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MAY / JUNE 1978

therefore



...the whole body,
fitly joined together...

(Ephesians 4:16)



**International
Guests at Conference**

AS WE GO

Did you ever notice all the things that happen to God's people when they are away from home? Abraham became the "friend of God" after he left his home in the Ur of the Chaldees. Eliezer found Rebekah for Isaac away from home. Jacob wrestled with the angel at Peniel. Moses met the burning bush in the desert wilderness. Amos had his great moments of prophetic witness away from home. Jonah had his highs and his lows to the east and west of his home.

Most of what we know about Joseph and Mary and their family happened while they were away from home. Peter had several of his greatest experiences in towns across the hills to the west, along the Great Sea. Philip's brief stage appearances in Acts were away from home. Practically all that we know of the Apostle Paul relates to his ministry in travel across the Roman world. Most of the characters in the book of Acts were discovering the miracle of the Holy Spirit's presence as they were on the move.

Jesus had promised to be with His disciples as they went out into the world. A foretaste of that Presence happened on the road to Emmaus. That promise has not worn tired or inoperative.

In the coming weeks many of the Brethren in Christ will be traveling. We will be coming from all over the world to a very special spiritual feast—General Conference. It is always a great experience to meet Jesus along the way. In all of the huddles of twos and threes He has promised to be present. He is an exciting traveling companion. In His presence there are burning hearts and amazement at the mighty power of God. Let's pray that all of our travels and all of our meetings will be in Jesus' name.

James

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therefore

MAY / JUNE 1978
Volume VI, Number 3

One in the Lord

The Lord willing, sixteen brothers and sisters from Rhodesia, Zambia, India, Japan and Nicaragua will join with Brethren in Christ from Canada and the United States at Messiah College the first of July to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Brethren in Christ church. The church in Cuba, although not represented in person, will be joining the observance in prayer.

Some of these sixteen guests are accustomed to travel (such as Hem Paul, who has visited North America, was a delegate to the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, etc.). For others, this is the first major trip away from home.

When a brother asked Rev. Palacios about his upcoming trip, he replied, "Possibly the money could be used in a more beneficial way for the extension of the Lord's work here in Nicaragua. But we are nevertheless excited because we expect to find men and women dedicated to the cause of Christ, although undoubtedly they will be worshipping and serving Him in different ways than we do because of their cultural background. We will both benefit greatly from the Conference and the tour of some of the churches there."

After Conference most of these representatives will visit friends and congregations across the brotherhood. All but four plan to attend the Mennonite World Conference in Kansas July 25-30 (see p. 6).

This issue of *therefore* briefly introduces these sixteen Brethren in Christ. Pray for them and for the church in North America, that together we may experience God's special blessing during this time.



Patras Hembrom

PATRAS HEMBROM gives leadership to the Indian church in a number of ways. He is superintendent of the Purnea District. He manages the training programs at Banmankhi (pastoral leadership, adult literacy, homemaker's course, etc.). And for several years he was chairman of the church in India.

Converted in the 1950s through the ministry of Benjamin and Dina Mirandi, Patras studied at the Banmankhi Training Center and at a Lutheran Bible School.

He and his wife Salome have four sons and a daughter. The oldest son, Samuel, is an outstanding student at Allahabad Bible Seminary.



*Daniel and Dorica
Mwaanga*

DANIEL and DORICA MWAANGA serve the Lord in several different areas of leadership in the Zambia church. Daniel, a teacher at Choma Secondary, is a member of the Executive Board and the Education Administrative Committee. Dorica represented the Brethren in Christ as a delegate to the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia in 1977.

The Mwaangas attend the Nahumba congregation at Choma, where Dorica chairs the church committee and Daniel is secretary. (He also pastored the congregation from January 1977 to February 1978.)

They have five children.



Takanobu Tojo

Like Samuel, the servant of God, TAKANOBU TOJO was raised at the temple. Unlike Samuel, the temple where he spent his childhood was Buddhist...Tojo was taken there by his mother when his father died.

Tojo san became a Christian during his university studies. Holding a graduate degree in economics, he now teaches at the Shimonoseki City College. "Until now, and in the future, my aim is to create an economic school of thought which is both biblical and evangelical, and to impart to students the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He is lay pastor at Shimonoseki and serves as chairman of the Brethren in Christ Church in Yamaguchi Province.



Enrique and Teresa Palacios

Orphaned at six, ENRIQUE PALACIOS accepted Christ as a teenager, working on a surveying crew in the mountains of Nicaragua. Later, while a foreman on a coffee plantation, he met the Howard Wolgemuths and later joined the Brethren in Christ church.

In 1972 Enrique began preaching at Esquipulas (a 10-mile walk from the coffee plantation), taking over full pastoral responsibilities the next year. Ordained in 1974, he was elected President of the church in the first Annual Conference, held in 1977.

TERESA shares with her husband in the work of ministry, having taught adult literacy classes, etc. They have two children.

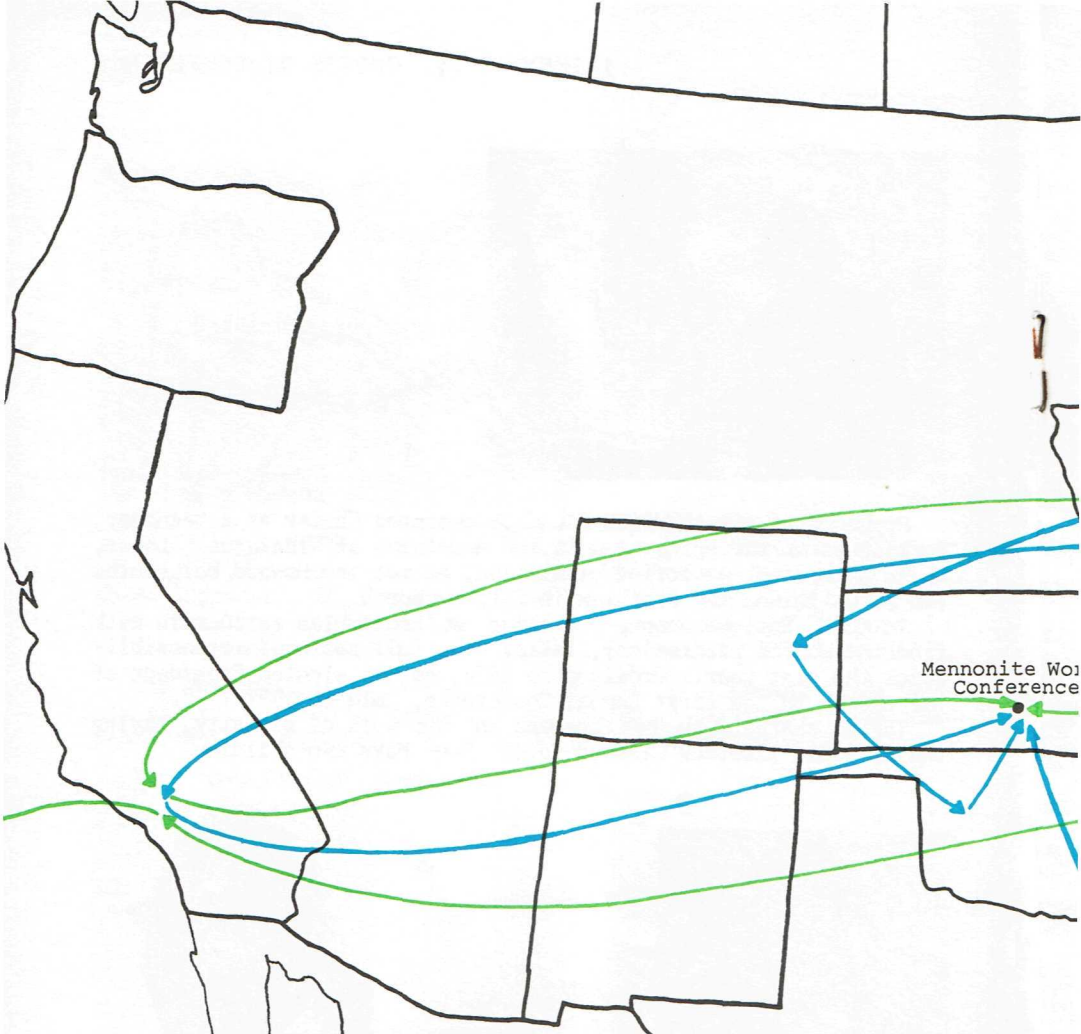


Philemon Kumalo

Bishop PHILEMON KUMALO sees the worldwide family of believers from a variety of perspectives. He has shared in several African conferences, the 9th Mennonite World Conference in Brazil, the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, etc. He attended the 1972 General Conference in Ohio. A student at Messiah College in 1961-62, he returned to Messiah and studied at Fuller Seminary in 1975-77—interrupting his studies to return to Rhodesia in 1977 when guerrilla activities began seriously affecting the church. He will receive a Masters degree from Fuller Seminary this spring.

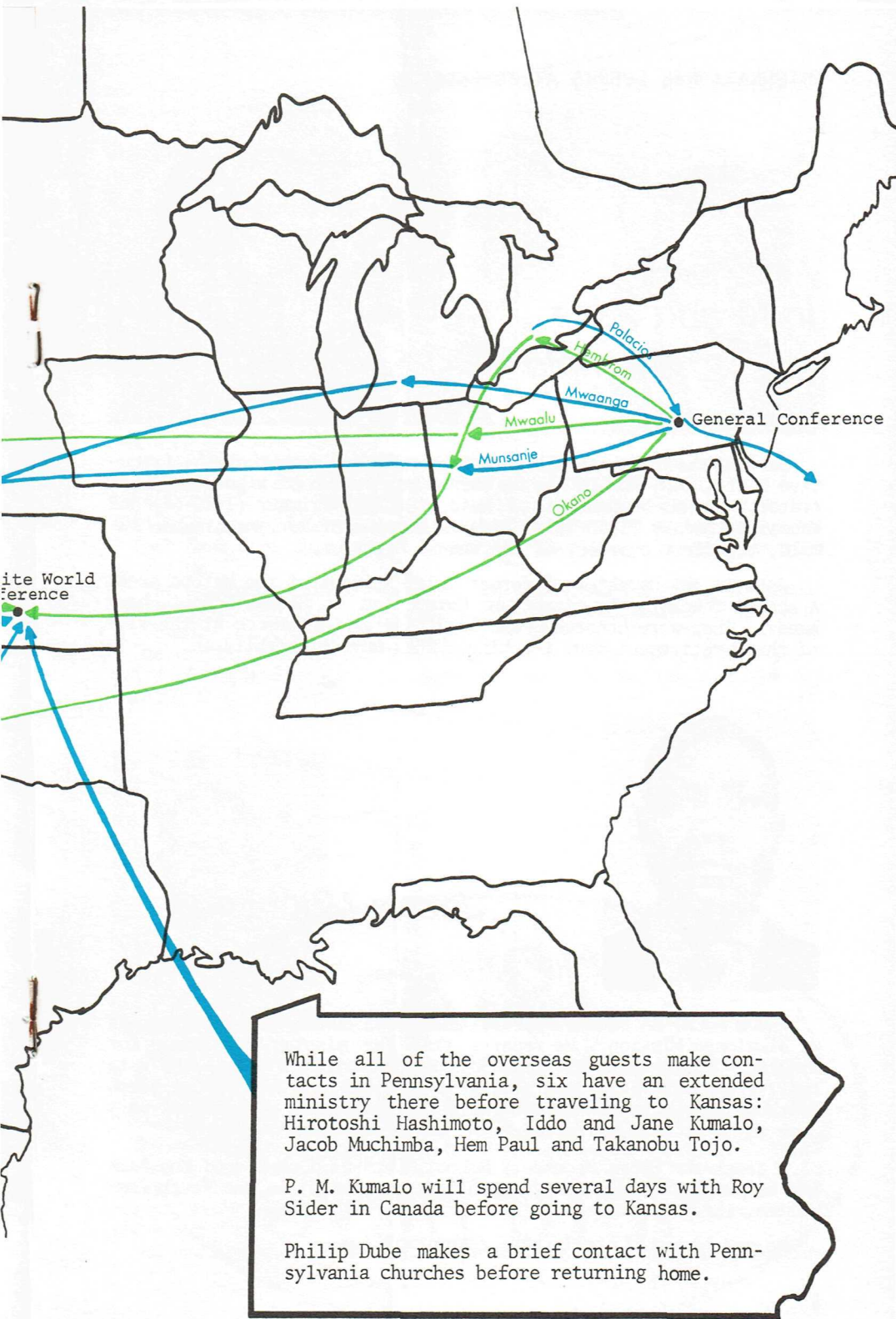
Growing up in the Wanezi District, he taught for a number of years before becoming overseer of Matopo District in 1960. He became the first African bishop in the Brethren in Christ Church in 1970.

He and his wife Joyce have eight children.



Mennonite World
Conference

1978
*Missionary
Journeys*



While all of the overseas guests make contacts in Pennsylvania, six have an extended ministry there before traveling to Kansas: Hirotooshi Hashimoto, Iddo and Jane Kumalo, Jacob Muchimba, Hem Paul and Takanobu Tojo.

P. M. Kumalo will spend several days with Roy Sider in Canada before going to Kansas.

Philip Dube makes a brief contact with Pennsylvania churches before returning home.

**Iddo and Jane
Kumalo**



Serving the Rhodesian church as Treasurer and member of the Executive Board, IDDO KUMALO has the earned reputation of a good administrator. He was headmaster of Matopo Central Primary (1943-64) and Wanezi Secondary (1966-77). Iddo is the son of Rev. Manhlehle Kumalo, the first overseer of the Wanezi District.

JANE is the daughter of former Chief Ndiweni of the Matopo area. A school teacher, she taught at Matopo and at Shamba School, near Wanezi. They were honored at the 1977 General Conference at the time of their retirement from teaching. They have nine children.



Jacob Muchimba

JACOB MUCHIMBA became a Christian in 1952 during revival meetings at Sikalongo Mission. He reports that the mission was known for singing. "During such meetings boys used to organize themselves into small groups and sang beautifully. At the end, invitation was given to those who wanted to accept Christ. I confessed my sins and this came to me as a great relief."

A teacher at Choma Secondary School, Jacob is a member of the Zambia Executive Board. He takes an active interest in the Youth Committee, which he chairs.

He and his wife Stella have seven children.

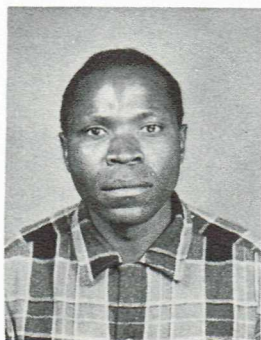
Masaharu Okano



Prolonged illness and a nurse's invitation to church were instrumental in bringing MASAHARU OKANO to the Lord Jesus. Then at a high school Bible Camp he accepted Christ. High school graduation was followed by employment, marriage, then the death of his parents. "As I look back over this path," he notes, "I see God's leading one step at a time."

The Okanos have three children. He shares the leadership responsibility of the Hagi congregation, while his wife is in charge of the Sunday School.

He writes, "We are not yet full grown and our value is small, but being encouraged by our brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are walking step by step."



Jonathan Mwaalu

JONATHAN MWAALU was elected as overseer of the Zambian church at their General Conference in August 1976. Working with Bishop William Silungwe, he helps give general oversight and guidance to the 80 churches and preaching appointments in the church in Zambia.

Jonathan received his early education at Macha Mission, where he became a Christian, in large part due to the life and witness of his mother. He studied at the Bible Institute at Sikalongo for two years. More recently he pastored the Livingstone congregation for six years.

He and his wife Ednah are the parents of three girls and one boy.



Philip Dube

PHILIP DUBE represents the recent urban thrust of the church in Rhodesia. He is chairman of the Glen Norah executive committee for 1978—Glen Norah being the congregation established in 1975 in the capital city of Salisbury. With both Ndebele and Shona people in the congregation, Philip lives closely with the pressures and aspirations which make up present-day life in Rhodesia.

Employed as a revenue accounts clerk at the headquarters office of Air Rhodesia, Philip received his basic education at Matopo Mission, followed by a two-year agricultural course. Then for two years he taught agriculture at Matopo Mission.

Hem Paul



HEM PAUL's ministry in the church in India spans 20 years and many changes, including the move from strong missionary involvement to having no missionaries resident in North Bihar. In 1955 Hem began working in the office of the mission superintendent—currently he is Corresponding Secretary for the church and has served as Chairman. He is also superintendent of the Barjora District.

He has also been a part of the Barjora School since the early 1960s, first as a teacher and more recently as Headmaster. A significant number of church leaders, especially in the Santal church, have been educated at Barjora.

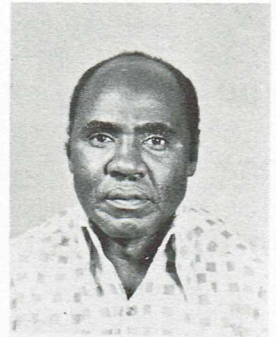
Hem and his wife Esther have five children.



Hirotooshi Hashimoto

HIROTOSHI HASHIMOTO accepted Christ as Saviour the first evening he attended evangelistic services in Tokyo. After graduating from music school he was prepared to teach clarinet, but felt God's call to the ministry. So Hashimoto-san enrolled in the Japan Bible Seminary, graduating in 1974 as the first Brethren in Christ seminary-trained pastor in Japan. He is also the first full-time pastor, being supported by the Nukui Miniami and Yayoi-dai congregations in Tokyo.

Three years ago he married Michiko, an elementary teacher who is now sharing full time in the pastoral ministry of her husband.



Jonah Munsanje

JONAH MUNSANJE was raised in a Christian home, his father a deacon in the Macha church. At the age of 11, while the pastor (the late Rev. Elmer Eyer) was preaching one Sunday afternoon, "I felt a call within me."

Since 1965 Jonah has served the Zambian church as Treasurer. A member of Executive Board, in 1976 he was chosen as a deacon for the 10 churches east and north of Macha Mission.

A school teacher, Jonah has worked for the Ministry of Education since 1951. He and his wife Lydia have a family of eight.

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**You who
were united
with Christ
(are) neither
Jew nor Greek,
slave nor free,
male nor female,
for
you are all
one
in Christ Jesus.**

Galatians 3:27-28

(NIV)