

Linda Brown - Retired Nurse Now A Missionary

By Colleen Bunting

Scotland Neck Bureau Chief

LONG BEACH - Linda Brown is a retired nurse who lives in the Wilmington area. She took early retirement in 1986.

Brown has had the opportunity to travel to India three times - in 1993, 1995 and 1998. She learned about these trips through her church. People from different churches in the United States travel together as a team.

Their mission is to deliver needed items, administer medical aid, and most importantly, spread the Word of God.

A long-time Baptist, Brown was widowed less than 10 years ago. She remarried, a man of the Methodist denomination, and now she attends her husband's church.

Before remarrying, and while getting premarital counseling from her pastor, she asked the question, "Do you think a person of the Baptist persuasion can get along with a person of the Methodist faith?"

Brown's pastor smiled and said, with an expression of no doubt, "I think so."

Wednesday, in celebration of Older American's Month, a Senior Expo was held at Sterling House in Rocky Mount. Brown's daughter, Mary Linda Whitledge of Nashville, is the Activities Director there.



Photo by Colleen Bunting

Linda Brown, of Long Beach, N. C., is a retired nurse who has traveled to India three times in the last five years.

sionary.

There was a grown male who approached Brown, and, through an interpreter, complained of having breathing problems. Brown had an inhaler in her supplies.

She instructed the interpreter to tell the man to inhale. After a couple of treatments, the man felt better and could breathe more easily. He went away happy.

Shortly thereafter, the man returned and, again through an interpreter, told Brown that he had

in India in the area she visited look much older than they really are. That, she explained, is because they have such a hard life.

Different families would host the team of missionaries. Customs there are much different from what the missionaries are accustomed to here in the states.

Brown and her companions were amused at the way their hostess was reusing table napkins. At one meal, one of the missionaries had a green napkin. At the next

According to Brown, people in India very cordially welcomed the missionaries. It is their custom to spread flowers along the path of travel.

Brown said, "We were so humbled by this."

Some places the missionaries visited to offer services of various kinds, there would not be enough chairs. The natives would always get up and make sure the missionaries were seated.

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As part of the day's activities, Brown was there with her slide projector and screen to show pictures of her trips to India.

Brown explained the slides as they were shown. It was obvious that she was totally committed and dedicated to her work as a mis-

sionary. Brown, and, through an interpreter, complained of having breathing problems. Brown had an inhaler in her supplies.

She instructed the interpreter to tell the man to inhale. After a couple of treatments, the man felt better and could breathe more easily. He went away happy.

Shortly thereafter, the man returned and, again through an interpreter, told Brown that he had heard about her Jesus, but had not believed it.

"Now, I do believe," he said happily.

The missionaries decided to give the man a biblical name. They named him Abraham.

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Brown and her companions were amused at the way their hostess was reusing table napkins. At one meal, one of the missionaries had a green napkin. At the next meal another missionary was given the same napkin.

The missionaries, being observant, did not use the napkins the hostess gave them. They, without the hostess knowing it, had their own paper napkins.

Beds are little more than something similar to a table with a piece of board lain across it. By the end of the day, the missionaries were tired enough that even that type of bed was a welcomed relief.

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Some places the missionaries visited to offer services of various kinds, there would not be enough chairs. The natives would always get up and make sure the missionaries were seated.

"They are very courteous to visitors," Brown said.

"Taking these trips to India has been so rewarding for me. We have so much to be thankful for here in the United States. We tend to take so much for granted. I want to make people aware of conditions in other areas of the world. That is why I am so happy to share slides of my trips with an audience," commented Brown.