

Brainerds bring gospel to Dominican Republic



Ed with Angela and Kathy with Valari

How does a person become a missionary, leave the comforts of affluent America and go to an economically depressed foreign country - to preach the gospel of Jesus?

For Ed and Kathy (Hiestand) Brainerd the answer to this question has a long history.

Missionary Tradition

Ed's great, great uncle was David Brainerd, a missionary to the Indians of the upper Susquehanna Valley in the early 1700's. In the Brainerd family there have been many other missionaries, preachers, teachers. You could almost say that evangelism flows in Ed Brainerd's blood.

You could say the same about his wife Kathy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Hiestand, R. D. 1, Marietta. Her Uncle, Rev. John S. Hiestand was founder and is pastor-emeritus of Congregational Bible Church near Marietta. Her brother Paul Lemar Hiestand is a missionary in (of all places) Rome. Her brother Galen is a pastor in Omaha, Nebraska. Cousin Clyde Hiestand is a missionary in North Africa. Another cousin, Wilmer Longenecker is a missionary in Yemen.

Live Among People

The Times-Bulletin interviewed Ed and Kathy at her father and mother's home between Maytown and Bainbridge, where they and their daughters Angela and Valari were spending the Christmas holidays before going back to their mission in Azua in the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.

Azua is a small city where the Brainerds live among the natives, far from other missionaries, carrying on their work of bringing Christ to their impoverished and undernourished neighbors.

Kathy remarked how different their situation was from a traditional mission, where the missionaries all lived together in a compound, separate from their parishioners. Ed and Kathy are very much part of the people among whom they live and work.

Deeds of Love

One of the most significant parts of their ministry is carrying out the most menial tasks. One night Ed drove all through the night carrying the body of a two-year old child who had died in a distant hospital from dehydration and malnutrition, taking it back to its grieving family for burial.

At another time he drove children to visit their mother every week in a hospital a hundred miles away.

Such deeds are deeply appreciated by the people of Azua, who shower gifts of food, which they really cannot spare, onto the Brainerds. But as Kathy said, to reject the grateful people's lavish gifts would have hurt them.

It is by acts of love that people are brought to Christ. As Ed said, quoting I John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved us."

In the three years that the Brainerds have been in the Dominican Republic, Ed has baptized 130 people.

Catholic Natives

In a way, it is strange that the Brainerds should be missionaries in the Domini-

can Republic, because a majority of the people are nominal Catholics. But the people's ties to the church are very flimsy; Christianity has very little meaning for them.

Even more strange is the way the local Catholic priest actually assists them in their work. One time the Brainerds were distributing Bibles, and ran out of copies. They went to the Catholic church where the father gave them more Bibles to continue their distribution. The ecumenical day had arrived.

Medical Team

Ed and Kathy also assist members of a medical team that comes to Azua now and then. As many as 100 much needed operations are performed in a van: hysterectomies, hernias, goiters, tubal ligations. One of the greatest needs in this land of want is limiting the size of families.

One of Kathy's most essential functions is entertaining at functions like wedding receptions (she must have learned some of her hostess skills from the Hiestand ladies of the Maytown area).

Practical Effects

So, the work of the Lord goes on in a most practical way.

And the effects of being converted to Christianity can be seen in a most practical way too. The "Evangelicals," as Protestants are called in the Dominican Republic, are noteworthy for their trustworthiness and honesty. They are appointed to positions of responsibility. "Evangelicals" stand out for their sobriety and faithfulness to their wives.

The Times-Bulletin wishes Ed and Kathy Brainerd Godspeed when they return to Azua on January 16.



Jeffrey B. Brown, Jaycees' President, with Mayor James Gingrich, declaring January 19 to 25 Jaycee week in Mount Joy.

J-C Week in Mount Joy

January 19 - 25 has been proclaimed Jaycee Week in Mount Joy by Mayor James Gingrich. The local chapter has planned many activities during the week and encourages the community's participation in the celebration.

The week will begin with a Prayer Breakfast to be held 7:00 Sunday morning at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Rev. Warren Tamkin will be the guest speaker at this breakfast which is open to the public. Later that morning the Jaycees and their families will attend the worship service at their president's church, the Trinity Lutheran.

On Monday evening the Jaycees will entertain their bosses at a dinner to show the Chapter's appreciation for the support given it by the Jaycees' employers. Wednesday evening has been designated Library Night. The

Jaycees will present the Mount Joy Library Association with a new book and flag contract for the coming year. Friday, the Chapter will display the flags on Main Street in honor of Jaycee Week.

The week-long celebration will culminate on Saturday evening with the Eighteenth Annual Distinguished Service Award Banquet which is open to the public. The Jaycees will be recognizing members of the community for their service as well as presenting the Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Barton Fields, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, will be the featured speaker of the evening. Reservations for the banquet and prayer breakfast can be made at the Jack Horner Shoe Store or by contacting any member of the Jaycees.

Need news from YOU

Now that the Susquehanna Times and the Mount Joy Bulletin have combined, the new paper has more space in which to print news.

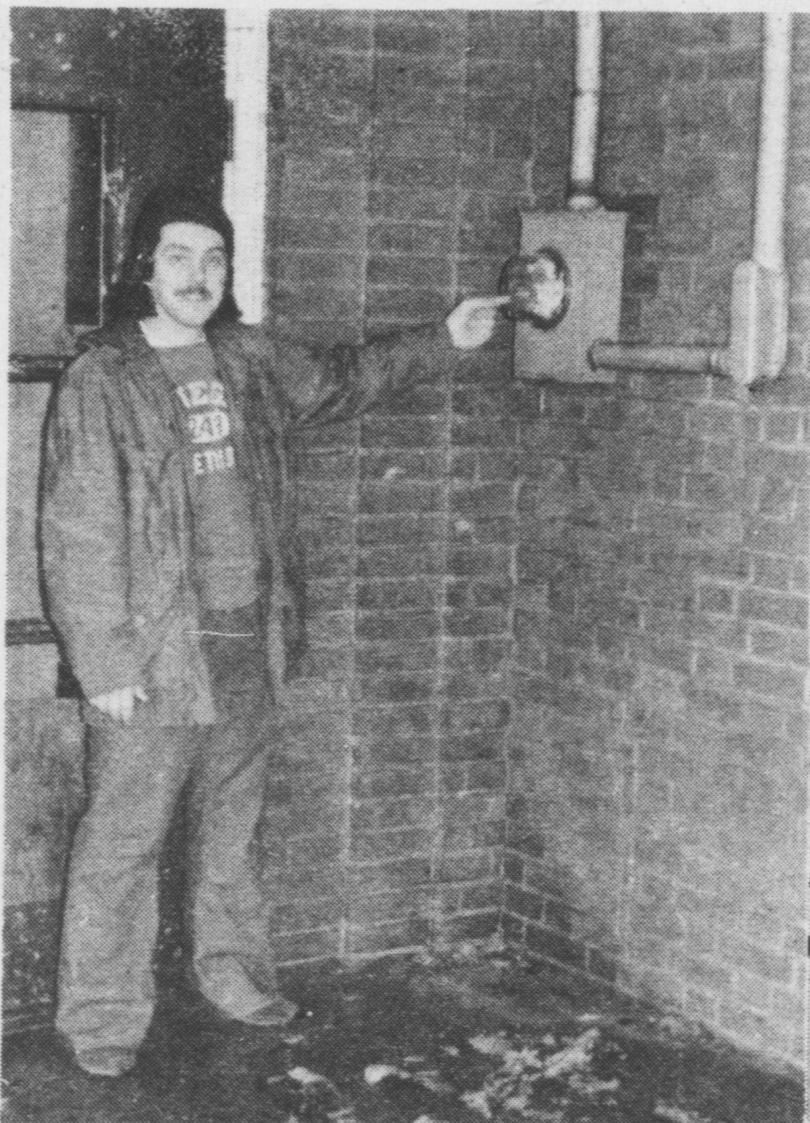
We, the editors, want to encourage readers to send us news items about themselves, their families, friends, clubs and churches.

We can't promise that all news received will be

published as soon as we get it. Sometimes we still have more news than we can print in one issue, and we have to save some of the news for a later edition.

We want you to send us news that interests you, because you are one of our readers, and we want news that interests our readers.

Marietta J-Cs work at ecology, rec center



Rick Smedley, Jr., points to meter and electric line Jaycees installed in old Marietta school.

Last Saturday the Marietta Jaycees were at the old Marietta school collecting waste paper and old glass as part of their ecology drive.

Rick Smedley, Jr., described progress on renovating the school as a recreation center for Marietta.

The Jaycees have completely re-wired the school. Breneman Electric Company was generous in helping the Jaycees in their work.



Rick Smedley, Jr., and Bill Sload unloading citizen's waste paper and glass in ecology drive.

Outside, a basketball and volleyball court are almost ready for use. A tennis court will be the next outdoor project.

Jaycees who have donated a lot of time to renovating the school are, besides Pres. Smedley: Bill Sload, Sam Zuch, Butch McCarty, Donald Pickle, Jr., Bill Hyseck, Jay Risser, Gary Kline, and Dick Sipe.