

# 78th Annual Conference Report

By Helen D. Meewes

May 14th the Grace and Hope Missionaries traveled to York, PA for our Annual Conference to begin on the 16th and run through the 18th. The weather for the week was cool and sometimes rainy but we were ready to be blessed by the Lord and do what needed to be done for God's Kingdom. We celebrated anniversaries adding up to 340 years: Gunhild and Ruth Carlson, 70 years; Estelle Clasing, 60 years, Marilyn Becker, 50 years,

Barbara Luzzi and Lorrie Erla, 45 years. All the Lord requires of us is to be found faithful and these ladies have been faithful.

We began the conference on the 15th with a Communion service led by Amy Pooley. She shared thoughts from a tract, "I Did This For You." We were once again reminded of all that the Lord suffered for us when He gave His life on the cross. We were blessed listening to Hazel Slaughter sing on tape, "I Should Have Been Crucified" before we partook of the elements.

We had morning devotions led by Marlea Gutches where she brought to our attention that we are all needed in the Kingdom work. She read scriptures and briefly spoke of different ones in scriptures that the Lord used to fulfill His plan and purpose. Jacquelyn Babcock read many scriptures on prayer and our thoughts went to the realization that God Answers Prayer. We spent a good part of that morning in praying for the needs of our workers in ill health but also for family members and friends and associate members of our missions. The messages in the services were also a blessing. Brenda Milliner from New York gave a wonderful message on the faithfulness of the Lord to save souls using folks from the New York mission as examples as well as Charles Spurgeon and Gladys Awald, missionary to China.

Saturday evening we had a wonderful service of praise and it was a blessing to have so many delegates from different cities. They came from Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, Indiana,

Ohio and Virginia as well as different cities in Pennsylvania. We were so pleased to have The Promised Land Trio from Baltimore. They sang and shared the message of Jesus in song. Their music was such a blessing.

Helen Meewes shared an important message on Sunday morning on the importance of remembering the cross and God's work for us and how we must also be willing to bear the cross given to us to follow the Lord. She brought the picture recently given by a young man of the cross outside the Gay Street mission. Hilda Bichell went home to be with the Lord on August 2, 2007 and the service on Sunday afternoon was dedicated to her life and ministry. We especially missed her leading us in our music. Marilyn Becker and Dorothy Sweeney have taken up her mantle and led us in lifting our voices in praise to the Lord for all He has done for us. Our loss is truly heaven's gain. Barbara Luzzi spoke in that

service and she shared the thoughts on the verse "Occupy 'til I come." It was a challenge for all of us to be busy doing the Lord's work faithfully until He comes. A great way to end the conference - going on our way thinking of ways to occupy the time allotted to us to serve the Lord.

During our business sessions each Superintendent gave a report on the work in her city and we were all blessed because of the faithfulness of our Lord. The reports of the missions told how busy we all are in the work of the Kingdom and these statistics show it (in spite of failing health of many of the ladies): 1,376

indoor meetings, Sunday schools, Bible classes and other meetings; 785 Visits; 153 Bibles and New Testaments; 17,897 tracts and literature including devotionals; distributed 2,432 articles of clothing; 24,036 meals/lunches; 6,864 bags of provisions, plus much more food not included in the food package and 567 gifts. Much more was recorded and as always we are reminded that some things were not recorded but the Lord keeps perfect records and we have to give an account to Him. We are just grateful for the strength He gives us to continue to preach/teach the Word and help the needy with physical necessities when possible. He will give the reward.

We appreciated the welcome and response from the host city, York, PA. Thank you to those who helped in the preparations for the conference by cleaning, doing odd jobs, etc.

The stationing is as follows:

## BALTIMORE, MD

Gunhild Carlson, President  
Helen D. Meewes, Superintendent  
Karen A. Harp

## YORK, PA

Marlea Gutches, Superintendent  
Lorrie E. Erla  
Jacquelyn Babcock  
Mildred Bixler, Superintendent  
Irene Emcritus (Retired)  
Ruth Carlson, Superintendent Emeritus (Retired)  
Vice-President  
Superintendent Emeritus (Retired)

## NORFOLK, VA

Barbara Luzzi, Superintendent  
Christine Shiflett

## READING, PA

Amy M. Pooley, Superintendent  
Florence Mitchell

## BOSTON, MA

Estelle I. Clasing, Superintendent,  
Marilyn D. Becker

## JERSEY CITY, NJ

Dorothy H. Sweeney, Superintendent  
Bernice F. Becker

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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