

Minutes
of the
MISSION INTERESTS COMMITTEE
Annual Meeting
August 27-28, 1957
Near Goshen, Indiana

Present: David I Miller, Kansas, Chairman; Henry J Yoder, Oklahoma, Alvin J Beachy, Ohio, Harry D Weirich, Ind. and Whilon Wagler, Kansas, Sec.-Treas. Others from out of State included: Eli & Katie Helmutz, Harrison, Ark. Abe & Lydia Mae Schwartz, Monroe, Ind. Amy Byles, Strasburg, Ohio. Harvey Graber, Red Lake, Ont. Lloyd Gingerich, Adon Gingerich, Levi Gingerich, Chris Gingerich, Miller, Plain City, Ohio; Yost Miller, Millersburg, Ohio. John C Yoder, Levi Steiner, Jerome, Mich. Chris Stoltzfus, Penna. Joseph Overholt, Uniontown, Ohio. Paul Miller, Kansas. Many local brethren attended various sessions of the meeting.

In the course of the two days, the Committee met eight times with various workers, future workers, and others directly involved in the work, in private, semi-private, and public discussions and presentations. Each session was preceded with devotional periods, invoking divine guidance from, and offering praises to, our kind Heavenly Father.

I. Red Lake:

It was fifteen months since the first of our workers arrived at Red Lake, Ont. to begin mission work among the local Indian population. Sunday School for children was first organized, being held in the open air, then later moved indoors, upon the completion of the two-room schoolhouse with full basement, and when the weather became more severe, Adult classes were then also included, and at present services are held in the forenoon, and in the evening. Attendance has been very good, the highest over 140, which is nearly the basement capacity. A visitation program, and cottage meetings are carried on by the workers, with a good reception generally. Several have confessed Christ, and one is desiring baptism, and the workers feel the fruits of a new-birth are evident. For this we praise God.

Day elementary school is conducted for the children, enrollment being over forty, but average attendance some less, due to the somewhat unstable nature of the Indian community, such as moving out to traplines, etc.

Summer Bible School was conducted for the children this past summer, with good interest shown.

Moso and Ada Beachy and two sons, Middlebury, Indiana, are new workers going to the field. Mosos assuming the responsibility as principal of the school. Ada will be in charge of the noon lunches served at the school for the pupils, and may teach some craft classes. Amy Byles, Strasburg, Ohio, also a new worker, will be teaching the lower grades in school.

Lloyd Gingerich, Plain City, Ohio, who has been in the program from the beginning, reported on various phases of the work, and expressed thanks and appreciation to those at home for their support. Lloyd will be continuing studies in college this fall, and the Committee expressed thanks for his services rendered, and wished upon him God's blessing for the future.

Harvey Graber, who is general director of the work, reported orally, giving his personal testimony of the joy and richness in Christ by serving in this way, and challenged us that we search ourselves to find and experience this joy, in witnessing for Christ. He also expressed special thanks and appreciation for the support and prayers by the home congregations.

A question and answer period involved such subjects as, catholic opposition, water supply for the school and homes, (it comes from Skookum Bay, and tastes somewhat stale during the summer) material aid- such as canned goods can well be supplied by home congregations, mainly fruit and beef, No Pork can be taken across the Canadian border.

The building, a garage, with residence on the second floor, erected this summer cost slightly over \$5000.00, and the major portion of these bills have been paid.

The need for having an ordained man at Red Lake is becoming more and more real, but no definite action was taken. The Committee recommends that all workers teach the word at every occasion, in speaking and by living, and in the future we hope to take definite action to fill this growing need.

Of major importance was the consecration prayer service held before the new workers and Harvey started on the journey to Red Lake, where prayers ascended in behalf of the work, the workers, and for those being served and taught the Gospel of Christ.

2. Publication:

The publishing of Witnessing continues on a monthly basis. It was intended out that contributions were not keeping up with the printing and postage costs, but presenting these facts to the reading public may help this situation. The mailing list is around 5700 at present.

To help along in the editing duties, it was felt an associate editor would be an asset, sharing the work load of our present editor, Harvey Graber. A committee action, Yost H Miller was named associate editor of Witnessing.

The addressing, and circulation management may be moved to the Harrison, Kansas community by Jan. 1, 1958.

3. Hillcrest Home:

El Helmuta gave a report on the expansion of the Home, now having room for 45 guests. This makes it necessary to have a larger staff, and there are vacancies on the staff at present, providing opportunities for service for I.W. men, single fellows and girls, or young married couples. There is a definite need for more staff housing, and further planning will be done with the local Harrison board on this matter.

4. Gulfport:

Since our last meeting the John Bender family along with the Joseph Beachy family, have moved away from Gulfport, Miss. They felt the church there is now more an indigenous church, or more self-substantial, insofar as Sunday School teachers, etc, are concerned, and coupled with this is the fact of some liberal trends of the church. The residence and lot owned by the M.T.C. is being sold, however the transaction is not yet completed.

5. Colonization:

One afternoon was devoted to the Colonization part of the program. A review of the studies thus far was presented, and it is felt the next action would be on the part of those that would wish to colonize, and then further action could be taken to organize a "revolving mutual aid fund" for the purpose of assisting such colonization efforts.

6. Drasco:

Chriss Swartzentrubers, who have been living near Drasco, Ark. for over 2 years, have longed to see additional families settle in the area, for fellowship and added witnesses. One family is seriously considering such a move. Several summer Bible Schools were held in the area during the past summer, and they are awaiting further leadings from the Lord as to the starting of a Sunday School in some certain community.

There are some funds available to assist several families to settle in some poorer sections of the country, such as at Drasco, or others, to work and witness to those about them.

7. Organization:

To replace Henry J Yoder, Okla. whose term on the committee expires Jan. 1, 1958, Abe J Yoder, Hartsville, Ohio, was elected for a four year term. For chairman for 1958, David I Miller was reelected.

Adjournment prayer by Henry J Yoder.

Mahlon Wagler, Secretary;