

Free Press Feature Page

Letter from India

Drill well for Tibetan refugees Dalai Lama visits Rev. Bruce Eaton

Many in Acton are interested in the work in India of the Rev. Bruce Eaton, whose parents lived here. Here is an informative letter he sent back home.

Tibetan Refugee Resettlement Centre, Mendoo, North Khasi District, Mysore State, India.
December 12, 1967.

Dear Friends:

It is over six months since we last wrote to you and we hope you will forgive us for the long delay. Many interesting things have happened to us during that time. We won't have space to tell you about all of them, but we hope that you will notice from what we do tell you, that "God has been good to us."

A major problem for all missionaries is getting a satisfactory education for their children. We are happy to report that the schools our children are now attending seem to be the best possible in this country. Greg and Kim went into boarding schools last February. Then in April, Jean took the younger children to Ooty (Ootacamund) where she rented a house and was with them during their holidays. Toward the end of June she decided to remain there longer when the principal of Lushington Boys' School (where Greg now attends) asked that she become a teacher. So, since July she has been teaching three full days a week. Half of this time is spent on individual piano lessons and the remainder on classroom work. She plans to continue with this work until the end of March, until a former music teacher returns from New Zealand. Richard and Elizabeth have been attending St. Hilda's Girls' School as day scholars since June. The school bus calls for them daily. In September, Kimberly left boarding school and goes regularly by bus with the other two. Baby Andrew is about the only one not in complete agreement with this arrangement and even he does not mind too much since there is a very kind Indian lady who looks after him while Mommy goes to school. He is now fifteen months old and can get into mischief more quickly than anyone can get him out of it. We especially appreciated the time he reached the window ledge just above his head and pulled over a large mixing bowl of small frogs and tadpoles and green slime. He looked like some was nipped. Have you ever tried to scoop up a boy's precocious tadpoles from the dining room floor with a tablespoon?

The school year in Ooty ended about November 22nd. Three days later, the family left and came to live with me at the drilling camp. We are living in a tent about twenty feet square and since it is quite cool here now, rather surprising, roughing it is no problem. The rig is busy drilling wells to supply drinking water for the camp which is under construction. There are about 600 Tibetan refugees here and another 1000 are expected shortly. The Dalai Lama visited the camp yesterday and he had a big smile for the baby and a few minute conversations with Bruce while watching the drilling operation. Enough wells are needed that the rig will probably stay here for a couple of months. However, I will leave the operation in the hands of the Indian crew I have trained and go to Indore with the family, arriving a day or two before Christmas. We will stay there for about a month, when we shall dispose of a lot of things we have accumulated in the past five years and pack up the good stuff prior to going home on furlough. By February 1st the children will return to school in Ooty, with Jean, and I will come back to the drilling operation. I should hasten to add that I have been able

to visit the family for a few days about once every month. AFPRO has been very considerate of our needs for each other as a family and has insisted on this as a minimum. Lately, we have been only about 600 miles apart and it takes less than 24 hours to go this distance by air, train and bus. The biggest problem has usually been to reach a stage in the work where the trainees could carry on while I was away. The Indian crew still has a lot to learn about something new every day since no two wells are ever exactly the same.

Since my last letter was written to you from Bihar, you may be wondering how I happen to be writing to you now from a place in Mysore about 1500 miles away. Many of you motorists can picture the trip we took to get here. Picture a 20 ton drilling machine mounted on a ten-wheel truck followed by a 3-ton truck pulling a 2-wheel mobile workshop followed by a utility jeep pulling another trailer on which is mounted a two-ton mud pump unit followed by a jeep pick-up truck pulling a luggage trailer piled high with personal effects of the 10-man crew. While this caravan is capable of moving at 40 m.p.h. it rarely gets the chance to exceed 25 since the national highways are often only one lane wide and constantly used by other trucks, cars, ox carts, cattle, buffalo, goats and people. What is most exasperating is that most people are not inclined to move over and let you pass unless it's absolutely necessary. It is said that many defective cars are on the roads in India, but while a foolish driver might get along without brakes, he would never think of trying to drive without a horn. Perhaps it is because our rig has an air horn that sounds like a diesel locomotive's whistle that we average 150 miles per day on a trip like this. I am sure that it is also because we seek God's blessing and protection every day that we have managed to move this outfit over 3500 miles without killing anybody. Remembering that there are a total of 30 running tires in the caravan hungrily gobbling up nails a flat tire every 15-20 miles is not a bad average.

For various reasons, the re-

Farm representative to attend meetings

Over the strong objection of Reeve H. H. Hinton of Acton, a motion to have a representative of the Halton Federation of Agriculture attend all future meetings of the Agricultural Committee of Halton County was passed at County Council. Only Reeve Hinton opposed.

Reeve Hinton claimed that asking members of organizations to county committee meetings as representatives was beyond the scope of county council members and has never been done.

Dputy-revee Eaton of Acton pointed out that the representative would be an advisor, with no vote and no pay.

Reeve W. Coulter of Nassagaweya felt that the Halton Agriculture Representative Henry Stanley had too much to do to attend committee meetings. "Agriculture is one of the most vital industries in the county, and we would be well-advised to have an advisor from the Federation."

"The farmers need all the help they can get," opined Reeve George Currie of Esquimaux. "We could do with advice."

in the Bihar operation were being spectacular. When the monsoons (rains) stopped our work in Bihar, AFPRO decided to move the outfit to Andhra Pradesh. Although Bihar received the most publicity, many other parts of India suffer from equally bad droughts every year and usually have less ground water available even when they work hard to reach it.

On our way to Andhra Pradesh, we stopped in Nagpur while we made side trips to Indore, Jabalpur and Bombay for additional supplies. While some went for supplies, others on the crew were busy drilling wells to meet some local needs. Among these were a large mission hospital, a ladies' college and an orphanage. The fact that we had to push on without drilling for about 15 other parties in Nagpur, indicates how much the service that we render is wanted. Our work in Andhra was part of a government exploratory scheme to provide water for irrigation. After drilling a few holes it became evident that the 400 feet depth that we were able to reach was not sufficient for their purposes and that the soft strata encountered did not require an expensive air drilling machine like ours. It was decided to move the operation to Mysore where its services were urgently needed. Although Mundgod is not marked on most maps, you may be interested to know that we are about 100 miles east of the former Portuguese colony of Goa which is on the west coast of India.

It comes as a shock to some to discover that we charge about Rs. 30 per foot for the holes we drill. The price charged for drilling is calculated to cover all operational costs such as labour, fuel, repairs, etc. and depreciation as well. By recovering the cost of the machines over a 5-year period sufficient money should then be accumulated to replace the equipment when it is worn out. By this method, the original cost of roughly \$100,000 is made to benefit a large number of people over a long period of time. We believe that this policy would meet with the approval of most of the thousands of individuals who contributed money for purchasing these machines in the first place.

The one thing that is absolutely free is the time and services of myself and many others like me. This is possible because folks like you continue to support the work of our Board of World Mission through your gifts to the Missionary and Maintenance Fund. You might be interested to know that in a program like this the big limiting factor is finding personnel able and willing to do this sort of work. Money to buy more equipment is easy to find by comparison. What a pity that there are probably hundreds of people disaffected with the boring jobs they have in Canada but too timid to accept the challenge of a difficult but satisfying job like this in a foreign country.

Five years have passed since we first arrived in India. We are now enthusiastically making plans to start homeward next April. On the way we are planning a camping trip through Europe. As well as seeing some historic places and having a bit of a holiday, I hope to visit some drilling operations and manufacturers of drilling equipment while we are there. Our financial resources are quite

limited so if any of you have suggestions on how to get the most for your money on a trip such as this we would like to hear them! We are in the process of purchasing a Volkswagen Micro Bus which we intend to bring to Canada with us. Since our family includes 5 active children we feel sure that whatever else it might be, it won't be a dull trip.

At present we are thinking of spending our furlough year in Kingston, Ontario, where I hope to study more Geology at Queen's University in order to do my job better when we come back.

Before closing I would like to comment that our experiences in India have deepened immeasurably our faith in God and appreciation of His abundant love and mercy. We especially want to share this with you because we know that what we have experienced in India is also available in Canada or any other part of the world. While our environment and problems are different from ours and at times may seem dull and hopeless, the Resources which He makes available are adequate for us all and the things He is able and willing to do for us are beyond our wildest imaginations until we give Him a chance. After tasting these experiences one begins to understand a little better what Christ was referring to when he said, "I CAME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY." Our wish for each of you at this Christmas season is that this might be an opportunity for God to draw closer to you personally and share with you more abundantly the LIFE which He offers to us all. If you would like to make it easier for Him to do this then tell Him so and begin to ponder anew the happenings in the New Testament and especially the counsel Jesus gives us in the Sermon on the Mount.

May God Bless each of you as richly as He has blessed us.

Sincerely,
BRUCE AND JEAN EATON,
GREGORY, KIMBERLY, RICHARD, ELIZABETH AND ANDREW.

P.S. - We felt the recent earthquake but it did no damage near us. One advantage of living in a tent!

Equal education prime objective

Education Minister William Davis' white paper on the re-organization of school jurisdictions included the following list of "objectives" for the change.

The prime objective behind the proposal to establish County Boards of Education is the desire to provide equality of educational opportunity for every child in the Province of Ontario. Inherent in this objective is the necessity to offer a total school program to meet the needs and interests of the student and to provide for the great variety represented by individual differences in ability, background and experience. At the present time, some jurisdictions are unable to do so because of the limitations imposed on them by too small a student population, too small a geographic area, too narrow a tax base, and the like. These limitations make it impossible to offer a wide range of educational programs, to secure adequate help in special areas, to plan on an overall basis, or to coordinate special services. It is with a sincere desire to overcome these difficulties and as a result to make possible the opportunity for each child to attain the maximum potential of which he is capable that the changes have been planned.

At the elementary level the larger unit will permit the boards of education to give consideration to the provision of a comprehensive range of programs including kindergarten, music, art, guidance, physical education, science, home economics and industrial arts. A total program may also include types of classes to meet the needs of students with special talents or handicaps. In each of these areas it will be possible to have teachers with special qualifications and abilities devote all, or at least a large portion of their time to the area of their special competence.

At the secondary level a comprehensive school program incorporating a wide variety of academic, business, technical and special vocational courses leading to all types of further education or to gainful and satisfying employment is the objective under every board of education. To meet the needs of students at all levels, it is possible to provide the special services of qualified personnel in the areas of audio-visual, libraries, guidance and special education.

An increasingly important aspect of educational development in the future will be the provision for sound planning. Each of the new boards will be capable of meeting this requirement because it will have the organization to secure the information, data, statistics and other knowledge which form the basis for sound decision-making at the policy level. They will be capable of assuming the degree of autonomy required to meet the needs of their particular areas and the problems peculiar to the local situations. The Department of Education is most desirous that the new boards

exercise this degree of independence. At the same time, the Department will provide its resources in personnel to assist the boards in every way possible. It is anticipated that the placing of educational decision-making at the local level will promote the development of innovative practices and will permit greater initiative on the part of professional staff in the jurisdiction of the board. Where it is possible to have these conditions, experience has shown a high degree of commitment to the role of creating, implementing and evaluating the programs offered in the schools.

A third area of importance is the provision for an equitable distribution of educational costs which larger units make possible. At the present time the many and extreme variations in local tax support for education require a complex and highly sophisticated grant structure to try to compensate for these inequities. Within the new school divisions the local cost of education will be supported by a broader tax base of reasonable stability and predictability, thus reducing many of the variations within the local unit. It will then be possible to revise the grant structure to provide more adequately for such variations among the larger units as may still exist in terms of financial ability to support a total educational program.

Farming Frontier '68

WHAT IS THE ROAD AHEAD FOR AGRICULTURE?

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On the Future of Farming Practices and Safety at:
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
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Refreshments — Prizes
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R. Cooksley chairs industrial group

Head of Halton County's industrial promotion committee for 1968 is Ronald J. Cooksley, director of industrial development for Oakville.

Calvin McIntyre, clerk of Nassagaweya Township, is the vice-chairman this year. The two officers were elected at the county committee's first meeting of 1968. Mr. Cooksley is a former chairman of the group.

Euchre winners at Crewsons Corners

Winners at the euchre at L.O.L. Hall, Crewsons Corners, were W. Britton, Sylvia Williamson, Mae Fountain and Marjorie Hall. Lone hand prize went to W. Britton. Door prize was won by Mrs. Shaw.

Two-faced

To be called two-faced is a bit of an insult, but two sets of eyes would be convenient on our high speed roads. We could see traffic both ways then, without taking our eyes off the road. But even two sets of eyes are useless, if your car windows are frosted up. Clear vision is essential to our safety on the highways, so clear off the frost before you start, and always drive with some fresh air coming in.

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