

an angle

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The attached article on "Yakima Youth Build a Future" appeared in the April 1963 issue of the World Call magazine, international monthly of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) with a circulation of 75,000.



Ramona Tecumseh, center, was queen of the Sugar Beet Festival, Harrah, Washington, this past fall. A good student, she is the daughter of Chief Tecumseh, left. At right is Clifton L. Peightal, minister of the Log Church.

YAKIMA YOUTH BUILD A FUTURE

STORY and PHOTOS
by LEE STILES

YAKIMA Indian young people, like all other American youth, have their problems in this rapidly changing world. But Disciples of Christ are helping them face the future with a greater confidence, and many are becoming mature, responsible Christian leaders.

The development of Christian leadership has always been a major goal of the Christian Churches in their work at home and abroad.

The importance of this work is nowhere more readily

seen than in the home mission ministries to various racial, ethnic and minority groups in the United States and Canada.

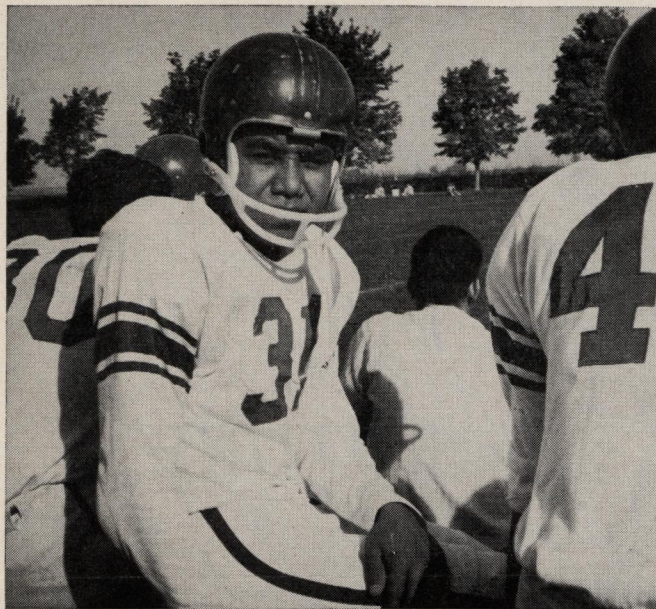
Another aim of Disciples at home and abroad is to go into work and maintain it only as long as there is a real need for that work. And as Christian leadership is developed and the endeavor becomes self-sustaining the churches are always ready to move aside and put their money, staff and equipment to work in areas where they are sorely needed.

Through forty-three years of work, Disciples—through The United Christian Missionary Society—have learned many lessons. They have, for instance, seen that Christian leadership can best be developed

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Edgar L. Fox, business manager of Yakima Indian Christian Mission in White Swan, Washington, also serves as minister of the Valley Christian Church at Wapato. Here Mr. Fox, left, discusses church problems with Joe King, a member of the congregation. The Valley Church, a recently established congregation, and the older Log Church at the Mission are rapidly becoming focal points for a changed emphasis in the historic Disciples of Christ ministry to the Yakima Indian people.





Allan Luke is president of the Christian Youth Fellowship at the Log Church and is active in sports at White Swan High School. Allan is the brother of Jackie Wapato, seen in the middle of the photo at the bottom center of the page. His father, Ed Wapato, is chairman of the board at the Log Church.

with the assistance of stable, Christian homes. When such homes were not available or were located too far from the home mission center, boarding homes were built and maintained.

Today, however, with super-highways and new insights into social service, increasing emphasis in home mission ministries is being placed on maintaining a stable home atmosphere in which to develop leaders.

RIGHT—Jackie Robbins, cheer leader at White Swan High School, is an excellent student and is active in the Log Church, where she is an officer of the CYF. She hopes to go to college. Her mother was the last girls' dormitory housemother and is on the Mission advisory board. A younger sister, Carol, is active in Chi Rho at the Log Church.

RIGHT, CENTER—Jackie Wapato is seen at the center of this photo, facing camera. She is a member of the marching Pep Club of the White Swan High School. Jackie is the daughter of the chairman of the board of the Log Church. Her sister, Marlene, is at the left with her back to the camera. Indian youth have found a real place in the public schools and have been able to compete well with other youth.

FAR RIGHT—This boy in the church school kindergarten class at Valley Christian Church, Wapato, Washington, may be a future Christian leader in his community. Through the kindergarten program, Indian children at a young age are helped to overcome any deficiencies they might have suffered through inadequate home life, and many go on to public schools on an equal footing with the other children.



William G. Clark, right, director of the Yakima Indian Christian Mission near White Swan, Washington, talks with a member of the Honor Guard after the Sugar Beet Festival parade held last year in Harrah, Washington. The Mission seeks to work with church and home in helping the people.

But for the grace of God, this young man could have left school long ago. He might even now be a victim of the many social evils which afflict Indians at all age levels, not the least of which is alcoholism.

We cannot say that these young people do not have problems and will not have them. We can say, however, that at least they have had the chance. At least the church has provided the Christian atmosphere, influence and opportunity, and more and more youth are taking advantage of what is offered to them.

Indian Youth Are Leaders in School and Community

Often this means working with the entire family and assisting in every way possible.

Results of this changing emphasis are already being seen in the churches' work through the home mission ministries department of the United Society among the Yakima Indians in Washington state.

For more than forty years Disciples maintained a boarding home near White Swan for Yakima Indian children, and during that time some leadership developed. However, those children who remained within the environment of their own natural homes and were nurtured by it and the church have developed and are continuing to develop into sound, stable Christian leaders. This is especially true where the homes were soundly Christian.

That is not to say, of course, that everything was completely satisfactory at home. In very few homes anywhere is the ideal to be found. All families have their problems.

In 1962 the home mission Christian service center near White Swan made a major shift in emphasis when it ceased being primarily a home for neglected Indian children and became a center from which its staff could serve the whole family and the entire community.

The two Indian churches—the Log Church near White Swan and the Valley Church at Wapato—are rapidly becoming the focal points for this changed emphasis. The center, then, becomes an important arm of the churches, providing facilities and personnel to augment the work of the churches.

The importance of this work may be seen in the kindergarten program. There Indian children learn such fundamental skills as how to draw and color, how to recognize colors, how to use scissors, and how to get along with other children. They have stories read to them, also. Therefore, when they enter public grade school they have reached much the same level of development as the other children and are not held back.

The changing emphasis can produce results! These may be seen by a look at the youth who are living at home and are regularly attending activities at the churches and the center. On these pages are examples of youth who have been nurtured in home and church. As a result, they are leaders at White Swan High School.

Too often in the past, Indian children would not be prepared for public school and, consequently, would be forced to repeat a grade many times or just be passed on to become a problem for the next teacher.

Such is not the case with these youth. They are evidence that nurture at home and at church is important if Christian leaders are to be developed.

Shown on these pages are Christian young people in various positions of leadership, demonstrating that Christians can live in this world and be a vital influence on those around them. One Indian youth, not shown here, is ranked at the top of his class academically, was captain of the football team this past fall, and is president of the senior class. This is true in a public school where competition of Indians with others is strong.

Dedication In Mexico—

New Witness in a Growing City

By ROBERT H. McNEILL

DEDICATION services were held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on January 22—under warm, sunny skies—for the new quarters of the Morelos Social Center. The center houses a church-related community service program near the heart of this thriving city of 130,000.

The center is the only settlement house in the community. It is an expression of the concern of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) for the needs of the people.

Courtney Swander, the center's director, said that it apparently is the first time in the twenty-nine-year history of the center that so many governmental, civic and business leaders had attended a program at the center. More than 200 persons were present.

Hopes were expressed for the continued expansion of the center and the center's program, which serves 800 to 900 persons a week. In earlier years the center had housed a school and a church. The congregation which was started here now worships in its own building a block to the east. The churches also operate a hospital in Aguascalientes, having dedicated a new plant about a year ago.

GREETINGS were brought by Porfirio Arellano, executive assistant to the governor of the state, and by Francisco Guel, mayor of Aguascalientes. Other guests of honor included the federal district judge, the head of the juvenile court, and an army colonel representing the Aguascalientes federal military zone.

The officials joined Mr. Swander and Miss May E. Wilson, retired director of the center, in ribbon-cutting ceremonies to open the building. They also inspected the rebuilt front section of the adjoining Morelos Library, which is also a church-supported service.

Both buildings stand on Madera Avenue, one of the city's main thoroughfares. They have a common entrance and a high fence with tall metal palings. Both are one-story cement buildings of modern design with panels of unpolished, pink-tinted stone above and below the large windows. The stone was mined northwest of the city.

Because of his knowledge and experience in settlement-house work and his leadership in community affairs, E. G. Luna was called from San Antonio, Texas, to deliver the dedication address. Dr. Luna is director of Inman Christian Center, one of the three most highly rated centers in Texas.

Dr. Luna said that the beautification of the center and its removal from an old building is in harmony with other developments in the city. He complimented the center's director and its architect and builder for wisdom and intelligence in planning. He said the building erected in Aguascalientes for \$12,000 would cost at least five times as much in San Antonio.

"The program is not just to improve somebody, but to improve the entire city," the speaker said.

Dr. Luna said the center's program is a continuation of the work started in 1884 in London, England, by Samuel A. Barnett and at Chicago's Hull House by Jane Addams.

"Mr. Barnett (an Anglican minister) decided to try to make his preaching of the Christian gospel more significant by doing things through the week to help people of London's east side slums to improve themselves," Dr. Luna said.

"Protestants, Catholics and Jews have accepted the movement and have formed their own centers (700 known to exist around the world)."

PRINCIPLES of social center work were listed. The center takes the family as a unit (serving all of the members that it can); usually assumes responsibility for a particular geographical area (about two miles in radius); accepts people of all religions, races and stations in life; and serves needs as determined by proper analysis and placed in perspective.

Social center services also were listed. They include kindergartens, preventive health service to expectant mothers and new babies, sick and dental clinics for low-income groups, "one-teach-one" adult education, language classes, book reviews, art and music projects, recreation, and sewing and handicraft. There are large group and small group activities.

Dr. Luna said that cities everywhere are facing increased outbreaks of juvenile delinquency and that the city of Aguascalientes might soon be taking more notice of such problems as the city grows and becomes more industrialized.

Ministers, lay ministers and church delegates of the states of Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas also were present. They came both to attend the dedication and for the opening of the annual convention of Disciples of Christ.

Seen here are the new Morelos Center, and the rebuilt library at the right.

—Photo by McNeill



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