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Western Theological Seminary

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**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**

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 Chiangmai*, n.d.
*A Doctor Teaches About Leprosy*, 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

Box 4

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.