March 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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W11-1384. Leprosy Federation.  
Records, 1929-2010. 10.50 linear ft.

One business day required for collection retrieval—please contact archivist.

Abstract

The Leprosy Federation was started in 1920 by Christine Van Raalte Gilmore as an opportunity to build ecumenical community outreach among the women’s groups of the Holland-Zeeland area. During the ninety years of its operation, the Leprosy Federation organized annual church praise meetings and children’s rallies to raise awareness and funds in the fight to end leprosy world-wide. Throughout that time, the Leprosy Federation worked extensively with the American Leprosy Mission (ALM) on three main projects in Mozambique, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, helping to bring medical supplies and housing materials to create restorative treatment communities for those with leprosy. In total, the Leprosy Federation gave in excess of $350,000, continuing until 2010, when the decreasing membership called for the organization’s official close.

Scope and Content

Accession No: W11-1384  
Provenance: Western Theological Seminary  
Donor: Barbara Vande Waar  
Photographs: 311 images (Boxes 1, 2, and 4.5), 335 slides (Box 3)  
Processed by: Amanda Palomino, November 2011  
Elaine Bruins, 2013

History

The Leprosy Federation was started in 1920 by Christine Van Raalte Gilmore as an opportunity to build ecumenical community outreach among the women’s groups of the Holland-Zeeland area. During the ninety years of its operation, the Leprosy Federation organized annual church praise meetings and children’s rallies to raise awareness and funds in the fight to end leprosy world-wide. Throughout that time, the Leprosy Federation worked extensively with the American Leprosy Mission (ALM) on three main projects in Mozambique, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, helping to bring medical supplies and housing materials to create restorative treatment communities for those with leprosy. In total, the Leprosy Federation gave in excess of $350,000, continuing until 2010, when the decreasing membership called for the organization’s official close.
The Leprosy Federation collection consists of annual reports, financial statements, and minutes’ ledgers (1920-2010); correspondence between the board members and ALM officials; articles on medical advances in leprosy treatments; photo collections from the projects; booklets and brochures associated with ALM; and educational materials such as books, videos, and film scripts on the subject of leprosy. Materials also include artwork and crafts made by people with leprosy; programs and flyers for annual meetings (1976-2009); and Sunday School materials, such as posters and collection banks. The collection is divided into two parts: Boxes 1-3 contain materials pertaining to the American Leprosy Mission; Boxes 4-8 and the Oversized Box contain materials pertaining to the Federation of Women’s Societies of the churches of Holland and Zeeland, Michigan, which began in 1920.

### Container List

#### Box 1

**American Leprosy Mission**

- Adult Sunday School Lesson, World Leprosy Day, 1992
- Amazon Relief, 2006 (5 images)
- ALM Posters, n.d.
- Audio cassette tapes, n.d. (4)

**Books**

- *Doctor of the Happy Landings*, Lake and Kellersberger, 1949
- *Drum Call of Hope*, Clemes, 1959
- *Ten Fingers for God*, Wilson, 1965


- Correspondence, Mapanzeni, Rafael, 1968
- Crossways Newsletters, 1981-1989
- Drawings by Manuel Ndalani, 1972
- Drug Treatment, n.d.
- Ervin, Lulu D., 1954 (1 image), 1954-1959
- Film, “A Healing Touch,” 16mm film, 1987

**Filmstrips and scripts**

- *Chandon of Chiengmai*, n.d.
- *New Hope at Iambi*, 1966

#### Box 2

**American Leprosy Mission (cont.)**
Flannel graph pieces
   “Bambi and the Witch,” n.d.
   “Boat Girl,” n.d.
   “Just a Rice Eater,” n.d.
   “Probhu and the Tiger,” n.d.
   Miscellaneous pieces, n.d.
Flannel graph showings, 1951-1952
Gillet, Ira and Edith, n.d.
Hasselblad, Dr. Oliver W., President, n.d.
Kongawi-Kinda, Dr. Jacques, 1995-2010, n.d.
Liberia, information and paper flag, n.d.
“The Mad Elephant,” n.d.
Monrovia, Liberia, 1995
Pamphlet, “Leprosy Rationale,” 1966
Pamphlets
   Children’s stories, n.d.
   “In Journeyings Oft,” 2 pamphlets, 1953, 1956
Pete the Pig Project, 1938-1988, n.d.
Photobook, n.d., (73 images)
Photobook, Ganta Leprosy Center, (23 images)
Photos
   ALM International, n.d. (14 images)
   Ganta, Liberia, n.d.(20 images)
   Leper Colony, n.d. (26 images)
   Stauffacher, Dr. Charles and Alice, n.d. (7 images)
   Unidentified, n.d. (10 images)
   Zaire, 1995 (48 images)
Reed, Mary, 1943, n.d.
Reformed Church in America, 1963, n.d.

Box 3

American Leprosy Mission (cont.)

Slides
   Ganta, Liberia, 1986 (40 slides)
   Teles Lepresarium, Mozambique, n.d. (54 slides)
   Unidentified, (241 slides)
Teles Colony, South East Africa, 1941, 1960-1969, n.d. (See slides)
Touched By Love, n.d.
Videos
  American Leprosy Church Version, n.d.
  American Leprosy Mission, n.d.
  Champions of Industry, n.d.
  Children in Exile, n.d. (3 cassettes)
  Children of the Broken-hearted, n.d.
  Leprosy, n.d. (2 cassettes)
  A Season of Hope, n.d.
  A Special Touch of Love, n.d.
World Leprosy Day, 1962
“Word and Deed” newsletters, 1990-2000

Federation of Women’s Societies

Annual Reports, 1920-2009
Awards, 1997-2000
Correspondence:
  ALM, 1995-1996
  Bradburn, Robert, ALM Director, 1982-1985
  Damson, Mrs. George, President, 1957-1964
  DeBruyn, Martha, President, 1982-1983
  Ganta Leprosy Center, Liberia, 1977-1999
  Kalkman, Myrtle, President, 1957-1960
  Slenk, Mrs. Peter, President, 1950-1983
  Stauffacher, C.J. and Alice, missionaries, 1942-2970
  Townsend, Corrine, President, 1971-1983
  VandeWaa, Barbara, President, 1971-1974
  Van Egmond, Mrs. Howard, President, 1963-1965
  Van Hoven, Mrs. Abram, President, 1967-1969
  Walvoord, Edith, President, 1948-1952
  History, 1920-2009
  Meeting Locations, 1955-1990
  Meeting notices, letters, 1975-1994
  Minutes, 1919-2010 (5 bound volumes)
Box 4.5

Federation of Women’s Societies (cont.)

Notebook, 1950’s
Photos, Gull Lake Bible Conference, 1999 (4 images)
Presidents, n.d. (2 images)
Puppets, Hudsonville Reformed Church, n.d. (1 image)
Speakers, n.d. (2 images)
Plaque, 1976
Praise Luncheon, 2005
Praise Service Bulletins, 1948-2010
Proposal to support Zaire Project, 1995
Radio Broadcast, 1967
Records (4 folders), 1960-2010) taken from 4 binders
Stamp, n.d.
Treasurer’s Ledger, 1959-2010
Woven Cloth, 58” x 31½ “, n.d. (provenance unknown)

Box 5

Federation of Women’s Societies (cont.)

Banner, n.d.
Leper crafts
    Beads, n.d.
    Sewn Portraits, n.d.
    Woven placemats, n.d.
Mini banks, n.d. (4 items)
Pete the Pig big plastic bank, n.d.
Sandal, n.d.

Box 6

Federation of Women’s Societies (cont.)

Award, n.d.
Wooden bowls, n.d. (2 items)
Wooden crosses, n.d. (2 items)
Woven baskets, n.d. (4 items)
Box 7

Federation of Women’s Societies (cont.)

Scrapbook, 1926-1957

Box 8

Federation of Women’s Societies (cont.)

Scrapbook, 1959-1975

Oversized Cabinet

Federation of Women’s Societies (cont.)

Armadillo, n.d.
Leprosy Map, n.d.
Letter Posters, n.d. (16 items)
Paintings, n.d. (6 items)
Photos, n.d. (2 images)
Scrapbook pages, n.d. (6 items)
Sign, n.d.