

EVANGELICAL

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MENNONITE

CONFERENCE

the MESSENGER



"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

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EDITORIAL



SURPLUSES

The Governments intention to sharply increase the shipment of wheat and flour to needy countries under various foreign aid programs (Free Press, July 25) should be greeted with thanks by Christian everywhere. We cannot but commend this action by our Government. We cannot believe that it is right that around the world 10,000 people should die of hunger EVERY DAY and we have full, untouched graneries!

We grant that a give-away program creates problems, and could result in some sharp criticism. Nevertheless, in the face of 10,000 starving people, we can hardly conceive of anyone not willing to make concessions.

SIN

Dr. Stephen Ward is dead, but the sordid details associated with his trial, live on. Aside from the scandal itself the thing that alarms us most is the apparent, matter of fact way in which all this filth and smut stares at us from the pages of our daily newspapers.

Where is our sense of shame! How can we hope to ban this type of trash from our newsstands if the press also seems to take relish in describing these immoral deeds and acts.

Another matter of grave concern is the attitude and mood of the people concerned. The utter barbarism of the participants is appalling. One defendant testifying to the fact that she whipped and caned several middle-aged men at \$2.80 a stroke (News Week, Aug. 5)

All this flouts the law of God and encourages other people to emulate these "heroes" (?). Already one of the principle characters has sold her life story for \$64,000. Another one stated that she had "enough in jewellery and mink to keep me over the next years" (Newsweek, July 15).

Over all this stand the words of Holy Writ, namely "God is not mocked . . . he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption."

RELIEF WORKERS SURVEY YUGOSLAV DISASTER

Akron, Pa., (MCC)—Mennonite Central Committee representatives were in Skoplje, Yugoslavia, less than two days after an earthquake devastated this city of 170,000.

John Wieler of Niverville, Manitoba, director of the MCC program in Greece, and Paxman Aden Troyor, Sugar-creek, Ohio, reported from the scene of the disaster that seventy-five per cent of the city was destroyed. They will report on service and relief opportunities after they have surveyed the disaster area. The MCC stands ready to send men and supplies to Skoplje if recommended.

Skoplje, located in southern Yugoslavia, is only 80 miles from the Aridea Valley in Greece where the MCC

has an experimental farm and community development program.

Persons who have travelled through southern Yugoslavia report that this section of the country is extremely poor. The MCC has tried to locate a unit in Yugoslavia, on a number of occasions during the past few years, but without success. The Skoplje earthquake may be the open door.

THIRTEEN GOING TO AFRICA

Akron, Pa., (MCC)—Thirteen persons are scheduled to leave for Africa this summer to serve in the Teachers Abroad Program (TAP). An orientation school was held for the group at MCC headquarters, Akron, from July 10-24.

The orientation school was planned and for the most part, conducted by the personal office headed by Urbane Peachey. As part of the school, Robert Kreider dean of Bluffton College, accompanied the group to New York City for two days to visit people and places that would be helpful in understanding Africa. Following this, two days of the school were conducted at Messiah College, Grant-ham, Pa.

The group then returned to MCC headquarters where a commissioning service was held during an extended chapel period on Wednesday morning, July 24. Henry Hostetter, executive secretary of the Brethren in Christ mission board, was speaker for the occasion.

The teachers will serve in the three African countries of Kenya, Northern Nigeria and Northern Rhodesia.

Letters To the Editor

Greeting you in the name of our dear Saviour Jesus Christ. I thank you for sending me this Christian paper (MESSENGER). I would like to let you know that I have changed my address. My old address was: Anne Rempel, Nurses Residence, Swift Current, Sask. My new address is 264 Fourth Ave., Swift Current. Would you please send the paper to my new address. Thank you.

Anne Rempel, Swift Current, Sask.

Vivi Mavridon, (page 5), wrote this article for an assignment at Goshen College.

Henry Hiebert, (page 6), is an instructor at the Steinbach Bible Institute.

The Messenger

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MISSIONS

THE QUICHUA RADIO

By Stan and Marian Houghton

Around the shores of Lake Colta there live about 10,000 Indians. In Chimborazo Province, where the lake is situated, there are 150,000. In Ecuador there are 1,500,000! Can missionaries ever accomplish the task of reaching so many, in the time that is allotted to us? Physically, it would seem impossible. The Gospel Missionary Union has 14 missionaries working among the Indians in this province. In the rest of Ecuador, including other groups, there are perhaps that many more.

Over the Air Waves

One vital way of reaching more Indians is by radio. It is to this effort that Radio Station HCUE-5 was erected in Colta. In the past 18 months that we have been functioning, we have sold more than 60 pre-tuned receivers to 14 communities. An evangelistic message goes out each day, as well as other material, to all these places. Considering that each receiver may have up to 10 listeners, you can realize the potential audience we have.

Programming

One of the phases of our work is to provide a suitable material for broadcast each day. To this end we have been studying the language in hope that soon we will be able to produce more varied programs. The local church is very helpful. Twice a week one of the brethren comes to either preach or testify as he is able. We have trained one of the men to do the

controlling in case we have to leave the station for any reason. The children from our boarding school come over each Wednesday to do a Sunday-school of the Air program. Recently, they dramatized the conversion of Saul and did very well at it, to. We want to encourage them to take out their radios to the homes of unsaved friends in order that they can hear the Good News as well. Some of them have even taken out the radios to sell to others.

Results

Recently, one of our local believers came and requested that we put some



Manuel Bueno, a preacher and controller.



Young people from the Boarding school with a special number.

national music and a good message on repentance, as he was taking his radio to the house of an unsaved relative that day. Two of our Christians, working in Quito, contacted some men from a neighboring village. They had heard of our radio station and wanted to know more. When they returned home, they came to buy a radio. They also invited the two Christian men over to have a meeting in their home. All these things help us to feel that this is really a worthwhile ministry—one that we hope will work toward the winning of many.

MISSION BRIEFS

Frank Kroekers Arrive in Paraguay

In a letter received by Frank D. Reimer, we have been informed of the safe arrival in Paraguay of the Frank P. Kroekers. Among other things Br. Kroeker writes the following, "We arrived here in Asuncion on July 9 as expected. The trip was good except for a few rough spots due to thunderstorms. At one occasion just north of Tampa, Florida, our big jet tossed about like a little leaf. The children were quite scared by the time it was all over. "But out of it all the Lord delivered us."

We had a grand reception here at the airport in Asuncion. As we had come together with the Peter Kehlers, the new MCC houseparents almost all of the MCC staff was there to greet us and help us through with the papers and baggage. We didn't even need to hire a taxi and were taken right down to the MCC Home where we were given a nice room all ready for us as I had written them that I was coming."

(We hope to be able to bring a longer, more detailed report before our readers soon. Ed.)

STILL CAPTIVE

According to Larry Kehler, MCC Information Service, Akron, there still is no further word about the whereabouts of PAX worker Daniel Gerber, who along with two Alliance missionaries was taken captive by the Viet Cong Communists in Viet Nam over a year ago. The Alliance Witness reports that new, somewhat different efforts are now being made for the release of these men.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By Dr. Andrew Murray

"Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little Child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10. 15)

My text has four simple expressions that we need to understand if we are to enter into its meaning and power. We must ask: 1. **What is the Kingdom of God?** 2. What is it to **enter the Kingdom?** 4. What to receive the Kingdom **as a little child?**

First: What is the Kingdom of God? You know how John the Baptist preached that the Kingdom of God or of heaven had come nigh. During the Old Testament times it had been spoken of, and promised, and hoped for, but it had not come. During the life of Christ on earth there were mighty tokens of its coming and its nearness but it had not come yet in power. What it would be Christ foretold when He once said, "the Kingdom of God is within you"; and another time "There be some standing here who shall not see death, till they see the Kingdom of God come in power." On the day of Pentecost, that word was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit brought down out of heaven the Kingdom of God into the hearts of the disciples, and they went forth and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom, not as at hand or coming, but as come.

It is not difficult to answer the question:

What is the Kingdom of God?

It is that spiritual state in which the life of God and of heaven is made accessible to men and they, enter into its enjoyment here on earth. If we ask what its marks are we find the answer in the wondrous change we see in the life of the disciples.

The mark of a kingdom is the presence of the king. With the Holy Spirit Christ came down to be with His disciples as really and more nearly, than when He was with them in the flesh. The abiding nearness and fellowship of Christ, and in Him of God the Father, is the very central blessing of the Kingdom. This experience was what the Holy Spirit at Pentecost made real. The disciples had their Lord with them as consciously as the angels in heaven. His Presence made heaven all around and in them. A believer to

whom a full entrance into the Kingdom is given, has the Presence of God and Christ as the good part that cannot be taken away.

The mark of a kingdom is the rule of the king. We read, "His Kingdom ruleth over all" Before Pentecost the disciples could not love or be humble, could not trust or be bold. But when the kingdom came, the dominion of God prevailed, God's Presence through the Holy Spirit gained the victory, sin was overcome, and the will of God done in them as in heaven. When Jesus taught them to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as in heaven." He promised this. As the Kingdom came down with the Holy Ghost, the promise was fulfilled. And our entering into the kingdom means our being brought into a life in which God rules over all, His will is truly and joyfully done, and all the blessedness that reigns in heaven finds its counterpart here below. As it is written, "The Kingdom of God is righteous and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

The mark of a kingdom is power. "The Kingdom of God is not in word but in power." Just think of the work these simple fishermen dared to undertake and were able to accomplish. Think of the weapon with which they had to do their work—the despised Gospel of the Crucified Nazarene. Think of all that God wrought through them, and see how the coming of the Kingdom brought a new power from heaven by which feeble men were made mighty through God, and the slaves of Satan were made God's holy children.

Believers! It is this Kingdom of God come from heaven we preach. We come to tell you that a life in the presence and the will and the power of God, has been opened up, that men have been brought to enter into it and live in it, and that you, too, can enter in. There are some of you who are confessing the feebleness of your Christian life, and the failure of all your efforts to make it better. You have believed in Jesus as your Saviour, but of an entrance into the Kingdom as it came in power you know nothing. I beseech you begin at once and believe that there is such a life

in the kingdom here on earth. Believe wonderful and complete redemption, and that the coming down of the Holy Spirit nothing else but the glorified Christ coming in the Spirit, brought down the heavenly life in such reality, that, even as the first disciples, we can be endued with power from on high. If you will believe that, if you will hold fast that there is a kingdom of heaven on earth, your desire will be stirred to become partakers of its blessedness, and as we point out the way how, your hope will begin to see that this life is even for you too. And you will be prepared to accept all that Jesus has to teach us in His word.

What is it to Enter the Kingdom?

This is our second question. You know the meaning of the word enter. It is most commonly used in Scripture of the entrance of the children of Israel into the land of promise, and of the believer's entrance by faith into the rest of God.

Entrance: The word simply means coming into full possession or enjoyment. And it is just this Christ means and you long for with regard to the Kingdom, when He speaks here of entering it. The word does not refer to heaven, and our entering that when we die. It speaks of the kingdom of heaven come to earth, and our returning into it in power, as the disciples did at Pentecost. There are many Christians who are content with a heaven after death. The promise of living in a kingdom of heaven here on earth has no attraction, and wakens no response. They cannot understand what we mean. But there are hearts in whom the longing has been awakened for something better, and who would fain know what it is to enter the Kingdom.

Entrance means coming into full possession. Just think of the blessings of the Kingdom we mentioned. God's manifested presence with us without ceasing, God's blessed rule and dominion over us established, so that His heavenly will is done in us and by us; God's mighty power descending upon us, so that through us Christ can do His work of saving souls. Into a life in which these blessings are your daily experience, you can enter even now. That life has been prepared for you, and is promised; it is waiting for you. You can enter now by faith. As an army conquers and enters a city, so many a one struggles and fights and

(Cont'd. page 7)

TRUTH FOR YOUTH

THANKS FROM THE GREEK PEOPLE

By Vivi Mavridou

When my friends in Greece first asked me where I was going to school after high school I answered: "I'm going to Goshen College in America." It sounded so exciting at first I could not believe my own words. Now, after a school year, it's almost time for me to return home. I keep thinking and bringing memories back and I realize it will be hard for me to leave. Goshen is a part of my life, now it's me. Then I think of the people who first made it possible for me to come, the people of Goshen College, but especially of my Pax friends.

I have met some of the Pax workers while I was here. I wish I could see all of them again before I go home and thank them personally. But this isn't possible, so I will try to talk to them and to their families and friends, as well as the whole of the Mennonite people through this article, which is really greetings and thanks from the Greek people to their Mennonite friends.

The late 40's and 50's was a dark period for many of the European countries. One of these was Greece, which had two wars one after the other: The Second World War and following that the Civil War between the Greek Government and the Greek communists. That the last didn't succeed is due to the Greeks who live in villages in the mountains who fought to keep away the enemies of their "faith and their country." They suffered much however. Their houses were burned and their properties were taken away. The people needed to build again, to start from the beginning.

Then in 1952 the first Pax unit settled in Greece after having contacted the Greek authorities. They chose the village of Panayitsa to start their work. Panayitsa is only a couple of miles from Yugoslavian border and also from the biblical city of Thessalonika. The soil there is rather poor and sandy and the people have suffered extremely by the wars.

The Pax boys started working right away. They were driven by the spirit of co-operation and fellowship, but es-

pecially of Christian love for their fellowman. They started plowing parts of land which hadn't been plowed for over ten years for lack of plows and oxen. They brought, from America, better kinds of seeds, as well as domestic animals. They showed the people how to can different foods, like vegetables and fruits, so first they would have supplies for the winter—a new idea among the people.

Later they brought over twenty-five cows and delivered them to the most progressive villagers. They also made a big distribution of clothing in another poor area.

The boys worked hard from morning till evening. Sometimes they were probably discouraged, especially when the most conservative villagers would not accept the new ideas; but at the same time something was happening, something which will stay there forever. The Pax house became the center of the village. People would come there for anything you can imagine; medicine, farming instructions, transportation and many other needs. The people trusted what the Pax boy said or did was right, so their fame spread farther and farther. In 1954, the people of Tsakones asked for a unit in their village. MCC answered this request by starting a unit there which followed the same patterns. The project was successful in both places.

In 1960, however, MCC revised its whole plan. They chose the town of Aridea where they built a farm on the outskirts. There is a house for the boys to live in, a hog house, a chicken house and other buildings to meet the needs of a farm. They are demonstrating the farming system which is a quite new idea in Greece, for people there usually live all together in villages and have their fields outside the village so to work there from morning till late afternoon. MCC will continue this project until the people can carry it on themselves.

The Greek people appreciate the agricultural work that Pax does, but most of all they appreciate their Men-

nonite friends themselves. You should know what the minister once said addressing his congregation and especially the young men. "Take a look at the young Mennonite boys who are so far away from their homes. They don't drink, they don't smoke and they don't spend their time in the coffee shops. They've got a purpose. Try to be like them."

You are sincere friends of the Greek people. You've helped them and you've taught them new ideas but most of all you've set an example for them for which they send you their thanks and wish you God's blessings.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

When you gather together for a social or party time, do you remember to have a word of prayer before you break up to go home? Prayer time is really the most important part of the party. It was a party that Pandita Ramabai first came in contact with real prayer.

In 1878, in Calcutta, India, a group of people knelt together at the end of a social gathering. But one attractive young lady looked around in open curiosity. She was a young Indian woman, intelligent and cultured. She had never seen anything like this before!

One of the men was speaking with closed eyes. She understood from what she had been told that they were praying—talking to their God. She did not see any image which they worshipped, and so in this—her first contact with real Christians—she ignorantly supposed that the people were paying homage to the chairs before which they knelt.

After the meeting she was handed a Bible. Soon, as she read the Bible and became better acquainted with the Christians, she learned what prayer really meant to them. She became a sincere believer in Jesus Christ.

A few short years later Pandita Ramabai was famous around the world as a great missionary to the women of her native land of India. All because some Christian invited her, a non-Christian, to a social gathering—and then remembered to close with a time of prayer.

A great moment, this first contact with prayer!—B. M.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

By Henry Hiebert

An Analysis

Although music has been almost synonymous with life since the beginning of human history, few people seem to realize its true potential and importance. We cannot afford to overlook the power and influence music has in shaping our thinking and behaviour. The Greek philosopher, Plato was well aware of the power inherent in music. He makes the following observation in his philosophy:

"Through music the soul learns harmony and rhythm, and even a disposition to justice . . . Is not this why musical training is so powerful. Because rhythm and harmony find their way into the secret places of the soul, Music moulds character, and therefore shares in determining social and political issues. When the moods of music change, the fundamental laws of the state change with them."

"Music is valuable not only because it brings refinement of feeling and character, but also because it preserves and restores health. There are some diseases which can be treated only through the mind."

We need only stop and look about us to realize what Plato is saying is the truth. Can we ignore the influence jazz, rock-'n-roll, and now the twist, have on American society? Is not this "music" a reflection of American life and thought? On the other hand, a people with a serious music is more serious and thoughtful. It is also a well known fact that music has been and is being used as a therapy with great success. Do you recount the biblical account in I Samuel where David played for Saul to help him overcome his malady?

Music and the Reformation

Martin Luther is another who realized the potentials of music. To him music was second to none but theology. This reflected in his methods of spreading the teachings of the German Reformation; for he caused the people everywhere not only to read the gospel in their own tongue but to sing it as well. Music played a very prominent role in every area of the Reformation and even in the Catholic counter-reformation. Our forefathers made extensive use of music in propagating

the Anabaptist teachings. They were so effective that opposing forces, Catholic and Protestant alike, readily admitted the most damnable of the Anabaptists' method of spreading their "heresy" was their habit of causing the people everywhere to sing it.

From the foregoing observations we must conclude what we sing is of utmost importance and significance because it affects us deeply in every way. Music is the expression of the soul; it reflects the innermost thoughts, emotions and aspirations lodged in the seat of our being. It is one of the strongest forces shaping our lives by captivating and directing our inner emotions. Its effectiveness is enhanced by its subtleness.

Best Sellers

What, generally, is the music situation in our circles? If the records we buy is any indication, there is much room for questioning and room for improvement. The best-sellers in our circles, I am informed by local record dealers, are records by people like Wilf Carter, the Carter Family, the Louvin Brothers, the Chuck Wagon, the Bradford Singers and others who fall into the category of gospel commercialization. Some time ago "Time" had an evaluation of these "gospelers"; here is what this paper had to say:

"Singer Marion Williams and the other members of her Stars of Faith group are riding comfortably on a trend that could change the face of U.S. pop music: the commercialization of the gospel song."

"Gospel songs are spirituals with a bounce. Jazz bands picked up the beat; nightclub singers took some of the music intact and pasted on pop words. But there was no market for genuine gospel until Mahalia Jackson made her first European tour in 1952. Now there are about 20 well-known professional groups singing for pay around the world and getting well paid. These are taking the Word as far afield as nightclubs and the borscht circuits. Even the big record companies have begun to realize that gospel sells — chiefly, because gospel singing has the greatest concentration of exciting voices in the country."

Is this the type of music we are

assimilating, supporting and propagating? Our music diet can not but be reflected in our thinking and experience.

Why is it so important that we take care what we listen to and sing? Chiefly, because music does not just merely entertain as some think, but it is one of the strongest factors forming our concepts of this life and the next. Beethoven claimed the man who learned to understand his music would find complete freedom from all the anxieties and fears that have ever troubled humanity. What is our music doing for us? It is helping us to gain greater spiritual heights and fuller spiritual expressions? Like Beethoven, every musician and songwriter endeavors to set forth some philosophy or concept. The hymnody of the Reformation, especially the Anabaptist hymnody is very didactic. Our modern gospel songs may not be as didactic as these hymns, but, nevertheless, they do present certain theological concepts and philosophies.

The Gospel Song

Since we sing primarily gospel songs in our churches I would like to elaborate somewhat on this branch of sacred music. The gospel song is as a rule strongly subjective; its emphasis is on man and his experiences rather than on God. A certain amount of emphasis on personal experiences is an absolute must; but when all the attention is directed toward man we do violence to the gospel by not putting God in proper perspective. An over-emphasis of this subjectiveness can easily tend to make us spiritually lopsided.

Another weakness of the gospel song is its emphasis on "believing" and "fighting" for the faith. Although both concepts are scriptural, the connotation of these terms as used in many of the gospel songs is not scriptural. This philosophy falls perfectly in line with the fighting "Fundamentalistic" interpretation of the gospel. Christian discipleship has no place in many of our songs apart from the idea of fighting for the faith once delivered to the saints. To my understanding, biblical faith precludes Christian discipleship in every sense of the word.

Less I am misunderstood let me quickly add the gospel song has a very definite place in our Christian experience. There are many excellent gospel songs readily available to us; we need never stoop to the trash that

is invading this branch of sacred music. However, the fact remains that in so many cases we are not at all careful what we use in our churches, and with this carelessness many undesirable things are incorporated in our expression as well as experience of the Christian life.

Music is a Ministry

The N.T. is quite explicit in enunciating the proper philosophy of music for the Christian. Paul says in Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." First, he emphasizes the importance of the music ministry; teaching and admonishing one another. By making music a ministry of **teaching** and **admonition** Paul places it on par with the preaching ministry. If this is the true function of music it is imperative that we stop to examine our total music program both in our churches and in our homes. Secondly, the apostle gives us a guide as to what we are to sing: psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. We do not have a balanced music program until we follow this simple prescription. How many psalms and hymns are we singing in our churches? Most of our hymnals are a collection of gospel songs with a dozen, or so, hymns tacked on. My plea is for a balanced hymnody in our churches that we may be more enriched in the expression of our faith. "And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Col. 3:17.

A NOTE TO ALL TEACHERS, TRUSTEES MINISTERS AND DEACONS

The annual Teacher, Trustee, Minister's Banquet will be held on August 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Steinbach Church.

An interesting program has been planned, following the supper. All teachers, trustees, ministers and deacons (including their wives) are cordially invited to attend.

The Board of Education and Publication

P.S. We have just been informed that the Rev. Archie Penner will be present and will be the main speaker, speaking on "Intellectualism and Spirituality Today."

Mali Republic

Three weeks ago yesterday we arrived back in Mali, Africa, and it is good to be "home" again. We praise the Lord for a safe trip. . .

As we stepped off the plane and into the hot, humid air it felt like we were stepping into an oven. The temperature rose to over a 105 in the shade that day. . .

A few days after our arrival we took the train to Kita (5 hours - 120 miles). The jostling and pushing of passengers all trying to get on first, the familiar smells of dried fish, shea butter and sweaty bodies, the shrill call of banana vendors at the train stops, the chug chug of the engine as it inched its way up the grades, and the beaming black faces of happy children waving as we went by were reminders enough that we were actually back here.

We praise the Lord for the 70 who came to the Lord during the MacLeods stay here.

The Larry McNeills

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

(Cont'd. from page 4)

seeks to take the Kingdom by violence. And he fails. We can only enter by faith. As Joshua brought Israel into the land of promise, and Jericho fell without a blow being struck, our Lord Jesus waits to bring us into the good land. It was He Who from heaven gave the disciples their abundant entrance into the Kingdom; it is He Who still by His Holy Spirit will lead each one of us in. By faith in Him He brings us in.

(To be continued)



KITCHEN PRAYER

Lord, of all pots and pans and things,
Since I've not time to be
A saint by doing lovely things
Or watching late with Thee,
Or dreaming in the dawn light
Or storming Heavens gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals
And washing up the plates.
Although I must have Martha's hands,
I have a Mary mind,
And when I black the boots and shoes,
Thy sandals Lord, I find.
I think how they trod the earth,
What time I scrub the floor;
Accept this meditation, Lord,
I haven't time for more.
Warm all the kitchen with Thy love,
And light it with Thy peace,
Forgive me all my worrying
And make my grumbling cease.
Thou didst love to give men food,
In room or by the sea,
Accept this service that I do,
I do it unto Thee.

—Klara Mungres.

CONFESSION

I like to spread clean sheets on beds.
I like to wield a broom,
I like to bring tranquility
Of order to a room.

I like to straighten linen shelves,
Set dresser drawers aright,
To hang crisp ruffled curtains and
To keep the silver bright.

I like to set a batch of bread
Then watch it as it rises,
I like to plan and cook a meal
Of savory surprises.

Let other women have careers—
None of them arouse
One twinge of envy in my heart—
I like keeping house.

—Ethel Romig Fuller

NEWS

TO OUR NEWS REPORTERS

We would like to encourage you to be faithful in sending in news items of interests. Happenings that may seem commonplace to you are nevertheless often of keen interest to others. Shall we hear from you?

SYMPATHY

A phone call received by the Isaac F. Doerksen of Steinbach informs them of the death by drowning of their eight year old grandson, Darrel Dueck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank U. Dueck of Fort William.

Details are not yet available but the accident is reported to have taken place at about 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 7.

COMING EVENTS

August 23 at Steinbach, the annual Ministers, Deacons, Teachers and Trustees fellowship meeting (6:00 at the EMC church).

October 4, 5 & 6 EMC annual missionary conference.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS

Some 30 members of the First Mennonite Church in Indianapolis, Ind. witnessed to the Gospel by distributing about 31000 tracts during the well known Memorial Day "500" races at the Indianapolis Speedway. The distributors who worked from 5:30 in the morning till noon report great blessings from their witness.

Realizing the need of practicing what they preach, many doctors have quit smoking, according to the magazine "Smoke Signals." Only two out of five still smoke cigarettes, statistics show, But Americans as a whole are smoking more than ever, having spent \$6.8 billion for cigarettes in 1961, compared with \$6.5 billion in 1960. Tobacco has been shown to be a major cause of lung cancer.

Growth

World Baptist membership now exceeds 25 million, it was reported by the Baptist World, official publication of the Baptist World Alliance. Most of the 888,487 increase in the past year came in the U.S.

MENNONITE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

By Glenn Klassen

More than fifty practising and potential Mennonite writers, mainly from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Kansas, gathered at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College on July 14th for a five day course of lectures and seminars aimed at improving Mennonite writing.

Maynard Schelly, editor of the General Conference church paper, **The Mennonite**, directed the conference. Together with Frank H. Epp, H. T. Klassen, and Henry Poettcker, Mr. Schelly had planned a program packed with help and encouragement for all kinds of writers. Courses were given in article writing, fiction, poetry, news writing, devotional writing, and in "the elements of plain writing". Afternoons were spent in reading and criticizing pieces written by group members and in touring places of interest. Touring parties visited Christian Press, Winnipeg Free Press, and the radio and television studios of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Two evening lectures on mission literature were given by Paul H. Bartel, whose own experiences as a missionary writer in China enabled him to speak well on the subject. The evening lectures were preceded by a worship period and Bible study.

The conference was sponsored by the General Conference Mennonite Church, Canadian Mennonite Bible College, Canadian Mennonite Association, Christian Press (Mennonite Brethren Church) and the Alberta-Saskatchewan Mennonite District Mission Board. Many other denominations were represented at the conference, however, both in staff and students. (GC 29, MB 11, EMC 5, EMMC 5, EMB 1, OM 1, Christian Missionary Alliance 1, United Church of Canada 5.) Those attending from the EMC were Mrs. Ben Dueck, Helen M. Reimer, Rev. D. K. Schellenberg, Peter U. Dueck and Glenn Klassen.

The "seminar in writing" aroused the most interest and comment. Members of the group had submitted a

good number of manuscripts for criticism. These were read by the whole group and then each one was discussed by three staff members who in turn gave their frank appraisals of the piece. The floor was then thrown open to everyone and quite often a lively period of discussion developed. Many felt that this was the most valuable part of the conference. There was the feeling, however, that the panel members had been asked to respond too quickly and had not had time to prepare their criticism well enough.

In the lectures on news writing the question of why newspapers are not interested in reporting religious news was discussed. Reasons given by the lecturer and various members of the class were the following:

1. Religious news is not concrete enough. Much of it uninteresting to the average reader.
2. Religious news is usually news about a minority which is extremely sensitive to misrepresentation.
3. Too often the church is far behind modern trends of interest and thought. The church, in fact, may be static in a progressive world.
4. Religion reporters are often poor writers.

Religious papers, it was brought out, have much the same kind of problems with news reporting. In addition, they usually have a limited budget and limited space in the paper for news. The Mennonite press, the lecturer contended, is prone to concentrate on local family news or international political news and ignore the religious news of the world.

Similar conferences have been held before in the United States, but this is the first one to be held in Canada. Writers' conferences will be held every two years in the future. Members of the planning committee felt that this year's conference had been a success and gave the impression that in the near future the conference was likely to return to Canada.