

Under Miss Steidel's supervision patients learn various trades



knew how to mix cement or raise the framework of a square house. It seemed providential that on her previous furlough Miss Steidel had taken a course in elementary construction at Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri, and now she was able to teach these people how to build. Even those who were so ill they could hardly walk found some way to help, so eager were they to have a town of their own. In July, the first house, a twelve-room building of mud, stick, and thatch tied together with tie-tie, was completed and sixty-eight happy lepers from the brush houses moved into it the same day! New Hope Town was becoming a reality.

One day in 1945, John Gwa had come to Miss Steidel. "What are those sores?" he said, as he showed her his hands.

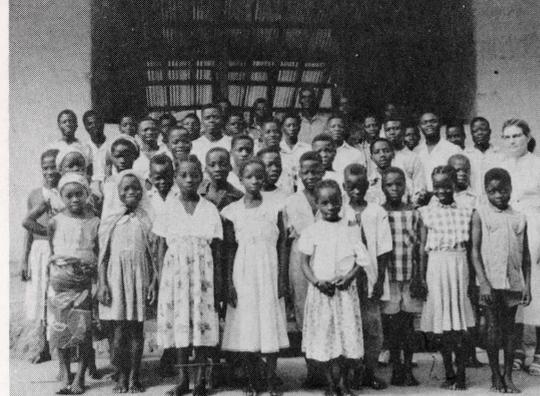
"Oh, John, I am so sorry, but you have leprosy."

Then it was discovered that Martha, his wife, had also contracted the dread disease. John could no longer pastor his church so they, with their three children, moved into an old house in Newaka. In 1947 they moved to New Hope Town where he became Miss Steidel's valued helper. He was pastor of the church, helped supervise the construction of new buildings and also assisted at the clinic. Just one year after John and Martha moved to New Hope Town they were both miraculously healed, but continued to cast their lot with the lepers until 1953, when John felt God would have him take a pastorate for well people. Neither of them has ever had any return of leprosy.

Bringing cassavas from the farm



Harvesting palm kernels



School for leprous children. Miss DeEtta Butler is principal.



This young lady attends the school for untainted children

NEW HOPE TOWN CONTINUES TO GROW

Since 1947 Miss Steidel has never stopped building. She started with less than \$100.00 and God has met every need through the generosity of friends and church groups in America. Today there are more than 100 buildings for patients, a well-equipped clinic consisting of two buildings, separate schools for leprous and untainted children, a fine church, carpenter shop, store rooms, and three missionary residences. These buildings face six well-planned streets, giving the town a modern appearance, so rare in that region. One of the streets is named "Steidel Street" in honor of the founder.

The temporary stick and thatch houses are being replaced, as funds permit, with permanent-style buildings constructed of mud brick, with aluminum roofs and cement foundations. There are now 35 such houses, each large enough to accommodate four families. More of these houses are urgently needed. They can be constructed for \$700.

The town is governed by two bodies of men. One, the Deacon Board, consists of seven Christian men who settle all church affairs. The other, the Town Council, settles all other matters. Seven nations are represented in New Hope and fifty tribal languages are spoken. Under the leadership of "Ma" Steidel, its untiring director, 800 people are learning the intricate details of daily living in a community of their own.

A bridge on the Paul Landrus road leading to New Hope Town

