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3-1-1983

## Therefore - March/April 1983 - Vol. 11, No. 2

Brethren In Christ Missions

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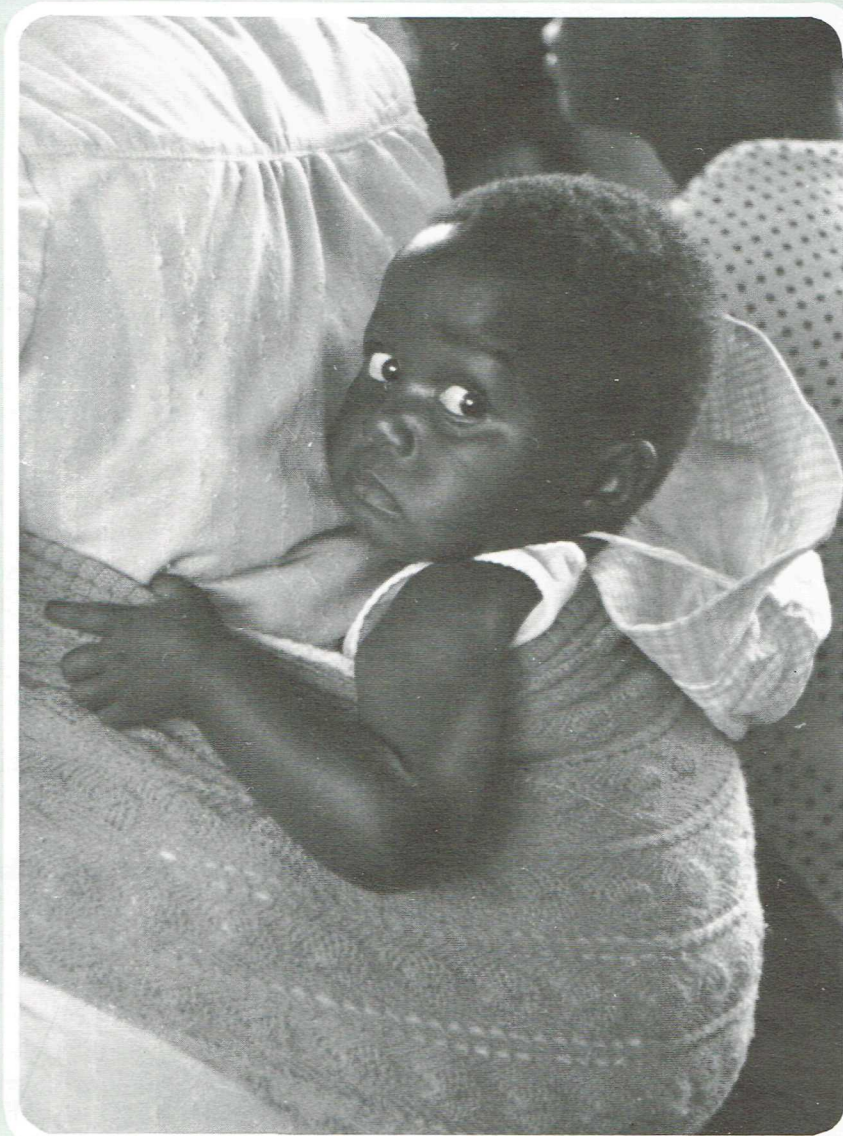
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### Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

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# ***therefore***

March/April 1983



**MIRACLE AT A WOMEN'S MEETING**  
a true life story

**ROY SIDER'S WORLD MISSION TOUR**



### On the cover...

Secure on her mother's back,  
a Zambian child learns  
early the importance of  
meeting for fellowship with  
other believers.

## Inside *therefore*

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## *therefore*

March/April 1983  
Vol. 11, No. 2

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America

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# Our Church Around the World

by Roy Sider

"You in the West use time, but we in Africa experience it." A wise word indeed, and well-spoken at the start of an eleven-week missionary journey. The days, the hours, even the moments were full of experiences.

## Zambia

Take, for instance, seeing Rose Shannon ecstatic from an unbelievably successful Choma shopping spree. Fresh vegetables! Peas in the pod, several small eggplants, a one-pound head of cabbage, a can of peaches, and a pound of butter -- all for, well \$11 (US). But I had never seen a happier shopper. The common turned into treasures.

Margaret Msululu was born again while training as a nurse in Lusaka. Last year she heard Dr. John Spurrier speak of the need for Zambian nurses at Macha. She answered the call!

Rose and Margaret, an American and a Zambian, are partners in sharing Christ's love. Beautiful, but potentially painful. That's not because of deficiencies in either's Christian life or professional training. Bringing people from two cultures together to share the stresses of nursing requires adjustments and patience. All over Zambia partners share and experience the joy of seeing Zambians fully in charge.



North Bihar church planters with two Nepalese believers.

Bishop Silungwe, after five years of service, is now fully supported by the Zambian church. Marked progress has been made for short and long-range Zambianization of positions presently filled by missionaries. Thank God for the quality Christians, Zambians and missionaries, teaming together for ministry in Christ's name.

## Zimbabwe

Bishop Ndlovu and the Zimbabwean church are to be commended for the gigantic task achieved in reopening churches, schools, and hospitals. Thousands of people are served every week through their ministries. The Mennonite Central Committee continues the strategic assistance given since Zimbabwe became a nation. Now, in addition to MCC, the church asks for some key Brethren in Christ personnel. Jake and Nancy Shenk and Curtis and Leslie Book now serve in Zimbabwe, with at least one other couple scheduled for 1983. In-country support will be provided largely by church or government funds. Brethren in Christ Missions provides transportation to and from

Africa and other supplementary assistance.

## London

Dorothy joined me in London for the Asia trip. Our two days there included contacts with the London Committee and the Elias Moyo family, and an exciting afternoon with Roger Forster, a London church planter.

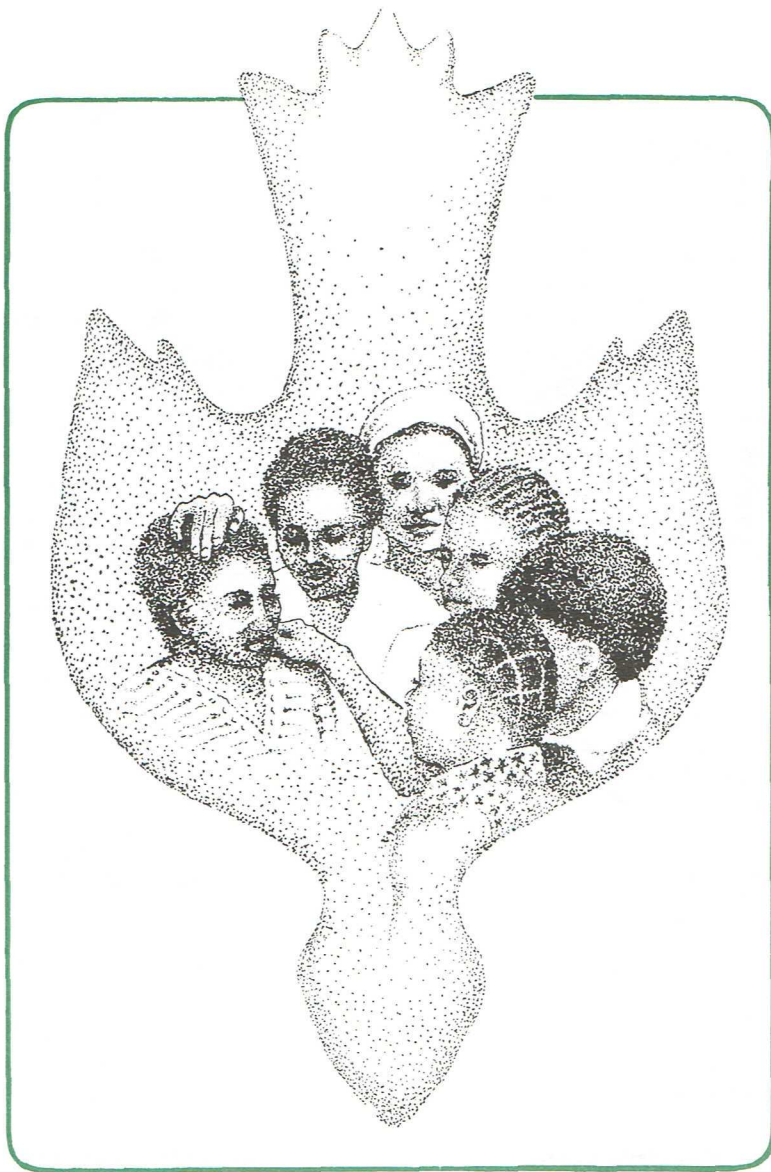
## India

Twenty-eight exacting days and nights; seven nights were spent on trains. Traveling on India's trains saved mission dollars and provided greater enrichment through contacts with Indian people. Everywhere we went Hindu strangers extended kindnesses beyond all expectations. Our common humanity warmed the heart and deepened the longing that they too may know Christ.

As Dorothy and I arrived in Orissa, questions lurked in my mind. Pramod Roul, compelled to leave two communities in Orissa where he began a Christian witness, had recently relocated. Was there no future for a Brethren in Christ witness in Orissa? Where would we stay? Would someone meet us? Warm

(continued on page 6)

# My Agenda



Super-confident of no loopholes in the day's plans, I sped happily down the Great East Road to pick up Mene, who just the day before had assured me she'd be ready and waiting.

Turning off the main road, the green Datsun pick-up bounced over the rough path to Mene's little house and came to an abrupt stop. A few chickens scratched around in the yard. Knocking at the front door brought a shy young girl. Gray circles on her dark knees suggested she had been cleaning the floor.

"Hodi," I announced myself.

"Hodini," she acknowledged my arrival.

"Is Mene going with me today?" I asked expectantly.

"She went...to hospital... yesterday night," the young girl answered in halting English.

"Is she sick?"

"I don't know," she nervously replied, looking down at her toe making little paths in the dust of the gray concrete floor. I thanked her and left, disturbed that my plans had gone astray.

This afternoon was to have been a special women's meeting with two Zambian nurses

giving a presentation on Family Planning. The church women were eager for the session and I had worked hard to set up the program. "Oh well, we'll make out OK with Esinati; she's better trained anyway," I mentally assured myself.

The bright sun that Saturday afternoon encouraged me as I drove through housing areas picking up women who lived far from the church. They loved going to a meeting.

Chatter, laughter and sounds of slapping handshakes filled the air. News was shared after greetings were done. Both Tonga and English words could be heard. "Sarah had her baby!" "Twalumba" (we are thankful). "Elizabeth's mother died." "Ma! Ma! Ma!" (that's too bad). "Rebecca's son got a place in secondary school."

Then, pulling out all the stops, they began to sing, "*I must tell Jesus all of my troubles; I cannot bear my burdens alone....*"

I thought of the many hurting hearts under that canopy finding comfort and catharsis in the fellowship with one another. My eyes brimmed with tears as I thought of the comparative ease of my own life: no beating husband, no unfair demands from an extended family system, plus many other hard-to-bear things.

At the church we found women waiting, seated on the ground visiting. After greetings were exchanged and everyone was duly noticed we

therefore

# ... God's Agenda

by Miriam K. Stern

moved slowly into the church. I scanned the group for Esinati. She hadn't arrived yet but would by the time Bible study was finished.

The Sunday school classroom was full and noisy as the steel chairs scraped the concrete floor in the settling process. After the opening songs and prayers, a Scripture lesson on Sarah as a *maningi* (very) good wife caught our attention. Small groups clustered for discussion.

I kept watching for a speaker for the Family Planning bit and she had not come. I felt let down. Why hadn't she sent word? She's a woman of experience in the professional world. I expected more. She lived not far from the church. My thoughts played back and forth:

*Well, I guess I have lived in Africa long enough to know it's not the end of the world if a program doesn't follow as planned.*

But so many women showed up. How disappointing for them!

*But they are less disappointed than you are; you just don't like something to fail that you organized. The women will still have a good time; they always do when they get together.*

The small groups reassembled and reported the essence of their discussions. A standing song and prayer would conclude the meeting.

Just then, a lady at the end of the second row said something.

"What did she say?" whis-

pered the unhearing ones.

The leader announced that Stella had an evil spirit and wanted prayer.

*By now I was beginning to get the message. This is why the speakers had not come.*

"Will everyone sit down," the leader ordered. And to Stella, "Will you come to this seat please?"

Stella, a little woman wearing an uninteresting dark dress and a very dark countenance, walked forward and took a seat. Three people were asked to pray for Stella.

They were "regular" prayers. At the end I feared nothing had happened to Stella and that she'd go home just as she had come, only disappointed. Perhaps her next recourse would be to go to the witch doctor. Maybe she had already been there and was discouraged with the expense and short duration of the witch doctor's cures.

The women were about to leave the room when I dared to butt in with, "Do you ladies think anything has happened to Stella?"

"No," they readily agreed.

"Shall a few of us stay and pray for her again?" I asked, sensing much was at stake. There was a positive response.

At the back of the room several women were chatting. One had been living in adultery. I felt her influence in the room would be negative, so I asked them to move outside to talk. They complied.

The remaining eight or so moved close together around the table. It was the first

time some of them had been in such a prayer meeting. Feeling the Holy Spirit directing, I spoke to them:

"Sisters, this is heavy business and we need to be clean before the Lord so that Holy Spirit can work. Stella, have you any charms or medicines at home from the witch doctor?"

"Yes," she honestly replied.

"Do you really want deliverance so much that you will throw all that away when you go home? God will not share His glory with any other. What do you say?" I queried.

"I want to be freed. I will destroy it all when I go home," she assured us.

"All right ladies, we must pray that the blood of Christ covers us all and that Satan's power be bound. You join me in prayer." I prayed, then Talita, then Margaret, and on and on. The unity there was a beautiful experience. Someone broke into singing: "*In the name of Jesus, we have the victory,...demons will have to flee....*"

We rebuked the evil spirit which was causing all the trouble. Contortions screwed up Stella's face as a battle raged inside her. Then with hands raised high over her head and a shriek, we knew that the evil spirit had left. A peace spread over Stella's face which was indescribable. Ecstatic, I blurted out, "Isn't she beautiful!" We thanked God together for allowing us to witness His power and asked His protection for Stella as she went home.

(continued on page 6)

## Our Church Around the World

(continued from page 3)

greetings from Pramod and his brother, Bijoy, provided some positive answers. Later, over thirty people gathered for the inauguration of a new Brethren in Christ center for Christian witness in Orissa. We were overwhelmed at God's work. Hindus are coming to Christ. Tribes people are opening to the gospel.

The miles were many from Orissa to North Bihar. We learned that tribals around Barjora and Saharsa are open to the gospel. Barnabas Minz told of West Bengal where two families are converted, of fifteen villages with no Christian witness, of another area where twenty new baptized believers live, of the Katihar area where six villages are open to the gospel. Joel Hembrom related the story of families coming to the Lord in the state of Assam and a desire to organize them into Brethren in Christ churches.

We sat in the flickering light of lanterns, hearing the church planters and others relate wonderful works of the Holy Spirit: baptisms, deliverance from evil spirits, healings, the testimony of a converted witch doctor. As a grand finale 270 people gathered for the ordination of five men to the gospel ministry. The ordained ministry of the church was doubled in a day!


### Japan

The last two weeks of the journey brought us to Japan,

land of the rising sun. Here Jesus Christ rises as the Son of Righteousness. Mrs. Noriuchi related the bitter experiences of the war, the scarcity of food, the deaths and then the shocking pronouncement that the Emperor was not God. In the emptiness of her heart Mrs. Noriuchi came to faith in Jesus through the witness of a Brethren in Christ teacher of English.

English teaching continues as a significant part of the ministry in Japan. The Shaidas point to 170 persons to whom bridges are being built: bridges of friendship and, hopefully, of faith. The Zooks, sharing with the Furutas, relate the meaningful discussions Marlin has with his English class. The Fuchu ministry is one of three national-missionary church-planting projects. The Graybills, Deyhles, and Sugatas share English, cooking classes, and the gospel with the enlarging circle of contacts in Nagoya. Traveling farther south, the Hocks and Hirokawas team together in a witness to a new area of Shimonoseki.

Tokyo was the setting for a second history-making gathering of Japanese church representatives in fellowship and planning for church-planting ventures through the decade.

Jesus Christ is building His church throughout the nations. What a joy for us Brethren in Christ to be part of His mission! 

## ... God's Agenda

(continued from page 5)


By now the sun's rays were very slanted. It seemed the day had been full. We piled into the car. Kate and Bessie sat in the front seat, talking a mile a minute in Tonga.

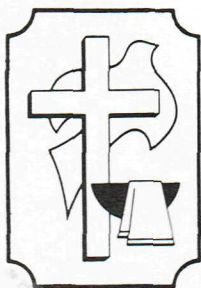
Kate, a dear little widow of six years, shared how she was very troubled during the prayer meeting. While we prayed for Stella's deliverance, she had strange pricking/buzzing sensations in her tight curly hair. She connected this with a previous encounter with demons. Were they trying to enter her again? She pleaded, "Would you pray for me next week please?"

We stopped the car in front of her house. She was about to get out when I suggested, "How about praying for you right now?"

"*Cibotu maningi*" (very good), she replied. There in the cab of the pick-up Bessie and I prayed that the blood of Jesus Christ would cover Kate and protect her from the evil one. Kate also prayed, reminding the Lord that she loved Him very much and needed His help. She left the car smiling all over.

As darkness wrapped up the day, I was too excited to be weary. God had turned my disastrous afternoon into a big lesson on His ways with women and programs.

I learned later that Mene and Esinati had good reasons for not showing up: medical reasons. But, above all, perhaps God wanted us to realize that in His agenda, first things come first. 



Brethren in Christ Missions  
**Photo Album**

March/April, 1983

Names and photographs of Brethren in Christ personnel serving the Lord with:

# ZAMBIA



*Please pull out this directory and retain for on-going reference.*

# the ALBUM

Photographs of BRETHREN IN CHRIST Personnel

Photography by John Spurrier and Roy Sider

# ZAM



**Bishop and Mrs. William T. Silungwe**



**Rev. and Mrs. Jonathan Mwaalu**  
Overseer



**Mr. Mishek H. Mudenda**  
Treasurer



**Rev. and Mrs. Samson S. Mudenda**  
Member, Executive Board



**Rev. and Mrs. Davidson S. Mushala**  
Member, Executive Board;  
Pastor, Shampande Church



**Rev. and Mrs. Robinson Mudenda**  
Member, Executive Board;  
Pastor, Sikalongo Church



**Mr. and Mrs. Frey C. Mweetwa**  
Member, Executive Board;  
Church Education Secretary

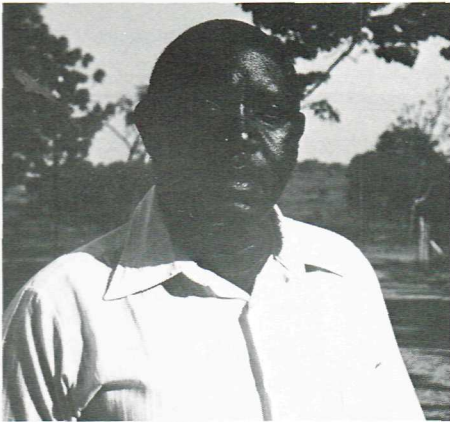


**Mr. Philip C. Mudenda**  
Member, Executive Board



**Deacon and Mrs. Jonah C. Munsanje**  
Member, Executive Board

Picture Not Available: Rev. George Hansumo, Cooperbelt Church Planter



**Mr. John Munsaka**  
Member, Executive Board;  
Pastor, Mujala Church



**Mr. and Mrs. David Chaba with Dainess**  
Choma Bookroom Manager



**Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah Kwamanakweenda**  
Deputy Headmaster,  
Choma Secondary School



**Rev. and Mrs. Andreah Moono**  
Pastor, Retired



**Mr. and Mrs. Myron Mukonka**  
Headmaster, Macha Secondary School



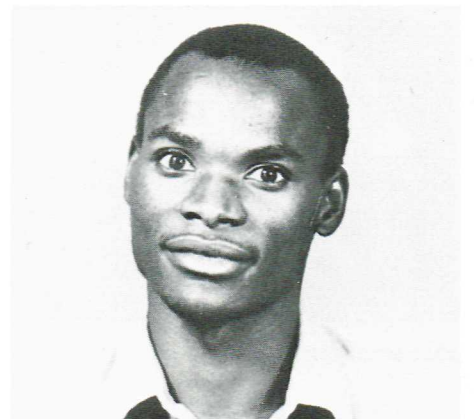
**Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan S. Muleya**  
Headmaster, Choma Secondary School



**Rev. and Mrs. Lazarus Muleya**  
Hospital Evangelist, Macha Hospital



**Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sikalima**  
Youth Coordinator, BIC Church, Zambia



**Mr. Yotham Sikwangala**  
Teacher, Sikalongo Bible Institute

# Prayer Requests for Zambia

## CHURCH LEADERS

**Bishop and Mrs. William T. Silungwe:** Pray for his health, wisdom in decision making and spiritual discernment. Pray too for Mrs. Silungwe as she offers needed support for her husband.

**Jonathan Mwaalu, Overseer:** Mr. Mwaalu gives assistance to the Bishop by visiting churches. His wife, Edna is active in women's work. Pray for their physical as well as financial needs. Pray for spiritual insight in counselling.

**Mesheck Mudenda, Church Treasurer:** Pray that he will be able to share, on a meaningful level, his deep convictions on stewardship with the church at large.

**Frey Mweetwa, Education Secretary:** Pray that Frey would have wisdom as he participates in government committees and helps make decisions relative to educational trends.

**Yotham Sikwangala:** Pray for his ministry at Sikalongo Bible Institute and in his community where Satan has many strongholds.

**George Hansumo, Zambian missionary to the Copperbelt:** George must travel great distances but has no vehicle. Pray that the Zambian church would support him adequately and that George will have extra wisdom in the many decisions he needs to make.

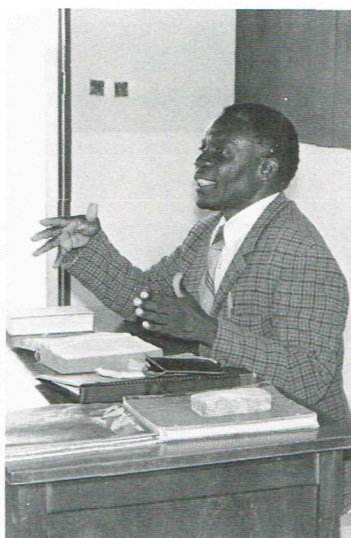
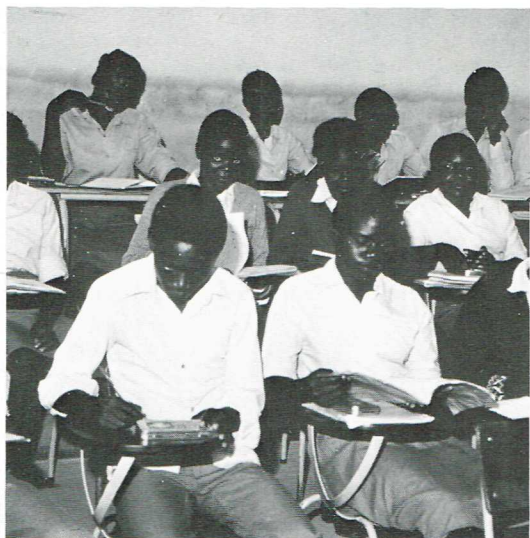
## ZAMBIAN CHURCH

Pray that the church will grow in the Lord to the extent that they will see giving of themselves and their money is but a reflection of their love for the Lord.

Pray for more highly trained pastors to serve in urban ministries. Sometimes the people in the congregation are more educated than the pastor.

Zambia's future church leaders are in training now. Pray that the young people will become involved in the local church programs. Pray that church leaders will have their eyes open to the needs of these people who are far from home.

**The Theological College of Central Africa:** Young people in this four year training program may help to answer the urban need. Pray for funds to increase the facilities.



Photography by Ken and Anita Kipe

# Your Generosity – God's Abundant Supply

We thank the Lord and you for the many contributions which came to Brethren in Christ Missions during December 1 - January 15. During this 46-day period 272 contributions came from churches and 746 contributions came from individuals.

We are grateful for those who prayed fervently for missions. It was also a special encouragement to see God's people sending in a second contribution when they realized there was going to be a significant shortfall. Many examples of faith and sacrifice were recorded in heaven

in response to this real need.

Total receipts for 1982 were \$216,287 less than the approved budget. However, some remarkable cost savings were realized during the last part of 1982. The Secretary of Overseas Ministries and missionaries on the fields found ways to temporarily curtail operating expenses as they realized the pressure of financial stringency. Some retired missionaries suspended their pension checks during the final months of 1982. Some Missions Office personnel voluntarily contributed months of wages/salary.

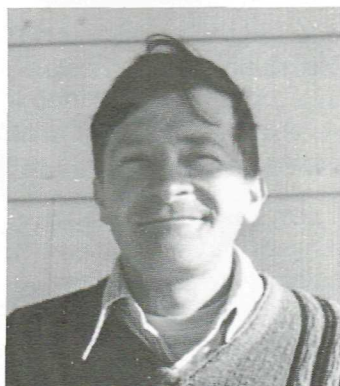
In addition, two things beyond our control occurred to favorably affect our missions dollars: the government in Zambia increased the grants for services provided by our missionaries there and the American dollar became stronger in relation to the currency in countries where we were ministering. Hence, fewer dollars were needed to meet our financial commitments overseas.

As a result, **we were able to meet all operational expenses and close the year without a deficit. Praise the Lord!** The remaining amount plus some bequests and annuities released in 1982 enabled us to fund a fraction of the capital approved for church planting and building in Nicaragua, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Japan. No money was available in the 1982 budget to purchase the second missionary residence in Venezuela.

As a church, we must not become dependent upon the fluctuations of foreign exchange rates or the unexpected generosity of governments in host countries to help us meet our financial commitments. The Executive Committee of the Board for Missions has adopted a four-phase plan for presenting God's people with opportunities to meet our 1983 program needs. Read the April issue of the *Evangelical Visitor* to get a description of this plan. Or, if you wish, ask for a copy by writing to Brethren in Christ Missions, P.O. Box 27, Mount Joy, PA 17552.

**by Donald R. Zook**

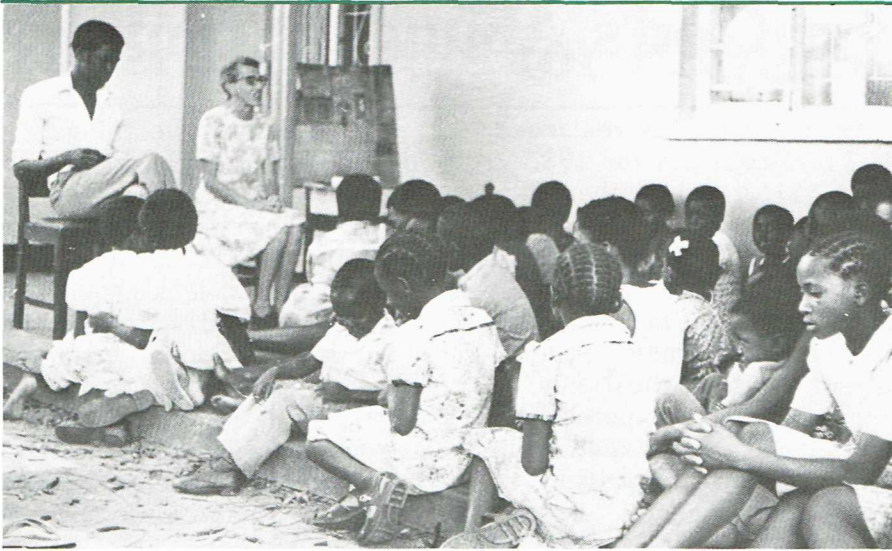
## Recent assignments



In February **Dale Lehman** began two years of voluntary service at Spring Lake Retreat in Wurtsboro, NY. Dale cares for maintenance of the camp buildings and grounds. Born and raised in the York, PA, area, Dale is a member of the Locust Grove congregation. Until recently he worked for an industrial firm in York.



**Howard & Barbara Parshley** joined the staff of Timber Bay Children's Home in December. Howard is administrative assistant for the Home; Barbara works with community services. The Parshleys come from Caronport, Sask., where they studied at a Bible institute after service with Worldwide Evangelization Crusade. They have five grown children.



# Field

## Good News Club continues in Livingstone

During the four months Phyllis Engle is on furlough in America, the Good News Club is continuing under the leadership of David Livingstone Teacher Training College students. Guydon Makani, a second-year student who has been helping Phyllis for the last eight months, is responsible for the club. He is being helped by one or two other students.

The club began in 1980 soon after Phyllis came to Livingstone. Each year a different student serves as a helper. The student who helped in 1981 is teaching now and has begun his own club at the school where he teaches.

The children eagerly await the hour on Sunday afternoon when it is Good News time. They gather outside, sit on the floor of the veranda, and participate in singing, praying, memorizing scripture, and listening to the Bible stories. The seed of the Word is being sown in these young hearts, and many children have accepted the Lord. One child

reported that her mother said the children are all good now because of Miss Engle. It would be more accurate to say that the children are good because of Jesus. But the mother's evaluation was still correct, because Miss Engle brought the love of Jesus to the children at DLTTTC.

- Lois Jean Sider

## Miracle for the Moyos

Elias Moyo, returning to his car after making a visit with a family, found that two files containing very important documents about the Brethren in Christ International Fellowship had been stolen. Elias was not certain that these documents could be replaced.

Late that night, as Elias was accompanying a guest to the gate, they noticed the missing files on top of the wall by the front door. Someone had returned them. We praise the Lord for this miracle.

- Fadzai Moyo

*Editor's note: The Moyos had been listed for prayer in the Challenge one day earlier, December 10.*

## Ninety hear Christmas message in Nagoya

The Nagoya team of Sugatas, Graybills and Deyhles rented a hall for a special Christmas evening for the neighbors and students of the Deyhles. We were encouraged by the good response of over ninety people, most of whom came as whole families. Following the meal, the children saw a Christian movie while the adults heard a Christmas message. Although we knew none of these people three months earlier, we are now in daily or weekly contact with all of them as we try to witness and to interest them in our new church. We are excited that one lady in our neighborhood became a Christian just before Christmas.

- Karen Deyhle

## Signs of growth in India

Four families in Supaul (Saharsa) have indicated they are ready to be baptized. A church is soon to be established here.

During Roy Sider's visit five brethren were added to the ministry: Samuel Hembrom, Barnabas Minz, Stephen and Moses Mirandi, and Luke Murmu. The ordination service was part of a three-day workers conference.

A church planters' seminar, held at Banmankhi, had nearly forty in attendance. It was led by Dr. Roger Hedlund of the Church Growth Center in Madras.

- Emmanuel Roy

# Updates

## Gilmores show commitment to Caracas

Lynn Thrush, pastor of the Waynesboro, PA, congregation, recently visited Venezuela. He makes the following observations:

Gordon and Susie Gilmore are becoming adjusted to the crowded city life. Their acceptance of a culture so different from their Canadian homeland shows their strong commitment to their ministry in Caracas.

Some relationships developing with neighbors are encouraging. Gordon envisions a young man named Sid as having leadership potential for the Lord if he will give his life to Jesus Christ.

The Gilmores speak with appreciation and a bit of amazement at the wide interest and support from North American churches concerning their ministry in Caracas.



Gordon Gilmore (right) in Caracas.



Freddy Negrete

## New Hispanic American Church

A new Hispanic American church was planted during the past year in La Puente, California, under the pastoral leadership of Freddy Negrete. The church, Living Word Brethren in Christ Fellowship, presently has three Bible study groups meeting weekly at different sites. Leadership training is conducted on Wednesday nights.

An extraordinary answer to prayer was received by the church when permission was granted by the local YWCA to use its facility, with a capacity for 200 for Sunday morning worship. The quality facility is perfectly located. Praise the Lord!

## Churches planted in Zimbabwe

Miss Maria Tshuma began door-to-door visiting at Hwange in 1979. From a handful of people gathering for prayer and fellowship, a church was born. Soon funds were collected for a church building. On Sunday, November 21, 1982, the building was dedicated to the Lord. Over 200 were in attendance. Seventeen people were baptised in a service held the previous day. Of those baptised, four were from Kamativi, where another church is being planted.

- Doris Dube

## Water crisis is over

For several months there had been a severe water shortage in the Macha area, stemming from a poor rainy season last year and a failure of good rainfall so far this year. Water was being trucked from Choma (forty dirt-road miles away) to keep the hospital operating.

January 25 the Missions Office received this cable: *Three days and nights of rain, dam filling rapidly. Hallelujah.*

## Baseball evangelism in Japan

The Nagoya church is trying a new approach to reach Japanese men. Two Sundays per month Dan Deyhle plans to "skip" church to play baseball. You can call it "going out into the highways and byways" because the Japanese men are not coming to church with our traditional approaches. The Kami No Kura community team asked Dan to join. Because the men work Saturdays, Sunday is their only free day.

We, the Deyhles, are planning evening Christian study meetings for these Sundays. We hope these same men will come and bring their families. In our home they will fellowship with the other church people and have Bible study, singing and, on special occasions, a Christian movie. We hope this casual approach will be less threatening to newcomers and the more suitable schedule will break down their reluctance.

- Karen Deyhle

# Baptism at Fuchu

by Ruth Zook

The first baptism at the new church planting work in Fuchu took place December 12, 1982, when Marlin Zook baptized Mr. Toru Kawate. It was a meaningful service for the small group gathered at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Furuta, the Japanese pastoral couple. One of the ladies present, Mrs. Ozaki, who has been attending the English Bible class each on Mondays for the past two years, was very impressed with the service and with Mr. Kawate's testimony. Afterward, she counseled for several hours with Marlin and Mr. and Mrs. Furuta. On December 29 she made her decision

to follow Christ. We are encouraged at this response to the first baptism.

Toru Kawate married Dora Myers January 1, 1983, at her home in Pennsylvania. Following their return to Japan, the Fuchu church welcomed them back with a small reception dinner after the Sunday morning worship service

Toru Kawate following baptism with gifts of flowers and a new song book.



January 16. Christian couples are a special asset to the church in Japan, where it seems difficult for married men to become Christians. We are thankful to have Mr. and Mrs. Kawate join the work at Fuchu.

At the time of the Kawate reception, Mrs. Ozaki was presented with a Bible from the Fuchu church in recognition of her decision to become a Christian.

Please pray for the continued outreach at Fuchu through English, Bible, and cooking classes, as well as through the regular Sunday church services which include Sunday school, adult Bible study, worship, and a monthly English Bible reading service held on Sunday evening.

# Watchnight Wedding

by Eleanor Poe

Ten minutes before midnight December 31, 1982, Pastor Pedro made an announcement that drove away the drowsiness from every person attending the watchnight service at El Arroyo church. There was going to be a wedding.

The astonished congregation turned to see Juana and Francisco, the witnesses, enter the church. Following them were Berta and Efraim with their daughter, who carried an open Bible. They walked down the short aisle to the music of the applause of their brothers and sisters in the Lord. In a simple ceremony the couple made their promises to God and to each other.

Observing the ceremony were at least three teenage girls from church families. Last year they had enjoyed the attention of young men who came to church only to win their favor. During the year, each of these young ladies left home to live with her boyfriend in common law marriage. Today as the girls walk to church the boys no longer accompany them.

Also in the congregation were a number of faithful women whose husbands have no interest in Jesus Christ. Their many children accompany them to church until they too, as young teens, leave home. Thus, the unhealthy cycle continues, providing this church

with many sincere mothers, young and old, who are raising children, most of whom will follow the ways of their non-Christian fathers and mothers.

But there is a ray of hope. Some hours earlier in the watchnight service, Berta and Efraim had stood together to testify of the Lord's work in their lives this year. Previously, Berta had attended church alone with her younger children. Now she said, "Last New Year's Eve my prayer was for the salvation of my husband." God had clearly answered her prayer and was leading Efraim and Berta as they made public their decision to develop a Christian home for their six children. I believe the Lord is now using this strong testimony to encourage the faith of the mothers at El Arroyo as they pray for the salvation of their husbands and children this year.

The other day I was delivering a "meals-on-wheels" lunch to an elderly friend in the South Bronx. While waiting for her to answer the intercom and let me into her building, I noticed a group of Jehovah's Witnesses hoping for someone to let them in. Knowing that they were regarded as pests, I was annoyed that it was I who was to give them access to the building. As the anger arose in me I wanted to shout, "Don't you folks realize that you would

we were sent to serve. In our search for "clean fellowship" we have formed innumerable Christian social groups and, thus, have isolated our witness. Our witness often consists of an occasional drive to another neighborhood, inviting people to church and possibly to Christ. If these folks are not receptive to our message, no further contact is made. But they will not be receptive because they cannot hear us; they cannot hear us because they

out of our little sanctuaries, and minister to those around us? Christ calls us to come down and out and to be with those around us, as He did.

But this is hard and it takes sacrifice. It means wrenching ourselves away from our books and TV's, pulling ourselves out of our comfortable homes -- our sanctuaries. As Christ came down from heaven for our benefit, so

## Christianity in the flesh

be so much more effective if you would simply **live** out your faith on the block where you live? If you would flesh out what you say and would talk to people in a natural, rather than a forced, environment, they would be much more open to your message."

One Sunday a group went out from my church into the neighborhood inviting people to Vacation Bible School and passing out Christian literature. Later I noticed a neighbor reading a gospel of John. I remarked to a friend, "It is because this man has seen us around, talking with others and with him, that he is now willing to read this."

We Christians have not grasped a very important concept: we need to be real, to be a friend, to sincerely care about those around us needing the love of Christ. In our zeal to be "separate from the world" we have forsaken those

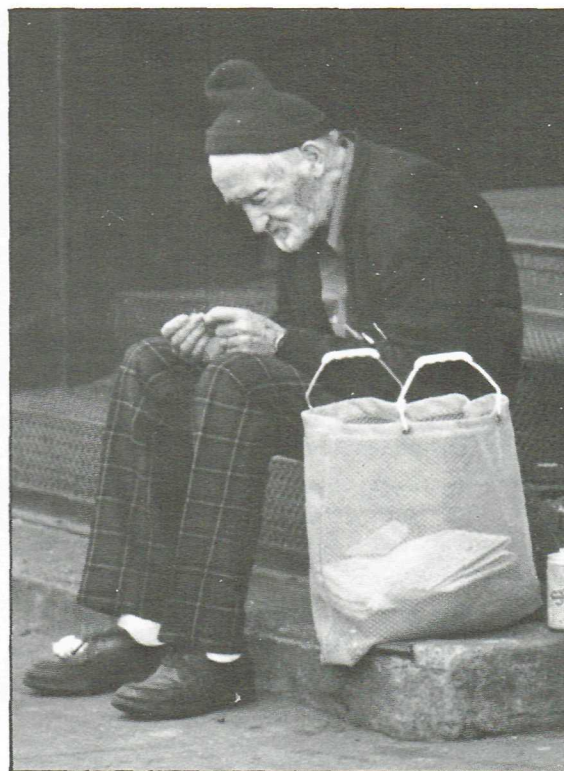
by *Doug Slaymaker*

do not know us. To spread Christ's message we must do what Christ did: "dine with tax collectors and sinners." We must invest our lives in those around us. After all, "it is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick."

Then, being effective means spending time with our neighbors, even if it takes us into activities not deemed "Christian." Do we know our neighbors well enough to go with them to the arcade, to his/her mother's house, to the bar? Are we willing to follow the lonely man into the abandoned building where he makes his home? The question really is: are we willing to come down from our holy mountains,

must we come down from our comfortable selfishness for the benefit of those around us. Paul exhorts us to this in *Philippians 2:4-11* -- telling us to have the same mind as Christ, to empty ourselves and take on the form of a servant.

*Doug gave two years of voluntary service at Fellowship Chapel, Bronx, NY. He is currently a freshman at Messiah College.*



## editorial

# The Task is Ours

Driving from Mount Joy to Martinsburg to participate in a missions conference, I was joined in stimulating conversation with two others in the car. The delightful Anna Engle, long-time missionary to South Africa and elsewhere, was one of the passengers. While I, at the age of twenty-two, am quickly lulled to sleep when traveling, Anna, in her mid-eighties, kept at least one of us involved in an inspiring discussion at all times. The dialogue was interspersed with stories and anecdotes: some humorous, some spiritual.

"You know, I once heard a story about the conversation between Jesus and the angel Gabriel when Jesus returned to heaven after his ascension." Anna smiled as she went on to relate the story:

"Jesus says to Gabriel, 'My task is finished, Gabriel.'

"And Gabriel says, 'How can your task be finished when so many people haven't heard about you yet?'

"I've made plans for that,' Jesus says. 'I gave that job to my disciples.'

"Your disciples?!" Gabriel yells, 'They'll never get the job done. What's your back-up plan?'

"I have no back-up plan,' Jesus replies.

"But what if they forget, or what if they ignore it?'

"I'm depending on **them**,' Jesus says."

Still revealing her joy, Anna's face sombered to express that serious truth of the story: "We need to help Christians understand that the task of telling the rest of the world about Jesus is ours."

Anna's story hit home this truth to me in a new way. I am reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples ("*As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world*" - John 16:18) and of Paul's appeal to the Corinthians ("*...God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...*" - Cor. 5:18).

The task is ours. It is the task of everyone who is a Christian. Jesus was not praying for a select few, nor was Paul writing only to the Future Missionaries of Corinth Club. Both the prayer and the letter were for **all** disciples of Christ.

A new term has been coined in the past two years to define those Christians who have accepted the responsibility of this task. They are called "World Christians." Author David Bryant, in his book, *In the Gap*, describes a World Christian this way:

*"World Christians are day-to-day disciples for whom Christ's global cause has become the integrating, overriding priority for all that he is for them" (p. 73).*

Being a World Christian has nothing to do with missionary status. But it has a lot to do with a changed purpose in life.

Have you made the commitment to be a World Christian? Have you personally accepted responsibility for continuing Jesus' ministry of reconciliation? Remember, Jesus made no back-up plan.

- Phil Byers

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