported that the village setting made it possible to get down to basic difficulties and weaknesses in the work of the preachers and opportunity to give both guidance and healthy criticism.

Church collections were a bit higher than last years, school collections were less, according to the reports received. The circle conference decided to start an extra collection to cover what had been short in the income of 1952 and this had by the end of the year brought in Rs. 231/-

DARRANG.

Two trips were made to Darrang, the last one in connection with a short local Bible course. Quite a few Christians from Bengal side have moved up there and joined our church. Unfortunately, one trouble-maker has come with them and he is causing the leaders a lot of anxiety.

PHUNNI HATHORKHI.

There has been a slight increase in the number of subscribers to the paper. As formerly, it has appeared bi-monthly.

Anna and Haakon Halvorsrud.
The Santals came to Assam as emigrants. Many of those who settled down upon Bahre Hasa are still moving about. They especially like to go further on into the big forests of Goalpara and Kamrup to clear new land. This inclination for clearing and hunting also applies to the Christians. Dhorompur and Bharotnagor, two congregations of emigrants, have thus been established this year in the Ripu Reserve Forest in the north-western part of Goalpara.

The open doors, characteristic of the work in some places today, are due to those Christians who for some reason or other left their congregations to clear new land. Round about Sendrijhora, in the Salakati area, and also in Kamrup, the movements towards Christianity can be traced back to the heathens’ daily connections with the Christian emigrants. In some cases the cause happened to be apostates, who were not quite able to forget their Christian faith. Although, apparently, the heathens won in the first place, they are today eager to be instructed in the Christian faith for their baptism, and at the same time several of the apostates are asking to be taken back into the Christian fellowship. Thus, when the Salakati congregation was established in March, some apostates were first declared forgiveness of sins, and thereafter the first harvest among the heathens were baptized.

There are many Santals in Bahre Hasa who are still asking for instruction, saying they want to become Christians. But they are scattered and it is, therefore, difficult to give them sufficient care and help. The pastors cannot overcome this task in addition to their usual congregational work. The four pastors can hardly manage more than look after the 28 congregations with 2352 Christians, who are living in 71 villages spread out in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup and Darrang. From
January, 1953, there are for economical reasons no full paid elders besides the pastors to take care of the instruc-
tion for baptism. The only solution is that the 28 congre-
gation leaders do the job. Some of the elders (who have
a nominal pay of Rs. 6/- per month) are seeing the task
and are working voluntarily. One of them says: "For
many years I preached in the villages without getting
any pay. I have now for some years received pay for
this work, but even if the pay now stops the work has
to go on, and who shall preach if I do not go?" It
grows where such elders live and preach. It has, however,
not been successful to use volunteers only in teaching
the many heathens who are asking for help, but still
42 of them have been instructed and baptized this year.
There are still many more to receive instruction, and
from January, 1954, there have been established three
temporary posts for full-time evangelists, whose main work
will be to take care of these seeking heathens.

With the letter to the Ephesians as text there have
this year been started Bible-readings in the villages.
Two or more congregations gather together for some
days, and both men and women, grown ups and children
take part. The text is conversed about verse by verse.
Many show great interest for getting a better under-
standing of the Word of God.

The pastors, elders and teachers were gathered three
days for workers meetings in Joema in June and De-
cember. Besides talking about the work, Bible lessons
were held from 1 Timothy. Some of the Bible-women
also took part in the December meeting.

Apart from these shorter gatherings there have also
been two longer Bible courses here in Joema. The first
was in April, and open to all Santals. The course in
September on the other hand was for pastors and full-
time elders only, and both Boros and Santals from the
Assam field took part. The curriculum for these courses was as usual for Bible schools, the stress mainly being laid on Bible reading with detailed exegesis. The experience from these courses made the Committee for Bible courses in Assam to plan 3 courses for the coming year; for congregational leaders in March, for village teachers in April, and for pastors and elders in September.

The new joint translation of New Testament to Santali has required some work in the course of the year. When preparing for the committee-meetings several of the Santals here at Joema have rendered good aid, especially the compounder Joseph Kisku. So far the Gospels of Mark and John are ready as well as the letter to the Ephesians.

In 1953 six meetings have been held in the Joema and Kamrup-Darrang circles, and it is evident that the responsibility is growing according to the tasks. This is also shown in the church offerings, which have increased in both circles in 1953. Half of the budget for the church and evangelistic work is now met by the local offerings.

The need for village schools is growing in proportion to the longing for more learning. But the instruction in the 12 village schools is far behind due to the lack of qualified teachers. For the improvement of the teaching in the village schools, one of the teachers from the Joema School, Nonga Soren, has been asked to visit the villages occasionally as an unpaid school-inspector.

The number of pupils of the Joema Boarding School has decreased this year. This is mainly due to the many primary schools which have been started in this area lately, many of them by the Government. Many of the former Joema pupils are now able to live at home and attend school in their own villages. Remarkable for these schools is that they often ask for Christian teachers.
The Santals round here are still and more urgently asking for a secondary school in Joema, which can lead up to Middle English Examination.

Regarding placements, it must be mentioned that the pastor in Joema, Chotto Murmu, in May was transferred to Grahampur, and in his place Arjun Murmu has come from Kamrup. Budhan Hembrom has been asked to look after the work in Kamrup. He was earlier in Grahampur.

The dispensary in Joema has had a usual working year, the number of patients being 2413.

We want to extend our hearty thanks to each one of you who give and pray for the work! His Kingdom come!

Elisabeth and Ole Dordal.

M OR N A I.

Again a year has gone by and we look back upon it with gratitude because also during the year 1953 we have experienced that God has helped us through all difficulties and it has all along been possible to preach the Gospel and make Christ known also in this institution and the area around about it.

Looking at the practical side of the tea garden, 1953 was a year of great rejoicing. In 1952 tea prices came down so low that tea production was uneconomical and most tea gardens made big losses; some had to close all together. Mornai, though feeling the crisis severely, was more favourably situated than many other tea gardens, but even then a loss was inevitable. The pleasant surprise was that prices recovered quicker than anyone had expected and for the 1953 crop fair prices have been
obtained. In addition to this our tung-oil plantation yielded the heaviest crop of tung nuts ever experienced. At present therefore, the tea garden is fully recovered from the crisis, though not yet in a position to contribute much to the Mission funds. There is certainly reason to be grateful that we have come so well through the crisis, and we want to share this joy with our friends in the home countries many of whom we know have been most concerned when hearing about the difficulties we were facing in 1952.

With regard to the congregational work there has been every opportunity to preach the Gospel to all the different races of people, both to those living inside the tea garden area and those who are outside.

In the Santal congregation, Pastor Jatu Murmu, who had been here about ten years, moved in April out to the Colony and took charge of the Bilanpur Church. Pastor Lokhon Hembrom, an old servant of our Church, came from Bilanpur and took up his duties here. Church attendance has been good and Pastor Lokhon Hembrom seems to have a special gift for interesting the young people of the congregation. He himself is fond of song and music, and he helps to make improvements in this line.

The Munda congregation is being looked after by Nehimias Topno as last year. Also in this congregation some have been baptized in the course of the year, but there are still many non-Christian Mundas here who need to hear the Gospel and be drawn into the church. Nine persons from the non-Christians were baptized in this congregation, while in the Santal congregation 8 were baptized.

With regard to our Bengali Church, Pastor Jacob Biswas has as usual been doing faithful work. Also here a few have been baptized. As this congregation consists
of people of many different races it is sometimes difficult to keep them together. The old ideas of high and low cast sometimes creep in and harm the Christian fellowship. The language, Bengali, unites them, but we hope they may also more fully realize that the unity in Christ can do away with all caste differences and other barriers that divide people.

Pastor Jacob Biswas is looking after the work among other races here and in the Colony. Occassionally he also takes a trip to more distant places. He is very faithful and very eager to make Christ known where he goes.

Nahor Munshi is travelling much talking with and preaching to Moslems. He himself having not long ago been converted from Mohammedanism has very good chances for attracting the attention of Moslems, and he usually does so. Moslems here have still a friendly attitude towards the Christians and they gather often to hear the Gospel. Nahor Munshi has been trained for some time in Nimasarai School for Preachers and this has helped him much, though some more training would no doubt be very useful for him if it could be arranged for. It has been a sad blow to this work that the family of Boas, who were baptized a few years ago, have gone back to Mohammedanism. It was a great disappointment.

The women's weekly meetings have been held as usual in 8 different places, and the Bible women have been doing very good and faithful work.

Our school with about 200 pupils is a source of great inspiration. As there has practically now been compulsory primary education here since 1933 quite a number of our Christians are literate. The school brings much blessing to the church. The same must be said about our Sunday School with an aggregate number of well over two hundred children.
The dispensary and our little hospital here have had an unusual busy time during 1953. There was much sickness among people but many received help from the medical treatment given by Dr Bose and his staff. There were 8,098 patients with 22,293 consultations. One hundred and seventy-four were admitted and treated in our little hospital here, while some serious cases were sent to Sevapur Hospital. Some years ago Mornai was looked upon as one of the most unhealthy places, perhaps justly; but this has altered considerably, no doubt due to malaria control measures, better sanitation and better medical attention. People have also become more willing to take our medicine and medical treatment. It is, of course, a great benefit for the garden that we have the Sevapur Hospital so close by and are able to send serious cases over there.

Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Petersen were asked by the Mission authorities to go to Santipara to help there during Rev. and Mrs. Fossland's absence on leave in Norway. They, therefore, had to leave Mornai in August for a temporary stay at Santipara.

In conclusion we thank our friends in the homelands for the interest they have taken in our work during the past year. We believe there are many who have also remembered the work here in their prayers.

Ingeborg and Oluf Eie.
THE SANTAL COLONY.

Besides the school work here in Grahampur it has also been one of our duties to look after the Santal Colony in consultation with Rev. & Mrs. O. Eie. But we regret to admit that it is very little we have been able to do outside Grahampur itself.

In practice Rev. & Mrs. Eie of Mornai T. E. have been shouldering the heavy part of the burden. Rev. O. Eie has always been ready to help to settle disputes among the people who all look up to him for advice and guidance. We are very thankful for co-operation and assistance.

The Birth and Death Registration and the Chowkidary Pay Parades have continued as usual from Grahampur.

The Panchayet has had its meetings at Grahampur and in the villages concerned. This work has been running smoothly. Both the Collecting Member, Bhikulal Hembrom, and the new kerani, who has taken over after Cyril Hasdak' have been doing valuable work in the Colony. This work is more and more being carried on by the Santals themselves who thereby are encouraged to selfconfidence and indigenous leadership.

The Government has done a great deal to improve the roads and stimulate an all round development of this area.

The Christians need guidance and strength from on high in order to find their place in the new India as good citizens and true followers of Jesus Christ.

The congregational work has been organized in the Santal Colony Circle Conference with Shri Daniel Soren as Chairman and Rev. O. Eie as treasurer. The monthly workers, meetings have been held at Mornai and the spirit of responsibility stimulated. Even if church-collections have somewhat decreased due to the lower rice prices, a more
general understanding of the importance of selfsupport has been noticed.

There are now ten village schools in the Colony. But it is sad to see how the enthusiasm shown when a new school be started, soon fade away. Managing Committees in accordance with Government rules have been started in some schools, but it will take time before the rules will be generally understood and followed in the villages. Here is a great field for hard and patient labour, but success in the end would mean a lot to the Church in future. It is now about 73 years since the Colony was founded, but much work remains to be done.

The great possibilities due to the concentration of so many Christians in a small area, call for continued great efforts in the spirit of Christ. A strong Church in this area would be a mighty witness to the people living round about.

Thanking you for prayers and help in the past, may we end this short report with an appeal for even stronger efforts in future!

Yours in His Service,

Solveig & Sigfred Johansen

**P A R K I J U L I**

*We* moved to Parkijuli in May, 1953, with fear and trembling, but we are reminded of God's word that says, "My grace is sufficient for thee." We have discovered that His grace is able and sufficient, and it is our hope and prayer that we may only by God's grace continue in his service.
We have received two new workers, whom we believe God has sent to us. Miss Rupashiri Borgowary who has previously been teaching at Haraputa is now with us at Parkijuli. Since her arrival the attendance at the school has increased from 35 to 50 students. Mr. Immanuel Barlo also began working with us on December 1, 1953. He will begin teaching at the Parkijuli School this coming term. In the meantime, he has been out in the Hindi speaking villages doing evangelistic work. Furthermore, he has gathered the Christians and other interested at the Menoka tea garden and has regular Sunday services. When he begins the new term, part of each week will be devoted to working in the villages besides his regular job of teaching.

Furthermore, Parkijuli Mission has received one thousand dollars for a new church building. We believe this is a gift from God, and we pray it might be a testimony to His grace and glory. This gift came from the congregation at Elk Horn, Iowa, U. S. A., and we are very thankful for the love and prayers behind it. A permit has been received for twenty five trees, which are being cut in the forest, and the necessary timber is being sawed for the church.

West Parkijuli

A new congregation was formed last October, and the first service was held on October 1, 1953. We believe a miracle of God’s grace has taken place out there. They seem to be eager to learn the truth, and hunger for more of his knowledge. We pray that there might be a deep work of grace, and that they might truly repent of sin. Pray with us that we might be faithful in fulfilling the command of Jesus when he said, “Feed my lambs” “Feed my sheep.” At present there are thirteen families who are now members of the church.

We have a new Hindi speaking congregation consisting of five families, called Dikia Bostí, located at the tea garden.
All the Garos at the Garo congregation, Nagrijuli, moved back to the Garo hills. In its place God has given us two new congregations, that is, West Parkijuli and Dikia Bosti. In addition to this God has led us to rent a house at the Darranga Hat Mela, where three or four of our workers are staying day and night preaching and living the Gospel among the Bhutanese. We have daily meetings for the Bhutanese at the mela. There seems to be a receptiveness, and many of them are anxious to hear the Gospel of salvation. The accordion is a tremendous help in gathering the Bhutanese to hear the Gospel. Mr. Dann, who has been living at Dewangiri for the last six years, is now able to translate into the Gongar dialect (predominant language on this side of Bhutan). A Tibetan, Pastor Nathaniel from Ghum is with us for two weeks to help present the Gospel at the mela. At the Darranga Hat Mela we find a tremendous challenge for the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through the medium of these open air meetings we find a big sale of Tibetan gospels, and many tracts are distributed. Pastor Maguram said that in previous years they were not too willing to accept freely the literature available, but now they are very open. Then the daily use of the phonograph at our house which we are renting at the mela, with the use of Tibetan and Hindi records, is an added opportunity of bringing the Gospel to many lost and dying souls. But we who have experienced His grace know that this same grace which came to us at Calvary's Cross, is a living fountain for the Bhutanese. Now is the time of opportunity for bringing the Gospel to the Bhutanese since at the end of February and the first part of March, they go back to the hills of Bhutan. Foreign missionaries are still not permitted to enter the country of Bhutan. Mr. Jongoen, the Bhutanese minister from Changkar, Bhutan, has been to the bungalow several times, and has had rice and curry with us. I have drunk Tibetan tea with
him, and while Rev. and Mrs. Fie were here, he invited us to delicious rice and curry. He is directing the mela, and thousands of Bhutanese are now at the mela.

There has been a setback in the congregational work at Sesepani. One of the members has diverted the water canal so that one hundred families were unable to plant rice at Parkijuli. The case is still unsettled, and we are continuing to pray that God’s will be done. As a result to this type of work, I believe the heathen will be very difficult to reach. However, we are receiving many blessings at the Darranga Hat Mela, in fulfilling the command of Christ when He said, “Go and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.” God gives a wonderful peace in preaching, even through an interpreter, to a people from a closed land. At a place like the Mela, we are able to preach to very large groups of Bhutanese, and also Tibetans. During January and February we believe the most important work is at the Darranga Hat Mela.

Pastor Maguram has told me that there are Nepalese who want to hear the Gospel. Since there are hundreds of Nepalese who have settled in the community, we believe in God’s own time there will be a harvest of souls among them. There will be much rejoicing, when the first Nepali congregation has become a reality. The harvest is truly great, but the laborers are few. We are praying that God will send us consecrated Nepali workers who can gather the Nepali, and win them for Christ. “Pray ye that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers into His harvest.”

We are also thankful to God for the gifts He has supplied to carry on the work more effectively, that is the jeep and also the large beautiful accordion. We pray that these love gifts might be used to extend His Kingdom.

The Parkijuli Dispensary through our compounding is making contact with many people. Rev. Westborg
and Mrs. Hofrenning have also treated quite a number, in all, 1794 patients were treated during the year. Now during the mela season he is able to treat a number of Bhutanese. The Boros are doing a fine work keeping up the school.

We are also very thankful for the fine work that Rev. and Mrs. David Westborg accomplished before their departure to Norway for furlough. Through their work this station was built, and pray with us that we who are sinful and unworthy, and have known His abundant grace, might be a small instrument in the hands of God to bring the Gospel to a lost and dying world. We need your prayers, and may there be many prayer-missionaries, whom God is using in a mighty way to His glory and honor, to the salvation of souls, and the edifying of His own.

"Brethren pray for us." I Thess. 5: 25.

Joyce and Ralph Hofrenning.
EDUCATIONAL WORK IN ASSAM.

GAORANG GIRLS’ SCHOOL.

During 1953 a steady quality in the school has been due to the continuity of service among members of the teaching staff. If Gaorang school is to be recognized by the Government as a high school, teachers with high qualifications will be required; therefore, after summer vacation we gladly welcomed a young lady and a young man who had appeared for the Int. Arts examination. Also our Hindi teacher was allowed a leave of absence for further study. Thus at the end of the year our staff had four lady teachers with M.E. and Jr. Teacher Training, while all the others were more highly educated. Improvement in the general level of staff-education makes us happy.

The health of school girls and compound people has been unusually good, with very little fever. For some time Miss Binderup worked without the aid of a compounder, but finally got a man, and they opened the dispensary to provide a service for people who have asked for it. Thanks are due to the compounder and the school nurse for prompt treatment, especially in malaria cases, so that there are very few school absences for sickness.

After a severe storm in March, many necessary repairs were made, and the dangerous jungle was conque-red. In July twenty new trees were given to the school by Forest Officers, Haltugaon. These are now growing well and should enhance the entrance of the school. The compound workers have done their helpful best to make the physical environment pleasant.
Early in the year the Inspectress of schools, paid a visit which included an encouraging speech to the children. She praised the building as: "The best girls’ school building in Assam, outside of large towns." We have also enjoyed visits at various times from the D. I. and additional D. I., Dhubri, and the Sub-Inspector, Kokrajhar. After meeting government officials in Shillong, the Governor of Assam granted Rs. One thousand to Gaorang School. Tribal scholarships have been given to several girls, and the usual grant in-aid has benefitted the school.

In Class VI seven girls appeared for the examination and three girls passed. In Class III twenty one children appeared with nineteen successful passes. Several of our girls have gone on to be trained as teachers and nurses and thanks are given to the Government and those who support the mission, for scholarships and stipends.

Allowing for a time to develop the leadership of the girls, as well as a time for enriched Christian fellowship, we have happily seen resumption of the mid week prayer service in the church. Bible classes and Hymn singing daily in the school are often attended by non-Christians too. The women in Thajoubari compound have met with Miss Binderup for spiritual fellowship on Fridays. There has also been harmony among Santal and Boro families on the compound. Therefore, altho spiritual growth is hard to measure, we feel the presence of the Holy spirit in our midst.

At Easter a joint meeting was held for all English speaking young people in our mission, Boros, Bengalis, Assamese, Santals. About twenty young people were present, at this first meeting, where they had fine days to-gether and planned to meet next year in Haraputa.

In June Gaorang School entertained a meeting of village school teachers. Under the direction of Miss
Nesset the staff participated as speakers, with demonstrations of class room technique for these village teachers that have not had teachers training. Methods to be used in Sunday School and Bible study classes also appeared on the program.

Just before Christmas a day of games was held, whereat prizes were distributed, while due to the planning of Mr. Doimari, our teachers and students presented a worthwhile program in the evening, to which many non-Christians came.

To the Government, the supporters of the mission in the three homelands, and all the people here in Gaorang, and to all who have contributed to this last year, a hearty thanks is given. Above all, we thank God for his blessings during these eighteen years of the school's existence, and ask for the continued support of those interested in future generations of school children here. May God bless us all as the school moves ahead.

Muriel S. Nielsen.

GRAHAMPUR HIGH SCHOOL.

Since the liberation of India great efforts have been made to remould the educational system along national Indian lines.

In November an All India Basic Education Conference was held at Titabar in Upper Assam. Six Education Ministers, eleven Directors of Public Instruction and many prominent educationists from all parts of the country were gathered there for several days of studies and discussions. During
the conference it was reported that as experiments had been carried out and good results obtained in many parts of India, the Central Government and most of the state Governments had decided to make Basic Education the pattern of education in the New India.

The Assam Government has already decided to start by opening Basic Training Schools and converting all Primary Schools into Basic Schools.

The system of Basic Education was introduced by Mahatma Gandhi after many years of trial. It is called his last bequest to the Nation. Great efforts are now being made to make the movement so broadbased and universal that this new system of education will command respect and be acceptable to all communities in India.

It has been said that Basic Education has made a vocational craft "the Medium of Instruction." That is: Education is being imparted through a craft, the children are learning by doing and getting useful knowledge while producing. When the products are sold, the money are used to maintain the schools. Both the teachers and students are thus helping in the great task of educating the masses of India. In these new schools competition is avoided and a spirit of co-operation encouraged. The Minister of Education, Assam, recently said that Basic Education is not only a new method of education, but a new way of life. It aims at educating the youth to become hard-working, producing and co-operating citizens of India as a member of one world-family of free nations.

Many keen Christians in India feel that they also have a great contribution to make to the further development of this new system of education, and they like to see it develop along lines that will be acceptable to Christians who regard absolute loyalty to Christ their first duty.

In accordance with these new developments in the country plans for introduction of agriculture, beekeeping, preserva-
tion of food, spinning and weaving as vocational crafts in Grahampur High School have been made. A good knowledge of these crafts will be of great and lasting advantage to the Santals, Boros and other people of this locality.

Informations have also been received that the Gauhati University has decided to recognize vocational crafts as worthy subjects in stead of other subjects for the Matriculation Examination. Thus Santals may take Assamese, English, Santali, Geography and two vocational crafts only for the Matriculation Examination from 1957. This will make Secondary Education more useful for the Santals, and it will be easier for them to pass the examinations.

This year the examination results have been rather disappointing. One of the reasons may be the change of the Major Vernacular from Bengali to Assamese. But this transition has now been completed and an efficient staff of Assamese knowing teachers gradually built up. The schoolwork has also suffered because the classes have had to be held in three different houses, but also this difficulty has now been removed. The new High School Building has been completed and ready for use from the beginning of the new session. Some old school rooms have been made available for the Boarding which has needed extention very badly.

We are very thankful to all our friends in the homelands who have made these great improvements possible by their generous gifts. Personally I feel it a great relief to have the classes, the office and the hall in the same building. The schoolwork as a whole is running much more regularly than before.

The total number of students in the High School (from class IV to class X) is now about 150.

The lower classes (from class A to class III) have been separated in the Santal Colony Model L. P. School.
Both the High School and the L. P. School have obtained Government recognition and grant-in-aid. Further help from the Government may be expected when the work of the schools be consolidated.

The people of the locality have continued to support the work through their church councils and the annual Mela at Grahampur. We also hope that agriculture may become a source of income in future. Personally I would say: Let us aim at complete self-support within ten years.

Moral and religious instruction has been continued as usual. Prayers and Bible-classes have been attended by most of the boys. They are generally open for the gospel.

The Elementary Training Class has been continued, but the attendance has been rather poor. Three passed the examination held by the school. We feel that greater emphasis should be laid on this work in future for the benefit of our village schools in Assam. Good Christian teachers are required if we want to see the village congregations firmly established in the faith and eagerly engaged in evangelism.

May God guide and strengthen all his workers from day to day. With hearty thanks for faithful prayers and financial support also this year.

Yours in His Service,

Solveig & Sigfred Johansen.
HARAPUTA MIDDLE ENGLISH SCHOOL

It is natural when one reviews a year's work to look at the development and the results, and the try to understand the reasons for the same. When one is tempted to be discouraged, it sometimes helps to look at the reasons for the otherwise disheartening results.

When we review the work in Haraputa School this year, we certainly will find results that may discourage; but there are also things that can give confidence and hope. The work, as a whole, is undergoing many changes; but it is our strong conviction that the Lord Himself is near from day to day, also in the changing and the uncertain days.

The school, as a whole, has gone on as before. The fellowship in the work among the workers in school and on the station has been excellent. In the school we are trying to follow the educational lines adopted by the authorities as much as possible. Thus, we have tried to let the children take part as much as possible in the practical work, so as to give them experience in the daily necessities in an Indian home. The chief part of the work in the boarding is done by the children under the supervision of the housemother. They husk the rice, collect wood, do the cooking (except for the noon meal), help cleaning the houses, etc. After the rainy season they have repaired the houses, both the school and the boardings. They have also made all the brooms needed for sweeping all through the year. This, of course, helps in keeping expenses down and cuts the boarding fees quite a lot. This is so near in conformity with up-to-date Indian ideas about education, that we almost could call the school a basic school.

The new curriculum for Assam was enforced with certain modifications. The results of M. E. examination were better this year, as 1/3 of the girls passed. One girl received Government scholarship to study in high-school and
we were very glad to learn that. All the pupils sent to
Lower Primary examination passed. The needle work dip-
loma examination was very successful. Out of 7 girls 6
received honors in the Middle English section, and all three
of those sent in the Lower Primary section.

We had visits twice by school inspectors, and both times
we received encouraging reports.

The number on the roll decreased. This, of course, caused
concern. It should go the opposite way, but there were reasons
for it. The paddy harvest was poor so that some of the
girls were obliged to leave for that reason. And we have
in later years seen many new schools come into being in
the villages. The children have opportunity to attend school
in their locality, and consequently the number of small girls
going to the far away boarding schools is decreasing. This is a
development to encourage and to rejoice over, even if it
makes it a little harder to carry on in the boarding schools.
The number has also a tendency to dwindle as the year's
months pass by. The reasons are many. The rainy season
accounts for some and village mentality for some. Thus,
the number as a rule is lowest in December. Average for
1953 was 147. The boarding had a total number of 91
children, average 70.

Among the teachers we also have had some changes.
Mrs. Débila Singha left in February, and in her place we
got Miss Kusum Murmu, one of our former teachers and
pupils. Mrs. Thakran Marandi died suddenly in the end
of October, and we are missing her faithful service greatly.
In her place Mrs. Maidu Soren has worked temporarily.

The teachers had a pleasant trip to Dhubri in May.
There among other things, they visited the match factory,
and they were very enthusiastic about it. In the school
we had several days with special arrangements. January
26th we celebrated the Republic Day with a picnic to the
Sankosh River. One of the teachers gave a little speech for India, and the children sang their national songs. The price and sports day was held as usual, on April the 2nd. Then we had a program and races, and prizes to the best pupils in each class were awarded. In March we took part in the big church convention in Mornai. In June one of our orphan girls was married, and despite torrents of rain we all had a grand day.

The Sunday School carried on as before under the leadership of the teacher, Hanna Marandi. They celebrated the world Sunday School Day. The big girls' Saturday meeting were revived, after they had selected a committee to plan the meeting. The teacher, Miss Rupasree Borgwary, helped them. The teacher's mission meetings were held as before though not as often as in the previous year. The teachers gave a loan for Rs. 100 to one of our girls reading in Teachers' Training School. 5 girls were confirmed.

The health of the children was good throughout the year. The nurse in charge in the beginning of the year, Miss Asbjorg Fiske, went home on scheduled furlough in March; and Miss Elisabeth Krohn returned after her leave in Denmark.

This year also we received a government grant, in all, Rupees 1269/8.

In conclusion, I want to thank all those in the homelands who have helped us to keep the work going. Above all thanks to Him who has given all that was needed and blessed us from day to day.

Borgny Austad.
MEDICAL WORK IN
ASSAM

SANTIPARA LEPROSY COLONY.

I wonder if not the year 1953 will be remembered with
greatfulness by many of the patients in Santipara? In
the rainy season just a few days before Rev. G. Foss-
lands left for furlough on the 1st of September, he was
able to dedicate the new hospital building, which pro-
vides place for 18 patients; but lately we have had to put
an extra bed in. The treatment of the patients needing
admission into the hospital is hereby much easier for
everybody concerned and we have gotten more beds in
the hospital. And hereby have most of the building plans
come into realisation, so that now there is the church
in the centre of the colony, hospital for leprosy cases,
hospital for general cases and dispensary.

Miss E. Krohn who was here part of the rainy season
helped, among other things, also in making the new hos-
pital ready. Miss Krohn stayed on until Miss H. Gjerde
arrived from her furlough. Though Miss Gjerde stayed
in Assam only for a short period of time, her work is
very much appreciated by everybody in the colony. The
conference placed Sister Lucile here, and we do hope
that she not so soon will leave Santipara.

The number of patients has steadily increased, so
that at the end of the year there are 189 leprosy patients,
among whom 63 are Christians. During the year 6 have
been discharged as cured. All together 271 have been
-treated besides about 200 in the three out-clinics.
In the general hospital there were all together 131 admitted and 2508 for treatment in the clinic. Only about 400 of these were Christians, about 680 Mohammedans and the rest Hindus and others.

Dr E. Goldsmith is rendering good and valuable work as also he and the compounders are helping in the evangelistic work.

As before, regular Sunday services are held in Santali, Boroni, Bengali and now and then in Hindustani. There are also morning prayers in the villages and in the hospital. After request from some non-Christians, evening prayers in Bengali are held weekly and some of the women gather weekly in the church for prayer and Bible Studies.

Again the farming has proved itself to be a great advantage for the leprosy colony, both economical and therapeutic. The harvest was a medium one but with a record crop of the rainy season paddy. The farming is run entirely by help of the patients apart from the tractor driver.

The patients are according to ability and health engaged in various work the year around, like house repairs, building work, hospital and field work, laundry, cleaning, shoe-making, making of ropes, live stock, etc. A young Christian medical student who is a leper is engaged in laboratory work.

Since the departure of the Fosslands, the old Nimbai pastor is the only ordained person in Santipara district, with 11 congregations in 32 villages. During the year many have been baptized, especially in the western part of the district, where one day 46 were baptized. In 1953 all together 27 children of Christian parents and 75 heathens were baptized.
One more year Santipara has received the benefit of pecuniary grants from the Government of Assam and the Mission to Lepers. Without these grants the work would not have been possible to this extent, and we also send warm thanks to these two sources.

But our thanks go further to known and unknown freinds in the home countries for both economical help and faithful prayer for the co-workers and the patients in Santipara Leprosy Colony and in Santipara district. "Santi-para", the place of peace, in order that some might receive the peace from God.

Solveig & Kurt Petersen.

SEVAPUR HOSPITAL

At the beginning of 1953 we looked ahead with great confidence as we in concordance with the resolution of the Annual Conference of 1952 expected Dr. Andersen and family to arrive in Sevapur. In the middle of February the doctor family arrived. In a few days, however, they moved to Darjeeling for language study. In March, Rev. Hodne and family went to Norway on furlough after having spent 6 months here in language study. All that doubled up to make life lonely for the one who stayed behind.

In many ways the first half of 1953 proved to be a time of trials. Especially so during the months of May and June we had quite a few serious cases and several deaths. At times the responsibility seemed to be rather too much for me. To feel and to see how God backed up, gave new help and new strength for every new day, was a wonderful experience. Our compounders and the two nurses did a good job, and they proved a valuable help
during this period. But I am sorry to report that we had trouble with some other workers, and as a result of that three families had to leave the hospital. During my hill-vacation, Sagram Kisku, the head compounder, was in charge of the dispensary while the hospital proper remained closed. At that time he had the great sorrow to see his three year old daughter, a most charming girl, die very suddenly.

Throughout the year the number of patients seeking help in the hospital had been satisfactory day by day, but when Dr. Andersen by the end of October came down from Darjeeling, many people had been waiting for him and the daily number of people in the clinic soared up.

It was an enormous relief to place the responsibility of all the sick people in the hands of a skilled doctor.

During those months when the roads were passable we continued our weekly visits to villages. These visits seem to be rather popular and may be we will be able to do more in this line when the doctor gets properly started in his work.

During the year 1953 nearly 7000 people came to the outdoor clinic, and 257 people came to the village clinic. Out of that number 36.2% were Christians, 31.07% were Muslims, and 32.73% were Hindus and aboriginal heathen. 311 patients were admitted into the wards, 20 people died in the hospital, and 36 women were admitted for delivery.

Bijoy Marandi, the hospital clerk, has worked as an elder of the hospital. Faithfully every evening he takes his round to talk with the patients and to have prayers with them. Besides that both the hospital staff and the workers have morning prayer together on the hospital verandah every morning before the work starts. Every Sunday service is held in the church. Once a month a pastor from Grahampur comes to celebrate the Lord’s Supper with us. The other Sundays as a rule a layman,
either one of our own men or one of the teachers from Grahampur takes the service. In the year of 1953 five infants have been baptized in the church and two in the hospital. We have had one confirmation class. The Women's meeting have been held every Friday. The Bible woman of the hospital, Mariam Soren has been the leader of these meetings.

When we look back on the past year, we are filled with thanks to God who has carried us through so well, and who has fulfilled our prayers to send a doctor to Sevapur. And when we look ahead, we are full of confidence and expectation of new blessing and development and progress of the work.

Also we send a thanks to all the friends of the Mission in our home countries for faithful prayer and steadfast work.

Ella Malterud.

When this report has been printed we have, according to the resolution of the Conference, taken over the responsibility of the medical work in Sevapur Hospital. We, therefore, feel that we ought to add a few words now.

First of all thanks from the very heart for the welcome we received in Sevapur from Miss Malterud who has carried the heavy responsibility in such a fine way, from the staff of the hospital who really are a fine group, and from our fellow missionaries who will have to show patience with the new and inexperienced co-workers in the church. The way we were received here was a promise of good help and co-operation in the future, a promise which has been more than fulfilled. Permit us to mention one man, Rev. O. Eie, and here give him our hearty thanks for his spiritual and material help to Sevapur Hospital and for his promise to continue that help.

15
And then a thanks to all the friends without whose prayers and help we could do nothing here. We have the confidence that as long as God Almighty wants us to stay here and perform the duty He has called us to do here, so long also will you continue to make this possible.

Therefore, in spite of all anxiousness and misgiving for an unknown future, we have confidence in God and we are happy in the work.

Karen and Johs. G. Andersen

HARAPUTA DISPENSARY.

1953 has been a quiet and steady year for the work both at the dispensary and in the congregation. In March Miss Fiske went home on furlough and I came out and took over the work here again.

At the dispensary we have had a steady increasing number of patients, only once before in the history of the dispensary have we treated more patients than this year. That was in the famine year of 1942. This year we have treated 13,188 patients. We do not know the reason for the increase as there have been no epidemics. They just come with their various complaints, and we try to help them as well as we can. It has been interesting to see from which community these patients come. Forty-two and four-tenths per cent were Mohammedans, 28.5% were Hindus, 18.4% were Christians and the rest 10.7% were non-Christian Santals or Boros. Many of the non-christians come from the big Mohammedan community north of us, but lately we have had a number of patients coming from the western side of Sankos river. Many even come by railway to Srirampur station and then to us here.
Sometimes we are called out to the villages to attend the patients there, this mostly when the patient is unable to come in for examination and treatment. During the year we went on 60 such village calls, besides having 15 deliveries, which mostly are in their own homes. Besides these we have had a number of patients admitted when it has been impossible to treat them in the out-door. We have two wards where 4 patients can be accommodated; unfortunately the one ward was for a time taken over by the local post office, but this was remedied by building a small room on to the hospital-building, so now the post-office has gotten their own quarter. And we our wards, which at times are full to overflowing.

The dispensary has been self-supporting for the last couple of years, the patients are able to pay for their medicine and so much over that it covers the salaries for our two compounders.

We still have our two faithful compounders, Jotin Das and Sitol Soren. They have done and are doing a good work. Jotin lost his wife in October. She was a teacher in our school here and was always willing to help with the work in the congregation and a very good speaker at women’s meetings, so it is a big loss both for him and his family and for us.

The health of the school children has been good and we have had no epidemics and no serious illnesses.

The women’s work has gone on as before, In some villages it has been difficult to gather the women for the weekly Friday meetings, and in other places they gather faithfully week after week. The Biblewomen come here for a monthly Bible class when we also discuss the work in the villages.

Also the confirmation classes have gone on as before. In May about 50 young boys and girls were confirmed. Our Pastor, Kanhu Tudu, is in charge of the congregation with the
help of Sundar Marandi, the elder. They have as usual been busy in the village taking care of the many christians in the big congregation. Our annual contribution to the Church has been on the decrease this year which is not so good, but the pastor is trying his best to encourage his people to give more, so they one day will get to be a self-supporting church.

When we think of the work here whether in the dispensary or in the congregation we realize that we are only instruments in the hands of Our Lord. He is the Healer and the Giver of Life. He it is who is doing the work and we thank Him and pray that the work always may be done to the glory of His Name

Elisabeth Krohn
# Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1953

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### SANTAL PARGANAS

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Auditors' Certificate.

Dear Sirs,

We report that we have checked the books of the Mission for the year ended 31st December, 1953, as follows:

The entries appearing in the General Cash Book have been examined with the subsidiary Books and vouchers produced to us.

We have verified the receipts from the American, Danish and Norwegian Mission Boards during the year under audit and have found the entries appearing in the General Cash Book to be in order. The Bank Pass Books have been checked by us and agree with the Cash Book and we have had produced to us the certificate from the Calcutta Branch of Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China in verification of balance with the Bank at 31st December, 1953.

COLONY LOAN FUND BOOK.

All postings of the Loan Book have been checked and total balances of the loan deposits outstanding have been agreed therewith.

INVESTMENTS.

The Investment of the Indian Workers' Pension Fund, as detailed in the Fund Book, and of the various other Funds as described in the separate Fund Books were verified by reference to certificates from Bankers and by examination of the Scrip for Government Securities, Fixed Deposit Receipts etc., and found to agree therewith.

Yours faithfully,

LOVELOCK & LEWES.
### Statement of Account for Year 1953

**Expenses:**

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<td>Rs. 31,900-</td>
<td>Rs. 7,845- 8-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saldoha Leper Colony</td>
<td>&quot; 38,000-</td>
<td>&quot; 3,297- 8-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benagaria Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 1,000-</td>
<td>&quot; 307-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaerabani Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 800-</td>
<td>&quot; 360-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narainpur Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 400-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eklakh Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 359-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malda Medical Work</td>
<td>&quot; 6,356-</td>
<td>&quot; 585-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharo Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 500-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basetkundi Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 610-</td>
<td>&quot; 180-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sevapur Hospital</td>
<td>&quot; 15,335-</td>
<td>&quot; 2,358-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santipara Leprosy Colony</td>
<td>&quot; 15,471-</td>
<td>&quot; 1,205-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaorang Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 960-</td>
<td>&quot; 330-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joema Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 700-</td>
<td>&quot; 180-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haraputa Dispensary</td>
<td>&quot; 100-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rs. 112,491-</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rs. 16,648- 0-0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Mission Station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ordinary Pay</th>
<th>Dearness Allowance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Station</td>
<td>Rs. 63,243- 7-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Station. Dearness allowance</td>
<td>&quot; 13,378- 4-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Work</td>
<td>&quot; 110,341- 0-0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Work. Dearness allowance</td>
<td>&quot; 30,051- 9-6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Work</td>
<td>&quot; 112,491- 0-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Work. Dearness allowance</td>
<td>&quot; 16,648- 0-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rs. 346,153- 4-6</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Salaries for Missionaries on the Field 1953

- **Rs. 130,955- 0-0**

### Dearness Allowance for Missionaries on the Field 1953

- **Rs. 51,240- 0-0**

### Servants Dearness Allowance

- " 9,823-12-0

### Single Allowance

- " 2,650- 0-0

### Hill Allowance

- " 18,750- 0-0

### Children’s Tuition and Travel, Language Study

- 5,042-15-9

### Medicines and Doctor

- 5,441-13-6

### Setting up House and Cycle Allowance

- " 1,000- 0-0

### Income Tax

- " 9,580-10-0

### Dumka Boarding

- " 2,400- 0-0

---

### Carried over
Brought forward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Surgeon</td>
<td>686- 3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Travel and meeting expenses</td>
<td>7,456- 5-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary’s Travel</td>
<td>2,400- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumka Offices</td>
<td>3,750- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>1,549- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing of Annual Report &amp; Audit Fees</td>
<td>2,084- 8-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipends</td>
<td>13,980- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Constructions</td>
<td>65,566- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliation Fees</td>
<td>582- 8-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Work, drawn by Miss H. Milde</td>
<td>800- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benagaria Allowance</td>
<td>600- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benagaria Mission Press, Dearness All.</td>
<td>2,387- 4-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell’s Dictionary</td>
<td>4,000- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pera Hor</td>
<td>400- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santal Literature Committee</td>
<td>1,000- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boro Literature Board</td>
<td>1,400- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengali Literature</td>
<td>1,000- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Courses for Women, w. Miss M. Buttedahl</td>
<td>500- 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Course in Joema</td>
<td>500- 0-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible Course in Benagaria</td>
<td>390- 0-0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>Rs. 694,069- 4-0</td>
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Norinco Old bills

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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>203- 3-0</td>
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Landrent

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,192- 0-8</td>
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</table>

Miscellaneous Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,683- 0-0</td>
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</table>

Transferred to Central Obligation Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26,172- 9-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transferred to Ebeneser Evangelical Lutheran Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>139,100- 5-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 864,420- 6-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance w. Nederlandsche

Handels Bank for M. T. E. C. F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 10,887- 1-8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Balance, Main a/c w.

Chartered Bank, Calcutta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106,650- 2-5</td>
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</table>

Balance in cash

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29,999-11-11 Rs. 147,537- 0-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 1,011,957- 6-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INCOME:

Balance per 1/1, 1953.

Main Account Rs. 88,531- 3-9

Mornai Tea Estate Charitable Fund " 504-15-6 Rs. 89,036- 3-3

Received from America " 135,460-10-9
Received from Denmark " 201,259-12-3
Received from Norway " 550,851-10-0
Received from Mornai Tea Estate " 30,200- 0-0
Received from Zemindary " 3,000- 0-0
Gift from Miss J. F. Gaustad, New Zealand " 92-11-0
Freight for Wheat refunded " 591- 4-0
Bank interest on deposits etc. Rs. 1,533- 3-0
Debit interests and Bank charges 68- 0-1 " 1,465- 3-11

Sale of Government Loan 53/55
C. A. 009946 Rs. 25,000-
C. A. 009945 " 10,000- Rs. 35,127-5-

Transferred to General Obligation Fund 35,127-5- 0-0-0

Rs. 1,011,957- 6-2

INDIAN WORKERS' PENSION FUND.
ACCOUNT ON 31ST DECEMBER 1953.

RECEIPTS:

Balance per 1st January 1953 Rs.

Received grant from The Santal Mission of the Northern Churches, through Ebenereser Evangelical Lutheran Church " 4000- 0-0
Whole year’s interest on Government loan C. A. 87 " 420- 6-

Contribution from members " 3721- 4-3
Transferred from fixed deposit " 1- 2-0

Rs. 8142-12-3
EXPENDITURES:

Pension paid to members                                      Rs.  7871-1-6
Pension contribution refunded to                              "    180-4-9
    previous members                                            "    91-6-0
Balance per 31st December 1953                                "    8142-12-3

CAPITAL INVESTED.

Capital per 1st January 1953                                  Rs.  43,613-10-1
Capital increased during year 1953                           "    813-13-3
Capital per 31st December 1953                               "    44,427-7-4

This amount is invested this way:

On fixed deposit with The Chartered Bank
    of India, Australia & China, Calcutta Rs. 20,064-2-0
Fixed deposit with Mahadeolal Prabhudayal,
    Dumka, Rs. 7,478-1-3
    "    1,258-0-9
Lifted 31st Dec. 1953                                        Rs.  8,736-2-0
Bought National Saving Certificates                           8,735-0-0
Transfered to current account                                  Rs.  1-2-0
Government of India 3% loan 1896/97                          Rs: 15,628-5-4
    C. A. 87, Nom 19,000                                        Rs. 44,427-7-4
EBENESER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 1953.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT: JOHANNES GAUSDAL
CHURCH OFFICE, P. O. BENAGARIA, SANTAL PARGANAS.

SYNOD:

President: General Superintendent.
Vice-President: Rev. A. E. Stronstad, Dumka.
Secretary: Rev. Kalu Kisku, Benagaria.
Members:

From Santal Parganas Church Council:
President, Rev. Naran Soren, Rev. Kalu Kisku Mr. Ram Murmu.

From North Bengal Church Council:

From Assam Santal Church Council:
President, Rev. O. Eie, Vice-President, Rev. Nimbai Murmu, Mr. Gabriel Marndi, Mr. Daniel Soren.

From Boro Church Council:
President, Rev. H. Halvorsrud, Rev. Malsing Moshahari, Mr. Thaneswar Bosumatory.

From Bengal Church Council:
President, H. P. H. Kampp, Vice-President Rev K. R. Ghose, Rev. R. A. Pedersen, and Mr. L. C. Konai.
TRUSTEES: Rev. O. S. Bjerkestrand, Rev. O. Eie, Rev. A. E. Stronstad.
MISSIONARY CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE: Miss M. Butedahl
SANTAL PARGANAS CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Rev. Naran Soren, Dumka.
Secretary: Rev. K. Tromborg, Benagarai.
Members: (The first mentioned is Circle chairman)
  Kaerabani Circle: Pastor Suphol Hembrom, Ram Murmu, Rangilal Kisku, Mohon Murmu.
  Sultanabad Circle: Pastor Sibram Marndi, Pastor Munsi Hembrom, Daniel Soren.
  Mohulpahari Circle: Pastor Khudia Marndi, Dr. Forman, Miss Milde.
  Benagarai Circle: Rev. K. Tromborg, Pastor Kalu Kisku, Pastor Peter Murmu, Lodo Hasdak.
  Baniapasor Circle: Sanicar Murmu, Phagu Marndi.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Tika Murmu, 1924, Chirapathor
Khudia Marndi 1931,
Kalu Kisku, 1931, Santal Div. School
Johan Hasdak', 1933, Koroya.
Mongol Hembrom, 1933, Tatbandha,
Karan Soren, 1934, Chondorpura
Naran Soren, 1934, Mission Hôte,
Bhikulal Hasdak', 1937 Tilabani,
Bhogon Murmu, 1938, Haripur,
Bajun Murmu, 1939, Dhorompur
Sibrand Marndi, 1939, Basetkundi,
Sodanondo Baske, 1939, Sulunga,
Joseph Hasdak', 1940, Raňga,
Suphol Hembrom, 1941.
Munshi Hembrom, 1941, Lukhipokhor " " Pakuria.
John Jujhar Soren, 1941, Simoldohi, " " Maheshpur.
Ruben Soren, 1941, " " Narainpur.
Cunu Murmu, 1943, Dum, " " Gando.
Peter Murmu, 1943, Itore, " " Itor, Mur.
Mongol Besra, 1946, Jambua, " " Garsara.
Chaitan Soren, 1947, Maharo, " " Dumka.
Bhiku Tudu, 1948, Chandpur, " " Pakuria.
Abraham Murmu, 1948, Ranga, " " Amrapara.
Salhae Marndi, 1948, Saldoha, " " Mohulpahari.
Munshi Marndi, 1951, Dhabona, " " Kasraban.
Nityanando Marndi- 1952, Hoftja, " " Kumrabad.
Joseph Marndi, 1953, Tarni, " " Pakuria.
Nikodem Marndi, 1953, " " Benagaria.

NORTH BENGAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Rev. Jonas Hasdak'.
Secretary: Bhim John Murmu.
Members: India Side:


West Dinajpur Circle: Pastor Munsi Murmu, Mr. Ramrai Tudu, Mr. Ruben Soren.

Pakistan Side:

East Dinajpur Circle: Joseph Soren, Gumid Kisku, Daniel Marndi.

Rajshahi Circle: Pastor Budhrai Hansdak', Mr. Chunku Tudu, Mr. Ruben Tudu.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL

Budhrai Hansdak', 1937, Badhair, P. O. Taland, Rajshahi, East Pakistan.
Jonas Hansdak', 1944, Rajadighi, P. O. Bairagachi Malda.
Jaeram Hasdak', 1947, Khoribari, " " Manikora, Malda.
Bajnath Baskey, 1953, Phoridpur, " " Habra, East Dinajpur, Pakistan.

ASSAM SANTAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Rev. O. Eie, Mornai.
Vice-President: Pastor Nimbai Murmu, Santipara.
Secretary: Mr. Gabriel Marndi, Mornai.
Members:

Colony and Mornai Circle: Mr. Daniel Soren, Mr. Gabriel Marndi, Rev. O. Eie, Pastor Jatu Murmu, Pastor James Soren, Abraham Murmu, Pastor Lokhon Hembrom, Miss E. Krohn, Pastor Ruben Murmu.
Joema Circle: Rev. O. Dordal, Pastor Ratu Marndi, Mason Marndi.
Darrang and Kamrup Circle: Khudu Kisku, Mohon Hasdak', Simon Baskey.
Santipara Circle: Mr. K. Petersen, Kanhu Murmu, Pastor Nimbai Murmu.
Dingdinga Circle: Rev. S. Johansen, Mr. S. N. Adhikary.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Lokhon Hembrom, 1930, Mornai, P. O. Dingdinga.
Kanhu Tudu, 1939, " " Haraputa.
Nimbai Murmu, 1941, Santipara, " " Bongaegaon.
Ruben Murmu, 1942, Ransupur, " " Dingdinga.
Jatu Murmu, 1942, Bilanpur, " " Dingdinga.
James H. Soren, 1942, Grahampur, " " Dingdinga.
Ratu Marndi, 1944, Kolabari, " " Sirphanguri.
Sirmath Marndi, 1944, Hingaon, " " Udalguri.
Chatur Soren, 1948, Dobragaon, " " Haltugao.
Chotto Suna Murmu, 1948, Grahampur " " Dingdinga.
Arjun Murmu, 1951, Joema, " " Gossaegaon.
Jacob Biswas, 1952, Mornai, " " Dingdinga.
President: Rev. H. Halvorsrud, Gaurang.
Vice-President: Mr. Thaneswar Bosumatari.
Secretary: Mr. Dinesh Ch. Narjari.
Members: Gaurang Circle: Rev. H. Halvorsrud, Rev. Upendra Mosahari; Mr. Dinesh Ch. Narjari, Mr. Dinesh Ch. Goyari; Mr. Girish Ch. Lawari, Mr. Sichoron Bosumatari, and Mr. Phakhra Mosahari.

Bongaigaon Circle: Rev. Malsing Mosahari, Rev. Biswanath Narjari, Miss S. Nisset, Mr. Onaram Bosumatari; Mr. Lal Mohan Bosumatari, Mr. Phulsing Hajjari, and Hasendra Narjari.

Kamrup Circle: Rev. R. Hofrenning, Rev. Maguram Mosahari, and Mr. Jogendra Narjari.

Darrang Circle: Mr. Kandura Bosumatari, and Mr. Bangda Bosumatari.

PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Tharani Iswary, 1942 Gaurang, P. O. Haltugaon.
Maguram Mosahary, 1945, Parkijuli, " " Menoka.
Upendra Mosahary, 1945, Goladangi, " " Haraputa.
Malsing Mosahary, Mission, " " Bongaigaon.
Biswanath Narjari, 1952, Mission, " " Bongaigaon.

BENGAL CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Rev. H. P. H. Kampp, Nimasarai.
Vice-President: Rev. K. R. Ghose, Suri.
Secretary: Sri. Dinesh P. Lal, Saldoha.

Cooch Behar Circle: Miss E. Pihlquist, Sri Ajen Chisim, and Sri Benoy K. Biswas.


PASTORS UNDER THIS CHURCH COUNCIL:

Maharaj Bhandary, '937, Nimasarai, P. O. Old Malda.
John Jotadhari Das, 1940, Nalhati.
John Anondo Roy, 1941, Swedish Mission, Cooch Behar.
Daniel Jha, Mohulpahari.
Haraknath Pramanik, 1944, English Bazaar.
Kumud Ranjan Ghose, 1946, Suri, Birbhum.
David Jha, 1952, Dangalpara, Dumka, S. P.
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." (John 3, 3)

What a wonderful, yea word beyond, glorious thing it is that this knowledge has come to some of the nearly countless many villages of this vast country which we call Bharat or India. In our small Church alone we count that the members of our community of 31 thousand are living and toiling in 103 villages. Such an expansion has taken place through a comparatively short span of time. It is only 8 years since visionary pioneers sang "Here I raise my Ebenezer" on a barren field among a people whose language was unwritten and beyond their reach at the time. And now this blessed knowledge is out in 03 villages. Needless to say, it is out there that the most vital part of the struggle between light and darkness is decided. The mission stations and the big and small churches, important though they all are, are more or less as scattered oases in the great expanse. The real advance is dependent on the Christian life out in the villages. When the knowledge about eternal life quickens the spiritual atmosphere in the family life in the villages, then this knowledge becomes infectious and the light moves on.

At the end of 1952 the Santal Mission made over to the Ebeneser Church the Santali paper 'Pera Hor' (i.e. The Friend), and during 1953 it was edited from the Church Office. For some years it had been published only once a month; but we were asked to try again to bring it out twice a month without altering the price. This was done, and it is recognized to be such a very important link in reaching out into the villages that from January 1954 it is being issued weekly. But naturally, now we had to double the price from Re. 1/- to Rs. 2/- a year.
A most touching story was recently reported to us: From a village with no Christians a messenger turned up at one of our mission stations saying that they had heard that there was a Santali paper called 'era Hor' and if that were true. He was shown some copies, and he told that now all in the village would learn to read. So he bought and went off with 46 Santali Primers and some copies of Pera Hor.'

Taken as a whole it must be said that the year 1853 was a year full of grace and mercy for our Church. Workers could go and come as their duties required it. People could gather for services and other meetings as they found it needed for the work. No one interfered with their religious life—apart from that unconscious resistance which always and everywhere is to be found from those outside the light of faith. This quiet atmosphere of blessed opportunities is reflected in the 1147 baptisms of children of Christian parents and the 641 baptisms of persons from outside, in the 299 marriages, and in the 1699 communion services with more than 32 thousand ministrations, and also in the Church offerings and other collections amounting to Rs. 49,302–8–9½.

The total number of administering the rite of baptism amounted to 1788, and only once in the life of the Mission has the figure for 12 months been higher; that was in 1892 when there was a local mass movement in three villages in Sultanabad. But looking at the figures, we do well in noticing that the biggest one is that of children of Christian parents representing the stability of our established Church, and the smaller one the number of those drawn from outside into the heavenly light.

Notwithstanding the fact that in two Church Council areas a few disgruntled persons have tried to hamper the harmonious development of the Church, it is evident that the understanding of the Church as a joint body of belie-
vers, is taking hold of our people. And that this body has to exist in a world filled with temptations and trials, enforcing on its members the obligation of loyalty if it is to exist, that also is gradually dawning on its members. For all this we must thank our Lord, the good Shepherd, who granted another year of steady work.

In the last annual report I drew attention to a few sociological facts about our new Church. Here I shall try to point out one particular aspect of the greatest importance for the further development.

The Santal Parganas Church Council area comprises the Dumka Sub-Division of Santal Parganas and parts of Jamtara, Deoghar and Pakur Sub-Division as well as some scattered congregations in the districts of Birbhum, Murshidabad and Burdwan. This Council area has now a total Christian community of 11000, grouped in 7 Circles with 76 places of worship. And the main part of this area—the southern part of Santal Parganas—is the very central stronghold of the Santal population. The Church has therefore still a tremendous task ahead here. This is the oldest part of the fields of the Santal Mission, and that the work has prospered and the Church is establishing herself here also we all know, and it can be easily proved from the numbers of baptized children of Christian parents for the last seven years: 230, 228, 298, 259, 243, 283, 374—an annual average of 278 for the period.

But, somehow, since this is the oldest part of our work the above figures may be considered to be too low. Remembering the past history one might justifiably expect them to be higher. We who are resident here, we know that this area from the point of finding the means of existence, is one of a surplus population area having to force people to go elsewhere for work. Our congregations here are constantly losing members, because the soil does not give them the needed food. The Santals have dug the majority
of the fields, and they have now cultivated them for three to four generations without any proper manuring. The conclusion would be that we ought to teach our people to tend the soil better; but many will contend that this is a task outside the scope of a Church or Mission.

Let us demonstrate this problem from the available facts recorded in our annual reports. While the above mentioned area is one constantly losing members, the second biggest Church Council area, the Assam Santal work, is an immigration area which up to now offers plenty of opportunities for a village population which enjoys taking land and handling a plow as well as bow and arrows. What then do our records demonstrate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Baptisms From the Childr.</th>
<th>Baptisms Childr.</th>
<th>non-Chr. Christians.</th>
<th>non-Chri. Christians.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1867-76...</td>
<td>2.246</td>
<td>2.246</td>
<td>2.246</td>
<td>2.246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877-86...</td>
<td>2.088</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887-96...</td>
<td>5.129</td>
<td>1.327</td>
<td>1.395</td>
<td>1.355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-16...</td>
<td>2.453</td>
<td>1.395</td>
<td>2.037</td>
<td>2.351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917-26...</td>
<td>4.007</td>
<td>2.129</td>
<td>1.456</td>
<td>1.885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-36...</td>
<td>3.074</td>
<td>2.246</td>
<td>1.029</td>
<td>2.526</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The intuitive action and the great courage of the pioneers in founding the Santal Colony in Guma Duar on land entirely depopulated after the Bhutan war, has been a very great blessing to the Santals as well as for our Church. The Assam work got the task to take care of many of those won for the Lord in Santal Parganas, just because the land in their native village did not give them the food required. And the Mission had found a practical and in a way also effective system to deal with the poverty problem among the Christians: It was to help people off to the area where they could find work and a new future.
Assam will yet be able to take surplus population for some time, and yet—for the life and further development of the church, it appears to be highly necessary to pay more attention to the question of getting our people to become better farmers. Thereby the Christians may lead the Santal population in Santal Parganas on to a new blessed phase in their existence.

In January 1953 we were honoured by a visit of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Arne Fjellbu, bishop of Nidaros. He had attended the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches held at Lucknow, and at the request of the Norwegian Government continued his travel to our area. This was a great encouragement to us, and the bishop's messages were everywhere highly appreciated. It made also a great impression on the Santals that he could tell them that as a boy of six years of age he had been sitting on the knee of Skrefsrud and heard him relate many things from this country.

After his return home the bishop voiced the matter mentioned above, the matter of teaching our people better farming, and Ivar Skjanes, the country sheriff of Sor-Tronde-lag in Norway, has made some definite proposals to realize the same. May they prosper in their good work! It so coincided that at the time of the bishop's visit a Norwegian journalist from Bergen, Per Vokso, also arrived here having attended the World Youth Conference at Travancore. So the two prominent visitors travelled together and saw life as it is with us, and we thank them for the understanding way they have reported about our conditions.

While it is a joy to put on record that the work of the Church during 1953 had a blessed and prosperous time as a whole, it is with considerable concern that it has to be stated that neither the Church nor the Mission were able to give greater and better help to our congregations inside East Pakistan. Munshi pastor was moved from
Phoridpur to Narayapur in the first quarter of the year, a change needed for many reasons. And a new pastor, Baijnath Baskey, was ordained for the specific task of moving into Pakistan and attending to the work in the northern circle there. Though this ordination took place at Eklakhali at the end of February, it was not until the end of December that he crossed the border. Budhrao pastor in the Rajshahi circle had a very busy time. In that area they had new converts under instruction in every congregation, and during the year 89 from outside were baptized. The old, pensioned Lopsa pastor was able to give him some help. But the pastoral work in the East Dinajpur (Phoridpur) Circle was neglected.

Looking at the geographical location of our church congregations in the states of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam of India, and also inside East Pakistan, yea even an outstation within Bhutan, and lost sheep in Nepal, in coalfield areas and military units far and wide—one may be tempted to say that in our case “the place of the tent has been made too wide, and the cords have been taken too far out” (Jes 54,2) unless God’s very special mercy shall be over this His habitation with “grace above grace.” Our Church constitution is so framed that it will depend on the ability of the different Church Councils to tackle the work in their respective areas. The Synod and the General Superintendent with Church Office are mainly central organs to link the whole together in a joint church body.

The year 1953 is further to be recorded as the year when the first set of constitutionally elected Church Councils and the Synod had completed their three years of service and new elections were to be held. These were everywhere carried out in an orderly manner. The new Church Councils entered upon their work by preparing budgets for 1954 and the new Synod met for its first session on October 26.
On the recommendation of the Santal Parganas Church Council, two ordinations were held:

Joseph Marandi was ordained at the Saldoha church on Sunday the 1st of November, and

Nikodem Marandi at the Benagaria church on the 13th of December.

At the request of the Missionary Conference and with the telegraphic approval of the Norwegian Home Board, the Norwegian Missionary Hjalmar Kvam was ordained to the ministry in connection with the ordinary Sunday service in the Benagaria church on the 29th of November.

The old and pensioned pastor Mengel Kisku at Rautnagar inside East Pakistan died on the 24th of May, 1953. He had been thinking of getting formalities arranged so that he could move into India; But then he suddenly had a fall and in a short time passed away.

And a veteran in the Santal Colony of Assam, Kadu Manjhi of Tilabani village, died on the 16th of February, 1953. He had been one of those who took the lead to get a new church built at Rantzaupur, and he had given much both to erect and maintain it, and his influence in the life of the Colony was of the highest value.

My travels as G. S. took me to places within all five Church Council areas, and it is always a joy to meet the children of God and to share with them the Word of God. On one of these tours my wife and I had the joy of having a most interested visitor along, the Rev. Ornulf Henriksen of Trysil in Norway. He had for some months served as chaplain with the Norwegian Ambulance in Korea, and returning from there he broke journey at Calcutta and came up-country. As a prominent scout master he enjoyed being out in the open, and as a member of the Norwe-
gian Home Board of the Santal Mission everything in connection with the work was interesting to him. The only real difficulty was that the time was limited. But he also had the chance to see for himself what we see on all sides here: The tremendous amount of people, villages everywhere filled with people, — and in a few places the children of God meet and sing — often with beaming faces:

How blessed is the little flock
Whom Jesus calls His own!
He is their Saviour and their rock,
They trust in Him alone;
They walk by faith and hope and love,
But they shall dwell with Him above,
When hope and faith shall pass away
And love shall last for aye.

Johannes Gausdal.