

4/27/39

FILED DEPT.  
AUG 16 1965  
SECRETARIES

SCHOOL SKETCH

Permanent File

The Farm School at Burity  
Cuyabá, Matto Grosso Station, South Brazil Mission

Pioneering After Many Years- Although our missionaries have given of successful effort in the South Brazil Mission and a self-supporting Brazilian Church has had a wonderful growth, yet now their successors face nearly the same conditions as the pioneers. The explanation is that the Brazilian Church is vigorous and cares for district after district, as the work begun by our missionaries becomes capable of self-support. The missionary moves on with the frontier, again a pioneer, facing a wider-flung horizon. The frontier fields are constantly changing communities. New settlements spring up almost overnight. Families of believers scatter and must be followed up. Great stretches of unoccupied territory present a constant challenge to carry the Gospel of Christ further into the Interior.

Magnificent Distances- Cuyabá, capital of the state of Matto Grosso, once a mission station, is now one of three centers of the Matto Grosso station. The field is one of great distances. It includes an area equal to the combined area of New England and the Middle Atlantic States, plus Ontario, and four of our states of the Central west, or twice the size of the state of Texas. The circuit of itineration is about 600 miles. Our missionaries travel on muleback, visiting believers, carrying the Gospel to some places never before thus visited. The city of Cuyabá lies far in the interior, 3 days by train and 8 by river steamer from São Paulo, near the coast, then still 6 hours more by auto or truck farther interior to the Burity Mission School.

The Farm School at Burity- All over inland Brazil one of our chief problems is that of teaching the people to realize the value of an education. To provide an elementary education especially for the children of believers a self-help agricultural and industrial school was established in 1924 at Burity, 48 miles from Cuyabá. The property consists of 24 square miles. It was necessary to buy all this land in order to secure the two buildings, but all, land, houses, water supply for power as well as house use, dozens of orange and mango trees, hundreds of pineapples and other fruits, were purchased for \$4,000. There were only seven students when school opened. They payed \$4.00 per month to cover all expenses. "By the grace of God," wrote a missionary, "we'll lay the foundation broad and deep so that from this school there shall go out young people who are saved themselves and are determined to help and save others for Jesus Christ." Mr. Moser directs the boys in clearing the land, in raising crops, in caring for stock and building as well as teaching school subjects, and the girls learn to do everything about the house. A new Girl's Dormitory has been added to the original buildings. Mrs. Moser directs the day school as well as taking care of her family and do the many things a hostess may be called upon to do. The matriculation has risen to 48 pupils. Five years after the school was opened, a missionary wrote:- "The atmosphere has been that of a large family. The girls love their domestic science and they love their teacher Miss Hastings, she has charge of the girls, their domestic science classes as well as teaching in the day school, she also has charge of the dining room and the preparation of the food for the school.

Please verify prices of Burity in the records

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A Good Year- The missionary in charge wrote:- "Young people are being instructed, character is being formed, ideals are being molded and the whole student body given a greater appreciation of life. We closed the year without a deficit and graduated a class of four... The girls occupied the new dormitory. By taking out a wall in the old dormitory we made one big schoolroom that is used as an assembly hall. We are still handicapped for the want of individual desks, but expect to make them as soon as time and money will permit... No small part of the interest in Bible study is due to Miss Hastings' incessant work. The unusual feature this year was the matriculation of the son of an Indian chief. True to form, he was no friend of the ax or the hoe, although he developed quite well along that line. Considering his background, he did remarkably well. He asked his guardian what he should do in vacation. He emphatically said he did not want to go to town to loaf all that time. I suggested to him I would buy all the ax handles he could make and he seemed to take to the idea". After four years in the school this boy was taken from school and sent to another Indian tribe to work and start a school later on. He was the only Christian in that semi-civilized/tribe. Week-ends he used to take his Bible and go to another tribe and read to them. An Evangelist passing through that village said he was living a good Christian life. "Due to the good influence of some splendid Christian boys, a Christian atmosphere has prevailed in the school through all the year. Our Brazilian teacher has exerted a splendid influence over the boys. He has refused offers from schools that can pay more. He is a fine Bible student",

Torches Lighted and Carried Abroad- In Burity, where the younger 'Believers' are in Bible classes and Christian Endeavor, Peniel said that during vacation he had been able to lead his church (where there was no pastor or missionary at the time), because of what he had learned in Christian Endeavor and school. Another student, who made his profession of faith that year, said that he was mostly influenced and inspired by those who had received so much in Christian Endeavor. All take part and they have organized their society for the first time. They are enthusiastic to learn all about it, for when they go back to their communities where there is no pastor nor missionary, no church services, they can organize a sundayschool and a Christian Endeavor. Ceçilia went home from school, organized a Sunday school for the children on her father's farm, then started a grammar school and so lived that she, her father and mother and two sisters were won to Christ. Elza studied in Burity 4 years, then was a primary teacher in the school for 3 years and is now a student in a preparatory school, and is engaged to a very fine young ministerial student. Macedo had lived a wild life in the Diamond fields, before coming to Burity but at school he was converted, and had a great influence over all the boys. He is now studying for the ministry and during his vacation he is a part of a Gospel team that holds services in out-of-the-way places where people do not have so many opportunities to hear the Gospel. Annibal who is now a trustee in one of the new churches and a High School teacher said he learned how to study at Burity, now he has charge of the Sunday school at the military barracks in his city.

These are the stories of only a few of our students but we rejoice when they have learned well their lessons and have gone home Christians and to lead their families and friends to be Christian. Pray that the school may ever be a means of the saving of souls.

Annie L. Hastings.

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March 1941

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The School at Buriti

Cuiaba, Matto Grosso Station, Central Brazil Mission

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Far Flung Frontiers - Starting at Rio de Janeiro in the early days, our missionaries in Brazil have slowly and successfully radiated north, west and south. In their immediate rearguard, of recent years, has been the Brazilian Church, taking over the work as fast as it became sufficiently strong to enter the national organization. The evangelistic efforts of our missionaries are mostly on far flung frontiers. The northern part of the State of Matto Grosso is such a frontier. With Cuiaba as a center, the missionaries go west some 200 miles, northwest 160 miles, and east 400 miles, to the heart of the diamond district. They travel by muleback, truck and foot, visiting believers and others who have never before heard the Gospel. This is to many of the hearers a new frontier, a frontier of the spirit.

The School at Buriti - This school is located 45 miles from Cuiaba, in the heart of this district. It is the direct result of the longing of the believers and the desire of the Mission to satisfy the intellectual urge that comes with spiritual awakening. It was established in 1924, and a broad piece of property was bought, with two buildings, water supply, many orange and mango trees and hundreds of pineapples and other fruits - all for \$2,000. It was originally founded as a self-help agricultural and industrial school, but because of the increasing need of trained lay workers throughout the vast interior, and for other reasons, the policy of the school has gradually changed. It now aims (1940) to give boys and girls a practical Christian education, preparing them to return to their homes as active church and community leaders ready to establish Christian homes. Some of the graduates go on to further training in religious education. In 1940 there were 70 pupils enrolled; of these, 41 boys and 17 girls were boarding pupils.

Practical Work - All the girls learn to sew, making their own dresses and aprons, and clothing for the children at home; they learn to cook; they are given grades in laundry and housework. The boys learn carpentry, plastering, practical masonry and plumbing; repairing of buildings. They carry on gardening and farm work, winning favorable comment in their exhibits at expositions. The state Secretary of Agriculture is most sympathetic towards the school.

Christian Faith and Expression - There is very obvious interest in spiritual growth and Bible study among the pupils. They are encouraged to make their profession of faith in their home churches. In the year 1940, a class of 17 pupils was earnestly preparing for this step. A class of 17 studied the "Manual" once a week. A committee of the Christian Endeavor Society did missionary work in nearby districts, under guidance. The pupils carry on their own Christian Endeavor meetings and teach in the Sunday school under supervision. The older boys occasionally direct the Sunday evening services. Several rhetorical programs are given during the year.

Progress in Music - Music is taught especially to prepare the boys and girls to play the organ and to improve the singing in the various church groups. As soon as they can play hymns, they are asked to provide special music for services. Singing in parts is a new experience for most of the pupils, but by the end of the year most of them enjoy it. A selected group of 18 prepared a program of

sacred music and gave it five times, in three towns. They made the trip by truck. A missionary wrote: "The trip was a lot of work, but it was good propaganda for the school, an inspiration to the church groups visited and a help in the religious training of our pupils. One man told us he had never before heard such good four-part singing in Cuiaba." They had to ride from seven to nine hours a day on top of a truck, in the tropical sun, eat what was given them and sleep almost anywhere for a week, but they conducted themselves with grace and won many friends for their school.

Meeting a Real Need - Although the government in 1940 was building an Agricultural School not many leagues from Cuiaba, ultra modern, with fine buildings and equipment, with which our school cannot compete, yet there is a great need among the farmers of the interior that the government school cannot meet. It is a need for better living conditions and for higher ideals in home life, and the Buriti school is especially adapted to meet this need. By its emphasis on character building and practical preparation to raise standards of living, it is sending out boys and girls who will become leaders in their communities. The plant is becoming more valuable. Planting increases every year. Pastures are being conserved and more made. The herds of cattle and pigs are increasing and improving in quality. Buriti is beginning to approach self-support. When the pupils graduate, people say of them, "They are so changed"; "They are Christians"; "I want my children to go there because I want them changed as that boy is." The atmosphere of the school is that of a large, friendly family. The daily personal contact between faculty and students has shown splendid results.

March, 1941