

the MESSENGER

BRUNK TENT CAMPAIGN



The Brunk tent revival meetings, under the leadership of Rev. George Brunk from Harrisonberg, Virginia, have commenced in Steinbach. Mrs. Brunk and two sons, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Merle Eicher, have also accompanied Rev. Brunk.

Night after night sees the big tent, seating 2500, filled almost to capacity.

This is the second time that meetings of this kind with Rev. Brunk in charge, have been held in Steinbach, the first time being in June, 1957.

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EDITORIAL



THE PASSING OF A PIONEER

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1

The entire Evangelical Mennonite Conference has been saddened by the home-going of a brother beloved, a fellow minister and a church leader, the Rev. David P. Reimer.

Our acquaintance with the late Br. Reimer goes back to the war years when he was very active in the administration of the C.O. program. But it was not till we too were ordained into the ministry that we really learned to know him and appreciate him.

Among the areas that he pioneered in was the field of literature. It was largely through his influence and vision that the "Familienfreund" first made its appearance 28 years ago next January.

My eyes grow dim as I gaze upon a cherished "first" copy of this publication. And I try to imagine the feelings that must have gone through this young editor as he gazed upon the fruit of his effort, his labours and his aspiration.

In Br. Reimer's home-going we have lost an active writer, of which we already have so few. May others be challenged to take up where he left off. He lived to see the ministry of the printed page take a tremendous stride when early this year the conference voted to put out an enlarged German paper plus a separate 8 page English bi-weekly. His enthusiasm and optimism did much to further this.

He will be missed, but we sorrow not as those who have no hope. To mind come only the words of the hymn writer who said:

They have laid aside their armour
For the robe of spotless white
And with Jesus they are walking
Where the river sparkles bright
We have labored here together
We have labored side by side
Just a little while before me
They have crossed the rolling tide.

* * *

YEAR BOOKS

A church (or Conference) year book is a fine thing. Churches, their beginnings, achievements, members, etc. are listed which we read with interest, and maybe even a little pride at what we have accomplished. Our Sesqui-centennial year book is such a book.

We read on until we come to the list of members, in the back of the book, and search, almost in vain for

God's saving grace is for all. If this is so, how great the non-Mennonite names in our Canadian membership.

Here is something that has greatly disturbed us. Surely there should be more names of non-Mennonite origin. What is it that has kept them out? Or is the gospel message only for us and our children. God forbid such a thought! debt to our non-Mennonite neighbors who are just as lost as the heathen in darkest Africa, if without Christ.

Yes, year books are fine. But they sometimes reveal more than is intended, as we have revealed above.

It is our prayer that before another year book is put out that picture will have changed for the better. Indications already are such that we have reason to hope (See "Baptism at Weekes" this issue and "Church Doubles Membership" in our last number).

* * *

The New Africa

The new Africa—an old world being born into the 20th century—reveals a thirst for knowledge unprecedented in human history. Schools everywhere are able to admit only a part of their applicants. Illiterate parents demand that their children receive the education they were denied.

Where will the teachers come from! Africa will need 70,000 secondary teachers and 7000 university teachers in the next ten years.

Teachers Abroad Program (TAP) was organized by MCC to make a contribution to this need. TAP offers Mennonites an opportunity to be a Christian testimony in the African classroom. The outstanding work done by the 20 teachers serving this year has opened up many doors for service in the future. (Leader)

* * *

Report Religious Revival in China

A recent report from inside Red China indicates that there is a new religious revival in various parts of the country. The report which came by way of Hong Kong stated that while nearly all church activity ceased for the past three to five years the situation is now changing. The writer reported an increased interest in the Gospel and many new inquirers despite a distressing lack of spiritual leadership.

In another area more than 100 new converts were baptized at one time and the church is growing rapidly.

(ACTION)

* * *

The Messenger

Official organ, in the English language, of the EVANGELICAL MENNONITE CONFERENCE. Published bi-weekly under the auspices of the E.M.C. BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND EDUCATION.

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MISSIONS

FRANK P. KROEKERS TO PARAGUAY



Margie, Hannah, Judy, Gary, Marjorie, Frank

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and all over Judea and Samaria, and away to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 NEB)

Since the day that Christ changed my life and made me a new creature in Him through the Holy Spirit, I have not once doubted the fact He also called me into His service. Yet I had little idea in what form or where it would be, but nevertheless, He granted a burden for the lost and a desire to obey His call. Today I'm so thankful that the Lord gave opportunity to respond to the call through the home Church in the DVBS, extension S.S. work, and various other ways, and later also in the call to the ministry.

During the twelve years of our Christian life we can now see the different steps the Lord had to take by way of preparation. Some brought tears and sorrow, others joy and blessing. As a result of these experiences we have at least partly learned of what Paul says: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Presently we are happy that Christ has counted us worthy to be His ambassadors to a needy Paraguay. The "Paraguayan Call" has come our way and we look forward to going. How-

ever the thought of leaving the work with the Conference, the Churches, and our loved ones here at home has already caused us some sober moments. But, His promise: "and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world," is a real consolation to us. As a reward, we are hoping to see the transformation of many lives "from darkness into His marvellous light" as we go forth.

We would also wish to express our heartiest "thanks" to all the Churches of the Conference for the promised financial and prayer support and as well for all gifts and love to us. May the Lord bless abundantly in return.

The Lord willing, we shall now leave Winnipeg on July 8th at 7:00 a.m. and arrive in Asuncion on July 9th at 4:25 p.m. (1:25 p.m. our time). We do covet your prayers.

"To this end keep watch and persevere, always interceding for all God's people; and pray for me (us), that I may be granted the right words when I open my mouth, and may boldly and freely make known His hidden purpose, for which I am an ambassador . . . Pray that I may speak of it boldly, as it is my duty to speak" (Eph. 6:18-20 NEB.)

Yours for the lost in Paraguay,

MISSION BECOMES CHURCH

Baptism at Weekes

On June 16 the E.M.C. Mission station at Weekes, Sask. officially became a church when three souls were baptized and five more received into fellowship.

Baptized were the following:

Richard Salmond
Mrs. Jennie Belznar
Mrs. Ethel St. Marie

Received into fellowship of the church were:

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Funk
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Salmond
Mr. John Tyche

Other missionaries who have served at Weekes are the John Ungers and the Abe Giesbrechts. Presently serving are the Ernest Funks.

MISSION BRIEFS

The Clifford Reimers in a recent letter inform us that "school is out" (Clifford teaches missionary children.) During this time they will be helping in "short term" Bible courses at other stations. They also report that in recent weeks almost all missionaries have reported of souls saved or new contacts made.

Corny B. Loewen (missionary on furlough) has returned to Mexico for a short time to assist in the work which at present, due to illness, etc. is short staffed.

Corny Plett (Burns Lake) came from this, our most Western church, to attend the 13th Annual Conference. He has again returned.

John Kornelsens (Mexico) have returned for a short furlough.

Martha Bartel, former Mexico missionary has gone back to Mexico for an undetermined period to help in the work.

Margaret Unger, teacher on the Mexico field is home on furlough.

From a Church Bulletin

"Rev. (name) is bringing a series of messages on trials in the Christian life during the month of July."

The Thirteenth Annual Convention of

Meeting at Rosenort (Morris) on June 29 to July 1 was the Evangelical Mennonite Conference for its 13th annual conference. Theme of the convention was **THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**. In addition to the many reports and presentations the theme was developed in five main messages. **JESUS CHRIST LORD OF THE CHURCH, JESUS CHRIST LORD OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL, JESUS CHRIST LORD OF THE SOCIAL LIFE, JESUS CHRIST LORD OF STEWARDSHIP OF MATERIAL WEALTH, and JESUS CHRIST LORD OF ALL.**

The opening forenoon and afternoon of the conference was devoted to ministerial and conference council sessions. The ministerial **COUNCIL** is composed of all ministers and deacons. This body meets six times a year. The session at the conference is an extra one. At these bi-monthly meetings topics that are relevant to the conference as a whole are dealt with. The **CONFERENCE COUNCIL** is composed of all ministers and deacons plus an allotment of delegates according to membership from each church. Presiding over these sessions is a moderator, elected annually.

Saturday

Saturday night marked the beginning of the conference proper. P. L. Friesen the host pastor welcomed the guests. F. D. Reimer, moderator of the EMC opened the meeting. He expressed an inward desire that we have Jesus

Christ as Lord of our lives. Christ demands our spirit, body and soul in every area of our lives. The report on **Conference Trusteeship** was given by Dick Eidse. He gave some pointers on church titles, etc. John P. Loewen gave the report on **Colonization**. He pointed out three special blessings that result when a smaller group is transplanted to a different area.

- I. The Effect on the Home Church
- II. The Effect on those Who Go.
- III. The Effect on the Conference as such.

The first message, **JESUS CHRIST LORD OF THE CHURCH** was delivered by John K. Reimer, Winnipeg. For his text he took Col. 1:18. "The church we are now thinking of is not a "local church" but the universal church comprising all believers, body of the Christ." Mr. Reimer developed his message along three lines:

1. Christ, the Founder of the Church.
2. Christ, Meeting the needs of the Church in its development.
3. Christ Bringing the Church to Completion.

Sunday

Sunday, June 30 was conference Sunday. Three public sessions took place, morning, afternoon and evening.

Speaking in the morning were Peter Schlamp (Wymark) and F. P. Kroeker (Morris) Br. Schlamp took for his text Philippians 1:1-12. He referred particularly to the main theme of the conference, **THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**.

Today, as in Jesus time, there is rebellion to His rule over us. He pointed to three conditions of success in proclaiming the Gospel. 1) A Personal Knowledge of Jesus. 2) Total Surrender 3) A Joyful Christian Personality.

Br. Kroeker spoke on the topic, **The Lordship of Christ to us is Conditional.** (Matthew 7:15-27) Jesus Christ, God's only beloved Son, Redeemer, cannot be Lord to any one individual person outside of the prescribed requirements and conditions laid down in God's holy word. Among these conditions are; Faith and Repentance. Fruit of the Spirit in the life. A Surrender to His Will and Obedience to His Word.

Sunday afternoon the Board of Missions presented candidates and reports. A. P. Unger, chairman of the mission board had the floor. Nine missionaries have been accepted since the last missionary convention. The candidates came forward and dedicatory prayer was offered. Reports were then given on the three major fields of endeavor, Home, Paraguay and Mexico fields.

Home Missions extension report was given by B. D. Reimer. He gave a brief review of the 13 home mission stations. He appealed for 20 couples to take up new areas.

F. D. Reimer reporting on the Paraguay field told of 70-80 baptized members. There is now 250 acres of land broken up. Cotton and beans are harvested. There is an earnest appeal for help from another tribe. A vehicle for



Left: F. D. Reimer, moderator, EMC; Abe R. Reimer, secretary and P. L. Friesen, assistant moderator.
Centre: A voice from the floor at Conference Council.

Right: Youth workers gather between sessions for some business (partial representation).

the Evangelical Mennonite Conference

the Toewses is urgently needed.

P. L. Friesen told of eight years of outreach in Mexico. Many have been saved. There are 84 baptized members.

B. D. Reimer, spoke on the second theme, JESUS CHRIST LORD OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL. In I Cor. 15 we find the true definition of the Gospel; Christ died for our sins, rising again on the third day. The reconciliation of man to God must be done by us His, body. More laborers are always needed. He left us an example of how it should be done. If we follow Christ's example we will be fishers of men.

The offering went for general missions (\$614.64)

Sunday night was Youth Night. John Kornelsen (Mexico) gave some challenging thoughts on "Witnessing at Work". Gordon Reimer dealt with the topic "Challenge of Voluntary Service". Br. Reimer has seen PAX service abroad. The report for **EMC Voluntary Service** program was given by A. G. Penner. He told of the origin and consequent development of this new body. It came into being as a result of the need of providing service outlets of this nature for our young people. So far five workers are out in service. One more is going. More could go if they were available.

Harvey Plett, Steinbach Bible Institute, in the **fourth conference message** spoke on the assigned topic, JE-

SUS CHRIST LORD OF THE SOCIAL LIFE. "Man is a social being" said Br. Plett. "He is created for fellowship with God and man." The two main headings of the message were:

I. The Lordship of Christ and Social Processes

II. The Lordship of Christ in Specific Areas of Life

Also appearing briefly on the program were Bernie Klassen accepted worker with MCC in Jordan and Helen Barkman who is with Back to the Bible in the Winnipeg office.

Monday

On Monday afternoon the newly formed (one year ago) **Board of Education and Publication** gave their report. Given was a brief survey of the origin and duties of this board. With the conference growing, an ever greater need was seen for a committee that would look after all education and publication needs. Outlined were also the duties of this board according to the constitution. Some of the areas that the board has already worked with was the conference publications of **FAMILIENFREUND AND FAMILY CIRCLE**. This hitherto combined paper had been separated into two papers, one German and one English. They also became purchasing agent for Herold Press S.S. and VBS material.

Elmer Hamm, MacGregor gave the **VBS Challenge**. This was very timely as schools will start in the very near

future.

The **Conference Report** was given by P. P. Friesen, Ridgewood. The **fifth conference message** dealt with JESUS CHRIST LORD OF STEWARDSHIP OF MATERIAL WEALTH. The speaker was Milton Fast, Kleefeld. He stated while America had only 7% of the world's population, it owns more than 50% of the world's wealth. He developed his theme along three lines. 1) Man, Owner or Steward, II) The Purpose of Stewardship of Material Wealth and, III) Choose Ye this day Whom ye will Serve.

Monday evening brought the last conference session. F. D. Reimer, moderator of the EMC gave a report on the **Conference Council** and it's business at the Saturday mission. Br. Reimer also presented the three new churches; formed: Roseisle, Valley Stream and Weekes. As a recognition of acceptance the congregation stood to their feet.

Abe R. Reimer gave a report on the **Steinbach Bible Institute**. He expressed his gratitude for a school such as this. "Modernism, Liberalism und Universalism are trying to creep in on us from every angle" said Br. Reimer. And, "Today, in the face of so much weakening of the true doctrine of the Bible it is of the greatest importance that we have an institution where the unadulterated word is implanted into the heart of our young lives".

Over 200 students have been en-



One of the "fringe benefits" of a conference is the opportunity to meet and chat with friends and acquaintances. Here we see on our left Corny Loewen, Steinbach, member of the extension committee and Ben Friesen, pastor of our

Swift Current Church. On our right we have K. J. B. Reimer centre, reminiscing with C. P. Doerksen, left, and K. A. Reimer, right.

rolled this last winter. Seventy-five of these were in the high school department. On the staff are seven teachers. One of the pressing needs is more classroom facilities. Income consisted of: Donations \$17,000.00, Educational Dept. \$20,000.00, Publications \$8,500.00 Accommodation Dept. \$33,000.00.

The fifth, and last, message was given by Henry Kornelsen, Ridgewood. The theme; JESUS CHRIST LORD OF ALL. The text was taken from Luke 9:57-62. It dealt with three would-be followers. "The church is in dire need of disciples who claim Christ as the first authority in their life," said Br. Kornelsen, and, "May our heavenly Father forgive us, that we are not rather searching for a deeper, yielded, Christ glorifying life . . ."

The offering for Sundry night went to the S.B.I. (\$442.95)

In the absence of Arnold Fast, C. B. Loewen (Mexico) made the Conference closing. "We have been brought face to face with the searching question of our Saviour 'Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?' and again, 'This is still the age of the battle for men's souls. So many christians and even entire churches are ready, or have called for an armistice . . . there will never be an armistice between Christ and Satan." He called for repentance and prayer. No amount of activity will be a substitute for prayer.

Acknowledgement was given to the local church for their hospitality.

Offerings for the six sessions came to over \$2400.00.

The weather, although very warm and humid the first day, turned more comfortable for the rest of the meetings. To God be the praise and glory for a good conference. May the word spoken find a lodging place in our hearts and lives.

The request by the board of Education that messages and reports be written out for future preservation has resulted in about half of them being on record. It is hoped that these will be made available in book form for perusal at your leisure and for the many who were unable to attend part or any of the 1963 Annual Conference.

Raipur, India (E.P.) Christian leaders have applauded a statement from Prime Minister Nehru that India would remain a nation in which the followers of all religions would enjoy equal opportunities to practise their faiths. Ad-

ressing a public meeting Mr. Nehru: "India will never become a nation purely of Hindus. Those who talk of making her a Hindu nation are only imitating the leaders of Pakistan who seek to make that country an Islamic state. India has been and will be a country where everyone irrespective of his religion, will be able to live peacefully and follow his religion.

M.C.C. WORKERS TO JORDAN



Bernie and Nettie Klassen and four months old Anna.

M.C.C. WORKERS TO JORDAN

Leaving on July 2 for a three year assignment with MCC in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan were Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Klassen and four month old Anna.

In Jordan Br. Klassen will take over the administration of a newly created secondary school for Arabs at Beit Jala. A school that is being readied for 48 students, this will later be increased to 100 students. Duties will consist of instructing in English, which is a second language in Jordan and administrative duties.

Mr. Klassen has taught for five years in this country. Mrs. Klassen too is a teacher and may also do some teaching in Jordan.

Mrs. Klassen's duties will consist of being "house mother" at the school which is a residential school. The personnel consists of four Arab teachers plus three domestic staff.

Things that Sister Klassen will find different from this country are that women are still veiled. In the laundry there will not be an electric washer and dryer, you wash in a tub! There will be no electric range in the kitchen,

but a kerosene stove. When shopping she will have to learn the art of "bargaining". Her name will not be Nettie nor Mrs. Klassen, but "Um Anna" (the mother of Anna).

The population of Jordan is about two million. The inhabitants are Arabs. The reigning monarch is King Husein.

MCC has been in Jordan for some 14 years having had up to 21 workers serving there thus constituting the second largest overseas unit in MCC.

The Klassens will be sailing from New York on July 8. Their new address will be:

%Mennonite School for Boys
Box 5
Beit Jala
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

NEWS

TWO BAPTIZED AT KOLA

Baptized at Kola on June 16 were the following persons:

Don Emerson
Ken Fehler

Among the scripture passages used were: Matt. 3, baptism upon true repentance; Romans 6:3-5, baptism signifies the burying of the old life and rising to a new life in Christ. Romans 12:1, 2 challenges to live a holy life dedicated to God. Communion service was also celebrated on this day.

BIRTHS

Belated: To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Plett of Steinbach, a boy, Michael David, on April 2.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ben Barkman of Washow Bay, a girl, Delores Ann, on May 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Friesen of Washow Bay, a girl, Evelyn, on May 8.

Chosen: To Mr. and Mrs. Menno Hamm of Austin (MacGregor), a boy, Gerald Wayne.

Chosen: To Mr. and Mrs. Art Schwartz, a boy, Kurt Arthur.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Friesen, of Steinbach, a girl, Marcella Mae, June 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jack Klassen of Steinbach, a girl, Lois June, June 26.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Hiebert of Steinbach, a girl, Juanita Faye, June 28.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dave Schlamp of Swift Current, a girl.

WEDDINGS

Golden: Mr. and Mrs. John. R. Schellenberg of Kleefeld on June 9.

Silver: Mr. and Mrs. Pete Peters of Kleefeld on June 5.



POSSESSED OR POSSESSING?

By Jessie Rice Sandberg

This afternoon a friend whom I see only rarely stopped by for a short visit and a cup of coffee. She seemed a little upset and when I questioned her about it, she told me that a neighbor had just told her, rather candidly, that she was materialistic and extravagant.

"I was so shocked," she said, "and then I tried to think what I had said or done to leave that impression. I think it all started when I mentioned I was having some drapes made for my dining room. My neighbor thought it was foolish to have drapes custom made when ready-made ones could be had cheaper."

I didn't try to decide for my friend whether she really was materialistic, and I doubted that that kind of judgment could be made on the basis of whether or not a person preferred custom-made drapes to cheaper, ready-made ones.

If you should ask a number of women what type of expense they considered extravagant, their ideas would differ a great deal, according to their own various backgrounds and economic situations. One woman would perhaps say that a weekly trip to the hairdresser was extravagant, while another would insist it was a perfectly normal expense. Another woman who happened to be frugal with herself about the amount of money she spent on clothing might be lavish in what she spent for food. I have seen women with lovely homes and furniture who figured food budgets to save every possible penny. When I was growing up I remember having a girl friend who was shocked that people as poor as my family would spend so much money on books and piano lessons! So you see, extravagance may very well be a matter of opinion.

However, it is true that in a society like ours, where "things" have become symbols of culture and success and personal worth, it is easy, even for

Christians, to become materialistic in outlook. An individual who has been reared in wealth may possibly own a great number of things of great material value and still not be materialistic. At the same time, a person may actually own very little and yet be so absorbed in thinking about what he would like to have that he is, in reality, materialistic. It is not the cost of our possessions which makes us materialistic, but rather a preoccupation with possessions, whether expensive or not. It is a sad thing to be possessed by one's possessions, to put one's whole attention on values that must be reckoned by dollars and cents. Aside from the spiritual starvation that is inevitably the result of being materialistic, this preoccupation with things makes life never quite fulfilling or satisfying because there is always something newer, or more fashionable or fancier to be desired. How much happier it is to receive joyfully whatever blessings and prosperity God gives, and yet to spend one's thought and interest on things of greater value.

"... for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth... Therefore, I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment."—Luke 12:15, 22, 23.

"We then as workers together with him beseech you, also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain... But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses... As sorrowful, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."—II Cor. 6:1, 4, 10.

"Materialism", What is it? What does it mean? How does it affect me? All these questions were answered when I read this article in the 'Sword of the Lord' written by Jessie Rice Sandberg. This article is reprinted by permission with the prayer that we all will benefit by it and that the materialistic bug will not get hold of us.

(Mrs.) Leona Reimer

WATERING PLANTS

I would like to share some thoughts with you that came to me as I watered my plants one day.

Here on a little table in front of a window was a plant that did not seem

to have much color in its leaves, and the flower never reached the point of full maturity. Why? It was away from the light. It should have been in the window with the other flowering plants. Like this plant, if we do not stay close to "The Light", but mingle too much with those in the darkness of sin, our lives will lose their color, and beauty that only The Light of the World can put there.

Now, over here is a plant that's growing, but oh, so slowly. There is life, but it is not producing flowers at all. This plant is root-bound. Yes, it wants to grow and puts down roots to grow, but it wants to do all its work in one spot. I must get more pots and spread out this plant. Then I will transplant it, even outside of our home. What happens now? It grows beautifully, and produces flowers in all these different places. Is there not a lesson here for us? Should we do all our work in one place? His command is: "Go Ye..." He also said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me... unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Then I came to a little plant with beautiful foliage in full flower. But there is a strange thing about this plant. I had to make a solution from vitamin B1 and water, and feed it. If I want this plant to keep flowering I must do this periodically. Are there not many Christians who just never seem to get anywhere, spiritually, unless someone is continually pampering them, or running after them? One in this category, if left on his own, often loses out altogether, and like the plant, withers and dies (spiritually).

One day, in the hot summer we went away for a few days. We left no one to care for the plants. What a sight met our eyes upon our return. They looked like they were all dead! What was the matter? No water. The water to the plant is like the Word of God and prayer to the Christian. Without these we soon lose interest in 'growing' and 'going'—to win souls to Him.

—From a pastor's wife (Sask.)

AFTERGLOW

The sun is set and now it melts

Its tender afterglow into

My heart. I feel its nestling warmth

That seeps my thirsty spirit through.

Someday the sun will set again

Upon a life—its counted years,

Unspun the reel of time. The joys,

The sorrows past. Creeping it nears.

Obituary of the REVEREND DAVID P. REIMER

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor. 5:1.

It has pleased the Lord who reigns over life and death, to take up my beloved husband and the father of our children David P. Reimer, from this earthly life into his eternal home. He passed away on Tuesday, July 2, 1963 at 12:30 a.m. at the age of 69 years.

My husband was born to his parents, Peter and Maria Reimer, on the 13th of June, 1894 in the village of Blumenort in the vicinity of Steinbach as their youngest child. He received his elementary education here. At the age of 16 he moved along with his parents and other members of the family to their farm, ½ mile north of the original village site. Father resided on this farm until his death.

After his conversion he was baptized upon the confession of his faith at the age of 19 by the elder Peter R. Dueck and received into the Kleine Gemeinde, now Evangelical Mennonite Conference.

On the 12th of April, 1914 he offered me, Justina Brandt, his hand in holy matrimony. Twelve children were born of this union. Four of these passed on in childhood, of whom Tina and David died at the ages of 3 and 1½ years within a period of one month.

The influence of his teachers, Gerhard Giesbrecht and Heinrich R. Reimer, later helped him decide for the calling of teaching. For four years he taught in the private school in Blumenort and some time later he taught one year in the district school. Because he had taken over the family farm, which began to take more and more of his time, and because he would have had to continue his schooling if he wanted to continue as a teacher, he gave up teaching.

In the year 1929 he was called into the ministry of the church. In the years that followed this required much of his time. He travelled much in the interests of the work of the church

and also of colonization. During the war years he ministered to the CO boys in the camps for several months.

When his brother, the Elder P. P. Reimer, along with many members of the church moved to Mexico in the year of 1948 he was elected and ordained as Bishop of the Blumenort Church. Some years previous, when the need for a church paper was felt, he was appointed as editor of the Christlicher Familienfreund. For 25 years he continued to serve in this capacity.

Up until the summer of 1962 he enjoyed exceptionally good health, in spite of the fact that he had diabetes for the last number of years. Last summer while in Kitchener, Ontario to attend the Mennonite World Conference, he suffered a light attack, likely due to an internal disorder. Shortly after his return he received thorough medical examination. After this he submitted to a very complicated cancer operation on the 3rd of October of last year in the St. Boniface Hospital. He recovered in remarkably short time and enjoyed another 5 months of apparently good health. During this time he withdrew more and more from the duties of the ministry. About the middle of May his suffering, due to cancer, became very apparent again. After he had taken part in, and thoroughly enjoyed a meeting sponsored by the Blumenort Church on the 16th of June in remembrance of the many years of service of four of the older ministers, he went to the hospital the following day. Here he stayed another two weeks. Some of this time he had to suffer much, especially after another small operation, until he peacefully passed away on the 2nd day of July. During this last two week stay in the hospital he has been able to discuss and arrange many things with the family and with many friends. Even in these days of suffering his cheerful disposition was very helpful in cheering up even those who visited him and also in overcoming his own suffering.

To mourn his departure he leaves me, his wife, eight children: Maria, Mrs. Abe P. Reimer, Giroux; Justina, Mrs. Martin Penner, Giroux; Elizabeth,

Mrs. Jake Kroeker, Washow Bay; Henry, Giroux; Peter, Middlebury, Indiana; David, Giroux; Gerhard, Steinbach; and Sara at home. 4 daughters-in-law, 3 sons-in-law, 41 grandchildren (5 grandchildren preceded him in death), one sister, Sara, Mrs. Johan G. Barkman; one ailing brother, Klaas P. L. Reimer; 3 sisters-in-law; 1 brother-in-law; as well as my brothers and sisters; many relatives and a host of friends. We do not sorrow as those, who have no hope, but we have the assurance to see him again on the resurrection morning with Jesus Christ.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have remembered us, in prayer, visitation or in other deeds of love, in this time of suffering and mourning. We would especially like to thank the doctors and nurses who have cared for our father so faithfully during his suffering.

The bereaved Wife and family

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The funeral of David P. Reimer took place on Saturday, July 6 in the church where he had until early this year been the leader, Blumenort. It was a very largely attended funeral with friends coming from far and near to pay their last respects to an esteemed friend and brother.

John P. Loewen, the present leader spoke in German, taking his text from Hebrews 4. "He rests", said Br. Loewen from: 1) a prayer life, 2) He has given his last warning, his last words of comfort".

The choir sang the song "Mann lobt dich in der Stille", one of the favorites of the deceased brother.

Frank D. Reimer took as his text II Timothy 4:7, 8, developing it in three points. He underlined the loss to family, friends and the church through the death of Br. Reimer.

Messages from former moderator Archie Penner and the Sask. churches of Wymark and Swift Current were read.

"We have gathered to say farewell to a brother and minister" said Melvin Penner in his closing remarks.

Obituary was read by Jake Kroeker, Washow Bay.

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DIED

The Rev. Cornelius R. Penner, Blumenort on Monday, June 8 at 11 p.m. Mr. Penner was 81 years old. He had been a minister in the Blumenort church since about 1925. The funeral is to be held at Blumenort on July 12.