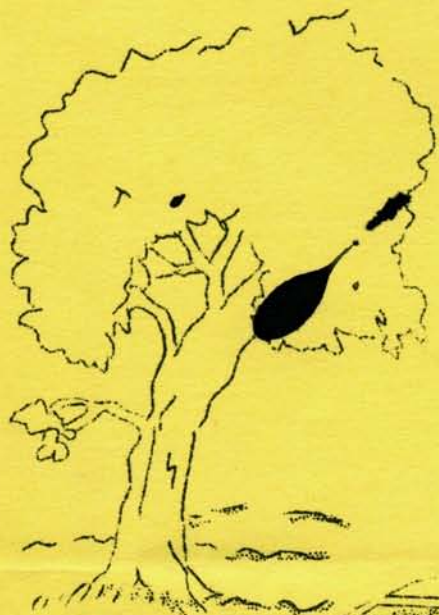


# ANNUAL REPORT - 1957

AND

# REPORT OF PROJECTS

# MICHIGAN MIGRANT MINISTRY



MICHIGAN MIGRANT MINISTRY

Report by State Director

1957

CONTENTS

THE CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

WHAT IS THE MIGRANT MINISTRY?

Purpose  
Organization and Relationships

MIGRANT MINISTRY STATISTICS FOR MICHIGAN

CROPS AND MIGRANTS IN MICHIGAN

Crop Areas in Michigan

LOCAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

New Work in Present Projects  
New Projects

FINANCIAL REPORT

January - October, 1957

COOPERATION OF AGENCIES

Public and Private

DIVISION OF HOME MISSIONS LEADERSHIP

MICHIGAN "HARVESTERS"

PROMOTION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

MICHIGAN MIGRANT MINISTRY OFFICERS

SUMMARIES OF 1957 PROJECTS IN MICHIGAN

## "THE CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER" :

How much that phrase, along with the symbol that accompanies it, can mean to so many different people in so many different ways! From Strawberries in Keeler to pickles in Sanilac County, to cherries in Traverse City back to pickles in Sanilac, and then South into Ohio for tomatoes, the Migrant Ministry symbol has followed a migrant family bringing Christian friendliness and help in time of loneliness, distress, and need. And this family was only one of the many helped and ministered to this past summer by the Migrant Ministry in Michigan. "The Churches Working together" have made this ministry possible to the agricultural migrants during 1957 and have manifested their oneness in Jesus Christ by supporting the Michigan Migrant Ministry. One fact is very apparent, however, as the season comes to a close - the task is not finished in 1957, many needs are unmet and the work of ministering to those who work that we might eat must go on and on. "The Churches Working Together" must catch the vision and go forward in the work.

## WHAT IS THE MIGRANT MINISTRY?

The Migrant Ministry is a cooperative program of the churches on local, state, and national levels which has the following purpose.

In the Migrant Ministry the churches are united to serve men, women, and children who are following the crops. This program is centered in the Christian faith and seeks to share that faith with the migrant, and to develop in him a sense of his personal worth, belonging, and responsibility. It seeks to awaken the community to the opportunity and obligation of sharing equally all the protective benefits and warmth of community life. It challenges the local churches to include these seasonal neighbors in their concern and full fellowship. It calls on the state and nation to apply Christian principles to the economy in which migrants live and work.

The Michigan Migrant Ministry is administered by the State Migrant Ministry Committee, a department of the Michigan Council of Churches, in cooperation with the Division of Home Missions of the National Council of Churches. A state Migrant Ministry Director, representing the Division of Home Missions and the Michigan Migrant Ministry, directs and coordinates the work on the state and local levels.

The local projects are planned and administered by local migrant committees which have representation on the State Committee, thus tying the work together on the state level.

The Division of Home Missions gives over-all guidance and supervision to the work across the Nation. The Migrant Ministry is interdenominational and interracial, truly a cooperative venture by "THE CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER"

## MIGRANT MINISTRY STATISTICS FOR MICHIGAN

1. Migrant Ministry projects were held in 19 counties in 1957.
2. There were 20 projects in the 19 counties, 3 of them new.
3. A total of 56 staff workers were used in the State. These were teachers, nurses (R.N. and Practical), ministers, seminarians, missionaries, social workers, graduate students, and college students preparing for professions. There were Latin-Americans, Negroes, and Filipinos as well as Anglos on staff.

Six of the staff comprised a Voluntary Service Group of the Mennonite denomination which operated Michigan's lone Migrant Child-care Center at Lacota.

4. Lengths of projects varied from 3 - 11 weeks.
5. Out-state or domestic migrant workers numbered approximately 60,000. An estimate is made that 25% are Anglos, 25% Negroes, 25% Spanish-speaking families, and 25% Nationals (men only). Again we call attention to the fact that the number of workers is given and does not include children and others who do not work in the fields.
6. It is interesting to compare the following numbers: - -

Year	1955	1956	1957
Local Volunteer workers in projects	250-300	429	1106
Local committee members in state	125	235	290
Counties with projects	14	16	19
Projects in state	16	17	20

#### CROPS AND MIGRANTS IN MICHIGAN

Crops - - A new crop, wormwood, was added to the already long list of Michigan crops which require the use of migrant labor sometime between planting and harvesting. The great western fruit belt along Lake Michigan, the sugar beet, pickle, and bean area of the Thumb and Saginaw Valley, the muck crops - onions, cauliflower, celery, carrots - and many other vegetables of central Michigan make a list of more than 30 fruits, vegetables, and other crops for which out-state labor is used during the summer months. Generally speaking, crops were good all over the state this year with few losses because of weather, insects, and disease.

Migrants - Anglos, negroes, Spanish-speaking families from Texas, and Nationals (men) from Mexico came to our assistance in the labor field. The latter seems to increase each year.

#### LOCAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

The local Migrant Ministry committees have done a very fine job in Michigan this year in many ways. Worthwhile projects have been planned and carried out. Many local committees have financed their own programs. Others have received financial allocations from the State Committee, only to find that all of it was not needed and part could be returned to the state treasury, thereby giving the use of more funds for promotion and expansion of the program into new areas. One committee even paid completely for its own program and also sent a contribution for use in the state work. Again we stress the importance of the strong local committee which will, in turn, help make a strong State Migrant Ministry because of the representation of the local projects on the State committee.

Several new types of work were introduced in various projects over the state. New Bible Schools for children, nursing services for migrants, a mobile Health Unit for migrant use, a Girl Scout Troop for migrant girls, new health

# AREAS OF INTENSE SEASONAL CROP ACTIVITIES IN MICHIGAN

## Area 1

Asparagus  
Strawberries  
Bush Fruits  
Cherries  
Onions  
Tomatoes  
Peaches  
Cucumbers  
Celery  
Apples  
Grapes  
Truck Crops

## Area 2

Muck Crops

## Area 3

Cucumbers  
Muck Crops  
Cherries  
Peaches  
Pears  
Apples  
Tomatoes  
Sugar Beets

## Area 4

Bush Fruit

## Area 5

Peaches  
Plums  
Apples

## Area 6

Strawberries  
Cherries  
Bush Fruit  
Peaches  
Snap Beans  
Cucumbers  
Apples  
Potatoes

## Area 7

Strawberries  
Snap Beans  
Cucumbers  
Cherries  
Peaches  
Apples  
Potatoes

## Area 8

Truck Crops  
Cherries  
Potatoes

## Area 9

Snap Beans  
Cucumbers  
Potatoes  
Peaches  
Pears

## Area 10

Strawberries  
Raspberries

## Area 11

Truck Crops  
Sugar Beets  
Chicory  
Strawberries  
Raspberries  
Cucumbers  
Tomatoes  
Potatoes

## Area 11 (Cont.)

Apples  
Cherries  
Muck Crops

## Area 12

Sugar Beets  
Muck Crops  
Cucumbers  
Potatoes  
Apples

## Area 13

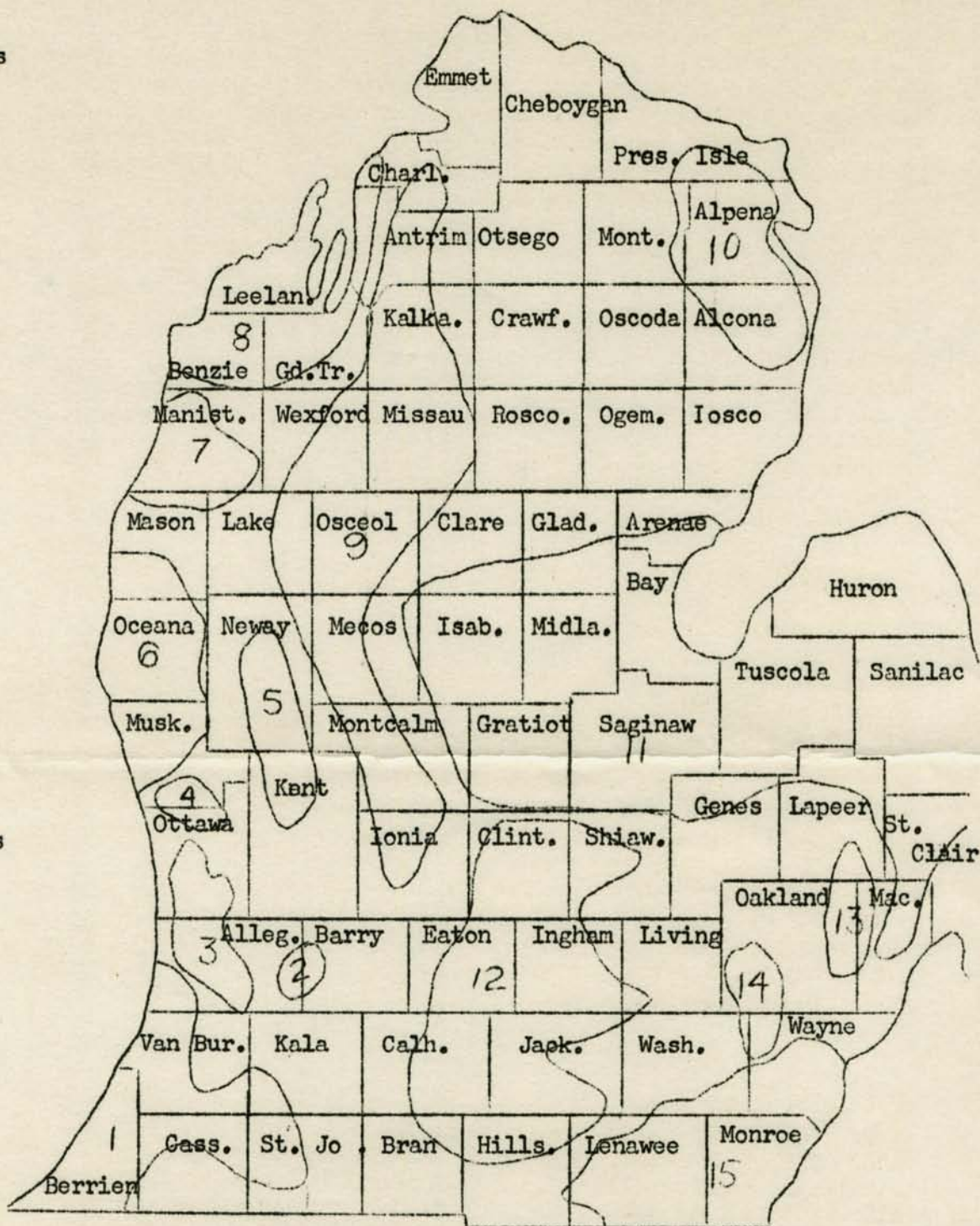
Apples  
Peaches

## Area 14

Apples  
Peaches

## Area 15

Sugar Beets-Onions  
Strawberries  
Cucumbers-Tomatoes  
Bush Fruit  
Potatoes  
Cherries-Truck Crop



facilities for migrants in an area that had had no hospital, demonstrations on the use of dried milk, and other nutritional aids by Home Demonstration Agents, and the re-opening of Michigan's only Migrant Child-care Center at Lacota gave new impetus to the Migrant Ministry and made leaders feel a new concern on the part of the churches and the public for the welfare of our migrants. The project summaries will tell about these various new programs.

Three new projects were organized in 1957. The three M's, Manistee, Mason, and Mecosta Counties, held new projects this year. Each one was begun in a different way but each had an equal vision of service and went ahead. One was started by a Ministerial group, another by two United Church Women groups in the county joining forces, and the third by two local women who realized the need and determined to do something about it. Here a Vacation Church School packet on the Migrant Ministry in Michigan played an important part in the story. Each project was individual in its operation, different in its organization, but all were successful and the experience gained will enable each to go ahead with better and bigger projects in 1958.

#### FINANCES AND BUDGET (See treasurer's report)

This has not been an easy year financially. With the development of the Migrant Ministry growing so very fast in the state, the demands on the treasury almost surpass the supply of money coming into it. The anticipated needed budget of \$8500 was far larger than the income and if there had not been a goodly amount in the treasury to begin the year, the the MM program would necessarily have been curtailed. Vacation Church Schools supplied much needed support and gave more than double the 1956 amount. United Church Women have again provided faithfully for the project which has been theirs for so long. Individual churches have given. But the fact is clear before us, if we want to meet the challenge which is growing so fast the income must increase. Denominational groups and individual churches as well as the VCS'S and UCW of Michigan must catch the vision of service to these necessary migrant people. All expenses for the year have been paid to date but there is not the amount on hand for promotion, for the making of the VCS packets, etc. as there was a year ago. We must meet this challenge!

In addition to the state budget, local committees have had combined budgets totaling approximately \$23,300 (last year, \$16,000). State allocations were paid to the budgets of 15 projects, others were completely raised locally. As committees shoulder their own budgets, the State Committee can expand into new areas and reach more people with the Christian message of Christ and His love for all people.

#### COOPERATION OF AGENCIES -- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

Probably nothing has done more to increase the interest of Public and Private Agencies in the Migrant Ministry than the work of the President's committee on Migratory Labor. Through its work and influence on the national level, its suggested codes for housing and transportation, its sponsored legislation for Social Security for migrants and transportation of migrant labor across state lines, and through the called Conferences on Education, Health, and Welfare of Migrants, the Nation is beginning to be alerted to the problems and needs of the thousands of our citizens who exist on a standard of living far below that enjoyed by the majority of us. It is to the Migrant Ministry of the Division of Home Missions that those on the President's Committee turn for advise and consultation on problems which arise in the welfare of migrants. National agencies are aware of these problems and are doing much to help in their solution.

In Michigan, while we have no official Governor's Committee as suggested by the President's Committee, we do have an Inter-Agency Committee which has long been interested in the welfare of migrants and is working for their good. State Agencies are interested and are doing some definite thinking for the welfare of migrants. The Michigan Migrant Ministry is especially grateful to the State Health Department and the Department of Social Welfare for their continued cooperation. Chest X-Rays among migrants, the licensing of the Lacota Child-care Center, and working for the general health and welfare of migrants has been done through their help. In local areas county health departments, Home Demonstration Agents, and others are working with the Migrant Ministry staff to motivate growers and communities to improve conditions in housing and sanitation.

In some areas Red Cross, Y W C A, Girl Scouts, and others are inquiring and finding areas in which they may be of service and help the Migrant Ministry in its work. Individual project reports list the various activities of these agencies.

#### DIVISION OF HOME MISSION LEADERSHIP

The Michigan Migrant Ministry is extremely grateful to the Division of Home Missions leadership and over-all supervision of the work in the State. Guidance has been given in several ways, a few will be mentioned here.

1. A full-time state director for the M M M has been provided. The State committee and the Division share in the cost of this personnel.
2. Recruiting and training of staff for the M M work. This training is very important for the effectiveness of the program.
3. A third curriculum, adapted to migrant children, was put into the hands of summer staff this year. "The Life and Teachings of Jesus" added to the two former "Man's Part in God's World" and "Growing in Christian Ways" were written by Christian Education leaders of various denominations and so are interdenominational in scope. The Division of Home Missions is responsible for this material being prepared.
4. Through its system of referral cards the Division of Home Missions staff is able to follow many migrant people from one area to another in this state and others. This summer over 50 cards were passed from Michigan Staff to other staffs in this state or in the Central Region.
5. A new referral system called "Operation Bracero" has been used this year whereby referral cards on Mexican National men who either are Protestants or who are wanting to know more about the Protestant faith are being sent by staff to the Division of Home Missions who, in turn, will send them to pastors or missionaries near the homes of the men in Mexico. All these make for continuity in the work and shows that the Church care for its people.
6. A Division of Home Missions "Harvester" was loaned to Michigan for use in two projects.
7. Some equipment, program materials, films and records have come from the D H M for use in the projects.
8. About \$500 was put into staff salaries in Michigan by D H M.

9. Mrs. Monica Owen of New York, associate director of the Migrant Ministry, spent three weeks in Michigan helping wherever there was need in program, project preparation, etc.

Here again the cooperation of the Division of Home Missions has undergirded and strengthened the M M M and we are grateful. Again "the churches working together" has proved most effective.

#### MICHIGAN HARVESTERS

In 1956 Michigan was given a new Harvester and the equipment needed to make it useful. History repeated it self in 1957 and another new Harvester was presented to the Division of Home Missions for use in Michigan, this time by the Kalamazoo United Church Women. Dearborn Church Women gave money and materials to entirely equip it and so this past summer has seen two fully equipped Michigan Harvesters in the field. These two stationwagons saw service in five projects. These gifts of Harvesters are invaluable to the Migrant Ministry. Now, in order to keep them rolling and have staff to use them, devoted and consecrated groups must give more financial help every year. Also let us remember these cars will wear out and must be replaced in a few years. Might it not be wise to set up a "Harvester Replacement Fund"?

#### PROMOTION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Year-round promotion by a full-time State Director has paid off to the Michigan Migrant Ministry. Interest all over the state has quickened, new groups have learned about the work and have responded. Some of the ways of promotion have been: -

1. By the 400 packets on the M M M put out for use in the Vacation Church Schools through the Division of Religious Education of the Michigan Council of Churches. The interest and use of the packets grows yearly.
2. By six sets of slides with script, all showing pictures of Michigan projects, and one filmstrip showing the migrant story in general. These have been in constant use all the year for programs by VSC, women's groups, and others.
3. By the little newsheet "Michigan Harvester" put out primarily for the Migrant Ministry staff workers but read and enjoyed by many others.
4. By "This Is The Harvester", a pamphlet with pictures, and a page telling the Michigan story that has been circulated in many groups and places. This and the leaflet, "The Migrant Ministry in Michigan" tells the story in print.
5. By articles which have appeared in the Detroit Council of Churches monthly paper. "Newscaster".
6. By newspaper articles and pictures, by staff and committee members appearing on radio and television, and by many personal appearances at meetings of all kind in the state by officers and personnel of the Migrant Ministry.

All these have promoted and given good public relations for the work being done among those who are so necessary to our economy.



## RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS FOR 1958

1. Strengthening of existing local committees and developing of new committees when funds permit.
2. Discovering of new sources of financial support for the Michigan Migrant Ministry.
3. Greater participation in Migrant Ministry support by denominational groups.
4. More community volunteers participating in local committees and projects.
5. Closer relationship with Public and Private Agencies on both the state and local levels.
6. Working in possible ways for the formation of a State Committee on Migratory Labor.
7. A long-range goal - working for State aid for migrant child-care centers and summer schools for migrant children.

This report is only a summary of what has been done in the Michigan Migrant Ministry this year. It has been a good year and we give thanks to God for the things accomplished. But these things that can be put on paper can not compare with those that can not be reported. The kind words spoken, the Christian friendliness given, the inspiration gained by a tired mother longing for friends, the happiness of a little child who has been given a new toy or a pair of shoes, the man so far from home who has found faith in God to help him over temptation and loneliness - all these have been given many times by the Migrant Ministry staff workers and will never be reported. These are the intangible things that can not be seen or written down on paper. Much has been done in the name of Christ, the seeds have been sown, He will give the increase, Again, "the churches working together" have accomplished these things.

### MICHIGAN MIGRANT MINISTRY OFFICERS

Chairman	Rev. Paul Arnold, Mason
Secretary	Mrs. Dick Van Single, Grandville
Treasurer	Mrs. Otto Schuhardt, Kalamazoo
State Director	Mrs. Carl Gladstone, Paw Paw

STATE OFFICE - 132 State Street, Paw Paw, Mich

SUMMARIES OF THE MICHIGAN MIGRANT MINISTRY PROJECTS  
SUMMER 1957

ALLEGAN COUNTY

Sponsor-Allegan Co. Migrant Committee  
Crop-Cherries and blueberries  
Migrants - Anglos  
Dates of project - July 18, August 14 (4 weeks)  
Staff - Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson (Dave and Ellen)  
Program:

This is a large area with many migrants on scattered farms. Family nights were held in 5 locations with recreation, visitation and worship. Bible schools were difficult to hold because of all children picking cherries or blueberries. Visitation and personal counselling with families took much time. This project is a comparatively new project (2years old) and is still in the developing stage with much yet to be accomplished. Community interest is growing but a stronger committee needs to be developed.

BAY COUNTY

Sponsor - Bay County Council of Churches  
Crops - Pickles, sugar beets, beans, potatoes  
Migrants - Texas, Mexican families; Mexican Nationals  
Dates of project, June 13, August 23, (10 weeks)  
Staff-Kay Managbanag, Sylvia Bowser, Reye Ledesma  
Program:

Being a large area to cover, staff worked in the west half of the county the first half of the season and in the east half the second part. Children enjoyed free-play and Bible Schools with the staff using the Division of Home Mission Migrant Curriculum "The Life and Teachings of Jesus". Crafts, recreation and parties along with worship were held for teenagers. Furnishing family night programs, worship and transportation for Sunday church services, visiting and counseling the sick were some of the services for adults. The same kind of services and also English classes were available for the Nationals. Many volunteers working with staff made the program more effective.

BERRIEN COUNTY

Sponsor-Berrien County Council of Churches  
Crops,- Fruit, berries, tomatoes  
Migrants - Anglos, Negroes  
Dates of project - June 13 - August 8 (8 weeks)  
Staff-Perlesta Hollingsworth, Carol Prindle, Bill Childs, Ann Helliar  
Program:

Work in Berrien County divided easily into 2 areas-northern and southern with staff equally divided for the areas. Harvester type programs were used featuring Bible Schools, free play and worship with the children, family nights, rummage sales and worship for the adults. Community volunteers aided in the program. Field trips to the beach, Camp Warren, Deer Forest and a group of older children taken to a local church with explanation of various parts and means of worship were some special features.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Sponsor - United Church Women Migrant Committee  
Crops - Cherries  
Migrants - Spanish speaking families, few Anglos, few Indians  
one group Nationals  
Dates of project, July 10 - August 10 (1 month)

Staff - Isabel Gomez, Barbara Widenhouse, Laura Letson, Roberta Fair  
Program:

The number of Bible Schools held in the area were doubled this year by using volunteers with each of the 4 staff members. An average of 25-50 children were in each school. 35 family night programs were held on the farms of 22 growers. A large group of youth interested in the United Christian Youth Movement assisted in recreation and devotionals in these programs. New features this year: 1. Demonstration of the use of powdered milk to children in Bible schools and to adults at family nights by Consumer Marketing Information Agent. Printed leaflets for information were distributed both in Spanish and English. 2. Cooperation of committee chairman and staff in organization of Girl Scout troop of migrant girls. 3. Cooperation of staff with Tri-County Health Department in setting up of a mobile health unit on week-ends for use of migrants. Health nurses were on duty. Staff urged migrants to take advantage of the mobile clinic. Personal support of pastors was urged again this year and 9 pastors participated in programs. 12 local churches helped in one way or another in the project.

#### GRATIOT COUNTY

Sponsor - Gratiot County United Church Women  
Crops - Sugar Beets, beans, pickles  
Migrants - Spanish speaking families; Nationals  
Dates of projects - June 13 - August 16 (9 weeks)  
Staff - San Valdez, Alice Flores, Cecelia Sanchez  
Program:

Perhaps no where in Michigan did so many children attend the Migrant Migrant Ministry Bible Schools as in Gratiot County. 111 children attended, some for the whole period, others for a few days. Others came intermittently. Religious education, recreation and nourishment were received by the children at the Schools. Besides the Bible Schools classes in English, sewing, visitation, family nights and worship services were part of the Ministry in Gratiot County. 231 volunteers gave of their time and energy by teaching, providing food and transportation and helping at family nights. A gala party with 100 migrants attending at the Fellowship Hall of the Methodist Church in Alma closed the project. Fun, movies, stunts, games and a pinata at the party was enjoyed by everyone.

#### HURON-TUSCOLA COUNTIES

Sponsor - Huron-Tuscola Migrant Mission  
Crops - Sugar beets  
Migrants - Spanish speaking families; Nationals; few Negroes  
Dates of project - June 1 - August 1  
Staff - Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Vesper - Tuscola Co  
Letitia del Cid-Tuscola Co., Rev. and Mrs. Deveen Brown-Huron Co.  
Manuel Figueros-Huron Co.  
Violet Schroeder  
Mrs. Don Montei  
Judy Montei  
Mrs. Dorothy Whitten  
full time volunteers

Program:

Weekly services were held in 11 National Camps. Counseling, visits to jail and hospital and personal evangelism for these men so far from home proved of real service. Distribution of Bibles and literature, public relations in churches, giving out of health literature and distribution of clothing where needed were other services performed by staff. A new service this year was the Bible Schools held in both counties for migrant children, a very worthwhile part of the project.

The Gideons have given money for Bibles-another new service this year. The whole-hearted cooperation of the majority of the churches in the 2 counties is an outstanding part of the project. Churches, Vacation Bible Schools, Ministerial Associations and other church organizations support this large project financially and materially in a very wonderful way.

#### INGHAM COUNTY

Sponsor - Ingham County Migrant Mission  
Crop - onions, mint, pickles, radishes  
Migrants - Mostly Nationals, few spanish-speaking families  
Dates of Project, June 13 - August 1  
Staff - Janet Bechtold, Raul Castillo  
Program:

The Ingham County project is experiencing a rather difficult time because of a bad onion crop this year, a change in the type of migrants used, from families to Nationals, and in reduction in number of migrants because of the people (Anglos) becoming permanent residents instead of migrants. Two Vacation Bible Schools were held for 10-12 children in the forenoons. Another was held in another area afternoons for approximately the same number. Work with Nationals consisted of English classes in two different areas. Recreation followed by a film and worship was also held. The Local Committee is aware of the change taking place in the project and is contemplating some changes in the project for next year.

#### LEELANAU COUNTY

Sponsor - Leelanau County Migrant Committee  
Crop - Cherries, some strawberries  
Migrants - Negroes, Spanish speaking families; Anglos  
Dates of project - July 8 - August 8 (4 weeks)  
Staff - Barbara Taylor, Kay Sinks, Jane Wiberg, Wanda Countryman  
Program:

The program in Leelanau County was increased 100% this year. In addition to the program in the Northport area, additional staff of two made it possible to hold programs in the Sutton's Bay-Keswick area also. As the work was new there, there was not as much interest in the community as in the northern part of the county but very good cooperation was given by pastors and some laymen and new interest was created in the Migrant Ministry. Few children in the area made it possible to hold only one Bible School - 10 negro children were in this school for one week. Family nights and Worship made up the most of the programs in 21 orchards

In the Northport area, Bible Schools were held at 3 camps for what few children were found. Family nights were more successful with splendid help available from local and vacationing pastors and local laymen in 35 camps. A song fest at the Northport Baseball Field the last Sunday night of the project was a real success in spite of the weather and everyone enjoyed the event. Staff and committee members met together each Monday morning for a prayer and planning time. All felt this to be very valuable and recommend it as part of projects schedule. New feature this year-Due to the new hospital facilities at Northport, better health aid was available for migrants. Group insurance is available to all pickers but not a large number use it.

#### LENAWEE COUNTY

Sponsor - Lenawee County Ministerial Association  
Crop - Pickles, tomatoes  
Migrants - Nationals; Negros, some spanish speaking families  
Dates of project  
Staff - Emny Morales, Gordon Mitchinson  
Program: No report from project

## MANISTEE COUNTY

Sponsor - Manistee County Migrant Committee  
Crop - Strawberries  
Migrants: Negroes, Spanish speaking families and Anglos  
Dates of project: June 13 - July 8  
Staff - Laura Letson and Kay Sinks  
Program:

This project, new this year, was fully financed by the Manistee County Churches, Vacation Church Schools, farm organizations and other local sources. With project and staff all new to the work, it was not easy to go ahead but the project was well done with all concerned feeling that valuable experience was gained for next year and a good beginning in the Ministry to Migrants was made.

Two staff workers reached about 500 people with family nights and Bible Schools. Volunteer workers numbered 30. Health materials and films were furnished by the County Health Department. Excellent cooperation was given by the Farm Placement Representative in the area.

## MASON COUNTY

Sponsor - Mason County Migrant Committee  
Crop - Strawberries  
Migrants - Mostly Spanish Speaking families, few Negroes and Anglos  
Dates of project - June 13-July 18  
Staff - Ernesto Cano and Barbara Cook  
Program:

Along with the other two new projects in Michigan, Manistee and Mecosta Counties, Mason County expects to profit by the lack of knowledge of this year as well as by the mistakes made and go ahead with the planning for next year, taking advantage of the experience gained in the 1957 ministry.

Public relations made up a large part of the Migrant Ministry in Mason County. Visiting growers and telling them about the work, speaking in churches and before interested organizations, being interviewed on radio, appearing in the Harvester in the Fourth of July parade in Ludington and giving interviews and pictures for newspaper publicity were all part of the staff's public relations job. Personal interviews with the migrants, family night programs and gestures of Christian friendliness all were part of the Migrant Ministry staff's work.

The Mason County Committee are already planning for 1958 and seeking to enlist more community support for the project.

## MECOSTA COUNTY

Sponsor - Mecosta County Migrant Committee  
Crop - Pickles, green beans  
Migrants - Negro; Spanish speaking; Anglos  
Dates of project: August 10-31 (3 weeks)  
Staff - Barbara Widenhouse, Barbara Taylor  
Program:

This is one of the three new projects in Michigan this year. The committee was organized in July, only a few weeks before the actual project began and although the work was entirely new to the area, fine cooperation was given the staff in the project. Acquainting the churches and the community with the Migrant Ministry was a big part of the staff's work. They visited 32 farms and explained the program to the growers and spoke in 13 churches of the area.

English classes for a group of Nationals were held and words for everyday use in stores and field were taught them.

Family nights were held with recreation, play for the children and devotions.

However short the project was, it laid a good foundation for a larger program next year and the committee will soon begin plans for an enlarged program in 1958.

#### MONTCALM COUNTY

Sponsor - Montcalm County Migrant Committee  
Crop - Green beans, pickles, onions, potatoes  
Migrants - Spanish speaking families; Nationals  
Dates of project July 18-August 19  
Staff - Ernesto Cano and Barbara Cook  
Program:

As in many other areas, there could not easily be any schedule of work set up by the staff because of the scattered migrants and the diversity of the needs in the area. Some of the various activities of the project follow:

1. It had been hoped a center for the migrants in Sheridan might prove useful on week-ends and so such a place was opened. It did not prove too successful, however and so the space became an office, storage place and thrift sale location. Some Nationals stopped by to purchase clothing and to enjoy the record-player, so some contacts were made in this way.
2. One Bible School was held but the few children among the migrants kept this activity down to a minimum.
3. Simple English was taught in a class for Nationals.  
Attendance 5-30.
4. Visitation and interpretation at the hospital proved a very important part of the Ministry. Christian friendliness and helpfulness were most important.
5. Public relations in churches and church groups, service clubs stores, banks and on the streets again served as big parts of the staff's work.

#### OCEANA COUNTY

Sponsor - Oceana County Migrant Mission  
Crop - Cherries  
Migrants - Spanish speaking families and crews; Anglo families and crews  
Dates of project - July 4 - August 2  
Staff - Manuel Rodriguez, Mary K. Ruth, Emma Solivan, Millie Beard  
Program:

This program is divided into two parts, half of the staff ministering to Anglo camps and the other half to Spanish speaking camps. The work in the Anglo camps was greatly helped by 12 Oceana Churches accepting responsibility in various camps for family night programs and worship services. Stress was put on the value of the volunteers getting to really know the migrant people personally. New emphasis this year was on efforts to make migrants welcome in local churches on Sunday. The staff carried out a program of visitation, Bible Schools, family nights and a teen age night. The last named was especially successful and closed with a worship service in the church sanctuary, complete with organ music by a local pastor. This service made a lasting impression on these youth who see so very little of the beautiful things in life.

Family nights, work with the children and teenagers were effective in the Spanish speaking camps. Because of the language barrier, volunteers were not as available for the Spanish speaking camps as for the Anglo camps. Volunteers seem to be afraid of this barrier. The staff pointed out that the language difficulty is not as great as it seems and more volunteers would be most useful if they would only try it out.

## SAGINAW COUNTY

Sponsor - Saginaw United Church Women  
Crops - Sugar beets, pickles  
Migrants - Spanish speaking families; Nationals  
Date of project - June 14-July 4 August 7-August 24  
Staff - Rev. and Mrs. Frank Reyes 2½ weeks  
Manuel Rodriguez - 3 weeks  
Erna Solivan - 5 weeks  
Roberta Fair - 2 weeks

### Program:

Some very fine work was done among adults by means of classes in home economics, sewing, health and hygiene. Small children were reached by semi Vacation Church School activities, songs, stories and games. For older children, crafts, devotional periods, athletics and other recreations were carried on. Family nights for the whole family consisted of recreation, movies of various kinds and worship.

Programs for Nationals included audio-visual aids, recreation and devotions. This project is among those that need early programs for migrants migrants coming in for early spring work. Part of the staff returning after cherry harvest were able to work in 3 camps with brief Bible School, visitation and family nights. Many migrants had left the area of were ready to leave because of bad work conditions, The presence of the staff at this difficult time seemed to be a real encouragement to the people and they appreciated the Christian friendship extended to them.

## SANILAC COUNTY

Sponsor - Sanilac County Migrant Committee  
Crops - Sugar beets, green beans, pickles  
Migrants - Mostly Mexican Nationals, some few negroes and spanish speaking families.  
Dates of project - June 13-August 17  
Staff - Valenti Garcia and Gilbert Diaz  
Sophia Loera - 3 weeks

### Program:

Work in Sanilac County was very scattered in the many National Camps. Christian friendliness, English lessons, visitation recreation, and some worship services were parts of the program. A small work was done early in the project with children in a Bible School.

## ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Sponsor - Sturgis United Church Women  
Crop - Pickles, mint, fruit, wormwood  
Migrants - Nationals, Spanish speaking families  
Dates of project - August 13-September 2  
Staff - Kay Managbanag  
Rene Ledesna - 1 week

### Program:

United Church Women had done a fine work in holding Bible School with migrant children for about 4 weeks before the arrival of Migrant Ministry staff workers. United Church Women had visited and gained the confidence of many of the families. The staff continued where the United Church Women had begun and in the evenings worked with Nationals holding ball games, and recreation, music, movies and devotions.

A high light of the project was the service in Spanish held in the chapel of a Methodist Church and attended by the migrants. The service was well attended and appreciated. The bulletin was printed in Spanish and the entire service including solos and sermon was in Spanish.

Although a new project last year, this one is progressing especially well and while one of the smaller ones in the state, it is one of the best.

#### VAN BUREN COUNTY - Keeler

Sponsor - Keeler Methodist Church

Crop - Strawberries and Cherries

Migrants - Anglos

Dates of project - June 13-July 10

Staff - Clair Miller, Barbara Widenhouse, Jane Wiberg,

Mary K. Ruth, Wilda Rush R. N.

Lois Miller, Ruth Remes, Pat Conklin ) Volunteers.

#### Program:

An enlarged staff of 5 full time staff and 3 part-time volunteers made a larger program possible in the Keeler area this year. Bible Schools, family nights, an enlarged teen-age program were important parts of the program. Worship and/or a friendship circle closed each family night service. It was felt this service was most valuable as it reached a great many people and afforded the staff to get closest to the migrants with personal visitation or counseling.

The nursing service by a R.N. begun last year and which was regarded as a very important part of the program was continued this year. The R.N. worked closely with the area doctors and the County Health Department. Over 75 actual calls were made on patients, 14 patients came to the nurse and nursing service was given to 30 families. About 20 types of cases were encountered, 5 special health problems were considered and while no formal health teaching was done, informal teaching by precept and by example was done in each visit to the many homes.

The local committee felt the nursing service a very important part of the Migrant Ministry.

The County Book Mobile visited the area again this year and Migrant Ministry staff helped arrange a Lending Library in one of the cabins in one camp with a migrant boy and his sister as librarians. Staff felt this service should be enlarged for the sake of the children and teen-agers.

#### VAN BUREN COUNTY - Lacota

Sponsor - Grand Junction - South Haven Migrant Committee

Crops - Fruit and blueberries

Migrants - Anglos

Dates of project - July 1-August 24

Staff - Kenneth Cheek, Kay Mosely, Wilda Rush R.N.

6 members of a Memmonite Voluntary Service team,  
Mary Alice Martin, Director

#### Program:

There were 3 distinct phases of this project this year;  
1. Child Care Center - Staffed by the Voluntary Service team, 48 children were enrolled with an average attendance of 18. It is probable that the Center not being open last year was the cause of a smaller attendance this year than in former years. The splendid care of the children by the staff this year will undoubtedly lend to an increase in the enrollment next year. No babies were enrolled this year due to regulations by the State Welfare Department. Children had to be able to walk in order to be enrolled. Toddlers and pre-schoolers made up the attendance. County Health Department and State Welfare Department officials were especially pleased with the administration of the Center this year and hope for its continued opening next year.



## 2. Health Service

The R.N. on the Migrant Ministry staff did a very important work in emphasizing cleanliness and making health calls for everything from headaches to contagious diseases.

172 calls were made and nursing service given to 98 families. The County Demonstration Agent gave some demonstrations of low cost foods and use of powdered milk and set a precedent for some work of this kind for next year.

## 3. Field Work.

Staff worked in 53 camps ranging in size from 2-85 cabins. Family nights, teen-age recreation, visitation, Bible Schools and writing and distributing the news-sheet "The Lacota Harvester" (formerly "Blueberry News") took the time of the 2 field staff workers.

The staff felt deeply the need for programs that would create fellowship and worship by participation on the part of the migrants rather than just holding a service, movie or recreation FOR the migrants. Their programs were prepared, therefore with that thought in mind they felt personal visitation in the homes were most important.

Four good Bible Schools were held and some close contacts were made with parents thru the children who attended the Schools.

Family nights held by the laymen from Kalamazoo were enjoyed by the Migrants. It is hoped more careful planning by staff and laymen will make this service even more valuable to the program.

All in all, the Migrant Ministry project for the area was a worthwhile one.

## VAN BUREN COUNTY - Paw Paw

Sponsor - Paw Paw Migrant Committee

Crop - Strawberries

Migrants - Anglos

Dates of project - June 13-July 18

Staff - Mr. and Mrs. David Anderson (Dave and Ellen)

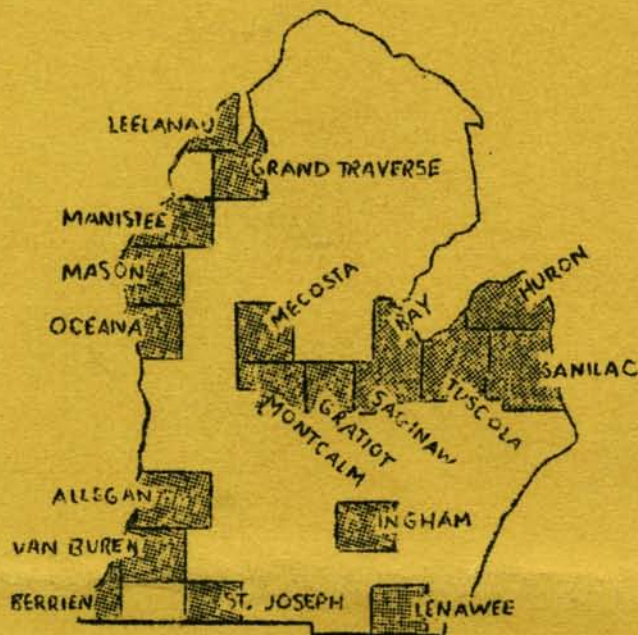
Program:

Visitation was very important to gain the confidence and friendship of the migrant people. Counseling proved to be a part of that visitation also and many were made aware that the Migrant Ministry was for adults as well as children.

Bible Schools were held for the children and family nights reached all members of the family.

Bibles and literature were given out or sold as requests for them were made at the time of visiting and counseling by the staff.

The County Health Department, County Library and County Home Demonstration Agent were cooperative and valuable with their services offered.



### MICHIGAN MIGRANT MINISTRY

A co-operative endeavor by Michigan Council of Churches Michigan United Church Women - Local Migrant Committees and the Division of Home Missions of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

