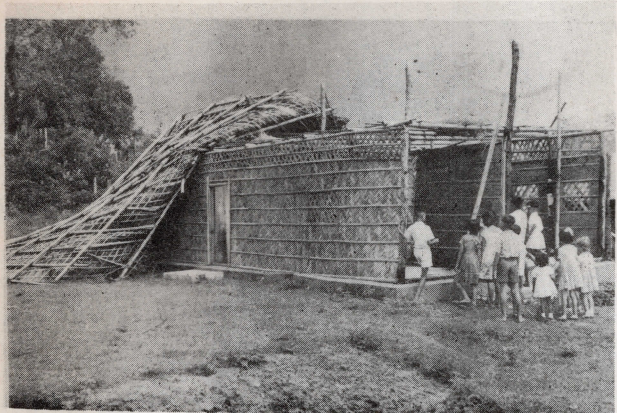




Warehouse destroyed in cyclone.



Storm damaged Chittagong Sunday School building.



Pakistan missionaries with Bro. Greisen, Field Secy.



Newly elected Executive Committee members.

Assemblies of God Mission
P.O. Gopalganj, Faridpur
East Pakistan
July 20, 1963

Dear Friends,

Greetings in our Lord from East Pakistan!

WE WILL NOT soon forget the night of May 28th. A cyclone with winds up to 150 m.p.h., accompanied by torrential rains, devastated the Chittagong coastal area. Beginning at 10:00 o'clock at night, the fury of the storm lasted over six hours. A huge tidal wave nearly wiped out some villages. Throughout the night the cries of panic-stricken people seeking shelter were heard above the roar of the storm. The dawn revealed terrible destruction; newspaper reports claimed 15,000 dead, 600,000 homes destroyed, and 2½ million people homeless. The Red Cross director termed it "one of the greatest natural calamities of modern times".

THE LORD wonderfully protected us and the James Longs, with whom we were staying at the time. The roof of the hall in which the Chittagong Assembly worships was extensively damaged, as well as the Sunday School building (see picture). The Gopalganj and Khulna areas were spared the brunt of the storm this time. This was the fourth severe cyclone to strike East Pakistan in two and a half years.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE in March was marked with the blessing of the Lord. The services were well attended, and many came for salvation, and some were filled with the Spirit. Also at this conference, the national brethren voted to stop receiving foreign funds for salaries and to depend wholly upon the local churches for their support. This is a tremendous step of faith, as the people are very, very poor.

A SECOND CONFERENCE was held in June in which the national brethren agreed to accept further responsibility and leadership for the work. A new constitution and by-laws was accepted in which all the executive members are now East Pakistanis. They requested two missionaries, Orville Carlson and Calvin, to act as advisors. We believe the Lord will bless this forward step in making the work self-supporting and self-governing. The missionaries will continue to help the national church in the work of the Bible School, literature, and evangelism.

YOUR PRAYERS are urgently needed as the workers and churches face severe testings of faith in the days ahead. May God bless each one of you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Your Missionary Friends,

Calvin and Marian Olson