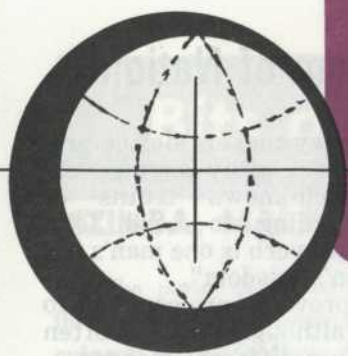




MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION — BOX 157, LAVAL BRANCH P.O., LAVAL, QUEBEC H7N 4Z4

Mission of the Christian Community

Evangelization will be understood properly when it flows out of the living Church, when every local Church considers itself a mission station. Each local Church is in fact the manifestation and focal point of the whole Body of Christ.

The little Churches of the New Testament were far from perfect as may be gathered from Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Young in the faith, they were made up of people from heathen backgrounds. Nevertheless, each Church was a light to those about it.

In early times, the amazing spread of Christianity was largely due to the witness of ordinary Christian folk. After all, the apostles themselves were ordinary,

weak, human persons. But Christ called them to be his apostles — Peter, blustering and tactless, James and John, rash and ambitious... They were people like ourselves and yet Jesus entrusted them with his Gospel. Tremendous odds were ranged against their little band, but neither the might of Rome nor the very powers of hell could hold them down. Ordinary lives, like yours and mine, became extraordinary in the hands of the living Christ.

Today, it is our turn. We must take to people around us the Good News of the power of Christ to change lives and make them new. Christ Jesus died for all. He loves all people and he wants us to convey his care for them and win them to him.

JUBILEE IN HONG KONG AND DAVAO



In Hong Kong, the Silver Jubilee of religious profession of Louise Buissières, M.I.C., was highlighted by the Eucharistic Celebration offered by Bishop Lemaire,



formerly of the Manchuria mission. Numerous Sisters and friends attended the ceremony. Refreshments were afterwards served in the school library. Centre: Toasting, Louise Buissières, M.I.C.

In Davao, P.I., friends and acquaintances of Madeleine Alarie, M.I.C., organized an inspiring celebration in honour of Sister's twenty-fifth anniversary of religious profession. Centre: Mgr Mahutas who presided the ceremony; left, Madeleine Alarie, M.I.C.

Happy Memories

A bulky parcel was deposited at the receptionist's office at our Saint Joseph's Hospital in Vancouver. What could it contain? Imagine the Sisters' surprise, when upon opening it, they found the following letter:

Eve of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph
March 18, 1974

Dear Reverend Mother and Sisters,

In 1956, I was a patient under your care. What warm memories I have of my first exposure to Catholicism! Twelve years later, I became a convert.

The cake is for St. Joseph's feast day, the roses are for Our Lady, the bottle of wine in the box of roses is for Father. I hope you will accept my gift.

Sincerely in Christ.

A friend with happy memories

MALAWI

Flora Goes to School

by Marie Paule Gaudreau, M.I.C.

I first met Flora when visiting some families in a bush village. Although seven years old, she appeared to be about four. Her twisted legs, the result of malnutrition, could not bear the weight of her body. The father was an alcoholic and the poor mother tried in vain to make both ends meet.

Unusually bright and receptive, Flora wanted very much to go to school. But the family could not afford to pay the usual fees. My thoughts travelled back to my dear Canadian friends who had promised to help me out in my mission projects. Their prompt and generous response enabled me to pay Flora's school fees as well as those of her eleven-year-old sister, Dinalese.

Now, Dinalese comes in every day carrying her crippled sister pickaback. They are among the most studious pupils in their school.

When the mother heard that I was leaving for my furlough, she came with customary African politeness, to offer me a gift — a live hen. This she meant as a token of gratitude. It would have been an insult for me to refuse although I



knew that there was not enough food at home to go round.

Later on, when Flora has become physically stronger, we may be able to get something done for her legs. Meantime, she is enjoying every minute of her days at school.

Wisdom of Nations

Dictionary makers define proverbs as short pithy sayings expressing well-known truths or facts. According to Lord John Russell, "a proverb is one man's wit and all men's wisdom".

Some proverbs are common to all nations although they are often expressed in a different manner.

Can you find English equivalents to the following Chinese proverbs?

*It is difficult to put back spilt water.
You cannot catch the tiger's cub
without venturing into its den.*

*What the whole world thinks is what
God thinks.*

*The longest journey begins with a
single step.*

*Each morsel of time is worth 1,000
golden coins.*

Tennyson once described proverbs as "jewels, five words long, that on the stretched forefinger of time sparkle forever". Such a description seems to fit Japanese proverbs more particularly. They are brief condensations of popular wisdom. See if you can find English equivalents.

*Even monkeys fall down from trees.
Who can teach a fish to swim?*

*With too many captains the ship
lands on a hill.*

Negligence is enemy No. 1.

Don't look for a fish in a tree.

Youth Civic Action Program in Davao

DAVAO, Philippines

Since about one year and a half ago, the new Society in the Philippines has effected many sweeping changes notably felt in the field of education. The inclusion of the Youth Civic Action Program (YCAP) in the secondary and collegiate curriculum aims at involving Filipino youth in the growth of a healthy society. It further allows them to test classroom learnings in real settings besides affording them the opportunity of contributing in community development. Other good results have been produced. One of these is cooperation among three community groups: namely, govern-

ment officials, teachers (including the religious working in schools), and parents in the task of educating youth. Worthy of special mention, is the program implemented in Heart of Mary Academy, a MIC school in Mati, Davao.

YCAP is organized under the Municipal Program Co-ordinating Council (MPCC). All civic as well as religious organizations of the town, and public and private schools are mobilized to work with the town mayor, who happens to be a dynamic woman, and the other officials. To facilitate the supervision of students, the whole town is divided into sections called *puroks*. All projects are organized

through the MPCC. Among these are: sanitation and beautification, home gardening and, whenever possible, fish culture. Every Friday afternoon the students perform their YCAP assignment in the *purok* to which they belong and a teacher is assigned to check their work. On the following Monday, each supervising teacher submits a grade or report for each student. Likewise, the student is asked to make a report of what he or she has accomplished that afternoon. The parents get involved by attesting that their child really did some work on that assigned day. Because of this system, school administrators are happy to note that parents usually encourage their children by working themselves either by tending plants or by keeping their surroundings clean. With this initial step it is hoped that further activities will strengthen the bond of unity in the community at large.

ANCUD, CHILE

We hope to solve a problem

by Marie Paule Charbonneau, M.I.C.

Even a cursory analysis of the religious situation in Chile shows that 96 per cent of the population is baptized and yet knows very little about faith. Although nearly all insist on baptism for themselves and their children, Christ Jesus and his Gospel have practically no impact on their daily lives. The Chilean religious sense seems to find its best expression in externals such as processions, visits to the cemetery, votive lights, flowers offered before statues of favourite saints... Religiosity has the upper hand on faith. It was while searching for a solution to this problem that our plan for family catechesis came to life. Our chief aim was to penetrate the core of family living. We wanted to encourage adults to think over the significance of their own baptism, to get personally involved in Christ. Only thus can they hope to become authentic witnesses of the faith.

Being very fond of their children, Chilean parents are willing to accept any sacrifice in order to have them make their First Communion. So we planned on making the time spent in preparation to this great event, a time of christianization for the parents. Why? Because experience has taught us how perfectly useless it is to instruct the children if the parents do not live up to their obligations.

PROCEDURE

Every week, fathers and mothers meet in small groups under the

guidance of trained catechists. The latter direct the conversation to subjects relating to practical daily occurrences: worries, problems, joys, sorrows. These realities of life are then discussed in the light of the Gospel. Gradually, the people begin to discover the tracings of God's plan of love in their own lives. Once back home, they try to communicate to their children, in a familiar way, what they have learned. Even older sons and daughters grow interested and put in their word. The whole family is slowly being christianized.

On Saturdays, there is a friendly gathering of the little ones supervised by the catechists. All enjoy playing and praying together, then listening to a simple talk which stresses a facet of the teachings of Christ.

After two years of this kind of work with the parents and the children, takes place the great celebration of First Communion. Carefully prepared by all, it is enjoyed by the entire family.

Now, let us interview Casilda about her personal experience as catechist with seven neighbourhood mothers.

— I'd like to know what were your initial reactions to the movement, Casilda.

— Frankly, I have to admit that I was not at first overly en-

thusiastic about the project. Of course, I wanted Claudio to make his First Communion. What Chilean mamma doesn't? But I imagined it was the teacher's role to prepare him. I was at a loss to know how to explain things to him myself. Little by little, however, I grew accustomed and I really enjoyed teaching Claudio. The parents' meetings helped a lot. At the beginning, Nelson, that's my husband, did not want to be bothered. He just sat there and read his paper. A few weeks passed, and he started throwing in a remark of his own once in a while. Then one day, he set down his paper to look up a text in the Gospel. Now, he is all attention and even helps me over the more difficult passages.

— How about being a catechist for other children?

— Fine! I would love to share my newfound happiness with others.

— Do you think there are other advantages in belonging to the movement?

— Thanks to it I have made many friends. Before I belonged, I felt alone, unable to cope with seemingly impossible problems. Now, I feel better able to assume my responsibility as a Christian. With prayer and faith to bolster me, I am ready to go all out for God.



TAIWAN

Rex is not always as gentle as he looks. He can bark furiously at any one who trespasses on our grounds. But Tsoen Mei is not afraid. She knows how to coax him into friendly behaviour. The two are the best of friends. Which goes to prove that love can and does win over evil.

FAMILY FESTIVAL IN MADAGASCAR

Formerly, it was known as the Festival of the Queen's Bath. That was in the days of the monarchy, when a queen governed the Island much as a mother rules over her household. On July 14 of every year her Majesty, accompanied by her maids of honour, went for a dip in the waters of Lake Anosy. On this occasion families throughout the Island staged great rejoicings.

Royalty has vanished from Madagascar, but the festival remains as a family celebration. Several days ahead, merchants, butchers, bakers, flower vendors do flourishing business in every city and town. Family reunions are the order of the day. Married children return to their old home to honour parents and grandparents. Visits are paid to friends, benefactors, teachers. Civil and religious officials are not forgotten. It would be a serious breach of etiquette to fail expressing appreciation for their services.

Children whom distance has prevented from being present at the family banquet are sent a portion so they will not feel left out. Before the reunion breaks up, parents usually give their offspring the benefit of a *kabary* or lengthy discourse, replete with wise admonitions and salty advice.

This family festival expresses the inborn sense of brotherhood and sociability which characterizes the Malagasy. Relatives like to call on one another so as to strengthen the bonds of affection. Malagasy proverbs stress this sentiment: "All who walk the earth need to feel the hand of a friend," "What a sorry sight is a lone tree standing by the roadside."

Malagasy hearts yearn after sympathy, demand solidarity. Many homely proverbs illustrate this fact. "A bird stranded on a desert isle, desperately flits to and fro: the friendless child stumbles in the dust." "At least one helper to cook one's food; at least one friend to warm one's heart." "With only one finger one cannot kill lice."



JAPAN

Scout Movement in Koriyama

Born in Auburn, Maine, U.S.A., Lucille Adam, M.I.C., entered our Congregation in 1946. She left for Japan in 1951. A missionary in Japan for 23 years, Sister is presently on home leave in Canada and the U.S.A. visiting her mother aged 90, and other members of her family. While in Koriyama, Sister taught English to primary and secondary school students and fostered the Guide movement among the pupils of our Xaverio School. In the following lines, she tells us about the movement which she considers an excellent means of apostolate among the young and among their parents.

The Guide movement in our Xaverio School in Koriyama owes its initial organization to Rita Martel, M.I.C. Our Sisters who had been forcibly repatriated during the war returned to Koriyama in 1946. The country was feeling the aftermath of what amounted to a national disaster. People were poor and desperately in need of an ideal.

A good number of our pupils enrolled in the Scout movement, and we soon had our own packs of Brownies, proudly functioning. When Sister Rita was forced to return to Canada on sick leave, I gladly took over her duties as Leader. This was one of my best experiences in Japan. I was most happy to share in the activities of my Brownies and to encourage them in doing their *ichinichi ichizen* daily Good Turn. During the past fourteen years we trained about 350 Brownies. A different theme was chosen every year. This year's theme was the star and its symbolic significance. The following paragraphs were written by the girls themselves explaining the idea of the theme.

STARS IN KORIYAMA

Can you believe it? We, the Koriyama Brownies, have lately become stars or children of light if you prefer. What an honour for little girls like us! You are probably wondering how all this came about. Well, on the day we made our Brownie promise, our Guide Leader suggested that we become like so many stars different, of course, from the real stars in the sky at night. We would have to do our shining during the day. But, who ever saw stars twinkling in the sky when the sun is shining? Sister Lucille explained how this could be done. We would shine like so many stars by our Good Turns, by making others happy.

How bright and cheerful our homes are going to be, if we Brownies shine by our Good Turns and our good humour! Before we parted, Sister handed each one of us a booklet shaped like a star. "It will serve as a reminder," she said.

Dear friends, if ever you should see a star shining during the day in America, you will know that it comes all the way from Japan. A certain Brownie probably did some special Good Deed on that particular day!

Would you like to meet our Leader whom we love with all our heart? She has lived in Japan for over twenty years. Here she comes. We will let her tell you how much she enjoys living here.

"Dear friends, I do love Japan and have been very happy here, with such kind and gentle people. My Brownies hold a very special place in my heart. I have been promoting the movement for more than fourteen years. If, at times, I was tempted to leave this responsibility to others it was because I had more work than I could do teaching English classes. In Japan, classroom schedule keeps us busy even on Saturdays, at least part of the day. On Sundays, our time is taken up with religious and social activities. As teachers we have very little leisure.

"I have often asked the mothers of our pupils to take over the direction. Although they are eager to help in a material way, they counter, 'We want to assume our share of responsibility. But your share is the most important. You alone can awaken in the hearts of our children a Christian sense of living.' This is what encourages me to keep on, in spite of difficulties.

"Our Brownies are faithful to their daily Good Turns, and their parents encourage them and feel proud of their doings. Last year, in the sultry heat of July, they bravely stood at street corners asking alms for their African brothers and sisters in the throes of famine. Thanks to their efforts, a good round sum was sent to UNICEF. As long as there are generous hearts like theirs, I will be happy to be their Leader."

Lucille Adam, M.I.C.

Bits out of mission life

MZIMBA, MALAWI

The parish of Mzimba, situated at the northern tip of Malawi, has twelve outposts served by three priests — two White Fathers and one African secular priest — and ten catechists. The latter who have had three years of sound doctrinal training are precious auxiliaries to the priests. Even the remotest corners of the bush have heard the Good News. Every year from 150 to 200 catechumens join the great Christian family.

But even so, our 6,000 Christians and 4,000 catechumens cannot all be reached by the catechists. Lay apostles must do their share. School teachers and ordinary village folk have accepted to take charge of certain groups of catechumens in their own or in neighbouring villages. A catechism in Citumbuka has been prepared together with simple Bible commentaries adapted to the various liturgical seasons. After taking part in a Bible Sharing, the volunteer catechists disperse, armed with their books, to teach catechumens in the bush villages.

This good work has now been going on for three years. In order to ensure its continuity, we have thus far issued over 150 copies of brief biblical commentaries which help the people translate the Gospel into their daily living. Those who are literate cheerfully teach the illiterate. They are true apostles among their own. Moreover, this plan has enabled us to discover leaders among our Christians.

What is done in Mzimba is done also throughout the diocese which already has 12 thriving Christian communities. The Church here is in its Spring but it is full of hope in the future.

Marie-Paule Gaudreau, M.I.C.

TAIWAN

I would like to write oftener, but there never seems to be any time left.

Funny how it does fly! With the summer months, I will have more courses to give, in catechetics this time. These are the courses I like best. Every day, I will teach a group of pupils from the city schools, besides preparing a First Communion class. May I ask you to pray for these children that they may grow strong in the Faith?

Odile Malboeuf, M.I.C.

MADAGASCAR

Our wish to do something for the parish where we are stationed has at last been realized. The pastor has invited us novices to teach catechism to the children and to the adults. We will also give lessons to the women in culinary art and in sewing.

The village is situated a short distance from our Novitiate. There are about 100 Catholics who for the most part are non-practising. This village has really been too long neglected. The majority of the inhabitants are Protestants, the minority Catholics.

Our first meeting with the adults was encouraging. After a short prayer and the usual introduction, participants were invited to express their desires. As is the custom here, older people were the first consulted: dadabe, the grandfathers, ramatoa, the women, rangahy, the men, and finally the young people. All said they wanted to learn how to sing hymns, to say the prayers, to study catechism. The women stressed their need to have lessons in sewing.

Later, we novices also played hosts to a group of fourteen Guide leaders from Antsirabe, accompanied by four priests. The theme of the meeting was, "Peace begins with you". We had a lovely day. The young people expressed the wish to come again. We told them we would be delighted to have them with us.

Mathilde Isabelle Raheliariosa

ZAMBIA

Until now, many rural centres have been woefully neglected. This year, however an intensive development plan has been launched which is destined to improve the lot of poor farmers. I am personally interested in twenty-three of the latter from Chikungu who have organized groups of community farms. Just now, I am trying to get the authorities to sponsor a project to provide the country folk with drinking water, passable roads facilitating the transportation of harvests, and better housing. Of course, the first condition is that the farmers will help themselves all they can. The old saying remains true, "God helps those who help themselves."

Evelyn O'Neill, M.I.C.

KORIYAMA, JAPAN

Troubled with arthritis, Sister Igarashi finds it hard to walk especially during the cold months. She receives warm sympathy from her six-year-old pupils.

All kinds of small treasures are brought to our chapel to ask Jesus to cure Sister. Notes and little paper birds are found strewn around the altar. The following note was found on the altar. It read: "To Jesus. We are living happily every day, hoping that Sister Igarashi's leg will be cured. We will not fight any more. Please give your graces to all the poor children of the world so that they can be happy. Amen."

Janet Delisle, M.I.C.

CATAVI, BOLIVIA

We are trying to reach as many Indians as we possibly can. In this area there are about 250,000 who are without any medical assistance whatsoever. Whenever the doctor who helps at the hospital is on duty at Catavi, I visit some of the the most distant villages. The roads are very bad but my tough little jeep gets me through. There is so much to be done that my days always seem too short. Thank you for your friendly interest in my work.

Suzanne Labelle, M.I.C.

O Bon Matsuri - Lantern Festival

Japanese Buddhists hold the annual festival of Obon or Lantern Festival, in honour of the dead, for three days beginning July 13. Ideas and customs associated with the festival may appear strange to the Western mind. To the Japanese people, however, the spirit world is very real and very close. The dead continue to form part of family life. They still need the affection and the respect of their children and of their kindred. To neglect them would be cruel. And hence Obon Matsuri.

During these three days, cemeteries in Japan are transformed into scenes of deep religious devotion. Members of devout Buddhist families attend to the graves of their dear departed. Prayers are offered before the tombstones, flowers are arranged in vases, and incense is burned on small stone altars.

Customs differ according to districts. In certain parts of Tokyo, the head of the family burns pieces of dry hemp reeds in a basin, in front of the house, on the evening of July 13. This is meant to light the way for the souls of ancestors. When the fire dies down, the spirit guests are supposed to have entered the house. In the livingroom, in front of the miniature family temple, the table is set for their entertainment.

They are greeted with the formula, "Here you are. We are very glad you have come for a visit."

In rural areas, the reception is much more realistic than in the city. People talk familiarly to the spirits. Housewives are kept busy, cooking special dishes for the entertainment of their ghostly visitors as well as for the living members of their families.

In the evening of July 13, a dish of white rice dumplings is placed on the table as offering to the spirits, so they may carry the food with them on their return journey. The head of the family once again lights the entrance of the house with the burning of hemp stalks. Colourful lighted lanterns swing from every house door. Cities or towns have a touch of fairyland. Brilliant fireworks are displayed in open spaces, close to the main shrines. Scores of people, young and old, perform folk dances in rings, singing lustily late into the night.

The term Obon is derived from a Chinese word meaning a religious service for the spirits of the dead. According to tradition, the festival goes back to Mokuren, one of Buddha's ten disciples. The custom came to Japan from India, via China, towards the middle of the seventh century A.D.

PROBLEM No 4

2 Letters
AT
TO

3 Letters
ALE
BAT
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SEA
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4 Letters
AUTO
BOAT
CLUB
COKE
KICK
LAKE
LAWN
RIDE
SHOE

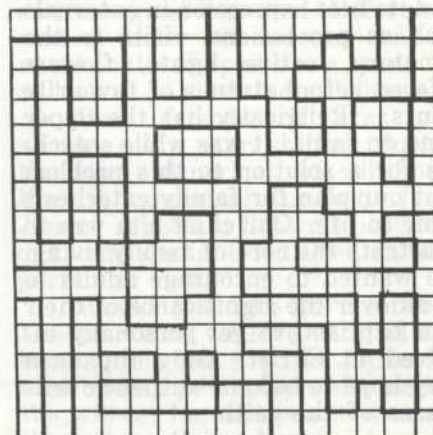
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5 Letters
CLIMB
CREEK
ENJOY
LUNCH
MOTOR
YACHT

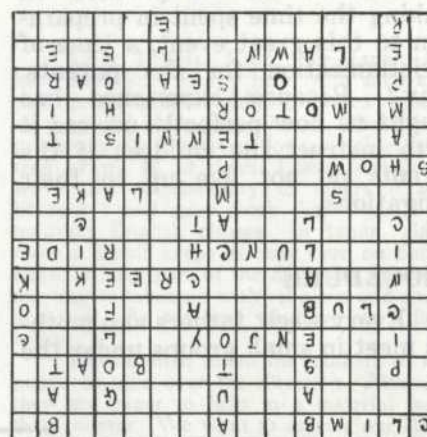
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GOLFER
HAMPER
PICNIC
TENNIS

7 Letters
CAMPERS

8 Letters
BASEBALL

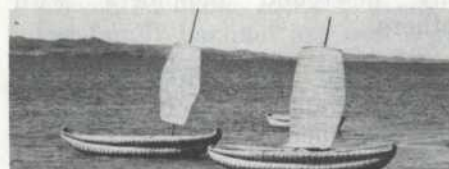


SOLUTION



GUATEMALA

Did You Know That



... although Guatemala has been a Catholic country for over 400 years there are only about one hundred native priests for the entire country?

... over fifty per cent of the population of Guatemala are Indians, descendants of the people living in Central America before the arrival of the Spaniards?

... the Indians of Guatemala have retained their customs and mode of dress, speak their own languages, and live to a great extent in the same manner as did their ancestors?

... the beauty of Indian dress is in the textiles and embroideries, not in the style? Except

for the trousers worn by the men of some tribes, each garment is practically made when it leaves the hand loom. A hole is cut in a straight length for the head; a few stitches taken at the sides to make a woman's blouse. Skirts are wrapped tightly about the waist. ... the son of an Indian family is supposed to work with his father in the field when he becomes twelve or fourteen years old? That the father should send his son to school beyond the primary level is practically unheard of. Not many people in Guatemala get higher education. Around sixty-five per cent are illiterate.

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