

FOREIGN MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in North America, General Synod

Volume I, Number 2

August-September, 1958

A NEW WORK IN REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS

In June, 1958, the executive officers of the Reformed Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board met on the campus of Covenant College at St. Louis to interview a young missionary candidate about starting a new work for our church. The young man's name was Alvin R. Sneller, a 1956 graduate of Faith Theological Seminary and a minister in the Bible Presbyterian Church for two years.

It was noted that Mr. Sneller has been interested in Foreign missions especially since he and a Korean ministerial student started the Korean Student Evangelization Fellowship (KSEF) during their seminary days. This organization contacts Korean students in the Philadelphia area and preaches the Gospel to them.

After becoming a minister, Mr. Sneller made application to World Presbyterian Missions, the foreign board of the Bible Presbyterian Synod, was accepted as a missionary candidate, and assigned to the Far East. In absence of sufficient financial support, however, he has been unable to go.

It would seem, though, that God has been working in an unusual way to supply the needs of many. Our church has been without one of its missionary projects since China was taken over by the Communists, and we have had the desire and the means to start another in some other country once the right man was found. Mr. Sneller has been ready and willing to go but without the means. Now God has brought the two together with mutual satisfaction and anticipated blessing for many in the Far East. May his name be praised!

The plan has been made for our board to furnish his support as he goes out under World Presbyterian Missions. Mr. Sneller has applied for transfer of his membership from his Bible Presbyterian Presbytery to a Reformed Presbyterian Presbytery, so he actually will be a Reformed Presbyterian missionary. He will be going to the Far East. The

specific field has not yet been assigned, but it is expected that it will be soon. He hopes to sail soon after Christmas.

You will be interested to know that he comes to us highly recommended by the Bible Presbyterians. He has had two very successful years as pastor of Cambridge Bible Presbyterian Church in Iowa. Under his leadership, the Sabbath School won first prize in the Synod-wide Sunday School contest of 1958.

Mr. Sneller has recently announced his engagement to Miss Marilyn Marrow of Bondurant, Iowa. The couple hope to be married October 24.

Let us now rejoice that God has opened up a new field of ministry that each one of us can take part in. Many may be wondering how we can help our new young missionaries as they go to their new labors. Below is a list of specific needs which you or your Sabbath School Class, your Missionary Society, or your Church can adopt as special projects. You are urged to send your gifts to Mr. Alvin R. Sneller, Bondurant, Iowa, or in care of World Presbyterian Missions, Inc., 1617 West 14th St., Wilmington, 6, Dela.

THE LIST:

1. Good bed, box springs, mattress, bedding.
2. Extra roll-away bed for guests or new additions to family.
3. Sleeping bags, air mattresses for travel.
4. Good easy chair apiece, cedar chest.
5. Plastic dishes.
6. Child Evangelism & visual aid materials.
7. Shoes (Ask for drawings of the foot).
8. Warm clothing, up to 5 years supply.
9. Good typewriter, 35 mm camera.
10. Good transoceanic radio.

It may be simpler to send money for these needs, or you may rather send the items themselves. Either arrangement is satisfactory.

Many of you will like to hear Mr. Sneller speak and get to know him and his bride-to-be personally. They will be representing us, and the more we can learn about them, the better. He is available to speak in any of our churches between now and the time he sails. It is hoped that a number of our churches will contact him at Bondurant, Iowa, and arrange a speaking engagement for him.

FOREIGN MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in North America, General Synod

Volume I, Number 3

October-November, 1958

A SPECIAL MEMORANDUM TO OUR CHURCHES

You should have received recently our Aug-Sept Foreign Missions Newsletter, relating the beginning of a new foreign missions work in Korea in conjunction with World Presbyterian Missions, the appointment of the Rev. and Mrs. Alvin Sneller as our first missionaries, serving under WPM, and you have no doubt received their first prayer letter.

We are happy to write that plans for the Snellers' going to the Far East are going forward nicely, and we are thankful for the good response from our churches in arranging for meetings and deputation work for them. Members of our Executive Committee have met with them a number of times and we are impressed that they will prove to be faithful, devoted missionaries who will be a credit to our church, and we bespeak the widespread prayers and support of our churches for their ministry.

However, while their plans for going to the field are advancing, we find it necessary to announce a change in the particular field to which they are being assigned. We recently received a communication from the General Secretary of WPM stating that at a largely attended meeting of the full Board, further thought and discussion was devoted to the action of their Executive Committee in appointing

the Snellers to Korea, and in the light of the serious political and military situation in Korea, which may erupt again at any time, and in the light of other important considerations, particularly the greater need for a strong evangelical testimony in Japan, it seemed advisable to change their assignment from Korea to Japan, providing our Committee would concur.

Members of our Foreign Missions Committee met with Dr. T. Stanley Soltau, president of WPM and a sub-committee of that Board on Tuesday, November 11th, and the pros and cons of such a change were discussed.

We realize that while it may seem strange to make a change of assignment so quickly, it does seem advisable to make it at once if it is to be done, and after members of the WPM made full explanation of the reasons for the change, our Committee felt that we should concur.

We hope that our churches will retain their deep interest in the work of the Snellers, and trust that plans for their meetings and support will go forward as originally contemplated.

Lester Fullerton, President
Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Presbyterian Church

AN IDEA FOR YOUR MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Miss Adams, a Covenanter Missionary to China earned the reputation of being "the walkingest woman on earth." Often a missionary's only means of travel is by foot. As our new missionaries go to Japan, one of their greatest needs will be simply keeping supplied with adequate shoes. Oriental shoes are vastly inferior, and American shoes are both scarce and expensive in Japan. How would your society like to adopt the permanent project of keeping the Sneller family shod? For a group it will be very little burden to send two pair of shoes every year. And it will be a wonderful help to the

Snellers! All you need do is contact the Snellers through World Presbyterian Missions and ask them for drawings of the right foot. WPM address is; 1617 W. 14th St., Wilmington 6, Del.

All contributions for the Snellers should be sent to the Foreign Board Treasurer, Rev. R. W. Stewart, Sparta, Ill. Address other correspondence to the Board Secretary, Dr. C. F. Pfeiffer, 820 N. LaSalle St., Chicago 10, Ill.

If you have any news that should go into the FM NEWSLETTER, please send it to the ed., Rev. P. M. Ward, 5307 Rockhill, K.C. 10, Mo.

FOREIGN MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in North America, General Synod

Volume I, Number 5

February-March, 1959

NEWS FROM THE SNELLERS

In the process of their visiting the several churches of the denomination, Mr. Al Sneller and his wife came to the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis January 6, 1959. The elders, inquiring about their plans, discovered that they would have a period of open time before going to the foreign field. This proved to be an opportunity for both parties, for the Indianapolis session engaged them then and there to do visitation work in their church's area. Mr. Sneller has been doing some preaching every few Sabbaths; Marilyn sings in the choir, and they have both filled in as Sabbath School teachers. Their primary work, however, is visitation.

Al reports that he and his wife have enjoyed the fellowship with the people in the church; the folks have been wonderful to them! And the church, too, has been grateful for what he has been doing.

Since the Snellers' change of assignment from Korea to Japan, urgent appeals have been received from Korea that they come there. These appeals are being reviewed by our Board and World Presbyterian Missions. Pray that any changes which still should be made will clearly be indicated while there is yet time. Both countries present great and pressing needs, and doubtless the Snellers would do an excellent piece of work in either.

It is good to report that the Snellers have obtained their passports, passed their medical exams, and our Board has been able to assume full support and expenses.

The next step for your prayer is that their visas will be granted, suitable passage will be obtained and temporary housing will be found on the field.

And now listed below are a number of outstanding needs which the Snellers should have to be fully outfitted for their work. Please consider them carefully and prayerfully as you decide how to allot your missionary budget.

I. CLOTHING

Shoes (Oriental shoes are broad, short, and inferior.)

Warm clothes

Raincoats and rubbers

II. FURNITURE

Gas Refrigerator (electricity is not dependable in Korea.)

Gas cooking stove

Gas heaters

Roll-away bed (for company, new members of family)

Bed, springs, firm mattress

Large container with spigot in which to boil water (All water must be boiled.)

III. SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

Child Evangelism & Visual Aid Materials

Bedding

Flashlights

File cabinet

Tape recorder

35-mm camera

Transoceanic radio

Please keep this list handy for reference as you undertake new projects, and should you need more information (shoe and clothing sizes, etc.), do not hesitate to contact the Snellers or the Secretary of the Board.

NEWS FROM INDIA

Rev. Gordon Taylor is to be here for Synod in May! Many of you will be looking forward to seeing him at that time. It is hoped that special greetings from Gordon can be presented in the next NEWSLETTER.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The NEWSLETTER is published bi-monthly by the home staff of the Foreign Mission Bd. of the Ref. Presbyterian Ch., and is sent free to all requesting it. Executive members of the Board are as follows:

President - Mr. Lester Fullerton
Coulterville, Ill.

Vice-Pres - Rev. Hermon Cook
Rt 1, Industry, Pa.

Secretary - Rev. C. F. Pfeiffer, Ph.D.
820 N LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill

Treasurer - Rev. R. W. Stewart
Sparta, Ill.

Committee on Foreign Missions, Orthodox Presbyterian Church
727-28 Schaff Building, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Ghinda

From the home letters of the Rev. and Mrs. Clarence W. Duff, /Eritrea,
East Africa

(Note: Special prayer is requested for the health of the Duffs and
for the Bird and Taws families as they sail soon for Eritrea. M.I.D.)

May 5, 1958

Dear Donald and Dorothy: (Mother writing)

This was a holiday in Eritrea and Ethiopia (Canque Maggio), the day on which His Majesty Haile Selassie returned to his country in 1941 after the English defeated the Italians. In our fields workmen for Johannes and Kiflom, including Kiflom's family, were busy harvesting corn and hay. In the clinic Johannes, Pat and I treated 85 patients. The medical work is certainly getting to be almost more than we can handle. So far in May we have averaged 70 cases a day. 1,483 treatments were given in April. . . . To keep the people from crowding into the clinic we have hired a man to give out numbers and to stand at the door and let the people in according to the number they hold. Even then they call at the windows and do everything to get our attention. It takes a lot of patience, and I'm afraid I don't always have it.

Dad, Mr. Mahaffy, and Harry Atkins, an SIM missionary from Nacfa, Eritrea, left Wednesday morning in our Willys Jeep Station Wagon for Zula and Irafalo. Dad wasn't at all well for four days before he left and I told him he should let the others go alone, but he insisted he would be all right. I hope he is. It was his old trouble with his chest in addition to a cough and fever. It will be pretty hot on the coast. It has been 92 or 93 here in Ghinda in the afternoons. . . .

May 12, 1958 (Dad writing)

Your letters of May 1 and April 29 have reached us, with a lot of interesting news in both. . . . It would be wonderful if Helen White should drive out to Calvin for you. . . . The news, Dorothy, about your job in a home for next year sounds most exciting. The Lord has certainly been good in bringing so many good things your way. It will be a big change from living at Calvin Hall. I'm afraid you may find it lonely but perhaps better for study.

Today was a record day in the clinic with 92 patients. Johannes, Mother and Pat worked till one o'clock, Pat made visits in town, and I did some of the afternoon cases with Johannes. I also brought from around the corner in town to the clinic in the Jeep a young Saho woman who has very bad TB with a very deep sore in her chest. Her mother brought her from away out in the country, and they got a place in town to stay while she gets treatment. If she can be helped it will be a long time before she is well. They have no money to pay. The Ethiopian dollar they offered we told them to buy milk with. We shall use some of the relief funds, \$200 U.S., recently sent us by the Committee for such cases. We may have to feed the woman, too. Last fall we treated her for a week, but they ran out of food and left. She is much worse now--so bad she cannot walk at all.

We had a good trip to Irafalo in the Jeep station wagon. I used the four-wheel drive only once or twice going down, but coming back it was handy crawling over the rocks in crossing the Haddas in loose sand. . . . We got to Afra in a big dust storm going down. The air was full of it, and thick dust billowed up around the car and was blown all

about us by a tail wind. I missed the trail out of Afta by just a little wrong angle, and after that couldn't find the road at all. We looked for the road on foot and finally had to return to Afta and start again in the right direction. We stayed at Zula two days and did a good bit of medical work, with pictures at night. The weather was unusually cool at night, and there were almost no flies. Seldom has camping at Zula been more comfortable. We had just the tent fly, so lived very much in the public eye. Men who came the first night almost sat down on a couple of scorpions. After they were dispatched we saw no more. I had to give an anti-venom injection to a man who was carried into town from a distance with a snake bite. At Irafalo medical work was not pressing, though I did some in the homes and at the mission house. . . .

May 27, 1958

Professor Guerra had said Mother must have a minor operation on her left eye to remove part of the "third lid" on which "anomalous lashes" were growing which irritated the conjunctiva. I took her to Amara Thursday morning, and Prof. G. operated about 10 o'clock in the new Haile Selassie Eye Hospital, very beautifully equipped. I was in the room and watched his work, and all seemed to be all right. I took Mother to the Ruyles', where she had been invited to stay for the three or four days she would need treatment, and stayed with her. Later on, after I had gone to the Immigration Office to apply for the Tawa' entry, Mother had a bad hemorrhage of the eye and had to be rushed to the hospital by Mrs. Ruyle and Marion Thomas, the nurse who used to help us at Chinda. Few people in this country have any idea what an emergency is, and because it was past hospital hours they had great difficulty even to get in and were unable to get the doctor to come. By the time they got Mother onto a bed and the Catholic sister and an Italian assistant were found, who put pressure on the eye and tied it up again, the eye was pretty well bruised, and Mother was weak from loss of blood. When we finally got to see Prof. Guerra in the evening about seven o'clock, he was surprised and concerned. He ordered laboratory tests and a Howell test, which showed that the tone of the blood vessels was not up to par. She is to have medicine for that.

Mother got home yesterday afternoon on the bus. Miss Gundeson had kindly offered to come down to stay with Pat. I came Friday evening and worked in the clinic Saturday forenoon and yesterday. Mother had attended Sunday School at the Army Post with the Ruyles. Mr. Tucker of the Middle East General Mission taught the adult class very well. Recently a Mormon army officer had been teaching it! Also at the Gospel Center she heard a good message from Mr. Meloy, U. P. from the Sudan.

Thursday afternoon Sgt. Hanna got us the vaccine for our typhus inoculations and introduced me to Major Nadig, the Post Surgeon. He took me all around the new hospital, a modern American outfit, with everything in spic-and-span order. He wanted to come down to visit our clinic some day. I told him he would be badly shocked if he saw how we did things, but he said he wanted to come. Sgt. Hanna got some more empty used small bottles for us and some packages of drinking cups in which to dispense medicine. . . . We haven't had our typhus shots, but the typhoid shots made me quite miserable a few days. Mother was taking so much Vegarin for the pain in her eye that she didn't notice the shot.

The harvest is over, and people with their goats and cattle have moved onto the place, so we have a small village about us.

A Memorial to Paul Taylor

Since in the providence of God, Paul Taylor has been called to his heavenly home:

The Foreign Missions Board wishes to express its thanks to God and before the membership of the Reformed Presbyterian Church for this life which has been lived as an outstanding Christian example before the boys and girls in India.

We desire to place on record this 27th day of November 1962, our appreciation for this life and convey to Dr. and Mrs. John C. Taylor, Sr. our heartfelt sympathy in this time of bereavement. We also desire a copy be sent to Gordon and Beth Taylor, and the Baby Fold, and to Dr. and Mrs. John C. Taylor, Sr.