

What Mean These Stones?

"Where should we put this Pennsylvania stone?"

"I would place it over to the right of the Kentucky stone."

"Here is one with N.S. on it. Where did this one come from?"

"Nova Scotia, of course."

Such was the conversation of those working on the new stone church being built at Konnarock, Virginia.

"What is the meaning of all of these stones with state abbreviations on them?" inquired a bystander.

"Well, it's this way," said the pastor. "While you fellows haul stones from the creek beds and mountain sides to go into our new church, our Christian brothers and sisters from all over America have contributed funds to help us build this beautiful stone church, which will serve our children's children as a house of worship for centuries. The Women's Missionary Society of the U.L.C.A. contributed \$2,800."

"These stones bearing initials have been sent to us from every area represented in the missionary society donations. They will stand in the walls of Zion as a permanent monument reminding us of the love and help of our brothers and sisters in the Faith."

"That's good," answered the listener. "I wish the ones who helped could see what a beautiful church can be built when all of our stones are placed together in one wall. Some are brown, some white; while others are yellow and even black; but they all look good in a church."

So it is, by all working together, God's church in all of its beauty can be planted as it is in Konnarock.

It will possibly take two years to finish this gem of a church in the heart of the Southwest Virginia Mountains. It takes longer, when, instead of ordering the material ready for the building, those who build have to go into the woods, cut the timber and manufacture it, or search the valleys and mountains for just

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KONNAROCK TRAINING SCHOOL

Spared For A Purpose

"The only thing that sustained me in the concentration camp was the Word of our Master: 'Not my will but Thine be done,'" said Dr. Meyer, who is now completing ten years of service at the Konnarock Medical Center. "I was willing to place my destiny in His hands, and He spared me. It must be for some purpose."

Ten years ago this German refugee and his good wife, as they arrived in this remote mountain village called Konna-

rock, might still have been wondering what the purpose was. As they struggled with the English language and the adjustment to the strange American ways in the Southern Mountains on a salary of \$50.00 per month, they may have wondered whether or not they were missing God's purpose for them.

Twenty years ago, while a successful and prosperous physician in Braunschweig, Germany, little

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Dr. and Mrs. Meyer

Life At Konnarock Training School

Konnarock Training School opened its doors again to the boys and girls of the mountain area of Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee with a full house at Iron Mountain School for Boys, and also at Konnarock Training School for Girls. Twenty-two boys and 33 girls are present at the school. The days just before the opening were busy ones, installing new double-deck beds, dividing out quilts, making new pillows, etc.

The addition of a new music teacher this fall, Miss Marjorie Beu, of Elgin, Illinois, completes the school faculty. Last year were added Miss Rose Cox, teacher of French, English and Science, graduate of Lenoir Rhyne College, and Kenneth Hewitt, Jr., physical educator and social studies. The remaining faculty members are starting their fourth year. They are Mrs. Myrtle Williams, dietitian, of Fleetwood, North Carolina; Miss Sara Ellen Miller, Slaton, Penn., is Superintendent Hewitt's secretary and bookkeeper, but she also does teaching when she is needed. Last year she taught music. Miss Helen Houston of Logansport, Indiana, teaches home economics. Canning, cooking, and sewing are all put into practice, as well as taught. Mrs. Mildred H. Deal, Principal, is teacher of Bible, leadership training, and English.

The Konnarock Parish Pastor, the Reverend Rudolph Ludwig, is the school's chaplain. He conducts chapel one day a week and service twice per month. In addition, he teaches a Christian Life class one day a week to all students for one period.

Teachers take their turn with students in leading the morning devotions held each day in the chapel. This gives the right start for the day and has great influence on the behaviour of students throughout the day. Music students play for these and all other services. Our girls have their own Luther League meetings each Sunday evening. The young people of the community attend and then remain for a brief visit with the girls and faculty. The children

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Konarock Echoes

Edited by

REV. A. KENNETH HEWITT, Superintendent,
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We of the Southern Mountain Mission field greet you through this, our mission's official organ, and send you some echoes of the work directly from Konarock in the heart of our field of labor. Your work of teaching, healing, and preaching in the mountains is rapidly growing and we want you to know about it. This growth is made possible by the increasing support of our many fine friends in the Church. These friends have the joy of knowing that through their sharing a greater number of the fine mountain people are blessed. More boys and girls have an opportunity to receive better vocational and Christian training; the works of mercy are made possible for a larger number of suffering and needy people; the little churches are being made more worshipful; and a larger number of people are hearing the true gospel taught and preached.

We invite new friends to share in the joy of this work. This issue is dedicated to our staff at Konarock—more in particular to Dr. and Mrs. Meyer upon the planned celebration year of the Tenth Anniversary of the Konarock Medical Center in 1950.

Needs

When our many friends in the Church ask about things to send to our work, we realize that these things must cover a general type of need in our mission. Some gifts will come in the midst of summer weather; and some, in winter.

So we take this opportunity to give you an idea of what the needs of our work are — for now and the near future:

Funds for:

The vocational program which requires tools and materials.

The recreational program that requires equipment, movie film, etc.

School repairs, supplies, and equipment.

Works of mercy, medicine, surgery, and dental work.

Box work including:

Children's Clothing (all ages and sizes) used, or new.

Baby clothing and diapers.

Used clothing for adults.

School supplies: sheets, pillow cases, counterpanes, towels, soap, wash cloths, tooth brushes, curtains, or curtain material, etc.

Toys and Christmas gifts at Christmas time.

Medical supplies and drugs.

Home economics supplies: thread, needles, material, thimbles, scissors, etc.

Office supplies: file cards, manilla envelopes, onion skin paper, mimeograph materials,

pencils, tablets, notebooks, etc.

We cannot mention each name of each person who gave during the past year. We can only say, from the deep places of our hearts: "THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

A Problem...

MEMO from the
Recreational Director

No Swimming Allowed

The mountain stream in Konarock looks fresh and inviting in the summer's heat—but it's not safe, kids! Tell you why — Too much rubbish and unsanitary drainage is dumped into the creek. Too little chance for supervision for swimmers. All in all, no swimming in the creek. We're not being grouchy but it's just too unsafe.

Yes, youngsters still love to swim — and need to know swimming. We have an ideal location for an adequate pool (it's even been staked off!) lots of rocks to build it of, adequate water, willing hands and tools to do the job, and even a make-shift bathing suit — lacking? Money for the mortar. A lasting, healthful pool, valued at \$3,000 that we could construct for \$1000 which we don't have. A problem? Yes.

Sorry, kids, no swimming allowed!

An Invitation

... to attend the community movie, shown in the outdoor theatre of the Konarock Training School Community Park ... the snow might be one of our special church movies, a regular feature, plus two short subjects, an educational series, or some enjoyable wholesome picture.

... to join the youngsters of your mountain mission community as they thrill to the excitement of basketball ... not merely as a spectator but as an active participant. Basketball, volley ball, horseshoes ... these things are all in progress — proved by the sharp call of "Shoot!" "Tip it up," or "It's a ringer!"

... to join in a quieter sort of group at their new office building recreation room. Magazines and library shelves, reading tables and all types of quiet games — and our youngsters enjoy them.

... to go to the baseball diamond between K. T. S. and Konarock. Its no Yankee Stadium, but it's a good field with a backstop. Maybe there's a "choose-up" softball or baseball game in progress. Take your choice, but let's play ball!

... to see the I. M. S. boys on their new ball court ... and it's their every leisure moment that they're practicing. Abetting good results, as the scores and sportsmanship will show.

... to the new recreation room at I. M. S. or the "party-rec" room at K. T. S. Lots of fun and clean supervised fellowship for active, intelligent youngsters ... providing victorious competition for that idle mind that can so easily be the devil's workshop.

Yes, to these and many other activities, you have an invitation ... for these things are part of our recreational and young peoples' program in your Southern Mountains. Many of you have seen these things first-hand in your visits to Konarock (which visits we have truly enjoyed); many of you have envisioned these things in your hearts as you gave to the recreational department or merely by supporting your mission. If you have accepted an invitation in any way, take this opportunity to hear a heartfelt "Thank you, fellow Christian," from many grateful, happier youngsters.

Summer guests are welcome at Konarock. Write for details.

Music

K.T.S.

Style

"All right," in a low voice from Mr. Kenneth.

Up goes the baton — and a chord rolls from the chapel organ — and twenty-four young voices sing the theme song: "A mighty Fortress is our God A trusty Shield and Weapon" — and another broadcast from Konarock Training School is under way.

This year the baton is new — and wielding it is our brand new music teacher, Miss Marjorie Beu, a graduate of University of Illinois, with degrees of Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education.

Already the "mixed choir" is learning how to follow that baton, to pronounce words correctly for singing, to "sing parts," to blend voices. The first broadcasts that they have recorded last fall were for Station W M E V Marion, Virginia; they were a series of five 15-minute morning devotions for Reformation Week. This series is made with Pastor Ludwig pastor of the Konarock Parish, conducting the devotions.

The music program has already made great strides this year. With courses in music appreciation added to the regular course in piano and voice instruction. The boys have their own choir and so do the girls.

The "mixed choir" will not only be our broadcast choir, but will also travel through the mountain mission parishes teaching the congregations the proper way of rendering the Common Service and helping them to learn the Lutheran music.

It is hoped that during the coming summer, the choir can make an extended tour through the Lutheran centers, giving the friends of the Southern Mountain Mission in the Church at large an idea of the quality of teaching being given in our work.

Write to us to schedule our Mountain Mission Color slide program for your church.

Introducing Your Workers at Konnarock

A. KENNETH HEWITT, Jr.

A bright-colored tie and a businesslike expression for his history classes or a basketball under his arm and a grin on his face for his physical education hour—this is how we'd picture our instructor in our Youth Program at Konnarock. Among other duties, Mr. Kenneth sets up outdoor playgrounds, organizes teams for all kinds of seasonal sports, and arranges for indoor recreation at both the girls' dormitory and the boys' dormitory, as at the Administration Building. With good disposition and sportsmanship, Mr. Kenneth teaches us how to play.

ROSE I. COX

If you want an all-round teacher, call on Miss Rose Cox who teaches French, English, and Science, with equal skill. A Virginian from our mountains, Rose graduated from three Lutheran schools: Konnarock Training School, Marion College, and finally Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1948. With her collegiate dress, her dignified carriage, her fine philosophy of life, Rose is an excellent example for our girls to follow.

H. H. WYATT

Mr. H. H. Wyatt, known to our family as "Hob," is a master builder. With the help of the boys and other local people he built the Konnarock Medical Center, the Administration Building, and is now building the new stone church for St. Matthew's Congregation. In addition to construction and maintenance work, this faithful church councilman serves as the school's manual training instructor. His distinguished appearance, ability, sound judgment and fine sense of fair play command the respect of all who know him.

W. PETE HAYES

Mr. Pete Hayes can be seen at an early hour of the morning on the way to K. T. S. from his little home across the creek to build fires in the kitchen and monkey stoves, and to begin his work on the dormitory grounds. Our "campus" is a large one and takes a lot of care. He is also responsible for the good vegetables in the summer time. A faithful councilman of the Laurel Valley Log Church, Mr. Hayes is "Uncle Pete" to our K. T. S. household.

MARJORIE J. BEU, Teacher of Music

Our newest teacher at Konnarock Training School is Miss Marjorie Beu, who teaches mathematics and music. Miss Beu is a native of Elgin, Illinois, and comes to bring the joy of song to our mission. Our students have already been inspired to greater efforts in music by the beauty of her mezzo-soprano voice. With her cheerful smile, ready laughter, and amiable disposition, Miss Beu is a real addition to our staff.

HELEN HUSTON Teacher of Home Economics

Our Indiana teacher is the one who sees to it that the girls are well trained in sewing, cooking, and home-making. The "mechanical genius" at K. T. S., Miss Huston explains it by saying, "Oh, I was the oldest girl in a farm family without boys!" Plump and blue-eyed, Miss Huston is a hard worker, a big sister to the K. T. S. girls, and a devotee to her parish work at Laurel Valley Log Church.

TOM J. BLEVINS

"We've never asked Tom to do a thing that he hasn't done gladly," said one of our staff members. Tom Blevins' title is Farm Manager, but his job is to see that everything runs smoothly in our mission. When we need apples to make apple butter, Tom brings them; when we need the car repaired, Tom can "fix" it; when we need the garden plowed, Tom brings up the tractor and plows it. His willingness to help, his business sense, his fair play, and his friendly smile make him a friend to all.

MRS. MYRTLE WILLIAMS

Mrs. Williams is a popular person at K. T. S. Her realm is the kitchen, from which she sends out nutritious and tasty foods three times a day. Her job is a hard one, deciding what to cook, trying to keep the meals within our budget, and cooking for 40 people. Her gentle nature, her ready wit, and her motherly kindness endear her to all of us.

MRS. MILDRED H. DEAL, Principal

She took the reins firmly into her hands and she's managed Konnarock Training School well ever since. That is what one of our recent graduates has said about Mrs. Mildred H. Deal, our Principal at Konnarock Training School. A North Carolinian, Mrs. Deal has been associated with the Southern Mountain Mission Work ever since August 1946. Her pretty crop of red hair and her sparkling smile make her outstanding in looks. Her counseling and guidance make her "Mama" Deal to the girls. Her capable handling and able supervision have made these past three years outstanding in K. T. S. history.

THE REV. A. KENNETH HEWITT

The Reverend A. Kenneth Hewitt, Supt. of Mountain Missions, is so busy these days that we see him between his trips to the far corners of the U. S. A. He is not only taking care of our schools and mission by presenting the work to the Church at large, but these days he is working in the Christian Higher Education Year Appeal, so that more children and other children will have a opportunity for further education. His devotion to the mountains and to the work at Konnarock, his Christian way of life, his human-ness, and his kindly sense of humor make him "Pop" Hewitt to our mission family.

SARA ELLEN MILLER

All the way from Pennsylvania to spread good humor among us came Miss Sara Ellen Miller, Mr. Hewitt's blond Secretary and Office Manager. Even though she is not a regular teacher, she seems to take a special interest in each of the girls, helping us in problems and guiding us when we need guidance. You can see her sweet smile and hear her cheery laughter almost any time around K. T. S.

THE REV. RUDOLF F. LUDWIG

It has been said that Pastor Ludwig is a real pastor 24 hours a day. In his duties as chaplain and teacher of religion at Konnarock Lutheran Schools and as Pastor of the Konnarock Lutheran Parish, his undaunted faith, tenacious devotion, and constant Christian spirit make him a true spiritual leader for the entire Konnarock valley.

SISTER SOPHIA MOELLER

Our deaconess-nurse in the Helton Valley, Sister Sophia Moeller, lives in the little white cottage in Helton. She works out of the Konnarock Medical Center and does all of the emergency nursing on that distant side of White Top Mountain. Her babies are thriving ones and, even after delivery, Sister Sophia keeps an eye on each one of them. We can see her jeep-station wagon in all kinds of weather bringing patients to the clinics at the Medical Center in the interest of better mothers and better babies. This jovial, courageous and tireless deaconess-nurse is truly an angel of mercy in all of her contacts.



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THE PENNINGTONS

The Iron Mountain School for Boys is ably managed by The Penningtons, "Mr. Cecil" and "Mrs. Hazel," as they are called by the boys. Mr. Cecil is housefather at the boys' dormitory and is in charge of the "farm stock — including the boys." His work includes caring for the stock, seeing that the dairy is clean and ready for inspection at all times, care of milk, and supervision of the boys' farm work. Mr. Cecil is neat, easygoing, with a good sense of humor.

Mrs. Hazel is the little person with the braids coiled neatly around her head. She supervises the cleaning and waxing in the dormitory and keeps record of the produce sold from henhouses and gardens. She does the cooking for our 23 boys and to them Mrs. Hazel is the best cook anywhere!

(See story and cut of Dr. and Mrs. Meyer on front page.)

What Mean These Stones

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the right kind of stone and haul it over rough terrain on a sled to the road where the truck can pick it up. Then, too, many of the volunteer helpers can help only at spare times, because they, too have to attend to their crops and provide for their families.

Gifts from the W. M. S., the Board of American Missions, the Children of the Church, the Virginia Synod, and other kind friends, totalling \$13,900 plus the \$1,800 labor and material supplies by the members of this mountain congregation and their assumption of \$3,000 indebtedness is making possible the \$65,000 stone edifice at Konnarock.

This hand-made house of God is precious to those who will worship in it, because it represents not only personal, financial sacrifice, labor, and sweat, but the love of Christian brethren in the Church.

This little church in its simple beauty is a cathedral in its setting. To the parsimonious person, it might be considered an extravagance, in comparison with the humble homes and other meeting houses, but it typifies a spirit in the congregation of "glorifying God with the best."

Life at K. T. S.

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of the community meet in the chapel on Wednesday afternoon for worship-study program led by the Senior girls under the direction of Mrs. Deal. Other religious activities include evening prayers. The girls like these best on the stairs just before "lights out." When a preaching service is not held at the chapel, girls attend either Laurel Valley Church or St. Matthew's for the service. The boys attend St. Matthew's Church.

The time for sports and games is a delight to the students. There is an occasional basketball game, with another school. Basketball is by far the favorite game. Although Konnarock Lutheran Schools have only outdoor ball courts, the teams make creditable showings when other schools are played.

"The red wagon party" every other Saturday night is a chief social event. Boys and girls of the school and also of the community never seem to tire of "Skip to my Lou" and other folk games that are played.

Movies are shown twice a

month in the school basement, or outside in the amphitheater, when the weather permits. The movies usually include a comic cartoon, an educational film, and a religious one.

Home life at Konnarock Training School includes sharing and caring for a room with three other girls. Effort is made to arrange former and new students in a room who are most likely to be congenial. Senior girls enjoy having "third hall" for their living quarters. These rooms were repainted and redecorated during the past year.

"Jobs" at K. T. S. include all the areas of homemaking. These are changed each month so that the girls can learn all the phases of homemaking. It seemed a bit strange to hear a girl say this fall: "I'm glad my job is dish-towels." You should see the big stack that she takes pride in doing each day. Jobs are inspected and supervised so that a girl learns to do them well. Checking rooms sometimes reveals that it seems to be pretty hard to keep all clothing hung up and everything in place. Washing and ironing personal laundry is the responsibility of each girl. The major problem here is finding time and an idle iron outside of school hours, for the girls like to be clean and neat.

In addition to Bible and home economics, required each year, a student at K.T.S. carries the regular high school curriculum required for graduation in the State of Virginia. It is gratifying to know that six of the 1949 graduates are in college. One of the remaining three is teaching six grades in a one-teacher school; one works in a factory (these two plan to go to school later); and the other is in the army. Effort is made to assist the pupils to be fitted to meet life here, in his home, at college, or wherever he is.

So life goes on at K. T. S. with our "Pop" Hewitt as our Superintendent leading us; Dr. Meyer, serving as our good doctor; Mr. Tom Blevins, seeing that the care and machinery are in repair; Mr. Hob Wyatt, looking after the building and maintenance; Mr. Cecil Pennington, I. M. S. Housefather; and others seeing that we have milk, food, vegetables, and meat from the farm; Mr. Hayes, keeping our building warm and the grounds clean; Pastor Ludwig, serving our spiritual needs; our faculty guiding, and the United Lutheran Church making this Christian school-home possible.

Spared for A Purpose

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did Dr. Meyer foresee the nightmare of Nazi persecution, the horrors of Buchenwald, the courage of Mrs. Meyer when she defied the fiendish authorities for the freedom of her husband to be replanted in America as part of God's purpose. But, in the words of this man of God today, "It was all necessary to make me what I ought to be."

Today there is no doubt but that the Meyers were spared for a purpose and that purpose was to be Medical Missionaries in our Southern Mountains. As they come to the end of the first ten years of Missionary Service the records reveal that they have administered more than 40,000 treatments in the name of Christ to the fine mountain folk. Not only have they healed ailing bodies, but they have helped restore character and hope among many by their continual influence and teaching of high standards in principles and morals.

At the conclusion of this decade of a Christian ministry of mercy, the Meyers are gratefully happy. They have managed to provide college educations for their son and daughter. They do not have much of this world's goods, but they are rich in friends, love, and faith.

The Meyers have spent ten years living with their work in an apartment in the Medical Center. Being on call twenty-four hours a day, in a practice that is rapidly becoming more demanding as it grows, is beginning to take its toll on the strength and health of both Dr. and Mrs. Meyer. In the interest of saving their health and prolonging the usefulness of our Medical Missionaries, the Board of American Missions has voted to build a home for them on a beautiful site above the orchard overlooking the valley when the means are available.

It is hoped that means may be provided for our Doctor's home for the tenth anniversary of the Konnarock Medical Center in 1950.

The Meyers were first "saved to serve" on Golgotha. They were again "spared to serve" from Nazism. We are now hoping that there are those in our Church who will now "serve to save" our Missionaries for many more good years of service, by helping us build a home for them!

Arrange to spend part of your summer vacation at Konnarock.