

The church has a Sunday school enrollment of 500 and an active Christ's Ambassador's group. Every Saturday night the C.A.'s hold services at the homes of crippled people.

Ninety per cent of all who come to New Hope for physical healing, find a new life in Christ. During a revival in 1957 some 75 patients were converted and 48 received the baptism of the Spirit. At one water baptismal service some 50 persons were immersed. John Hurston, at that time Field Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Liberia, was the evangelist.

Christmas, New Year, Easter, and New Hope Town's anniversary are very special occasions. Sometimes the people sing, testify and praise the Lord all night long. When Miss Steidel has asked them if they are not tired from singing all night they reply, "Oh no, God give we strong." "Happy Lepers" is not a contradiction of terms in New Hope.

Once each year an offering is taken to help some other leprosy mission. The offering of \$43.50 taken in 1957 was sent to a work in the Sinoe section of Liberia. Ten cents is a lot of money to the patients so they change their money into pennies in order to have the joy of giving several times in the offering! When the new church was built they took up an offering of \$115.57 for benches.

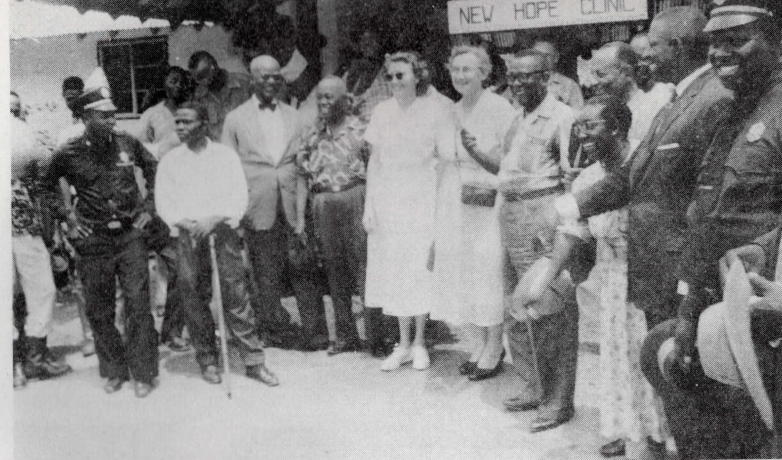
MISSIONARY PERSONNEL

Miss Steidel gives much credit to missionaries who have helped her down through the years. Mrs. Lettie Lewis went to New Hope in 1948 to relieve Miss Steidel and served for two terms. Miss DeEtta Butler taught in the school during 1951 and, after serving on another mission station, returned to New Hope in 1958. Eloise Collier (now Mrs. Joseph Judah) joined Miss Steidel in 1954; Mr. and Mrs. Landrus in 1955; Lois Lemm in 1957; and Bonnie Roush in 1958. The Lee Roy Wards and Miss Ellen Marie McCormick also assisted Miss Steidel for two years. Three new couples—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Boyer, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Hagar, and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Backman will be added to the staff of the New Hope Leprosy Mission in 1960 for specialized ministry.

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Florence Steidel has not sought the praise of men. She has found a rich and full life of service in helping others. Through her humble obedience to the call of God unwanted forgotten people are finding new hope for this life and the life to come. In reviewing her labors she observes modestly that "the building of New Hope was an act of God's grace in answer to the faith of God's people. I have no financial needs of my own, BUT I DO NEED MORE HOUSES FOR THE LEPROSY AFFLICTED PEOPLE THAT CONTINUE TO COME TO NEW HOPE."

Motivated by the love and compassion of Christ Miss Florence Steidel obeyed the commission to "cleanse the leper." Today the New Hope Leprosy Mission stands as a monument to her consecration and faith in God.



Presidential party pauses in front of the clinic



MISS STEIDEL HONORED BY PRESIDENT TUBMAN

In April, 1957, Miss Steidel attended the Centennial Celebration in Cape Palmas. Imagine her surprise when Dr. W. V. S. Tubman, President of Liberia, announced, "There is a lady in this audience who is worthy of a decoration," then conferred on her the decoration of "Knight Official of the Humane Order of African Redemption." She is the first woman missionary in Liberia to have been so honored.

Lepers listening to the President's address

