

Minority Music Interest Growing

Interest in the music of minorities is increasing. Expressiveness, rhythm, spirit, soul — Mennonite minority choirs and individuals are bringing their unique contribution to the wider Mennonite community.

Barbara Sowell, Chicago, Illinois, sings such songs as "Be a Christian," "I Want My Hogs, Lord" and "Lazarus Come Forth" on the album *Be a Christian*. An album, *Praises*, by the "Mennonaires," the Burnside Community Mennonite Church choir, Columbus, Ohio, also presents the black experience in music. The Lawndale Mennonite Church choir will release a record in May 1972 presenting the Latin experience and spirit in music.

Freed in Christ

The Council looks forward to a deeper involvement with the Mennonite Church and the Christian community as a whole. The church must be concerned not only with the soul, but also with the mind which eventually controls the soul. Unless a man can free his mind to think rationally about himself and persons around him, he cannot think about his soul being saved.

It is recorded in the Scriptures: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Minority Ministries Council believes that Christ frees persons physically, socially and psychologically to be persons and to be Christians. Helping persons to freedom is the task of the Council.

Compassion Fund: Since 1969

From its call into being at Turner, Oregon, in August 1969 until August 1971, Compassion Fund contributions totaled \$152,525. Included in that amount is \$9,683 reported as allocated by district conferences. As of March 31, 1972, contributions to Compassion Fund totaled \$218,752.

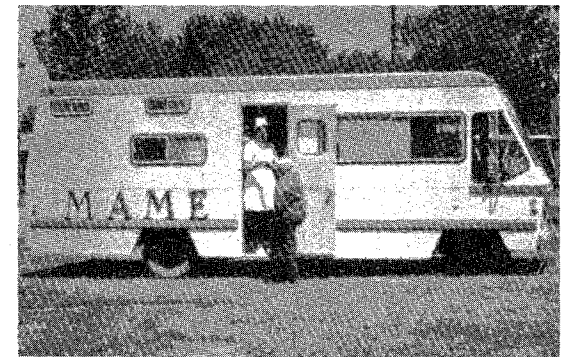
Compassion Fund allocations are made by a disbursements committee and approved by the Council in consultation with Mennonite Board of Missions.

Administrative Budget of Minority Ministries Council

Staff and meeting costs for Minority Ministries Council are charged to the Compassion Fund. As of March 31, 1972, \$73,603 has been used for these purposes.

Compassion Fund Report

The Minority Ministries Council disbursement committee has received more than half a million dollars in project requests from community organizations, churches and social welfare groups. Using "Guidelines for Compassion Funds" (see next section), to determine priority of projects, the committee has allocated \$202,064 to the following projects.



First Disbursement, 1970:

1. Project MAME, South Bend, Indiana

Allocated \$10,000
Disbursed \$10,000

Medical aid to migrant employees through Medical Aid Mobility-Equality, Inc. (MAME), is designed to provide medical care for migratory farm laborers in a five-county area in northern Indiana. A mobile clinic was purchased in early 1971 with Compassion Funds and four thousand dollars from other sources. Other expected grants and greater community support did not materialize. Through the circumstances MAME's director disappeared with files and money. The second director sought a local neighborhood focus for MAME, but the van was repossessed and MAME's program came to a standstill.

A South Bend surgeon has been interested in MAME and is ready to recruit doctors for the project. The Board of Directors is preparing a proposal which calls for \$170,000 for the pilot project. A director is also being sought. Federal funding is anticipated, although of current resources Frank Esmeralda, Board chairman as of September 1971, says, "What do we have? — just an idea."