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Therefore (1972-1997)

Brethren in Christ Church Archives

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3-1-1978

## Therefore - March/April 1978 - Vol. 6, No. 2

Brethren In Christ Missions

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

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MARCH / APRIL 1978

***therefore***

**two arms  
of  
mission**

## EDITORIAL PERSPECTIVES

THE HUNGRY LEPERS outside of Samaria had a windfall when they ventured to the camp of the enemy and lived. After enjoying the food and gold for awhile, they were convicted, saying,

*"We are doing wrong. This is a day of good news, yet we are holding our tongues."*

Those lepers, without mandate or orders, knew that good news must be shared. To receive a blessing from God without sharing it with others runs counter to divine order. Yet many people in this generation *have more and share less.*

For the people of God, self-indulgent acceptance of His mercies without active sharing is unthinkable. God's only plan for sharing the Gospel is through His people. Everyone who is in the fellowship of believers is *called* to mission. The question is never, "Shall we go

# two arms

with the Good News?" but rather, "How shall we go?" Fortunately, God's plan is not that any of us must go alone, nor rely on our own wisdom, our own strength, or our own resources. No, He gives us the company of the committed—the church—which is the visible expression of Christ's body. This church does God's work and carries His message.

Because the Way of Jesus is a life to be lived, it is shared at the point of contact with another life. How are these points of contact arranged? The answer is simple, yet profound. Love makes

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# *therefore*

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its instrument go to the object of its attention—it is present and available to the needy person. This is MISSION in its purest form.

The cost and hazard of going to a person in need is greater than an individual can manage alone. He needs the comfort and support of the group. This is the purpose for which the church exists—to support and sustain its going people. The love labor of the people in the local congregation is the *FIRST Arm of Mission*. The *SECOND Arm of Mission* is extended through those who are sent away from the home base to other areas where need is discovered.

# of mission

But why go to people we don't know before everyone we do know has been won to Christ? The answer to that question is also simple, yet profound. Everyone needs to know God's Good News.

To know the joys of the New Life in Christ is to become a bearer of that great Good News to others. Just as Jesus left Nazareth for Capernaum and Judea and even Samaria, so we too must leave home to share what we know. How far anyone goes is not determined by whim or fancy. The faithful church is always careful to learn the mind of the Holy Spirit and then to send those away whom the Spirit will call. In this way the love-motivated mission to people grows from the homes of Christian people while its roving ambassadors are bearing the same message in faraway places.

Earthly kingdoms gain power by claiming territory and controlling people. But in Christ's kingdom He gives power to everyone who *receives* Him. No one is coerced into the kingdom, and many are slow to hear and respond, but that doesn't stalemate the church and its mission.

The people of God are always renewed when they see God working. It is through the two arms of mission—in the home congregation and in the mission endeavors of the church—that the Holy Spirit breathes health and growth into the church. The resources to accomplish Christ's mission in the world always came from converts to the faith. When we look to ourselves for the wherewithal to fulfill the Commission, we are immediately stalemated.

The ingredient for advance in Christ's kingdom is obedience. The strategy of the Holy Spirit is made known to faithful men and women when they pray. What happens to such united disciples is a miracle of God's grace and power.

# Opportunities for Supporting Missionaries

One of the most direct ways to share in missions activity is to share in financial support of missionaries. In fact, some missionary organizations have as a major part of their program the sending of missionaries among the churches with the expressed purpose of "raising" their support. For many years, congregations, Sunday School classes and individuals have contributed \$1,500 per person per year for the support of missionaries. Under the new plan, you can see more clearly the components of the support package.

## SUPPORT OF SALARIED MISSIONARIES

Those missionaries now supported on the Salary Plan are able to begin making provision for their longer-term needs, especially education needs of their children, and for their retirement years.

Under the new plan the 1978 basic salary for a couple is \$9,000; for a single person, \$6,300. Other costs included in sending and supporting personnel on the field are travel to and from the assignment, social security, in-service training, etc.

## SUPPORT OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE PERSONNEL

VS continues on the allowance system as before, which makes provision for immediate living needs of the worker but does not address matters of long-term retirement.

### COSTS OF SUPPORTING FIELD PERSONNEL

*The "market basket," a term used in financial support packages for persons earning their living out of their home country, includes normal living costs—food, shelter, local personal travel, taxes, vacations, etc.*

#### SALARIED MISSIONARY

|                 |                       |                              |                        |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| "Market Basket" | Education of Children | Social Security & Retirement | Travel To & From Field |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|

#### VOLUNTARY SERVICE WORKER

|                 |                       |  |                        |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| "Market Basket" | Education of Children |  | Travel To & From Field |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|

In some instances missionaries and volunteers earn part of their support in their work assignments, which is then applied toward their total support costs.

## HOW YOU CAN SHARE IN MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Groups or individuals interested in providing all, half or some other fraction of the support of a missionary are invited to contact the missions office in Elizabethtown, PA, giving the name of the person or persons you have interest in. You will receive information regarding the amount of support needed, along with a biographical sketch and interesting details of the missionary's assignment.

and witness of Brethren in Christ Missions on these two pages are a part of the  
ist missions offices in Stevensville and Elizabethtown.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

# Helping to Sponsor International Visitors

You can have an active part in helping to sponsor the visit of one or several of our international guests to the North American church this July. The Board for Missions has invited two persons assigned by their conference bodies to attend our 200th Anniversary Conference at Grantham, and to visit in Brethren in Christ homes and local congregations. No budget funds are being used to finance this important event in the life of our worldwide brotherhood.

Units of \$100 may be contributed toward the costs for guests from each of the following countries:

- RHODESIA — Iddo Kumalo, Jane Kumalo
- ZAMBIA — Jonathan Mwaalu, Daniel Mwaanga
- INDIA — Hem Paul, Patras Hembrom
- JAPAN — Hirotohi Hashimoto, Masaharu Okano
- NICARAGUA — Enrique Palacios, Teresa Palacios

## REQUEST FORMS

Here is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help bring \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_ to visit the churches in  
North America.

name \_\_\_\_\_  
address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ congregation would  
like the privilege of entertaining one of the international  
guests during their visit to America in July 1978.

It would be our special joy to have a representative from  
country \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

If such plans can be scheduled, please work out the ar-  
rangements with: name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

# news/briefs

CANADA CUBA INDIA JAPAN NICARAGUA RHODESIA UNITED STATES ZAMBIA

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA (March 3) Unsettled conditions in Nicaragua growing out of the recent assassination of the editor of the leading opposition newspaper have brought uncertainty to the day-to-day affairs of the people in that Central American country.

The Brethren in Christ congregations are mostly in the area just south of the capital city of Managua, astride the Masaya highway. News dispatches report of armed conflict between government forces and local residents in a village near Masaya.

Field Superintendent *Bert Sider* reports of tensions and unrest in Managua itself, where he resides. A fire within a block of his home drew a large hostile crowd which had a confrontation with the army. It is understood that the activities of local churches continue, however.



PURNEA DISTRICT, N. BIHAR, INDIA (Feb. 25) *Rev. Hem K. Paul*, Church Chairman, reports that he is pursuing the tedious details of obtaining travel documents for himself and Regional Superintendent *Patras Hembrom* to leave their country to attend the 200th Anniversary General Conference of the Brethren in Christ at Messiah College, Grantham, PA in July.



LUSAKA, ZAMBIA (March 14) Symptomatic of the problems being faced by missionaries in Africa these days is the experience of veteran missionary *I. M. (Pete) Stern* in purchasing a replacement vehicle.

Since the Peugeot diesel pickup he wanted (to cut down on high operating costs) was unavailable in Zambia, he made arrangements to purchase it in Klerksdorp, South Africa, approximately 100 kilometers southwest of Johannesburg.

After five telegrams, Pete had to resort to a phone call to the home office in Elizabethtown, PA, to finalize arrangements for the transfer of funds to complete the transaction.



Mpopoma Church,  
Bulawayo

ZAMBIA

INDIA

JAPAN

NICARAGUA

BULAWAYO, RHODESIA (March 1) It is reported that, due to the forced closing of Ekuphileni Bible Institute at Mtshabezi, plans are being made for the school—staff and students—to transfer to Bulawayo. The school will continue classes in temporary quarters at the Mpopoma Church and at a room in the Njube Lutheran Center until more suitable arrangements can be made. Ekuphileni Bible Institute will operate as a day school with students finding their own accommodations.

Church services were not condemned by the guerrilla forces when they demanded the closing of Mtshabezi and Wanezi Missions, although the government security forces do not look with favor on gatherings of any sort. Overseers *Joel Ncube* (Wanezi) and *Peter Mlotshwa* (Mtshabezi) have both moved to their home villages in areas not far from the missions.

In the absence of Bishop *P. M. Kumalo*, who is completing studies at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, Assistant Chairman *Isaac Mpofo* and Secretary *Lot Senda* are giving valuable direction to the church in its many very sensitive decisions.

Unusually heavy rains (40 inches in Bulawayo) have caused delay of the construction of the new church site in Lobengula Township.

One significant development is the appointment of *Rev. N. S. Moyo* as minister-at-large for the Bulawayo churches. He will be working full time in this assignment.

## together in prayer

It was at this time that King Herod laid violent hands on some of the church members. James, John's brother, he executed with the sword, and ... he went on to arrest Peter as well.... So Peter was closely guarded in the prison, while the church prayed to God earnestly on his behalf.

—Acts 12:1-5, PHILLIPS



## Three Good Projects

### 1 WMPC PROJECT, 1976-78

The Women's Missionary Prayer Circles across the church are completing a very successful project to raise a minimum of \$30,000 to establish a fund to assist retired missionaries. The Board of Administration will be bringing a recommendation to General Conference about the inauguration of this program during 1978. Each local group promotes the project, forwarding funds to the WMPC treasurers:

*Lucille Ulery*  
46 Trappe Road  
Collegeville  
PA 19426

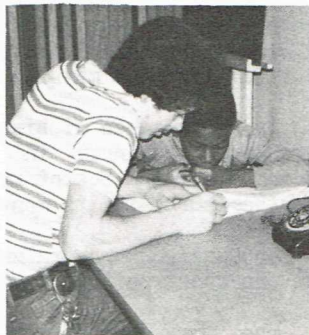
*Mary Sider*  
Route 3  
Wellandport  
Ontario, Canada

### Retired Missionary Fund

Women's Missionary Prayer Circle  
1976-78 Project

### 2 CHILDREN'S MISSIONS PROJECT, 1977-78

The Little Lighthouse Learning Center at Fellowship Chapel in Bronx, NY is the exciting project for children across the brotherhood. Their goal is to raise \$3,300 by General Conference time to help Jan Hykes and her staff buy needed supplies and equipment for the expanding community ministries program in the Bronx. (This project was pictured on page 10 of the Feb. 10 EVANGELICAL VISITOR.)



### 3 BRETHREN IN CHRIST NURSES' ASSOCIATION PROJECT, 1976-78

The Nurses' Association is sponsoring a Public Health Project for the communities in Purnea District of North India where there are Brethren in Christ churches. The staff sponsoring these clinics are a part of the Madhipura Christian Hospital staff which was developed by the Brethren in Christ and is now administered by the Emmanuel Hospital Association. Project goal is \$3,000.



# a congregational missions committee

"To be about our Father's business" (a quote from Jesus at age 12), every group of believers must have a mission. In fact, each congregation should see itself as a *missionary* congregation.

The Board for Missions is proposing to the 1978 General Conference that congregations consider naming a MISSIONS COMMITTEE. We know that some congregations have already taken this step.

## WHAT WOULD A MISSIONS COMMITTEE DO?

A missions committee would do whatever the local congregation has vision for it to do. A few of the possible assignments:

- It can help discover the local harvest.
- It can establish active lines of communication with the wide-ranging mission fields of the brotherhood.
- It can become the sustaining link to individual missionaries.
- It can inform and motivate the local congregation to more clearly see its part in the dissemination of the Gospel.
- It can help to transform a congregation nurturing itself into a thriving *MISSIONARY CONGREGATION*.

IDEAS COMING



## K. B. HOOVER REPORTS

Dr. Hoover is making wide-ranging contacts across the brotherhood. He reports having significant sharing times in the homes of pastors and with their congregations in Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Kentucky. Following Easter he will—on his next major swing—visit Colorado, New Mexico, California, Oregon and return to Pennsylvania for an active schedule of contacts there prior to General Conference in July.

## A LITTLE LOVER

Sometimes I'm almost overwhelmed when I think of all the people I know who need love and attention. I've made lists of the people I care about, but only a few of them actually get a word from me. Loving takes lots of time...and it's hard work.

But I find that talking with God about these people really helps. I'm reminded that His arm is not short like mine, and His eye sees so much that I miss. So I just place my burden for those people on Him.

There is great comfort in sharing in the lives of others who are out there, touching the lives of people close to them. It excites me to notice that my friends have access to people that I can't reach. So, although my gifts and personality are not adequate to bring much comfort to that needy person, I have friends who do have such gifts. Though engulfed in my own weakness, I see love at work—God's love.

Talking about people always goes best when I'm alone with God. I have no inhibitions in those conversations. Confessing my weakness, I turn the concerns over to Him. Impatient as I am, I frequently remind Him of the concern. Sometimes it takes quite awhile to see Him work, but He has never disappointed me.

Recently I cashed in on a love investment of over thirteen years. When I realize how little I did and how much the Lord did, I can only marvel at His goodness. Come to think of it, that's GOOD NEWS! Sure wish I could spread that around better. But I can tell a few people—perhaps they'll pass it along. God helping me, I'll do what I can...the rest is in His hands. There's a lot of PEACE in that.

*James*

# Where the Money for Missions Came From (1975-77)

An analysis of approximately 10,000 receipts issued during the 3-year period, 1975-77, from the missions offices (Elizabethtown and Stevensville)

has yielded some useful information. Each receipt issued identifies whether the funds are for the mission budget or for restricted use.

VSer Carla Dahlstrom has tabulated those funds designated for the missions budget which did not come from congregational treasurers in the United States. Financial Secretary Verna Mae Ressler in Elizabethtown and Canadian Coordinator Ross Nigh in Stevensville provided the primary resource data.

|                                | <u>1975</u>      | <u>1976</u>      | <u>1977</u>      |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Congregational Giving (USA)    | 83.5%            | 83.2%            | 76.7%            |
| Other Giving (USA)             | 16.5%            | 16.8%            | 23.3%            |
| <b>TOTAL USA GIVING</b>        | <b>\$463,221</b> | <b>\$480,837</b> | <b>\$546,542</b> |
| Congregational Giving (Canada) | 98.3%            | 94.1%            | 97.8%            |
| Other Giving (Canada)          | 1.7%             | 5.9%             | 2.2%             |
| <b>TOTAL CANADA GIVING</b>     | <b>\$ 66,546</b> | <b>\$ 68,010</b> | <b>\$ 72,626</b> |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL OF GIVING</b>   | <b>\$529,767</b> | <b>\$548,847</b> | <b>\$619,168</b> |

In 1978 the brotherhood is committed to raising \$686,088 for missions. These funds will come from the hands and hearts of God's people committed to faithfulness to the Divine Mandate.

## Reminder to Subscribers

On the mailing flap (p. 12) you will note a year, stamped in red, behind the month, which is typed on the address stencil. According to our records, you have paid for *therefore* up through this date. (Some subscribers are "behind" one or two years; others have paid for their subscription up into the 1980s.)

We would appreciate very much your bringing your subscription up to date. Present cost is \$1 per year. The cost in 6 months: ???

|   |   |
|---|---|
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**therefore**

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## OUR OBJECT

To worship  
Almighty  
God

To disseminate  
His  
Gospel

—From the Brethren in Christ  
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