

# CASTANER

# NEWSLETTER

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT  
Vol. VIII. No. 3 (#86)

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION  
Castaner, Puerto Rico

November 1, 1949

## CASTANER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ADVANCES

Sunday, October 2, marked a big new chapter in the history of the Castaner Church of the Brethren. The day began much as usual with our Church service at 9:00 a.m. and our Spanish Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. It was Dr. Burke's turn to preach, and for his subject he spoke concerning the New Testament sacraments of feet washing, the communion service, and the baptismal service.

Our Spanish Sunday School was dismissed a few minutes early so that we could hike to Dr. Burke's home for a baptismal service. This impressive service was held in the mountain river that flows past the front of Dr. Burke's home. The special significance of this service lies in the fact that our first Spanish converts were brought into the Church by the cleansing rite of baptism. The following five persons were baptized: Carmen Troche, Yolanda Cerezo, Eudelia Cordero, Esther Caraballo and Miguel Angel Velez. Dr. Burke conducted this impressive service in Spanish.

In the evening we met in the Academy building for our Fall Communion Service at which Dr. Burke officiated. The pastor gave the self-examination service in both English and Spanish. For the main explanatory remarks, for the comments, and for most of the scripture readings, both English and Spanish were used. Both Spanish and English hymns were sung.

These services have brought encouragement to all of us. We definitely feel that progress is being made. The conditions that we see all about us show clearly that there is still much work to be done. We seek your continued interest and prayers.

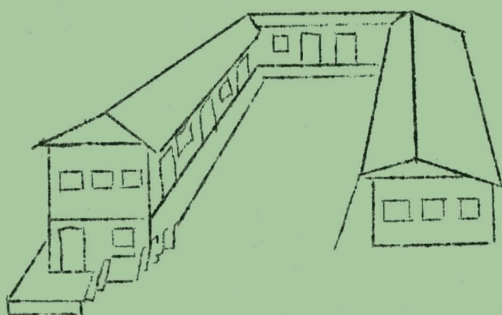
Robert Ebey, Pastor

## DEDICATION OF THE HOSPITAL AND ACADEMY

For several weeks the committee of Martha Cocanower, Father Bauza and Robert Ebey had been meeting and planning. Who should be asked to speak? What day should it be? Should we serve food? What time would be best? And many other questions were considered. Finally Columbus Day, October 12, was selected. 9:00 a.m. was the time set for the program to begin. Invitations were sent to the speakers, general invitation cards were printed, programs were

mimeographed. And so the rededication of the hospital and the dedication of the Academy were planned.

As Robert Burns once observed, however, the plans of mice and men are often modified. Came the great day, and the unit was well prepared. Even the hedge had finally been trimmed--the clippers weren't found until late Tuesday afternoon--and things in general were cleaned up. But where were all the people? A group from La Plata arrived, Father Bauza, the local Episcopalian minister, and family arrived, Sr. Barcelo, mayor of Adjuntas, Everett Meyer and family, and Father Pagan, formerly Episcopalian minister here, arrived. But where were the home folks? At 10:00, the hospital rededication service began. The sun was hot, the audience small and the speeches short. Dr. Burke welcomed everyone, Father Bauza and the local Pentecostal minister prayed the dedicatory prayers. Father Pagan told of the beginnings of the unit, and Dr. Meyer spoke of its present value to the community. Then those who wished were taken on a tour of the hospital.



THE HOSPITAL

And then we went to the Academy for the dedicatory service there. Prayers were given by Justus Holsinger and Dr. Stover of the La Plata Mennonite Project, and Father Bauza. Short talks were given by Sr. Juan Garrastegui, Supervisor of schools for the area, Mrs. Folch, principal of the local public school, Sr. Barcelo, mayor of Adjuntas, Sr. Moreno, director of the Castaner PRRA project, and John Metzler, Jr. principal of the Academy. At 12:30 we returned to Llinas for lunch.

In the afternoon, an open meeting was held at the Centro, giving people an opportunity to ask questions and give suggestions or talks about the hospital. Much emphasis was put on the TB prevention and cure program, and a movement was started to form an anti-TB committee in the community. Crackers and demitasses of coffee closed the meeting.

As dedicatory services, the meetings were successful. As publicity or promotional services, they were not all we had hoped. As education for us, they were useful. One of the things we learned is that Columbus Day isn't holiday enough to keep people from picking coffee during the coffee season. This accounts for the small number of local people participating in the Dedication program.

John Metzler, Jr.

#### PLAY DAY WITH LA PLATA

On Saturday morning, October 15, at 9:00 a.m. the personnel from the Mennonite Project of La Plata invaded Castaner for a big day of playing and fellowshiping together. Despite the fact that we are now in the middle of our rainy season, we were blessed with a beautiful day for our outdoor activities. In fact, many had beautiful red noses at the end of the day.



Soap, towels and cold orange ade were awaiting the visitors upon arrival, and after indulging in these and chatting a little, we gathered on the basketball court for a few get-acquainted group games, led by Martha Rupel.

After getting a little better acquainted, we segregated the men and women and while the men worked up a sweat in a game of softball, the women played volleyball. This called for another cold drink after which we began the journey to the kitchen for dinner. Enroute we stopped momentarily to view the family homes and the Academy.

The noon hour was a very welcome occasion to all, for by this time we were tired and hungry. We all enjoyed a nice leisure picnic on the lawn. After dinner we chatted and toured the hospital grounds informally. At 3:00 we returned to the Community Center for more active games. First we had a group game with everyone participating and then another softball game with both men and women playing. The women pitched and the men were required to bat the opposite way they ordinarily batted. This proved to be a very interesting and enjoyable game. After the game we returned to the picnic grounds for another good time of eating and visiting together. Soon after supper our friends started their long trip homeward.

We feel that this experience has been very beneficial to both groups and therefore plan to continue this practice with La Flata in the future.

--Vern Hoffman

#### UNIT PARTY

Big or little, young or old, no one every gets over enjoying a Halloween Party. So, the evening of October 29th, found us travelling "Hoffmanward", disguised as best we could.

There was the Yokum family of Mammy, Pappy, 'Lil Abner, and Daisy Mae, a cowboy and his girlfriend, a pirate, two fellows dressed as girls, a baseball player, a ghost, and several others. Pappy Yokum, (Harold Mason), got the prize, with a cute pot-belly and his curly white beard. Mammy, (Wilma Stern), received honorable mention, with her striped socks and corncob pipe.

Hilarity was halted momentarily while our notice was called to the banners on the wall bidding Buenas Suerte or Good Luck to Lila and Chester Peckover, and Bienvenida or Welcome to Anita, Margaret, and Susan Metzler.



During the evening we pinned tails on the cat, dressed and guessed ghostlike apparitions, "Guessed the Leader", and counted candy corn in a jar. We thoroughly enjoyed the traditonal Halloween candy that Anita Metzler brought with her from the States. With it we had oranges the Puerto Rico way--peeled to the white and sucked through the cut-off top, popcorn and iced tea.

After distributing the balloons to the children, we thanked the social committee for another grand party and treked back home.

--Violet Harris

## PERSONNEL

We welcome Anita Metzler as a new member of our unit. She arrived on October 21, to join her husband, John, and with her came their two daughters, Margaret, age 2 1/2, and Susan, age 2 months.

The same plane brought back Marguerite Burke who returned from her vacation in the States.

Lila and Chet Peckover have terminated their two-year term and on October 31st, returned to the States. They plan to stop at Lila's home near Johnstown, Pa. and then travel Westward to Seattle, Washington, where Chet's folks reside. We wish them much success in whatever they do.

## ADDITIONS TO ALUMNI ROSTER

Carmen Boaz (Mrs. Gladden)  
Carlos Claudio, 3435 W. Van Buren, Chicago, Ill.  
Mary Martin (Mrs. James)  
Martha Parker (Mrs. Daryl)  
Velma Shearer (Mrs. Byron)  
Edna Snavely (Mrs. Paul)  
Martha Baughman (Mrs. Luke)  
Josephine Wolf (Mrs. Howard)  
Thelma Sollenberger (Mrs. Don)  
Dorothy Webster (Mrs. Knight)  
June Wolfe (Mrs. Claude)  
Margaret Will (Mrs. Herman)  
Peggy Cassel (Mrs. Franklin)  
Sylvia Helfric (Mrs. Francis)  
Carmen Kindy (Mrs. Paul)  
Lois Click (Mrs. Maurice)  
Miriam Myer (Mrs. Everett)  
Andy and Carol Mathis, 3435 W. Van Buren, Chicago, Ill.  
Howard and Charolotte Wright, Route 1, Box 65, Centerville, Indiana  
Blanca Martinez, 557 Summit Ave., Troy, Ohio  
Miguel Colon, 301 E. 63rd St., New York 22, N.Y.  
Marie Ruiz, 1111 Phelps St., San Francisco, Calif.  
Elena Torres, YWCA, 141 W. 3rd St., Dayton, Ohio  
Chester and Lila Peckover, c/o Paige Berkey, R. 1, Marion Center, Pa.  
Pedro Castillo, Herrick Memorial Hospital, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkley 4, Calif.

## THESE NAMES SHOULD BE OMITTED

Gilberto and Cesar Claudio  
Mrs. Henry Dasenbrock  
Mrs. William Coston