by Elma Hershberger
and Lydia (Mrs. Charles) Shank

Dr. Lillie Shenk Kaufman departed from this life unexpectedly on February 13, 1971, after having undergone surgery the day before. The operation was successful, but within twelve hours complications set in which the efficient physicians could not remedy. They were deeply grieved, for they had highly esteemed Dr. Lillie.

On July 1, 1964, Dr. Kaufman retired from medical practice, but continued to help friends, relatives, and neighbors with some of their medical needs. She wrote prescriptions, ordered medicines, gave shots, took patients to doctors’ offices, and to the Goshen Hospital. Whatever needed to be done at the moment, she gladly did.

As deaconess of her Sunday school classes for six years, Dr. Lillie was a most faithful visitor to the sick, the lonely, the bereaved. She wrote many comforting messages to shut-ins.

Shortly before entering Elkhart Hospital as a patient, she assisted in the Blood Bank Donor’s Day. She enjoyed services of this type. It was a time to meet friends and to work with colleagues.

Dr. Kaufman attended the Mennonite Medical Association meetings last August at Harrisonburg, Virginia. She was deeply interested in the work of the Association and the younger doctors who are filling the ranks.

Lillie Shenk Kaufman was born a twin at Elida, Ohio, June 13, 1899. She attended the public schools of that community until she was ready for her senior high school year. At this time she transferred to Goshen College Academy, Goshen, Indiana. During most of her years of schooling she worked to help earn educational expenses.

Though Dr. Lillie didn’t speak...
about it until later, she had made a commitment of her life to God to be a medical missionary at the age of nine when her great uncle J. A. Ressler, on furlough from India, visited in the Shenk home and spoke of the great needs among the Indian people. At that early age she wanted to help relieve some of the sufferings of the people in India. This meant years of hard work and study, yet Dr. Lillie kept her commitment.

Dr. Kaufman studied at Goshen College, Bridgewater College, and at the University of Virginia. In June, 1930, she was graduated from Woman's Medical College (now called The Medical College of Pennsylvania) in Philadelphia, Pa. She did her internship at the Woman's Hospital in Philadelphia, after which she had high hopes for going to India as a medical missionary. But her examining physician advised her to wait until she was stronger. He felt that due to the rigors of medical school she was hardly strong enough for the India climate. This was a great disappointment to Dr. Lillie, but she accepted it as God's will and resigned herself to the physician’s decision.

In the fall of 1931 Dr. Lillie accepted an appointment to serve as a physician at Laurelton State Village near Allentown, Pennsylvania. Here she filled a big place as she worked with girls who needed both physical and spiritual help.

Next came the call to serve as pioneer doctor in Tanganyika, now Tanzania, Africa. The Eastern Board asked her to serve until they had a medical doctor ready to take over. How did the Eastern Board find Dr. Lillie? She always believed that it was through Bro. J. L. Stauffer who rode the same train from Washington, D.C., to Harrisonburg, Va., as did Dr. Lillie and her twin sister Lydia when they were en route home for the Christmas season. The three had had a fine visit.

Dr. Lillie said that when the call came in 1934 to serve in Africa she knew at once that this would result in action, and that it seemed like more than she could attempt, yet she knew that it would be wrong to refuse. She turned to God's Word and read 2 Chronicles 15:7—"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded." Then in the New Testament she found another promise. "For this is what he says in the book of Hosea: 'The people who were not mine, I will call 'My People.' The nation I did not love, I will call 'My Beloved.' And in the very place where they were told, 'You are not my people,' There they will be called the sons of the living God' " (Rom. 9:25, 26.)

On October 2, 1934, Dr. Lillie was appointed to serve as a medical missionary in Africa. Preparations for going overseas were begun at once. The Eastern Board arranged for her to study tropical diseases in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This was a valuable experience. After eleven weeks of study, Dr. Lillie sailed from Genoa, Italy, for Africa. At Shirati, Tanzania, she pioneered a medical work on the eastern shore of Lake Victoria. A clinic had been opened there in early 1934 by Mrs. John Mosemann.

The long train journey from the coast to Lake Victoria was broken by a valuable and much appreciated visit to the Africa Inland Mission medical station at Shinyanga. Here she met Dr. Nina Maynard who had spent a number of years building up a sizable hospital, a leprosarium, and an orphanage. It was a smoothly running medical center that cared for hundreds of patients. Not only was Dr. Lillie an observer, she was also able to assist Dr. Maynard with some surgery. It was a personal introduction to some of the problems typical of medical practice in Tanzania. It also gave her opportunity to work with competent personnel trained on the spot, and to see what could be done with limited supplies.

Dr. Lillie arrived at Shirati late on a Saturday afternoon and was scheduled to begin work Monday morning. But later Saturday evening she was called to see her first patient. A boy had developed severe abdominal pains. That first patient was Kawira, now Pastor Nashon of Shirati. (It was quite fitting that his son, Manaen Kawira, could serve as one of the pallbearers at Dr. Kaufman's memorial service.)

In anticipation of the coming of a doctor the local people had built two mud and wattle huts with thatch roof for very ill patients who would need to stay. A third one was designated for maternity cases. First one and then two rooms of the first building built on Shirati station were used for the clinic. The third room was used for the

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Leadership Conference in New York City

Paul N. Kraybill, executive secretary of the Mennonite Christian Leadership Foundation, has announced plans for a Conference on Faith in the Third World, July 5-17 in New York City.

The conference is for persons who have worked or will be working in overseas or stateside urban settings and want to feel the hurts of the “third world,” persons in a radically different culture. They will have opportunities to face the needs and feelings of minority group members, drug addicts, as well as U.N. personnel, social and welfare agency workers, and urban congregational leaders. They will have a chance to discover how the believers’ church works at problems and finds the will of God in new cultural settings.

Resource persons from a variety of backgrounds will lead discussions and “exposure groups.” Paul M. Gingrich, acting director of church relations, Goshen College, will direct the conference and Dale Stoltzfus, program director of Mennonite Action Program, will be program and academic coordinator.

Among those lecturing will be: Ray Keim, social worker at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center, Elkhart, Indiana; Myron Augsburger, evangelist and president of Eastern Mennonite College; Jack Shepherd, former missionary in China and director of Jaffray School of Missions, Nyack, N.Y., now pastor of a Christian and Missionary Alliance church in Cranford, N.J.

Other resource persons will be John Eby, assistant professor of sociology, Eastern Mennonite College; Harold Miller, missionary on furlough, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Richard Pannell, pastor, 7th Avenue Mennonite Church, New York City; John A. Lapp, executive secretary, MCC Peace Section; and Richard Detweiler, bishop and chairman of Franconia Mennonite Conference.

The New York seminar, initiated in 1969 by MCLF, in its first year was the World Evangelism Institute. The conference this summer is the second under the Foundation’s sponsorship.

Invitations will be extended through mission and service agencies of the Mennonite Church. Eastern Mennonite College and Seminary have agreed to give two hours of college or seminary credit for the two-week course of study.

The MCLF has rented the eleventh floor of the New York Theological Seminary at 233 E. 49th Street for the sessions.

The conference is limited to thirty. More information is available from Mennonite Christian Leadership Foundation, P.O. Box 264, Lancaster, Pa. 17604, or Dale Stoltzfus, 2720 Kingsbridge Terrace, Bronx, N.Y. 10463.

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FOR THE RECORD

British Honduras...

Marian Lands has terminated her study of Spanish in Costa Rica and returned to Belize City on May 2. She has resumed her assignment as midwife and nurse.

The reading room on North Front Street in Belize City is now open to the public. The colonists use the room frequently when they are in the city. The young people use it on Saturday evenings.

A craft class for girls twelve years and older was begun in April by Elsie Bowman and Betty Burn, a national member. Eight girls were present at the first meeting. They are learning to crochet.

Norman Hockman, missionary in Honduras, was scheduled to be the speaker for two weeks of evangelistic meetings in British Honduras, June 5-19. Richard Bowman, pastor of the Belize City congregation, said, "As we are participating in an Every Home Crusade, June 5-19 will be a good time for a concentrated expression of the church's commitment to witness."

Ethiopia...

Christians in Addis Ababa, including Eastern Board missionaries, have set up a telephone counseling service in Amharic and English. They want to provide a listening ear to people who want to talk to someone about their personal problems.

Graduation exercises for Good Shepherd School were scheduled to be held

Rexville, N.Y. Pray for West Union summer Bible school, July 19-30.

Albany, Ga. Pray for several new seekers who are hungry for deeper fellowship in Christ.


This was in October 1959. In Goshen Dr. Kaufman carried on what was supposed to have been a limited practice but soon was more than she had anticipated. She closed her office on July 1, 1964, but continued helping those who could.

Brother Norman and Dr. Lillie entertained many missionaries in their home, friends from Africa, India, and elsewhere whom they had learned to know in their years of service. It was a special pleasure to welcome into their home nationals from Tanzania and India, persons with whom they had worked, and their children.

Brother Kaufman died on July 31, 1966. Two years later Dr. Lillie moved to Greencroft Villa. Here was a new field of service which she enjoyed as she participated in the activities of the residents.

After a life of dedication, concern, and service for others, a love for her Lord and the church, He called her home to enjoy the glories prepared for His saints.


Honduras...

After three weeks in Honduras, the Dave Warfel family went to Costa Rica where they plan to spend four months in language study. The Extension Institute of the Honduras Mennonite Church began classes in February with fifteen students enrolled. Miguel Lopez and Efrain Padilla are the instructors for the institute classes. They meet weekly...