Mid-Twentieth Century Christians in Bidar District, India
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Cover: A photograph of a procession of Bidar District Christians greeting a visitor; see article on Dalit conversions to the Methodist Episcopal Church in this issue. Photograph courtesy of the General Commission on Archives and History’s “Mission Education Cultivation Program Department” collection.
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EDITOR’S NOTE

Every year the General Commission on Archives and History offers the John Harrison Ness, Jr. Memorial Award for the best paper written on a topic of Methodist history by a Master of Divinity candidate. I am pleased that this issue includes the winning papers for 2006 written by Jessie Larkin and James McConnell, who were students of Dr. Richard Heitzenrater at Duke Divinity School.

Instructors of courses on United Methodist history select papers that are submitted to a panel of judges. Appreciation is expressed to those instructors who encourage students to participate in this program. Full details are available on the web at http://www.gcah.org/AwardsGrants/Ness.htm. The award and grant program of the General Commission also includes grants for research and writing women’s history and racial and ethnic histories.

The Ness Award memorializes the life and ministry of John Harrison Ness, Jr., who served as General Secretary of the Commission and Editor of Methodist History from 1968 until his retirement in 1982. He was ordained in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and served in the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The United Methodist Church. In 1958, Ness was elected administrative head of The Historical Society of The E. U. B. Church. He wrote One Hundred Fifty Years; A history of publishing in the Evangelical United Brethren Church, which was published in 1966. Born in 1919, he was a clergy member of the Central Pennsylvania Conference at the time of his death in 2000.

You will note that the July issue includes two articles on the relationship between John Wesley and Peter Boehler. The two articles use the alternate spellings of Boehler. The spelling chosen by the authors was used in the respective articles.

The staff of the commission has been working to redesign our website. Our website (www.gcah.org) has grown over the past decade and every effort is being made to make it more useful and meaningful to our various constituencies. Many people have already made suggestions and while the redesign will be almost complete by the time this is in print, we always welcome comments on how we can serve you better.

I am grateful for all those who assist with this journal and I would like to especially thank our new proof-reader, Christopher Rodkey, a Ph.D. candidate at Drew University, for his fine work.

Robert J. Williams