

**GOSSNER EVANGELICAL – LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN CHOTANAGPUR AND ASSAM**

GELC ARCHIVE

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- Letter to Mrs. Cronk by G.A.Rupley on 17 March , 1920.
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WALKER'S
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118

America - Gossner Letter of the
Lyon Board

1919-20

Ranchi, Bihar, India, Nov. 27, 1920.

Dear Dr. Knubel:

Your letter of October 4th to the Gossner Church arrived in good time to be printed for the 75th Anniversary. I enclose a copy of the letter with its companions. They are printed on one side of heavy paper, in order that they may be posted in chapels, school-houses and homes all over the Gossner field. A thousand copies have been sent out through the pastors, to the 750 catechists and teachers, and to some leading members of local Church Councils. I believe that these letters will form a link with the American Lutherans, which will be a source of strength to the Church, just emerging into consciousness of its own separate self.

These letters were given the place of honor in the meeting held to receive the greetings of delegates to the 75th Anniversary celebrations. They were read both in English and in Hindi to the two thousand or more auditors, all seated around the pandal which sheltered the speakers and others guests from the sun.

The Constitution was formally adopted on November 23rd, at a Special General Conference duly called for that purpose. The printed draft was approved without change. It is interesting to note that the following Lutherans in India now accept the Doctrinal Basis of the United Lutheran Church in America:-

The Gossner Church -	100,000 members
The Guntur Conference -	60,000 "
The Rajahmundry "	30,000 "

These form much the larger part of the Lutherans in India.

The Anniversary meetings were maintained at a high level. Our brethren here managed it all, occasionally consulting, but there was little that needed changing. They showed excellent ability both to plan and to carry through. In fact, the only thing that we Americans did for them was the pleasant task of arranging entertainment for guests of our foreign way of living. We too were guests, and enjoyed it greatly. I wish you could have been here.

The first news of the Convention of the United Lutheran Church has just arrived, in the form of the admirable Program. The next mail will begin the series of reports in the Lutheran, we hope.

It is a great encouragement to your Missionaries to learn of the increasingly larger place Foreign Missions is taking in the work of our Church. That is what we need - a stronger and stronger sense of vital connection with the powerful life within the Church at home: that is to say, with the power of the Spirit, manifesting itself in the Church.

I know that there are also currents from the Mission fields to the home Church, though we are not so conscious of them while we are actually on the Mission field, I think. But these Gossner Indian Lutherans surely have a spiritual gift for our Western Church, a gift which I shall presently try to describe to some of our congregations.

As to your personal letter to me, I appreciate it greatly. I hope to persuade the Board to allow me to study Elementary Education at Teachers College next winter, and I will then be able to see and hear you from time to time.

I think it is perfectly safe to congratulate you, and the Church, upon your re-election as President.

Yours sincerely,

Ray City, Nov 28, 1920.

Dear Dr. Kriebel -

A strictly private bit of information, for you to proceed on if you like, but not to quote me.

Rev. C. V. Sheatsley, Columbus, was here you recall. In touring, we naturally chatted of many things. One day we were talking of Church Unions at home and of the United Lutheran Church, and I asked him half in jest why they (Joint Synod of Ohio) were not in the U. L. C. A. To my astonishment, he said that the main reason was because they were not asked! I told him of the general invitation which the Constitution implied, and he knew of it, but said of course they would not put themselves forward. He thought that there had been a good chance of their going in, when the three bodies did, if the question had been put up to them in the same way.

So I inquired if they were too "dead" to go in now. He said that they felt no resentment, and I got the impression that in his own opinion they would at least give very cordial welcome to any official overtures.

Now Sheatsley had hit the ghost of a notion that I would do what I am doing - reporting our talk to you, or to anyone else. He was of course speaking for himself alone. But he is in very close

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touch with the Capitol University crowd, and in fact teaches Bible in the College Dept, and is College pastor. Probably you know that Acting Secy Mess in New York is a brother of President Mess of Capitol University.

Shielsley may be mistaken as to the feeling of the majority - I have no way of testing that. But if an influential part feel as he seems to, there is good hope of a large addition to the United Lutheran Church in America.

Sincerely

Rufley

No answer is expected to this, of course.

THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
437 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Oct. 4, 1920.

The Rev. G. A. Rupley,
Ranchi, Bihar, India.

Dear Brother Rupley:-

It was good to hear from you again and to know that developments are proceeding satisfactorily. We all appreciate how large a task you have upon your hands and are thinking of you often. We wish indeed that it were possible for you to continue indefinitely in your present position. However, we know that you have already sacrificed the time of your furlough to the extent of a long postponement. No doubt also you will have laid the foundations in such a way that the man who follows you will be able to build upon them very satisfactorily.

The statement of needs for 1921 which you included, is receiving most complete consideration. Naturally we are anxious to do everything that is necessary for the successful development of the great Gossner work.

In accordance with your wish, I am enclosing a word of greeting on the 75th Anniversary. Unfortunately Dr. Larsen is now in Europe and will not return for at least a month. Secretary Mees is taking his place while he is away. I am referring to the latter your request for a word of greeting, and am sure you will hear from him.

I am awaiting the time when it will be possible to see you personally, both for the sake of old relationships and for the sake of the work you have been doing.

In two weeks the Convention of the United Lutheran Church takes place. It will be a Convention of vital importance.

With my truest greeting, I am

As ever, yours


F. H. KNUBEL.

FHK/GM.
Enc. 1.

File

Ranohi, Bihar, India, August 31, 1920.

The Rev. F. H. Knubel, D.D., President,
The United Lutheran Church in America,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Knubel:

Your letter of April 23 came in due course, but knowing that your correspondence must be very heavy, I refrained from answering it until I had something quite definite to say as to the needs of the Gossner field.

Plans are now laid for 1921, and it depends upon our Lutherans in America whether they can be carried out.

I - American Missionaries asked for:-

- a). Two ordained men, both married, preferably. Mr. and Mrs. Cannaday are of course the mainstays under this head.
- b). Two single ladies.

II - Budget asked for:-

- a). For direct recurring expenditure on the Church, and its workers - Rs. 100,000. Full details of this Budget will soon be sent home.
- b). For the salaries of the missionaries noted, about Rs. 12,000, on the India scale of the United Lutheran Church.
- c). For their traveling expenses to India - Rs. 12,000. All will probably come in one year - an unusual expense.
- d). The touring expenses of the missionaries, rent, hill allowance, and the various smaller items allowed under Guntur rules:- Rs. 20,000. This is high compared with fully manned Missions, for the distances here are great, and touring is costly.

RECAPITULATION FOR 1921.

a). Direct recurring expenditure -	Rs. 100,000
b). Salaries of missionaries -	12,000
c). Traveling to India of missionaries -	12,000
d). Annual expenses of missionaries -	20,000
	Rs. 144,000

Exchange is now up to Rs. 2.70 per dollar. Estimating an average rate of Rs. 2.60 per dollar, the total is \$55,000 for all expenses for 1921.

I have just worked out a comparison with Guntur and Rajahmundry, for Drs. Larsen and Wolf. Shorn of the details, it is that the American gift per baptized member is (exclusive of the salaries and furlough traveling of missionaries)

1920 -	Guntur -	\$1.62
"	Rajahmundry -	2.90
"	Goesner -	.31 (cents)
1921	Goesner	.60 (cents) asked for.

These many thousands of people are standing firmly by their faith. I literally do not know what they would do to hold their Church together without the assistance of their fellow Lutherans in America. God has surely guided us to them in their necessities. They are laboring hard on their own behalf, in the face of cruelly bad economic conditions, and without their accustomed foreign leaders. But they cannot of themselves supply all the needs of their Church as yet, and so they turn trustfully to their brothers and sisters in America to lend them a helping hand.

Yours faithfully,

G. A. Ruple

File

Ranchi, Bihar, India, August 31, 1920.

Dear Dr. Knubel:

I want to ask you and Dr. Lauritz Larsen to send letters of greeting and encouragement to the Church on the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Gossner work here. The celebrations will be held from the 20th of November. I will get your letters translated into Hindi and circulated widely.

The official title is "Gossner's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chota Nagpur and Assam". They themselves decided upon it. The only change in the old title is from "Mission" to "Church".

Yours sincerely,

G. A. Ruple

THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
437 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

April 23, 1920.

The Rev. George A. Rupley,
Lutheran Compound,
Ranchi, Bihar, INDIA.

Dear Brother Rupley:-

Of course it was a pleasure to hear from you, but above all, to hear of the things you wrote. Our hearts have been greatly cheered with the knowledge that you and your wife have been willing, in the general interest of our Lutheran cause, to forego your furlough and to give your attention to the work in the Gossner Mission. What you said contained so much of human interest that I propose to make use of it for some form of publicity. It will help in the campaign of the National Lutheran Council which is to be held in a few weeks, and which includes the item of \$300,000. for the relief of Foreign Mission operations.

The work you are doing is naturally done for the Board of our United Lutheran Church. The United Lutheran Church furthermore intends to continue its readiness to help in these operations. However, for the present we are carrying on this extra work through the National Lutheran Council. Such financial help as is possible will be readily given. As soon as definite recommendations come as to the character of other help which may be needed, we shall be ready to do our best for such help. Do not feel that you are alone in what you are carrying on. Stand firmly with those thousands of our people who have been so wonderfully ready to stand for their faith. The service you are doing cannot fail to be a blessing.

Naturally there is something of a personal joy to me in knowing that a friend of mine is at the important point you hold just now. Whatever I can do personally may be counted upon fully. Do not hesitate to let me know.

With my steady prayers for you, and with my truest greeting,
I am,

Faithfully,

F. H. KNUBEL.

FHK/GM.

INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT OF NORTH AMERICA

OFFICE OF A. E. CORY
Associate General Secretary
Director Field Department
227 FOURTH AVENUE
45 W. 18 St.

NEW YORK CITY

S. EARL TAYLOR, General Secretary

rec'd June 23

New York
April 20, 1920

My dear Mr. Rupley:-

I very greatly appreciate your letter which has just reached me together with the story for the Tidings. Beginning with the New Year, we merged Tidings with Boys and Girls and I resigned as editor.

I am sure Miss Rice will be delighted to have this splendid and interesting material of yours so I am forwarding it to her with the pictures so that she can use it in Boys and Girls.

I am enjoying relief from the constant strain of so much writing but on the other hand, I miss very genuinely the opportunity which I had in reaching thousands of boys and girls every month through the Tidings.

We are having, however, some wonderful opportunities for service which I very greatly appreciate. I have just been able to send to Dr. Kreuger a check for the new chapel she wants in India and to pass on a number of other large gifts for our various mission stations.

The program of the Interchurch World Movement is developing wonderfully and I hope that at the meeting of our next General Convention of the United Lutheran Church, the way may be made clear for our cooperation.

With many good wishes for your work, I am

Yours sincerely,

Katharine S. Cronk

Mrs. E. C. Cronk

Mr. George A. Rupley
Lutheran Mission
Ranchi Bihar, India.

KSC:LAP

Lutheran Compound,

Ranchi, Bihar, India.

March 16, 1920.

Dear Dr. Knubel:

I write to you from one of the bungalows of the old Gossner Mission.

An invitation came suddenly and recently to our Guntur Mission, to send a man to be in residence at Ranchi, the central and oldest station, and to be a member of the Advisory Board to the now autonomous Lutheran Church of the Gossner Mission. The other four members are two highly educated Indians, one S. P. G. man and one from the Free Church of Scotland. As my wife and I were to leave for America on furlough in a few days, we could be sent at once and the furlough is postponed for a year. We arrived here on the 6th inst.

My purpose in writing to you is to earnestly ask your interest in these 90,000 Lutheran Indian Christians. It would touch you deeply to hear them express their heartfelt desire "to continue in the faith of their fathers." The Lutheran teaching as to the Word of God has filled their needs, and they cling tenaciously to their dearest possession.

At the beginning of the War, there were on this large field more than sixty German missionaries, husbands, wives and unmarried men and women. Now my wife and I are the only non-Indian Lutherans in this whole great Gossner area - half as large as the State of Pennsylvania. I am not writing this for publication, but for you alone, so I can say these things.

Last Thursday we visited an out-station, which had seen no Lutheran missionary for five years. I talked to a hastily gathered audience which nearly filled their Church - probably 400 were present. It is five miles off a good road, and 30 miles from a Railway. They listened closely as it was interpreted sentence by sentence into Mundari, an aboriginal tongue. It was a simple talk on Stewardship. They had taken honest and good care of the

Mission property. Had they taken equal care of God's property - their hearts?

After the close of the service an old man rose from his place and said in his own tongue - "Your words are good, and we need them. We have been as sheep without a shepherd."

This after five years! I reminded him that they have 35 faithful Indian pastors, but all the time I was saying to myself - "What are these among so many?" Thirty-five pastors for 90,000 Christians who are constantly surrounded by strong temptations to relapse into the darkness from which they or their fathers came.

What we American Lutherans can do to help them is not yet clear, beyond some immediate gifts of money. International and local political considerations are a hindrance, necessary as they are at present, and will perhaps continue to be. We missionaries are not to settle affairs of States, but to preach and teach as there is opportunity.

So this letter is not to ask anything definite of you, but rather to ask you to be ready to help when definite ways to help are opened up. I know from past acquaintance with you, how willing you are to listen to any case of genuine need, and I bespeak your sympathy and your assistance when a call for help for the Christians of the Gossner Mission comes to the Church at home.

Yours faithfully,

George A. Ruple

Lutheran Compound.

Ranchi. Bihar. India

March 16, 1920.

Dear Dr. Kraebel -

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~~So I ask your interest in these 90,000~~

~~fathers and Christians.~~

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3.

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Yours faithfully

Lutheran Mission

Ranchi Bihar

India.

March 17, 1920.

Dear Mrs. Cronk -

This is a most belated answer to your letter of Sept 4, in which you ^{asked} to "send a letter to our Lutheran boys and girls to be published in Tidings".

My wife and I have been sent here for a year, from Guntur. Part of the job will be to tell the American Lutherans about the Hossemer Mission and its needs. So if I can be of any further use to Tidings, I shall be glad of the opportunity. I would appreciate any tips as to ^{the} matter, or treatment of it, and the sort of

opportunities. I would appreciate any help as to
the matter, or treatment of it, and the sort of
letter which would be interesting.

It is pleasant to read of the progress
of the Interchurch World Movement, and I think too
that its influence will presently be felt in our
mission stations. Usually there is more real
union of interest and of work on the foreign field
than at home, so it will be doubly valuable to
have this movement come from the opposite
direction.

With best wishes for the success
of you and Mr. Crook

Yours sincerely

George A. Ruffley
I would like to be put on Tideman's list, if I can.

Ranchia, March 17, 1902

Dear Girls and Boys -

Perhaps you have the idea that money for Mission work comes almost entirely from Mission Boards, and that the new Christians brothers and sisters can give little.

I want to tell you something to the contrary.

There is a large Mission here, called the Gossamer Mission, because it was founded by a good old man by that name, seventy-five years ago. It was managed by German missionaries. When the great War broke out, of course they had to leave. There were more than sixty of them.

Now the Indian Christians are managing the Mission themselves, though it is half as big as

the great work

There were more than sixty of them.

Now the Indian Christians are managing the Mission themselves, though it is half as big as Pennsylvania and has 90,000 Christians. They need some help from America, especially for the next few years, but not nearly as much as your fathers and mothers would think necessary.

Why? Because they believe that self-help is the best help. Possibly that is also true at home. Ask your father what he thinks about it.

Now here is what I want especially to tell you. Last week a visit was paid to an out-station called Burgie, which is 30 miles from the railroad. No Lutheran missionary had been

there for five years, though English missionaries had given what help they could spare, even reducing their own work somewhat.

But our Lutherans were managing pretty much by their own help. They have a ~~large~~ boarding school, to which boys from the many villages far hidden away in the valleys and jungles may come. Their parents pay what they can, which is usually little, and the other Indian members pay most of the rest. They have to figure expenses very carefully. One such school had not a bit of meat for two weeks. They just couldn't afford it.

Hard pressed as these people are, they decided to take in some new boys nevertheless. They are bright-faced little fellows, but just see how they

Hard pressed as these people are, they decided to take in some new boys nevertheless. They are bright-faced little fellows, but just see how they are dressed! And these hills are cold most of the year, too. It is quite unlike the greater part of India, and much more like April or October in New Jersey or Ohio. They had been in the school about two months when I saw them, and they were learning games as well as book-knowledge. Perhaps you can just make out the white vaccination marks, nearly healed on their pretty brown skins.

Some of them are orphans, or half-orphans. All who prove able to receive education will be supported for years, in the hope that they in turn will become workers in the Mission, and help other boys and girls later on.

The people at Burgu are proud and self-reliant. So they do not beg for help in their hard struggle. They feel that if the American Lutherans want to help them, help will be offered. And my own notion is, that plenty of assistance will presently be voluntarily given to our fellow Lutherans here.

But they did ask for one thing. There is an orphan boy, ~~six~~ years old, in a village not far from the school. They want to take him in too, but they just couldn't afford one more. They had taken all they could possibly manage, they said, and they seemed to half apologize for saying it, as if they were afraid they were not doing quite enough. Did I think the American Lutherans would give two dollars to take him in? They could manage

all very soon. I
seemed to half apologize for saying it, as if they
were afraid they were not doing quite enough. Did
I think the American Lutherans would give two
dollars a month for his food? They could manage
clothes and school expenses somehow, if his food, the
largest item, were provided.

I very promptly did think that the
American Lutherans would give the two dollars a month.
But this letter is not to ask any of you for it. This
chance to help is already taken.

But perhaps later there will be other
ways in which you can help.

Yours sincerely

George A. Ruple

INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT
OF NORTH AMERICA
NEW YORK CITY

S. EARL TAYLOR, General Secretary

A. E. CORY

Associate General Secretary
Director Field Department

222 FOURTH AVENUE
September 4th, 1919

Rev. George A. Rupley
Guntur
India

My dear Mr. Rupley:

I greatly appreciated your letter in regard to the Best Methods Department in the Missionary Review and am indeed glad that you are enjoying the magazine. Your suggestions about pictures are most timely. We have presented that subject before, but it is scheduled for presentation again before a great while, and what you have said will be very useful to me. Many thanks for your thought and suggestions.

I am following with sincere interest your work in India and praying God's blessing upon it. I should be very grateful if you would send me a letter to our Lutheran boys and girls to be published in Tidings, the junior paper of which I am editor.

Dr. Cronk and I are both secretaries of the Interchurch World Movement now, although we still find time for quite a bit of denominational work. I believe with my whole heart in the possibilities before the Interchurch World Movement, and hope that its influence will be felt soon in every one of our mission stations, and that our Lutheran church will see its way clear for full cooperation.

I am With many good wishes for you and your work,

Yours sincerely,

KSC-ER

Katharine J. Cronk.
R.

Dictated, but NOT PERSONALLY SIGNED
BECAUSE OF ABSENCE FROM THE OFFICE