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Brethren in Christ Church Archives

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Brethren In Christ Missions

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November/December 1981

therefore

Missionaries: living at the margin



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therefore

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1981
Vol. 9, No. 6

Inside *therefore*

3 The missionary as a marginal person

A call to missionaries (and the rest of us) to live at the margin, by Roger Sider.

4 Returning Home

Phil and Elaine Thuma share the adjustments that they faced upon returning home.

5 A Deputation Diary

Mary Olive Lady opens her diary to let us know some of what missionaries do when they're home on furlough.

6 This fall's missions conferences

A list of the churches, speakers and coordinators involved in missions conferences held this fall, compiled by Deputation Secretary Esther Ebersole.

7 Catch the Vision '81 Update

by Louis Cober, Secretary of Public Relations.

9 The living room missionaries

A talk with some who serve, witness and learn through hosting international students.

7 Recent Assignments

8 Field Updates

10 World Outlook Missions Ideas

11 Opportunities for Service

12 Editorial

On the cover...

Allen and Leoda Buckwalter, recently returned from 41 years of service in India, agreed to represent the "missionary as a marginal person" for this issue's cover.

Missions conferences, and other ideas...

Inside this issue is a full-page listing of most of the missions conferences we know of this fall. In future issues we'll look at some of the other ways in which congregations are getting into missions.



The missionary as a marginal person *by Roger C. Sider*

I wish to explore the idea of the missionary as a marginal person — a person who in many ways does not fit anywhere, who finds that in a sense no matter where he is, he is not quite at home. In some ways none of us is ever fully assimilated to the culture to which we go to minister. Yet after a while we do not quite fit our native culture either because we've been changed and influenced by our experiences.

As a child, each of us undergoes an acculturation process, by which we are made part and parcel of our particular society. There are, of course, benefits to being part of a society. One payoff is having an identity, knowing who we are and where we belong. A corollary of that is security. It is nice to know what to expect, how to behave and what to say. A third advantage has to do with the way in which our participation in our culture regulates how we evaluate ourselves — our self-esteem.

Being a missionary involves, in a major sense, giving up all the benefits of acculturation. We manage to retain memories; we think a great deal of what it was like back home. In reality, however, we leave virtually all that behind. When we move to another culture, to the margin, to the farthest outpost of our culture, the reality of culture shock really hits us. When you find yourself in a world that is utterly strange in so many ways and find that you do not have the advantage of habitual ways of behaving, you become exhausted.

Who we are depends on who other people say we are. When we are wrenched away from our social nest and moved to the margin we become highly vulnerable people. On the issue of security, the move to the margin is a move away from psychological safety and familiarity toward vulnerability, exposure and danger — in most cases psychological rather than physical. There is also vulnerability in terms of self-esteem. Perhaps the most critical vulnerability is to the influence of the culture to which we go.

In view of this experience and these vulnerabilities, we can discern among all groups who have been transplanted from one culture to another three wrong patterns of adaptation. The first is, "Let's make everybody else like us." Another technique is assimilation: "If you can't beat them, join them." A third is the response of the ghetto: "Okay, I will live at the margin but I will erect walls so that the vast majority of my cultural experiences will occur within a closed community."

The Bible says that the margin is the place for us. Matthew 10:34-39, John 1:11, Romans 1:1 and 12:2 all speak to this. These passages and many others tell us that the Christian position vis-a-vis culture is one of apartness, of being marginal, of not quite belonging. Jesus did not quite belong. The call of God to every believer is to be a person who is always marginal in relationship to the world.

How do we adapt if that is what the Lord calls us to do? First, we must be genuinely and deeply rooted in Jesus Christ — that is the vertical half. The horizontal half is that we must find at the margin the new community — the church. It is with our brothers and sisters that we find the cultural home the Lord has provided for us.

Why is it that God calls us to these difficult marginal places and to this kind of life? I believe it is because that is where the action is. The dynamic is always at the interface, the point of contact. Life on the margin can be a life of rare opportunity to make a difference, to have impact, to be effective and to be affected in return. To live at the margin is to be truly alive and vital as Jesus Christ was.

Adapted from a paper presented at the 1977 Missions Workshop and since published in Mission Focus (Herald Press, 1980). Dr. Sider, associate professor of psychiatry at University of Rochester (NY) School of Medicine and Dentistry, served in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) in 1967-69.

Returning Home

by Phil and Elaine Thuma

Returning home! Those two words are no doubt familiar to every missionary. Returning home — familiar also to the friends and relatives that were left behind. It would seem that the thought of returning home would bring a joyful feeling to the missionary finishing an overseas assignment. No matter how rewarding the experience may have been, we long to be back in the company of our family and friends. Yet, to many missionaries "returning home" are bittersweet words.

As Roger Sider's article suggests (see page 3), this process of becoming a "marginal person" is probably the key to the adjustment that most missionaries feel when they return home.

It is difficult, in an article of this length, to explain the many things noticed on returning home. Even though one tries to keep up on what's happening at home, upon returning it is often as though one is Rip van Winkle — having stood still while the world moved onward. We would like to mention three areas that struck us hardest when we returned from two years at Macha Hospital.

THE PACE OF LIFE

The first thing we noticed was the fast pace of life here at home. In Zambia the Batonga people enjoy a slower pace of living. We

didn't exactly throw our watches away, but we found that we didn't allow time to rule us. If it took a bit longer to say "good morning" to people and ask what they were doing, as we passed them on the path, we took the time! Contrast that with the quick "Hi!" people are accustomed to back here. One only has to sit back and watch people rushing here and there to understand why the frantic pace of life here is in such contrast to that experienced in Zambia.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

While some missionaries may have had a different experience, we were fortunate to be part of a close, sharing, caring Christian community at Macha. This experience has been unmatched here at home, largely because of the lack of interdependence of most church members. As a church body we have allowed ourselves to become separated due to the many social distractions of our time. However, when people work and play together, and are dependent on each other for their emo-



tional, physical and spiritual needs, a more meaningful and closer relationship develops.

DIFFERENT VALUE SYSTEM

The value that is placed on "things" here at home is another area that can drive a wedge between a returning missionary and his or her family and friends. Think of the things that are now considered "necessities" — a TV, an extra car, a stereo, not to mention the recreational vehicle that is needed to "enhance" relaxation. If these are only the so-called "necessities," it's no wonder a returning missionary, having worked with people barely existing from one day to the next, is struck by the rampant materialistic practices of our culture.

These are only three of the areas that struck us as we returned — no doubt other returning missionaries are struck by other aspects of life. For those who've never experienced the feeling of "returning home," try to be understanding. Don't be like the well-meaning person who asked, "Doesn't it feel great to have your feet back on good old U.S. of A. soil?" You might get an answer you weren't expecting!

Dr. Phil and Elaine Thuma served at Macha Hospital in Zambia from 1976 to 1978. (1978 photo)

A Deputation Diary

by Mary Olive Lady



October: Pennsylvania

It's different coming home this time, with the death of both parents just four months ago. But the warm welcome from the GRANTHAM community has quickly dispelled the feeling of detachment as I settle into the missionary apartment.

I'm getting a crash course in Pennsylvania geography, finding my way to various churches in the Allegheny and Atlantic Conferences. Having missed out on autumn foliage for the last eleven years, it was a special delight to travel through the "Fire in the Mountains" of the beautiful SAXTON-MARTINSBURG area.

Each congregation has its own distinctive character. No matter which direction I looked in the well-filled MOUNT PLEASANT church, I could spot former missionaries and parents of missionaries. Sister Cecilia Wolgemuth, whose disciplined prayers for each missionary by name have been cherished through the years, was sitting near the front.

I felt a special kinship with the ones at CARLISLE (my supporting congregation) as we sat around the table in the fellowship hall.

At FIVE FORKS my gracious hostess offered a bed, sug-

gesting a ten minute nap before the evening service. I can't remember when anything felt so good.

I've just returned from the Sunday morning service at MESSIAH VILLAGE. I understand now why Dad wrote such glowing letters during his last two years there.

December: Kansas

Home at last. In spite of the changes, nourishment and the tie that binds are still here. It's exciting to sense the vision and growth of the new church at WICHITA.

Jan.-March: California

How good it is to have my mind stretched, my goals sharpened and my circle of friends enriched during these days at Fuller School of World Mission in Pasadena.

April: Oklahoma

After the evening service at LEEDEY, it was still light enough to go for a ride with Gene and Ruth Blacketter in the hope of spotting a roadrunner. The fact that we settled for scissors-tailed flycatchers and western meadowlarks didn't in any way diminish the pleasure of the evening.

May: Ohio

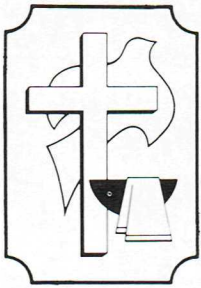
The children at SPRINGFIELD must be well primed on giving to missionaries. They came up with such questions as, "Are you poor?" Their faces lit up when I gave them cancelled stamps from Zambia.

Furlough time is not without the tug and pull of emotions — coping with new situations, coming to terms with where I fit into it all and fighting back the occasional tinge of longing for the ones in Zambia. But I realize now how much I needed this time of input and renewal. I believe it was Mim Stern who referred to "vital furlough experiences that trim from our wicks the weariness and sameness which sometimes plague missionaries." And I like the way Paul says it, "He giveth us richly all things to enjoy!"

Photo above: Mary Olive (r) with Rachel Copenhaver at the Center Grove (PA) church. Mary Olive served 10 years at Navajo Mission before going to Zambia as a teacher in 1969. Her most recent furlough brought her home in September 1980. She returned to Sikalongo in July 1981 and is now active in leadership training there.

This fall's missions conferences

- MOWERSVILLE (9/11-13)**
 Eva Mae Brubaker
 Mildred Myers
 John & Ruth Pawelski
 Sharon Weisser
- HOLLOWELL (9/13)**
 Coordinator: Dorothy J. Sollenberger
 Arlene Miller
- PALMYRA/FAIRLAND (9/19-20)**
 Coordin: Alma Ebersole
 William & Mary Hoke
 Frank Kipe
 Gene & Ruth Madeira
 Carolyn Mann
 Arlene Miller
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
- LANCASTER (9/26-27)**
 Coordin: John Stoner
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 William & Mary Hoke
 Gene & Ruth Madeira
- MAYTOWN (9/27)**
 Pastor: Greg Funk
 Bob & Gail Brubaker
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
- FREE GRACE (9/27,30;10/3-4)**
 Pastor: Luke Keefer, Sr.
 Miriam Bowers
 David R. Brubaker
 Erma Hare
 Frank & Pat Kipe
 Howard Landis
 Carolyn Mann
 Arlene Miller
 Charles & Cara Musser
 Donald Vundla
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
 Leora Yoder
- SIPPO VALLEY (9/20-21)**
 Coordin: David Limbach
 J. Wilmer Heisey
- AIR HILL (10/3-4)**
 Coordin: Mrs. Melvin Musser
 William & Mary Hoke
 Charles & Cara Musser
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
- S-2 CHURCHES, ALLEGHENY CONFERENCE (10/10-11)**
 Coordin: Eleanor Slagenweit
 Eva Mae Brubaker
- Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Erma Hare
 Carolyn Mann
 Roy & Esther Mann
 Charles & Cara Musser
 Roy Sider
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
 Leora Yoder
- HARRISBURG (10/10-11)**
 Coordin: Anna Thompson
 William & Mary Hoke
 Roy Sider
- MOUNT PLEASANT (10/24-25)**
 Coordin: Abram Henry
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Jeanette Dourte
 Gene Madeira
 Rafael Baltodono
 Roy & Esther Mann
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
- NAPPANEE (10/24-25)**
 Coordin: Dorcas Climenhaga
 Howard Landis
 Moses Munsaka
 Mukawa & Esther Kalombo
- SHENKS (10/24-25)**
 Coordin: Eva Mae Brubaker
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Glenn & Beth Frey
 Bruce & Mary Hinkle
 Gene Madeira
 Rafael Baltodono
 Verna Mae Ressler
- MESSIAH VILLAGE (10/25,28;11/1)**
 Coordin: Anna E. Wolgemuth
 David R. Brubaker
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Charles & Cara Musser
- SKYLINE VIEW (10/31-11/1)**
 Pastor: John Reitz
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Charles & Cara Musser
- GRANTHAM (11/4, 6-8)**
 Coordin: Nancy Kreider
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 David R. Brubaker
 Prem Dick
 Alice Dourte
 Charles & Cara Musser
 Roy Sider
 Rich & Kathy Stuebing
- CROSS ROADS (PA) (11/7-8)**
 Coordin: Allon Dourte
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Nancy Heisey Longacre
 Jay Musser
 Roy Sider
- FIVE FORKS (11/8)**
 Coordin: Elizabeth Byers
 Miriam Bowers
 Charles & Cara Musser
- SOUDERTON (11/15)**
 Pastor: Jay Sisco
 Gene & Ruth Madeira
 Donald R. Zook
- VIRGINIA CHURCHES (11/21-22)**
 Coordin: John Fries, Jr.
 Allen & Leoda Buckwalter
 Howard Landis
 Gene & Ruth Madeira
 Howard & Pearl Wolgemuth
- CEDAR GROVE (11/21-22)**
 Coordin: Joan E. Snyder
 William & Mary Hoke
 Charles & Cara Musser
- REFTON (11/28-29)**
 Pastor: John A. Brubaker
 Miriam Bowers
 Charles Musser
 Glenn Schwartz
- WEST SHORE (12/13)**
 Pastor: Simon Lehman
 Louis Cober
 Charles & Cara Musser
- WILLIAM & MARY HOKE DEPUTATION TOUR (10/14-11/18)**
 Valley Chapel, OH
 Christian Union, IN
 Wichita, KS
 Bethany, OK
 Albuquerque, NM
 Alta Loma, CA
 Upland, CA
 San Francisco, CA
 Redwood Country, OR
 Labish, OR
 Mountain View, CO
 Campbellsville, KY
 Cincinnati, OH
 Springfield, OH



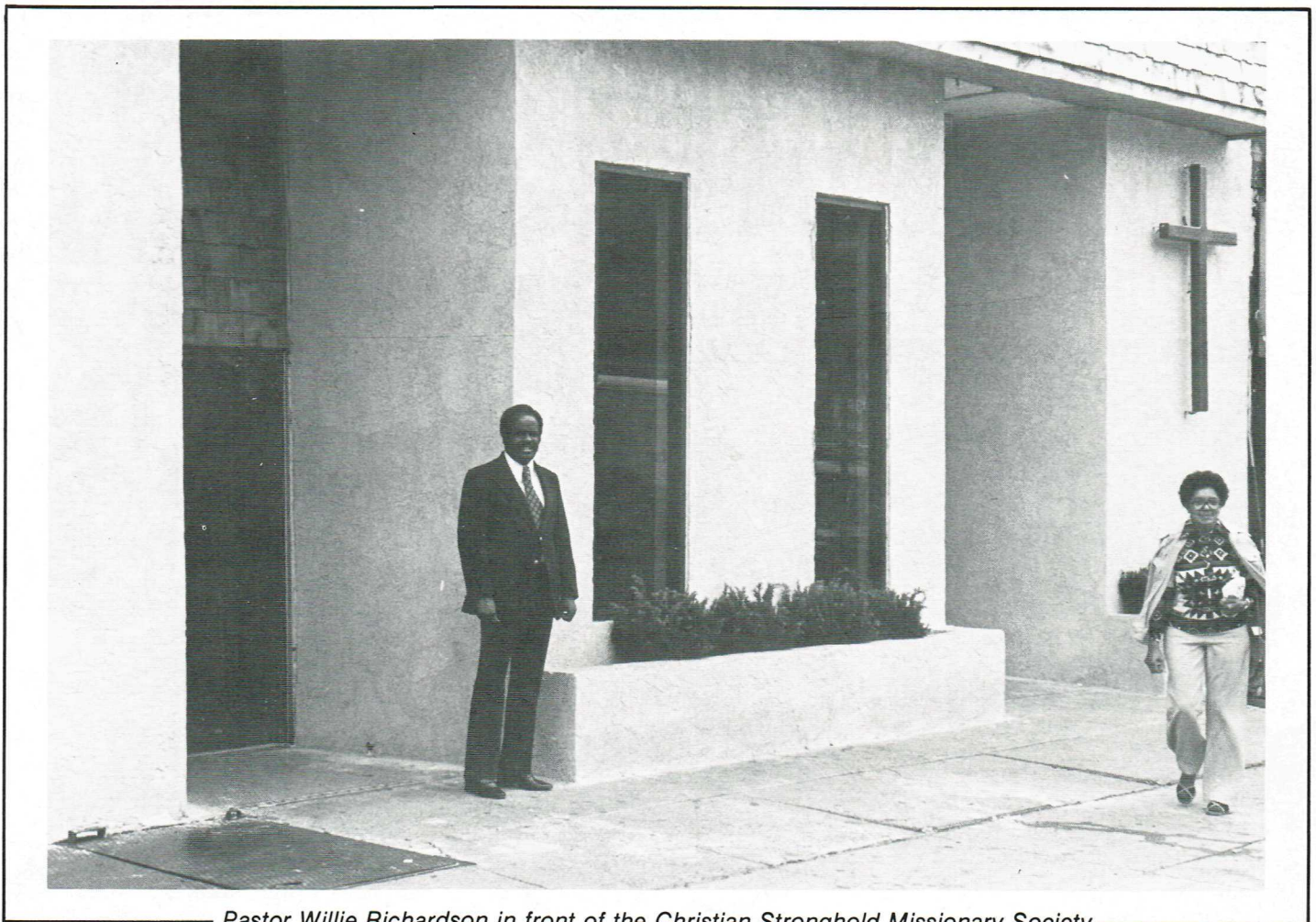
Brethren in Christ Missions

PHOTO ALBUM

November/December 1981

Names and photographs of Brethren in Christ missions personnel and church leaders serving the Lord in:

NORTH AMERICAN CITIES



Pastor Willie Richardson in front of the Christian Stronghold Missionary Society

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

the ALBUM

Photographs of Brethren in Christ Personnel

November/December

SAN FRANCISCO

Life Line Chapel & Mission



Paul and Evelyn Hill
Superintendent (Retiring Dec. 31)

Paul 4/26

Evelyn 4/11



Mark Bair

V.S., Maintenance

10/30



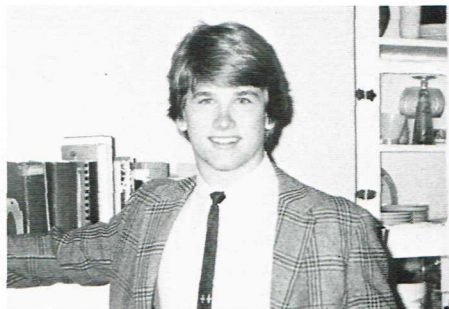
Robert and Carol Spangler
Program Director, Life Line Mission

Bob 11/27

Carol 6/06

Shelly 4/30/69

Shane 1/7/76



David Patrick

V.S., Maintenance

1/12



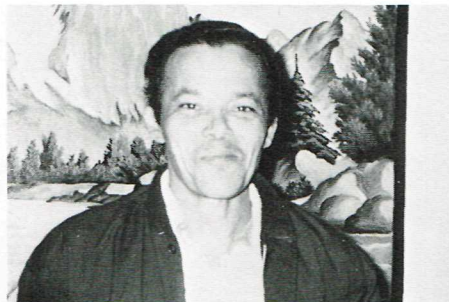
Dennis and Carolyn Lehman
Manager, Albion House Family Center

Dennis 11/16

Carolyn 11/18

Christopher 9/9/73

Heidi 1/31/76



Angel Acevedo

Staff Worker, Mission

Not Pictured: **Frank Duron**, Mission Worker

PHILADELPHIA

Related Administratively
to Office of Urban Ministries



Randolph L. Jones

Pastor/Director
Southside Community Church Center



Willie Richardson

Pastor
Christian Stronghold Missionary Society

WILKES-BARRE

House Church



John and Velorus Shearer

John 1/25

Jody 1/18/65

Jud 2/23/69

Velorus 12/23

Jay 10/18/67



Rich and Debbie Sisco

Rich 6/9

Aaron 9/23/77

Debbie 8/16

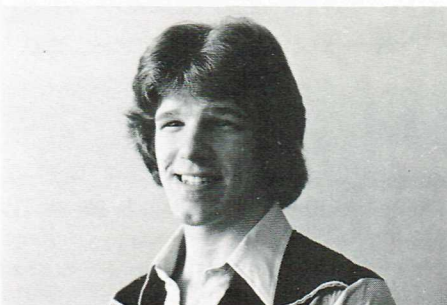
Joshua 3/25/79

NEW YORK CITY

Bronx V.S. Unit



Nathan and Catherine Bert
 Nate — Coordinator of
 Bronx Community Service Ministries
 Cathy — Community Resource Person,
 Director of Little Lighthouse Learning Center
 Nate 11/1 Cathy 4/12
 Matthew 8/7/78 (not pictured) Philip 11/9/81



Mike Holland
 Earning V.S.er 9/3



Sherry Jackson
 Part-time Earning V.S.er,
 Assistant at Little Lighthouse 4/22



Doug Slaymaker
 V.S., Maintenance, Tutor 8/25



Laurie McMullen
 Earning V.S.er 10/10



Steve Sides
 Earning V.S.er 9/18

Self-Supporting Missionary Associates



Anna Peachy, 11/19



Mary Lou Ruegg, 7/2

Brooklyn



Grafton and Grace Forbes
 Pastor, Pilgrim Chapel
 Grafton 3/30 Grace 5/7
 Keithan 8/12/61 Rufus 9/20/65 Camille 2/28/71
 Deborah 5/20/72 Paul 5/18/73 David 8/31/74

Fellowship Chapel



Daniel and Sharon Farina
 Pastor, Fellowship Chapel
 Dan 9/9 Sharon 12/12

East Harlem Interfaith



Premnath and Janet Dick
 Prem 7/11 Janet 9/9

MINISTRIES IN NORTH AMERICAN CITIES

Brethren in Christ Missions is currently involved in four cities:
San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, and Wilkes-Barre, PA.

LIFE LINE MISSION (San Francisco)

Broken men and women have been receiving ministry to both body and spirit at this rescue mission for seventy years. Overnight lodging is offered to some who have no where to sleep but the street. The gospel message which is preached in both music and preaching proclaims Jesus Christ as the way of hope for those who have often lost hope.

Becoming part of the staff of the mission is an option for some of those who desire to build a new way of living. Morning Bible studies provide both fellowship and teaching for these men. Counselling services are provided for some by the Christian counselling services of Simpson College.

The hotel associated with the mission provides clean, low-cost housing for many of the men who are able to again find work in the community. At Albion House two units are available for families needing emergency housing during a time of crisis.

BRONX (Fellowship Chapel, NYC)

Since the beginning of this New York City ministry in 1960 a congregation has been developing with its own identity and leadership. Voluntary service personnel whose services were needed for Sunday school leadership are now free to provide other services in the community such as tutoring elementary-age children at the Little Lighthouse Learning Center. VSers are also involved with tutoring adults in English as a Second Language. The congregation under the leadership of Pastor Dan Farina is outgrowing the available space in Fellowship Chapel.

BROOKLYN (Pilgrim Chapel, NYC)

This congregation in New York City, classified as a mission church, is under the leadership of Pastor Grafton Forbes. Vigorous growth both numerically and in strengthened ties with the brotherhood is occurring. Personal ties and commitments are being formed between brothers and sisters from New York City and Pennsylvania, California and Ontario. Brethren in Christ Missions continues to provide some financial assistance for this congregation.

CHRISTIAN STRONGHOLD (Philadelphia)

Since 1974 Brethren in Christ Missions has participated (money and personnel) with a vigorous black church in west Philadelphia. We as a denomination have been enriched by the ministry of Rev. Willie Richardson, pastor of Christian Stronghold. His growing congregation experiences teaching and discipleship in the Christian life under his leadership, which enables them to live out their new life in Christ.

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH CENTER (Philadelphia)

Rev. Randy Jones provides leadership for the multifaceted ministry of Southside Church Center. Out of this congregation, community services, such as assistance for persons looking for work and those needing emergency assistance with food, have been provided. Community young people find at the center people who care, as well as activities which help them grow socially and spiritually.

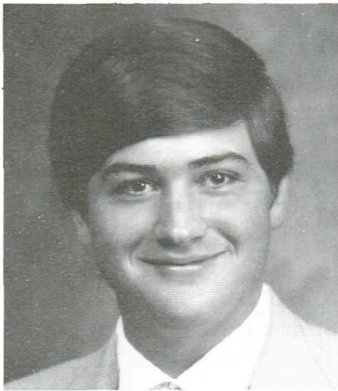
WILKES-BARRE (PA)

This house-church is being developed in cooperation with Mennonite Conferences. It provides a church home for persons practicing Anabaptist concepts of commitment to a body of believers, living at peace with all men and service to the community. The yearly renewal of their covenant to each other causes each member to consider seriously the implications of such commitment. Brethren in Christ Missions provides some financial assistance to the congregation which is being pastored by John Shearer.

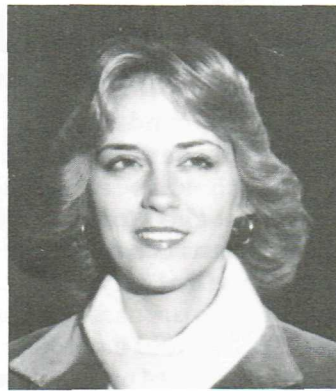
Brethren in Christ Missions

500 S. Angle Street, P.O. Box 27, Mt. Joy, PA 17552-0027 / (717) 653-8067
2519 Stevensville Road, Stevensville, ONT. LOS 1S0 / (416) 382-3144

Recent assignments



The Allegheny Conference's Christian Retreat Center is benefitting from the service of DALE ALLEMAN. A member of the Air Hill congregation, Dale responded to the need for service at the Center and is using his mechanical skills and enjoyment of the outdoors in this setting.



SHERRY JACKSON has joined the VS unit in Bronx, NY. She is a member of the Manor, PA, congregation and is a 1981 graduate of Messiah College. In the Bronx Sherry is working with the Little Lighthouse Learning Center and other community ministries.



JANINE NICEWANDER from Massillon, OH, is giving voluntary service in the office at Kenbrook Bible Camp. Janine is a recent graduate of Washington High School and a member of the Amherst congregation. She is the second VSer to use her skills in the office at Kenbrook.



A registered nurse, LINDA WORMAN has begun service at Macha Mission Hospital in Zambia. A member of the Clarence Center (NY) church, Linda lived in Africa with her missionary parents as a child. Linda's assignment includes working as a staff nurse and teaching in the Training School.

CATCH the VISION '81 UPDATE

Louis O. Cober

Exciting reports are being shared by congregations as they creatively participate in CATCH THE VISION '81. One congregation, discovering in the Congregational Resource Manual suggested ways for families to sacrifice items and activities and thus save, have provided labelled containers in the foyer into which families are encouraged to contribute weekly their funds saved through "sacrifice." Another congregation reports that as they contribute to CATCH THE VISION '81 each week their regular offerings also increase.

As of November 10 contributions to CATCH THE VISION '81 were \$54,693.91. Our generous giving to Brethren in Christ Missions in these closing weeks of 1981 is crucial. Our launching into new fields and the continuation of current ministry level is dependent upon our "catching the vision" — and giving to support that vision. *Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18a).*

financial report

Receipts as of 10/31/81

	Operational	Total Program
USA	\$582,252.04	\$674,917.92
CAN	87,587.91	90,569.52
TOTAL	\$669,839.95	\$765,487.44
1980	\$555,743.64	N.A.

Field Updates

DEYHLES STUDYING IN KARIZAWA

In preparation for service in Yamaguchi, Japan, beginning next summer, Dan and Karen Deyhle have begun study at the TEAM language school at Karizawa (northwest Japan). During the first part of September, the Deyhles and other Brethren in Christ missionaries in Japan participated in a Birkman Seminar on personality styles conducted by Dr. Dorothy Gish (on sabbatical leave from Messiah College).

STERNS AT AEAM ASSEMBLY IN MALAWI

"We considered it a privilege of a lifetime to attend the 4th General Assembly of the Association of Evangelicals of Africa and Madagascar held in Malawi the first week of September," writes Mim Stern. 340 participants from 130 church groups and Christian organizations in 29 African countries gathered to discuss concerns and ideas for the local church. The Sterns came away "thrilled to know that evangelical Christianity is on the march throughout Africa."

MCC AID DISTRIBUTED THROUGH ZIMBABWE CHURCH

A 6,800-pound shipment of quilts, soap, milk powder, health kits and other items from the Mennonite Central Committee arrived in Zimbabwe in July. Brethren in Christ staff person Samuel Mlotshwa has coordinated distribution of material aid items in Zimbabwe for MCC, primarily through the Brethren in Christ Church.

Most of the goods from the July shipment are going to hospitals and clinics of the Brethren in Christ Church, which are now administered by MCC Zimbabwe worker Loraine Buckwalter. Blankets and bags of maize have also been distributed throughout the country since the war by MCC (see photo).

GRAYBILLS IN NEW OUTREACH IN OSAKA

After consultation with the Brethren in Christ churches in Japan, a decision was made to have John and Lucille Graybill begin a new ministry in Osaka, a city of 8 million located midway between Tokyo and Yamaguchi. The area in which the Graybills

are working has only one other very weak Christian witness for 80,000 persons.

BIBLE CONFERENCE HELD AT SHAMPANDE, RETREAT AT SIKALONGO

A Bible conference held at Shampande Brethren in Christ Church in Choma at the end of September was highlighted by the baptism of 12 students from Choma Secondary School. Darlyss Kipe reports that all 12 had attended membership classes she taught this summer, using the manual "On being Brethren in Christ." (with cultural adaptations).

Over the weekend of October 10-11, the Brethren in Christ Fellowship from Choma Secondary held a retreat at Sikalongo Mission. Over 70 students attended the retreat, writes Darlyss, and enjoyed the recreation times and Bible sessions taught by Gibson Siluchaali (a student at Sikalongo Bible Institute). The Brethren in Christ Fellowship at Choma is led by Rachel Melhorn, with assistance from Diane Payne (an MCCer), Michele Arnett, Ray and Darlyss Kipe.



MCC photo: Girls with bags of maize provided by MCC, following distribution in southwestern Zimbabwe.

therefore

The living room missionaries

Photo: Paul and Vivian Hunt with Matsuko, their student guest from Japan.



This year over 300,000 foreign students (more than half of whom are from the Mideast and Asia) are studying in U.S. colleges and universities. That number, doubling every five to six years since the mid-1960s, could reach 500,000 by 1985, according to the American Council on Education.

But while these students may increase their technical or professional knowledge while here, few grow into a deeper knowledge of the Lord.

What's wrong? First, most foreign students are attracted to technical or state-supported secular universities, where they may not be presented with a Christian world view. But perhaps more important, many foreign students will not have any significant contact with understanding Christians throughout their college years.

What can be done? A number of Christian families have discovered the joy and fulfillment found in hosting international students during school breaks or holidays. A few examples:

Paul and Anna Mary Neff, a Church of the Brethren couple in East Petersburg, PA, have hosted four students on the Student Exchange Program since 1950, as well as a number of university students for holidays. The

Neffs, who have six children of their own, have an open house and a simple philosophy, "When there is a need, we try to fill it. But Paul also stresses that hosting internationals "is a way of sharing faith as well."

"You talk about foreign missions," says Paul, "well, we have it right at our doors, if we're willing to open them. I've had Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists — we don't use high pressure but many, many times we've had family worship with them."

Hosting internationals has also been a positive experience for their family, say the Neffs. Besides giving them a "broader view of the world," the practice has encouraged their children's interest in overseas service.

For other families who may be considering involvement in this ministry, the Neffs have some advice. "Hang loose," urges Anna Mary, "Let them help you... let them be a part of the family. People think they really have to entertain them, lay out the red carpet. That isn't what they want; they just want to be part of your family. Of course, you also have to lay down some ground rules." (For the Neffs that includes a "no smoking" restriction.)

Two Brethren in Christ families at the Manor (PA) church have also hosted international students for several years. Sharing in a special wednesday evening service at Manor in November. Gene and Alice Kibler offered this word, "Don't push religion, live it first, work it into your daily routine."

Paul and Vivian Hunt, who are presently hosting a student, Matsuko, from Japan, continued, "Not everyone can do this kind of work. You lose some privacy...most of your costs are not reimbursed." Yet both couples agreed with the Neffs that their children (who often have to give up their beds for the students) love having guests come and benefit greatly from the contact.

What is the greatest blessing from this kind of ministry? In response to that question, Vivian Hunt looked over at Matsuko, who had recently accepted Christ largely because of the witness of the Hunts. "Listening to her testimony tonight," she answered.

Is your family interested in hosting foreign students this Christmas? See the *missions ideas* section (p. 10) in this issue for suggestions on how to begin.

- Dave Brubaker

world outlook

A synopsis of developments affecting Brethren in Christ around the world, compiled from *The Associated Press*, *Newsweek*, *World Press Review*.

NICARAGUA REQUESTS BIBLES FOR LITERACY PROGRAM

The Prime Minister of Nicaragua has requested 100,000 copies of a Spanish-language New Testament for use in the nationwide literacy program, according to *The Church Around the World*. The brief report, which did not mention to whom the request was made, also noted that "an estimated 800,000 people have learned to read and write in Nicaragua during the past year."

ZAMBIAN PROFESSIONALS EMIGRATING

Zambia is suffering from a continuing loss of doctors, teachers and other professionals, who are emigrating to take more lucrative jobs in other African countries and the Gulf States. Despite Zambia's steady progress in professional training since its independence in 1964, "poor salaries and conditions of service" are now causing the exodus, according to the *Lusaka Sunday Times* (September 13).

OPPOSITION RALLIES BANNED IN ZIMBABWE, WHITES CRITICIZED

The Interior Minister of Zimbabwe, Richard Hove, denied permission in early November for three opposition leaders to hold rallies. Emergency regulations invoked by Hove on October 16 require that all parties seek permission from his agency before public meetings are held. In another development, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported November 9 that Prime Minister Mugabe has renewed his criticism of Zimbabwe's white minority, saying that he would "expel racists who continue to insult the black majority."

Missions ideas

BE A LIVING ROOM MISSIONARY

A growing number of international students are coming to North American colleges and universities (see p. 9), along with high school exchange students and other visitors from abroad. Many would be eager to be hosted in your home for a Christmas or other vacation break, a summer, or even a year. If you'd like to offer your home, consider one of the following options:

Contact the dean's office of a college or university near your home and ask if any foreign students need a place this Christmas or other holiday.

If you're located in south-central or eastern

Pennsylvania, call Ruth Zimmerman (717-898-2251), coordinator of the Christmas International Homes program for EMBMC, to be matched with an international student this Christmas.

SUPPORT THE 1982 MPF PROJECTS

The Missions Prayer Fellowship of the Brethren in Christ Church has announced its projects for 1982. The adult project will help support the new outreach in Osaka, Japan, where John and Lucille Graybill are working. Children will have the opportunity to participate in providing furniture and other necessary house furnishings for the Gilmore family at the new work in Venezuela.

CUBA FEARS U.S. ASSAULT

An unidentified Cuban diplomat claimed in a recent interview that Cuba fears it will be the target of U.S. military aggression because of its alleged involvement in other Central American countries. It is known that Fidel Castro has declared a state of emergency throughout the country and is bracing for a "blockade or a raid by the United States." While there are no visible signs from Washington that such action is imminent, the *New York Times* reported November 5 that Secretary of State Haig has urged the Pentagon to examine "a series of options for possible military actions in El Salvador and against Cuba and Nicaragua."

opportunities for service

North America

Arlene B. Miller, Secretary of Home Ministries
P.O. Box 27, Mount Joy, PA 17552-0027

Voluntary Service Positions

Athletic Director -- Montreal Lake Children's Home	as
Spiritual Ministries Coordinator for Children -- Montreal Lake Children's Home	soon
Administrative Assistant -- Life Line Rescue Mission, S.F. (prefer single man)	as
Maintenance Worker -- Life Line Mission	possi- ble
Kitchen Assistant -- Life Line Mission (prefer single man)	ble
Couple for maintenance and kitchen responsibilities -- Spring Lake Retreat	Fall, 1982
Couple to manage the Family Center at Life Line Mission, San Francisco	June, 1982

Earning Voluntary Service Positions

Four needed at Life Line Mission (S.F.) and Four at Bronx Community Ministries (N.Y.)	now
Note: Assistance is provided in finding employment in the community. Contributed wages keep these programs financially sound. Opportunity is provided at both locations for ministries in the mission and community. A Discipleship Program in both San Francisco and New York City assists V.S.ers with personal growth in areas of servanthood, stewardship, sharing one's faith cross-culturally, discipling new Christians and developing one's personal identity.	
	through 1982

Short-Term Voluntary Service Positions

Four persons to assist with heavy maintenance at Navajo Mission	April - June, 1982
Note: Travel expenses incurred will be your responsibility.	
Four persons (either two couples or one couple and two singles) to assist in hosting travelers at the Navajo Mission (travel expenses your responsibility).	June/ July, 1982

Opportunities for Youth Groups

Ten young people who can teach Bible School at the Navajo Mission	August 1-14, 1982
Note: Two adult sponsors must accompany the group.	
One sports team (not more than 10 persons) to participate with Navajo young people in a sports tournament (two adult sponsors).	July 18-25, 1982
Note: Expenses incurred with travel and living at the mission will be the responsibility of the groups. Contact Arlene Miller for further details.	

Overseas

Roy V. Sider, Secretary of Overseas Ministries
2519 Stevensville Road, Stevensville, Ont. L0S 1S0

Short-Term Doctor(s)

Macha Hospital, Zambia	February/March, 1982	Summer, 1982 to Aug., 1983
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Teachers of English as a Second Language

Japan	Summer, 1982
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Maintenance Supervision/Agricultural Projects/Women's Crafts/Youth Resource

Couple to serve in these areas, including contacts with university students -- Zambia	July, 1982
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Secondary Teachers of English, Math, Science, Bible/Religious Knowledge

Zambia	June, 1983
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Male Lab Technician

Macha Hospital, Zambia	June, 1983
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Registered Nurse

Macha Hospital, Zambia	1983
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Missionary Partners

North American volunteers willing to give 25% to 50% of personal income to sponsor an overseas missionary.	as soon as possible
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editorial

The importance of imbalance

I have a few imbalanced friends I'd like to tell you about. The first of these is completely committed to Bible Quiz. Sure he has a few other interests, but he probably spends 80% of his working hours writing questions, organizing tournaments and otherwise promoting Bible Quiz. This may seem like a harmless preoccupation to you, but I now can expect every conversation with him to end up on the same subject — Bible Quiz.

I have another friend who has a single-minded interest in foreign missions. In college she irritated all her more well-rounded classmates with repeated illustrations of how God was leading her to some "unreached people group" in some unheard-of location.

Finally, I have a good friend who is absolutely obsessed with the threat to mankind of nuclear weapons. It's gotten to the point that wherever he goes people know what he's going to talk about.

What's wrong with my three friends?

From what I've heard people say, it seems they're just not balanced Christians. Well-balanced believers, as we now know, have an equal burden for both "evangelism" and "social concerns." Such Christians minister to the whole person and to every age and cultural group. Isn't that what Jesus would have us do?

Indeed, we are called to perfect balance, simply because we are called to be like Jesus. Yet will any of us ever attain such a state? We just don't have the resources, information, skills, training and ability to make a contribution in every area in which Christians are to be concerned. Actually, by spreading ourselves too thin, many of us exert a minimal to nonexistent impact on the various, well-balanced concerns with which we're involved.

Not so for my friends, however. These three imbalanced persons are making great contributions in the respective endeavors to which they're committed. They seem to accept the consensus that they are peculiar and just keep on striving with quixotic determination to carry out their seemingly narrow missions in life. Maybe, for them, that's the way Jesus would have it.

Perhaps Jesus Christ was the only person in all of history who was able to both teach and live the entire gospel of the kingdom. Probably none of the many faithful Christians since then has possessed *all* of the gifts of the Spirit and at the same time has been able to feed the hungry, look after the sick and visit those in prison. History, with rare exceptions (perhaps John Wesley is one), contains the legacy of great men and women who are remembered for their deeds which cover only a portion of what Christ's work is all about.

But while the "micro" view is one of imbalance, the "macro" perspective is that of balance and harmony. Martin Luther defined how the *individual* should relate to God, but it took the Anabaptists to refine the concept of the *body* of believers. The great American revival preachers in the late 1700s were accompanied by a dogged group of Quakers who couldn't talk about anything but abolishing slavery. And the church today is blessed with both Billy Graham and Ron Sider.

I believe that the place where God most wants to see balance is in His *church*. The church is, after all, one body that is composed of many parts. Can the evangelist say to the Christian anti-nuclear or anti-abortion activist, "I don't need you" (or vice versa)?

So please, don't criticize my imbalanced friends any more. I suspect that they have a better understanding of I Corinthians 12 than most of the rest of us. - Dave Brubaker

therefore

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