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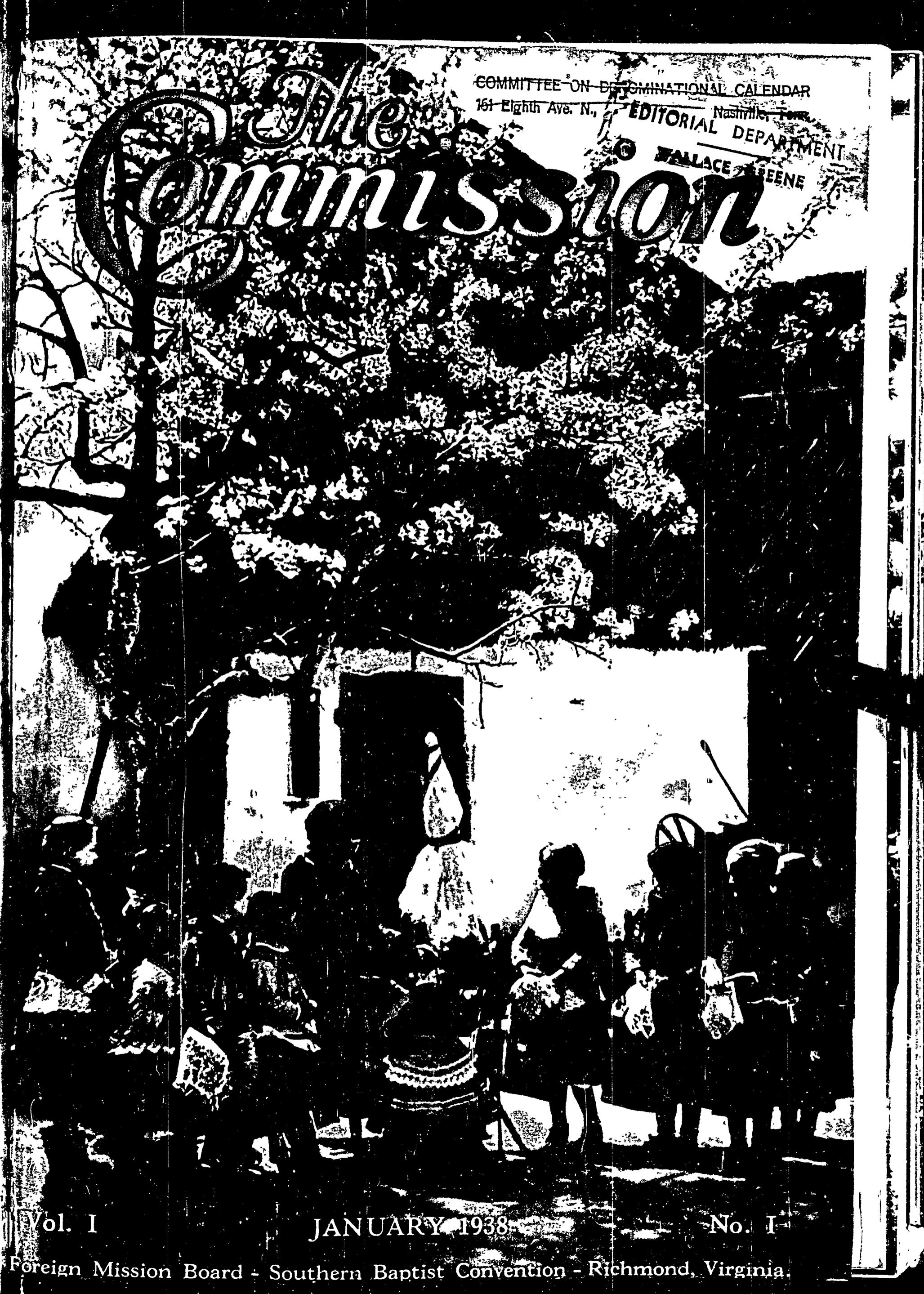
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WALLACE GREENE

# The Commission



Vol. I

JANUARY 1938

No. I

Foreign Mission Board - Southern Baptist Convention - Richmond, Virginia.

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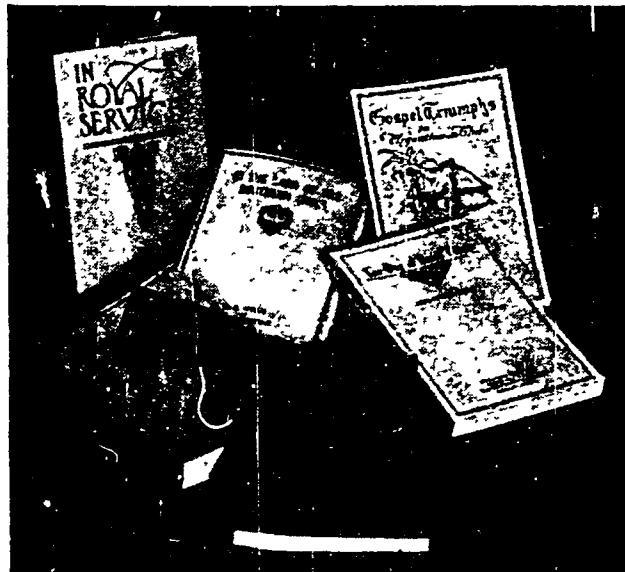
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# THE COMMISSION

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THE COVER—The snapshot of *Spinning in the Courtyard of a Hungarian Home* is typical of the rural life of these Europeans. They grow the "konopi" in their fields, plowing it with a crude plow with one handle and tilling it by hand. They cut and harvest this strange plant by hand and frail the chaff away leaving the soft, silk-like floss that is spun into thread for the cloth for clothes, "linen" and what-not. While the spinning proceeds the family and neighbors visit together. The colorful costumes are distinctive and beautiful. The Hungarians like their native attire, and the world-lovers of uniqueness and original beauty hope that these fine people will never give up their Hungarian costumes for western clothes worn by so much of the world that there can be no distinction to match that portrayed by these Hungarian villagers.

# THE COMMISSION

VOL. I

JANUARY, 1938

No. I

## WE ARE PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL

CHAS. E. MADDRY, *Executive Secretary, Foreign Mission Board*

*Our first word, as we send forth this first issue of THE COMMISSION, is a word of deep and sincere appreciation.*

IN THE year 1916, the Southern Baptist Convention authorized the HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION BOARDS to discontinue the publication of their monthly mission journals and instructed the Sunday School Board to issue a combined monthly mission magazine to be known as HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS. The Foreign Mission Board turned over to the combined mission magazine some forty odd thousand paid subscriptions to the old Foreign Mission Journal. From the very first issue the Sunday School Board has faithfully endeavored to carry out the instructions of the Convention, and has given to Southern Baptists a very worthy and high-class magazine. The management of the Sunday School Board has spent large and generous sums of money in an effort to produce a mission journal equal to the best published in America. In this, they have succeeded in a way highly satisfactory to all concerned. HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS has taken rank with the best put forth by any mission board in the land.

The annual losses of the Sunday School Board incident to the publication of HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS have been large, but the Board has not spared expenses in its endeavor to give Southern Baptists a first-class mission journal.

Let us say, too, very emphatically, that HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS has been a great success. The magazine has rendered valiant and heroic service to the cause of world-wide missions. The Baptists of the South have failed to give the magazine substantial support. If there has been any failure anywhere, it is the failure of individual Baptists and not the failure of the magazine.

In the matter of appearance and mechanical make-up, HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS has won a unique place for itself and has taken first rank with the best in America.

The Sunday School Board now proposes to

contribute far greater space to the cause of missions. Henceforth, all of the publications of the Sunday School Board will carry greatly increased amounts of missionary material and will make a special feature of pictures of missionaries and missionary work. For all of this, we are profoundly grateful.

The editors of HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS have wrought well and made a unique and worthy place for themselves in the hearts of Southern Baptists.

Dr. G. S. Dobbins was the first editor of HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS and guided the destiny of the new mission journal through the early years of its existence with the wisdom and foresight of a missionary statesman and efficient journalist. He set a high and worthy standard for his successor.

Now for many years, Dr. John L. Hill, Book Editor of the Sunday School Board, has been the genial and inspiring editor of HOME AND FOREIGN FIELDS. Dr. Hill brought to the editorship of the magazine the gifts of a winsome personality together with the wealth of a wide and accurate scholarship. He is thoroughly grounded in the word of God and has read widely in the field of missions and the lives of missionaries. In addition to all of this, Dr. Hill has a deep and holy passion for the salvation of all men everywhere. All of these gifts and graces, enriched and hallowed by the years of teaching, speaking and writing, have combined to make Dr. John Leonard Hill one of the outstanding editors in the whole field of missionary literature of his day.

We express to him the deepest gratitude of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and of all the friends of foreign missions everywhere.

We salute him as a brother beloved, an unsurpassed type of Christian gentleman, and a comrade worthy of all honor!

# Baptist World Extends Sympathy To China

## SOUTHERN BAPTISTS PLEDGE SUPPORT

E. B. WILLINGHAM, D.D., *St. Louis, Missouri*

The Foreign Mission Board, in prayerful and deliberative session (October 12, 1937, Richmond, Virginia), adopts the following guiding principles for carrying on under the present abnormal conditions in the Orient.

We express our profound sympathy with the peoples in China and Japan as they face the testing and suffering of war. We pledge to our Christian brothers and sisters there our continuing prayer and support as they seek to live as Christians in this difficult time.

We shall endeavor in cooperation with others to maintain all possible activities and attitudes which make for reconciliation, which minister to the relief of human suffering, and which exalt the Person and purpose of Jesus Christ.

We are convinced that all activities in China in connection with hospital and nursing service, schools, and churches, which are deemed essential and which can be maintained, deserve and should have the utmost support of the Board. The emergency will present opportunities for special and extended service, and will call for an unusual degree of initiative and discretion on the part of Christian agencies on the field.

We realize that the continuance of American citizens in China is fraught with hazards. In view of the advice of the United States Government that Americans immediately evacuate China, all missionaries who feel that they should leave are permitted to do so at the expense of the Board.

In areas of special danger we deem wise the evacuation of mothers with children, of those whose health is too uncertain for the hardships which threaten and of those whose furloughs are shortly due and whose services can be spared. In all such cases we leave the decision to the discretion of the mission, after due consultation with the Chinese convention. In urgent messages Chinese Christian leaders state that they covet the fellowship of all able-bodied missionaries in this crisis. We authorize the continued service of such missionaries as freely elect to remain and whose remaining is approved by their respective missions acting after consultation with the Chinese convention concerned. Those who withdraw and those who elect to stay are alike assured of our sympathy and support. We share with any missionaries prevented from serving at this time in China the hope that they may return at the earliest moment consonant with sound planning.

We urge all missionaries, whether leaving or remaining:

To avoid unnecessary risks both for their own sakes and in order to minimize the danger of involving their own nation;

To remember that their privileged position as neutrals involves the obligations of neutrals; Particularly to refrain from acts of military value to either side; To regard their personal safety and that of their Chinese associates as of more importance than the protection of property.

The Board will continue to accept gratefully such good offices for the aid of American citizens or of others as our Government may provide in accordance with the highest standards of international law. The members of the Board do not desire or expect that any injury suffered by their missionaries or any damage to their property shall be made a cause of war or the threat of war or of reprisals.

That the work of Christian missions should go forward even under conditions of war in the Far East is the conviction of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. As followers of Christ and as members of a world-wide Christian fellowship, the Board regards with apprehension and deep sorrow the Sino-Japanese hostilities and the physical and moral horrors which follow in their train. However, this Board and, it is believed, the churches it represents are confident that the present conflict between Japan and China emphasizes the Christian obligation. The task of the Christian church in Japan and China, and indeed in the whole world, is far from completed. We are servants of a Master for whom seeming disaster is the door to larger opportunity. The proclamation of the Gospel must go on. It is the Word of God to suffering, distraught humanity. To witness to that Gospel now in every land with renewed devotion is a call to all the followers of Jesus Christ.

The Board is confident that the churches desire earnestly to translate their testimony into deeds of mercy. The suffering cries of multitudes of children, of wounded men, of homeless refugees, of sick and hungry people must be answered not only by words of pity, but by self-sacrificing pouring out of the resources of love and service. The churches and supporting friends are urged to supply a gen-

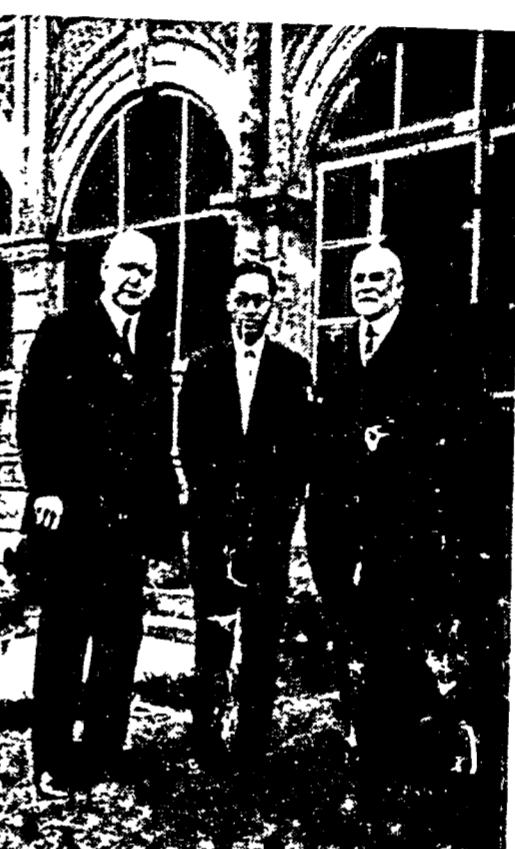
On behalf of the Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, I greet you, our Chinese brothers and sisters, in the name of our common Lord, and assure you that throughout the whole world your brothers and sisters in faith give you a foremost place in their thought and love and prayer.

The hearts of all are deeply moved by the sufferings and perils to which you and your fellow-Christians and your whole nation are exposed, and by the inhuman deeds perpetrated upon a peace-loving people in wanton violation of the laws of God and of man. No words can adequately express the indignation and horror which such events have aroused throughout the earth. The patience and courage which you and your people are manifesting under cruel wrongs have stirred the admiration of men and women of all nations, and confirmed the conviction that when the evil days have passed your race will play a great and noble part in shaping the better world of the future.

We are distressed as we think of widespread devastation of fields and

erous measure of relief funds which the Board is prepared to administer, and also to stimulate and cooperate in the wider appeals of other appropriate agencies.

The Board calls the churches and supporting friends to the high endeavor to see more clearly the importance of the missionary enterprise, and to provide more adequately for its support. This is a time in which missions everywhere and especially in Japan and China should have the loyal and undiminished cooperation of every Christian. Churches and Christians must thus testify to their faith in the reality of the Kingdom of God. To him we turn in earnest prayer and faith.



Dr. George W. Truett, President Baptist World Alliance, Rev. Harold Chan, President Graves Theological Seminary, Canton, China, and Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke, General Secretary Baptist World Alliance

all things—in spite of present appearances — work together for good.

We sorrow with you as we think of the losses and hindrances to the work of the Gospel which these sad and terrible events have brought. But we know that you do not despair. As Christians we all have learned the power of prayer and the victory that comes of sacrifice. With you we draw near to God in fervent intercession that the counsels and policies of evil may be brought to confusions, and that, if it be His will, there be an early and happy deliverance from all your afflictions. With you we will seek to understand more deeply the lesson we have learned from the Holy Gospel whose centre is the Cross, that sacrifice is not in vain, that pain shall be transmuted into power, that those who have been most sorely tried shall come forth as gold. In suffering you are brought ever nearer to your Saviour.

The love of our hearts is yours, and more warmly than ever as we think upon you at this time. To all in China who name the name of our Lord we likewise send Christian greetings, and we salute with profound respect and goodwill the Government and people of your great country.

On behalf of the Baptist World Alliance and speaking in the name of your fellow believers of every continent, I am, my dear brethren, yours in the fellowship of Him who suffered for us.

## MESSAGE FROM BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

J. H. RUSHBROKE, D.D.,

*General Secretary Baptist World Alliance, London*

# KINGDOM FACTS AND FACTORS

*It is the purpose of this page to catch up for consideration such facts and features of current history as seem to be providentially produced, in order that they may be made factors in the progress in the kingdom of truth and righteousness which is the purpose of Christ and the end of the Gospel. Modern missionary movement has been constantly and inevitably interrelated with all the movements of modern history. Political, economic, social, commercial and cultural movements are always interrelated with religious movements. They all interact and influence each other. The modern history of the world, during the last five hundred years, is more than anything else the history of the expansion of Europe throughout the earth. The expansion of Europe means the expansion of Christendom. This has given the occasion and the opportunity for the expansion of Christianity. The impulse, the motive, the power and the end of missionary expansion have not been derived from Europe, nor wholly dependent on the expansion of Europe; but the missionary expansion has been conditioned by this general expansion. This relation of missions to world movements is continuous, inescapable and desirable, when rightly understood and used by the missionary forces. It is the business of missionary statesmen and administrators to know the vital movements in the world's life, and to interpret these in terms of opportunity and obligation for the bearers of the Gospel.*

## A New Era in Missions

Since the World War there has been increasingly discernible the rise of a new era in Foreign Missions. The transition had begun twenty years earlier but this was recognized by only very few Christian thinkers. It has now become evident to all who give attention, that the re-thinking of the missionary enterprise must issue in a fresh statement of the philosophy of missions and in extensive revision of the science of missions. The response to this demand has already gone far. The older way of thinking of "foreign missions" is largely giving place to a newer concept of universal Christianity. The reconstruction of the life of the world which is going on in all forms of life and in all parts of the world moves so rapidly as to produce a large measure of chaos and confusion.

The success of the missionary movement in its one hundred and fifty years of limited but growing activity has developed a Christian following in all the major divisions of the world which necessarily shifts the emphasis of all thinking and planning in the missionary undertaking from the lines which have been most prominent in the past. The replacing of the emphasis is now in extensive process. In the last ten years many volumes seeking to reinterpret missions have appeared. Some of them are of the highest value. The most recent is *A Theology for Christian Missions*. Its author is secretary of the oldest foreign mission board in the United States, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (1810). Dr. White has not said the final word, but he has moved definitely toward a better understand-

ing of the foundations on which we must appeal for the support of missions and on which we must build in our missionary work. Out of the Layman's Commission, and their reports made five years ago there developed what first called itself "The Modern Mission Movement," but which has now changed its name to "A Movement for World-wide Christianity." Associated with this movement are many of the ablest and most devoted missionary leaders in America. They publish a journal and hold biennial conferences, the latest in Rochester at the end of May. These are only outstanding examples of various efforts to bring the missionary movements of Christianity into line with the opportunities and necessities of the world of today and of tomorrow. Professor Latourette of Yale, a Baptist, delivered at the Seminary

W. O. CARVER,

*Professor of Missions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

in Louisville, and in other seminaries, a series of lectures in 1936 which were published under the title, "Missions Tomorrow."

## Three World Conferences

In July there was held in Oxford the Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work, at which some of the most serious problems facing the Christian forces of the world today were considered. Among these the most pressing question was that of the relation of Church and State, a question affecting the position and work of Christians the world over at this time. In August in Edinburgh the Conference on Faith and Order met in its decennial convocation. Both these conferences must have a bearing on the life and the missionary activities of all the denominations.

The executives of the Baptist World Alliance regard these two conferences of such importance that they have appointed a commission to study their reports and present findings to the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Atlanta in 1939.

In the fall of 1938 there has been planned to be held in Hangchow, China, the Conference of the International Missionary Council. The last Council Conference was held in Jerusalem in 1928. The International Council was itself constituted in 1919. This was, however, the successor of the Continuation Committee in the Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910. General missionary conferences have been held periodically since 1854.

The Hangchow Conference should be of the greatest importance and significance for all missionary undertakings for the next ten years. The war in China makes uncertain the holding of the Conference in Hangchow as planned, although it is to be hoped that conditions will be such as not to require any change. After this crisis is passed, China will remain the most important mission field in the world; and its importance will be intensified by what is now going on, and by the conditions which will follow. All the friends of missions should give themselves most earnestly to prayer in behalf of Chinese Christians; of the Chinese Missions; and of the International Missionary Council in its preparation for next year's Conference.

sha. It was at a time of greatest importance for the University. Its adherence to the ideals of its founder and to the integrity of evangelical Christianity was involved. Dr. Ebina felt constrained to leave his great church, and became for many years the successful leader of the University. It was the privilege of the writer to interview Dr. Ebina in Karuizawa in the summer of 1923. He was intense in his conviction of the importance of American Christians continuing their Christian fellowship and missionary support with the Japanese Christians. He urged me to tell Americans not to think of giving up missions in Japan. He said, "We need better missionaries, but more missionaries." Then he said very impressively, "We, Japanese Christians are very, very weak. We are weak numerically; we are weak financially; we are weak spiritually. Tell the American Christians not to think of leaving us alone."

Dr. Ebina's going serves as a fresh reminder of the marvelous progress of the Japanese people and nation in the last eighty years; and of the amazing influence which the Gospel of Christ Jesus has gained in that land in so short a time. Sixty-five years ago the first Christian (evangelical) church was constituted of nine members, all men, nearly all young men. Today there is a numerous, vigorous Japanese Christianity, providing its share of Christian world leadership. Dr. Ebina was one of these leaders. There are still living one, or two of the young men students in a school where they learned the redemption in Christ, and who under a spreading pine on a hill above Kumamoto dedicated themselves to the evangelization of Japan and signed their names to the compact with blood drawn from their wrists.

## Japan Loses Aged Leader

Dr. Ebina, who had passed his eightieth birthday, died in Japan last April. He was one of the first evangelical Christians in Japan. He had lived through the modern era of Christianity in Japan and has been one of the chief personal factors in the growth and the direction of evangelical Christianity. He was one of the first theological students in the Doshisha, famous Christian University, founded by the romantic youth, Joseph Hardy Neesima, in 1875. Dr. Ebina became the remarkable pastor of the largest Christian church in Japan, in Tokyo. In the midst of his greatest success in this pastorate he was called to the presidency of Doshi-

# Daughters of Virginia and Texas Make the Supreme Sacrifice

GEORGE GREEN, M.D.,  
*Secretary of Nigeria, Africa*

Yellow fever is endemic among African people of Equatorial West Africa; periodically outbreaks of yellow fever have occurred in the British Colonies of Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigeria. During the past thirty years within the missionary life of the writer there have been several of these outbreaks among the white residents of Nigeria. Always there is a heavy fatality. The mortality rate is usually eighty to ninety per cent. Hitherto, the missionary personnel of Southern Baptists has escaped these invasions of yellow fever. This year, without any warning this dreaded disease struck us with terrific severity. During June and July four of our missionaries were attacked, Dr. Leonard Long, Miss Frances Carter Jones, Miss Kathleen Manley, and Miss Lucille Reagan. Dr. Long and Miss Manley, after a severe illness and periods of anxiety to themselves and those who ministered to them, went on to convalescence and recovery.

Miss Frances Jones, taken ill Monday morning, June 21st, died Saturday evening, June 26th. The Medical Officer of Health for the Oyo Province, and the Government Medical Officer in charge of the large African Hospital at Ibadan (sixty-four miles distant to Ogbomosho) were called in consultation and were with us when Miss Jones died. Her mortal body we buried in the European cemetery on Sunday evening. Missionaries from Abeokuta, Lagos, Oyo, Shaki, Iwo and Sapele were present at the funeral service which was held in the hospital chapel and at the grave

Miss Frances Carter Jones  
of Virginia  
Arrived Lagos, Nigeria,  
Africa, September 1936  
Died at Ogbomosho, Nigeria,  
June 26th, 1937  
Nine months a Missionary in  
Nigeria.

\*

Miss Lucille Reagan of Texas  
Arrived Lagos and Oyo,  
Nigeria, West Africa, 1921  
Died at Ogbomosho, Nigeria,  
July 12, 1937  
Sixteen years a Missionary at  
Oyo and Lagos, Nigeria.

side. A large company of African Christians also came to the service. Our male missionaries acted as pall bearers, bearing the casket to its resting place.

Miss Lucille Reagan came from the Mission meeting that had been held at Shaki, arriving at Ogbomosho, June 25th. She came for service, volunteering to help in any way possible in taking care of our three sick missionaries.

Infected mosquitoes in our old Mission Compound must have bitten her. She was taken ill Tuesday morning, July 6th. The disease ran a very severe course. She died early Monday morning, July 12th. We again sent for Dr. E. G. MacLean of our Industrial School at Iwo to make a casket. The next morning, July 13th, we laid her mortal body to rest beside the newly made grave of her younger missionary sister in the European cemetery. Caskets for both Miss Jones and Miss Reagan were made by the staff of our Baptist Industrial School at Iwo. These caskets were made of

white ant proof and rot proof Iroko wood, beautifully polished. Plates of brass giving the name, date of birth, and date of death were attached to the casket.

Sunday morning, June 27th, Miss Reagan went with me to the cemetery just north of Ogbomosho to measure the grave for Miss Jones. Between the wire fence that enclosed the cemetery plot of land and the iron entrance gate, there was just enough land for two graves. We measured ground sufficient for a grave for Miss Jones. I said to Miss Reagan, "There is just enough ground here for one more grave. I wonder whose grave it will be?" Little did I think that in sixteen days she to whom I was speaking that morning would be the one whose mortal body we would lay to rest beside that of her missionary sister whose grave we had just measured.

Ogbomosho was now under quarantine, so I telegraphed to all missionaries not to come to Ogbomosho for the funeral service for Miss Reagan. We buried her from the hospital chapel. Five missionaries who remained in Ogbomosho were present, Mrs. Leonard Long, Miss Ruth Kersey, Miss Eva Sanders, Miss Lena Lair, Dr. George Green, and, also, our pastors, teachers and hospital nurses. Dr. Leonard Long and Miss Kathleen Manley were ill and not able to attend. Eight of our school teachers acted as pall bearers. Members of our Baptist churches asked that they might be allowed to help us in our time of trouble by digging the two graves; this they did, and they did it well.

## OGBOMOSHO WEEPING

As we returned from the funeral service at the grave of Miss Reagan, rain began to fall, and it rained steadily for several hours. To me it seemed as if Ogbomosho was weeping in sympathy with the missionaries and the African Christians because of the great sorrow that filled their hearts.

Those two newly made graves at

Ogbomosho have drawn more closely together the hearts of the African Christians and their missionaries.

The Medical Officer of Health of the Oyo Province, who had been with me in consultation and had rendered valuable and sympathetic aid in our very strenuous time of need, and the Health Authority of the Colony thought it necessary to fumigate thoroughly all buildings in our Mission Compounds, so the fumigation crew from Lagos consisting of a European Official and his African staff came to Ogbomosho bringing with them a ton and a half of apparatus and fumigating gas; large posters giving warning of the poisonous gas that was to be used in fumigating the buildings were pasted on doors and walls, and on Friday all mission buildings were evacuated, doors and windows tightly closed, and deadly poisonous cyanide and tear gas was passed through our mission houses, day school, college and hospital buildings and dormitories. The buildings were kept closed for six hours, to destroy all mosquitoes and insect life within them.

An intensive anti-mosquito campaign was launched by the Health and Sanitation Department of the Colony, the campaign to include the Mission Compounds and the native quarters for an area of four hundred yards radius around the compounds. All trees having holes in their trunks and all banana and pawpaw trees were cut down; all pineapple plants, shrubbery and flowering plants capable of holding rain water were pulled up. As potential breeding places for mosquitoes these trees were regarded as being dangerous to the health of those living in the compounds.

European officials in the administrative and other departments of government service; Europeans in the commercial life of the Colony have also fallen victims in this 1937 invasion of yellow fever. The Government and Commercial circles have shared with us the sorrow that such a calamity brings.

## SYMPATHY AND TRIBUTES AND NEEDS

Letters of sympathy have come to us as a Mission from our many friends in all walks of life in Nigeria. Our missionaries, Miss Jones and Miss Reagan, were held in high esteem and greatly beloved for the integrity of their lives and the excellency of the service that they had rendered to the welfare and progress of the Colony of Nigeria. We miss them from our midst. Our missionaries have fallen in the thick of the battle; our ranks are thinned. Miss Jones, a trained nurse was to have relieved Miss Manley in the Baptist Hospital at Ogbomosho; Miss Ruth Kersey has been called again to join the hospital nursing staff to fill the breach. Another trained missionary nurse is needed as soon as possible.

Miss Reagan was principal of the Baptist Academy at Lagos, the leading school of the elementary and grammar grades in that modern city of more than one hundred thousand people. As an educational executive she was among the best; as a missionary evangelist and Bible teacher she was excelled by none. We need a missionary couple, husband and wife, experienced by years of residence and service in Nigeria to head our educational

work at Lagos, and gradually with tact and patience to lead and work with our Baptist pastors in the development and growth of our Baptist churches in Lagos and the Lagos District.

The Director of Medical and Sanitary Service in Nigeria instructed the American Consul at Lagos to write to the Secretary of our Mission suggesting that on account of the close proximity of the old Mission Compound to the native compounds, the mission house formerly occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Long be not again used as a missionary residence, and that the entire Mission Compound, with the second missionary residence, be abandoned as soon as possible. That means that two new missionary residences will have to be provided within the very near future. How can we abandon this compound and build missionary residences without funds? How can our Foreign Mission Board supply funds for missionary residences unless some of our folk in the homeland provide the funds for these missionary homes? We need funds for at least four new homes for missionaries in Nigeria, and the need is urgent.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

"We sorrow not as those who have no hope."



Left: Grave of Miss Frances Jones. Right: Grave of Miss Lucille Reagan. Standing by these new graves is Miss Eva Sanders, co-worker of Miss Reagan's

# Japanese Baptists In the Orient

M. T. RANKIN, *Secretary for the Orient*

Manchukuo (under Japanese control since 1934) offers to Southern Baptists a marvelous opportunity for an entirely new missionary enterprise. Throughout the ten years we have had workers in that field, opportunities have far exceeded our abilities. The few workers have been constrained by the opportunities to spread their efforts over hundreds of miles of territory. Twenty churches and chapels have already been established. A separate Manchukuo mission was formed last year with five missionaries. As yet the Foreign Mission Board has been able to give only a small part of the funds which are already being used in this mission. The missionaries themselves have secured most of the funds from direct gifts. This field presents an unlimited opportunity for any amount of support in personnel and finances that the Board may be able to supply in the years to come.

## A HIGH HOUR IN JAPAN

The meeting of the West Japan Baptist Convention in March marked the high point of spiritual vitality. The meetings were characterized by a deep concern for the extension of God's Kingdom. I have not seen any group of Christians who are more keenly conscious of the responsibilities which rest upon them as Christians than are the Japanese Baptists. The theme of the Convention was missions. One entire session was set

*Kazue Murata and little sister. Studying at Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina, Kazue is preparing to return to Japan to teach in mission school for girls at Kokura*

aside to inaugurate the Convention's Missionary Movement in Manchukuo and to dedicate the first missionary, who has already begun his work. The sermon, the charge to the missionary, and the prayer of dedication, all by Japanese pastors, brought the entire Convention into the very presence of God Himself. The service was one of those rare spiritual hours in which God lifts His people up especially near to Himself to empower them for some great forward undertaking in His Kingdom.

The theme of Missions found expression also in the concern of the Convention for the development of a deeper spirit of evangelism through the churches. The most pressing need of the Japan Baptist Convention is to strengthen and develop the churches. The program of education is more aggressive than the work of the churches. In the Fukuoka school for boys and the Kokura school for girls, the Convention has a strong foundation for an effective

program of Christian education. These schools do not need less support from our Board than they are now receiving, but the churches are in urgent need of more help, both in missionaries and finances. At least two couples for evangelistic work should be appointed at once. The Japanese churches are making strenuous efforts to become self-supporting. In some cases they are being crippled and seriously handicapped by attempting to carry financial loads that as yet they are unable to bear.

## WORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS IN JAPAN

Although the number of Baptists in the West Japan Baptist Convention is small, the achievements of our Mission in Japan during the less than fifty years of labor have not been small. Southern Baptists have never made a large contribution to this work. Even so, a noble band of devoted Japanese Christians have grown up through the

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efforts of the Baptist Mission. The Japanese Convention is now taking the responsibility for leadership in the work. They greatly need the continued help and support of Southern Baptists. Christianity knows neither racial nor political differences. God has given to Southern Baptists of America a great responsibility in His Kingdom work in the Orient. That responsi-

bility calls for continued support of Japanese Baptist work.

Dark and threatening clouds of impending storms hang low over the Orient as I am writing this. By the time this reaches America, the storm may have broken. We have faith to believe, however, that God will continue to lead as He opens the way in the Orient, and will give us strength to follow as He leads.

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## The Story Of the Italian Mission

D. G. WHITTINGHILL, *Rome, Italy*

**The Past**—The year 1870 witnessed four important events in European history: the Franco-Prussian war; the unification of Italy; the proclamation of the dogma of Papal Infallibility, and the loss of the temporal power of the Popes. All of these events took

place in Italy except the first one. Italy's unification was accomplished after twenty years of struggle under the leadership of such leaders as Victor Emanuel, Garibaldi, Cavour and Mazzini. The newly acquired political and religious liberty, seconded by a strong anti-clerical spirit, made of Italy a promising field for the proclamation of the Gospel of liberty in Christ.

Southern Baptists began work in Rome the same year that it became the Capital of united Italy. English Baptists and Wesleyans, who had been working in other parts of this land, moved into Rome during 1870. Later, American Methodists established themselves in the Eternal City.

The first missionary to go to Rome was W. N. Côte, but his work was of brief duration, due to no fault of his. Dr. George Boardman Taylor was the real founder of the Italian Mission. After thirty-four years of ceaseless toil and suffering, he left it firmly established and full of promise for the future. He died in 1907, universally beloved and highly esteemed for his piety, his scholarship and administrative ability. He was buried near the grave of Keats in Rome.



Dr. D. G. Whittinghill by the grave of Dr. George Boardman Taylor, the founder of the Italian Mission. Dr. Whittinghill has served thirty-eight years in Italy



Dr. and Mrs. W. Dewey Moore and Mary Lou, Southern Baptists' New Missionaries to Italy

### FIRST YEARS MARKED SUCCESS

In the beginning our work was attended by remarkable success. Many people confounded political and religious freedom. Consequently, numerous people were baptized who were not soundly converted and had to be dismissed.

At the height of its prosperity (1929), the Italian Mission was composed of fifty churches and about seventy-five out-stations, all of which were served by native pastors. There were churches in all the great Italian cities except Bologna, Palermo, Trieste and Venice and in many smaller towns. Both Venice and Trieste had to be abandoned on account of difficulties created by the World War. Our church work is naturally the most important feature of our Mission and on its success depends the future of our cause. The visible results thus far have not been so marked as in some other Roman Catholic countries such as, for example, Brazil and the Argentine Republic.

As usual statistics make dry reading and tell only approximately the real state of our work. In addition to the 125 churches and out-stations, we had at the end of 1930, 396 baptisms, 1,181 in the Sunday schools, a membership of 2,933 and total collections amounting to \$10,813. If we take into consideration our numerous catechumens, sympathizers and "Nicodemuses," our number will easily come to more than 12,000 which is indeed a noble army for the cause of Christ in Italy. We had also a theological school, a well known publishing house, an orphanage, a young people's union, a W.M.U. and twenty church buildings.

In addition two events must be mentioned which largely increased the importance of this Mission: the establishment of our Publication House in 1912 and the taking over of the English Baptist Mission in 1923. Our publications (reviews, journals, tracts and books) have exercised great influence on the Italian public, inducing many, who have not seen fit to become church members, to accept our principles. The absorption of the English Mission made our work more solid and eliminated some possible causes of friction. We also inherited several splendid workers (English and Italian) and came into possession of valuable church property.

### ITALIAN BAPTISTS TAKE FIRST PLACE

The character of our converts and sympathizers in Italy must not be considered, in intelligence and moral worth, inferior to that of other civilized countries, although in material matters, most of our members are poor.

Italy numbers among its citizens some Baptists notable for their culture, for their usefulness and for their piety. Several pastors have won great honor for themselves as well as for our Mission. An excellent translation of the entire New Testament into Italian, a translation of Luke's Gospel into the Sardinian dialect for the British and

Foreign Bible Society, a brilliant treatment of the Resurrection of Christ, a Hebrew Grammar in manuscript form all go to the credit of former pastors. A scholarly pastor, Professor L. Paschetto several years ago received the Pontifical prize for the best work on Ostia, the sea-port of the Roman Empire. The Pope was reluctant to give his money to a "heretic" and Baptist at that! Another pastor has contributed to our literature seven volumes concerning his-



*Dr. Ignazio Rivera, President of the Italian Baptist Union*

torical, devotional and apologetical topics; two others have composed some valuable hymns.

The sons of some of our pastors have also conferred honor upon our work. One is justly considered to be one of the finest artists in Italy. He is a professor in the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Another was formerly secretary of the Prime Minister; another is the youngest judge in Libia; still another has written a valuable work on Italian law.

In addition to the above mentioned Baptists, there are pastors hidden away in distant provinces and insignificant towns, who, on account of their faith, zeal and cour-

age, deserve no less honor than those who have been placed by the Providence of God in more prominent positions. Many of our lay-members, notwithstanding difficulties and persecutions unknown in America, have borne faithful witness to the Gospel and have remained steadfast in "the faith."

The spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice for the cause of Christ has made great strides in late years. In proportion to their small possessions, there are few Missions throughout the world whose converts are more generous than the Italians. Since the World War their contributions for the evangelization of their own country have increased at least fivefold!

There is also a growing sense of individual responsibility among our church members for the salvation of souls. In some churches there seems to be a holy rivalry among the young as to who can bring more people to our services and thereby lead them to Christ.

*The Present* — The present "epoch" should date from 1929, a memorable year, especially for Italians. It marks the beginning of the world crisis and the reconciliation between the Italian Government and the Vatican.

Our greatest trials and difficulties have fallen to our lot during this period. Owing to the economic crisis, financial help was immensely curtailed. Consequently, within a short time it became necessary to suspend two of our most important periodical publications, including our noted review "Bilychnis"; the theological school was closed; several of our churches and out-stations were abandoned; most of our orphans were sent adrift and the salaries of our workers were three times cut.

The loss of two pieces of valuable property in Rome, by sale and expropriation (1935-1936) was a sad blow to our cause.

Peace with the Vatican after fifty-nine years of bitter strife was a great event for Roman Catholics. The Italian Government pledged

itself to pay the Vatican \$87,500,000 as part compensation for Papal properties confiscated in 1870. Besides, valuable property concessions were made to the Papacy, including a monopoly of religious instruction.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH GAINS ADDED INFLUENCE

The Papal State now has representatives in nearly all the capitals of civilized nations, including Protestant England and Germany. Diplomacy and politics have been the Vatican's special field of activity for centuries. The present Pope is preeminently a politician.

Not only politically, but socially, the Roman Church has reasserted itself of late. Schools of higher learning, like the University of the "Sacred Heart" at Milan, institutions for social service, and new convents abound everywhere. Books, magazines and newspapers are published in every part of the peninsula to extend the influence of Romanism. Besides, the church has become in many ways a dangerous rival to state and private institutions. Banks, employment agencies, insurance companies, department stores, distilleries, shops for the sale of religious objects, manufactories of various kinds, and agriculture represent some of the many agencies of this many-sided institution.

The Vatican Pact has added immensely to our difficulties. At first the promulgation of a special law in favor of non-Catholics filled our hearts with new hope, but we were soon deluded. This special law has practically become a "dead letter," as local authorities, under clerical influence, rarely mete out justice to our cause. Persecution has never been so severe since 1870 as at present. The prayers and sympathy of our American brethren were never more badly needed than now.

*The Future*—It would require great courage and presumption to attempt a forecast of the future. Only God knows what is in store for us. However, "the prospects

are as bright as the promises of God." If the Lord led Southern Baptists to work in Italy in 1870 and has sustained them for more than sixty years, he will without doubt continue to lead them on.

## MISSIONARY FACES NEEDS IN ITALY

The future of our work in Italy depends largely on supplying our needs, material and spiritual. They must be mentioned in order:

*First*, equipment represents a material need. Important cities like Milan, Naples, Bari, Messina, Sampierdarena, Cagliari and Ferrara are badly handicapped for lack of substantial places of worship. In Milan our brethren have been worshipping for more than fifty years in "hired halls"!

In Naples our premises are very inadequate and no place can be found for our growing congregations. Each of these two large cities has a population of almost a million inhabitants! How long will Southern Baptists go on building costly and luxurious houses of worship and leave us to struggle in a land like Italy with no adequate equipment?

Smaller cities like Grosseto, Chiavari, Gioia del Colle and Metteria are all suffering for lack of equipment.

Under the head of equipment, should be mentioned pulpits,

church organs, baptistries and other furniture which are sadly lacking in some of our churches. One can hardly realize how difficult it is to perform baptisms decorously in a country where nearly every modern convenience is lacking for such purposes. If it is not done properly in this country, the impression is almost disastrous.

*Secondly*, since the sale of our orphanage building, our orphans have no permanent home. We should provide one at once. We have many requests to receive evangelical and other orphans, but for lack of room and means, even pitiful cases cannot be accepted. May God speedily inspire some one to supply these helpless little ones with a good building!

*Thirdly*, the greatest of all our needs, in comparison with which all others sink into insignificance, is an outpouring of the Spirit of God upon our pastors and churches. Such a gift would mean increased faith, consecration, courage and love for the lost. The prayers and sympathy of our friends in other lands will encourage us to expect great things from God and attempt great things for Him. Pray to God that a new outpouring of His Spirit may fall upon this land which did so much for the diffusion of Christianity in the early centuries.

## Faithful In the Field of Christian Training

W. C. TAYLOR, *Secretary to South America*

I think the Christian workers in the Sao Paulo College faculty are deeply sincere in their loyalty to genuine conversions as their aim. They have no adding machine in their evangelistic work. Besides devoted teachers of various nationalities, we have several lady missionaries in the institution.

Miss Mattie Baker did not miss a single service during the meeting in the college and the one held in the college church the week following. She lives in a separate building with a group of teachers, but finds opportunity to be with the girls and know the spiritual struggles of many of them. Those who were in

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such struggles were brought, in a number of cases to the church services, if their grades were high enough to permit absence from study-hall. Two who had resisted Christ in the college meeting were happily saved in the meeting in the church.

Miss Alma Jackson is our newest missionary in Brazil. She has been working as teacher and nurse in the college for some years, and on her devoted record was appointed by the Foreign Board upon Dr. Chas. E. Maddry's return last year. She gathers groups of Christian girls for services in another church, where I am to hold my last meeting of the four, and promotes their usefulness in Christian song.

Miss Essie Fuller has charge of the dining-hall and dormitory, and a variety of responsibilities in the intimate life of the boarding students. She works in still another church and in the general W.M.U. work, and during the vacation period takes long trips in her car over the vast areas of interior Sao Paulo, carrying trained young women with her, and a preacher, so that they render a variety of useful services to the Cause in each center visited and the outlying churches around about it. A fine work of training these Christian girls is carried on in the institution, and Baptist life in the nation is being enriched by the gift of these chosen and ripened characters.

#### THE RAINBOW OF PRAYER

I preached in the morning at the college on the parables of Jesus, and in the evening to these two first classes mentioned on "The Fruits of the Spirit." The last three evenings invitations were given. Many Greek Catholics and Roman Catholics came. Deep struggles took place in many a heart over the issues and attitudes of student life with reference to the Lord Jesus. A moving factor in crucial hours of our meeting were prayers by President F. A. R. Morgan.

#### FIELDS AND FACTS

Miss Essie Fuller says that Mr. Morgan is not only interested in the conversion and Christian life of the individual student and the Christian purpose in the school during a meeting, but that all the girls know and believe that that is his supreme purpose every day of the school year. On two occasions that fact stood out as a rainbow against a clouded sky when he prayed at crucial hours of our meeting. In such moments, those who carry the burden give of the rich stores of life, in a day or two, the energy and personality that weeks of routine would not consume so rapidly. Purpose is intensified by such prayer, and such prayer is heard.

It would be difficult to find educators who give themselves more unreservedly to a Christian testimony and purpose of missionary education, along with the highest standards of literary excellence in the school life, than Mr. and Mrs. Morgan. Their children also help in the seriousness of their parents' purpose. Without such a missionary school, our access to whole colonies and elements of this population of so many races and nationalities would be closed. It is through these fine girls, some day to establish lovely homes, that the way for Christ is being prepared in large foreign colonies and some almost inaccessible Brazilian groups.

## CHINA EMERGENCY

### Immediate Response Necessary *Evacuation and Relief Imperative*

**L**IVES of missionaries and Chinese colleagues are in grave danger. Funds for evacuation to safety are needed *at once*. The war has caused living expenses to multiply by ten. Millions of refugees are facing starvation. Missionaries are dividing their last pennies with Chinese comrades in Christ.

## NOW

Help save the life of a missionary  
Help save Southern Baptist work in war zones  
Help save the Missionaries' Chinese colleagues  
Help save the lives of millions of homeless,  
starving women and children

### For this Immediate Emergency

Received to Date . . . . . \$35,000.00  
Additional Amount Needed . . . . . \$65,000.00

## Help At Once

### *In This Great Kingdom Emergency With a CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR CHINA*

May Southern Baptists use God for protecting the lives of Southern Baptist Missionaries. All thus far are safe. But the *Present Emergency* is serious and demands immediate action.

Send Checks **NOW** to  
FOREIGN MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Box 1595, Richmond, Virginia

## Christians Meeting China's Calamities

I am going to use part of this Sunday afternoon, September 19, 1937, to write you about some phases of present developments which I do not get time to include in my ordinary letters to you.

### THE CANTONESE CHURCH

This morning I went with Dr. W. H. Tipton to the place in the International Settlement where the Cantonese Church and Girls' School have moved. Since the regular home of this church is in the heart of the area of heavy fighting, the work has suffered greatly. Many of the members have lost everything they had; clothes, bedding, homes — everything. The families have had to scatter all over the Settlement seeking places to live. And yet, we found fully a hundred and fifty members present for the morning service. They have rented an old residence for church building and school. At the service this morning people were sitting all the way up the stairway in the hall and in all of the rooms on the first floor. Every Sunday subscriptions are taken to help buy clothes and covering for members who have lost everything. The pastor has accepted a fifty per cent reduction in his salary and knows that he probably will not get more than half of that, but he goes on with his ministry as a Shepherd to his people. The school has been opened with about one hundred and thirty pupils. Miss Rose Marlowe is still in Manila and will not be able to return until the Consul gives permission. Miss Helen Yates came down from Mokanshan and is unable to go to Soochow. We are asking her to take regular work with this school for the time being.

### OLD NORTH GATE CHURCH

Chinese Christians in Shanghai are meeting the calamities of the

war with remarkable courage and fortitude. Last Sunday Mrs. Rankin and I went to the North Gate Baptist Church to see some of the people there and the large relief work which the church has been doing. We found Pastor Y. C. Ching in one of the three daily Bible classes which he has been conducting for refugees who are being taken care of in the church. For several weeks over four hundred refugees from war-torn areas of Shanghai have been taken care of by the members of this church. The entire school building and Sunday school class-rooms have all been converted into dormitory

## UNIVERSITY OF SHANGHAI

The faculty and staff of the University of Shanghai have manifested that spirit which keeps institutions living through all kinds of disasters. Without regard for loss of salaries, their homes and personal belongings, the members of the faculty have banded themselves together to keep the University alive. Without demur, they accepted thirty per cent of their August salary, not knowing whether they would get any more. The directors have since arranged to pay all of August salary, but can promise for the

## BITS OF BROKEN CHINA

*From the Missionaries*

space. Any who are able to pay for their food are expected to do so, but those who are not able to pay are taken care of. Many of the poor people are not only unable to pay for their food, but have nothing to wear except what they have on. The North Gate Church is rendering a wonderful testimony for the Gospel of Christ through this ministry of mercy. All of the people there hear the Gospel again and again. Pastor Ching returned from the Louisville Seminary in time to give greatly needed help to his people. The sight of him seated among a large number of these distressed and distracted people teaching them about God's Word was a beautiful picture of the Good Shepherd. In the absence of Miss Roberta Pearle Johnson we are making plans to assign one of our missionaries from some of the stations which cannot now be occupied to the North Gate work. Miss Elizabeth Hale is already at work there. We will probably ask Miss Lillie Mae Hundley to work there also.

months ahead only to divide proportionately the funds which come in. Students are being registered and plans are being made to open on October 1st either in the quarters of the School of Commerce in the True Light Building or in rented quarters in the Settlement. Thus far more than six hundred have sent in their names for the college and middle school. For several Sundays the University Church service was held here in our home. Again and again I have stood in humble admiration of the faith of these Chinese men and women who have already suffered such heavy losses and to whom the future may bring severe tragedies. I try to sympathize with them, but, after all, I am still an American, and when things get so bad here that I cannot any longer remain, I can go back to America. But these Chinese men and women go as China goes, and the road ahead for China is one of suffering and distress.

(There are still 150 Southern Baptist Missionaries who have elected to remain in China.)

MISSIONARY  
INTEREST



Baptist girls at Pooi To training for Red Cross work



Chinese soldiers en route to "the front"



### GRACE CHURCH

I have not visited the Grace Church since they moved into the Settlement, but understand that they are carrying on in a splendid way. They rented new quarters and moved several days before fighting began, and were therefore able to move their equipment with them.

### THE COMPOUND: ELIZA YATES AND MING JANG SCHOOLS

A local Chinese newspaper has published two pictures of buildings on our Compound taken by a Chinese photographer, both of which more than confirm our fears. The two buildings, the Sallee Memorial Church building and the boys' dormitory, are wrecked with shell holes. For the past several days heavy shelling has been going on in the vicinity of the Compound. I am certain that our buildings there will be a total loss. The University of Shanghai is now entirely within the Japanese lines and well outside the range of Chinese gunfire. There is still danger from air bombs since a Japanese landing field has been made just in front of the campus, but thus far the dam-

age to the buildings has been comparatively light.

### THEN WHAT?

The Chinese Christians are the ones who are suffering most in the disasters which are overtaking us, but we are finding that as missionaries our hearts and souls are being severely tried. One almost has to harden his capacity for sympathy and compassion to keep from being haunted by the tragedy and suffering to be seen on every hand. For those who love China and her people, a look into the future almost brings despair. The work of God's Kingdom in our missions, the churches, schools, hospitals, seem about to be swept away by the de-

stroying hands of war. Our missionaries are being scattered here, there and everywhere, and in the end not a few of them will be lost to the work. I am especially apprehensive about our new missionaries in the North. I cannot get in close touch with them, and so do not know what they are thinking. They are being urged to withdraw from China. If they leave, where will they go? Probably to America—and then what? We cannot keep these and many, many more such thoughts from going round and round in our minds. And still, history teaches us and faith assures us that God's Kingdom will go on, that His work, though crushed down, will rise up again with renewed life and vigor. Storms have come in the past, perhaps as severe as this one, and God's children have risen up after them to go forward into new undertakings in His service. I pray God to give us faith to endure with patience the trials of this storm so that we shall be ready to rise up and go forward in His service when it has passed.

I shall be glad when mail from you begins to come through. We have been without American mail for about four weeks. A United States navy boat is going to Kobe next week to get over a thousand bags of American mail. I am sure there will be letters in this from you written after the war began.—M. T. Rankin, Shanghai, China.

*Three of the score of buildings of the University of Shanghai that have been bombed by the enemy of China*



### MISSIONARY INTEREST

## CHINA'S PRESIDENT IS A CHRISTIAN

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and wife, who are at the head of the Government, are warm-hearted Christians and are not depending on their armies nor airplanes to win the war, but on the help of God. At the beginning of each long busy day an hour is taken by them for

as long as the building stands. There are four of your missionaries here at present, viz, Frank T. Woodward, Dr. Wm. L. Wallace, Mrs. R. E. Beddoe, and the writer. It is not in any spirit of bravado that we elect to remain, but in a humble desire to serve in times of distress, to hold our work together and to take advantage of the unusual opportunities now thrust upon us,

especially in the hospital. Never before have the opportunities been greater and the outlook for the hospital brighter.—R. E. Beddoe, M.D.

## WILL YOU HELP?

If a mission hospital is a good thing it is far more useful and desirable in times of trouble and danger. Recent years have proven the effectiveness of medical work in the spread of the Gospel. If this is true in times of peace, it will be far more evident in war. So we who are connected with this great institution have decided to STAY ON THE JOB and keep these doors open to the last extremity. Nor do I believe there will be any defection in the staff. Recently several nurses and others left a certain native hospital without notice, because of fear. They actually walked out while an operation was being performed. I do not expect anything like that here. Our staff has been welded into a family. The spirit and atmosphere are most gratifying. They know we will not leave and that we are depending upon and believing in them.

So we plan to carry on! There has been no halt in enlargement plans nor dimming of vision, but we are working toward our well defined program without interruption. But, we see serious difficulties ahead. The supply of medicines in Shanghai is exhausted, the sources

Bible study and prayer, prayer for wisdom and guidance in the affairs of the nation. Thousands of Chinese Christians over the land are also praying that God will help China to learn the lesson He is trying to teach and that "The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard" against their enemy who has come in like a flood. How much time each day are you giving to intercession for China at this time! She needs your prayers now as never before, also your means. All business is paralyzed as a result of war, and many of our Christians are on the verge of terrible suffering.—John and Jewell Abernathy, Tsinan, China.

## HUMBLE DESIRE TO SERVE

Thoroughly understanding the good intentions of the American Government in repeatedly warning us to evacuate, the management of the Stout Memorial Hospital is determined to keep the doors open

*These missionaries at the far interior station of Pochow are at their post of duty and finding more to do now during the distress of war than in peace times. Left to right: Rev. G. W. Strother, Mrs. Strother, Miss Harriett King, Miss Addie Bostick, Dr. Mary King and Miss Clifford Barratt*

*Chinese high school girls marching for their country*



MISSIONARY  
INTEREST

of a constant stream of drugs, cotton, gauze are cut off. The time is not far distant when we may be forced to discontinue our service because these supplies cannot be obtained. So we send this appeal to our South to make the continuation of this great work possible. We are asking Dr. Maddry to secure funds and send out these supplies. We need at once 500 pounds of cotton, 20 bolts of gauze and any amount of the standard drugs necessary for the operation of a hospital. We do not want the money, for money cannot buy these things, but we do need the supplies. Will you help?—R. E. Beddoe, M.D.

#### THE SPIRIT OF THE MISIONARIES

China is looking to America as her friend. Now is the time for us to prove our real friendship to China and to the cause of international justice. . . . My dear mother always taught me that "the place of duty is the place of safety." I believe this. I trust God to take care of His own in a time like this. But the preservation of our lives is not the biggest thing before us. It is our business to do God's will and it is His privilege to take care of us. I do not mean by this that we are going to be stubborn and fool-hearted. We shall be as careful as we know how to be.—H. H. McMillan, Th.D., Soochow, China.

## The Call of the Balkans

H. H. MUIRHEAD,  
*Missionary to Brazil*

Properly speaking the Balkan States comprise an area bounded by the Adriatic Sea on the west, the Aegean Sea on the east, and the Danube River and Black Sea on the north. This division excludes the greater part of present-day Rumania, although that country is

generally considered as forming part of the Balkan Peninsula. In this broader sense the Balkan States are: European Turkey, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania, and Greece. Southern Baptists carry on a cooperative mission program in Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Prior to the world war there were only a few struggling Baptist churches in the two countries. Without missionary initiative and direction Rumanian Baptists have grown within the last twenty-five years from a few hundred to from 50,000 to 60,000. While progress has been less marked in Yugoslavia, the growth in that country has been phenomenal. Perhaps the greatest growth has been in Bessarabia, which, prior to the war, was a part of Russia and is still largely Russian in race, language and customs. There the growth, within the last twenty-five years has been from three small churches with a few scores of members to twelve thousand members organized into one hundred churches and some two hundred and fifty preaching points. To minister to these churches and out-stations, there are about fifty pastors and one thousand lay preachers.

The rapid growth of the work in these countries is, at once, its strength and weakness. Enthusiasm is a great asset in Christian work, but enthusiasm alone tends to superficiality. Grounded in knowledge enthusiasm has marvelous carrying power, but has never been a substitute for knowledge. Enthusiasm without knowledge ends in fanaticism; knowledge without enthusiasm degenerates into formalism. A simple peasant can win a soul to Christ, but he cannot indoctrinate a church nor grow a great denomination. Wisely led the movement in the Balkans will go from victory to victory; left to self, it can easily fall a prey to any false teacher that may present himself. One shudders to think how easily one demagogue could lead the unsuspecting flock of simple peasants astray.

#### MISSIONARY INTEREST



*Missionary Ruby Daniels and Rumanian family*

#### THE CRYING NEED

The crying need of Rumania and Yugoslavia is for trained leadership. The Macedonian call from these far away countries is for three consecrated couples to give themselves to preacher training.

Were I twenty years younger, I would gladly give my life to preacher training in Bessarabia. I know of no place in the wide world where the investment of a life would yield a greater dividend.

Eight months in Europe taught me three important lessons: that all classes are groping for the light and hungering and thirsting for the bread and water of life; that the simple Gospel of Christ is the only hope for poor bleeding, shell-shocked, priest-ridden humanity; that the risen Christ is saying to us who have been fed: "Give ye them to eat." The responsibility is upon us.

Just as the Word was incarnate in the Son of God, truth, to the victorious must live in the human heart, be revealed to human living, and be proclaimed by the human voice. The call of the Balkans is for that type of missionary.

# An Acceptable Christmas Gift

**T**HE Christmas song of *peace on earth and good will among men*, will sound like a hollow sham and mockery to uncounted millions of hungry and freezing Chinese at this Christmas season. Hunger and disease and nakedness stalks through the land unhindered and unchecked.

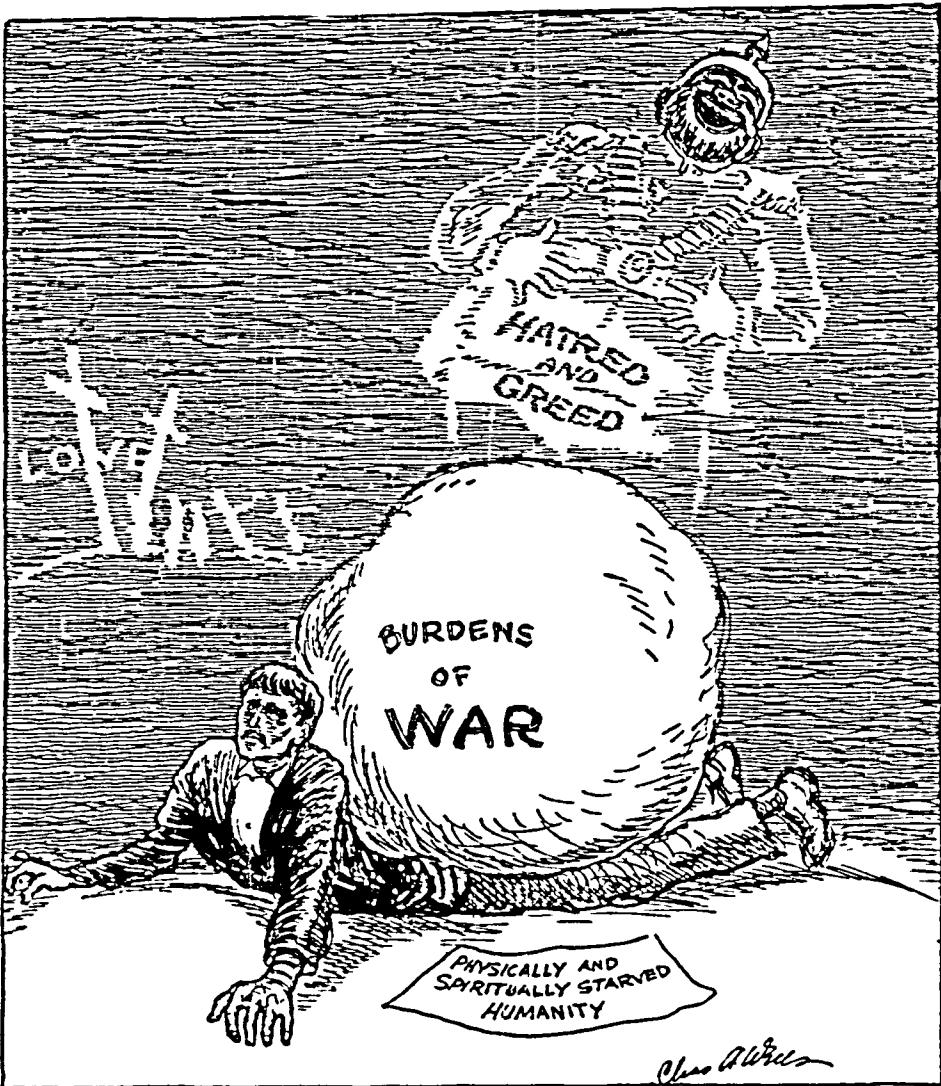
The Foreign Mission Board has 150 devoted and sacrificial missionaries who have elected to stay in war-torn and pest-ridden China and do what they can to relieve the misery and suffering about them. They have NO MONEY for relief. They will give out of their meager salaries until there will be little left for the support of their families. A FEW DOLLARS will buy enough rice to save a Chinese family from starvation during the cold and bitter winter.

Surely IF WE LOVE CHRIST and appreciate GOD'S GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT to us, we will not forget our suffering Chinese brethren and sisters at this Christmas season.

Instead of making gifts to our friends and loved ones, let us make the gift to our Foreign Mission Board for Chinese relief. We will cable Dr. M. T. Rankin, our Secretary for the Orient, to draw on us a few days before Christmas for whatever is placed in our hands. We are not asking for money that belongs to any other cause. We are asking for the gifts we would make to others. *Every penny sent us will go direct to China!*

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."





## They Cry For Bread and Get a Stone

For the past months, many world leaders have been bellowing belligerently about their armed power and what they intend to do with it. But in spite of the noisy applause of their uniformed claque, every intelligent human being knows that the people do not want war. The peasant and tradesman know it will shatter his dwelling, trample his fields and take the blood of his sons. In the past two and a half years this writer and his pencil have sauntered through the country sides of Italy, Germany, Russia, and Japan—the storm centers of threatening conflicts. He found the din of military throngs in the plazas could not subdue the cries of the hungry distressed masses of citizens who looked upon their own national spectacle with fear and dread. The national leaders try to "tune out" these deep murmurs of distress so only the shout of their political creed can be heard, but the cry for bread persists. The people cry for bread, the bread of their own fields, that it be left for them to use and rebuild their wasted estates, and not snatched away for uniforms and nonproductive steel. But their cry is only answered by greater burdens of taxation and poverty, while love remains crucified on a thousand hills. Christian nations need Christian leaders. The prayer of the church everywhere should be that out of its life may come national leaders who will love their fellowmen enough to be motivated by compassion instead of steel and stone.—CHARLES A. WELLS.

## The Commission

We are sending forth a new foreign mission journal to be known as THE COMMISSION. We believe the name chosen for our new publication is highly appropriate and that it will find great favor with our people. For the first year, THE COMMISSION will be issued as a quarterly, but we hope the magazine will find such favor with the denomination that we will be able to enlarge it and issue it as a monthly.

The name was chosen first because it comprehends in one expressive word the obligation resting upon Southern Baptists to give to all the world the Word of Life committed to them on the mountain in Galilee. The name was chosen too, for reasons of sentiment. On going through the archives of the Foreign Mission Board, it was found that the Board published a very high class mission journal from 1856 to 1861, known as THE COMMISSION. Dr. A. M. Poindexter was the editor and he gave the denomination a very worthy and meritorious mission magazine. The purpose and objective of that publication was stated as follows:

"To impart information, to enforce duty, to keep the subject of missions constantly before the minds of pastors and brethren, to induce self-devotion to missionary work, to excite and guide the spirit of prayer with reference to missions."

Eighty-two years later, we send forth this new medium of publicity with the same earnest desire and purpose in our hearts.

## Millions Will Perish

When we were in China two years ago, we saw concrete evidence of the earnest desire and effort of the Central Government to improve the social status and economic security of the masses. We were told by such outstanding Christian leaders as Dr. Hermann

C. E. Liu and Dr. John Y. Lee, that not less than *two hundred million* Chinese were living perpetually below the hunger line. That means that almost one-half of China's 466,000,000 people go to bed hungry every night, even in normal times. One crop failure or a devastating flood means that millions will perish. Worse by far than all the crop failures and floods of generations, is the cruel and destructive war that is now engulfing and wasting China.

What is to become of the millions of helpless Chinese whom the war has stripped of everything? What is to become of the aged, the sick, the helpless women and children of China during the months of cruel winter just ahead? We have seen China's millions of hungry, starving people in normal times. What must be the conditions now, following in the wake of unrestrained and brutal war! Eighty-five per cent of the people are farmers and live on the soil. They have been unable to sow or reap. Multitudes are being swept away by disease and plague. One grows sick at heart when he thinks of the millions who will perish before this cruel war is over.

We call upon the Baptists of the South to send relief. (*The Foreign Mission Board has already set up a special Relief Fund and has done everything we can do for the relief of the dying millions of China.*) We have about one hundred and fifty missionaries who have chosen to stay in China and do what they can in this terrible hour to serve the Chinese. But our resources are exhausted. Unless the churches hear and heed the call of China now, our Board is helpless to send relief and our missionaries out there can do nothing to save the starving multitudes. If we will help save the starving Chinese now, when this destructive war is over, the Chinese in joy and eagerness will hear and accept the Gospel our missionaries preach, but if we withhold our gifts now, when millions are perishing, the Chinese will scorn us and our Gospel when we offer them

the Bread of Life. We call upon our people—over and above, beyond all other giving—to place in the hands of the Foreign Mission Board immediately a generous and sacrificial fund, for the purpose of helping to feed and clothe China's starving, helpless multitudes *now*.

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Matthew 25:34-36.

## Mission Endeavor Imperilled by Prosperity

Prosperity has returned to the South. Favorable seasons have produced bountiful crops in all the states. Prices for farm products, with the exception of cotton, are fairly good. Unemployment has been greatly reduced and wages are high. Factories and industrial plants of all kinds are running full blast and there seems to be a growing demand in the world markets for the products of the farms and factories of the South.

Moreover, the standard of living among the people has risen greatly in Dixie within the last decade. There is a growing demand for better homes, better and faster cars, more radios and refrigerators; our people are eating more wholesome food and wearing better clothes. Our schools and colleges are overrun with eager students, and there is a growing thirst for knowledge among the masses.

All of this is splendid and brings joy to our hearts, but we have noticed through the years that times of material prosperity are not always times of spiritual glow and soul prosperity. God's indictment of His people in the Old Testament

was that "Jeshurun waxed fat and kicked," and that "then he forsook God who made him, and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation." In the New Testament the Saviour, with words that seared and burned, condemned the foolish rich man for forgetting God and his obligation to his fellows in the hour of abundant prosperity. The Baptists of the South face today a more deadly peril in their great prosperity than they faced in the dark days of panic and adversity in 1932-33. The evidence of this is seen already in the fact that the gifts for missions and benevolence through the Cooperative Program have not kept pace with the rate of spending for material things in the rising tide of prosperity that is flowing about us. The gifts of our people for foreign missions is a fairly accurate gage for our giving to all other objects. The income for the Foreign Mission Board for the months of July, August and September, 1936 was \$195,668.03 from all sources. Our income for the same months of 1937 was \$171,063.99. Why this decline amid growing evidences of prosperity and plenty on every hand? We confess that we are puzzled to find a reason for this distressing state of affairs. We believe that the explanation is found in the fact that prosperous times are always testing times for God's people. In times of prosperity God's people are tempted to ease and selfish indulgence, and the springs of generosity and liberality are dried up. It is a disturbing fact for all who love the cause of world-wide missions, that Southern Baptists during the last three decades have not grown in liberality and the grace of giving as they have grown in numbers and in material things. We are not giving as much to foreign missions today as we gave twenty years ago, when we take into consideration our growth in numbers, in organization, in institutions and in wealth. The following table of the gifts of

(Continued on page 27)

## Japan: The Opportunity We Lost

Japan, the Hermit Kingdom, was closed to the intercourse and commerce of the western world until Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, with four fearsome looking gunboats, came knocking at the fast closed door in July 1853. He brought a letter from President Filmore, written on velour and bound in blue silk. The letter requested that Japan set apart certain ports where American vessels might re-coal and where vessels in distress might find a refuge, and that a treaty of commerce between the two nations be arranged. Commodore Perry then sailed away, but promised to return for an answer the next year. He did return in February 1854 with *ten* battleships, and brought with him quite an array of presents from the American President. The presents were borne ashore by the armed forces of the squadron, while the guns of the fleet were kept trained on the Japanese who thronged the shore. The gifts of the President included a miniature railway, with locomotive and cars, a telegraph set; a sewing machine; the *Annals of Congress*; *Bird Life in America*; *History of New York*; a *List of Post Offices in the United States*; a *Geological Report of Minnesota*; *A Farmer's Guide*; plows and agricultural implements, samples of American vegetables with seed for growing them in Japan; a complete arsenal of rifles, cannon, fire arms, swords and ammunition. There were books, dressing cases, clocks, perfumery and many other articles of household and scientific use, and be it said to the *shame* of a Christian nation, there were included generous quantities of champagne and barrels of Kentucky whiskey.

So this was the way in which Japan opened her doors to western civilization and western culture. She has been an apt and ready pupil. In these eighty-three years since Commodore Perry's visit,

Japan has advanced from a feudal kingdom of the middle ages to one of the most progressive and efficient nations in the world. From a backward, rural, agricultural people, she has almost overnight leaped into the forefront with the leading industrial nations of the western world. In the field of education, her progress has been no less startling than in the economic and industrial sphere. She is the best educated nation in the world. More than 99 per cent of her people can read and write. One is amazed as he goes through Japan to see book shops as thick as grocery stores in America and they are always crowded with eager seekers after knowledge.

Our grandfathers in 1854 were very eager to give Japan the so-called benefits of western commerce and civilization. But were any concerned about Japan's religious and spiritual needs? Was any determined and sustained effort made by Southern Baptists following 1854 to give Japan the saving Gospel of Christ?

There were a few whose hearts were moved for the spiritual plight of the people of the Island Kingdom, so suddenly thrust into the onward sweep of the currents of western civilization. Strange to say, it was Matthew T. Yates, the great missionary pioneer to Central China who, repeatedly in the last years of the decade of 1850, pled with the Foreign Mission Board and with Southern Baptists to send the Gospel to the young nation so rudely awakened from the sleep of the centuries. Dr. Yates sent the Board gifts in money, and when no one volunteered for Japan, he offered to give up his work if necessary in China and go himself. Finally in 1860, our grandfathers were galvanized into life and the Board appointed Rev. J. Q. A. Rohrer and wife of Maryland as our first missionaries to Japan. They sailed on the *Edward Forest* and the vessel and all her crew were lost and never heard of again. In the same year of 1860, the Board appointed Rev. Crawford D. Toy to Japan, but the

Civil War intervened and he never reached Japan.

It was twenty-nine years later, 1889, before the Board opened its first work in Japan. We thus lost a whole generation after Japan was accessible to the western world before we entered this door that had been so signally opened to us.

What has been accomplished in these forty-eight years since Southern Baptists began work in Japan? During these years we have sent a total of sixty-one missionaries to Japan. Since 1860 we have lost by death, ill health and resignation, a total of forty-six, leaving only twelve now in active service in Japan. During these years, a total of sixty-four native pastors has been associated with the work. Less than thirty now remain in the active service of the churches. There is a splendid middle school and college for men located at Fukuoka with nearly one thousand students. There is a splendid girls' school at Kokura with about six hundred students. There is a small but growing and virile theological seminary that is training a worthy ministry for the churches. There is a small but high class Training School for women with six students for the current session. The Publishing House under native administration is doing much to spread the Gospel through the printed page. We now have nineteen organized churches and ten outstations, with some 2,500 baptized believers.

Because of our failure to give Japan a chance at the Gospel during the three quarters of a century since she opened her doors to the inroad of western culture and civilization, we have largely lost our opportunity to win Japan to Christ. In 1854, standing in the twilight zone between the closed past and the beckoning future, Japan was ready to examine the claims of Christianity. If we had pressed in, at that time with holy passion and complete abandon with Christ's Gospel of redemption, we could have won a nation in a decade. In the meantime, Japan

turned largely to atheism, infidelity and materialism. In 1854 Japan was plastic, but today she is fixed and hardened in the mold of an intense nationalism, materialism and emperor worship. This generation has rejected Christ and the blame is at the door of so-called Christian America. Christ the Lord of Missions gave us our opportunity in Japan and we let it slip from us. May Christ in His mercy forgive us for our failure!

## Suffering For Conscience Sake

These are dark and troublous days for our Rumanian Baptist brethren. Unless the Rumanian government, under pressure from the organized influence of the Baptist World Alliance, supported by both the British and the American governments, completely reverses itself, every Baptist church in Rumania will be closed. The Ministry of Cults, presided over by a priest of the Greek Catholic church, has issued a decree, closing in the near future, every Baptist church of less than one hundred male members. Every Baptist must have a permit from the local priest, dismissing him from the Greek Catholic church before he can become a member of a Baptist church. That is the subtle trick in the whole matter. People have been joining the Baptists by the thousands, whose names are still kept on the rolls of the Greek church. Not a Baptist church in the kingdom will be able to function if this diabolical and unholy decree is allowed to stand.

The new constitution of Rumania approved by Woodrow Wilson at the Peace Conference at Versailles, guarantees religious liberty and freedom of worship for minorities. Yet for more than a decade, our Baptist people have been subjected to every conceivable form of mean and contemptible persecution, and

(Continued on page 24)

# Our Missionary Family Circle

JESSIE RUTH FORD, *Executive Assistant*

In introducing "Our Missionary Family Circle" department, we wish to set forth briefly some of the things we hope may result from this family meeting ground.

As our title indicates, this page is to cover personal items of news from our missionaries. In addition to notes concerning the sailings to and from the fields, births, marriages and deaths, we want bits of intimate personal news from the missionaries themselves. We feel sure that the missionaries often have amusing experiences which they would like to share with the friends at home, some bit of gossip about their children, some great triumph that has come to them, or some burden that is on their hearts. These are the things we want for this page. Names will not be used if the missionaries so request.

### Cooperation

We want this page to be the medium of intimate contact between the missionaries and our readers, as well as between the secretaries of the Board and its missionaries.

In all families there must be cooperation if there is to be a happy family circle, and we feel sure that we may count on the full cooperation of all our missionary family in making this page a success.

As a starter for family circles, we present the George Green family of Nigeria, Africa.

This goes to prove that healthy foreign children can be born and reared in Africa. For the first time since they sailed for Nigeria in 1906, Dr. and Mrs. George Green returned to Africa alone on October 23, 1937, leaving their four daughters in America. Virginia has married W. W. Anderson, Jr., of Danville, Virginia, and has two children, Virginia Lee and George Green. May was married this past

summer to Lee Harley and is also living in Danville. Dorothy is at school in Meredith College and Charlotte in high school at Danville, Virginia.

Once more Dr. and Mrs. Green enter Africa alone. We pray God's blessings on them and the work they are to do.



Family of Dr. George Green, Nigeria, Africa

### Furloughs

All through the year missionaries from our different fields are arriving home on furlough. Furloughs are most important events in the lives of our missionaries. They need the relaxation and the rest they so richly deserve. They come home with mingled feelings of joy and regret, and usually begin to talk about going back before they have been at home a month. The Board has made a ruling that all missionaries shall rest for three months after their return home before beginning speaking engagements. Someone referring to the long service period on the field said: "The reason why the missionaries stay seven years on the field is because it takes that long for them to get over their year at home!" Probably it does.

### Opportunity

The harvest is ripe, and the opportunities for reaping are ever present. One of our missionaries

from Brazil writes: "What a privilege to help lead seeking souls into the light and to help them take their first steps in the Christian life. The other Sunday a beautiful young woman came to my class, saying that she had heard of our religion and wanted to learn more about it, that she knew that real happiness could not be found in material things and that she was trying to find the true religion. During the lesson she sat forward on the edge of her chair and drank in my words. After the class she stayed and thanked me and said she wanted to hear more and would come every Sunday. The city is filled with others like her. Doesn't the Sunday school teacher have a wonderful opportunity?"

#### *The Nurse*

Nurses are often the ones who go before and prepare the highway for the coming of the King. Brother B. W. Orrick of Montevideo, Uruguay, tells of the conversion of a woman who had never had any religious instruction of any kind in her life; the only impression she had received was from the two Baptist nurses who had been ministering to her. These nurses asked Brother Orrick to visit her. He did so, and found her heart already favorable to the gospel message. The highway for the coming of the King had been prepared by these devoted Christian nurses.

#### *Language Study*

Not only does nursing present a marvelous opportunity for witnessing, but even that most terrible bug-bear, language study, furnishes our missionary students rare chances for leading their teachers to Christ. Sometimes one student sows and another reaps, but they will be rewarded together in the harvest time. Such an experience recently occurred at the College of Chinese Studies, Peiping, China. The following is quoted from a letter from one of our students:

"He (God) has been using 'B' in a very special way, and the week



*Mr. and Mrs. H. Leo Eddleman, Tel Aviv, Palestine*

before vacation it was her privilege to lead one of the teachers to definite decision for Christ and confession of salvation. Years ago a student planted the seed when she gave this teacher a copy of the Word; last summer a Chinese preacher watered it when he preached in this man's hearing a Spirit-filled sermon; early last fall one of our missionary students again did so when she gave him some tracts, but it was given to 'B' to reach out a hand and lead this groping soul through the obstacles which were still clouding the truth, out into the full radiance of the light of the cross."

We want our missionaries to become proficient in the use of the language of their adopted countries, but whether this young woman ever learns the language or not, her stay at that school will not have been in vain. The winning of that one Chinese teacher is worth more than all the cost of her language study. May God use our young missionaries around the world in the leading of their language teachers to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

You young people studying in the language schools, don't get discouraged at the slowness of your progress. You can be learning the

language of the heart as well as of the lips, and every day is a God-given opportunity.

#### *Prayer*

Though scattered far and wide in many countries our family circle have one meeting place, the place of prayer. As one in heart and spirit, we can come together at our Father's Throne and pray for one another and the cause we love. Truly it may be said of our family of missionaries as we said of the early Christians, "Behold, how they love one another."

#### *Suffering For Conscience Sake*

*(Continued from page 23)*

now the government has set out to suppress them completely. What shall be the answer of Southern Baptists to this new form of persecution that has come upon our brethren of Rumania?

First let us be much in prayer for our suffering brethren in Rumania. We suggest that President George W. Truett and Secretary J. H. Rushbrooke of the Baptist World Alliance appoint a day and call upon the Baptists of the world, 12,000,000 in number, to come together in prayer and supplication to Almighty God for our suffering Rumanian brethren, for the king and government officials, and for the leaders of the Greek Catholic church.

Then we should send at the earliest possible moment a half dozen missionary recruits to Rumania. For five years now, Dr. Everett Gill has been pleading for recruits and as yet we have been unable to find the men we need. Pray the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth laborers into His harvest.

The only layman in the ecclesiastical section of the Coronation Line of March last spring in London was H. L. Taylor of Bristol, England. Mr. Taylor is President of the British Baptist Union.

# THE HOME BASE

R. S. JONES, *Home Secretary*

## A FINE MOVE

The following letter received with a subscription to THE COMMISSION is characteristic of the expressions that the Foreign Mission Board is receiving from many Southern Baptists. Therefore, I take the liberty of quoting the following:

"Dear Brother:—Fine move! It brings our foreign mission work back into the concrete. It has been reduced entirely too much to the mere abstract, in which situation the masses of our people do not think and feel in mission work. The 'Higher-ups' can remain loyal that way, but the average will not. I was one time a member of the Board and I have never felt that the foreign mission cause had had a 'square deal' since it had to cease its own publication of missionary information and depend upon another board to do that for it. It was awkward for both boards. Though vitally related, the home and foreign mission work can never be squeezed into a single unit without injury to both. Far be the unthinkable thought of 'rivalry'; it is a problem of efficiency, and that must come from the concrete (not the abstract) contact with the churches.

"I make no charge for these unsolicited 'explosions.'"

## LIFE ANNUITY BONDS

The Life Annuity Bonds of the Foreign Mission Board are rapidly growing in favor with our people. Behind these bonds is the credit and moral worth of the Foreign Mission Board, backed by more than a million and a quarter of potential assets in trust and endowment funds.

In addition to this, these bonds are re-insured and underwritten

through the Relief and Annuity Board with assets of more than four million dollars.

The income from these Life Annuity Bonds will compare favorably with that paid by the best life insurance companies in America. The interest rate is based upon the

age of the purchaser and we give the rates for the ages of 30, 50, 70 and 80 years of age:

Ages at entry	Rate—per cent
30 years .....	4.8%
50 years .....	5.4%
70 years .....	7.3%
80 years .....	9.0%

Interest is paid quarterly, semi-annually and annually.

Buy a Life Annuity Bond now. Income for life guaranteed.

Serve the Cause of Foreign Missions while you live.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

1937

	Program	Des- ignated	China Emergency Fund	Debt	Lottie Moon	Mis- cellaneous	Total
July.....	37,257.37	25,394.18	.....	4,780.25	467.16	850.57	68,749.53
Aug.....	29,701.35	13,566.63	.....	2,554.51	103.86	1,136.38	47,062.74
Sept.....	26,524.07	14,597.64	9,694.54	2,693.72	.....	1,741.75	55,251.72
	93,482.80	53,558.45	9,694.54	10,028.48	571.02	3,728.70	171,063.99

E. P. BUXTON, *Treasurer.*

## A New Missionary to Africa

WILFRED CONGDON



Wilfred Congdon

My life began near the Rockies at Fort Collins, Colorado, October 23, 1911. Later I was to become the middle one in a family of eleven, father, mother, one sister, and seven brothers. My father and mother were devout Christians, and always took us to church. At home they held family worship after the morning and evening meals. These early impressions had a definite effect in molding my life's outlook. My first thoughts of mission work as my life work came when I was about ten or twelve years of age, and it has been my constant ambition ever since. I think I have prayed practically every day since then, "Lord, may I be a missionary for Thee." March 26, 1922, I joined the First Baptist Church of Fort Collins by baptism.

In 1930 I was graduated from high school, and in the fall, I went to Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, for a year. For my sophomore and junior years, I found it necessary to attend the Colorado State A. & M. College near home, but I found it was thus that the Lord gave me the technical training which I have always liked, and which I believe He will use in His service. I went to Wheaton again for my senior year and was graduated in 1934 with B. S. degree.

That summer I had the opportunity of working with a mission group in St. Louis, playing every night for the street-preaching services. At the end of the summer, I went to Louisville, Kentucky, to attend the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I found the work there very interesting, and the institutional and street-preaching services gave good opportunity for ministry.

When I returned home for the summer I worked with the Young People's Temperance Council. It was in this group that I met Miss Esther Bassett, who has since become my fiancee. While returning to the Seminary in the fall, I travelled from St. Louis to Louisville in a small outboard-motor boat that I had built.

After returning from the second year of theological study, I was asked to supply in the churches of Wellington and Livermore, a half and a quarter time work, respectively.

In the spring of 1937 I was graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with the Th.M. degree. This summer I was asked to supply the pulpit of the church at Timnath, Colorado, a small full-time church.

I was ordained the thirteenth of August, appointed as a missionary of the Foreign Mission Board, October 18th, and left for Nigeria immediately.

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In England Baptists do not speak of their work in other lands as *foreign missions*, but as *pastors overseas* or *work overseas*.

## COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

# DEEPER THAN THIS

## THE MISSIONARY'S CALL

JESSIE R. FORD, *Executive Assistant Foreign Mission Board*

Ever since the days when Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee and called to that group of young fishermen to follow him, there has been a deepening interest in the hearts of young people as to what the "call" means. God has many ways of calling if we have ears and hearts attuned to hear his call. In looking into the matter of a call to foreign mission service we need to be sure, first of all, that we are keeping close enough to God for him to make his will known to us through whatever channel he may see fit.

### MANY REASONS

With the increased interest in foreign missions in our southland, there has come an increased interest among our young people in the old question of what constitutes a "call" and how one may be sure that he is called. Some whose hearts have been deeply stirred by the vivid presentation of needs on various fields, offer themselves without considering all that it involved in such a surrender. Others, in their eagerness to begin service at once, wish to be sent to the foreign field without completing the necessary preparation. They do not realize that a call to foreign missionary service involves the best preparation possible, physically, mentally, and spiritually. If one is not willing to pay the price of the study and work involved in such preparation, there is a serious question as to whether one has been called for this particular form of service.

There are many secondary motives for seeking appointment as a

foreign missionary, which sometimes blind or deceive the candidate into thinking that his call is a genuine one. Let us look at some of these things which often prove so confusing and misleading.

There is the childish impulse to be a missionary, sometimes openly proclaimed in a public meeting. Possibly the family and church have made much over this decision and the boy or girl is held up as a shining example. In order to "save his face" or to meet the expectations of friends and family, the volunteer feels that he must go on, even though time has brought a lessening of the missionary passion and a cooling off of the desire to go. A missionary call must go deeper than the desire to save one's face or to live up to the expectations of one's friends.

### PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Oftentimes the desire of parents that their child should become a missionary over-influences this young person in his decision. Especially is this true of missionaries' children. It is so hard to distinguish between the reality of a "call" and the desire to fulfill the prayers and longings of their parents, and return to their native land. It is a time for much prayer and deep heart searchings that the decision shall not be controlled by secondary motives. A missionary call must go deeper than meeting the fond desires of loving parents.

Occasionally we find young people who have an ambition to occupy a place of leadership, and they feel that the foreign mission field offers an opportunity for the

fulfilment of that ambition. No one who is ambitious for leadership, or to occupy an outstanding position of some kind, should seek it on the mission field. Any or all of these things may come, and have come to our missionaries, but not to those who have craved and sought them. Self-appointed leaders are not wanted on the mission field today. We need men and women who are willing to work with, and if necessary, under the nationals; men and women who are willing to become nothing for the sake of Christ. We need those who are willing to take the lowliest positions without thought of self-advancement. If one is worthy, the advancement will come without being sought. A missionary call must go deeper than the satisfaction of one's ambition to be a leader.

It would seem that a desire to serve those in need should be a most excellent reason for offering one's self for mission service. However, it is entirely possible for one to serve the bodies and minds of men without even being a Christian. A desire to uplift those in misery and physical distress and those who are blinded by ignorance and superstition may mislead one in the matter of a missionary call. It is true that this often enters into a call, for the foreign missionary must have a heart that is touched by the needs of the people among whom he serves, but a missionary call must go deeper than the physical needs and be based on the needs of the soul as well as the body.

#### UNWORTHY AIMS

We have known of cases where missionaries in later years have resigned and admitted that the desire to see something of the world, the love of excitement and change, the yearning for the romance and glamour of a foreign land had caused them to apply for appointment. Too late they came to find out that residence in a foreign land is not all romance and glamour; it is often made up of dull routine

and filled with sights of sordidness and sin which are a drag on one's spiritual life. A young woman was heard to say recently that she would like to go to China because she could have so many servants at so small a cost. What a poor motive for missionary service! A missionary call must go deeper than a desire for travel and cheap servants.

It has been stated that some of those who apply for appointment do so because they have not made good in their work here at home. A failure here at home will most likely be a failure anywhere else. A change of residence does not alter the man or woman.

#### SELFISH MOTIVES

Occasionally, too, we find a young person who has had an unhappy love affair, or one who has unsatisfactory home conditions, and they volunteer in the hope that this absorbing task will blot out these troubles. With such a motive as this, unhappiness on the foreign field is almost sure to follow. The desire to escape unsatisfactory conditions is not a sufficient reason for seeking appointment as a foreign missionary. A missionary call must go deeper than that.

Again we find that a peculiar dream or a sudden emotional response to a touching story does not necessarily constitute a missionary call. These may be the beginning of such a call, which should be followed by earnest thought and prayer and a frank facing of all the facts. A missionary call must go deeper than an emotional response—it needs to be a conviction.

#### THE TEST

What is the test which should be applied to determine the reality of a call to the foreign field? The first step is a complete surrender of one's self to the will of God, whether that be to go or to stay. God may call one to stay at home as well as to be abroad. The call to the foreign field must be a com-

pelling, driving inner urge to win lives to Christ in lands where they have not yet had a chance to hear the story of salvation. This urge cannot be satisfied except by going. This yearning, impelling force must be born of prayer and grounded in love—love of God and love of man. As some one has said, "Do not be a missionary if you can possibly be anything else." As Paul said, "Woe is me if I preached not the Gospel." Only those should go who are willing to pay the price.

Surely as Christians we should be called of God to whatever form of service we follow, but there are certain qualifications which need to be considered in connection with this "call" to foreign mission service. Let us look well into our motives and test them by the standard of Jesus Christ, who said, "He that would be great among you let him be your servant."

"Jesus calls us." "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."—*The Window of Y.W.A.*

#### *Mission Endeavor Imperilled by Prosperity*

(Continued from page 21)

Southern Baptists to foreign missions is truly revealing.

Gifts to foreign missions from all sources:

1907 .....	\$ 388,127
1917 .....	829,897
1927 .....	1,415,108
1937 (estimated) ...	1,053,417

If this trend continues for another decade, defeat and disaster will attend our foreign mission enterprise. The only remedy for the unwholesome and unhealthy trend in missionary giving is to call our people back to God's plan for financing the work of His Kingdom as stated in Malachi 3:10-12:

"Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

#### COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

IT WAS five o'clock and the girls of Williams Memorial School in Chefoo were scattering to their homes.

Miss Tan, the bright little teacher called, "The Gospel Tent is over at Ging Gwoa Dzi, just outside the East Gate. Who will go with me to tell the Good News to the women there?"

"I can't," said the leader of the basket-ball team. "That last game tired me to death."

"I wan't to go," May Ying's face brightened at the prospect.

"My mother works in the hairnet factory, and I must go home and make food for my father. I do wish I could help," said the head girl of the senior class.

"You can be praying for us while you work," suggested Miss Tan. "That will help."

"I can't go. I haven't any mouth-talent. Now May Ying here can exhort like a preacher. But I am a deaf mute. I open my mouth like a hen with the pip, but no words come out." This from fat Hwan Loo made them all smile.

"You can sing, 'Jesus Loves Me, so come along."

"Is that all that you do? I thought you had to preach."

"That is one of the things that we do."

The young teacher with her band of Christian girls trudged up the hill. No one complained of distance or heat.

The open tent was large. Near the street was an interested group of men listening to an earnest evangelist illustrating with a bag of stones how sin weighs one down. In the rear was a place where women could sit, tailor-fashion on reed mats, nurse their babies, or idly watch to see what these attractive, clean-faced, smooth-haired girl students would do.

One woman in particular had a weary, harassed look that caused Miss Tan to pay particular heed to her as she spoke of the love of the one true God, greater than the love

of a mother for her child. Most of the women could not take that in. It was so different from the gods they had seen.

When Miss Tan said, "We are all sinners," they nodded assent. They knew *that*, for otherwise they could not have been born women.

She went on to say, "God loves

believe Him we are blameless in the sight of God."

A baby cried and the mother lost interest. Another woman saw her son going by from school and called out to him. Miss Tan was discouraged. She thought that all the good seed had fallen on hardened hearts and was being carried away by the enemy.

The girls started singing, "I am so glad that our Father in Heaven."

The women listened and sat quietly down.

The words, "Jesus loves me," came clear and strong. The sad faced woman drew nearer.

"What is your honorable name?" Miss Tan asked.

"My unworthy name is Jong," she answered.

"Do you want to be saved from sin and from evil?"

"Yes, verily, I long to be saved. But I can't."

"Don't say that. Our Saviour is all powerful. He has promised to save every one who comes to Him believing." Miss Tan always carried her Bible and could turn to any passage at will. But the woman could not read.

Miss Tan said, "He is here, right now, to help you. He is sorry for your burden, and wants to save you."

"I wish I could obtain salvation, but I can't. I can't."

The girls broke in with, "Only trust Him," and Miss Tan took the poor woman's hand in her own and said, "Why can't you trust Him?"

"The devils won't let me. I must worship them all the time, and they just won't let me be free."

"What do you owe to the devils that they won't let you go? Surely you don't love them and wish to serve them."

"I have to worship them. If I don't they try to kill me. I have tried over and over again. It takes all my time to keep them pleased, and all my money goes to buy incense. But if I stop for even a day



ANNA SEWARD PRUITT,

Chefoo, China



At the tent meeting the women had bound feet about three inches long

they give me terrible gripes, and gnaw at my heart, and stop my breath. I am obliged to *kowtow* to them many times or they would surely take my life."

The other women and children had gone. The school girls gathered around Mrs. Jong, anxious to help her. The teacher felt she could not leave this despairing woman to the evil spirits when God's abundant grace was so near.

Appreciating their friendliness, Mrs. Jong said, "Don't laugh at my poor house, but I invite you to come in." She led them to one of the doors in the stone wall lining the village street.

From a near-by doorstep a woman cautioned them, "Don't go in there. That house is full of demons. They will do you harm."

But the Christians were not afraid. On the spirit screen behind the street door was the picture of a hideous monster put there to frighten other spirits more evil than himself. But its potency had failed to protect.

The walls inside the tiny home were plastered with pictures of foxes, weasels, snakes before which incense was burning; for these are the shapes supposed to be taken by devils when they seek incarnation.

Mrs. Jong knocked her head on the ground before these pictures even before she invited her guests to climb up and sit upon her brick bed.

With great earnestness did these evangelists tell of God's love, His almighty power, and His plan for saving sinful mankind from the works of the devil.

"Don't you believe?" they asked earnestly.

"Yes, I believe that He can save you who are good and clean and educated and know how to pray to Him. I am stupid and have a bad fate. I must have had great sin before I was born a woman. The gods are angry with me and the devils have me bound securely."

"God's power is greater than that of all the devils put together. His Son died for our sins. The king of all the devils tried to keep Him

dead, but He rose from the grave and is alive forever, ready to help any one who trusts Him." They spoke with such conviction, and their faces shone with such inner light of love and peace that Mrs. Jong was greatly moved.

"Do trust Him. Then the devils can't hurt you. He won't let them touch you."

More than half convinced of the truth she said, "Yes, I will try for ten days, and not knock a single head nor burn a stick of incense. If they don't kill me I will be a Christian."

Miss Tan shook her head. "No, that will never do. Unless you trust the Saviour *wholly*, you will be hanging between the power of the true God and the great devil. You will have help from neither. Our Heavenly Father can save you completely so that even the strongest of the demons can't harm you. He says to you, 'Don't fear. Only believe.'"

The girls sang one chorus after another praying all the time for the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the woman. As they sang with such evident feeling, "He Will Save You," Mrs. Jong's face lighted with an influx of spiritual determination.

She exclaimed, "I do believe. I trust the Heavenly Father. I do not fear."

She descended from the *kong* and with her own hand tore down the ugly pictures, extinguished the incense and drew a long breath of relief. "I am free for I am trusting the true God who can save me."

From the whole company there arose a prayer of thanksgiving and a song of praise.

After that, each day, as long as the tent remained in the village, Mrs. Jong met her newly found friends there and learned more of the love of Him who died for the sins of the whole world. She began to learn to read. She wanted to see for herself the words of promise.

Pastor Yong became interested in her and when he saw her in the church on Sunday, directed his les-



*This high school girl not only likes to help in the tent meeting, but she also enjoys leading the Sunbeam Band*

son toward her and others, who, like her, had carried heavy burdens from which the Burden-bearer, Jesus Christ, sought to free them.

Mrs. Jong's oldest son had been away for seven years. There had been no letter for many months. The mother's heart was grieved. She knew of the bandits and other perils in Manchuria where her son had gone. She told Pastor Yong of her sorrow and asked him to help her pray for the wanderer. Together they prayed that the son might send a letter to his mother, either a mouth-letter through a friend returning, or one that he hired a teacher to write for him.

The mother's heart was eased, for she knew that God heard, and He sent peace into her soul.

What was her joy when in just seven days the son himself came home. Many others shared her joy.

But the people living in the other end of the village said that the demons who had been driven out from the Jong home were making them a great deal of trouble. Now it was Mrs. Jong's turn to tell of the power of the true God who loves and is able to save to the uttermost. This was her opportunity. She recognized it and soon became a loving, true messenger of God's love.

# WHAT SHALL WE STUDY?

MARY M. HUNTER, *Manager of Book and Sales Department*

The Foreign Mission Board offers annually a graded series of five foreign mission books. These texts present progressively the several fields in which Southern Baptists have workers. The emphasis this year is centered in Palestine—Syria. These five books have received an excellent sale. This indicates that thousands are studying the Holy Land at this time.

Accompanying every order for these books goes a free packet of extra material supplementing the texts.

Classes desiring to study additional fields may also secure from the Book Department of the Foreign Mission Board graded courses presenting Africa, South America, China and Japan.

## THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING BOOK

*Saved to Serve* by Miss Blanche Sydnor White, Corresponding Secretary of Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia, is the new book for adults and young people preparing for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. These five chapters give a delightful presentation of Woman's Missionary Unions in Southern Baptist foreign mission fields. The epilogue adds just the appeal that one likes and needs at the close of such a comprehensive study.

## TWO EASY PAGEANTS

*The Future in the Making*—Carver—15 cents, is a simple but complete presentation of the story of the University of Shanghai from its beginning in 1906 until the present war.

*A Light Unto Her Path*—Ellis—5 cents, is a typical portrayal of Catholic life in a Catholic country. It is simple and easy to stage.

## STUDYING MISSIONS

### A BOOK BARGAIN

For only sixty cents, the Book Department will send you six volumes: five mission study books, which originally sold for fifty cents each, and Miss Fannie E. S. Heck's story of the organization and the first twenty-five years of growth of Woman's Missionary Union in the South. The original price of Miss Heck's book was sixty cents. Now—we offer the set of six for sixty. This series will make a worthy beginning for a missionary library.

### TWO ESSENTIALS

Every class needs the *New Album of Southern Baptist Foreign Missionaries*—Hunter—75 cents. This loose-leaf album contains a picture and brief life sketch of every missionary in Southern Baptist foreign field.

*The Commission* is the new Foreign Mission Journal. Full of fresh news from the foreign fields, it is indispensable to every Baptist. Beginning as a quarterly, with hopes of becoming a monthly, it costs only fifty cents a year. Dr. Charles E. Maddry is the Editor, Dr. R. S. Jones, the Business Manager, and Miss Inabelle Graves Coleman, the Associate Editor.

### KODAK PICTURES

For the mere cost of developing, kodak pictures of South America, Japan, China and Europe may be secured from the Foreign Mission Board for making scrapbooks, posters, place cards and the like. This service is offered in response to the call of Southern Baptists for "pictures of our work." Every class will want a set of pictures featuring the country that the members are studying.

### CURIOS

The curio box, in which there are twenty-three curio objects from Africa, was one of the Book Department's "best sellers" last year. Classes studying Southern Baptist work in Nigeria will be delighted with this box. It can be used to advantage with any book on Southern Baptist work in Africa. Only a small number of boxes are left. The price is \$1.00. Classes planning to study Africa this quarter should place their orders at once to be sure that they secure one before the small supply is exhausted.

### AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Southern Baptists will be interested in the announcement that the theme of mission study for 1938-1939 will be their work in China. Already some of the manuscripts are in the Foreign Mission Board rooms. These books will be presented at the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Virginia, May, 1938.

### MOVING PICTURES

The moving picture library of the Foreign Mission Board was started three years ago. The reels are sixteen millimeter and require a sixteen millimeter projector for showing them. The use of these pictures is free to Southern Baptists. The only cost attached is transportation both ways.

There are five series in the library, namely:

The China Centennial Series of eleven reels taken by Miss Inabelle Coleman while she was in China in 1936.

The series of three reels on the Twentieth Anniversary Celebration of Seinan Gakuin (Boys' School), in Fukuoka, Japan.

The series of three reels made in Brazil during the tour of Dr. Charles E. Maddry, Dr. L. R. Scarborough and their party to South America.

The series taken by Miss Coleman on Southern Baptist work in Europe.

The two films on Palestine, duplicated from pictures of Holy Land taken by Dr. Fred Pearson of Alabama.

Four general reels on China taken by Missionary Rex. Ray.

Five films presenting Southern Baptist mission work in Nigeria, Africa.

The demand for the pictures is increasing rapidly. Reservations should be made at least a month in advance to insure one's securing the picture desired.

#### TWO PICTURES

The Book Department of the Foreign Mission Board is offering a lovely picture of Henrietta Hall Shuck in an attractive folder, 25 cents; and an unusually good copy of the picture of Miss Lottie Moon in an appropriate folder, 10 cents.

#### GRATIS

The Book Department of the Foreign Mission Board is ever ready and glad to furnish any information that any one needs to know about text books, maps, charts, pictures, and any other missionary supplies.

#### THREE FIELD REPRESENTATIVES

The Foreign Mission Board now has three Field Representatives, viz.: Drs. H. H. Muirhead, for Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, located at 1707 South Ninth Street, Waco, Texas; Frank Connely, 432 East Mississippi Street, Liberty, Missouri; John W. Lowe, Altamont Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. These men are active missionaries detained at home for a season. They will be glad to represent the interests of foreign missions at conventions, conferences and all other public meetings.

## THE BEST OF BOOKS

#### THE HEART OF THE LEVANT—Adams—40 cents.

The land of our Lord presents a subject of never-failing interest. Its geography, its people and its customs continue to hold our attention. Because of his many visits to the Holy Land, Dr. J. McKee Adams is peculiarly fitted to write with authority on this country and its people.

As he leads us into "The Heart of the Levant," he opens to us doors that present to us a wealth of challenging and stimulating information, both geographical and historical.

New roads of thought about this interesting land stretch out before us as Dr. Adams discusses the geography of ancient and modern Palestine. He then passes on to fascinating study of its many peoples and their present day relations with each other. From the ancient Hebrew to the modern Jew, we trace with deepest interest the Chosen People and their relation to the Palestine of today.

Without this background of knowledge, one cannot understand the cross-currents moving in Syria and Palestine today, nor the important part of which Southern Baptists should be playing in bringing the gospel message to the land of its birth. The last chapter deals with our present mission work and future opportunities.

"The Heart of the Levant" is a book that needs to be studied, and if studied, will add not only to one's knowledge of the Levant, but also to one's comprehension of the difficult problem of working among the Moslems, Arabs, Jews and nominal Christians, all very closely associated within the restricted limits of Palestine.—J.R.F.

#### EUROPE: CHRIST OR CHAOS?—Gill—40 cents.

Thirty-three years in Europe as representative of Southern Baptists,

superintending work not in one country, but in several, has splendidly prepared Dr. Everett Gill to write a book on Europe as it is today. With keen insight into present European conditions and a thorough knowledge of the historical background, he has given clearly and concisely his estimate of significant movements and trends in his latest book, "Europe: Christ or Chaos?"

Among the fundamental differences in Europe are the characteristics and heritages of the different people which Dr. Gill discusses fully, yet briefly. Added to these are the states of mind of the different nations today, namely, *fear, the desire to hold* what has been won, and the *sense of injustice and revenge*. All these together make the situation in Europe so tense that the slightest spark will start a conflagration. All methods tried have failed to establish peace, and now there is but one left—to establish the Kingdom of God in the hearts of men. When men and nations are just and kind to each other; when they cease to live for themselves alone, war will be an impossibility.

"Europe: Christ or Chaos?" is a good book to read, but a better one to study because of the vast amount of information packed into its brief pages.—R.Y.C.

#### SAVED TO SERVE—White—

25 cents.

On the first of September the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering booklet for 1937 came from the press. Already it has received wide use for mission study and program material in preparation for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. It is the first and only history of Woman's Missionary Unions on Southern Baptist mission fields. To those who have not studied it, we recommend this delightful sketch of women's work in foreign lands.—M.M.H.

#### STUDYING MISSIONS

### QUESTING IN GALILEE— Missionaries—40 cents.

Southern Baptist missionaries who have come to know intimately some of the native Christians of Palestine and Syria have written their stories of faithfulness and romance that the youth of the South may experience closer Christian fellowship with the peoples of the Holy Land, and that through knowing these Christians and contrasting them with the unsaved of Palestine—Syria, they may come to care more about the lost there. The suggestions for the teacher present logically and simply Southern Baptist work in the Near East, and lead the pupils to arrive at conclusions for responding in prayer and gifts to this call of the Land of the Lord while He walked among men.—M.S.G.

### THE CAMEL BELL—Owens— 25 cents.

Mrs. Owens' experiences as a missionary to Palestine have given her this fascinating story of a Christian family in Nazareth, the home

life and customs, and the influence of Christ's Spirit in the home. The suggestions for the teacher are simple but comprehensive. Mrs. Owens is the mother of three small children whose reception of these stories and plans for teaching them has been her guide and critic. Every teacher and leader of little children will be delighted with this little book.—P.D.

### THE VILLAGE OVEN—Doreen Hosford Owens—25 cents.

In "The Village Oven," the author, Doreen Hosford Owens, gives a vividly true picture of life in Nazareth and Haifa, Palestine, in the experiences of little Assad.

Mrs. Owens, the daughter of missionaries to Argentina, was educated in the United States. In 1927 she married Roswell E. Owens, with whom she sailed for Palestine two years later.

After their language school course in Jerusalem, they worked first in Nazareth, and then in Haifa, where they founded a new mission station in 1932.

The first part of "The Village Oven" gives detailed plans for the five class periods; the last, a story of life in modern Palestine as Mrs. Owens knows it so well. Since the book was not written for a lecture course, the classes are carried on with the boys and girls working in several interest groups. Each child has a part in the varied schedule. The story of Assad is only one part of the study of Palestine that the children are led to make. The book may easily be taught in less than five hours if some of the helps are omitted.

The purpose of the book is not only to develop in Juniors an interest and friendliness toward the people of Palestine, and to help them interpret Bible passages in the light of the customs of the people, but also to promote a definite response to the needs of Palestine today.

Juniors and teachers alike will enjoy "The Village Oven." The combination of materials, plans, models for cut-outs, and carefully arranged programs with a delightful story should be used successfully by any teacher.—L.L.B.

## Friendly Exchanges

### ITALY PROHIBITS MISSIONS IN ETHIOPIA

The United Presbyterian Board has not been willing to abandon established work in Ethiopia unless obliged to do so. They have been watchfully waiting developments, avoiding unnecessary risk and exposure of missionaries, and at the same time gradually reducing expenditures in view of the uncertainties of the future.

The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs has informed the American Ambassador at Rome that "The Italian Government had decided not to entrust to foreigners whatever may be the religion they pro-

fess, the work of establishing schools in territories of Ethiopia."—*The Missionary Review of the World*.

### A SURVEY OF SPAIN

Opinion is divided as to the religious outlook in Spain. Some believe that opportunity for gospel teaching will be assured if the government wins, while others are convinced that the government is not only anti-clerical, but anti-Christian. Representatives of Anglican and Free Churches of Great Britain went to Spain recently to gain first-hand information. They were given full liberty of move-

ment, and upon returning to England reported as follows:

"We found no evidence of an organized 'Godless' propaganda such as exists in Soviet Russia. We were unable on inquiry to hear of any caricatures of God, of Christ, or of the Virgin and Saints, such as have been features of 'anti-God' propaganda in other countries. We found copies of the Scriptures offered freely for sale on street bookstalls. The situation in regard to religion, in Spain, was summed up to us in the following terms: 'There is a strong anti-clerical movement but no anti-God movement in Spain.'"—*The Missionary Review of the World*.

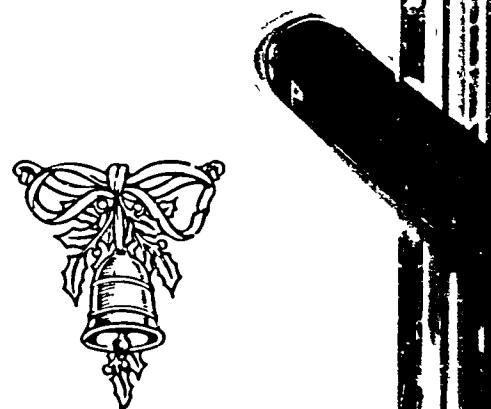
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N.B. Subscription price 50 cents per year. Send check with subscriptions to THE COMMISSION, Box 1595, Richmond, Virginia.

# The Baptist Book Stores

## ❖ Essential Denominational Service Stations ❖

In the early summer of this year all state and general field workers were asked for constructive criticism of the service of our Baptist Book Stores. The response was truly helpful. There was more commendation than criticism. Certain recommendations were adopted. Stores speeded up their service. Letters of appreciation of the improved service have come from many directions.

### Distinctive Responsibility

The Baptist Book Store occupies a distinctive place in the denominational program. It seeks to render adequate service to all individuals and all churches. To carry out this mission intelligently and successfully the Store keeps in constant touch with all production sources. Through arrangement with, and supervision by, the Sales and Advertising Department of the Sunday School Board, each Store is supplied with the latest information concerning books, Bibles and supplies.

### Logical Representation

Mindful of the distributing value of the seventeen Stores, publishers send personal representatives to the Stores and to the headquarters at Nashville with samples of their seasonal offerings. Through these personal contacts, and the use of much promotional literature, the Baptist Book Store keeps abreast of the times and is enabled to serve its patrons with the very latest information about books and other merchandise.

### Promotional Literature

Supporting this book store service within the state, the Sunday School Board, through its Sales and Advertising Department, furnishes Southern Baptists with a rather complete assortment of descriptive material, including catalogs, pamphlets, book reviews, folders and other helpful literature. All of this material is designed to encourage Baptists to use the Baptist Book Store as the Sunday School Board's state distributing agency for books, Bibles and supplies, (other than weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies) for all departments of church work.

### Recognized Distributors

The Baptist Book Store operates as the Sunday School Board's nearest service station for the state, as a co-operating service station for Baptist state headquarters, as sales agency for all book and Bible publishers, as the logical distributor for all supplies needed by Southern Baptist churches, including song books of all publishers, study course books of all Convention agencies, baptismal garments, communion service, collection plates, pew receptacles, offering envelopes, bulletin boards, duplicating machines, folding organs, record books, library supplies and so forth.

### Leaders Enlisted

Southern Baptists have the distinction of being the only denomination that is served by their own Baptist Book Store in each state. As primarily religious book stores, not general book stores, these Stores must operate on their own limited margin of profit. To Southern Baptist church leaders comes the privilege and opportunity to encourage all church officers to cultivate the habit of ordering all books, Bibles and supplies from the Baptist Book Store serving their state. There should prevail, we believe, a sense of pride in patronizing our own Store in preference to those other organizations which do not contribute of their profits in any way to the progress of Southern Baptist work. Those charged with the responsibility of making the Store service a success are grateful to the many pastors who have so loyally led their churches and influenced individual members to use the service of the Baptist Book Store.

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### YOUR STATE BAPTIST BOOK STORE IS READY TO SERVE YOU

Ala. .... 517 N. 22nd St., Birmingham  
Ariz. .... Box 485, Albuquerque, N. Mex.  
Ark. .... 716 Main St., Little Rock  
Fla. .... 216 W. Church St., Jacksonville  
Ga. .... 22 Marietta St., Atlanta  
Ill. .... 102 E. Jackson St., Carbondale

Ky. .... 323 Guthrie St., Louisville  
La. .... 301 Giddens-Lane, Shreveport  
Md. .... 405 Hearst-Tower, Baltimore  
Miss. .... 500 East Capitol St., Jackson  
Mo. .... 1023 Grand Ave., Kansas City  
N. Mex. .... Box 485, Albuquerque

N. C. .... 121 W. Hargett St., Raleigh  
Okla. .... 223 W. 1st St., Oklahoma City  
S. C. .... 1301 Hampton Ave., Columbia  
Tenn. .... 161 Eighth Ave., N., Nashville  
Tex. .... 1019 Main St., Dallas  
Va. .... 110 N. Second St., Richmond

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