

1918 - 1957

Everything in existence must needs have a beginning, as is the case in the Women's Organization of the Mennonite Church.

In 1908, the sisters of both the Waterloo and the Kitchener Churches started the first sewing circles in this Co. The further development of this work came in 1916 or 1917 thro the appointment of Mrs M. S. Gressman as District Sec. by interested ones at a representative meeting held in Dundas at a time of Genl Conference. Following this a committee was chosen in this district which resulted in the following appointments:

Hannely	Mrs Menno Nahrgang	Pres
	Mrs Jacob Jucker	Vice Pres
	Mrs Moses Spang	Sec
	Mrs M. S. Gressman	Treas
	Mrs Nelson Bechtel	6th member

The First Sister's Meeting in connection with the Sewing Circles was held at Kitchener, June 13th 1918

The meeting was led by Mrs Menno Nahrgang.

The meeting was opened by singing Hymn No 330. Scripture Reading Psalm 24th

1st Topic: An open door for the Mennonite Church.

(A) The needs and our opportunities in the War Stricken Countries by

Mrs J. S. Gressman
1st John 3-17 Whoso hath of this world's goods and seeth his brother in need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the Love of God in him.

Pure religion is to minister to the needy James 1-27 & Matthew 5-22
The World is dying for a little bit of love.

B. Financial Assistance

Ada Gressman
He that soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly.

God loveth a cheerful giver
 To dedicate a tenth is only doing our duty
 We owe the Lord a special offering for
 the favor received from the Government
 during this present war.

2nd Topic The Woman's Part in
 Religious Activity. Mrs. S. M. Kenagy
 Acts 1-14 9-36 Acts 12-12 18-26 21-8,9
 Bible Women as examples - Hannah, Deborah
 Faith and prayer of women helped to
 make Pentecost possible. Lydia opened
 up her home to Paul.
 Mary, Mother of Mark opened up her
 home for prayer.
 Our business is to find out where
 God wants us.

The influence of a Christian mother
 in the home cannot be estimated

3rd Topic Thoughts on India
 Mabel Groh
 no Religion has more polluted
 womanhood as has Hinduism
 The night is dark in India it
 needs women missionaries

Woe to us who are at ease in Zion.

4th Reports of Secretaries of Sewing Circles

5th Report of Canadian Secretary.
 Mrs. M. C. Crissman

Anna W. Shantz Secy.