

Photo Coll # 532
Tape # 2317

2001-076

**The People We Meet,
The Gifts We Exchange**
MCC Overseas Services
(23 min. 45 sec.)

(Prepared by MCC Canada Overseas Services/Information Services)

by Paul Myers
Helen Penner
J. M. Klassen
Leona/Peter Penner
Bert Lobe
Stuart Clark
Pat Hostetter Martin
Larry Kehler
Earl Martin
Isbrand Hiebert

1. **The People We Meet** (Peruvian music)
The Gifts We Exchange This presentation focuses on the people with whom the 496 MCC workers overseas share, work, live and learn.
2. **A Parable on** (flute) 8 secs.
Development
- Paul Myers
3. Road in Dacca The other day I was cycling in Dhaka along the very muddy tracks which appear alongside all the roads as soon as there are a few hours of dry weather, ...
4. Bangladeshi cyclist when shortly after the ferry I came up to a very old man riding a very old bicycle. At that point the road was good and I passed him.
5. Bangladeshi in Lungi He wore the traditional dress of the working man in this part of the world, an old shirt and lungi, and was carrying some kind of huge load in a sack on his shoulder.
6. Muddy road When the road became difficult, as it is with the occasional tightrope passes with a muddy ditch on either side and water of undetermined depth on the other, he passed me; and no matter how hard I tried, I never caught up to him.
7. Bangladeshi cyclist He sailed along effortlessly, his feet flat on the pedals; and he hardly hesitated at any difficult bend. He seemed to have time to look around and was taking all in his stride, unlike me, who hesitated at every hurdle and often dismounted to pass some awkward place.
8. Mud I never had time to look around, and one glance away and I was in the mud.
9. Paul Myers on bike There was I on my new bicycle, tires at just the right pressure, chain correctly adjusted; I don't suppose he had any brakes even, I thought.
10. Shaduf irrigation Of course, he was doing it all wrong, he should have had his toes on the pedals, not his flat feet; and what a wreck of a bike. After about three miles he disappeared into the future and I never saw him again.
11. **International Visitor** (Singing - "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord"-
Exchange Program -twice-) 10 secs.
- Helen Penner
12. Globe The MCC International Visitor Exchange Program provides opportunity for each of us to share ourselves, our work, and our home. Young people come to North America for one year from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

13. Singing From the moment they arrive the recognition of being One in Christ becomes the spirit of the year. The language of music and the language of Christian love are international. Singing draws us together.
- ("Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love")
14. Patricia It is a year of learning through real life and work experiences. The visitors have different skills and interests. Patricia from Colombia is learning new skills in the kitchen of a Bible College. There are farmers, x-ray technicians, teachers, child-care workers or secretaries,
15. Esther and persons like Esther from India who is furthering her training in architectural design. Some are mechanics, carpenters, gardeners and horticulturalists, and persons with computer knowledge.
16. Daphne Some come with an interest in the nursing field, like Daphne from Holland.
17. Leah In India alumni of the exchange program reflect on their experience in Canada and the U.S.A. Leah Sanwani says, "it left me changed, it opened doors".
18. **The East and the West** (Moscow choir singing) 18 secs.
- J. M. Klassen
19. Kremlin To emphasize the great distance God has put between us and our transgressions, the Psalmist says "as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us". (Psalm 103:12). In MCC, we use the terms east/west to denote the two major power blocks in the world today. Sadly enough, ...
20. The Capital each of these power blocks seek to have a military advantage over the other. There is a great distance between them.
21. Cemetery It is not God's will that one part of His creation seek to overpower the other part. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)
22. Orthodox Church The problem is compounded when, what should be, the supranational church allows itself to be divided along national and ideological lines.
23. Church in Canada MCC attempts to build bridges of understanding between the churches and people of east and west.
24. Seminar Exchange visits, where representatives of the east and west visit each other, ...hear each other,
25. Congregation share their understanding of God's word,
26. Moscow Baptist express care and concern for each other, ...

27. Meal and together work towards peace, are small attempts to bring Christians of east and west closer together
28. Peter Dyck & Klimenka and to encourage both to urge their respective governments to work for peace.
29. **Faith and Hope** (African music) 8 secs.
-Peter & Leona Penner
30. Peter & Leona Our work as MCC country representatives for Swaziland and Mozambique brought my husband and I into contact with many church leaders
31. Church leaders whom we looked to for advice and guidance not only on a program at table level, but also for inspiration and encouragement on a spiritual level.
32. Eunice at phone Eunice Sowazi, general secretary of the Council of Swaziland Churches, is a woman with courage, vision and energy. She impressed us with her ability to articulate and live out her faith. She was not afraid to speak out on behalf of South African refugees living in Swaziland, even though doing so was unpopular and dangerous.
33. Refugees She said that all of us are potential refugees and we may be the ones needing help tomorrow. Mozambique, bordering on Swaziland, is a Marxist country in the grip of a severe drought and civil war.
34. Men at dockside Again, we were impressed with the way in which church people lived out their faith. Rev. Mahlalela, in the centre of this picture, worked with the Christian Council of Mozambique, the agency through which we did our work. When he met with government officials, he often began by saying that the most important work of the church was to make believers out of all people, but secondly, they wanted to assist the government in its efforts to reconstruct the land and to improve the standard of living of a suffering people. It amazed us that he could so openly express his faith in the presence of Marxist freedom fighters
35. Soldiers some of whom were seasoned freedom fighters during the war of independence and, until recently, had repressed the work of the church.
36. Peter, Leona & Mozambicans Pastor Litsore and Father Carlos, in the centre of this slide, were well-known throughout Mozambique for their love and compassion, and for their simple courage. They were willing to suffer physically for the sake of their congregations and did not let the risk of terrorist attacks deter them from looking after the needs of of their people.
37. **Exchanges With China** (Chinese Spring of the Li Jiang) 10 secs.
- A.C. Lobe
38. J. M. Klassen at pump Just as J.M. Klassen drank deeply in Madhya Pradesh, India, in March of 1978, so to do the Chinese wish to drink deeply of things western.

39. Bob Kreider "It is like a dam", came the metaphor from Lu Zhongou, President of a large engineering university.
40. Foreigners sign "Earlier in our history, foreigners banged our doors down. Today we open the doors without foreign pressure. We need your foreign teachers."
41. Bob, Hershey & Lu "It's like we have been in a room for a long time and the air is stale," one young intellectual told us. "It's time to open the window and let in some fresh air. Of course, some flies will also come into the room and they might bother us a bit, yet the fresh air is worth having a few flies around."
42. Eve Sommerfeld teaching ... and so we send teachers.
43. Students Students are attentive.
44. Atlee Beachey We meet people like Professor Zeng who studied at Goshen College in 1981. Reflecting on the suffering which occurred during the Cultural Revolution he once said that to survive "what you needed was the nerve to stand the strain and then the courage to forgive". In 1984 his daughter, now studying in Wales, gave Atlee Beachy a treasured pen, which she had won in a relay race. Her only words to Atlee were, "You were kind to my father, I want you to have it".
45. Tip O'Neil We met Tip O'Neil, speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington, inside the forbidden city in Beijing.
46. Children And children.
47. Old man And an old man in remote Ya'an.
48. Church And people in the church on Palm Sunday. Over 4,000 churches and temples have been reopened since 1981.
49. Temple In this Taoist temple we found an ancient couplet from the Yuan Dynasty, which read "be loyal to God, and love the people".
50. Zemin We met Stephen Lee's uncle, vice-president of the seminary in Nanjing.
51. Bearded pastor And an 87 year old pastor with his granddaughter, after the church service on Palm Sunday morning.
52. Old man sitting "How good it is and how pleasant for brothers to live together! It is fragrant as oil poured upon the head ... It is like the dew of Herman falling upon the hills of Zion ..."
53. **Nepal: A Meeting Place** (Flute) 12 secs.
- Stuart Clark
54. View looking north towards the Himalayas Nepal is a meeting place. A meeting place where the highest mountains in the world to the north

55. View from the hills towards the plains meet the fertile Ganges plain in India.
56. Weaving lady A place where India meets China in a fusion of the two great tribes of Asia -- the Aryans and the Mongolians.
57. Foreigner & Nepali studying terraces For MCC it is also a place where we meet and work together, not only with Nepalis, but also with German irrigation engineers, Japanese school teachers and other fellow Christians working under the United Mission to Nepal.
58. Nepali man But some of the best meetings take place at times when we have done something difficult together with the Nepalis themselves. Meet Prem Bahadur, my guide and mentor on the steep trails of Nepal. Prem is a member of the Tamang tribe, one of the seven major Tibeto-Burman tribes in Nepal. He works as a guide and porter for the United Mission.
59. Mountain trail On several of my 7-10 day field trips into the far flung rural development projects of the United Mission, Prem helped to carry our supplies and to show me the way.
60. Mountain trail One day after a three hour climb of a 2,000 foot valley wall, Prem asked me if we had ghosts in my country. The evening before we had been late on the trail and at one point were followed by a glowing light which he told me was a light ghost.
61. Nepali man sitting I told him that there aren't any ghosts in our country. He thought for a moment and replied that my country must be a very lonely place. It seemed a strange answer, but as I reflected on the trail during the next day I realized that it was an important statement. Perhaps in our desire to accept only what we can explain we have lost something of the supernatural. Prem had given me a gift by helping me find this again.
62. **Kampuchea: The Pain of the Past** (Violin, machine gun) 11 secs.
- Pat Hostetter Martin
63. Map When MCC went to Cambodia, also known as Kampuchea, in 1981 we came to know suffering
64. Graves (machine gun) Close to two million people were butchered by Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. There are mass graves like this throughout the country.
65. Craters From 1970 -1973 virtually every village in Cambodia was visited by an American B-52 bomber. Those craters became the graveyards of Cambodia.
66. Artificial limb People lost limbs.
67. Fred Kauffman The remnants of the war are everywhere in evidence.

68. School kits We sent school kits -- almost 150,000 of them to the school children of Cambodia and the children loved them.
69. Im Setty We sent notebooks. We met Mr. Im Setty, former school teacher and now an official with the Ministry of Education.
70. Louise Buhler Louise Buhler and others helped distribute the notebooks and school kits.
71. Fred with rice Canned beef was distributed to refugees returning to Cambodia from the border, and rice for the people who build irrigation canals.
72. Concrete work We shared cement and iron.
73. School building We helped rebuild schools. MCC paid for the roof materials, while the community built the rest of the building.
74. Dr. Martin Mennonite doctors from Dhamtari, India, came to train and to treat.
75. Fred in field But still the war goes on and there is not enough food. And while some Vietnamese soldiers go home ...
76. Military celebration military strength is celebrated and paraded each year on Liberation Day.
77. **Refugees: In Search
of a Home** (Guitar) 13 secs.
- Stuart Clark
78. Khmer with child They call us strangers, outsiders, foreigners, non-belongers
79. Salvadorans in
hammock Often the people around us don't want us here. They imprison our fathers, abuse our mothers and send their army men into our camps to kill us.
80. Vietnamese in camp We want to go home but we are not allowed to. We sit here waiting for the time when we can go back.
81. Khmer border camp
with straw roofs While we wait we need help to survive. We don't ask for mansions, but we do need roofs.
82. Milk being made up We don't demand our mother's food, but only enough to keep until tomorrow.
83. Colomancagua camp We must have water even if only once a day from a truck. And here on the Honduras/El Salvador border we need the presence of international workers to stop the army from killing us.
84. Khmer woman Sometimes the place we used to call home is gone, changed forever and we must flee. My name is Kim Tho. For four years I served the MCC workers and other westerners as official translator in Cambodia.
85. Khmer woman with
MCC worker I know Bert & Martha Lobe, Fred & Minh Kauffmann and my good friend here, Louise Buhler. Life became so difficult in Phnom Penh that I decided to leave. It was difficult and painful to say goodbye not knowing when, if ever, I could return. I crossed the bridge and now I can't go back.

86. Khmer woman I must find a new home. Perhaps you can help me to find a place in Canada.
87. **Philippines: Faith or Ideology?** (Music) 4 secs.
- Earl Martin
88. Claver In the Philippines Bishop Francisco Claver, a friend of MCC workers, reminds us that you cannot have love without justice.
89. Cross Claver makes clear distinctions between faith
90. Hammer and sickle and ideology.
91. Jim Kurtz In the southern Philippines, Jim Kurtz, a male nurse, lives in the village of Esperanza. he treats the sick, serves as a dentist and teaches others in this revolutionary setting.
92. **Lebanon: Enemies and Friends** (Flute) 5 secs.
- Larry Kehler
93. Nabatieh Nabatieh, South Lebanon, a city of 35,000 ...
94. Enemy's hill lies under the watchful eyes of an enemy faction's gun emplacement on a nearby hill ...
95. Market scene but even though shellings and snipings occur frequently and a dozen or more people die from the shooting every month ...
96. Butcher shop life in Nabatieh goes on.
97. Burkholder family MCCers Jill & Bob Burkholder ... and their three lively boys, Benjamin, Kris and Daniel, live in Nabatieh ...
98. Burkholders with Lebanese They relate to their neighbours and to the people in the surrounding villages, trying to understand and give a sense of hope to the Lebanese as well as to the Palestinians, whatever their religion.
99. Classroom They also support and encourage literacy teachers and ...
100. Student drawing pattern students who are learning to become seamstresses ...
101. Hair salon and hairdressers.
102. Jill with 2 women Their home has an open door, and many neighbours, Christians as well as Moslems, drop in to visit.
103. Group of men The Burkholders also visit in other homes and they have become close friends with farmers, business people and community leaders ...
104. Bob with map When he has learned to trust them, Bob helps selected journalists to gain a better understanding of tormented Lebanon.

105. Rock garden In one large refugee camp the MCC dove and cross have been placed like a signature across the front yard of a school, indicating the community's friendly acceptance of MCC.
106. **Indonesia: The Church at Work** (Chimes) 8 secs.
- Earl Martin
107. Family on bicycle On the island of Kalimantan in Indonesia MCC works with Pippka, the mission board of the Indonesian Muria.
108. House Living in very isolated settings ...
109. Baptism Luke & Dorothy Beidler helped nurture believers.
110. Paul Bucher While Paul Bucher searched for ways in which to help farmers grow more food.
111. School Their children attended school in the village.
112. MCC workers Mark & Janice Bauman and Steve Caldwell help new settlers clear their land, get gardens planted and establish a water purification system.
113. Pak Djojo MCC works closely with the church in Indonesia. MCC supports the seminary in Pati, Central Java where young leaders are trained by persons like Pak Djojodihardjo.
114. **India** (Indian music) 5 secs.
- Paul Myers
115. Lemuel R.S. Lemuel, director of the Mennonite Christian Service Fellowship of India, brings Mennonites together for fellowship and service projects.
116. Sushil Sushil Khakha from Bihar ...
117. Work camp helps plan a work camp ...
118. Young people for Mennonite youth in India.
119. Nurse Mennonite hospitals serve in word and deed. We share gifts of soap, blankets and bedsheets with them each year.
120. **Kanadier** (Paraguayan Harp) 9 secs.
- Isbrand Hiebert
121. Horse drawn buggy In 1975 MCC Canada organized a Kanadier Committee. Its task was to communicate with our Mennonite brothers and sisters who had chosen to leave Canada in the 1920's and 1940's
122. Family to begin a new life in Mexico, Belize, Bolivia and Paraguay. Today there are some 100,000 conservative Mennonites living in these countries.

123. Teens MCC seeks to develop channels of communication, often through visitation, with these brothers and sisters.
124. Youth By relating to the young, by visiting with the older people ...
125. Brick building by visiting their churches, and their homes.
126. Editor Die Mennonitische Post is edited and published in Steinbach, Manitoba by editor, Abe Warkentin. it is sent to 6,500 subscribers in Mexico, Belize, Bolivia, Paraguay, United States and Canada.
127. POST newspapers The Beilage fuer Mexico is printed in Mexico, particularly for the Mexican Mennonite population there, but it is shared more broadly with Kanadier Mennonites in Paraguay, Bolivia and Belize as well.
128. Bookshelf Wholesome Christian literature, published in both the German and English languages is made available to the Kanadier Mennonites.
129. Isbrand with pictures A pictorial history of the Kanadier Mennonite people is being prepared in the Steinbach office of the Mennonitische Post.
130. **A Poor Man's Cry** (no music) 5 secs.
- A. C. Lobe
131. Subir In Calcutta we met Canon Subir Biswas. He talked about building islands of hope in Calcutta.
132. Poem On the walls of his Cathedral we read "A Poor Man's Cry".
133. Streetperson I want
A home for me
Not a beautiful city;
134. Billboard To know, be aware, read and write
Not build a college for the elite.
135. Peasant woman with children I want
Dignified work to do.
Not be an undignified statist for you;
136. Young mother Food on my plate
Not a land reform debate.
137. Farmers' hands I am
Educated though illiterate
138. Indian medical team Wise though ignored.
Powerful though without money and status.
139. 2 Asian women Beautiful though socially deformed.
And I am your Equal.
140. Credits - MCC Canada (guitar)