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TIDINGS



Miss Satyabati Behera

1957

THIRD QUARTER

AMERICAN BAPTIST BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION

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TIDINGS
BENGAL-ORISSA MISSION INDIA
ON OUR COVER PAGE.

Satyabati Behera (Sa-tia-bo-tee Be-ha-ra) whose *Brief Autobiography* appears in this issue, is the one woman among all of our Christian women known throughout all the areas of our Mission. She is the only one of our women national evangelists who works regularly in the industrial areas. Her childhood home was in Berhampore, Orissa and so she knows people who have gone from there to work in other parts of our field. The first eight years of her schooling and her teacher's training was in Cuttack, and so she knows people from there and the relatives of Christians still in Cuttack. This background of acquaintance makes for contacts with ease wherever she goes. She was also in school in Balasore and worked there and so also is acquainted with people from that area. Satyabati, a Baptist, studied for two years at the Jubbulpore Theological School which is carried on under the American Methodist Mission. She was the only woman in a class of 23 men. Later she returned to Jubbulpore for a refresher course. She was chosen to attend the All India Christian Home Training Conference, as the representative from Orissa, by all the Missions working in the state. Satyabati is the only Indian woman member of the Christian Service Society Executive of our Bengal and Orissa Mission, and is chairman of the Woman's Work Committee of the Christian Service Society. She is also the only Indian woman on the Governing body of Cuttack Theological School.

With her missionary colleague this past year she has travelled between four and five thousand miles in her evangelistic outreach. Such travel includes ox-cart, train, bus, and walking. The longest walk at one stretch was 14 miles. In order to visit two Christian dispensaries the journey required 3 nights by ox-cart, a bus trip where bus was loaded not only with people and children, but with their goats and chickens, bamboos and household equipment, and a crowded train, for cost prohibits 1st Class travel. Miss Bowers, who reported the above to the editor, says that she and Satyabati are away from home about two-thirds of the time during the year.

Pray that there may be young men and young women in our midst who will hear God's call as clearly as Satyabati and respond to it in the same spirit.

THAT THEY MAY KNOW

BY REV. C. L. KAUF.

“Among illiterate village adults a wave of real interest in literacy is sweeping across this area. Some years ago it was necessary to pay Kora parents to send their children to school, but now they themselves want to learn to read and are willing to help meet the expense. Coupled with this interest is also a wide-spread interest in the Christian Way of Life.

This spring a team of four preachers was working in a group of villages, eight miles south-east of our compound, where they were received cordially. Members of two families showed a real interest in becoming Christians. Later, in a meeting of men from five villages, they decided to start adult literacy classes in the evenings. They were to provide a house for the teacher and also a shelter where they could read, as well as contribute a quantity of rice to the teacher. This group was enthusiastic

over the program and proceeded with the plans. As soon as they agreed upon a site for the school building, outside pressure was put on them immediately. Severe threats were made by other villagers that if they built the house it would be burned down. Consequently, people from four villages backed out of the plans. When we heard this report, Ruben Giri, our educational supervisor, visited them again and found that members of the first village were still ready to go ahead with the literacy school. One literate young man in the village caught Ruben by the feet and said, "I won't let go until you agree to help us with a school so these people can learn to read."

From June 1st, Jodu Singh has been there as the teacher. He started with a group of twenty four people, which includes a few from other villages. In time he may be able to overcome some of the prejudices and, as others see that the threats are not carried out, more will join the classes. Jodu is one of the Kora boys who has just finished a welding course at Balasore Technical School and has not secured a position. We are happy to have his help even for a short time.

At this same time another literacy school was started in the opposite end of the field by Roben Hansda who has just finished High School at Bhimpore. He went to an area where his father was formerly pastor. His father passed away about eight years ago from T. B. and there has not been a pastor in that area since. In his group there are a number of Christians, as well as about fifteen others who are interested in the Christian life.

Two other new schools were started this year and four were continued from last year. Seven others have closed, three due to lack of interest and four because the teacher was transferred. In several of these former schools quite a number of adults have continued to read with volunteer help from students in the village. Of course, they would like

to have a regular teacher return to them whenever possible. We are not able to get enough young men to meet the demand of groups who want to study.

Because of this program, which was started only two years ago, 450 people have been under regular instruction. Thirty-three of them were women. One hundred and four have become good readers and the rest have made a good beginning. Two men in one school even sat for a fifth grade examination.

On the spiritual side we are not able to see all of the results yet, but in the first five months of this year 44 people were baptized and most of them were people who are studying in these schools. We are opening these schools in response to people who want to become Christians and want to learn to read in order to study the Word.

Another by-product of this program is the opportunity which young men just out of school are having in serving the Lord by helping to spread His message among their people. We expect that two of these teachers will attend Bible school this next term. They have proved themselves to be consecrated men and called of God to serve Him.

ONE OF THOSE UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS

BY RUTH DANIELS

One morning in March I found this friend from Bhimpore on my back veranda. I would have said, "this old lady", but, being in that category myself, I am a bit shy of the term.

"Why, Sarala, how nice to see you!" (Sarala is pronounced Saw-raw-lah).

“Yes, if you’ll let me have a little spot on this back veranda for two days, that is all I want.”

“Not on the veranda! Come to my guest room. You are doubly welcome there, but”, I added a bit hesitantly, too honestly, “about your noon meal, I wonder, I’ll see.”

“No worry about that; I’ll look after myself.”

Her laugh and confident words made me just happy that Sarala Hansdah had come to brighten my house for two days. She is retired, after being a worker in the Kora field and then the builder of Bhallukonia village work.

Sure enough, she did arrange for her food. First meal my house-woman invited her to share with her; the next I provided. Then I found that for the next day she had brought me a chicken and fine rice for the delicious dish, called ‘pillao.’ What fun! My guest was providing my meal and a first class one. As we ate together my housewoman and her daughter, Subarna the Bible woman who lives with me, Sarala and I, she said, “I just love to eat with friends like this.” So we agreed it was a wonderful arrangement; she had provided the feast and we had provided the friends.

She had come to go with us to the Association Meeting out in the village of Julibundh, where five Christian families, including the pastor, entertained some 35 delegates for three days. The women were accommodated in the church and the men slept in the temporary straw-covered area where the meetings were held and the meals served. Sarala was ready for everything. The pastor and wife were special friends; most of the delegates were known to her. All were greeted with friendly smiles and good wishes and she took special interest in the timid village women from distant churches.

All the time Sarala was personal caretaker for me. I remembered when she had been too weak to walk to church ; when she seemed old and on the shelf, so I thought she needed to be favored, but not at all! First she put up her mosquito net for me, as I had failed to bring mine. She hunted ropes and put them up so my corner could be curtained off for a degree of privacy. Did I want a bath? She was off to order or bring water for me. And did I have a lantern? She produced one. Such life and vigor goes with inner courage and faith and those showed when she took part in prayer or led the women's discussion group. Again, when all went out in the afternoons to give the Gospel message in the homes, she was leader of the Santal women.

Sarala was like this when she started our Bhallukonia Center ten years ago. People who knew the village talked ominously. The Committee would not let the younger woman worker go at the beginning, so I asked Sarala, "Will you go? Are you afraid to stay alone out there?"

"No, God will be with me. All depends on strength of mind, as He gives it." She seemed a bit frail, so I asked if she wanted a ricksha to take her out the two miles from Midnapore. "Oh, no, I can walk. All depends on strength of mind which God provides," was her reply. And so she worked there and loved those uncultured people until they began to respect and love her for miles around, as a friend to all and a witness for Jesus Christ. The township President, who keeps a grocery at the four corners, said, "How can you live there in that village of low-class people?" Could he not see that she was a follower of the One who came "to seek and to save that which was lost?"

Long years before, when assistant matron in our Midnapore Girls' School Hostel, she became the adopted mother of Dolly, a lovely four year old girl, left to our care by an English official. She was devoted to Dolly and when, a few years later, an anesthetic patch of leprosy showed

on the child's arm she was heartbroken with the rest of us. The arrangements proved unsatisfactory at the institution where we sent the child, so Sarala gladly went to keep her in rented quarters to enable her to get weekly injections. Later, when the child was symptom free and continued her schooling in a Calcutta Boarding School, the bond of affection brought Dolly to Midnapore and Bhimpore to spend summer vacations in Sarala's humble home. In 1953 Dolly was married and brought her husband to visit us in Midnapore and there was Sarala to welcome and give them her blessing.

Love of children, compassion for the poor and despised, thought for each friend and acquaintance are the fundamentals of her character. I just wish you could see her smile and hear her laugh. You would catch new faith and courage and just be glad. Like her Master, she comes "not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE OUTREACH

BY REV. S. K. PATRA

About two years ago, in an article in *Tidings*, we gave a brief report and mentioned the immense future possibilities of the Christian Literature Center at Midnapore with its Bible Correspondence program, which was started in 1954. Under the present political situation in which there have been vast changes in Indian outlook in many ways, especially in socio-religious matters, and when the scope of outdoor preaching is gradually being limited we would like to express clearly and emphatically that a well-planned Gospel Hall Center with Christian Literature program and up-to-date methods of evangelism can be one of the most effective mediums for propagating the Gospel message in this country. For this reason such schemes are being given priority wherever possible. A proper

organization of Bible Correspondence Courses affords unique advantages in many respects, A Gospel Hall, or even a Christian Reading Room, maintained in close cooperation with the local church, always indicates life in that congregation and only through such spontaneous activities of witness for the Lord will the church have the strength to exist in a powerful non-Christian environment.

It is a happy sign that, for various reasons the desire to read the Bible and learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ through suitable literature, and preferably a home study course, has increased among educated people far beyond our expectation. I say this from my experience when for eight years I was in charge of a Gospel Hall on one of the main streets in Calcutta. It was managed in such a way that, as the pastor of a local church mentioned one day, "the Hall itself spoke, even in the absence of a preacher." Indeed, every evening a large number of persons, especially non-Christians of various types, visited that center and received spiritual help of one kind or another.

Here also at Midnapore we have found from experience that through advertisements and recommendations of students who are taking the Bible Correspondence Course, it is possible to get any number of students according to the need or efficiency of management of a particular center. In this way, by conducting the only Good News Correspondence Course in Bengali on the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ it has been possible for us to contact boys and girls, men and women from 13 to 65 years of age from many parts of India and Pakistan. They represent all spheres of life—students, teachers, doctors, nurses, mechanics, apprentices, business men, clerks, farmers, laborers, preachers and laymen, even housewives, and persons unemployed in different social levels.

We admit that, due to our limited scope of organization, working single-handed for the whole of the literature program of this center, we have not been in a position to enroll more than 2,150 students in the

Correspondence Course during the last two years, Naturally, our contacts may not have been as deep and wide as our ambition. Nevertheless, we rejoice in the fact that such a large number of gospels, Bible lessons, and other Christian literature have been distributed among persons who showed definite interest in Jesus Christ, and that a vast majority among them, especially those one hundred students who have completed the course and received certificates, have undoubtedly been greatly benefited by going through the Course. We would like to share this joy with all our friends by quoting some portions of testimonies voluntarily given by those graduates.

A Hindu M.D. , age 33, professor in a medical college, writes :
“ While going through this Course I got the opportunity to learn something about a great religious Teacher. I have greatly enjoyed the Course. ”

A Christian refugee, age 31, working in a colony, says : “ I was educated in childhood in a Mission organization, but I never received such an opportunity to learn the Bible. Now I have grown in Christian knowledge and much of my darkness has vanished by the light of Christ. ”

A college Hindu student, age 17, gives his testimony thus : “ I was eager to learn about religion for a long time, and I have received sufficient instruction through this Course. During any discussion about religious matters among my friends who do not know anything beyond their own religion, I speak about Christianity and some, at least, confirm my views. ”

Another Hindu student in a Christian college in Calcutta, age 18, writes : “ I have come to learn that Jesus Christ has offered His life for our sin .. I consider myself as an insignificant disciple of Jesus So long as I live I shall remember the teaching of Jesus I have been a student of this college for the last three years, but never attended Bible

class or assembly prayers, but now I attend them regularly and read the Bible. Your Bible Course is responsible for all this."

A Christian girl of 18 writes: "I have received definite spiritual help and plenty of grace from God during the study of your lessons. My spiritual life was very weak, as I failed to study the Bible. But now, through such study, I have been greatly enriched. I have received new strength, happiness, and peace of mind."

A Hindu doctor gives testimony in the following words: "I have received sufficient knowledge and pleasure while going through the Good News Course. Jesus Christ was undoubtedly a great religious teacher. His superb teaching, righteous zeal, working of miracles, and above all his death to save sinners fills our hearts with awe and devotion. I offer my sincere devotion to such a great soul."

A Christian nurse, age 40, from a Mission Hospital writes: "I have immensely enjoyed the 26 lessons. The more we study, the more spiritual benefit we derive from it. I express my sincere gratitude and thankfulness for this wonderful opportunity." This nurse is now taking a theological course in college.

A Hindu physician, age 33, says, "Through these lessons the nature of the Kingdom of God has been gradually revealed to me. Sometimes the vision has given me the experience of complete union with the Divine and I have altogether lost my existence. May God help me to enjoy this happy experience throughout my life."

One of our neighbors, a local Hindu student, age 18, gives a clear testimony thus: "I was very happy indeed to go through the Bible lessons. I like all the messages of Jesus, and have accepted them gladly in my heart. I appreciate greatly the ideals of Christianity and when I get suitable opportunity in the future, I hope to embrace this religion. I am eagerly waiting for such favorable opportunity."

A Hindu student, age 16, tries sincerely to express his feelings : “ I have received many instructions from the Bible, and shall remember them throughout my life. I shall try to follow the ideals of Jesus If I did not receive this light of knowledge through you, I would have ever remained in darkness I am forever grateful to you for this. ”

A Hindu college student, age 20, frankly says : “ Everybody should go through these Good News lessons. I wish to thank your institution because through you I have come to know the true way of life. I shall try my best to propagate this Good News among others and hope to be successful. ”

A Christian village school teacher writes : “ I have known the Lord Jesus more clearly through the study of this Bible Course. ”

A Bible woman of this Mission, age 22, gives her testimony with conviction thus : “ Although I qualified myself in Bible Training, yet I never received such an amount of knowledge from the four gospels before. Through this study of 26 lessons and discussion I have gained many new ideas and received sufficient spiritual benefit. ”

A Mohammedan doctor, age 48, from a district town expresses his decision for Christ in this way : “ I started the Course in an unconditional manner, but while going through it have accepted the Lord Jesus. I have written to you about my family conditions and the social and economic boycott directed against me by my community ever since I began to study the Bible and especially when I became your student it has become more violent. Kindly give me your advice as soon as possible and oblige. ” Since then the writer has visited him at his place and he also came to Midnapore for practical advice. We are prayerfully waiting for his open confession through baptism with his family.

Another testimony from a Hindu college student, age 23, “ I have greatly enjoyed the lessons. I am eager to know more about Jesus. For

this reason I wish to associate with friends of Jesus and his community. I want also to go forward in life remembering him always and obeying his commands. Please let me know if you have any other course."

A Christian teacher from Pakistan, age 46, says: "During the study of the Good News Course I have become more keen in Bible study and search for suitable texts. Before this I never thought so seriously about the meaning of relevant verses. Now I think deeply and try to make comparative study. I have read the whole Bible once and I am trying to do it again. Please remember me in your prayer."

This is what the Christian wife of a laboring class family says: "Through these lessons I have gained sufficient knowledge about the Bible. Please pray for me, so that, even in my busy time in household affairs, I may continue to grow in that knowledge and be able to teach my husband and children properly."

A Hindu wife, age 32, writes; "Being a Hindu wife in a very conservative family I am extremely happy to know the Christian ideals. It seems to me that we often harbor ill feelings against Christianity due to our ignorance. In my opinion, the more people who receive proper knowledge through your institution, the more such false ideas will disappear."

A young Muslim convert, teacher in this Mission, age 23, writes: "At first I thought that no useful purpose will be served by taking such a Course. But now my false ideas have vanished. I am able to know the actual state of my life after accepting the Lord Jesus and in so many ways I have betrayed Him. From this day I shall try to follow His ways."

A Christian teacher from a leprosy home, age 45, says: "Whenever I have studied your lessons and thought about the answers I have received much joy, peace and spiritual benefit. In this disease-stricken life after accepting the Lord as my Saviour I have had peace of soul."

The last of this series comes from a graduate Hindu teacher in a High School, age 26, "By the grace of God the lame walk, the blind see, and the diseased person is healed. So, I trust, that all my darknes and ignorance and mental paralysis through life-long superstitions will disappear. With such faith I shall try to express in a practical manner the messages of Jesus Christ."

Thus the Bible Correspondence work, together with the publication and distribution of other Christian literature, continues for the service of multitudes of hungry souls found both in our neighborhood, and in distant parts of this vast country. As we grow more and more in the conviction of the greatness of our task for the Master, we have to go forward in faith and prayer, gradually making greater and greater efforts for still wider and more vital contacts, so that out of such concentrated follow-up work the Lord may grant us more fruitful results.

For the realization of such a vision, in accordance with the greatness of our commission that we have received from the Master, certainly we require more assistants and money. But, above all, the sympathetic understanding of our situation and the prayerful cooperation of all our friends in this country and abroad is our most valuable asset. This is essential for carrying on this great task for the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Literature Secretary,
Christian Service Society.*

STUDY AND OBSERVATIONS AT DARJEELING

BY REV. B. E. WEIDMAN

From our cottage, which is 6,000 feet above the steaming heat of the plains, we can look across the valley to the snow-capped peaks of

Kenchinjanga which rises an additional 2,200 feet into the blue. From our living room window we can look down 5,000 feet below us and see the **Rangit** river winding through the valley on its way to the thirsty plains. We are situated where we can see the borders of three countries ; just across the **Rangit** river is the country of **Sikkim**, to our right is **Bhutan** and due north from us we can see the mountain range which is on the border of **Tibet**. Just out of sight to the east of us is the country of **Nepal**. Truly the beauty and grandeur of God's creation is all about us, an inspiring setting for us to continue preparing ourselves to share His gospel with others.

There are thirty-four young people from ten different missions gathered here at the Language School for three months concentrated study in Bengali. The majority of the students are newly arrived missionaries representing seven different countries, although **England**, **Australia** and **New Zealand**, as **Commonwealth** countries, are best represented. Being in such a fellowship is a constant inspiration to us and a reminder of the evangelistic concern of the world-wide Church. Our contacts with these young people in study, worship and recreation have given us a greater appreciation of the oneness of the Christian fellowship.

The life at Language School is a busy one. Our first responsibility each morning is to hustle our five year old girl, **Teresa**, off to her first formal schooling in the kindergarten department of the **Mount Hermon** mission school just up the hill from our cottage. Then we are free to attend morning classes at the Language School.

The study program for first year language students includes the translation of Bible stories from Bengali to English, the telling of Bible stories in simple Bengali, the translation into English of the basic Hindu epic, "**The Ramayan**," conversational sentences—Bengali to English, English to Bengali; the translation into English of selected poems from **Rabindranath Tagore's** book of poems, "**Shishu** ;" and, of course underlying it all, the study of Bengali grammar. In addition to group classes

every morning from 9 to 12, each student has two sessions per week with a tutor in order to receive individual help. We are finding it a very real challenge to attempt to master the Bengali idiom, yet we know full well that this is the only way we can make God's gospel relevant to the people who need it so desperately.

The inhabitants of Darjeeling and this mountainous area lead a very rugged life. Most of the year they must keep moving in order to stay warm and, in general, movement in this part of India is limited to either up or down. These people are very industrious and capable. They carry nearly everything in baskets on their backs supported by a single strap around the forehead. Loads of 160 lbs. are very common and one man, with the aid of just a strap, lifted and carried a box for us which weighed 220 lbs.

In general, the people here are either Nepalese or Bengali but the two languages in common use among the people are Nepali and Hindi. English is spoken by a few people, mostly those who have shops in the town of Darjeeling.

For the past three years, the Language School has been held on the Mount Hermon Estate, three miles below the city of Darjeeling. This estate is owned by the American Methodists. The Mount Hermon School with its buildings and grounds is a part of the estate, but is managed separately. The remainder of the estate, which includes cottages and apartments for fifty families, is utilized primarily to accommodate Language School students and missionary families on vacation. Due to the steep hillsides, it is difficult to find many flat places on which to build cottages. This country reminds us of the Berkeley, Calif. hills, except that it is much farther to the bottom around Darjeeling. Many native homes are built with one side against the hill and the lower side is placed on stilts. During the frequent thunderstorms, one cannot help but

be conscious of the possibility of such houses being washed down the mountainside. However, much has been done and is being done to handle the run off from storms so as to limit erosion and destruction from landslides.

It was a wonderful privilege for us all to enjoy Easter together here upon the mountainside. A sunrise service was held overlooking the Rangit river valley with the snow capped peaks of the Kenchinjanga range in the distance. About half of the Language School students and staff joined with the Mount Hermon School students in providing music for the Easter services. It was a deeply moving experience for us to hear familiar selections from "The Seven Last Words" and "The Messiah."

We are very grateful for having this opportunity to study Bengali with other young missionaries in the coolness and beauty of this mountain retreat. The study is concentrated and difficult at times, but it is rewarding to know that we are progressing steadily towards a greater fluency with the language. It is a humbling experience to know that, even though we are still students, we will be returning to the plains in the capacity of teachers who must be understood in order to teach. The challenge of lives to be redeemed and God's love to be demonstrated provides us with all the motivation we need and we trust God for the strength.

A BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

BY MISS SATYABATI BEHERA

My father and mother were born in Hindu families and were married as Hindus. After they had four children, my father left his home without telling his family where he was going and started on a pilgrimage. While travelling to various places, he met a Christian. That Christian showed

loving concern for my father and gave him a copy of the Scriptures. My father read the Gospel carefully and, after thinking through the matter, decided to be baptized. He was baptized and returned home to tell his father that he had become a Christian. My grandfather became very angry and drove his son away from home. Leaving his wife and children he went to the city.

After my father left the house, my grandmother gave much trouble to my mother. She said, "Since my son has gone, what is the use of your staying?" Some days later a rash broke out on the body of my older sister. My grandmother ground up a certain kind of poisonous fruit and applied it on the rash. As a result of this my sister died in a few days. When this happened my mother decided that to whatever religion her husband had gone, she would join the same. That night at midnight, as the tide was coming into the lake, she slipped quietly out of the house, taking the remaining three children with her. Plunging into the waters of the Chilka Lake, with her children, she crossed to the other side and so made her way to the city.

The arrival of his wife and children brought great joy to my father and he welcomed them with open arms. My parents had to work very hard to support their children. My mother had a very religious nature and she began at once to attend church and women's meetings, so she could learn about Jesus and what He taught. Later she accepted Christ as her own Saviour and was baptized.

I am the ninth child and the youngest daughter. My mother's love helped me to know the Lord Jesus. When I was ten years old a British missionary sent me to the Christian boarding school at Cuttack, Orissa, to study. My Sunday School teachers and my third grade teacher led me to Christ. While I was in boarding school, two of the British missionaries were especially used to inspire me and lead me to a closer walk with

Christ. I joined a class for inquirers which met every week. The name of the class was: "Mama's Class." That was because we called that missionary, mother.

Once a lay-worker was speaking to us on this theme: "Other than by the Cross of Christ, where is the way?" When I heard those words everthing the missionary had said in class came to my mind and I was deeply troubled. I ran to the missionary and said, "I can no longer remain a secret believer. I must accept Christ as my personal Saviour and show my faith through baptism." With joy she sent my name to the church. On November 6, 1927, at the age of 14, I was baptized, thus proclaiming to all my faith in Jesus Christ. The blessings which I have had from the time I was a child I cannot find words to describe. Jesus Christ lives in me and may I always glorify Him.

Later I came to study in the Mission Girls' High School at Balasore. At school and in the hostel I learned more about following Jesus. After taking Teachers' Training course at Cuttack, I became a teacher there. During those months I dreamed several times that I was teaching in Balasore. One day the principal at Cuttack called me and asked me if I would like to work as a Bible woman, since Miss Brueckmann had written that she needed someone. Though the principal approved of my doing this work, how could I leave my friends and go out into the surrounding villages? At the age I was then, no girl in Orissa had ever become a Bible woman. Yes, I wanted to do evangelistic work, but I thought I was too young. However, after much thought and prayer, I arrived in Balasore and began working with Miss Brueckmann on January 10, 1938. Then I understood my dream. The Lord had called me to teach the Christian faith and proclaim the gospel of Christ in the villages of Balasore District.

For twenty-one years I have worked in this area and rejoice in spiritual things. In 1954 we went to the large steel city of Jamshedpur

to work in the two churches there for some days. We visited five Sunday Schools and I gave special training to the teachers. After the work was finished I decided I needed to see a dentist before we went home. The dentist was a young Parsi and was very gentle and understanding. He put a temporary filling in my tooth, but it still gave trouble. In spite of this, I went to Mosaboni Mines, some 50 miles distant, to visit the Sunday School there. But, as soon as I arrived there I had to go to bed. I was staying with my brother and his wife and they took very good care of me. But in spite of everything they could do, the pain grew worse and worse and my face became badly swollen. I decided I must return to the doctor in Jamshedpur at once. Miss Brueckmann went back with me and we stayed at the Mission residence where Rev. and Mrs. Vichert were at that time. When I went to the dentist, he said, "Do not be afraid." Although he was not a Christian he showed great sympathy and encouraged me. He tried very hard to help me by giving different injections and by visiting me twice each day. On the night when I was in greatest pain, I had a dream of two dear friends. Who were they? Rev. Probodh Nyack and Miss Gertrude Brox, both of whom had gone to be with the Lord. Miss Brox stood quietly by my beside, but Rev. Nyack sat at the foot of the bed and was saying to me: "With this silver paper make decorations for the Sunday School." Suddenly, my sleep was broken and I found Miss Brueckmann sitting and watching by my beside. I told her the dream and said, "Perhaps God sent these two friends to take me to heaven." However, this was not His will and through the care of friends, prayers, and the doctor's wisdom and skill the Lord healed me. Two teeth were extracted under an anesthetic. Miss Brueckmann waited on me and then to relieve her an Anglo-Indian friend was called in to help.

During my years of service I have seen many changes in the women of our churches. They are trying much harder to do the work of the church and they try to maintain peaceful relations in the church. In one church the members were not willing to pay for a pastor. They were content

to have supplies. The supervisor and I went to this church. We explained tithing and gave Bible teachings on stewardship. We had special prayer with the church people over the question of calling a pastor. After one of the prayer meetings, a woman stood up and said, "We will keep a pastor and pay his salary." We gave thanks for this answer to prayer and returned home.

I work also among non-Christians and find great peace of mind in doing this. I like to use especially the magic lantern to make clear what I say. Women are eager to hear the gospel. One woman demanded that we should sing five hymns for her. It made her happy that we did so. The main question of non-Christians, or perhaps I should say, one of their first questions is: "Why haven't you married?" We answer their question and they understand very well. "Yes," they say, "they are holy women."

Four years ago a family became Christian. One day I said to the wife, "Do you know how to pray?" She said, "No." So I taught her. Now she can pray for 15 minutes by herself. How much peace we get from prayer. In Oriya, my mother tongue, there is a proverb which says, "The gentle dropping of water wears away a stone." Therefore, if we work confidently and steadily, there will be results. "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength!" There are many in India who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The Lord gives us to-day these words of encouragement, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

YOUNG PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE COMES OF AGE

The 21st conference for young men and women of the Balasore District was held in Jaleswar from June 1-5. We are grateful to the one who established this Institute. For 20 years this meeting has been held during the Puja holidays (Hindu worship festival days) in the fall, but this year the program committee decided to hold it during the hot season. Indeed, this year's Institute is a memorable one among the good meetings which have been held during the years. I would like to share with you the joy I found from this meeting.

In this meeting Indian leaders carried all the responsibilities for planning and conducting the meeting. We are glad that our missionary friends have taught us to stand on our own feet.

The chief verse of the meeting is found in Phil. 4: 13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." In the mornings we discussed these four subjects: Christian youth and the family, Christian youth and education, Christian youth and the disciplined life, Christian youth and daily Christian living.

There were two special speakers, Miss Bhageobati Panda and Mr. Pranaya Sircar, both of whom spoke in such fine and direct ways that the young people present in the meetings could not but come to the place where they realized the need of a complete change in their lives.

Each afternoon from two until four a group of leaders sat under the mango tree and prayed specially for the the young people. In a wonderful way the things for which we prayed in the afternoons were answered at night in the meeting.

Two non-Christian young people joined in the meeting. One is Phulara Parida, a girl who passed matric (H. S. leaving exam) from the Balasore Girls' High School, and is now studying in college. She won fourth prize in Bible knowledge and also won prizes in debating, citizenship and general knowledge. When she took home the books she

received as prizes, her parents wanted to know what they were for and what good they were, but she reads them with attention and profit. Later she wrote to one of the leaders saying how much joy she had gotten from the meeting and that she hopes to come next year, too. The other young people and the leaders were pleased with Phulara's work and attitudes. Let us pray for this girl.

On the last evening two things were scheduled, a time of testimony and dedication, and the observance of the Lord's Supper. First, Mr. Sircar asked all those who knew they needed prayer to come to the front of the room. These young people were divided into groups and in each group, each individual prayed earnestly for help. Many cried aloud, confessing their sins, for they realized their need of repentance and forgiveness. When the groups had again gathered together, an opportunity was given for testimonies. Without delay one young person after another stepped forward and told how they saw their own sins, how the meeting had helped them to confess their sins, how they were going to follow Christ, how they were going to look for ways of serving Christ, how they were going to put Him first in their lives. So many had something to say or confess that it grew late. Nevertheless, no one was tired. Then the Lord's Supper was observed. How marvelous was the new joy and power we felt!

The names of those who dedicated themselves to Christ have been sent to their pastors, with the request that there be special prayer for these young people and that they be guided in Christian growth.

Sometimes the missionary friends and Indian leaders become discouraged. But there is no cause for discouragement, for the money thus spent will not be thrown away on the water, but it will bring Glory to Christ. Paul says, "I can do anything with the help of Christ."

Written in Oriya by Satyabati Behera

Translated by Nina Bowers,

NEW PASTOR FOR UNION CHURCH, KHARGPUR

A reception for Rev. and Mrs. Rupert Bunten was held at the Christian Center in Khargpur on May 13th by the members of Union Church and congregation to welcome them to the pastorate there. The next evening Mr. Bunten was installed as pastor of the Church at an impressive service in which Rev. A. L. Sanford, the former missionary pastor, and Rev. Glenn R. Hill took part.

Mr. and Mrs. Bunten had their early education at the Mission School at Kalimpong. Mr. Bunten is a graduate of the Calcutta Bible College in the Class of '57. Mrs. Bunten has had stenographic training and for ten years has been with a large firm in Calcutta. They are members of Carey Baptist Church, Calcutta, where Mr. Bunten served as organist and it was there that he was ordained. They have one daughter, and three sons, the youngest not yet of school age.

We are happy to welcome Rupert and Hilda and their fine children to the fellowship of our Mission. We appreciate the deep consecration and the sense of God's call that led them to give up more remunerative work in Calcutta for the work associated with the church at Khargpur. We pray that they may have many years of fruitful service for the Lord in this needy town, and that the church may continue to grow in numbers and in outreach to those without Christ under their ministry.

In July the church had a dinner and program at the Christian Center as a farewell to two of its young men, Denzil Baker, and Conrad Halyburton who are entering Calcutta Bible College. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Fred Hill, a former business man, now on the staff of the College. With him was a young Nepali man, who seven years ago became blind. Four years ago at the School for the Blind, Kalimpong, he opened his heart to Christ. His messages in song and his testimony to the

spiritual sight which is now his witnessed to the joy and thankfulness of his heart for blessings greater than physical sight.

IN MEMORIAM

On June 1, 1957 the Rev. Amrita Lal Maity left his earthly home at Jhargram, Bengal to enter his heavenly home with the Lord. On May 1st, 1939, after 41 years of faithful and conscientious service as pastor, evangelist, and church supervisor Amrit retired from active service. He was then about 63 years of age. At the time of his retirement his picture appeared on the cover page of *Tidings* and the quarterly published an article by Rev. A. A. Berg telling of Amrit's life and work. Excerpts from that article are in order here, with but minor changes in wording.

His pleasant face, well covered with beard, was attractive and spoke of kindness and humanity. No wonder a Hindu woman brought her children to him one day many years ago, asking him to put his hands on them and bless them! Amrit spoke four Indian languages, and also English. As a preacher he was conscientious, forceful, and uncompromising with truth.

Amrit's grandfather was a convert from Hinduism and when he was baptized, his son, Narendra Lal, who was then about 12 years of age was also baptized. Amrit was Narendra Lal's and Grace Maity's first son. When he was about 12 years of age he was baptized. When he was 16 years of age his father died and he felt the responsibility for supporting the family, in which there were three younger boys, was his. But his mother, who had promised her first-born to the Lord, prevailed upon him to devote his life to the Christian ministry. She had the great joy of seeing her son complete 36 years of consecrated service while she continued in intercession for him.

He completed the course at the Midnapore Bible School. During the cold season he would join others in extensive touring of the villages, visiting in the homes and presenting Christ. For two years he served as assistant pastor at the Midnapore Church. For six years he was pastor of the Ward Memorial Church, Khargpur. His most conspicuous service was perhaps the 14 years he spent as pastor of the Jamshedpur Church at the time when the steel plant there was developing and using the services of many Americans. He saw this church grow from a beginning of seven members to two hundred, during which time it also became completely self-supporting. After the Jamshedpur pastorate he worked as District Evangelist in the Midnapore area, and prior to retirement served for four years as church supervisor and evangelist among the Santal churches of the Jhargram field.

From among papers he had turned over to Mr. J. G. Gilson for safe keeping, we find his License to Preach the Gospel given by the Midnapore Quarterly Conference of Free Baptist Churches, dated March 24, 1903. Among these papers also are testimonies from co-workers, and others who knew him, as to his sterling qualities of character and the strong witness of his life and his preaching to the Christ whom he loved and served. What an abundant entrance his must have been into the Kingdom of heaven where he would hear the Master's words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

OUR PRAYER CORNER

"According to your faith, be it unto you." Matt. 9: 29.

Your prayers each day give you a share in the work that is being carried on in Bengal and Orissa and bring encouragement to missionaries and national workers.

1. We give thanks for answered prayer for Mabel Long. Continue to pray for complete healing that she may be able to walk again with ease.

2. For young people in Christian schools and colleges in India that they may be challenged with the claims of Christ.

3. For Bible Correspondence Courses in this land; that they may be used by the Holy Spirit to bring the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to many.

4. That division in churches may be overcome by the Spirit of God convicting men that such is sin and that only as there is mutual forgiveness can God also forgive.

5. That the effort being made in Bhimpore to strengthen the outreach of the Sunday School may be successful and bring blessing to all who share in it.

6. For missionaries who are learning a new language that they may have Divine power to overcome the difficulties, certain that He who has called them to serve will also enable them to acquire facility of speech.

7. For the Muslim doctor, who through Bible study, has come to accept Christ as Saviour, that he may know God's guidance in every decision and may be used to lead his family to know the Lord.

NEWS ITEMS

Missionaries :

Miss Hazel Smith left by plane from Calcutta a week earlier than previously planned for furlough in the U. S. A., having received word that her father, who had been hospitalized for sometime, was seriously ill. We are happy to report that Hazel wrote on July 6th that he was

coming home for a few days. His decided improvement has surprised even the doctors. Hazel thanks all those who have prayed for him and she and her family know that God's wonderful power has been at work.

Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Long, retired, are living in their family home at 460 E. Kingsley Ave., Pomona, Calif. Mabel writes: "Everyone is lovely to us. The various church groups have stocked our cooler, so that Herbert can hardly find a corner to tuck in our own purchases. Church friends gave us so many helps: wheel chair, walker, and a ramp, in addition to other things. We have been loaned a spin drier washing machine and a new home electric sewing machine to use as long as we need them."

The plastic jacket, which replaced the plaster cast in which Mabel arrived home, enables her to sit up with comfort and, although much of her time is spent in the wheel chair, she feels that she is leading quite a normal life: As always she is cheerful and optimistic and praises the Lord for all His goodness.

Miss Lillian Brueckmann writes from her home in Kansas City, Mo, that when she had her physical check-up, the doctor refused to believe that she had ever had anything wrong with her heart and said, in his opinion, she had never had a heart attack. Lillian says, "Of course, I rejoice over the fact that when I was so ill in 1954, and since then, much prayer in my behalf in several different countries was offered and the Lord has restored me completely." We in India thank God for this good news and look forward to the time when Lillian will return to the work for which the Lord has healed her.

Miss Beatrice Ericson expects to return to India by plane from San Francisco, arriving about September 28th. She will take over much of the responsibility for the Treasurer's work from Mr. John G. Gilson at Khargpur.

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Gilson will sail from Bombay October 5th on the mv "Victoria" en route to the U. S. A. via Italy and Europe for regular furlough period. Their plans are not yet finalized, but they will first visit their daughter Lois at New Haven and then proceed to the middle west where they can visit the rest of their family. Until another address is given they may be reached c/o A. B. F. M. S., 152 Madison Ave., N. Y. 16.

After treatment in his Khargpur home, John finally was admitted to the Railway Hospital there for eight days the last of May. The diagnosis was chronic bronchitis and fatigue. He was ordered to have a month's complete rest, but the pressure of work brought John and Alice back from Puri, by the sea, in much less than a month.

In July there were farewells for *Miss Elsie Kittlitz*, and *Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Howson and little Sharon*, all leaving from Balasore to go by plane (as reported in the last issue of *Tidings*) from Calcutta to the U. S. A. Elsie is finding it very difficult to face retirement from overseas service after almost 36 years in China and India. We pray that she may find a large place of usefulness in the U. S. A., for leaving India cannot mean retirement to one who is so deeply consecrated to the Lord and such an effective witness for Him. Herb plans on graduate work while at home and we pray God's guidance for him and Aileen for the future.

Missionaries, Children :

Mrs. E. C. Brush had the joy of being in New York to welcome her son *Stanley*, his wife and their two little daughters when they returned from W. Pakistan in July for furlough. Stanley and his wife have been serving under the Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gilson announce the marriage of their elder son, *William*, to *Mari Anna Riley* on June 11th. The couple are living

near Lake Geneva for the summer where Bill is working as Water Front Superintendent. Bill was awarded the highest certificate by the American Red Cross for Water Safety Instructors. He was offered a job with the Red Cross at a high salary, but turned it down in order to complete his college work which was interrupted by military service. Both he and his wife will be at Iowa Wesleyan this fall.

Arvid Berg, youngest son of Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Berg, was married on June 1st to Marlys Joanne Munyon at the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minn. The Insurance Co., for which Arvid has been working, is sending him for a year's special training at Freeport, Ill. after which he will be assigned to a permanent location.

Milton Berg, M. D. who has been serving on an Indian reservation in No. Dakota, is to be resident doctor in a Detroit Hospital.

Gordon Roadarmel received the degree of M. A. in English from the University of California, Berkeley in June. This summer he is working as typist in the Oakland, Calif. office of the Southern Pacific Railways.

In early April *Norman Roadarmel* was informed that the Indian Government had refused his application for visa for missionary service. It was fully expected that the subsequent application for visa for W. Pakistan would be granted, but early in July word was received that this also had been refused. An attempt is being made to learn the reason for refusal and to appeal for reconsideration. In a letter to his parents in India Norman says: "Perhaps God wants us somewhere else. We have no intention of pushing for any one country. Better to let God have things His way than to try to push our will on Him. If the developments are not His direct will, we still know that He can use circumstances to His own glory, if we will let Him." Norman's youngest sister-in-law has entered Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, India for her junior year, coming from Berea College, Ky. His mother-in-law,

Mrs. Elizabeth Neely, returned to Africa in early June, and his oldest brother-in-law and family will be returning to Africa soon, following their first furlough.

Visitors :

Dr. Leonard Gittings, formerly Prof. of Missions at Northern Baptist Theological School, and now on the staff of Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, *Rev. Frank E. See*, pastor united Baptist Christian Church, Duluth, Minn., and *Rev. Robert A. Craine*, pastor Presbyterian Church, Duluth, Minn. had brief visits in our Mission area in early July. Mr. See was entertained by the Gilsons, as they had become acquainted with him in 1951 when their daughter Ruth and her husband Dick Nycum were in Duluth and attended his church. Mr. Caine and he travelled together. We were happy that Dr. Gittings could spend a Sunday at Jamshedpur and be in the home of Rev. M. Singh Ramanjulu, who was a student of his at Northern Baptist. From this large industrial city he went to Bhipore where he was able to visit the boys' and girls' schools and see something of Santal village life. Balasore was the only other place in our Mission which he had time to visit. We are glad to have visitors from America stop off even for all too short visits, and trust that they may gain something of value through the experiences to take back to Christians in the U. S. A.

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