



Mennonite Library & Archives Fresno Pacific University

MB Mission work in Paraguay

An Inventory of Records

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Creator: MB Mission

Title: Records of Mission work in Paraguay

Inclusive dates: 1931-1995

Quantity: 6 linear ft.

Record Group No.: A250-11

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mennonite missionary work among the Lengua Indians of Paraguay began in 1935, when representatives of the various Mennonite conferences in that country (including the Mennonite Brethren) founded the mission organization "Licht den Indianern" (Light to the Indians). The first North American Mennonite Brethren missionaries to join this work were Bernard P. and Susanna Epp, who went to Paraguay in 1937. As early as 1943 Licht den Indianern officials requested that the Mennonite Brethren Board of Foreign Missions assume responsibility for the work, which it did in November of 1945.

In 1946 the Paraguayan program was expanded to include work among the Chulupí Indians. Jacob H. and Helen Franz were the first North American Mennonite Brethren missionaries to work among these people. During the 1950s projects were undertaken among the Toba and Ayoreo (Moro) Indians as well.

By the early 1970s Mennonite Brethren Missions/Services had begun to scale back its level of activity in Paraguay. Today Licht den Indianern is the joint project of the Mennonite churches in the Fernheim and Neuland colonies of Paraguay, though Mission/Services continues to send missionaries to assist the programs there.

Prior to 1967 the Board of General Welfare and Public Relations (Record Group A260) shared responsibility for the Paraguay work with the Board of Foreign Missions. Many of the individuals sent to Paraguay from North America went out under the auspices of General Welfare. After the merger of these two boards in 1966, Mission/Services took full responsibility for the North American part of this program.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This subgroup includes minutes, reports, correspondence, historical accounts, clippings, publications, news releases, financial reports and maps regarding the association of Mennonite Brethren Missions/Services with Licht den Indianern in mission work among Indian tribes of Paraguay.

LANGUAGES APPEARING IN THE COLLECTION

Most material in this subgroup is in German.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1

Series I: Minutes and reports

- Minutes/Reports/General Correspondence 1931-1976
- Misc. Correspondence 1955-1957
- Misc. Correspondence n.d.
- Leadership Correspondence (6 folders)
- Field Reports 1973-1986
- Evaluation Reports
- Budget Report
- Finance Reports (10 folders)
- Annual Progress Report

Box 2

Series II: Individual files

- Bergen, Horst Uwe
- Born, Henry C. and Ester 1980
- Duerksen, Martin 1947-1949
- Enns, Albert and Annie 1956-1991
- Epp, B.P 1946-1949
- Falk, Gerald 1985
- Franz, J.H. 1949-1970
- Garay, Mario
- Friesen, Gerhard and Mary
- Giesbrecht, Gerard B. 1936-1976
- Hein, Gerhard and Irma 1961-1976
- Isaak, Jacob 1944-1961
- Isaak, Kornelius 1952-1965
- Jantzen, Miriam 1961-1966
- Janzen, Henry and Bertha 1986-1995
- Klassen, Ann 1961-1979
- Labum, Clarence 1963-1965
- Lepp, Tiena 1952-1954
- Magis, Hector
- Martens, Henry 1967-1969

Martens, Mary Ester 1960-1976
Neufeld, Abe and Irene 1981
Neufeld, Edith 1971-1988
Neufeld, Alfred and Wilma

Box 3

Series II: Individual files (Continued)

Neufeld, H.P. 1967-1968
Pankratz, Hans and Irene 1974-1985
Penner, Walter and Marie 1953-1954
Plett, Rudolph 1963-1985
Rennert, Walter and Irene 1954-1958
Siemens, Nickolaus 1944-1948
Stobbe, Paul and Janet 1983-1985
Toews, Victor and Anna 1952-1955
Veron, Juan and Elfrieda
Villalba, Angel
Villar, Ezequiel
Wall, John and Friede 1974-1977
Warkentin, Melvin and Gudrun 1977-1997
Wiens, Hans 1953-1982
Wiens, Hans and Susan 1981-1989
Wiens, Lucille 1968-1970
Missionary Correspondence 1975-1982

Series III: Subject files

Paraguay Conference
German Association
Paraguay Administration
Paraguay Convention

Box 4

Series III: Subject files (Continued)

Education 1977-1978
Schools 1962-1972
Evangelism 1981, 1991
Thrust Evangelism 1973-1985
Protokoll
"Licht Dem Indianern" History
American School
Asuncion Christian School
Core Plus Projects
Evangelism
German Mennonite Brethren
Instituto Biblico de Asuncion
Media News Release 1968-1980
Prayer Letters
Publications
News Paper Clippings 1946-1976
Maps
Scholarships 1972-1986

Medical Programs 1968-1971
Theological Workers Course 1972-1986
East Paraguay Radio Project 1981-1987
Other Historical Accounts
MB Conference 1971-1982
Theological Education
Colegio Alberto Schweitzer 1976-1985
Indioner Baratungs Behorde

Box 5

Series III: Subject files (Continued)

Licht den Indianern (10)
Paraguay 1985-1989
Paraguay Misc.
Paraguay General
Paraguay

Box 6

Photographs

Agriculture
Baptism
Boards and Committees
Buildings
Camp Rancho Algres
Churches
Evangelism
Funerals
Indian Settlements
Indigenous People
Licht den Indianern
Medical Meetings
Conferences
Music
People
Radio
Schools
Transportation
Vacation Bible School
Women's Ministry
Slides