

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Christians in Southeast Asia Send \$1,000 to N.Y. Church

By JULES LOH
Of the Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a reversal of missionary giving, southeast Asian Christians have sent a gift of \$1,000 to a church situated in the heart of this capital of affluence.

If the gift itself seems unusual, the church that received it may appear even more so.

"Our activities are related to the culture around us," said its pastor, the Rev. Howard Moody, and that culture is well known. Judson Memorial Church is located in Greenwich Village, a haven of the unorthodox.

The pastor admits, in the par-

lance of his congregation, that "some of our critics consider us way out."

In addition to a place of worship, Judson Memorial Church also has an art gallery where disappointed painters can display their unwanted work; a pool hall; a teen-age center equipped with everything from wood-carving tools to bongo drums; a clinic where former dope addicts congregate to discuss, as the Rev. Moody put it, "how to keep off the stuff;" a poet's theater where struggling writers of verse drama receive mutual encouragement; a dormitory inhabited half by American college students and half by foreign students, who conduct bull sessions on their conflicting ideologies; plus other similarly unusual features, including the church's own literary journal.

"Our church is oriented basically for those who aren't members of it," explained the Rev. Mr. Moody, a 40-year-old intellectual who can discuss Christianity — or poetry — with his flock in their own swinging language.

As he jokingly explained the makeup of his congregation, "we have 85 card-carrying members and about 300 or 400 fellow travelers." (The average age of the 85 regulars, incidentally, is 28.)

"We set our sights on the young, alienated outsider whose basic problem has been his inability to get along in an adult world; the popular term is juvenile delinquent."

"We couldn't care less about that church — and this is what makes him important to us."

About 75 to 100 teen-agers a week drop by the church where they find, in the pastor's words, "a nonthreatening atmosphere."

"We don't have the usual settlement-house type of operation based on a preconceived program in which a youth has to fit," he said. "Here, he just fits

where he happens to fit, if he fits at all."

A typical Sunday activity, for example, is carried on in Judson Memorial's "hall of issues." Here young people who would like to protest against what they feel is a social or political evil bring their protests expressed in some art form — painting, poem, sculpture — and display them in a room for others to see.

"On Wednesday night they all come back and have a free-for-all," the pastor said. "Each one gets up and explains his protest — and the others comment on it. It's very stimulating."

Judson Memorial Church is affiliated with both the American Baptist Convention and the United Church of Christ, and the Rev. Mr. Moody is an ordained minister of both denominations. All church activities, however, are strictly nonsectarian.

The pastor is at a loss to explain how the East Asia Christian Conference, donor of the \$1,000, heard of his church. He suggests "perhaps one of my friends in the World Council of Churches told them about us."

The money was collected by women in India, Pakistan, Iran, Thailand, Korea and other countries. They belong to the Fellowship of the Least Coin, an organization inspired by the gospel parable of the widow's mite.

Each member donates the least valuable coin of her nation once a year to a fund which is administered by the East Asia Christian Conference — a group similar in makeup to America's National Council of Churches. The conference, in turn, contributes yearly to some church project in every continent of the world.

"They gave me no instructions about how the money should be used," the Rev. Mr. Moody said. "I can assure you it will be well spent."



REV. H. L. FOSS
To Lead Dedication

Church Plans Dedication

The new building of Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1250 W. 18th Ave., Eugene, will be dedicated Jan. 21 at 3:30 p.m. ceremonies. Officiating at the service will be the Rt. Rev. H. L. Foss, president of the Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church.

The dedication service will be followed by a fellowship hour in the church's parish hall.

Emmaus Lutheran's congregation began services in 1913, when members of the congregation found it difficult to attend Bethesda Lutheran, then considered an outlying church. The Emmaus congregation formally organized in 1915, taking the name, The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. This was changed to Emmaus Lutheran in 1959, when the church moved from its long-time location at 1492 W. Second Ave. to the W. 18th Avenue site.

Folk Singers To Perform For Baha'is

A musical program, featuring John Berre Toelken and his wife, Miiko, will be held by the Baha'i Fellowship of the University of Oregon Sunday at 4 p.m.

The program will be held at Friendly House, 2445 Kincaid St., Eugene, and is open to the public.

Toelken, an instructor in English at the University of Oregon, is a former professional performer of folk music. He has recorded two record albums under the title, "Garland of American Folk Songs," and a third album — to be released this year — is now in production. At one time, Toelken had a weekly radio program on a number of college and university radio stations.

Sunday's program will be based on the theme, "Oneness of Mankind," with the Toelkens presenting folk songs from many parts of the world on this theme. Following the musical section of the program, Toelken will discuss folk music and answer questions from the audience.

Pancake Supper At Church Saturday

The annual Western Pancake Supper will be held at Wesley Methodist Church, corner of Cal Young and Oakway Rd. Saturday.

Sponsored by the men's group of the church, the event has proven popular in the past years. For the price of \$1 adults, and 50 cents for children, a supper of pancakes, sausage, eggs and drink is offered. Serving will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Other events upcoming on the Eugene Council's calendar include a program on the migrant ministry at the Feb. 12 regular Council meeting, and the World Day of Prayer observance on March 9.

13 Years After Death of Moses

Samaritans Preserve Scroll Dating Back to 1700 B.C.

By GEORGE W. CORNELL
Of the Associated Press

Three times, the samaritan priest repeated the words, "the oldest book in the world." His eyes shone and pride was in his voice.

Unveiled beside him was a bronze-bound scroll of parchment containing the first five books of the Old Testament, called the Torah of Pentateuch. The scroll is the treasured possession of a tiny remnant of an odd and ancient people, the Samaritans.

Only 350 of them still survive, most of them in the little town of Nablus situated on a mountainside in Jordan about 40 miles north of Jerusalem.

On a visit there last month, this reporter found their menfolk busily engaged in cutting the stone to build a new school. They sat on the ground at their work, using hand chisels and mallets, the dust and chips flying.

"We have no money," the black-gowned priest said, "but plenty of stone."

School Site

A camel trudged up the path, dragging another block of it for the cutters. The priest pointed out the site where the school would be erected, adjacent to the synagogue.

"We priests do not work," he explained, his smile exposing decayed teeth. "We are of the House of Levi. The others are of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph."

There are about 70 priests among the handful of samaritans.

A quaint and friendly people, they have lived for centuries in strict separation from the rest of humanity, forbidding intermarriage and religious or social mingling.

Their main problem, aside from their low economic state, is to perpetuate their kind without violating the rules against inbreeding.

"Our continued existence is the present-day miracle," said the priest, Atef Nagi. In ancient times, they numbered in the hundreds of thousands, scattered from Damascus to Egypt. Roman and Moslem persecutions decimated them.

Shrank to 10

At one point in the middle ages, their numbers shrank to 10.

Throughout their tenuous history, they have preserved the old scroll, which they claim is 3,627 years old, dating back to 1700 B.C., 13 years after the death of Moses.

The British Museum has offered them a million pounds (\$28 million) for it, the priest said, and although this would turn their poverty into riches, they have refused to sell it.

"It is the only thing we have," the priest said.

It is handwritten in Old He-

brew, a language that has never been printed, the letters resembling Phoenician characters, quite different from the letters of regular Hebrew.

The engraved bronze cover was described as made in Persia 950 years ago.

The Samaritans maintain that they alone uphold the true, unalloyed teachings of Moses. They accept only the so-called mosaic books — the first five books of the Old Testament — and reject the rest of it.

They were spurned in early times by the main body of Israelites as being of impure stock.

Mount Gerizim

The conflict apparently came to a head around 332 B.C. when the Samaritans built a temple on Mount Gerizim to rival the temple in Jerusalem.

The veneration of Mount Gerizim — in contrast to Mount Zion — has been the distinctive thesis of the Samaritans down through the years.

They face Mount Gerizim — not Jerusalem — when they pray. They make their seasonal pilgrimages to it, and bring their tithes to it.

Each spring, they celebrate the passover — with the ancient blood sacrifice of seven lambs — on its peak, singing their ancient chants, their priests and young men clothed in white.

It is a majestic mountain, just to the northeast of Nablus, Rockrimmed and clad with cypress trees, it overlooks the vast meadow of Morch.

To the Samaritans, it is the "House of the Almighty," the "Gate of Heaven," the "Mount of Blessing," the "Chosen Place," the "House of Angels."

The Angels Remain

"The holy angels never abandon it," said the Samaritan high priest, Amram Isaac. He sat

against a rock wall in the sun, his smile merry through his gray beard. "The angels continually remain in it, praising God."

Across the valley on another eminence, Mount Ebal, is the ancient village of Schar, home of the Samaritan woman that talked with Jesus at the well and became the first woman evangelist for him.

Among the Samaritans, the women still wear veils.

They speak Arabic, although using Hebrew in their ritual.

They use the old lunar calendar.

They observe Jewish laws of circumcision and diet, avoiding pork or meat of animals with paws or claws.

They look for the coming of a Messiah.

While their numbers are small, and their place in the world humble and precarious, their name has been immortalized in the story of the "Good Samaritan," whose heart was bigger than racial or religious conflicts.

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