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Day by Day --Living

The Light of the World IS JESUS

Philip P. Bliss

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus;
Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in,
The Light of the world

IS JESUS.

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,
The Light of the world is Jesus;
We walk in the light when we follow our guide,
The Light of the world

IS JESUS

No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told,
The Light of the world is Jesus;
The Lamb is the Light in the city of gold,
The Light of the world

IS JESUS.

Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me,
Once I was blind, but now I can see:

THE LIGHT
of the world IS JESUS.

Light of a Strange Star



BY G. AVERY LEE

WHAT name shall we give the time in which we live? How shall we describe it? It is the century of the city and of the common man . . . of global war and the United Nations. It is simultaneously the age of fission and fusion . . . of scattering and gathering . . . of disintegration and integration. In our time mighty empires, centuries in gathering, have fallen apart and become numerous, petty, bickering little nations whose instability threatens all known stability.

Dr. Lee is pastor, St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, Louisiana

This is the age of The Pill and LSD . . . of miracle drugs that save lives and overkill that destroys life . . . of opulent churches and "The Death of God" . . . of supersonic planes and curtained countries . . . of credit buying which implies limitless trust and of electronic snoopers suggesting total suspicion.

There has been no age like this. Wherever we probe it—politically, economically, socially, morally, ethically, or theologically—this is a time of change, instability, and revolution. Changes are so rapid and radical that today's events outdate yesterday's most fantastic predictions.

Yet, despite the uniqueness of the age in which we live, it possesses no unique challenge to the mind and spirit of man. The threats and challenges confronting us are in essence identical to those faced in the first century, the fifth, the sixteenth. The human problem has always been a dual one:

How to survive physically; and, in surviving, what to do? That problem was as real and difficult to the caveman as it is for us. Despite our superiority over the caveman, the problem is as crucial

for us as it was for him.

Man has always been tempted to betray and destroy himself by leading his intellectual uniqueness to those brute strength forces threatening his existence and preventing him from being what God intends him to be. The biblical prototype for all this is Samson, wrapping his powerful arms around the central pillars of Dagon's temple and pulling them down, thus cooperating with gravity in destroying not only the temple of the enemy, but himself as well.

So? How can life be meaningful and gratifying in such a time? How can we survive and become fully alive in such an awesome age? Does the Christian faith have any kind of an answer? Does Christmas, the time when we say the Word (God) became flesh and dwelt among us have any significance? Is there any good news?

To begin the answer let's go back some four hundred years to when the Protestant Reformation was aborning. In the midst of severe hardship, persecution, and disaster, Martin Luther said:

"If I knew that tomorrow the world would come to an end, today with Christ I would still plant a little apple tree in my backyard."

To enlarge the answer, let's go back another fifteen hundred years and get on the Road to Bethlehem, the Road of Wonder. All other things being equal, we are born on this road that leaves us wild-eyed and breathless with the thrilling question of childhood, "What next?" This road glistens with new surprises at every turn. The greatest thing about life is living, and to live is always to keep alive the sense of wonder, expectancy, surprise, and romance. When we leave this road, we die, though our public funeral may not be conducted for years. All too soon and too often our quest-

ing spirit and our appetite for adventure are deadened by what we call "the hard facts of life," and they "fade into the light of common day."

A fading of the light of common day was not true for those Magi from the East. Though they had grown weary and old, those Wise Men from the Caspian Sea still possessed the sense of wonder and awe that belongs to the child. They left the warmth of their fires, the security of their tents, bade their loved ones farewell, mounted their camels, and rode off into the night—all because of the light of a strange star! No one knows the length of their journey, nor what privations they suffered on the way. But the world knows that they finished their long journey to Bethlehem and laid their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh at the feet of a baby there.

After the long years had done their worst, the kind of years that leave many of us bowed, beaten, and broken, those old men were young again when they saw that strange star in the skies. The challenge of the new lured them into the unknown. Their tired hearts beat a little faster and their dim eyes were fixed with a forgotten light when they saw that gleaming star. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear, and despair had left their telling marks on those men, but life had not gotten them down! They were still young in spirit. Their youth was still living in the romantic idealism that should keep

"The Light of a Strange Star" is from a forthcoming book, *The Roads to God*, by G. Avery Lee which is to be released by Broadman Press in July 1969. Used by permission.

tempting us to search for the Everlasting Light that shines behind the black clouds of the world's heart-break and woe.

The Road to Bethlehem was probably the last road they ever traveled. But they made it! I am sure they would tell that the rendezvous they kept with the lure of wonder was worth all cost, for at long last that road brought them

To an open house in the evening

To an older place than Eden

And a taller town than Rome.

To the end of the way of the wandering star,

To the things that cannot be seen

And there are,

To the place where God was home-

less

And all men are at home."

Let us never lose our sense of the wonder of life. We must chase stars, whether we be seven or seventy. In the dark, threatening, foreboding of today's world the Star of Jesus Christ still shines, for the darkness has never been able to put it out. Too many of us have stumbled around in the darkness, banging our shins and stubbing our toes on protruding objects because we have taken our eyes off the light of that Star. But it is there! The mystery of it is as great now as it was twenty centuries ago; so, too, is the reality as great and the influence as penetrating.

Star of David? Yes, for Jesus was of David's lineage. But more, Star of God, for Jesus was "very God of very God," as an ancient creed put it. The hopes and fears of all the years met in Jesus that night. The hopes and fears of today can meet in him today, if we will let them meet.

"From *The Collected Poems of G. K. Chesterton*. © 1932 by Dodd, Mead and Co. Used by permission.



missions here and there - -

by Floyd H. North, Kenneth Day,
and Howard J. Ford,

Director, Division of Missions, Baptist State
Convention of North Carolina

■ Missions Overseas Maturing

In many fields where missionaries have entered, more beginnings are evident of indigenous, nationally staffed work. But in older overseas fields there are strong national developments for which we can rejoice and thank God.

In Japan, Brazil, Italy, Taiwan, and Nigeria, churches have developed a deep sense of mission. They have learned the benefits of sharing responsibility for extending a dynamic witness by formation of Baptist associations and conventions. Mature, talented, and well-trained national leaders plan and administer a variety of programs and ministries adopted by Baptist bodies. Through sound stewardship, promotion and development, churches are showing increased financial responsibility.

Out of discouraging economic circumstances several Baptist bodies have mustered funds with which they are sending and maintaining missionaries beyond their national borders. This is true for Italian Baptists. By pooling resources with those of Baptist fellowships in other European countries the Italian Baptist Union has become a part of the European Baptist Missionary Society. This continental organization was formed in 1953 in Rome. Soon thereafter the Society decided to send the Angelo Charellis to Cameroon, a country adjoining Nigeria along its eastern border. Immediately after that decision, the Woman's Missionary Union of Italy took Cameroon as their concern for prayer and a special love offering. In October 1965 the Charellis were on their assigned field,

the first representatives of the Italian Baptist Union in foreign missions. Virginia Wingo, Southern Baptist missionary in Italy, said: "Southern Baptists can in one sense, consider the ministry of the Charellis theirs, for they [Southern Baptists] sustain the work of the Italian Baptist Union with [prayer] money and missionaries." Italian Baptists show spiritual growth by the fact that Angelo and Maria are their particular missionaries in Africa. Out of this effort there will develop yet other avenues for service.

The Kediri Baptist Association on Java (Indonesia) formed an evangelism committee in March 1965 for establishing self-supporting Baptist churches in the Molucca Islands east of Java. Thus the foreign missions witness of Indonesian Baptists had its beginnings at an association level; no national convention had been constituted. The Kediri Association soon sent Pastor Leo Pormes and his family to Masohi on the island of Ceram.

As is true on practically every Southern Baptist foreign missions field, economic conditions were such that it was extremely difficult for the churches of this association to support their pastors, but even so, they committed themselves to the support of this missions effort.

At least four missionaries have been sent to other countries by the Taiwan Baptist Convention. The first was Pastor Mu Heng-wei who went to work among Chinese in Bangkok, Thailand, a few years ago. The church that

he has served in that city now fully supports him. The other three sent out by Taiwan Baptists are Pastor and Mrs. Lin Nan-tien and Pastor Sung Chi-jen, all serving among Chinese in Korea.

Foreign missions efforts of Japan Baptists began in 1955 when they sent missionaries to Okinawa. Then in 1963 they appointed a couple, Pastor and Mrs. Nobuyoshi Togami, to work among thousands of Japanese immigrants in Brazil. Missions had become a way of life for the Togamis before the overseas appointment. For some time they had been in pioneer Baptist work in Ichikawa, an almost totally unevangelized town and section just beyond the eastern outskirts of Tokyo.

The Nigerian Baptist Convention has maintained a board of missions and evangelism for a number of years and through it has sent missionaries to Sierra Leone.

In other countries where Southern Baptist missionaries serve, Baptist life is emerging into strong associations of churches and into unions or conventions. With further development numerically and in stewardship no doubt more of them will become missionary "sending bodies."

■ The Missions Rally

I had just about decided the day of missions rallies was past. Inclement weather, poor timing, conflicting church and associational emphases, and a rash of kindred reasons have resulted in poor reports of missions rallies in the past few years. Having participated in many such rallies in connection with world missions conferences, I have felt the discouragement of associational leaders when crowds were little larger than the group of missionaries who were to speak.

Then this year I went to Detroit! An association missions rally was planned, not in connection with any other program but purely as a means of informing churches of missions needs and opportunities of that area. Results were astounding! More than seven hundred persons were there. They came despite subfreezing temperatures and represented 90 percent of the churches of the association. But, more significant was the fact that more than half of those attending were young people.

As a recommendation to others wishing to inject new life into missions rallies, let me share with you this unique event which helps to explain the enthusiasm.

An hour before the program began, people gathered for a period called "Meet the Missionaries." They circulated among booths and displays depicting Southern Baptist missions work in every part of the world. Pictures of representative fields had been mounted and displayed. Printed materials from state, home, and foreign mission boards were available for everyone.

At the appointed hour, trumpets announced a "Parade of Flags." Following was one of the most impressive demonstrations I have ever witnessed. More than three hundred young women and young men from Girls' Auxiliary and Royal Ambassador groups marched down the

aisles of the auditorium, bearing the flags of the United States and sixty-five other countries in which Southern Baptists have missions work. The congregation, caught up in the inspiration of the moment, joyously responded as the choir led in "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations."

The challenge from those who followed was greatly enhanced by this stirring, inspiring moment which had launched the rally.

The hour was filled with recurring high moments. The associational missions program was presented by city superintendent Jay Brown with the enthusiasm of one whose very heart belongs to the maze of streets and buildings and peoples of the spreading Detroit metropolis. With such a burning passion for those 160 square miles and three million persons of his area, it was little wonder that God used him to sustain an inspired response at a missions rally.

A report on the progress of state missions by Michigan-born-and-reared Robert Wilson, able missions secretary for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, kept audience interest high in concern for needs and opportunities across that underchurched state.

Missions work among language groups was highlighted by John Pancewicz, missions pastor of the Polish Baptist mission in Hamtramck, the large Polish community of Detroit.

Both foreign and home missions causes were highlighted in the principal address of the evening. And concern, which was born for a needy city, grew to encompass every part of a needy world.

So perhaps the day of the missions rally is not past after all. Fresh ideas injected into the promotion of such meetings will spark new life. It goes without saying that God uses the inspiration of such missions education hours to encourage and call yet others to serve him creatively. The impressions made in the lives of the young people attending might well develop during coming months and years into commitment to specific involvement in God's missions work around the world. A deeper involvement of self and substance is bound to be the quiet commitment made in many hearts.

A missions rally is a tried and effective vehicle for building God's work. I recommend missions rallies to creative leaders who can see in these potential for the Kingdom as Baptists of Detroit demonstrated.

■ Significant Developments in Missions in North Carolina

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was organized in 1830. Primary objectives of the new convention were the education of young men called of God to the ministry, the employment of missionaries within the state, and cooperation with other Baptists in the United States in the promotion of missions. Today, it is almost impossible to find a strong church in North Carolina organized since 1830 which was not assisted in some way by

the missions program of the Baptist state convention.

Our missions opportunity has grown with the years. Within the division of missions of the convention there are five departments and numerous special ministries. They are: City and Metropolitan Missions; Town and Country; Interracial; Deaf Ministry; Adult Education—Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Military, Cherokee Indian, and others.

Until recently this state's population was predominately rural and Baptist. The coming of new industries from Northeast United States has brought problems and opportunities. Rapid urbanization of our state is requiring a restudy of our program and new approaches to opportunities. We are finding that an unchanging Christ must be brought to a changing age in ways both traditional and new.

Metropolitan centers are the focal point of a cooperative ministry by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Home Mission Board. Baptist centers are established in areas where needs are unique. A week-day ministry is maintained in these centers. Some of them are so situated that Sunday worship, teaching, and training are necessary. A Sunday ministry is provided only in areas where a local church is unable to reach a particular segment of the population.

In an effort to meet new opportunities thrust upon us, the state convention joined the Home Mission Board last November at Southeastern Seminary in a conference directed toward a ministry to non-evangelicals. A city and metropolitan conference has been held in April this year in Greensboro.

We have recently established a vigorous and rapidly expanding resort ministry in our state. We now have such work in six large resort areas of North Carolina. Some of this work is done through a local church or a mission already established. In other resort areas this approach is not possible. A part of one summer program in 1964 was to use large movie screens built a few yards out in the Atlantic Ocean at Ocean Isle and Kitty Hawk Beach. Christian films were shown in the evenings for viewing by the hundreds of teen-agers on the beach. Many looked at the films and some we feel went away with helpful insights. This ministry leaves the impression that there is someone who cares for them.

A most significant development in our state is that of providing adult education courses for ministers who have not had opportunity of college or seminary training. Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute was opened in 1946. Excellent courses are offered by a capable faculty. Students who can do so are strongly encouraged to leave Fruitland for college and seminary training. We have currently enrolled the largest number of students in the history of the school, 176. The quality of work is being upgraded. It is our purpose to keep courses challenging and yet not to raise standards so high that those who need specialized training will not be helped at their points of need.

The growth of our seminary extension centers is also a thrilling development in adult education. The number of centers and the number enrolling has been beyond our highest expectations. We now have 57 centers in the state and an enrolment of 1,068. In 1967 a center was opened in the French Broad Association high in the Appalachian Mountains. In past years associational leadership had felt it impossible to create interest among mountain preachers to keep such a center alive, but nevertheless work was begun in the hope that as many as twenty would enrol. The first night ninety-eight were there! Before enrolment was closed there were 151.

North Carolina has large concentrations of military personnel at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville; Seymour Johnson Air Base, Goldsboro; Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville; and Cherry Point Air Base, Havelock. The churches in these areas minister to thousands of military families. Of course, military personnel are highly mobile. State missions funds must aid many of the churches near these bases. We have a specialized military ministry under the direction of a military personnel secretary. He helps bring about understanding among the base chaplains and local pastors. He secures and mails to pastors information on changes in chaplaincies and military personnel. He has led in a specialized ministry to Oriental women who have married American military men. Several churches now have Sunday School classes for Oriental wives, fellowship meetings for them and their husbands, along with other specialized ministries. It is not unusual to find a Japanese wife of an American serviceman, or some other Oriental, who knows nothing about Jesus the Saviour and who has never heard of the Bible. Neither is it unusual to hear that one of these women has accepted Christ as Saviour and is manifesting faithfulness in her convictions. The writer was recently told of a convert whose car would not start when she was ready to go to Sunday School. She arrived late, short of breath. She had ridden a bicycle seven miles across hot dusty flats on a hot summer day.

We do not conceive of these opportunities as being exclusively state missions. We believe what we are doing is a part of our world missions responsibility.



from Washington

by Cyril E. Bryant

Editor, *The Baptist World*

Publication of Baptist World Alliance

AMBASSADOR W. Averell Harriman, the United States' highly respected senior diplomat, coined the phrase "real peace" when he led a team of American negotiators in the peace talks in Paris last July.

He assured the North Vietnamese that the United States has no military ambitions in Southeast Asia. "What we seek in South Vietnam," he said, "is that its people be allowed to develop politically, economically, and socially, free of violence or coercion. We seek a South Vietnam where all can live without fear."

America is concerned with preserving this freedom not only in Vietnam but in gaining freedom and security for all of Southeast Asia. Mr. Harriman said. And he used the term "real peace" to describe this extension and enlargement of peace beyond the end of violence.

It was, of course, an offer for foreign economic assistance and technical aid for peaceful purposes. Many Americans have developed an aversion to large foreign aid grants, yet in Mr. Harriman's dream one sees good neighborliness. And there is a natural tendency among American people to help those who need help. Perhaps it is based in our Christian heritage.

Mr. Harriman was talking of course of extending the American dream of freedom and "the pursuit of happiness" to a vast area of the world where poverty breeds the seeds of war. He envisioned economic conditions where fathers can earn a decent living for their families, political conditions where mothers can raise their children without fear, social conditions in which children can train hopefully for useful lives.

He asked the Vietnam negotiators to look around them in Europe to see how America had helped the European peoples back to security and productivity following World War II. He reminded them that they also had seen the rapid development of Asian countries with America's technical assistance following the Pacific war.

"Real Peace" Is America's Aim in Southeast Asia

"The same can be true in Vietnam and Southeast Asia—if you will work with us to end the present conflict—and then move on in the serious business of peace and reconciliation," the veteran ambassador pleaded.

He said that this "real peace" with a cooperative Southeast Asia assisted by Western nations and possibly even the USSR, could make the region "one of the most productive in the world."

Mr. Harriman then assured the negotiators he was speaking for President Johnson and the entire American government. He quoted the President's address at Johns Hopkins University in April 1965 promising to give both financial and technical support in a cooperative effort for Asian development "just as soon as peace comes."

"Over time," the President had continued, "a wider framework of peace and security in Southeast Asia may become possible. The new cooperation of the nations of such a Southeast Asia is what the United States seeks—and that is all the United States seeks."

Mr. Harriman assured the North Vietnamese that organizations are already established to bring about these goals. One is the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. France, Great Britain, the USSR, and the United States are among its supporting members. Another is the Asian Development Bank, with membership "open to all who wish to share in its activities and responsibilities, regardless of differing ideologies or economic systems."

The American diplomat then reminded them of the need to stop fighting. "The sooner we can begin to move toward ending the conflict, the sooner your people and your neighbors—with help from others—can begin to attack the only real enemies modern man should have, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, disease, and suffering."

"Choose the path of peace," he urged. "Then we can work together for progress—and the sooner the better."

Birds of

Passage

by Finlay M. Graham

NO missionary can spend much time on the field without coming to the stark realization that he and his fellow missionaries are essentially birds of passage, even though they may be committed to a lifetime of service in the adopted country.

No matter how much he may succeed in identifying himself and

his family with the people to whom God has called him to witness, nor how well he may master their language, the missionary has a growing conviction that he will never be the most effective instrument for reaching these people for Christ.

Closely connected with this conviction of his own personal limitations is the consciousness of an earnest desire on the part of some converts to participate personally in the task of evangelizing their own people. Requests soon come from hearts stirred with Calvary love.

"Please show us how to prepare a sermon."

"Please tell me how to witness effectively."

"Teach us how to lead the congregation in singing."

"Help us to be better Sunday School teachers."

At such times the missionary longs to be able to multiply himself. So deeply was this need felt in Lebanon that in the fall of 1953, Finlay and Julia Graham opened their missionary home in Beirut for a three-day weekly Bible school with three students, hungry to learn, keen to equip themselves to witness more fruitfully among their people. Bill and Nancy Horn in Ajloun, Jordan, began a similar ministry for eager students in 1956. But the dream of these missionaries and their colleagues was to establish a seminary for the entire Arabic-speaking world.

That dream has become a reality. The seminary met for its first year of operation in 1960 in rented quarters in the city of Beirut, Lebanon. Seventeen students were enrolled for the first semester. During the following year gifts of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering made possible the erection of

buildings on a permanent campus in the foothills of the Lebanon mountains, very near the capital city of Beirut.

To the classrooms of this modern school of the prophets have come earnest students from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and elsewhere. Applications and inquiries have been received from others in Morocco, Mali, the Sudan, and Turkey, coming from a variety of religious backgrounds, with different academic standards with an age span from twenty-one to forty-plus, but all with a deep sense of a special calling and a keen desire to learn. These students have challenged their teachers to give of their best to inspire and teach in a concentrated three-year program of preparation for a more effective service in the spread of the gospel in the Arabic-speaking world.

Joseph Achkar, a young man from a mountain village in Lebanon, was enrolled as a student in the

first year of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary's operation. His financial backing was nil for him when he made a public profession of faith in Christ. When Joseph decided to come to the seminary he left promising employment with an American company. The manager offered him a substantial raise to stay, but Joseph's call from God was clear and there could be no turning back. Placed in a class with students better prepared academically for seminary training, he had to study hard and long to keep up. In addition he was obliged to spend several hours each day in manual labor to pay for room and board. Often he walked five miles into the city of Beirut in order to save the equivalent of ten cents in public transportation fare. But faithfulness and diligence paid off. After three years this young man graduated with distinction. The confidence placed in him has been abundantly justified and today he is a home missionary of the Lebanese Baptist Convention, an ardent soul winner in a remote area in the north of Lebanon.

What happens when a married man with a growing family feels a call to the gospel ministry? Having counted the cost and trusting in his Heavenly Father's promise to provide, Dabbah Ishaac from North Syria enrolled in the seminary in the fall of 1965. Accompanied by his wife and four children (since increased to five) he had to work long hours to pay for his family's room and board, to provide schooling for the older children, and to insure

bare necessities of life for his family. Now he has come through and maintained a high standard in his studies is amazing to all who are aware of his circumstances. His alert mind has been challenged to gain the best out of his seminary training.

In June 1967 Dabbah returned to Syria for the summer vacation to witness in his home community while he plied his trade as a tile layer to keep body and soul together for his family. After the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and her Arab neighbors, the door was closed for exit from Syria for nationals desiring to travel. Special exit permission had to be received from government officials in Damascus. Twenty-four hours before Dabbah and his family were due back at the seminary his request for a travel permit had still not been granted. Resentment toward authorities welled up in his heart. He sought an interview with the government official responsible for issuing permits, but that uncooperative public servant made Dabbah await his pleasure. Resentment increased as the hour for office closing approached.

As he waited, he began to think of his attitude toward government officials in general and in particular this one, who was obstructing his path. As he meditated and prayed, the Lord convicted him of his wrong attitude. It was as if he heard the Saviour say, "That man also is one for whom I died." Dabbah prayed, "God help me to love him for Christ's sake." A strong surge of compassion for this lost soul welled up in his innermost being. He returned once more to the office and to his utter amazement found the officer in a changed mood. A travel permit was granted, and soon he

was on his way with his family to the seminary for his final year.

One hour after his permit was issued an order from headquarters was sent out forbidding the granting of exit permits.

The road ahead for Dabbah Ishaac and his family is not smooth. Dedicated to witness for the Lord among his own people in Syria, he is grateful for three years of training at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary. He is willing to return to his trade as a tile layer to provide a livelihood for his family while he continues to witness to his people. He is willing to wait for a strong work to support him, and he is able to devote his full time to the gospel ministry.

Missionaries associated with the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary are grateful for the privilege Southern Baptists have, under God, accorded them to meet the challenge of helping to prepare God-called men and women to be effective gospel witnesses throughout the Arab world. Already twenty-six graduates are serving in strategic places in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. Your financial investment in their training, your continued intercession for their effective witness, will produce dividends of eternal duration.

Missionaries are essentially birds of passage, but their ministry can be multiplied and extended in the lives of nationals whom they help to train for kingdom service in the present and future.

FINANCES

FOR THE CRUSADE OF THE AMERICAS

MONEY alone will not assure success of the Crusade. It is a spiritual movement. Spiritual results can only be achieved by spiritual means. Unless the money given is dedicated to God, the results could be disastrous. Spiritual power, as a result of spiritual preparation, is the prime necessity. Individuals, churches, and conventions led to a deep level of spirituality by means of Bible study, prayer, self-examination and personal commitment are required. It is this power of God manifested through the work of the Holy Spirit which determines whether the Crusade "succeeds."

THE Crusade of the Americas is a costly venture due to its geographic extent which is the Western Hemisphere. Designed to reach the vast population of North, Central, and South America, as well as islands in the Caribbean and Atlantic, the Crusade will require a wide variety

of methods and approaches. Some of the methods and approaches are proving costly in required funds, but experience has shown that they are needed.

The most costly items related to the Crusade are promotional trips, radio broadcasts, telecasts, Bibles and Gospel portions, campaign posters, audio-visual aids, tracts and pamphlets, planning meetings, and transportation for evangelists.

Financial assistance from the Foreign Mission Board will be given to churches and conventions in Latin America in response to requests from our Mission organizations. They will be active in the planning and are in the best position to interpret country-by-country needs. If needs are greater than the resources of churches and conventions, the Board will help wherever possible.

Churches, associations, and conventions are working through established organizational patterns and customary procedures. The coordinators—whether national, regional, or hemispheric—are not salaried officials of the Crusade. They are people who are giving their services in behalf of the Crusade as an extra expression of service and interest.

The only new organizational apparatus called for by the Crusade is what is required to coordinate activi-

ties across international boundaries and between countries. The various conventions are competent to make all necessary plans within their own territory. Dr. Rubens Lopes, the Crusade leader, is president of a central coordinating committee which has representation from all participating conventions.

The Foreign Mission Board estimates that \$1 million is needed from Southern Baptist churches to help finance the Crusade in Latin America. There is no special source for these funds; they will come from the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The central coordinating committee requires a rather large budget. Contributions to the budget are made on the basis of \$2.50 per church per year by the participating conventions. The Southern Baptist Convention, through the Foreign Mission Board, is expected to provide \$2.50 for each of our churches for this purpose. This comes to more than \$85,000 in 1968, 1969. Some of the conventions in Latin America have given more than their quota.



Six regional coordinators for the Crusade of the Americas get together with Dr. Rubens Lopes, president, and Rev. H. Earl Pestock, general coordinator (above), to pray together with others (below) and discuss plans, procedures, communications regarding this significant crusade.



by Frank K. Means



Dr. Rubens Lopes, president of the central coordinating committee of the Crusade of the Americas is also president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. He presents a New Testament to president of Guatemala, Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro.



Missionary Ralph A. Wilson at a literature booth in a park, San Jose, Costa Rica.

but the most sizeable amount must be provided by Southern Baptists. We are by far the largest group numerically.

Even though the budget of the central coordinating committee is large, most of the funds from our churches will go to help meet the expenses country-by-country. This is as it should be. If the Crusade is to succeed, its major impact will be made in local communities all over the Western Hemisphere. When one considers that the Crusade of the Americas is the mightiest evangelistic thrust ever undertaken by a large number of Baptist groups co-operating together, the costs seem entirely reasonable and well within manageable limits. This will not come about without sacrifice, however.

Since there is no special source for these funds, this means that unless we give in a great outpouring of money, cherished programs of

work will necessarily have to be delayed. Construction projects for churches and other institutions will have to wait until the needs of the Crusade are met. If contributions received through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering increase to a considerable extent while the Crusade is in progress, these programs of work and construction projects will not have to be postponed as long as would otherwise be necessary.

Financing is an important aspect of any religious program. It is not the primary requirement, however. Money alone will not assure success of the Crusade. It is a spiritual movement. Spiritual results can only be achieved by spiritual means. Unless the money given is dedicated to God, the results could be disastrous. Spiritual power, as a result of spiritual preparation, is the prime necessity. Individuals, churches, and

conventions led to a deep level of spirituality by means of Bible study, prayer, self-examination, and personal commitment are required. It is this power of God manifested through the work of the Holy Spirit which determines whether souls will be saved and reclaimed, whether the Crusade "succeeds."

Fortunately, the undergirding provided by Pact, under the leadership of Woman's Missionary Union, will go far in creating the kind of spiritual unity and dedication which the Lord can bless to his glory. This is a plan whereby Baptists of this hemisphere are prayer partners for the Crusade. So also will the prayer support given by churches during and following the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, December 1-8, 1968.

**Write to P.O. Box 400, North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 for Pact literature. Assignment of all prayer partners will be made by December 31, 1968.*

Do you have any suggestions for a mother who wants her home to be a strong influence for good on her children?

Have fun together. This is one prescription for families outlined by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. A helpful leaflet, "Recreation in the Home," one of a tract series entitled "Christian Answers to Family Problems," may be secured by writing the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37219. Minimum order, \$1.00 (unit price 2 cents). Postage paid on prepaid orders. If billing is required, postage is added to the bill.

This leaflet makes some good-sense points. If family recreation is to result in spiritual values for its members, it must take place in an atmosphere of love, understanding, appreciation, respect, patience, and kindness. Parents are responsible for creating this atmosphere. And family recreation requires thoughtful planning with all family members making decisions and sharing in responsibilities for activities.

"Capitalize on special occasions," the leaflet advises. For Christmas, for example, it suggests "Christmas need not lose its true charm and beauty in the Christian home. Let the observance follow the same pattern each year until it takes on a traditional aspect."

Surprises, gaiety, and harmony can transform family routines into happy memories. Meals, bedtime, work—all are open doors to family fun. What about television? radio? the stereo? birthdays? dishwashing? cooking? gardening? Read the leaflet yourself. Then take its final hint: "Most of us must use all the ingenuity, imagination, and

creativity we are capable of to work out plans that will make for happiness and fun for all."

When? why? where? who? and how? of the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board

The answers to these questions are being written down in colorful detail for all to read. A history of home missions and a history of foreign missions will be on the shelves of Baptist Book Stores by the time the Southern Baptist Convention and both Boards celebrate 125th anniversaries in 1970.

Mission to America, the story of Southern Baptist home missions, will be released at the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1969. Dr. Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary for the Home Mission Board, is the author of this fascinating volume.

Several Foreign Mission Board officials are joining efforts to write the history of Southern Baptist foreign missions. This volume will be on sale in June 1970.

(Histories of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Annuity Board are already available, as is *History of Woman's Missionary Union* by Alma Hunt—\$2.50 from Baptist Book Stores.)

It was in 1845 that Baptist churches in the Southern part of our country formed the Southern Baptist Convention, primarily to engage in organized missionary work. That year the mission boards began their work. This means that the year 1970 marks the 125th anniversary of these efforts; therefore, these histories will be significant reading for every Southern Baptist during 1969 and 1970.

All these books deserve a space in your church library, and they are good also for families to own.

IS THIS YOUR QUESTION

by Marie Mathis....



ROYAL SERVICE • DECEMBER 1968

Call to Prayer

Prepared by Mrs. W. E. Allen

1 SUNDAY Read Exodus 14:21-25.

The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions begins today. "His Saving Grace Proclaim" is the theme. Will you spend much time in intercession this week? Don't miss the blessing to your own life. Paul writing to the Roman Christians expressed the desire of missionaries. Join me in praying fervently to God for me! (Rom. 15:30 TEV). Persistent intercessory prayer opens the door to miracles on missions fields and works beneficent changes in the hearts of each one who intercedes.

Pray for L. E. Johns, worker among Indians, Arizona.

Mrs. Arthur A. Moore, worker among Indians, Arizona.

Mrs. Ted Trent, worker among Indians, Arizona.

George F. Cox, electrician, Japan.

Marvin E. Felt, educational work, Peru.

Mrs. E. E. Harvey, evangelistic work, Brazil.

Mrs. M. G. Fruit, evangelistic work, Togo.

Joe F. Snyder, educational work, East Africa.

J. Howard Teel, evangelistic work, Pakistan.

Mrs. C. R. Owens, furlough, Tanzania.

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2 MONDAY Read Exodus 15:23-27.

"Everybody now feels a sense of urgency. Something is new in the atmosphere of our denominational life." testifies an Argentine Baptist businessman. An extensive program of religious education is being carried on in the churches of that country. Massive evangelistic penetration in certain key areas has created a friendly attitude toward Baptists. A ten-year program seeks by 1971 to double the present number of churches (2251) and members (17,237). Pray for Argentine Baptists in their forward thrust.

Pray for Mrs. C. B. Clark, evangelistic work, Venezuela.

Mrs. W. L. DuVall, educational work, Nigeria.

Mrs. W. E. Matheny, evangelistic work, Peru.

Donald H. Redman, evangelistic work, Costa Rica.

Mrs. M. M. Alexander, Jr., evangelistic work, Argentina.

Ray B. Wyatt, Jr., educational work, Colombia.

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Ray B. Wyatt, Jr., educational work, Colombia.

3 TUESDAY Read Exodus 16:24, 9-18.

Students from the Paraguayan Baptist Theological Institute started an evangelistic project in an area of Asuncion where no work was being done. In January 1967 they visited every home and where the reception was friendly asked permission to return and hold services. Six months later a suitable property was found for a mission. On Saturdays the students aided by professors, renovated the building and cleaned the yard. The building was dedicated with weekend evangelistic services. Proclaiming salvation through Christ during the previous months bore fruit in the conversion of two women. Pray for this.

Pray for Leroy Altinger, evangelistic work, Malawi.

Robert L. Harris, evangelistic work, Benin.

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Robert L. Harris, evangelistic work, Benin.

Mrs. E. E. Hassey, evangelistic work, Mexico.

Mrs. T. A. Hicks, evangelistic work, Nigeria.

Harvey L. Noland, Jr., evangelistic work, Peru.

George W. Paulas, evangelistic work, Germany.

A. Clark Scanlon, educational work, Guatemala.

Harlan L. Willis, medical missions, Thailand.

Mrs. M. J. Bradshaw, furlough, Japan.

Kathryn White, furlough, Hong Kong.

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Kathryn White, furlough, Hong Kong.

Mrs. R. W. Fields, furlough, Israel.

Mrs. S. D. Sprinkle, Jr., furlough, Costa Rica.

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Mrs. S. D. Sprinkle, Jr., furlough, Costa Rica.

Mrs. J. E. Troop, evangelistic work, Brazil.

James M. Wilson, evangelistic work, Brazil.

Mrs. J. G. Conley, furlough, Tanzania.

Joseph C. Pau, furlough, Liberia.

Mrs. R. E. Beddoe, retired, China.

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8 SUNDAY Read Exodus 34:28-35.

"English-language churches make a substantial contribution to the Japan Baptist Convention program," writes Robert H. Culpepper. There are six English-language churches and one mission in Japan; many of them sponsor Japanese-language missions in their communities. Many of our servicemen and businessmen overseas have been challenged to greater dedication to Christ's cause in these churches. Some later return to the US to prepare for definite Christian service. There is great need in some of these churches for pastors and qualified workers. Pray today that this need may be met.

Pray for Mrs. Juan Acosta, evangelistic work, Panama.

Mrs. O. W. Brady, evangelistic work, Guyana.

Mrs. Jerry Hobbs, evangelistic work, Thailand.

Jonathan E. Low, missionary journeyman, Nigeria.

Robert H. Culpepper, furlough, Japan.

Mrs. C. W. Whitten, furlough, Spain.

Mrs. Jose Flores, retired, Texas.

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10 TUESDAY Read Exodus 36:1-7.

Bolivia is one of three South American countries in which Southern Baptists have no missions work. Canadian Baptists have labored for many years among the Indians in the Andes Mountains region of this country. In 1946 Brazilian Baptists began missions work across the boundary rivers in the eastern lowlands of Bolivia where the gospel was lawless by Brazilian Christian traders. Today twelve Brazilian missionaries serve in eastern Bolivia. Members of the twelve Baptist churches plan to participate in the hemisphere Crusade of 1969. Pray for the spread of the gospel in this South American country.

Pray for Thomas W. Hill, publication work, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.

Mrs. J. H. Howde, missionary associate, Liberia.

Mrs. J. H. Howde, missionary associate, Liberia.

Mrs. J. H. Howde, missionary associate, Liberia.

Mrs. J. H. Howde, missionary associate, Liberia.

Mrs. J. H. Howde, missionary associate, Liberia.

Mrs. J. H. Howde

Fenny Starns, business administration, Thailand
Mrs. M. T. Bond, furlough, Hong Kong
Mrs. J. P. Smyth, furlough, Brazil
Marcy G. White, retired, Brazil

12 THURSDAY Read Numbers 13-1-2, 17-33

"It is our hope that the Project 500 effort will be a healthy accompaniment to the Crusade," comments Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board. The goal of Project 500 is to have established by September 30, 1969, five hundred strategically located new churches or church-type missions. As in 1968, funds from the 1969 Anna Armstrong Offering will be used in this work. Pray today for Project 500 churches and church-type missions and for needed volunteers to help in this thrust.

Pray for Mrs. Genus Crenshaw, worker among Indians, Florida
Margaret Evans, US-2, Ohio
James I. Neltje, international, California
Mary Ingold, US-2, Indiana
Mrs. Eugene Waite, worker among Spanish, California
Lathia Crap, missionary journeyman, Switzerland
Betty Hill, missionary journeyman, Liberia
I. Gene Lega, evangelistic work, Nigeria
Mrs. G. M. Swinegood, evangelistic work, Brazil
Mrs. H. K. Middleton, furlough, Chile
Thomas I. Watson, furlough, Peru
Mrs. W. J. Williams, furlough, Nigeria
Vera Aguillard, retired, Louisiana
Mrs. F. C. Rowland, retired, Texas

13 FRIDAY Read Numbers 14:26-30

The problem of personnel to help guide the great numbers of new Christians won in evangelistic crusades is an ever-present one with missionaries today. Sometimes God begins to solve the problem immediately, as happened in Peru. At the close of a series of messages on stewardship at the national convention, thirteen persons committed themselves to the Christian ministry. "We had wondered where the leaders would come from," the convention president said. "The Lord has already started solving the problem." Pray for the students of the theological institute at Trujillo.

Pray for W. O. Collingham, worker among French, Louisiana
Herbert W. Barker, evangelistic work, Taiwan
Mrs. J. B. Brasington, evangelistic work, Peru
Bonnie Moore, educational work, Nigeria
Mrs. G. W. Pinkston, evangelistic work, Indonesia
William S. Wester, evangelistic work, Malawi
Anna Wollerman, evangelistic work, Brazil

14 SATURDAY Read Numbers 21:1-9

Here in the US, language differences seem to form a barrier difficult to cross, but not knowing Spanish did not stop the members of the English language church in Anaco, Venezuela. Baptists conducted a week of house-to-house visitation in the homes of the oil town's residents, followed by evangelistic services in which twenty-nine people accepted Christ. Pray for these converts and for the English-language churches of Latin America as they make plans to participate in the 1969 Crusade of the Americas.

Pray for Roy E. Bell, missionary associate, Rhodesia
Mrs. G. S. Lazak, evangelistic work, Venezuela
Garold A. McNeely, educational work, Spain
Mrs. F. W. Patterson, publication, Baptist Spanish Publishing House
C. Thomas Stephens, Jr., evangelistic work, Indonesia
Randall L. Theford, evangelistic work, Philippines
Mrs. W. H. Gray, Jr., furlough, Mexico

15 SUNDAY Read Numbers 27:15-33

On the more developed missions fields a Mission treasurer handles the finances of the Mission, relieving the missionaries of a time-consuming task which takes them from regular work. This is a type of missionary service we often overlook. Pray today for Mission treasurers in all parts of the world.

Pray for Jackie R. Cooper, evangelistic work, Argentina
Thomas E. Erwin, missionary journeyman, Russia
Mrs. T. L. Lewis, evangelistic work, Brazil
D. Leon Mitchell, business administration, Indonesia
Gene D. Phillips, evangelistic work, Rhodesia
Lewis R. Smith, medical work, Hong Kong
H. Marshall Flournoy, furlough, Brazil

16 MONDAY Read Deuteronomy 34

Solid foundations for future growth were laid in the first decade of Southern Baptist work in Honduras, where the people are friendly to the gospel. In San Pedro Sula, a city of 61,000, where the A. R. Haylocks serve, two months after work was opened the number of believers grew from one to twenty-five. Television programs have been the means of winning many to Christ. Pray for Baptists of Honduras in their plans for the future including the 1969 crusade.

Pray for Martin Eugene Elder, Worker among Indians, New Mexico
Daniel Elum, juvenile rehabilitation, Texas
Mrs. Elizabeth Chapa Morris, evangelistic work, Panama

Mrs. G. W. Carroll, evangelistic work, Uganda
Mrs. A. R. Haylock, evangelistic work, Honduras
Mrs. C. G. Carlin, furlough, Ghana
William L. Smith, furlough, Brazil
Mrs. J. A. Turnbull, Sr., retired, Brazil

17 TUESDAY Read James 1:1-8

The response to the gospel in the Philippines has been phenomenal. Last year the R. L. Theford began missionary career by opening work in Udanato on the island of Luzon. Pray for new converts, new work, and vision for Baptists in the Philippines.
Pray for Mrs. H. V. Davis, evangelistic work, Brazil
Mrs. C. W. Oliver, evangelistic work, Italy
Mrs. R. L. Theford, evangelistic work, Philippines

18 WEDNESDAY Read James 1:8-17

Of the nineteen good will centers maintained by the Foreign Mission Board, five are in Brazil. Called Friendship House, the Rio de Janeiro center is directed by missionary Catherine Chappell. Located near a formerly dangerous favela (hillside slum area) Friendship House has seen hundreds accept Christ, and the attitude of the people change from despair and shame to hope and pride. In Recife director Faith Vaughn rejoices in as many as two hundred Christians won each year (see "Friendship House," August 1968 ROYAL SERVICE). Pray for recent converts and those who are being influenced by the Holy Spirit to seek Christ as Saviour and Lord.
Pray for Mrs. Pedro Arrambide, worker among Spanish, Texas
Catherine Chappell, social work, Brazil
Mrs. J. L. Robinson, evangelistic work, Brazil
T. Keith Edwards, furlough, Nigeria
Eugene R. Kimer, Jr., furlough, Venezuela
Mrs. F. A. R. Morgan, retired, Brazil

19 THURSDAY Read James 1:18-25

"Just think, I'm thirty years old and this is the very first time I've read the Bible," exclaimed Antonia Lucena, missionary Charles W. Shirley. Ill health and failure to find spiritual comfort and counsel led this dedicated Catholic to buy a Bible from a Baptist deacon and accept his invitation to attend the Baptist church. Later in the Shirley home she and her husband accepted Christ as Saviour. Once again, comments Mr. Shirley, "we were reminded of why we are here in Argentina." Pray for this woman and others who are reading God's Word for guidance.
Pray for James Beck, Baptist center, Georgia

The Shepherds and the Angels



There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks.

The Lord's angel appeared to them, and the Lord's glory shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them: "Don't be afraid! For I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people."

This very night in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! This is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven! And peace on earth to men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. That the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and saw the baby lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw him they told them what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder at what the shepherds told them.

The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen. It had been just as the angel had told them.

A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus—the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

Luke 2:8-21 (TEV) Today's English Version
used by permission of American Bible Society

Bradley D. Brown, evangelistic work, Liberia
Mrs. B. E. Cader, evangelistic work, Brazil
R. Edward Gordon, evangelistic work, Philippines
Paul E. Potter, evangelistic work, Dominican Republic
Charles W. Shirley, evangelistic work, Argentina
Heyward L. Adams, furlough, Nigeria
Dallas L. Bateman, furlough, Kenya
Robert C. Hensley, furlough, Bahamas
Mrs. P. C. Porter, retired, Brazil

20 FRIDAY Read James 1:24 to 2:9

Home missionaries appointed for work among Spanish language people, before they go to fields of service, spend a year at the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio studying Spanish and Latin American culture. Graduates of the school are serving in many places in the US today. Let us thank God for this institution which also provides training for any Christian worker unable to attend a college or seminary.

Pray for J. D. Crabb, worker among Spanish, Texas
Mrs. Thelma Gomez, worker among Spanish, California
Mrs. Alexander Probst, worker among Spanish, Florida
Mrs. Toshio Sakamoto, worker among Japanese, California
Mrs. A. I. Bagby, educational work, Brazil
L. Glynn Breeden, medical work, Colombia
Stanley P. Howard, Jr., evangelistic work, Japan
Paul B. Johnson, educational work, Philippines
Mrs. G. A. McNeely, evangelistic work, Mexico

Daniel W. O'Reagan, evangelistic work, Japan
Donald W. Peltner, evangelistic work, Thailand
Florence Thurman, Jr., evangelistic work, Malaysia
Luanda Williams, missionary journeyman, Switzerland
Joel Hayes, retired, Texas
Leola L. Johnson, retired, Brazil

21 SATURDAY Read James 2:10-26

In Afulun, Jordan, the Baptist Girls' School with 210 students is an observation and practice teaching center for a nearby government teacher training college for women. Seventy future teachers visit the school each week, observing even in Bible classes. Later in the year they will practice teaching in the school. Miss Anna Cowan directs the elementary school and Miss Maurine Perryman the high school division. Pray that these visits may create a friendly relationship that will offer many opportunities for presenting the claims of the gospel.

Change Your Address?

Attach Label Here

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Pray for Mrs. James L. Gebhart, worker among Spanish, Texas.
Mrs. T. E. Bryant, evangelistic work, Brazil.
Chester S. Cadwalader, Jr., evangelistic work, Guatemala.
Anna Chown, educational work, Jordan.
Judith Guerry, missionary journeyman, Honduras.
Mrs. S. C. Hart, Jr., missionary associate, Liberia.
Frances Horton, evangelistic work, Japan.
Mrs. J. E. Mahaffey, evangelistic work, Thailand.
Mrs. J. G. Morris, evangelistic work, Thailand.
Lee H. Nichols, evangelistic work, Korea.
Carole Olson, missionary journeyman, Japan.
Robert M. Parham, Jr., business administration, Nigeria.
J. W. Trimble, evangelistic work, Lebanon.
J. Gordon Venable, evangelistic work, Chile.
Lois Hart, furlough, Chile.

22 SUNDAY Read Luke 1:26-38

"Is it possible I'll have to give up and go home because I can't tell my R's?" a discouraged missionary studying Spanish asked herself over and over. "Then on her birthday a miracle happened. She tried R's not once but several times. She realized that women in the USA had prayed for her and God had answered. Now Mrs. N. H. Eudaly helps spread the good news to

Spanish language children all over Latin America as she edits materials for Pinettes at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso. Pray for the use of printed materials which go out from this publishing house.
Pray for Marvin Berry, worker among Spanish, Illinois.
Maxwell Johnson, center director, Mary, Spain, California.
Virginia Cobb, publication, Lebanon.
Mrs. H. H. Eudaly, publication, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.
Mrs. J. V. Hudson, evangelistic work, Korea.
Allreda Rangel, missionary journeyman, Philippines.
Henry W. Schwensberg, evangelistic work, Liberia.
Ben H. Wetmaker, educational work, Colombia.
Mrs. R. L. Corliss, Jr., furlough, Uruguay.
Gladys McLaughlin, retired, Texas.
Mrs. Millie Swann, retired, Louisiana.
John L. Riffe, retired, Brazil.

23 MONDAY Read Luke 1:46-56

As a girl, I complained because my birthday was so close to Christmas," writes Mrs. M. L. Garrett of Umatilla, Rhodessa. "That meant few presents and no parties. Now, when it is perfect planning, for there is no day in the year when I need prayer

more than when we prepare for Christmas here. Please pray that in final preparations for special Christmas services, lost shepherds for Christmas plays, and seeing that the needy will receive food, that the miracle of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us may be paramount, our every action proclaiming that the Saviour has been born." Pray for all who prepare, participate, and hear Christmas programs on missions fields and at home that Christ will be preeminent.

Pray for Mrs. Frank Alonzo, worker among Spanish, Texas.
James David Fite, evangelistic work, Cuba.
John T. Adams, medical work, Tanzania.
Mrs. M. L. Garrett, medical work, Rhodesia.
C. Donald Langford, medical work, Hong Kong.
Hal B. Lee, Jr., evangelistic work, France.
Mrs. D. W. McNeill, evangelistic work, Brazil.
William K. Matheny, evangelistic work, Peru.
Mavis Pate, nurse, Pakistan.
Mrs. V. E. Sydnor, Jr., evangelistic work, Brazil.
Donald E. Turner, evangelistic work, Brazil.
Mrs. J. C. Wilmon, educational work, Lebanon.
Mrs. R. N. Nash, furlough, Philippines.

24 TUESDAY Read Matthew 1:18-25

The C. Ray Rogers, live and work in Sals Surakarta, Indonesia. A city of more than 300,000 inhabitants. What can one Christian family accomplish among so many unbelievers? Humany speaking little, but through this family's presence in the city God is multiplying the heaven of the gospel in the hearts of people. Patience, wisdom and faith in the future are needed to witness. Pray that the seeds of the gospel will bear harvest soon.
Pray for Mrs. Thomas Lowe, worker among Chinese, California.
Catherine Jarrett, missionary journeyman, Ecuador.
Mrs. H. R. Littleton, evangelistic work, Ghana.
H. Gerald Palmer, Jr., evangelistic work, Nigeria.
Mrs. Glenn Patton, evangelistic work, Lebanon.
C. Ray Rogers, evangelistic work, Indonesia.
Hubert K. Middleton, furlough, Chile.
Manuel Garcia, retired, Texas.

25 WEDNESDAY Read Luke 2:1-20

This was one Christmas when I neither gave nor received gifts," wrote a missionary last year. During the week preceding Christmas her small church had experienced a glorious revival. The days were filled with visits to the interested and to new born Christians, with constant thanksgiving that so many had accepted Christ.

This is Christmas Day, a day to give thanks for Christ the Saviour. Will you add to your family, "The Shepherds and the Angels," page 17, and go as a family to visit new Christians whom you know? Pray that you will grow in sensitivity to the needs of others.

Pray for James Lassiter, US-2, Colorado.
W. Judson Blair, publication, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.
Mrs. R. A. Holfield, evangelistic work, Italy.
Mrs. R. E. Johnson, Sr., educational work, Brazil.
Tam W. McMillan, social work, Tanzania.
Gary B. Milburn, missionary journeyman, Tanzania.
Daniel B. Ray, evangelistic work, Korea.
Raymond L. Shilton, evangelistic work, Thailand.
Mrs. J. M. Young, evangelistic work, Brazil.
Mrs. R. R. Stewart, furlough, Thailand.
Mrs. A. W. Hancock, retired, Oklahoma.

26 THURSDAY Read Matthew 2:1-11

Today the slogan "Time marches on!" has become "Time gets on!" Rapid communications and the transistor radio are two factors in a tremendous upsurge of national and international interest in evangelistic crusades. With the cooperation of talented men and women from the US and from other lands, multitudes are being reached with the gospel message. Pray today for plans in many countries on many continents for evangelistic campaigns in 1969 and 1970.

Pray for Ned Haynes Brown, worker among Japanese, California.
John W. Hughton, pastor director, Mass.achusetts.
Mrs. J. C. Abrell, Jr., evangelistic work, Nigeria.
Mrs. G. W. Breswell, Jr., evangelistic work, Lebanon.
Dale Carter, agriculture work, Brazil.
Zach. Deal, Jr., evangelistic work, Cambodia.
Mrs. B. Gaudiney, medical work, Nigeria.
Julia Long, nurse, Tanzania.
Mrs. C. A. Tyne, evangelistic work, Uganda.
James C. Walker, evangelistic work, Rhodesia.
Aldemira Conzatti, furlough, Nigeria.

27 FRIDAY Read Luke 2:21-38

At times I feel that I am the pastoral minister of a state," writes R. H. Wolf, furlough missionary in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. "Church members are very poor and life is primitive in most of the isolated communities." The annual state convention is a rare occasion for many to visit with new Christians and purchase Christian literature. In quiet a home for students under their care and Mrs. Wolf like

many missionary mothers, supervises the education of their four children. Pray for national Christians and for youth of Mexico.
Pray for D. Curtis Askew, evangelistic work, Japan.
Ruth Ford, nurse, Indonesia.
James R. Moseley, medical work, Nigeria.
Farrell E. Runyan, evangelistic work, French-speaking Africa.
Mrs. J. A. Smith, missionary associate, Japan.
Graydon C. Tennison, evangelistic work, Portugal.
Mrs. R. H. Wall, evangelistic work, Mexico.
Mark A. Alexander, Jr., furlough, Argentina.

28 SATURDAY Read Luke 2:29-32

In an effort to conserve the results of evangelistic crusades, Costa Rica Baptists inaugurated a "brother's keeper" program.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING GOAL \$15,500,000

It calls for each convert to be assigned to a church member who will help him during a ten week period of study and religious activities. A special course was prepared for new believers, practically all of whom face persecution on their jobs, or by members of their families and religious authorities. Pray today for those babes in Christ that they may grow into strong effective witnesses.

Pray for Mrs. Jerry St. John, worker among deaf, Mississippi.
Mrs. C. F. Eaglesfield, evangelistic work, Nigeria.
Mrs. S. L. Galafinich, Sr., evangelistic work, Costa Rica.
James D. Hollis, evangelistic work, Hong Kong.
Mrs. J. D. Smith, evangelistic work, Indonesia.
Vela Jane Birch, furlough, Hong Kong.
J. B. Silva, retired, Cuba.

29 SUNDAY Read John 1:15-34

The Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso three years ago launched a quarterly publication, *Resurreta*. Filled with illustrated stories and articles, humor and other features, *Resurreta* is fast becoming a better life and the last to Christ. Its acceptance with the border where good literature is scarce, has been phenomenal, surpassing expectations. The cost of publication is necessarily high. Pray today that the problems connected with its production

may be solved and that many may come to know the Saviour through reading its pages.
Pray for Jean Fairfax, Baptist center, Kentucky.
Mrs. Clint Kimbrough, evangelistic work, Brazil.
Mrs. H. L. Nowland, Jr., evangelistic work, Peru.
Mrs. J. G. Partain, evangelistic work, Tanzania.
Marion Phillips, educational work, Nigeria.
Ann Swenson, publication, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.
Earl Williams, evangelistic work, Liberia.
Mrs. H. R. Tucker, Jr., furlough, Venezuela.

30 MONDAY Read Matthew 3

Plans for the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, India, are shaping up gradually. The Ralph C. Berkeas are developing a flourishing work among the Telugu language people of Bangalore. They report that new believers are dedicated to Bible study and prayer and active in evangelism. "The Indian pastor," says Dr. Berkeas, "studies the Bible. Pray today for the future of medical work by Baptists in India and for new converts.

Pray for Mrs. Jack Duke, worker among Spanish, Colorado.
George Hook, worker among Indians, Alaska.
Mrs. J. L. Deal, evangelistic work, Malaya.
Mrs. C. L. Dixon, evangelistic work, Brazil.
Joe T. Pine, publication, Baptist Spanish Publishing House.
Eva Sanders, nurse, Nigeria.
Javier L. McPhail, furlough, India.
Mrs. Sue Meuth, furlough, Indonesia.

31 TUESDAY Read Psalm 45

Dr. Franklin H. Peschel reminded a Kidgeest audience that Khubia Khan in the thirteenth century, requested a hundred missionaries to teach him and his people about Christianity. His kingdom stretched from Korea to Poland, from China to India. "The missionaries were not sent. Today this area is still largely unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us pray today that Southern Baptists, during the coming year, may respond to the challenges of open doors all over the world. God's promise in Jeremiah 33:3 is true. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Pray for Cary Harden, superintendent of missions, Ohio.
Bernie T. Griffin, business administration, Nigeria.
Walter B. McNeely, furlough, Brazil.
V. C. Cuellar, retired, Texas.

AT A GLANCE

WMS Study and Activity Opportunities FOR DECEMBER

• WMS Mission Study, Mission Prayer, and Mission Action Groups

MISSION STUDY GROUPS

Any or all of these mission study groups may be provided for WMS members:

1. Bible study group
Lesson on page 24
Guide for study, page 26
2. Current missions group
Study material, page 21
Guide for study, page 22
3. Round Table group
Order for each member of the group *Round Table Group Guide*, \$1.00
4. Mission books group
Order for group leader and teacher a copy of *Mission Books Teacher's Guide 1*, \$1.00 each

AGENDA for STUDY GROUP MEETING

(Primary activity of mission study groups is a study of missions.)

Group planning led by group leader *Call to Prayer*, page 14

Preview of general WMS study topic for next meeting; see WMS Forecaster

Announcement of general WMS projects and plans

Study

Information and discussion of help by members in mission action projects as result of study, as requested from mission action groups, as members know of need; response of volunteers and assignment

Prayer regarding mission action project help

MISSION PRAYER GROUP

Order for each member of your group a copy of *Prayer Group Guide*, \$1.00

Additional prayer requests, page 54

AGENDA for PRAYER GROUP MEETING

(Primary activity: intercessory prayer for missions.)

Group planning led by group leader *Call to Prayer*, page 14

Preview of general WMS study topic for next meeting; see WMS Forecaster

Announcements of general WMS projects and plans

Prayer for missions

See also *Prayer Requests*, page 54
Information and discussion of help by members in mission action projects and as requested from mission action groups, also as members know of need; response of volunteers for mission action and assignment

MISSION ACTION GROUP

Order for each member of your group a copy of the mission action group guide which meets your need (see *WMS Year Book*, p. 51, for list of guides)

AGENDA for MISSION ACTION GROUP MEETING

Use a mission action group guide
Call to Prayer, page 14

Preview of study topic for next general WMS meeting; see WMS Forecaster

Announcement of general WMS projects and plans

Group planning of study, sharing, evaluating, in-service study, using a mission action group guide

Prayer for specific needs of persons and for activities

The *WMS Leader Manual*, 75 cents, and "Leading a WMS Group," a pamphlet, 25 cents, provide information about forming and working in WMS mission study, mission prayer, and mission action groups.

All materials are available from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, and Baptist Book Stores, unless otherwise indicated.

Every woman needs a subscription to *ROYAL SERVICE*, \$2.00 from WMC.

Lost of Three Studies on Preclaiming the Gospel on Missions Fields

OCTOBER: Advance in Rhodesia

NOVEMBER: Fruits of Evangelism in Ecuador

DECEMBER: An Expanding Witness in Jordan

by Juanita Morrill Wilkinson

An Expanding Witness in Jordan

In spite of many difficulties Jordan Baptists are making significant progress today in spreading the good news among their people.

Fears and Hopes

Many Christians today look at the Middle East and puzzle over its religious and political condition. They vaguely recall its troubled history.

The history of Palestine, cradle of three of the great religions of the world—Judaism, Christianity, Islam—is a chronicle of invasion and conquest, largely in the name of religion.

We will not go back to biblical times, but in more recent years—in A.D. 633-36—Palestine was wrested from her Byzantine rulers by the Arabs who held the territory until 1099 in the name of the prophet Muhammad. In that year the Crusaders from Europe were successful in setting up a kingdom which stood almost a century. A traveler in the Middle East today can still see ruins of ancient fortresses, castles, places of worship. But the followers of Muhammad under Saladin again captured Jerusalem in 1187 and the old city remained in Muslim hands until June 1967 when Israel's armed forces took over the entire city of Jerusalem as well as other territory which was formerly held by the modern state of Jordan where there are some 150,000 non-Muslims enjoying full status as citizens.

Men everywhere today are fearful concerning the continuing political unrest and recurrent border incidents between Arab countries and Israel which are reported in our news media. As a result of the Six Day War of 1967 Jordan's territory loss was the Old City of Jerusalem and

the relatively prosperous agricultural West Bank of the Jordan River including Bethlehem. The Gaza Strip and North Sinai, under Egyptian military protection before 1967, were also seized by Israel. Thousands of Jordanians were war casualties. Tens of thousands fled the West Bank area to find a place of safety elsewhere in their country. The estimate of homeless Jordanians is more than 260,000 persons. After the recent war the Jordanian king, Hussein, took the lead among the Arabs in trying to bring about a realistic solution to the political crises, but he met with uncertain response.

Jordan's loss of agricultural territory and the burden of her refugee people poses for that country almost insurmountable odds as she looks toward the future.

But there is and was a mixture of hope with fear in the minds and hearts of Jordanian Christians as well as missionaries as they look at the possibilities. Two months before the hostilities broke out into all-out war, in April 1967, there were many evidences of God at work in simultaneous revivals which were conducted throughout Jordan. A Foreign Mission Board news item was headlined, "Revivals in Jordan Surpass Expectations." In the article a missionary was quoted: "The united campaign thrust Baptist work forward by many months in this Arab, half-desert country. In almost every church, the attendance for the special meetings was twice the usual attendance, and in several churches the number of decisions was double the number of church members." The missionary concluded by affirming, "We believe widespread prayer around the world was one of the contributing factors in this success."

Since the war there are evidences that Baptist nationals and missionaries are being blessed of the Lord as they serve him. By the close of 1967 Baptist missionaries who were evacuated during the war had returned to the country. In reporting on the Baptist work in Jerusalem Bill Hern said about work there: "We praise the Lord for the faithfulness of the church members who remained in the city of Jerusalem. Although circumstances have hindered me from returning to Jerusalem [which is now in Israel's hands and Mr. Hern lives in Amman, the capital city of Jordan], the regular weekly worship services have been resumed under the leadership of the national Baptist brethren. Southern Baptist missionaries who are regularly assigned to Israel have been most gracious . . . during the emergency period. Five persons who previously had been approved by the church for baptism have been baptized since the cessation of fighting. The Baptist Book Store [in Jerusalem] has been reopened for business."

Three new missionaries have been appointed and are on the field in Jordan, making the number of missionaries to Jordan under appointment by the Foreign Mission Board to total twenty-five.

Two other reports from Jordan missionaries reveal a hopeful and dedicated spirit.

The Baptist clinic in Laybeh, Jordan closed in 1964



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because of lack of personnel, was reopened last May. A doctor and nurse from the Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, forty-five miles away, drive to Taiybeh to see patients once a week. About one-fifth of the population of this village is nominally Christian, mainly Greek Orthodox. When the clinic was closed after ten years of operation, the 2,600 people of this predominantly Muslim village were left without any medical care. But the arrival at the Ajloun hospital of an additional missionary doctor and a hospital administrator has made reopening of the clinic possible.

Then at Ajloun the Baptist Girls School and the Baptist Hospital School of Nursing are assisting. Since late 1967, a neighboring institution, a government teacher training college for women. The four-year-old government school located in Ajloun is using the Baptist Girls School for its observation and practice teaching program. Seventy future teachers visit the Baptist school each week, attending classes by twos. Even the Bible classes are being observed. Toward the end of a semester the young women have opportunity to practice teaching methods. This Baptist institution with 230 students is under the direction of two missionaries, Maurine T. Perryman and Anna Cowan. Leila Hanna, nursing instructor at the School of Nursing, teaches public health three hours a week to these future teachers.

Great Glad Tidings Tell

It is as up-to-date as tomorrow's newspaper that peace from conflict is not yet a reality in the land of Jordan. However, the peace that passes all understanding that Christians experience through the redemptive love of Christ has continued to spread throughout this small, distraught nation of Jordan. Jordanian Baptists continue to expand the Christian witness through medical, teaching, and preaching ministries. Let us take a brief look at Baptists in Jordan.

It was in 1952 that Southern Baptists purchased a hospital at Ajloun from an English missionary doctor, Dr. Charles F. McLean, who was seeking a group to take over the work established by independent English missionaries. Surgery is performed twice a week in this fifty-bed hospital. An accredited course for training practical nurses and a course for training laboratory technicians are offered. Daily chapel services for patients and medical staff are providing increased opportunities in Christian witness. The efficient medical ministry of Southern Baptists in Jordan has opened many doors of Christian influence throughout the nation. During the Six Day War in June 1967, missionaries were executed with one exception, Dr. August Lovegren remained to keep open the Baptist Hospital in Ajloun.

The missionary force in Jordan has expanded beyond the ministry at Ajloun. Half the missionary staff is located in Amman, the capital city, the population of which has been augmented by the influx of thousands of war refugees. Four missionary couples, living in widely scat-

for Current Missions Group

An Expanding Witness in Jordan

Study Question: How are Jordan Baptists progressing in their desire to spread the gospel among their people?

Checklist

- ... Read through "An Expanding Witness in Jordan," page 21.
- ... Assign "Fears and Hopes," page 21 and "Great Glad Tidings Tell," page 22.
- ... Make assignment for Call to Prayer.
- ... Consider techniques of involving the group in study. Review the techniques used during October and November so as not to duplicate them (see pp. 48-56 in WMS Leader: Manual for techniques.)
- ... Read newsmagazines and newspapers for recent events in the country of Jordan.
- ... Secure from a book dealer a map which shows the strategic location of Jordan, and mount the map.
- ... C p and mount for display newspaper accounts of recent events in this area.
- ... Prepare to preview (see p. 57) general WMS study.

tered areas of the 3,100,000 population, hold Bible study groups in their homes. Working with the leadership of nationals, Jordanian Baptists and missionaries have established worship services in their homes.

Baptist schools in Ajloun, Dehbin, and Taiybeh provide evangelical witness to many students through chapel services, Bible classes, and the teaching of Christian principles. Graduates have become teachers, nurses, and other witnesses among their countrymen. Baptist Book Stores feature Christian literature in Arabic and English. A reading room and chapel in the book store at Amman are an attractive invitation to explore the Christian message of hope and peace. Organized Baptist churches with effective work among the women, YWAs, GIAs are reporting favorable results, especially the church at Ajloun. Missionary journeyman have provided short-term assistance to missionaries in their diversified tasks.

A missionary reporting after the 1967 armed conflict wrote: "Our work in the Amman and Ajloun areas of Jordan continued with little interruption. Baptists carry on their work in a wonderful way. The regular services in all the churches and mission points continue. The Baptist Book Store in Amman has continued in operation. Missionaries who returned to Jordan after the cessation of the war were warmly received by national Baptists."

He continued, "Please join us in praying in a definite way for these troubled people."

topic for coming month by having ready the WMS study posters for January, February, and March. Call attention to the new unit of study for the first quarter of 1969. See WMU Year Book, pages 59-60.

To Begin—

Leader: Ask, what comes into your mind at the sound of the word Jordan? Pause for responses from group members. Some may respond, Jordan River or "On Jordan's Stormy Banks." Display a map of the Jordan area and remind the group of your study question, "How are Jordan Baptists progressing in their desire to spread the gospel among their people?"

The question itself reminds us that the Middle East is the area where Jesus was born, was crucified, and rose from the grave. The gospel had its origin in the small town of Bethlehem with the birth of Jesus Christ. No Christmas carol describes more majestically the manger event on the first Christmas Eve than the immortal hymn written by Phillips Brooks, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Let us listen again to his hymn.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight!

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Sing hymn or play record: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Two phrases in these stanzas describe the contemporary Middle East in particular and perhaps the whole world! Our study will be focused under these two thoughts, "fears and hopes" and "great glad tidings tell." Two of our group members will assist in presenting these thoughts after we pray.

Call to prayer, page 14

Two women seated at a table discuss "Fears and Hopes," page 21, and "Great Glad Tidings Tell," page 22.

Guided prayer: Say, This missionary has requested that we pray for these causes. Spend time in concerned prayer—

That a peaceful solution can be found for the major problems of Jordan and the Middle East and that some measure of peace can be restored (*pray*)

For the spiritual strengthening of both missionaries and national Baptists during days of uncertainty (*pray*)

For the almost 260,000 refugee men, women, young people, and children who are homeless (*pray*)

That both missionaries and national Baptists will take advantage of each opportunity to present the gospel in spite of the unsettled circumstances (*pray*)

For the nearly 400 persons who made decisions for Christ during the simultaneous Evangelistic Campaign in April 1967 and especially that they will follow through with their decisions (*pray*)

For all the missionaries laboring for the cause of Christ in the Middle East during these difficult and uncertain days (*pray*)

Follow-through: The task is not completed in the beautiful country of Jordan. Jordan Baptists have responded to the angelic chorus, "Glory to God in the highest," and are progressing in sharing their knowledge of Jesus, the Saviour. They are aware of the need for trained national leadership, they are aware of the need their countrymen have for their gospel message. A patient at the Ajloun hospital told the busy doctor she had one request. She surprised him by saying, "Would it be possible for some of the Christians to come and have a meeting in my home?"

Do we have a responsibility to these Jordanians who live in the land where our Lord lived and died and rose from the grave?

Can we sing a Christmas carol about Bethlehem, the manger, the angels, the Wise Men, the shepherds, and not be quickened to the urgency of sharing the glad tidings of the Prince of peace?

Should we become less burdened with Christmas packages and shopping lest we fail to be burdened for the war-torn, frustrated people who live in this area of the world, especially for Jordan?

Closer to home, can we see that our witness of the good news of great joy is needed by a neighbor, a clerk in the overcrowded store, or a patient in the nursing home or hospital?

Is there an international student you can have for your Christmas observance within the Christian environment of your family?

Will you do more than seeing that a prisoner in the jail or a delinquent girl in a detention home is provided turkey and all the Christmas trimmings this year? Will you make every effort possible to witness to that person about the redemptive love of God as you give of yourself?

Prayer: Pray silently together. Close with a solo, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," verses three and four, followed by amen.

BIBLE STUDY for DECEMBER, Lesson III

Read 1 and 2 Corinthians

Guide for Study, page 26

Growing Mature Christians in Pagan Society

Introduction

The first great missionary statesman, Paul, is seen as a conscientious and effective missionary administrator in his communication to the Corinthians. Corinth had the reputation in the first century of being the most wicked city of the empire. The city was commercially prosperous and had the name for every kind of drunkenness and debauchery.

In this city Paul addressed at least four letters (see 1 Cor. 5:9; 2 Cor. 1:4). We may have all of three of these and a part of the fourth in the New Testament books of 1 and 2 Corinthians. If this be true, they would fill out something like this:

1. The "previous" letter (1 Cor. 5:9)—2 Corinthians 6:14 to 7:1
2. 1 Corinthians
3. The severe letter—2 Corinthians 10-13
4. The reconciling letter—2 Corinthians 1-9

Read in this order the modern reader can see the depth of the missionary problems in Corinth and the mixture of the severe judgmental and the warmly redemptive way that the missionary administrator dealt with the people of the Christian community at Corinth. The early churches were not without their problems. They were no more perfect than are churches today. Paul is almost God-like in his hatred of sin and his love for the sinner.

I. Missionary Problems Reported to Paul (1 Cor. 1-6)

Then as now the first problem in point of occurrence was party strife and division (1 Cor. 1:4). People, Christians and others, often have difficulty getting along. Paul identified four parties in the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 1:10-13).

There was the party of Paul. These Pauline party members were no doubt Gentiles. Following Paul's preaching of Christian freedom from the law, they probably had substituted license for liberty. They were doing as they pleased rather than as God pleased.

There was the party of Apollos (see Acts 18:24). Apollos was from Alexandria, a university city and an intellectual center. People from Alexandria were the ones who intellectualized early Christianity. These may have been those who were interested in making a barren philosophy out of the fresh faith of these first-century Christians.

The party of Cephas was evidently the Jewish party, using the Jewish name for Peter. Indeed Peter had insisted in the beginning that the Gentiles follow the Jewish law. This must have been particularly obnoxious to Paul because he had emphasized freedom from the law and dependence on the generosity of God.

The party of Christ seems to be a strange name to give a faction in a church unless it happened that they were boasting that they alone had Christ. It may have been that those so referred to were self-righteous, rigid, intolerant and super-pious. If this were true, they were factions indeed.

The missionary administrator was careful to make sure that the Corinthians understood that his aim had been simple, namely to win men not to himself but to Christ through the preaching of the cross (1 Cor. 1:16-17). This simple gospel was a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks (1 Cor. 1:18-25). The wisdom of God is wiser than any man's wisdom. Therefore, boasting had to be in God, not in any man.

The high point came when Paul declared that all things belong to the Christian because the Christian belongs to Christ and Christ belongs to God (1 Cor. 3:23).

The second problem that had been reported was the problem of immorality (1 Cor. 5, 6:12-20). To say that the terrible immorality that had been reported to Paul was common in the wicked city of Corinth was not to excuse it. As shocked as Paul was by gross immorality, he was more concerned about the attitude of the Corinthian church in condoning it. Paul without equivocation gave advice: "Get rid of this one," he said, "unless you want the poison to spread."

Paul clearly enunciated the principle that the church

by Dotson M. Nelson, Jr.

should not withdraw from the world but neither should it compromise. As someone said years ago, "The church must be better than the world in order to better the world, it must be higher than the world in order to lift the world." There had to be a difference in attitude toward immorality among Christians. The unrepentant church member must be dealt with quickly or the pagan could not be won for Christ.

The third report which Paul took up was that of lawsuits between members of the church (1 Cor. 6:1-11). God's dedicated people ought to be able to settle a matter of conflict without drawing unbelievers into the problem. Why should Christians held together by love resort to law?

II. Answers in Questions Posed by the Church (1 Cor. 7:15)

The first answer concerned marriage (1 Cor. 7). At first glance Paul seemed to belittle marriage. Careful reading will show that this is not the case at all. At this time in the ministry of Paul he evidently expected the consummation of the age (the second coming of Christ) within a short time (1 Cor. 7:29). He gave rather complete advice to almost every condition surrounding marriage. Due to the nearness of the coming of Christ he seemed to say it was better to remain in whatever marital state a person happened to be. However, there was the definite teaching that marriage is a partnership and ideally husbands and wives do not act independently but together. Divorce was not allowed, and marriage must be between Christian folk (1 Cor. 7:39).

The second question was concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols. There was doubtless in Corinth both temple meat which was sold as well as meat taken by the giver of the sacrifice to a banquet in the name of the idol worshiped. Paul agreed that the strong and enlightened Christian will recognize that this meat is not different from other meat, but participation had to be judged on what a weaker brother might feel (1 Cor. 8). The additional prin-

ciple was given that Christian freedom always must be accompanied by Christian responsibility (1 Cor. 9). He cautioned against participating in dinners in honor of idols (1 Cor. 10:1-22). He advised them not to be overly fussy but to buy what was offered in shops and ask no questions. In a private house they were to eat what was put before them unless they were specifically informed that this was a heathen sacrifice (1 Cor. 10:23-28). The overriding principle of conduct which Paul gave was that the Christian must be so far above reproach that he will give no offense either to Jew or to Greek.

The third question was concerned with the veiling of women in public worship (1 Cor. 11:1-16). Paul cautioned that modesty was necessary particularly in the immoral city of Corinth. His advice was that it was far better to err on the side of being too modest and too strict rather than give the pagan world opportunity to criticize. We should not make the mistake of making universal application of a clearly local bit of advice.

A question was asked concerning the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:17-34). The spiritual quality of the Lord's Supper was emphasized. Obviously the Corinthians had not succeeded in coming to a loving unity, but they carried their divisions even to the Lord's table. Paul used this occasion to give the first recorded description of the institution of the Lord's Supper. It was a feast of thanksgiving (v. 24), of remembrance (vv. 24-25), of covenant (v. 25), and of proclamation (v. 26).

Paul concluded this section by telling the Corinthian Christians that he would answer their other questions and settle their other problems when he came to them in person. Through these chapters you can look back across the years and see the missionary administrator at his best. With incisive understanding, with compassion (though sometimes with indignation) he addressed himself to problems large and small in the development of the missionary church.

III. Stewardship in Missions (2 Cor. 8-9)

The material support of the missionary task was approached unapologetically by the missionary statesman. The grounds which Paul used to appeal in the Corinthian Christians were at least five in number. He cited the example of others (the Macedonian churches) (2 Cor. 8:1-5). He challenged them to be as successful in the grace of giving as in other Christian graces (2 Cor. 8:6-7). He gave the example of Jesus Christ who is the greatest example of generosity (2 Cor. 8:9). He challenged them to finish what they had begun (2 Cor. 8:11). He reminded them that life has a strange way of rewarding the generous (2 Cor. 8:12-15). Paul carefully explained the arrangements for the handling of these material things (2 Cor. 8:16-24). He chose a man of good reputation, Titus, in whom the Corinthians had confidence and he in them. Paul testified to the depth of his relationship with Titus by calling him partner and fellow worker. He was careful not to send an untried man knowing it was

important not only to give but to care for the gift after it was given.

The basic motive for generosity was love, although duty, self-satisfaction, and other motives may be intertwined. The greatest verse on giving in the Bible is 2 Corinthians 9:8. Everyone should give. Everyone should give after making a determination of proportion—without regret, not out of a sense of duty, for God loves the one who gives gladly. It follows that you cannot outgive God (2 Cor. 9:9).

IV. Getting the Message Out (2 Cor. 1 to 6:13)

Paul said that the basic message was couched in the phrase "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor. 5:19). God was the initiator of salvation. Man was estranged from God, not God from man. The work of reconciliation has been committed unto man (2 Cor. 5:19). Paul told the Corinthians that they were ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20). An ambassador is one who represents "the person of the king in the court

of another." Individual people are workers together with him (2 Cor. 6:11).

The motive of the ambassador was expressed in the love of Christ which rules the Christian's life (2 Cor. 5:14). By virtue of the fact that the Christian has been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ, he has become a part of the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18).

The ambassador of reconciliation may use at least three methods. The first method was one that Paul used over and over again—the letter (2 Cor. 2:3). A better method which he used was the spoken word which added personality to the written statement (2 Cor. 4:13). The best method, however, is the life which always speaks louder and clearer than either written or spoken word (2 Cor. 3:2-3).

Out of the agony of disappointment, out of the compassion of love, out of the confidence of faith, the missionary sought to admonish, to encourage, to give intelligent direction to the young church in so much trouble but with so great a potential.

of The Missionary Message of the Bible

Growing Mature Christians in a Pagan Society

by Hoyt R. Wilson

Using the Bible, the lesson on page 24, and this guide, individuals or groups may study in one or four sessions. For each session add a visual to stimulate interest at the beginning (see WMS Leader Manual, pp. 53-55).

The letters to Corinth provide a clear picture of New Testament church life. Problems which arose there led Paul to write more letters to this church than to any other. These letters reveal a great deal about Paul as well as answer problems in the church.

Teaching Aim

Are the problems faced by the early Christian church at Corinth similar to those in my day?

Teaching Plan

Write the above aim on chalkboard or on a strip of paper. Place it before the group and say that you will be seeking to answer this and other questions as you study together this month.

In order to understand the problems in the church at Corinth, members need background information about

the city itself. Robert I. Bishop in *A Book Study of the Bible* writes:

"Paul's missionary strategy called for establishing strong work in centers of trade. From that point of view, Corinth was ideal. Located on the narrow isthmus connecting northern and southern Greece, it was the hub of commerce between Italy and Asia Minor. Goods were trans-shipped across the isthmus to avoid the dangerous passage around the southern tip of Greece. Sometimes . . . ships were hauled across on rollers. Estimates of the city's first-century population run as high as six hundred thousand."

"Though the city was an ideal trade center, it was at first glance most unpromising from a religious point of view. Corinth was the center of every kind of debauchery. Dominating the city was a huge temple, housing male and female prostitutes. There were practically no moral influences at work in the community, except for a Jewish synagogue."

"In addition to . . . [sordid] background, the people were individualistic to the extreme. As Paul found out, each man considered himself an authority and above any 'law.' Combined with the paganism and immorality of the city, this attitude meant potential disaster for the Christian community. While the church was potentially strong, it was already headstrong."

Place on the chalkboard the four subjects for study this month. See the Bible lesson, pages 24-25, and above.

*Copyright 1964 by Broadman Press. Order for \$2.75 from Baptist Book Stores.

Guide members in Bible searching on these subjects. If you meet four times this month study a subject at each meeting.

Using a map of Paul's missionary journeys trace the third missionary journey to fix in mind what took place prior to his visit to Corinth and his actual ministry there. The letters were probably written from Ephesus. Ships between Corinth and Ephesus made it possible for Paul to keep up with events at Corinth. Point out the locations of these two cities on the map.

(If you plan to use the filmstrip *Unity Through Love** which tells of Paul's ministry at Corinth, preview it and write down questions about certain problems which you will ask members to look for as they view the filmstrip. Show the filmstrip now as a basis for study at your meeting or meetings this month.)

I. Missionary Problems Reported to Paul (1 Cor. 1-6)

Ask group members to open their Bibles and scan the chapter headings of 1 Corinthians 1-6, listing the problems mentioned. Make a list of these on the chalkboard. (*Compare with those posed in the filmstrip if you use it.*)

Divide the class into three groups for close study of the problems which are mentioned in the lesson, page 24. Select a leader for each group.

Assign group one to study 1 Corinthians 1:4 to find the reason for disturbance among the people. Use a concordance and Bible dictionary to find additional material on the four groups mentioned.

Assign group two to study 1 Corinthians 5:6-12-20 to find (1) the types of immoral practices, (2) Paul's attitude toward the Corinthian Christians in their relationship to the problem, (3) Paul's advice in handling the situation.

Assign group three to study 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 to be able to (1) describe the problem of lawsuits, (2) answer "Should Christians bound together by love resort to law?"

After sufficient time, call the groups together to hear reports of findings from each group. Encourage discussion.

II. Answers to Questions Posed by the Church (1 Cor. 7:1-15)

Paul answered four questions. In studying Paul's answer to the first question on marriage in 1 Corinthians 7, give the background for Paul's reply from the lesson, page 24. Ask the group to discover the three convictions Paul states on marriage. They were (1) husbands and wives are together, (2) divorce was not allowed, (3) marriage must be between Christians.

*\$7.00, 40 or 50 frames with recording from Baptist Book Stores.

In studying the second question and its answer, remember that most meat sold in Corinth came from sacrifices offered to idols. Only part of each animal was burned and the rest sold in the market. Christians hardly could have avoided buying this meat unless they opened their own butcher shops.

Ask the group to give Paul's guiding principle in this matter (1 Cor. 8:9). Discuss what this meant in those days and what it means to us in today's situation.

Paul answers the third question concerning veiling of women in public worship (1 Cor. 11:1-16). An example of a social taboo is found in Paul's admonition against short hair. Only courtesans or prostitutes wore their hair short in those days. This seems humorous to us, but we should learn that Christian influence can be lost by social practices which cause others to feel that we are unthoughtful or spend too much money and time and thought on personal appearance.

The answer to the fourth question gives us the first recorded description of four things the Lord's Supper should symbolize. Ask the group to find and name them. Discuss the meaning of this symbolism.

III. Stewardship in Missions (2 Cor. 8-9)

As you study, write on the chalkboard the five reasons Paul gave for material support of missions. (See lesson, pp. 25-26.)

Apply these to our present day by asking for personal experiences or testimonies that bear out the five. You may wish to ask one or two members to be prepared to relate personal experiences. Encourage others to participate.

Lead the members to understand and memorize 2 Corinthians 9:8, a great verse on giving.

IV. Getting the Message Out (2 Cor. 1 to 6:13)

In completing your lesson aim it is apparent that only superficial problems have been answered unless the message gets out.

Ask members to write down, briefly in their own words, the meaning which 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 and 6:11 has for them. Share what they have written. Guide them to see three methods of an ambassador of reconciliation. See lesson, page 26.

Discuss practical ways to use these methods today.

Ask group members to read your aim together again. Allow time for sharing answers.

Pray about your lesson answers. Ask the following question after discussion and prayer: Do you feel that you are related to any of the problems we have discussed today? Are there ways, with the power of the Holy Spirit, in which you can mature as a Christian witness? Will you go home and begin?

His Saving Grace Proclaim



Understanding the Theme for the Week:

His Saving Grace Proclaim

The stunning reality of the missions task was impressed upon the ninety-eight missionary appointees during their orientation period last fall. During sixteen weeks at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, they were participants in a gigantic parade of ideas, situations, and problems. Recognizing the dangers confronting them but not daunted by them, these new missionaries were going into twenty-seven countries around the world. They were confident that through the vitality of God's message and the application of their skills, Christ could bless the world through them.

"His Saving Grace Proclaim" is the theme for this week of prayer and commitment. Let us be in prayer that our church will face the stunning reality of its missions task; that we may recognize the vitality of the message we hold, and develop skills to proclaim it.

During the week we will discover how

- prayer strengthens the witness of new Christians in the Orient (Monday)
- nationals in Latin America use varied means to proclaim the message (Tuesday)
- African churches take very seriously the training and acceptance of new converts (Wednesday)
- seminaries and churches in Europe and the Middle East prepare Christians to proclaim the message (Thursday)
- we fulfil our mission, beginning at home (Friday)

(Write each idea on a strip of paper. Write the title of each day's study on another strip of paper. As each is repeated, tack up the strip. Use the proper strips each day this week under the week of prayer poster.)

The message of the hymn "O Zion, Haste" provides the motif for each day's procedure, as we "know the message glorious"; which we must "proclaim to every people"; as we "pour out our soul in prayer" and "give of our wealth" to "fulfill our mission glorious."

SUNDAY, December 1

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions is "His Saving Grace Proclaim." This is the first day for this strong emphasis in our homes and our churches. Will you, in your family and in private devotions, pray in one accord for our world, that men may be brought to a knowledge of Jesus as Saviour and Lord? Will you go to the church for planned times of prayer together as a group?

Use information from the stand-up prayer folder on this Sunday morning. Lead your family to pray together. What will you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? Will you discuss your gifts?

See page 14 and pray for each missionary whose birthday is December 1.

PREPARATION for a WEEK of Prayer

Prepare with forethought for a week of prayer—not just for "meetings at the church."

—See WMS Forecaster, "Activity Chairman," page 56.

—Challenge WMS members before the week of prayer to put aside social engagements during the week, and to give sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; distribute to your members the prayer folder for family observance each day, December 1-8.

—Read all of the material, pages 29-49.

—Read "Finances for the Crusade of the Americas," page 10.

—Read "Light of a Strange Star," page 2.

—Read "Healing in His Wings," page 50.

—Decide whether you will add information to some of the material from any of the above to enhance your experiences each day.

—See November 1968 *The Sunday School Builder* and *The Baptist Training Union Magazine* for information about Foreign Missions Day in the Sunday School, December 8.

—Check listings in *WMS World in Books Catalog* for filmstrips and films.

—Plan on use of small and large posters received from the state WMU office.

—Order program covers, available 25 for 60 cents, 100 for \$2.00 from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 or Baptist Book Stores.

—Order the leaflet, "Why Didn't You Come Last Year?" from Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6397, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

—Plan specifically and prayerfully with all who participate each day for a meaningful worship experience.

—Plan carefully to begin and close on time.

—Check each day to be sure all is in order and all teaching aids are ready for use.

—Decide on and assign responsibility for the setting of your meeting, including a meaningful point of interest.

—Plan for follow-through after each prayer service.

—Encourage your members to attend midweek prayer services and worship services on both Sundays, and to enter into all plans which your church projects for the week.

—Express appreciation to all who help to make the week have meaning for your members, especially the janitor and church staff.

Miss Singleton is a member of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia, where she teaches Sunday School and is active in Woman's Missionary Society.

MONDAY, December 2

Proclaiming through Prayer and Witness

(Put up strips with this title and prayer description.)

Know the Message Glorious

(Ask one person to read the Scripture passages and another to comment on each reading.)

Any venture in proclaiming must be prefaced by prayer and supported by the power of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost the disciples continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. They obeyed the command of Jesus to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came to guide them.

(Read Acts 1:13-14.)

Perhaps they obeyed because they could do nothing else. They had no three year program, no suggestions from boards or committees, no magazines or literature. All they had was a command and a promise. But this was enough. The Holy Spirit had been promised. And the promise was kept.

(Read Acts 2:1-4.)

The noise which sounded like wind and the tongues which looked like fire signaled the coming of the Holy Spirit. Those present were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to communicate in other languages. Today we also can experience the power of the Holy Spirit in proclamation.

This manifestation of power came as the believers were gathered with one accord. Today there is strength in praying together. Christians drawn together by a common devotion find their faith increased.

(Read Matt. 21:21-22.)

The only limit to the Holy Spirit is the Christian's capacity to receive him. In this we help each other. The apathy of our churches will be remedied only by the vital energy that comes when its members pray together. And we must continue in prayer.

(Read Col. 4:2-6 Phillips.)

Always maintain the habit of prayer, be both alert and thankful as you pray" (Col. 4:2 Phillips). Paul asked the Colossians to continue in prayer that they might be able to witness more effectively. The results he described apply to us. We will be able to conduct ourselves with wisdom toward non-Christians, use our time to best possible advantage, speak attractively yet pointedly, know how best to talk with each person we meet.

(Ask group members to pray silently as the following items are read. Be sure that you allow time for praying.)

Thank God for the privilege of coming together in prayer.

Thank him for friends who pray for you.

Pray that this week may be preparation for a venture in witnessing by our entire church.

Pray that we may be ready to accept the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the missionaries on our calendar of prayer that they may be firm in belief, mature in faith, steadfast in conduct, and obedient to God's will (read names from prayer calendar).

Pray for those around you in this room (for some who would come if possible).

Pray for opportunities to witness today.

Sing "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go."

Proclaim to Every People

(Ask four persons to share these stories after you have given this brief introduction.)

A vision on the housetop demonstrated to Peter that God was no respecter of persons, but he and the Jewish

believers who came to the house of Cornelius were amazed to see that God poured out his Spirit upon Gentiles just as he had upon the disciples at Pentecost.

In many places and among various races and nationalities people are being won to Christ through prayer and witnessing at the direction of the Holy Spirit.

ENTHUSIASM in INDIA

"We feel grateful to God that there is evidence of the Holy Spirit's working among the members of the first Baptist church related to Southern Baptist work in India," the Ralph C. Berbeas wrote from Bangalore.

In April [1967] the nine charter members eagerly awaited the day when twelve new converts could be baptized. Excitement ran high. Enthusiasm was evident among the small group. Prayer groups had sprung up and there was concern for lost friends and neighbors. Each night church members met and prayed with and for the lost. We wondered how long they could keep going at such a pace. "You don't have to have a church meeting every night," we advised them. But there was no slowing down in the zeal of these whom the Lord had so recently lifted up from eternal death."

This church is growing, making plans to build and reaching out in the name of Christ to help people with ministries of medicine and food.

"Their dedication in Bible study and prayer is a constant inspiration," says Dr. Betha. "The Indian pastor studies the Bible as very few people ever do. He is truly a man of God."

STUDENT RECEIVES TREATMENT

A knowledge of Christ as Saviour and Lord makes a person sensitive to the plight of a lost person and aware of responsibilities and opportunities to witness.

The eighteen-year-old boy who came to the clinic in Bangalore, India, received medicine for his stomach and was told about Jesus. Apparently the Holy Spirit had prepared him, for he eagerly accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Before he returned to the clinic the next day, he had read the book of John and many other Scripture passages. His first desire was to tell his cousin of his experience.

"But how shall I do this?" he asked.

"First pray, then tell him of your own experience," he was told.

This he did. He won not only his cousin, but also a number of other young people. He remains delighted in his new salvation.

ENGINEER in JAPAN

Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and he will send you another Helper, the Spirit of truth, to stay with you forever" (John 14:16, TEV). This is evident in the experience of a young engineer in Japan and a well-known movie queen in Indonesia.

It seems strange for me to stand before you to give a testimony of my new found Christian experience. Some

of you know that a year ago I thought that Christianity was for the weak and ignorant, but I have since come to experience faith and to know that God loves everybody and desires that all people believe in his Son, Jesus Christ.

"I am thankful for the Bible for it has brought me a knowledge of myself and my needs and has shown me a way of life that brings hope and salvation. It was difficult for me to believe that I was a sinner, but the Holy Spirit worked in my mind and heart and made me know that I had sinned against God and man, and that I could not save myself."

"Some of my friends think I am foolish because I have become a disciple of Jesus, but they don't think so if they experience forgiveness of sin and faith in Jesus as I have experienced it. Pray that I will be a faithful follower."

FORMER MOVIE QUEEN in INDONESIA

The name Nurnaningsih is a household word in Indonesia. Wherever you go people know Nurnaningsih, the famous movie star.

Bu Nur, as we call her, lives in Magelang (maguh-LAHNG), Java. When Baptist work began there, Bu Nur's children urged her to see the films about the life of Christ. For many years she had been seeking peace of heart, but had found only disillusionment. She had been an ardent student of yoga but this did not satisfy. Impressed by the Christian witness, she returned to learn more and one night at a revival service, as the Holy Spirit worked in her heart, she repented of her sins and trusted Jesus as Saviour. She attends church in Djakarta (Juh-CART-uh) where she lives now.

This way of life is not easy for Bu Nur. Pray that she be faithful in her Christian life.

Solo: "Teach Me to Pray" (stanza 1, omit chorus)

Pour Out Your Soul in Prayer

(Ask one person to share the experiences and lead in the prayer periods.)

Witnessing in Oriental countries often brings suffering and hardship and requires courage. Pray for Christians in these lands that they may have faith and conviction sufficient to their needs (pray).

TSUJITA, OLDEST SON

The oldest son in a Buddhist family in Japan is expected to keep the altar and ancestral tablets in his home and to pass on the family religion to the next generation.

Tsujita (Tsu-jee-tah) started attending the English Bible class soon after he entered the university. As he studied and learned, the Holy Spirit worked. His Christian friends prayed. He soon became a Christian and throughout his school term was an effective worker, visiting in homes, witnessing personally, and leading youth groups.

In his Junior year he felt God's call to the ministry and changed his course from engineering to history. The missionary, knowing his family's opposition and the financial difficulties ahead, said, "Tsujita San, do you

realize the fullness of the commitment you are making?" The answer came "Sensei (teacher), let's not forget the cross." This young man is attending the Baptist Seminary now and is constant in his praise to God and witness for him.

Let us pray for Tsujita San and other nationals who face hardships, that they may be bold in witnessing and sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (pray)

KOREANS IN VIETNAM

A Korean Army major was giving his testimony in Faith Baptist Church near Camranh (Cam-RANH) Bay where nationals from many countries, as well as Vietnamese, are working with the US Army and Navy. "I have been set aside as a Baptist evangelist in Vietnam," he said. "and I know there are five hundred Koreans praying for my ministry." National Christians, particularly those from Korea and the Philippines, are a great help to the efforts of Southern Baptist missionaries there.

Let us pray thanking God for Korean and Filipino Christians who witness in Vietnam for Shin Jai Hun who plans to study in the United States and return to Korea as a Christian layman, for national Christians throughout the Orient as they witness in the power of the Holy Spirit and as they pray for one another.

Pray

- for more missionaries. Requests have come for additional career missionaries, journeymen, and summer missionaries (pray).
- for the nationwide evangelistic effort set for 1969 in Vietnam, and for the Asia-wide campaign for 1970. Pray for the Japanese Christians as they prepare for the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Tokyo in 1970 (pray).
- for an increased willingness on the part of Christians in the Orient to accept church-related responsibilities, and that missionaries may be wise in working with national leaders (pray).

Give of Your Wealth

The word *wealth* comes from the old English *weal* indicating a sound, healthy, or prosperous state of being. Ask, "Of what does our wealth consist?" (Some responses will be money, family, friends, health, country, relationship to God.) Let's consider three examples and determine our wealth as compared with that of women in the Orient.

Elias and his wife are Christian converts from Islam in East Pakistan. At Christmas Elias gave his wife a new sari and his son a vivid green suit. He received a dazzling white punjabi (pun-JAB-el) outfit. As they exchanged gifts, Elias looked at his wife and son with some uneasiness. His father, a Muslim teacher, and brother have visited them frequently of late. They have openly expressed the feeling that the baby belongs with them in a Muslim home and that they consider it their duty to take him there. Elias knows they have the right to take him.

Ask: What "items of wealth" are mentioned here?

(family, Christmas, home, clothes) Are most of us wealthy in these respects? How can our money help change this situation? How much would you give in order to keep your home and family? to keep your home and family Christian?

Hao Sao lives in a fishing village in Malaysia. For her to leave the way of worship her father had followed was not easy. After she accepted Jesus as Saviour, she won her husband. Together they took down the idol altars in their home.

When illness came, the neighbors said the gods were punishing her but Hao Sao and her husband prayed, her children prayed, friends at the Gospel Center and at the church prayed that she might be made well. And she was.

Ask: What "items of wealth" are discussed here? (health, friends, church) What would you give in order to maintain health for yourself and family? What will you give so that medical missionaries can be more effective?

Reading the Christmas story publicly from the Bible brought tears of joy to Jaiamma (Ji-AM-uh), member of the Bangalore Baptist Church. She and her three children live in a thatched-roof hut and have only recently experienced the love of Christ, though nominal Christians for some time. Learning to read in the literacy class at the church brought her great pleasure. She leads a very deep prayer life and has brought to the church at least four women to whom she has witnessed.

Ask: What "items of wealth" are mentioned here? (being able to read, church) Are we wealthy in similar ways? How will our money help to assure this kind of wealth?

Say: As we give, may we have a spirit of loving concern. May some measure of sacrifice touch us. May we know that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Take offering as priest plays "Take My Life, and Let It Be." Pray for the offering.

Fulfill Your Mission

Buu, a Vietnamese young man, was a Christian but he had never told anyone. Chosen for special helicopter pilot training, he was sent to San Antonio, Texas. While there he received invitations from several Baptist churches and began to attend regularly. Finally he made public his profession of faith, was baptized, and became an active church member. Later he was transferred to Alabama, where he joined a church and became even more serious in his dedication to the Lord. During this time he witnessed to his fellow Vietnamese students and studied the Bible.

He completed his course successfully and returned to Vietnam. When he reached his new assignment in Danang he looked up the Baptist missionaries so he could go to work in a Baptist church again.

"Buu is a handsome, intelligent young man," writes Mrs. Ronald D. Merrell, missionary in Danang. "His

(Continued on p. 36)

TUESDAY, December 3

Proclaiming His Salvation

Understanding the Theme

"Proclaiming His Salvation" is our theme today. (Put up theme strip and strip for Tuesday. See p. 29.) Bible study reveals the response of Jews and Gentiles to Paul's preaching on his first missions tour. Preaching remains an effective way to proclaim his salvation but there are other ways. We shall discover some of them as we consider recent evangelistic efforts in Latin America and look to the Crusade of the Americas.

Know the Message Glorious

(Ask a member to prepare and present the Bible study for today.)

A new church in a large city was having remarkable success in evangelistic efforts. It was evident that every member was involved and that the Holy Spirit was at work. Not only the preachers and leaders but also the entire membership was eager to tell what the Lord Jesus Christ had done for them. The whole city was talking about this church.

The Holy Spirit led the church to realize that its witness should extend beyond the city. Two leaders were chosen to be missionaries.

In this way Paul was sent on his first missionary journey with Barnabas. Their church was the Antioch church. (Read Acts 13:1-3.)

The success of any missions adventure depends upon the quality and quantity of Christian experience behind it. Our missionaries today cannot go much farther in their missions endeavors than those who send them have gone. Results on missions fields are in direct proportion to the spiritual power of the constituency of the churches at home. Only if the Holy Spirit has a predominant place in the life of our church will he continue to send out missionaries from our church.

In a city in Asia Minor Paul stood to preach. (Read Acts 13:16.) Much of his sermon consisted in recalling God's relationship to Israel. This was proper. God had told Israel to remember how he had led them out of Egypt into the Promised Land. He promised to send them a Messiah, a Saviour to deliver them.

God's promise of a Messiah was through Israel for all people. The Jews narrowed the concept to mean a political leader who would establish again a nation of Israel, but Paul clearly and fearlessly told his listeners

God's purpose for the Messiah. (Read Acts 13:23.)

The Holy Spirit led at every turn of this missions tour and the people eagerly responded. (Read Acts 13:44-49.) In the face of hardship and disappointment Paul preached to the Jews in the synagogues, and when they rejected the message of the Messiah, the Gentiles heard it gladly. Missionaries in many places in the world today are caught in a surge of nationalism, manifesting itself in anti-American feeling and in actual physical danger. The same power is available to missionaries today that was available to Paul and Barnabas. Our responsibility is to pray for the missionaries and the nationals with whom they work.

Proclaim to Every People

(Ask one member to share the following reports.)

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1 Cor. 1:18)



God has blessed the preaching of the word in Latin America.

Reports from evangelistic crusades, first in Brazil and then in other countries, are amazing and prepare us to expect great things from God in the Crusade of the Americas in 1969.

Report number one is from the general coordinator of the Crusade, H. Earl Peacock of Brazil.

"One Sunday night I was invited to preach in one of the local churches in the city of Sao Paulo," Mr. Peacock wrote. "The little church was packed with people. I arose to preach with a degree of apprehension, but soon this was gone as my heart was filled with the divine presence and power of the Holy Spirit. On the second stanza of the invitation hymn a man came forward, or I should say, what resembled a man. His hair was long, his face dirty, his clothes tattered and torn. He was a picture of degradation if I ever saw one. He gave the pastor his hand and said he would like to be a Christian. After the pastor had talked and prayed with him, the man with alcohol-laden breath said to me, 'Pastor Henrique, God has saved me tonight.' As I drove home, I wondered if it were possible for God to save him drunk as he was, mind befuddled by alcohol. Did he understand?"

"A month later I returned to this church. The pastor said, 'Do you know this man?' He is the same man who came forward the night you preached here."

"I could hardly believe my eyes. His hair was cut, his face shaved, his clothes clean. His wife and children were with him. His life was exemplary, the pastor said."

Paul was right when he said the gospel is the power of God unto salvation for those who believe.

Report number two is from a Sunday School superintendent in Rio.

Nearly every church in Brazil has preaching points where lay members go regularly to preach and to witness. In interior Brazil where there are few highways, members of the Tocantina (toe-kuhn-TEEN-uh) church in the state of Goias (goy-AHS) go by bicycle or cart, horse or muleback to reach the ten preaching points. In one month last year, members of this church reported a hundred and four decisions for Christ.

Jose Soares dos Reis (joe-ZAY sew-AHR-es dos RAY-is), superintendent of the Sunday School in Realengo (ray-ah-EHN-go) church in suburban Rio, is faced with a situation which brings him joy and frustration. Evangelistic services in their nine preaching points met with such success that they set a week of meetings in their own church.

During the week there were 150 decisions. Now the church must decide where to put these people in their already overcrowded Sunday School space.

"I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Cor. 9:22). God uses varied means to bring the gospel to men and sometimes people of little experience can give effective witness.

(Ask three women to present the remainder of the study material in this way. They are looking over material in ROYAL SERVICE. At first they are critical, but after they read the stories which follow below carefully they "get the point" and present them to the audience with enthusiasm. For example:)

Mrs. A: Mercy! Here's an article about electronic missionaries some place in South America. What are they trying to do, computerize missions? I think we should preach the gospel and not take up all this technical stuff.

Mrs. B: This one is even worse! Missionary airlifts. It does seem that our missionaries would have more to do than fly around in airplanes.

Mrs. C: That's not as bad as this! A young man in Guyana who can hardly read is a preacher. Don't they have anybody who can read? If they don't, I think the missionary should preach.

Mrs. A: Wait! This article also says that a Guatemalan pastor says radio has been his calling card in every home in the village. (She continues, telling Electronic Missionary.)

Mrs. B: I should have known how much more the missionaries can do by using planes. (Tells Missionary Airlift. She may also tell A Church Building Witnesses and Witness in Jail.)

Mrs. C: I see now that this young man who could hardly read is a good example of how God uses people of limited background. (She tells Young Man in Guyana.)

Mrs. A: Did you know there are music missionaries? (She tells Music Witnesses.)

ELECTRONIC MISSIONARY

A Guatemalan pastor reports that radio has been his calling card in every home in the village. His name is already known because the electronic missionary has made the first contact.

Baptists have dubbed radio and television "electronic missionaries," because they can reach undiscovered places to present the gospel of Christ. These have proved effective means of preparing the way for more direct presentation that comes later.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, Baptists report that though high-rise apartments may be closed to a personal knock on the door, radio and television have been able to pass through walls of concrete, prejudice, and indifference to tell the gospel message.

From Mexico City a listener wrote from a barrio (suburb) where there is no evangelical witness. Perhaps he will be the first convert of the electronic missionary among the thousands of people of his barrio.

When the station manager in Honduras attempted to move the weekly program "The Church in the Home" from prime time, the station switchboard immediately jammed with calls and the mail was flooded with letters of protest.

Needless to say, the missionary still has prime time and good response.

MISSIONARY AIRLIFT

Because Mother's Day is very special in Brazil, R. Brown Hughes, missionary pilot, and R. Elton Johnson, Sr., director of the Bible Institute at Fiera de Santana (fair-ah day san-TAN-nah), experimented with a new plan. On Saturday morning the pilot with four student preachers flew his plane southward. The first stop was Guaratinga (gwah-rah-TEN-guh) where more than five hundred people had gathered for an open-air service. One of the students remained to preach at the Sunday services.

The other students were deposited in three other places. In the fifteen-member church at Canavieiras (can-nuh-ve-A-rah) there were four professions of faith. As they flew back Monday morning they reported eleven decisions, crowds of visitors, and invitations to return regularly for services.

A CHURCH BUILDING WITNESSES

When the Caponga (kah-PUN-guh) Baptist Church in Recife (reh-SEE-feh), Brazil, with a congregation of three hundred began to build, their pastor led them to plan an auditorium to seat two thousand. He had a dual reason for such a large building. As he expected, the congregation grew to seven hundred in four years. But the building also serves the needs of the community and the denomination. Universities and vocational schools use it for year-end convocations and thus many students and their relatives attend an evangelical church for the first time.

WITNESS IN JAIL

In a small village in Mexico missionary Charles H. Gilbert with eleven other Baptists spent the night in jail. Like Paul they sang hymns, studied the Bible, and talked about Christian discipleship.

The villagers, believing all evangelicals to be Communists, had demanded the arrest of one of the national preachers. When the missionary was offered release, he refused to leave without the others.

"During those twenty-six hours we learned to appreciate one another," he reports. "The Mexican people know that the missionary is one of them, ready to share their fate at personal sacrifice."

YOUNG MAN IN GUYANA

A chain reaction was begun by a young man in Guyana who could hardly read but who preached in open-air meetings in an extremely needy community. The people heard him and understood him. A young teacher in the public school was converted. "Teacher George," he was asked, "did the Baptist Mission come and change your life?" He knew the correct answer: "No, the Baptist Mission has not changed my life, but the One they told me about has done so, and he can change your life, too." His family has now been won to the Lord and a church organized in the village.

MUSIC WITNESSES

"Chileans seem to thrive on music," reports former missionary journeyman Trina Green. "Music is a way to reach the individual. People sing with their entire beings—from their hearts. So why shouldn't we plant the song of God's love there?" The love of music is widespread throughout Latin America.

Bill H. Ichter, Sao Paulo, Brazil, who is director of the music department of the Brazilian Baptist Convention and who wrote the hymn for the Crusade of the Americas (see Cover 3, October ROYAL SERVICE) has found music to be a great force in evangelism. "In a downtown park of Sao Luis we had just finished a song service and the preacher was beginning his message, when around the corner came a religious procession led by the local priest and a military band. The preacher suggested that we sing some more hymns, and the people responded heartily. Some of those in the procession left and joined our group. At the close of the service among those who accepted Christ were several who had been part of the procession. They had started out to hinder the preaching of the gospel but, attracted by the music, made decisions for Christ."

The First Baptist Church of Copacabana (koh-pah-cah-IAHN-ah), Brazil, the only Baptist church in a section of the city where close to a million people live, was having a revival. Each night the choir began the service by singing a rousing arrangement of the hymn, "Blessed Assurance." One night in an apartment building nearby a young housewife opened her window and listened. She turned to her husband and said, "I've just got to go hear more of that music, will you stay with the children?" At the close of the service the young lady came to the front and gave her heart to Christ.

The Crusade hymn was sung at the Maracana stadium during a Brazilian evangelistic crusade. The 150,000 people sang at the close in a downpour of rain. Later that night at a gas station the attendant said: "You know, the funniest thing happened this afternoon. I was putting gas in a car and suddenly I heard beautiful singing. It seemed as if a heavenly choir was singing God's praises."

Sing "Christ the Only Hope," cover 3, October ROYAL SERVICE.

Pour Out Your Soul in Prayer

The evangelistic crusade in Brazil sparked the idea of a hemispheric evangelistic effort. Subsequent crusades in other Latin American countries strengthen our faith and hope for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us in the Crusade of the Americas beginning in January 1969. Let us pray for each of the following requests.

Chilean Baptists have greater confidence as a result of the national evangelistic campaign last fall. They received the cooperation of city authorities and publicity through radio and newspapers.

Pray that gains made may be conserved. (Engage in a period of prayer for Chile.)

Baptists staked an outpost during the Christmas holiday season last year among the throngs who sought amusement in San Jose, Costa Rica. A large booth titled "Campana de las Americas" [cam-PAH-nah day lahs ab-MARE-e-ahs] promoted the Crusade of the Americas and at the same time sold Bibles and other books. Many free tracts were distributed. This was their first effort to provide a Christian witness at a large public gathering (pray for Christians in Costa Rica).

Triple the number of Baptists and Baptist churches in Peru. This is the goal set by Peruvian Baptists as they prepare to enter heartily into the Crusade of the Americas. In the nationwide evangelistic campaign last year, as many persons professed faith in Christ as there were members of the Baptist churches (pray silently for Baptists in Peru).

Read the names of the coordinators of the Crusade of the Americas and pray for each:

General Coordinator, Rev. H. Earl Peacock
USA and Canada, Dr. Wayne Dehoney
Mexico and Central America, Rev. Erwin Hasty
Caribbean and Guianas, Rev. Dotson Mills
Northern South America, Rev. Manuel A. Calderon
Southern South America, Rev. Samuel O. Liberi
Brazil, Rev. Amelio Giannetta

(Ask three persons to pray for the following requests.)

Pray for plans for the Crusade in Paraguay. The year will begin with a street parade on January 4, 1969. There will be two weeks of revival at Easter, climaxed by mass meetings in several stadiums. Pastor Jose Missena [muh-SEN-uh] is secretary of evangelism for the Paraguay Baptist Convention (pray).

Pray for the Crusade in Argentina. Preparation has been made by a series of broadcasts from a station in

MONDAY (continued from p. 32)
work is dangerous. He is constantly assigned to rescue missions for both Vietnamese and Americans. He has great influence on new Vietnamese Christians both with his personal testimony, and his testimony of Christians whom he knew in America.

"It is doubtful that the Christians in those churches in Texas and Alabama are aware of the foreign missions activities resulting from their daily witness to him."

Remember that any venture in proclaiming must be prefaced with prayer and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray and await that power. Listen to God's promise and obey his command.

Before tomorrow's meeting will you go in his name to a lonely person, one who is lost, a family in need of material help, an international student, or a sick or bereaved person? This is our way to be missionary to persons of special need.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING GOAL \$15,500,000

Rosario. It is beamed to rural churches and to special groups such as German- and Russian-language Baptists (pray).

Pray for Dr. Frank K. Means, secretary for South America. He says: "Those of us concerned for Latin America face [the future] with the earnest hope that missions too long neglected can receive reinforcements and that the level of personnel for the entire area will experience a gratifying degree of growth." Southern Baptists have at present 785 missionaries in 20 Latin American countries and at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso. This seems insignificant when compared with 5,369 Catholic overseas personnel and 4,318 Peace Corpsmen in the same area (pray).

Give of Your Wealth

Missionary journeyman Leo E. Waldrop looked around as he sat in the New Amsterdam Baptist Church (Guyana) on the first Sunday in December. Hanging around the room were stalks of green and golden bananas, plantains, and green "water" coconuts. The members of the church and their two missions were meeting to give the first fruits of their produce and to bring a Christmas offering for foreign missions. Soon the space in the front of the church was covered with mangoes, papayas, oranges, red apples (imported), sorrel, eggs, and other produce. The offering was taken and the pastor spoke on giving.

"I've never experienced such a spirit of giving in all my life," said Leo. "I felt I wanted to give of myself."

What would our offering be if we gave in this way? (Ask group to list some things one could bring.) Money is the item which may best represent the gifts we can give. We must be sure our money is given in the same spirit as the produce was evidently given.

Take the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Fulfill Your Mission

Ask one who made a visit as was suggested yesterday to share the experience.

Write these follow-through possibilities on the chalkboard and encourage each person to choose one to engage in before tomorrow:

1. Read Acts 13 and write down two or more truths you see in this passage.
2. Pray definitely for plans being made for the Crusade of the Americas.
3. Consider seriously whether you should be in a mission action group or whether you should ask that a group be begun in your church.
4. Visit someone, sharing your gratitude for some specific blessings from the Lord.
5. Share your salvation experience with someone.

WEDNESDAY, December 4

Proclaiming through the Nurture of New Christians

Understanding the Theme

(Put up the strip giving the theme and the description of this session. See p. 29.)

The natural consequence of birth is growth. Conversion indicates not only a newness of life, but also a continuance in a new way. Today we will hear of the training of converts in Africa and of their development into mature Christians. Jesus "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Our Bible study uses messages of the prophets Isaiah and Zephaniah, and Paul's letter to the Ephesians to encourage Christian growth and maturity.

Know the Message Glorious

If several persons chose to read Acts 13 as suggested yesterday, ask them to share their experiences. The sharing may replace this Bible study period. Or, write these questions on the chalkboard, poster board, or read them slowly without discussion:

Do we have the right to send missionaries to people who have their own religion and whose cultures and traditions are well established? What do we have to offer them?

How is it that the "gospel of peace" has failed to bring peace to a warring world?

Why is our Christian nation rampant with crime, prejudice, and other unchristian acts and attitudes?

There is more knowledge to be gained today than ever before. Kindergarten children probably know more scientific facts than teachers of science knew in the last century. This is true in almost every country. Transistor radios have covered the earth, and have taken into unexpected corners the ways of life from many cultures.

There is a desire among African young people for education. They are aware of the world outside their continent and some are asking the missionary: "Why are you here? What have you for us? What do you want of us?" (Read Isa. 40:6-11.)

There is a difference in magnifying man's wisdom and being taught of God. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isa. 40:8, *Berkeley Version of the Bible*). Israel was to climb the



highest mountain and cry out the good news of the Messiah who would come with strength and victory, but would show his tenderness and love. We must go everywhere to take the good news that the Saviour has come. Our missionaries are in Africa not to change customs or traditions, but to present a Saviour who will change men into sons of God.

Young Africans see our inconsistencies. They say: "You bring a gospel of peace, yet you are in war. Is your desire for peace just wishful thinking?" (Read Isa. 2:2-4.)

Isaiah's prophecy of peace contains the significant idea that it is the purpose of God that there shall be peace and righteousness on the earth. Peace will come with understanding, with instruction from the God of Jacob. "Come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isa. 2:5). The desire for peace is not wishful thinking but it comes when men are willing to learn a new way of life—God's way. This means that they need an experience with the Lord Jesus.

Another question asked by African young people is

difficult to answer: "Why does your Christian nation have so much crime, and why are some of your Christian people prejudiced against people of other races?" (Read Eph. 4:11-16.)

Eternal life is qualitative. The gift of eternal life includes such spiritual gifts as those listed in Ephesians 4:11. We are admonished to mature, not to remain as children.

Fulltest Christian maturity comes to the individual in the community of believers—the church. "We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Eph. 4:15 RSV). Christ supplies unity to the "whole body, joined and knit together." It is not easy to maintain a fellowship whose parts are not working properly, but to the extent that each church accomplishes fellowship—to that extent it exhibits the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Period of meditation as musician plays "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (read)

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

Period of prayer:

Pray that we, like the child Jesus, may increase in wisdom and knowledge and in favor with God and man (pray).

Pray that our church may exhibit our unity in Christ because he is in truth the head of the church (pray).

Pray for our missionaries who must so often explain our unchristian attitudes to questioning new Christians (pray).

Pray that as we consider the nurture of new Christians in Africa we may look also to ourselves and our example (pray).

Proclaim to Every People (a panel-forum)

(Serve as panel moderators and enlist four people to serve as panel members. Use questions as suggested. Some questions are directed to panel members; others to all group members. Write the three statements below on poster board and cut out an arrow from colored construction paper. Panel members will use each as directed.)

Moderator: Today we are studying churches in Africa to discover information about how:

1. Southern Baptist missionaries lead African Baptists to develop their own forms of worship and work.

2. New converts in Africa have a period of instruction before being accepted for baptism and church membership.

3. African Christians face temptations, as do Christians everywhere, and sometimes need to be reclaimed.

After each panel member has spoken on the subject assigned to her, we will ask her questions.

My first question is, What evidence can we find that Southern Baptists try to develop indigenous churches in Africa?

FORMS OF WORSHIP in AFRICA

Panel Member 1:

(Tape arrow on poster board pointing it to the subject of your discussion.)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever," testifies the writer of the letter to the Hebrews. He might have added that Jesus Christ is the same wherever he is known and worshiped.

Southern Baptist missionaries are working in sixty-eight countries around the world. The missionaries go in the firm conviction that the love of God can be known only through Christ. Since Jesus Christ is the same, the essential elements of faith of Baptists everywhere will be the same. But the forms by which Baptists express their faith may differ from country to country.

When missionaries take the gospel to a new land and lead new converts to organize a church, they naturally use the words and tunes of familiar hymns and the order of service and organizations they are familiar with in churches in the United States. Eventually some of the forms and practices which characterize Southern Baptist churches are replaced by indigenous forms and practices. For example, one missionary was surprised to learn that the Wednesday evening service had been replaced by a meeting at five o'clock in the morning which was well attended because the members were farmers who had to leave early to get to their farms several miles from town.

A noticeable variation in form of worship is in music. African people love percussion music, especially drumming, joyous handclapping, and rhythmic movement of the body. All of these are increasingly being used in services as African Christians with freedom and gladness express praise and gratitude to God.

There is need for an indigenous African hymnody. Poetry in English does not always lend itself to proper translation. An African professor explained that the hymn "Come Women, Wide Proclaim," may mean in translation to those who do not know English, "Come Women, hot corn mush." Hymn stanzas familiar to us do not have the same meaning in a different culture.

As national Baptists throughout Africa press toward indigenous forms of worship, literature, and education they are also developing independence in support of their work. In Rhodesia churches related to the work of our missionaries hope to be self-supporting within ten years. Similar plans are to be followed in Ghana and Nigeria.

The determination to succeed in self support was illustrated when the *Nigerian Baptist*, the convention's publication, was hard pressed to meet costs. The Baptist Mission offered assistance but it was politely, though gracefully, refused. "Since this is our responsibility we will have to find a way to support it," they said. And they did.

Several years ago headlines in a newspaper announced that a certain non-Baptist church had become independent of its parent church in England. A national Baptist leader commented on it: "This could not have happened to Baptists."

not churches because they are not under control of outsiders."

Devotion to the doctrine of the autonomy of a church is pronounced on missions fields today. This belief is an advantage in this day of growing nationalism and pride in newfound freedom. Local work belongs to local people. We do not seek to turn them into Southern Baptists nor to organize Southern Baptist churches. We believe that the Holy Spirit leads nationals, as he leads us, in the development of church and denominational life.

Moderator: (Ask group to list some variations in worship practices. Panel members can help.) Why is local support a desire of all new churches?

TRAINING NEW CONVERTS

My question to panel member 2 is, What is done in Africa to instruct new converts in church membership?

Panel Member 2:

(Move arrow until it points to your topic.) An experience shared by a Nigerian missionary gives insight into some of the problems in training and accepting for membership converts from a pagan or Muslim background. The policy which is followed will apply to other missions in Africa.

"Here I am in the bush again. This time I am out at a place where a very faithful pastor of limited training but consistent zeal has worked for five years. I am here to help him harvest part of his labor. I have just tested ten persons who have studied the Christian life from one to five years, and tomorrow I will baptize some of them in a stream not far (I hope) from here.

"One of the young men is a former Muslim. He lives with a pastor eleven miles away. He wants to enter our Baptist pastor's school as soon as he is qualified (able to read and write). He and four younger boys walked the eleven miles hoping to be baptized. I felt that two of them were rather young and needed better understanding. I hope they don't become discouraged before someone can come here again."

A new convert is invited to make public his decision in a church service where he gives his testimony orally to his pastor speaks for him.

He is then enrolled in a class as a candidate for baptism. This class is taught by the pastor, lay preacher, or some member of the congregation. The time varies from three to six months. He studies Bible doctrine and Baptist church membership and practice.

A church elected committee then examines the candidate on his beliefs and his moral example, and if approved, recommends him to the church. The church votes to accept the candidate into full membership upon his baptism.

Moderator: What is your opinion of this procedure? (Then ask group to respond.) Discuss whether this would have value in Southern Baptist churches.

Panel member 3, What is being done to reclaim Christians in Africa?

FACING TEMPTATION

Panel Member 3:

(Move arrow to your topic.) A missionary in Nigeria tells this story, showing how young people are tempted in Africa very much as they are here and must be reclaimed by Christian love and concern:

"Come to our church for any service and you will likely be greeted by a clean cut young man with a friendly smile who likes to tell you how the Lord has blessed him and who urges by word and deed that Christians follow Christ to the fullest. Let me tell about him.

"As a child, Brodun [Be O-done] grew up in a Christian home and following his parents' example decided to tithe. The other children often ridiculed him for giving his money to the Lord but he kept up his tithing through grammar school.

"In high school he needed so many things he quit tithing. In fact he almost stopped attending church. When he finished high school, he got a job. He had more money than he needed and by that time he had no thought of the church at all.

"And then the blow came. He failed his school examination. This meant he could not go on to school and he lost his job and the new, easy life. He was despondent. Finally he accepted the persistent invitations of his friends to go to church and after reevaluating his life, he decided to give himself to Christ.

"As he grew in his knowledge and commitment, he reasoned: 'I have taken on this new life. I am to love others as myself. I am to tell others about Jesus; giving must be a part of it.' So he again started tithing, wholeheartedly and from conviction. He has not wavered in any of his decisions. He has now passed his exams and has a good job."

There was a woman in Nigeria who was sick for a long time. Her husband was a pagan and he and other members of the family pressured her so that she was at the point of turning to juju and giving up her association with Christians.

The missionary and her pastor prayed with her and she was able to attend the revival services. The concern of the pastor and the church and the warm fellowship with Christians strengthened her to resist the temptation to revert to pagan superstitions. Eventually she became well again and is a faithful church member and a good example.

Moderator: How do you see reclamation as the work of the church? What is our attitude toward persons who have erred morally? Is reclamation in this area also the work of the church? Why? (Ask group members to discuss this idea.) What attitudes are required if we are to help reclaim people?

Panel member 4, What are the visible evidences in Africa that "peace on earth" is possible?

CHRISTIAN REDEMPTION

Panel Member 4:

(Move arrow to your topic.)

A visible result of Christian redemption is the overcoming of tribal jealousies. A missionary tells of one hot and steamy Sunday afternoon when it seemed too hot to go to church for the annual Christmas program. But as she drove to the church she wondered how she could get the Christmas spirit in such weather. And political and social disturbances left little room for peace on earth, she thought.

At church the choirs were in place and soon the music started. Christmas songs were followed by Scripture reading. A young woman from the university sang "O Holy Night" and a ministerial student sang "There's a Song in the Air."

"Sitting there in the quietness of the service I was suddenly aware of a startling fact," she confided. "On the second row in the choir, standing side by side, were a Hausa man from the northern part of Nigeria and a man from the east. Their countrymen had been fighting. At that time the Hausa could not go into eastern Nigeria, neither could easterners go into the north. But here in Ibadan in the western area of the country they were worshipping side by side."

"I looked at the choir and realized many tribes were represented: Hausa, Yoruba, Ibibbo, Kwale, Efik, Calabar. As they sang of peace on earth, I knew that there was evidence of true peace. In this church men and women of different tribes and races had come together to worship in the spirit of Christ." This was a miracle of God!

Moderator: What lesson could we learn from this example? Are there those toward whom we hold ill will? Let us make peace with every person at this wonderful season of the year.

Pray Out Your Soul in Prayer

(Ask two persons to be responsible for this prayer period.)

Dr. William R. Tolbert, vice-president of the Republic of Liberia, in speaking to a Baptist group in East Africa stated that though he considered it a great honor to be vice-president of his country, he considered it an even greater honor to be a Christian. He seeks the Lord's guidance in affairs of state, and in every area of life. He is now president of the Baptist World Alliance.

In Nigeria Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Ayorinde are beloved and respected by missionaries and nationals alike as they lead in the Nigerian Baptist Convention and in the Baptist World Alliance. Mrs. Ayorinde has been a valued member of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance for many years and has recently served as president of the Baptist Women's Union of Africa.

Thank God for the many devoted and well-trained national leaders in Africa (pray).

From far and near Kikuyu women came to the Baptist

school in Nyeri (n'YEA-ree), Kenya. Some had never left their village before and were frightened at the thought of riding on a bus. Some had babies on their backs as well as questions in their minds. But soon the fears were forgotten as they lifted voices in praise to God. For three days they were taught by pastors and missionaries in Baptist beliefs, church organization, Christian family life. They even had a demonstration on nutrition and baby care with five-month old Deborah Roberts splashing happily as her mother showed her enchanted audience how to bathe a baby. Some of these women returned to areas where the work is not organized. Many returned to husbands, children, and friends who are not Christian.

Pray for some who are just beginning training for Christian leadership (pray).

On the slopes of 9,200-foot Mbeya (um-BAY-ah) Peak in a Wasafwe (wah-SAFE-wee) village in Tanzania, fifteen young people have accepted Christ. Unlike other tribes the Wasafwe are not progressive; witch doctors have great power, with pagan practices and superstitions widespread. This tribe is almost completely unresponsive to the gospel. **Pray** that these young people will have strength to be true to their new faith. **Pray** that they will learn and understand quickly. **Pray** for their teachers (pray).

Pray for new converts, often young people, who face almost insurmountable obstacles in the traditions and religions of their elders (pray).

Give of Your Wealth

Part of the growth of a new Christian comes in developing the right attitude toward material things. Miss Neale Young told her experience in explaining tithing to Nigerian women. Never having had a formal education, the women found percentages meaningless. But they were good businesswomen and decided to designate the proceeds of every tenth market day as God's part. Proof of mature Christian love and understanding was evident in their joy when the tenth day's sales were greater than any other day's. "God is blessing his day," they said, and some began deliberately to keep the best articles for sale on that day.

Today the Nigerian convention emphasizes foreign missions with special prayer and gifts for their missionaries in Sierra Leone (see-ur-uh lee-OWN). They also have a home missions program of work. Stewardship of possessions is an accepted part of their promotion.

We are partners in the missions enterprise with Christian people in Japan, Germany, Brazil, Nigeria, and in many countries. As we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering we provide resources for witnessing. We must remember that the persons won in this witness also witness and give. **Thank God** for the fellowship of giving (pray).

Take the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



URGENCY! NOW!

Fulfill Your Mission

Give to each person paper and a pencil. Ask each to write honest answers to these questions. Assure the group that the comments will not be seen by anyone.

1. Write a paragraph describing your spiritual depth and resources. (Allow time.)
2. Choose one area of your spiritual life and write down what you can do to deepen this area. (Allow time.)
- Close with prayer that each may follow through with this hope (pray).

Or, say: As I read a list of practices which relate to

Christian growth, choose those you will try to do:

1. Arise half an hour earlier to have time for quiet meditation, prayer, and study.
2. Determine an unselfish act to perform today.
3. Develop friendship with a lost person, a new convert, or a wayward Christian who needs you.
4. Consider the spiritual welfare of your family as seriously as their physical and educational needs. Prepare yourself and them for worship services at church.
5. Give your time and self as well as your money to meet human needs.

The Foreign Mission Board's executive secretary states the urgency of missions advance now in challenging terms. Dr. Baker J. Cauthen wrote in *The Commission*: "The twentieth century needs to be characterized by a holy boldness. Christians around the world need to dare to do the seemingly impossible. This is exactly what has been taking place on mission fields during recent years."

The Bible clearly tells us that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Our task in these closing decades of the twentieth century is to get the gospel out to the people. . . .

We are living in a problem-torn world that is confused and afraid. These very conditions make this a great day to tell the world about Jesus Christ. Let us give ourselves to this task with joy and enthusiasm!"

THURSDAY, December 5

Preparing to Proclaim

Understanding the Theme

"If the man who plays the bugle does not sound a clear call, who will prepare for battle? In the same way, how will anyone understand what you are talking about if your message by means of strange sounds is not clear?" (1 Cor 14:8-9A TEV).^{*} Our Bible study today will remind us of the wonder and glory of the message we proclaim. It is important that we give a clear call with no uncertain sound. Seminaries in Europe and the Middle East are preparing pastors and church leaders to proclaim the message effectively. And churches are beginning to see the need of training their members in evangelism. "Preparing to Proclaim" is our theme today. (Put up strips with the theme and description. (See p. 24.)

Know the Message Glorious

(The Bible study period today may be presented as musical reading with the carol, "It Came upon the Midnight Clear," words by Edmund H. Sears, as background music. Ask one person to sing or read the hymn, one to read the Scripture passages, and another the comments.)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King:
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing."

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord" (Isa 11:1-2).

Devout people in Israel fervently hoped the new king would be the Lord's anointed to bring in a golden age.

For in the days are hastening on,
By prophet hands foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

^{*}Used by permission of American Bible Society.



Perhaps every young Jewish woman dreamed that a son of hers would be the promised Messiah.

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27). They must go to Bethlehem to be taxed. "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:6-7).

When Jesus grew to manhood, he taught, preached, healed, was crucified, arose from death, and is at God's right hand making intercession for us. This is the message we must be prepared to proclaim. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

We are amazed that God used Mary to bring his Son into the world. Our amazement heightens when we realize that Jesus entrusted to a small group of disciples the tremendous responsibility of carrying out his commission. "You are witnesses of these things," he told them. "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21). Realizing their weakness he promised they would be clothed with power from on high.

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

The commission and the promise continue. His business of being Saviour of the world goes on through us.

Still thro' the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Proclaim to Every People

Leader: Today we are learning of ways seminaries and churches help prepare Christians to proclaim. (Ask three persons to share this information.)

IN SPAIN

One of the recent graduates of the Spanish Baptist Theological Seminary in Barcelona, Spain, Señor Maximino García [max-e-moe gahr-SER-uh] is now pastor of Villaverde [veal-yah-VAIR-day] Baptist Church. This church, a mission of the First Baptist Church in Madrid, was organized last New Year's Day. The congregation worshiped in a beauty shop until a storefront building was purchased. A family in the mission gave the purchase price. The coming of the seminary graduate as pastor released the Charles Whittens, missionaries, to go to another mission, Barrio del Pilar [bar-ree-oh del pee-LAHR], where they are beginning an intensive visitation and witnessing program. This is carried on mainly by the young people who meet on Saturday night, then go out to visit and give out tracts.

Mrs. Whitten gives credit for the vital missionary spirit of the First Baptist Church of Madrid and their splendid evangelistic training to the pastor, Señor Juan Luis Rodrigo [whan-lay-is rod-REE-go]. He has on the wall of his study a map of the city of three million people. He is ready to point out that some of his five hundred members live in each of the twenty-three postal zones.

"We must take this city for Christ. We need ten churches in the immediate future. The people are not going to look us up, so we must go where they are and win them through the warmth of the love of Christ that flows through out transformed lives."

Mrs. Whitten adds that when Christian people are so much in the minority they have a strong feeling of personal responsibility for winning others. They usually have many members of their families to whom they can witness, and they invite unconverted people to special services such as weddings, baptisms, funerals.

Some "sidewalk superintendents" in Madrid were watching an excavation for a new building. One gave the other a gospel tract. Antonio, who received the tract, read it and took it home where his family read it. In due time they all became believers in Christ as Saviour. Antonio's brother is now pastor of a Baptist church in another town. His sister is a pastor's wife, and is president of the national Woman's Missionary Union. Antonio himself is a faithful witness, all because someone handed him a tract.

Pray for Spain where many doors are now open for a witness by Baptists. (pray.)

IN LEBANON

"I don't know what you've done to me," said Hamid. "I used to hate my neighbor and read filthy novels. Now I like my neighbor and have no interest in those books."

The Arab high school student was checking out books from the library of the Arab Baptist Publication Center in Beirut, Lebanon. When the publishing house moved into a Muslim neighborhood the workers feared antichristian attitudes, but found instead many opportunities to witness. Publications and radio are major avenues for witnessing in Arab countries, and the Baptist recording studio in Beirut expects to provide a Christian witness in the Arab world.

Pray for those who hear and read about Christ the Saviour. (pray.)

IN JORDAN

In the fall following the Six Day War, the W. O. Herns, missionaries, were allowed to return to Amman [am-MAN], Jordan. Thirty years ago Amman was a mud-walled village, but it is now the thriving capital and the commercial heart of Jordan. "We have no organized

Mr. and Mrs. William O. Hern and a friend. The Herns formerly were in Jerusalem. They now live in Amman, Jordan.





Christmas Gift!

Are you looking for just the right Christmas gift for a child, a boy or girl? Then we suggest a brand new and charming book—*What Missionaries Do*.

Do you have new readers in your church—people who are in literacy classes or who recently have learned to read? Then we suggest for each of these this lovely book—*What Missionaries Do*.

Do you know internationals who are learning English? Then we suggest this informative book—*What Missionaries Do*.

Order a number of copies at once. *What Missionaries Do*, 50 cents each from Woman's Missionary Union ONLY, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

church here," writes Mr. Horn. "But we have two mission points. Most of the Christians are new in their faith in Christ, and we have prepared for them a course of study in which we assign a certain Scripture passage to be read with questions for them to study and answer. Believers often attend meetings in homes and give testimonies."

Pray for Jordan Christians (pray).

IN ISRAEL

Thirteen denominations are cooperating in Israel in a project to translate important books in Hebrew and Arabic. Dr. Robert J. Lindsey is the Southern Baptist missionary representative. Baptists also have a Baptist Center near Petah Tikva [PET-ah TIK-vah] and a Baptist Book Store and art gallery in Tel Aviv. There is a book store in Jerusalem and Baptist congregations in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Another book store, in Acre, is in a strategic location near the entrance to a Muslim mosque, and flanked on either side by Jewish shops.

Pray for these avenues of witness (pray).

Leaders: Many persons are serving in strategic places because of training from their home churches. There are persons in the military and in schools. (Ask two persons to share the following incidents.)

THE MILITARY

"To reach the thousands of persons in Europe who need to know about Jesus Christ we must go where the people are. This may require departure from some of our customs and practices. For example, the Girls' Auxiliary of our church seldom meets at the church. Meetings are held in a maid's service room in a housing project. Girls attend who would not have come to the church and the group has formed two auxiliaries."

"The church fall roundup was held in a large meeting hall and good advertising of free hamburgers brought about as many nonmembers as members. After a religious film, four persons made professions of faith."

"A Woman's Bible class meets in homes. Two families have had their initial contact with the church through this class."

"A study group is held for single girls in a barracks building. Three young men have made public professions of faith. Let us do things outside that will bring new people to know Christ and lead them into the church."

This report is from an air force lieutenant in Germany who identified himself immediately with the Baptist church and set out to meet evident needs. Sensing a hunger for good music he made arrangements to represent a records business in that area. Now good hymns vie with country music and popular tunes in the housing area. Feeling that service people need to keep in touch with stateside

Baptists, he kept a constant supply of denominational literature coming to the churches and saw that each one had a Baptist Book Store catalog.

THE STUDENT

For years Margaret Fund college scholarships for children of missionaries of home and foreign boards were provided by special gifts through Woman's Missionary Union. Now this fund is itemized in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which are administered by the Boards.

"Baptists take good care of their missionaries and their families," writes Sylvia Mefford, daughter of the J. W. Meffords, Spain. Sylvia graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University last May and was honored by her school, being chosen by the faculty as the outstanding senior student nurse of 1967-68.

"I am beginning to appreciate the blessings of the Margaret Fund. I have not decided whether graduate study will be in nursing (public health or psychiatric) or seminary study. I'd enjoy taking counseling courses. My long-range plans will include missionary nursing."

Not all young people aided by the Margaret Fund plan a missionary career. But all are grateful for this aid to their education.

Pray for children of missionaries, especially those who are away from home in school (pray).

Pour Out Your Soul in Prayer

Write each request on numerous slips of paper. Give one piece of paper to each member present. Then ask all persons with request number 1 to group together and so on for four groups. Ask each group to spend time in prayer for its request. Suggest sentence prayers, silent prayer, conversational prayer. Ask each group to decide its method.

1. **Pray** for all the missionaries and national Christians in the Middle East.

2. **Pray** for military personnel, for chaplains, enlisted men, and officers.

3. A new Baptist church building and four-story theological seminary building were dedicated in Novi Sad [NOV-see SOD], Yugoslavia, last year. **Thank God** for this facility and pray for Christians in Communist controlled countries.

4. Seminaries in Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Lebanon are keys to advance in these and other countries in Europe and the Middle East. **Pray** for their faculties and for the students. **Pray** that more young people may respond to God's call to church vocations.

Give of Your Wealth

Ask someone to read this to the group and lead a discussion about our part in this dream.

NOT a DREAM—REALITY

by Helen Ruchti, Rome, Italy

The opportunity was mine to share with needy people—not \$1 million but \$15,500,000!

I had always dreamed of being a philanthropist. Should my money go for hospital care for Arab refugees? Or, should I help finance work with orphans in Italy? An evangelical witness to children in that country produces marvelous results.

Maybe, though, I should buy a boat to send a doctor up the Amazon River to the pitifully underprivileged people of northern Brazil.

Interested in Christian education for Japanese youth in their changing society, I weighed against that the need for a hospital among the destitute in India. Where should my great gift go?

I could see Nigerian pastors getting on their bicycles to go out to the bush for a day of preaching. But then, Mexican Christians in remote areas could receive high quality literature in Spanish if I would help underwrite the expense. I could provide a camp in Spain so that the scattered evangelicals of that country could have training and fellowship.

I wanted to take the world in my arms, to reach deep in my bank account and share my philanthropy with students, housewives, businessmen, street sweepers, orphans, illiterates, lepers, the sick, and sin-sick. I would try to help them all!

Suddenly I was jerked back to reality from my daydreaming. I was no philanthropist. I was only a missionary.

My gift alone could not begin to bring significant aid to any one school, hospital, church, or orphanage. But Southern Baptists pool their resources for world evangelism. My gift could join other gifts to help people in sixty-eight countries.

The Woman's Missionary Union leader stood at the front of the chapel: "We will now receive your offerings for world missions."

I fingered the envelope with my gift. It contained a very small part of the \$15,500,000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. Compared to the total amount, it was only a drop in the bucket—but it was going in the bucket.

Feeling no more like James Thurber's daydreaming Walter Mitty, I could put reality into my dreams because of the concerted Southern Baptist missions effort. Not the philanthropy of the few—but the stewardship of the many—will reach the goal again this year.

Take the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Fulfill Your Mission

Ask each person to think about her answer to this question: "If I do not know a person who is lost, what does this tell me about my response to the gospel? What will I do about my response?"

FRIDAY, December 6

Our Mission High Fulfilling

Understanding the Theme

(Have strips up when group arrives.)

As we began this week of prayer, we prayed that our church might face the reality of the missions task and recognize the vitality of the message we must communicate. (Review briefly each day's theme, using theme and theme interpretation strips.)

"Our Mission High Fulfilling" is the central thought for today. Our mission is to proclaim the message of God's love. This mission will be fulfilled when we develop individual skills and use the corporate resources of our church, focusing on proclaiming God's saving grace.

Know the Message Glorious

(Ask one person to lead the Bible study.)

In this final Bible study session of this week of prayer we need to answer some questions.

1. Who is the Saviour?

Jesus, the Saviour, is God's Son and well pleasing to his Father. He is the Messiah, proclaimed by John the Baptist as the one long awaited by Israel. (Read Mark 1:6-11.)

He is the Way, the Truth, the Life. He can lead us to the Father. (Read John 14:6.)

Christ is the hope of our salvation
Jesus Christ who saves from sin
If you trust Him as your Saviour
You can know His peace within.
—W. HINCHES

2. Who are his witnesses?

The first chapter of Acts describes the disciples as they came face to face with the risen Lord just before his ascension. They did not yet understand his purpose. "Will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" (Acts 1:6 RSV), they asked. Jesus' answer had no hint of impatience or disgust. He explained that no one could know the time but the Father, but that they were to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and were to be his witnesses. The scope of witnessing—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth—clearly superceded the concept of a kingdom of Israel. The unfolding story in Acts portrays the developing maturity of the early Christians, as Peter sees the Roman Cornelius and his household filled with the Spirit, as James leads the Jerusalem church to rejoice in the salvation of the Gentiles, as the Holy Spirit closes the door



to Asia and opens it to Europe in the Macedonian call to Paul.

3. What is the task?

The Great Commission leads the believer to the world's lost multitudes. It was no new teaching. Jesus cut across national prejudices and narrow loyalties as he talked of his mission to all nations—whosoever, all people, every one. Then, as today, world venture for love's sake brought opposition and contempt. We cannot blame the disciples too much for failure to understand. But we have not only the command of Christ but also the recorded experiences of these early followers to help us accept and obey the Great Commission.

"Make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you." The Great Commission is followed by the great promise: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

Proclaim to Every People

Leader: Today's material is in two sections. First, we will be reminded of man's need for God and his re-

sponse when he hears of God. Then we will look at the plans of advance in foreign missions to discover our response to man's needs.

(Ask one person to share the information in "Man's Hunger and Response".)

MAN'S HUNGER and RESPONSE

"Man's Hunger for the Living God" was not only the sermon topic the day the high school student visited the Baptist church in Tokyo, but also a statement of the plight of man. The young man had just visited the temple, but the Buddhist priest would not take up any time with him; so, he came to the church. The message did not answer all his questions but it spoke to his need. He continued to attend services and enrolled in the English Bible class. Within a few weeks he made a decision to become a Christian. He is now a medical doctor, graduate of one of the best schools in Japan. He is also a deacon in the Meijiro [me-gee-row] Baptist Church, and being a disciple of Christ is his daily concern.

Six billion is the figure for world population in the year 2000, as projected by experts. This is about double the present population. Experts are concerned because the greatest percentage of increase is in underdeveloped countries, in areas least able to support the proper standard of living. They are seeking solutions to the problem of physical hunger.

We are concerned about physical and spiritual hunger of the world's billions. Christianity today numbers about a billion adherents, three-fourths Roman and Orthodox Catholics, and one-fourth Protestant. Percentage increase in Christianity is far below population increase, and if present trends continue, the percentage of Christians in A.D. 2000 will be small indeed.

But trends do not have to continue. Southern Baptist missions are part of the missionary action of all Baptist and Christian groups everywhere seeking to bring the message of Christ to all people.

The 222 missionary appointees of our Foreign Mission Board in 1967 brought the overseas staff to 2,777 (2,081 career missionaries and 196 persons in auxiliary services). The 4,918 churches to which Southern Baptist missionaries are related baptized 46,275, and had a membership of 571,647.

There is a growing involvement of national Christians in places of leadership and awareness of responsibility for witnessing.

Dr. Lam Chi Fung, president of Hong Kong Baptist College, is proud of the college's educational standards in the community, but he is even more interested in the fact that 40 percent of the students are Christian. "We aim toward increasing this percentage every year." Last December during religious emphasis week 112 students registered their acceptance of Christ as Saviour.

Colporteurs have always had an accepted place in missions work. Today's publication houses have the same purpose, using different methods. In the Baptist booth

in the park in San Jose (see p. 12) came a farmer after a six-hour horseback ride. He had dreamed that he should take a Bible home with him, and when he heard the call, "Bibles for sale," he found the booth and bought Bibles and other books for his family. He also received free tracts and left his address with the young Costa Rican pastor in charge.

A young schoolteacher in an island village in Guyana [guy-AN-uh], South America, wanted to know more about how to share Christ's love so she enrolled in a nine-week course. After "graduation" she returned and became a strong leader in her church and in the village. Even the house she lives in is a good witness. She keeps her yard bright and glowing with tropical flowers now.

National Baptist leaders in Thailand including pastors, ministerial students, and laymen made up ten teams and entered into five days of evangelistic effort and Bible study. This resulted in forty professions of faith and many other indications of interest. The teams returned from tours of witnessing tired and muddy, but thrilled with what had been accomplished.

"I want something to do," a Korean young man said to Mrs. Lewis Myers, one of our missionaries in Danang. He had been sent to Vietnam on business. Needless to say Shin Jai Hun found much to do—teaching Juniors in Sunday School, sharing his faith with Vietnamese students, bringing other Koreans to the Baptist meetings. His testimony is of great influence because he is Asian, showing Vietnamese that Christianity is not just an American religion.

PLANS for ADVANCE

IN LATIN AMERICA

by Dr. Frank K. Means, Area Secretary for South America

Advance for Latin America in 1969 is closely linked to plans for the Crusade of the Americas.

When God blesses the Crusade, scores of new churches will be organized, church life revitalized, the meaning of church membership understood more clearly. New projects for kingdom extension will be proposed, leaders found and trained, and Baptists will realize that they can do more for themselves than they thought possible.

When God blesses the Crusade, the gospel will be widely proclaimed in the Western Hemisphere, new ways will be discovered for making God's witness more dynamic and relevant, neglected segments of the population will be reached. The perimeter of our witness will be pushed out much farther.

When God blesses the Crusade, Christ's followers will realize as never before that they are to minister in all the needs of others. Mankind's need for Christ comes first,

but other fundamental needs cannot be neglected if the love of God dwells in us.

(Using a map of the Western Hemisphere, point out Latin American countries, including middle American countries where Baptists are in the Crusade of the Americas Report that this year Latin America was divided into two areas. Dr. Means is secretary for South America and Charles W. Brown is secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean.)

Lead in prayer for the following needs:

- Pray for the Crusade in your church and association.
- Pray again for coordinators of the Crusade (see p. 11).
- Pray for your plans for Pact (pray)

IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

by Dr. J. D. Hughey, Area Secretary

Much of the advance in Europe and the Middle East must be in countries where Southern Baptist missionaries are already stationed in Arab countries (including those in North Africa), Israel, and several countries in Europe.

Geographical advance may take the form of fraternal representatives to two more European countries. In one country in Europe and one in the Middle East, missionaries are now studying with the hope of government permission to remain permanently in the countries.

Broadcasting is on the growing edge of missions work. Arabic broadcasts, begun in 1967, will continue to be beamed to the Middle East and north Africa. Broadcasting in various European languages will continue. Portugal being the most recent station added.

New hospital construction is projected for Jordan and Gaza, and plans have been made to build a Baptist boy's school in Amman, Jordan.

The international approach in missions will be continued, especially in the seminaries at Rischlikon and Beirut and in publication and broadcasting. Further experiments in newspaper evangelism and in correspondence courses will be encouraged.

In Europe there is a new awareness of the importance of evangelism and a willingness to try new methods. Our Board has helped with several simultaneous evangelistic campaigns and will give further assistance. The 1969 European Baptist Conference in Vienna will doubtless stimulate the cooperation in evangelism already begun by Baptists of different European countries.

Pray for this conference scheduled for next year in Vienna and for evangelistic efforts in Europe.

(Use maps of Europe and the Middle East, including North Africa to show countries in this area of missions work. Point out places mentioned. Lead in prayer for the following.)

Pray for schools, publication work, radio broadcasting, correspondence courses, evangelistic efforts in Europe and the Middle East (pray).

IN THE ORIENT

by Dr. Winston Crawley, Director of Overseas Division (formerly area secretary)

Many Southern Baptists may not know that half the people in the world live in the Orient, that the doors of most lands are wide open to our missionary efforts, that the response to the gospel is most encouraging, and that Baptists are moving ahead steadily in that part of the world.

West Pakistan will be entered just as soon as possible and the work in East Pakistan strengthened. Another new field is India for which we are gathering a medical staff for a Baptist hospital in Bangalore.

Baptist missions effort is just beginning in such places as Okinawa [oh-hee-hee-row] on the island of Hokkaido [hoo-KYE-dough] in north Japan, Tawau [tah-wow] in Sabah [SAH-bah], Malaysia, Pattalung [pat-tah-lung] in south Thailand [TIF-land], and Rayong [rah-yong] in north Thailand.

Progress is being made in all types of missions work. Examples are the seminary being developed in Vietnam, Baptist hospital in Bukittinggi [hoo-ki-TEENG-ghce] in Indonesia, an editorial branch office in Taipei [tie-PAY] for Baptist Press (Chinese Baptist publishing agency in Hong Kong), new radio studios in Taipei and Manila, and increased ministries to refugees in Vietnam.

A major evangelistic crusade began last month and concludes this month in the Philippines. Plans are made for an Orient-wide crusade in 1970.

(Display map of Orient, pointing to countries where we have missionaries, and areas mentioned above by Dr. Crawley. Report that this year the Orient was divided into Southeast Asia with R. Keith Parks as secretary and East Asia for which a secretary is still to be elected.)

Pray:

- for these crusades and for plans of Japanese Baptists for the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Tokyo in 1970 (pray)
- for thanksgiving for open doors in the Orient and pray for men and means to enter them (pray)
- for missionaries and national Christians in days of danger and crisis in Vietnam (pray)

IN AFRICA

by Dr. H. Cornell Goerner, Area Secretary

A community development program featuring health centers, assistance in education, literacy classes, agricultural

projects, and vocational training is opening Southern Baptist work in Ethiopia.

We have been assured by officials that if we proceed this way we will be free to offer Bible instruction, worship services, and other activities which may result in new vitality and fresh spiritual life among a people most of whom are identified with the ancient Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Two missionary couples have been granted residence visas, and a site for a small medical clinic has been selected.

The Republic of Botswana [botts-SNAHN-nuh] gained independence from Britain in 1966. Local communities have requested from our Board help in development of primary schools. Next year a second missionary couple will join the Reynoldses.

A couple has been assigned to Windhoek [VENT-houk], South-west Africa, to help in a small English-language church.

Hopes and plans for additional expansion in Africa are centered largely in the former French colonies of West Africa, Senegal, Dahomey, and Upper Volta. Missionaries assigned would spend a year in France for language study. Senegal holds high priority. The first couple would concentrate on the large city of Dakar [duh-KAHR] and students at the university there.

The Portuguese territories of Angola and Mozambique [moo-zuhm-BEEK] continue to be a matter of great concern for Baptists. Special prayer is requested that doors might be opened for a free and positive witness among Portuguese settlers and indigenous African tribesmen (pray now).

In addition to expansion into new countries, advance involves a renewed emphasis upon publication of Christian literature and development of radio and television work. The popularity of transistor radios in African towns and villages has created a vast new opportunity. In East Africa missionaries are experimenting with use of small planes to reach inaccessible points with the gospel.

(Use map of Africa to show countries south of the Sahara where Southern Baptists have missionaries, and areas of advance as explained by Dr. Goerner.)

Pray:

- for the Lord's guidance into the Portuguese provinces, Angola and Mozambique (pray).
- for missionaries entering new areas. Pray for the maturing work of Baptists where there are well established churches. Thank God for national leadership in these areas (pray).
- that no attitude of ours might in any way hinder the work of our missionaries. Pray that all of our churches may recognize that all who trust Christ are brothers (pray).

Pour Out Your Soul in Prayer

(You may ask the person who presented Africa to con-

tinue with this period of prayer.)

Pray for Dr. Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and for the area secretaries named above, and others associated with him in the work.

Thank God for the thousands won last year through Southern Baptists' ministry. Pray for more workers.

As we pray for missionaries for these areas may we be willing to "Give of our sons to bear the message glorious." May we also listen to a call that may be coming to us from God (pray).

Give of Your Wealth

In Copenhagen, Denmark, during the Baptist World Alliance meeting in 1947, visiting Baptists worshiped in the few small Baptist churches in the city. A visitor from the United States was answering questions. As she talked, she spoke of the great number of churches, their beauty and size, their efficient organizations, and their large gifts to missions. "How wonderful," exclaimed a small Danish lady. "How wonderful it is to be able to give so much. I wish we could give that much to missions."

How wonderful it is that we can give.

Take Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Fulfill Your Mission

Give to each person paper and pencil. Say, "In an effort to decide whether we are doing all we can for the cause of missions, will you do the following. On this paper write down the names of your children (pause), the amount of your weekly church pledge (pause), the amount of your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (pause), your name (pause). Will you dedicate these to the cause of Christ?"

Lead a prayer of dedication.

SATURDAY, December 7

The meetings at the church have been concluded for this week of prayer. Have you entered into a realization of what it means to proclaim?

Will you pray again as a family about your gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? Should you examine what you have left and try to enlarge your offering by giving tomorrow when you go to the church?

Choose one cause from each day's material, pages 28 to 49, and pray as a family or personally for these needs. Use your stand-up prayer folder and Call to Prayer to enlarge your prayer requests.

SUNDAY, December 8

This is the final day of the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions.

Has your concern for the unsaved of the world deepened this week?

Will your life be different because of this week?

Pray for your church, your family, yourself that you will be vitally related to missions.

See Call to Prayer, page 15.

Healing in His Wings

BY DWIGHT L. BAKER

HAVE you stopped recently to think about the day that peace broke out in the Middle East, a little less than two thousand years ago? In John 14:27 it is recorded that the Saviour simply announced it in these words:

*Peace I leave with you
My peace I give to you*

In a land where the common greetings of *shalom* (peace) in Hebrew and *salaam* in Arabic have all but lost their meaning, as war clouds group and regroup, it is not dabbling in daydreams to recall that the Lord willed peace in his legacy to the peoples of these troubled lands.

Shalom also means wholeness and completeness, as well as peace. *Shalom* is the word used in Israel to denote a whole object. It can also mean health (2 Sam. 20:9) or healing. Thus, the greeting *shalom* also says, "may you be whole and not be broken."

From the same Hebrew word meaning we get our English word "healthy," or "whole-ty." The English greeting "hello" comes from our word "health." It holds significance for us today to know that the ancients valued the blessings of health or wholeness to the extent that they incorporated it in their most common greeting.

The promised "healing in his wings" (Mal. 4:2) is based on God's desire to restore those who have

Dr. Baker is a Southern Baptist missionary in Israel.

suffered a baptism of fire and are no longer whole in body, mind, or spirit. Refreshing words such as these truly bear a message of comfort and hope to the war-seared lands of the Middle East.

So often newspapers, magazines, TV, and radio emphasize the negative and pessimistic side of events in the Holy Land. While much that transpires here is discouraging, with bubbles of hope being swept away as fast as they surface, Christians must not become victims of this gloomy tide. God wills healing, not suffering for these lands, and his agents are actively engaging in restoring wholeness in broken lives and situations.

Baptists in Israel along with others have sought ways to apply God's available healing in these lands so recently scorched by war and livid with hatred.

Baptism of Old City Converts

During the Six Day War of 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem fell to the Israelis, along with the Gaza Strip, the Sinai, and the Golan Heights along the Israeli-Syrian borders. Immediately after the war, Baptists in Israel looked for ways to express their friendship toward Baptists in the Old City, and in some ways help assuage their pain. Food, clothing and money were collected at all the churches. Occasions were sought that provided opportunity for fellowship in the churches, homes of both groups. The month following the war, some of the

new friends came to Petah Tiqva (PEE-Lah TIK-vah) on their first visit inside Israel after the hostilities. Their response to the efforts of Israeli Baptists during the severe days of crisis was not in kind, but went far deeper in expressing their acceptance of Baptists living in what to them had so recently been known as "enemy" territory.

Their offering was in the form of a request to share a service of baptism at the Baptist Center near Petah Tiqva. The Rev. Fuad Sakhimi (fah-NEE-ni), pastor of the Nazareth Baptist Church, was asked to baptize five candidates from the church in the Old City. He had been the first Arab pastor from Israel to reach them following the conflict. Their own pastor had been caught in Amman, Jordan, during the fighting and was unable to return to his flock. The healing that God applied to the hearts and lives of Arab, Jewish, and American began during that unforgettable hour, closed wounds that have never reopened.

Special Guests from Gaza

Later in the fall of 1967, Baptists in Israel gathered at their camp and conference center at Petah Tiqva to attend the annual association conference. The guests whom they invited were to them, very special people. Fifty Baptists and their families from the Gaza church, many of whom work in the Gaza Baptist Hospital, came to share three days of Christian fellowship. Baptists

from the six churches in Israel, from the Old City, and Ramallah, and from Gaza, who shared common worship experiences, the baptism of new brothers, and happy hours of fellowship, experienced a remarkable healing that only the Great Physician can provide.

The Messiah Choir

Months before Christmas, the Protestant Community Choir, directed by Southern Baptist representative, Martha Murphey, began rehearsing for the annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah*. Arab, Jewish, American, and European Christians, as well as a small number of Jews and Muslims, sing together each year to enthusiastic audiences in all of Israel's major cities.

This year, however, there was a difference. One of the first concerts was given in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City, formerly controlled by Jordan. Only standing room was available by the time Mrs. Murphey raised her baton and the opening strains of Handel's inspired music filled the historic church. Of that hour, Mrs. R. J. Lindsey wrote: "In this troubled city, so recently and so long divided,

had some people hungry for music and message." Mrs. Lindsey added, "Here, the words of the first recitative brought a startled awareness to some as they heard 'comfort ye, comfort ye my people, speak comfortably to Jerusalem, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.'"

"The Easter portion of the oratorio," related Mrs. Lindsey, "was heightened in its impact because a few feet away stood the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditional location of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. One visitor remarked, 'I never expected to hear "Behold the Lamb of God" sung so near to Calvary.'"

All who sang in the choir agreed that singing the *Messiah* in the Old City was a unique experience in which they were able to project the message of healing and wholeness in a place where bitterness, division, and hatred are deeply entrenched.

The choir sang also in Old Jaffa, Nazareth, Beersheba, and a second time in Jerusalem.

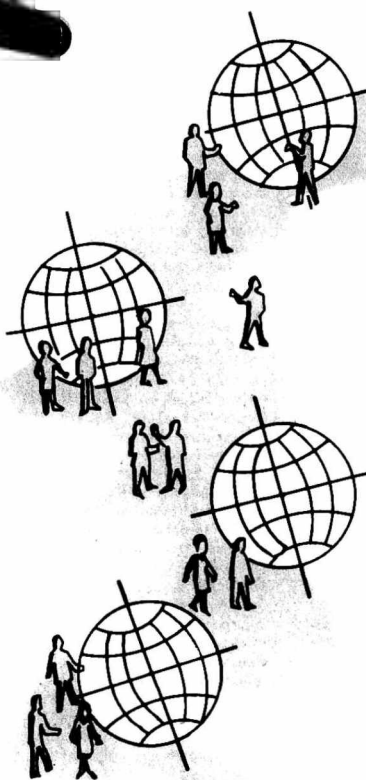
At the close of one of the Jerusalem presentations, a Hebrew university student sat looking at the program in her hand. Recently she had experienced deep personal loss and bereavement. The music, as she told friends later, had moved her deeply and brought unexpected comfort and healing.

These episodes never make the headlines, but this fact is not a criterion of their importance. In reality they are of great significance, for they relate God's love, his healing power and his desire to bring wholeness to his people. Those who have experienced the touch of his healing in these seared, divided lands dare to believe that these relationships will multiply until one day, God's wholeness and healing will restore his broken people.

Foreign & Missionaries

NEEDED

NOW



Below are listed some of the current, critical needs for missionaries overseas. These are representative of many more requests made to the Foreign Mission Board in 1968. The requests are not listed in any order of priority. Information about these and other opportunities is available upon request. Write: Department of Missionary Personnel, Foreign Mission Board, Box 6597, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

MISSIONARIES ARE NEEDED NOW for Ministries in Evangelism and Church Development

For preaching ministries
in Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Israel, Lebanon, Spain, Argentina, Bahamas,* Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, French West Indies, Guatemala, Guyana, Paraguay, Trinidad, Uruguay, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, East Pakistan, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

For ministries among women**
in Ghana, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Jordan, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Hong Kong

For music ministries
in Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand

For student ministries
in Nigeria, Israel, Lebanon, Brazil, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, East Pakistan, Taiwan,** Vietnam

For religious education ministries
in Liberia, Nigeria, Israel, Brazil, Jamaica, Paraguay, Japan, Thailand

For English-language ministries
in Venezuela, Guam,* Malaysia,* Okinawa,* Philippines*

MISSIONARIES ARE NEEDED NOW

for Missionary Medicine

Physicians
in Ghana, Yemen, Mexico, Thailand

Internists
in Nigeria, Jordan, Paraguay

Pediatricians
in Nigeria, India, Korea

Surgeons
in Nigeria, Tanzania, Colombia, Indonesia, East Pakistan

Hospital administrators
in Nigeria, Yemen, India, Indonesia, East Pakistan

Medical technologists
in Gaza, Paraguay, East Pakistan

Pharmacists
in Yemen

Nurses**
in Nigeria, Rhodesia, Tanzania, Gaza, Jordan, Yemen, Colombia, Paraguay, India, Korea, Indonesia, East Pakistan, Thailand

Dentists
in Nigeria and Korea

MISSIONARIES ARE NEEDED NOW for Special Ministries

Agriculturists
in Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand

Book store workers
in Paraguay, Peru, Hong Kong, Taiwan

Business managers and treasurers
in Israel, Lebanon, Argentina, Ecuador, Korea,* East Pakistan, Taiwan, Vietnam*

Chaplains
in Hong Kong (servicemen), India

Houseparents for missionary children in school
in Israel,* Japan,* East Pakistan,* Thailand*

Librarian
in Baptist Theological Seminary, Switzerland**

Office workers
in Nigeria,** Spain,** Italy,** Brazil,** Hong Kong,** Japan**

Men and boys workers
in Nigeria (RA and Brotherhood)

Publication workers
in Kenya, Rhodesia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand

Radio and television workers
in Lebanon,* Switzerland,* Indonesia,* Philippines, Taiwan

Social workers
in good will centers in Chile,** Ivory Coast,** Brazil,** Tanzania,** Peru, Vietnam

MISSIONARIES ARE NEEDED NOW for Educational Missions

Elementary teachers
in Nigeria,** Korea, and Taiwan for schools for missionary children

Secondary teachers
in Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria,** Rhodesia,** Jordan,** Lebanon,** Bahamas, Hong Kong, Japan,** East Pakistan

College teachers
in Hong Kong and Japan

Seminary teachers
in Ghana, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Tanzania, Lebanon, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand

PRAYER REQUESTS

South American Baptists Eager
for Crusade of the Americas

The Crusade of the Americas is "on the lips and in the hearts" of Baptists in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay, declares Rev. Samuel O. Liberti, of Argentina, regional coordinator for southern South America for the hemispheric evangelistic campaign to culminate in 1969.

Summarizing Crusade activities in one area for the past year, Mr. Liberti reports that Uruguayan Baptists are dedicating 75 percent of the income of their national convention to Crusade efforts. During the year they distributed 156,021 Bible portions, including more than 10,000 Gospels given out in a personal witness effort during a laymen's conference in Montevideo last October. Montevideo pastors meet each Saturday to pray for the Crusade and study progress reports.

Paraguayan Baptists are reaching out to their countrymen via the mass media. Denominational leaders have written a series of articles about Baptist beliefs which is appearing on Sundays in leading newspapers. The national Baptist convention is also presenting its first television programs.

Chilean Baptists prepared for the hemispheric endeavor with a national evangelistic campaign in 1967.

In Argentina more than 260 churches and 22,000 Baptists are engaged in the Crusade. "A revival is spreading over the country," Mr. Liberti asserts.

The Crusade has become a joint effort of various Baptist groups. German- and Russian-speaking Baptists, each with its own organization crossing international boundaries, are cooperating with the Spanish-speaking majority, and Conservative and General Baptists are also participating.

Mr. Liberti continued, "The fire of prayer meetings has spread over four nations. The Crusade of the Americas is a burning incentive to evangelize with zeal and passion because we believe that men are lost apart from Christ, the only hope."

"We know our imperfections; we feel our spiritual needs; we cannot close our eyes to the limitations of our presentation of the gospel. But we do not believe the time of miracles has passed. The supernatural power of the Holy Spirit is working among us."

"We have the command of Christ to go forth as his heralds. Let us work, filled with determination that to God alone shall be the glory."—Foreign Mission News

Prayer Requests

Pray for a deepening of the spiritual life of people in our churches and home.

Pray for every person without Christ as Saviour on the American continents.

Pray for a true moral and spiritual base for man's economic, social, and physical welfare.

Pray for yourself and your church.

Baptists in USSR

There are eighty-four Baptist churches with a total of 8,273 members in Estonia, one of the Baltic states which is now a part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The total population of Estonia, whose language is akin to that in Finland, is estimated at 1,300,000.

Baptist work in Estonia is directed by seventeen elders who meet in council eight times a year, according to an article appearing in *Veekoposten*, weekly newspaper of the Baptist Union of Sweden. *Veekoposten* carried a brief report on the Estonian Baptist conference which took place in Tallin.

Theme of the conference was "The Gospel—God's Power to Salvation."

The first Baptist baptism in Estonia took place at Haapsalu on February 24, 1884, with the immersion of thirteen converts. Although the name of the body of water where the baptism took place is not mentioned, the event occurred in winter. The converts were baptized in a place where ice had been broken away to provide open water.

Estonian Baptists consider themselves to be eighty-four years old using 1884 as their year of beginning. Twenty-seven of their churches reported having baptisms of converts in 1967 but the total number baptized was not stated. At the closing service of the 1968 conference, fifty people made commitments to Christ.

In adjoining Latvia, now also a part of USSR, there are sixty-six Baptist churches with about 6,000 members, the *Veekoposten* correspondent wrote.

The conference heard reports on work in other parts of the Soviet Union. It was announced that forty-nine new Baptist churches in USSR were officially registered last year. There are now twelve officially registered Baptist churches in Moscow district, where at one time only one church existed. —European Baptist Press Service

Prayer Requests

Pray for the Baptist churches in Estonia.

Pray for the 8,273 Baptists of that country whose people live under Russian occupation.

Pray for Baptist churches and Baptists of adjoining Latvia, also a part of Russia.

Thank God for his blessing on these people.

Thank God for the forty-nine new Baptist churches registered last year in the USSR.

Pray for Baptists of Russia.

WMS forecaster

PLANNED BY MARGARET BRUCE
December 1968 • Royal Service

1 • president

No doubt you can quote the duties of the WMS president without hesitation and have performed them acceptably since becoming WMS president. You recall that one of your responsibilities is to confer with other WMS officers and to assist them with their work.

At this time of the year you will confer with the WMS activity chairman and will assist her in completing plans for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering. See the checklist in this Forecaster addressed to the activity chairman and be sure that everything has been done in preparation for this important week. It is hoped that every family in the church will participate in the week by using the family prayer guide and contributing liberally to the Lotie Moon Christmas Offering.

You and the activity chairman may want to consider using the following resources before or during the week of prayer:

Filmstrips

Add the World to Christmas, 40 frames, color with recording and manual, \$6.00

Prayer Power for Missions, 45 frames, color with recording and manual, \$7.50

Slide Sets

Mrs. Lotie Moon, 16 color slides, \$5.00

The Lotie Moon Christmas Offering, 16 color slides, \$5.00

Motion Pictures

The Lotie Moon Story, 32 minutes, black and white, rental, \$3.00

Secure filmstrips, slide sets, and motion pictures from Baptist Book Stores

Plays

Faithful Unto Death, by Miriam Robinson, 30 minutes, 25 cents

Her Lengthened Shadow, Lucy Hamilton Howard, one hour, 15 cents

Order plays from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, or Baptist Book Stores

Extension Members

Women who cannot attend WMS meetings because of personal illness or confinement to the home for other reasons are encouraged to be extension members of the WMS. Most extension members will be able to participate in the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions by reading



or having read to them each day material in *ROYAL SERVICE*. They can join in prayer at home with those who are praying at the church. They can give to foreign missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Ask certain individuals or groups to be responsible for involving extension members in these ways. You will not overlook what extension members can mean to the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and what the week can mean to them!

Enlisting New Church Members

The WMS president and mission group leaders can make enlistment a continuous project by designating certain persons to help WMU council members greet women as they join the church and invite them to WMS. Regular follow-up visitation in the homes of new church members is most important. See page 93 in the *WMS Leader Manual* for visitation guides. Share these suggestions with those participating in enlistment visitation. As members go to visit WMS prospects you may want to provide these materials for them to use:

- Doorknob calling card, 25 for 50 cents
- WMS Membership Card, 25 for 30 cents (packaged by 25's only)
- *Woman's Missionary Society Member Handbook—Changes and Chances*, 25 cents

These are available from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, or Baptist Book Stores.

Delegating Responsibilities

Recognize the ability and skills of all WMS members and delegate certain responsibilities to them. By delegating responsibilities and trusting others to get things done, leadership in WMS may be shared and may move from one person to many persons.

Encourage all WMS officers to be aware of the opportunity of involving members by assigning certain work to be done.

The major emphasis in WMS for December is the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, December 1-8, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The 1968 offering goal is \$15,500,000. WMS study chairmen and activity chairmen will suggest that mission group leaders read *ROYAL SERVICE: The Commission*, and their state Baptist paper in order to be informed of the importance of the week of prayer and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Group leaders have the responsibility of keeping before group members plans for the week. They will encourage mem-

bers to attend prayer services and give worthy offerings.

Remind mission group leaders to make the book *Colombia: Land of Conflict and Promise* available for group members to read. This is an opportunity for each group member to participate in the society's mission study project for this first quarter of the 1968-69 WMU year.

Study Chairman

How successful was the study of the adult Foreign Mission Graded Series book, *Colombia: Land of Conflict and Promise*? How many members attended the study? How many members read the book?

What responses were there to the study of the book? determination to pray more for missions work in Colombia and to support the work more enthusiastically? decision to locate internationals in the community and to become a Christian friend to them?

To encourage every WMS member to read the book, ask mission group leaders to plan a short "Do you know" period at group meetings. The following questions may cause members to want to read *Colombia: Land of Conflict and Promise*.

1. Do you know that a straight line drawn from New York to the capital city of Bogota, Colombia, would be shorter than a line from New York to San Francisco?
2. Do you know that Colombia is famous for emeralds and gold?
3. Do you know that Southern Baptists have fifty missionaries in Colombia?
4. Do you know one of these missionaries by name and location?

Activity Chairman

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering—One of the greatest responsibilities you have during the entire year is planning and conducting the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in your WMS. The checklist below will help you know when all arrangements have been made for this vitally important week.

☐ Assignments have been made for each day, including Bible study, missions information, directed prayer period, ingathering of offering, and period of individual dedication.

☐ Posters received for use preceding and during the week of prayer have been placed throughout the church.

☐ Use of the family prayer guide has been explained and a copy given to each member of your WMS.

☐ WMS members have been encouraged to participate in the week of prayer and offering by:

- providing a morning, afternoon, or evening prayer period ☐
- planning for women who work outside the home to have a prayer breakfast or a meeting before or after work ☐
- Publicity has been given in time and place of each meeting ☐

Mission Action Projects

Listed below are some mission action projects which may be representative of needs in your community and may be appropriate for your WMS during the month of December:

1. Provide homes with Christian influences for internationals and for the military who are away from home during Christmas.
2. Minister to a lonely, sick, or aged person during Christmas.
3. Visit children's homes and plan a Christmas party for the children.
4. Assist mission action group leaders with projects which may need society help.

the theme, "His Saving Grace Proclaim" ☐
the hymn, "O Zion, Haste" ☐
the daily topics and geographical areas ☐

- ☐ WMS plans for observance of the week of prayer have been coordinated with the churchwide observance
- ☐ Plans have been made for creating a worshipful atmosphere in the place where meeting is to be
- ☐ Visuals have been made to promote the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and to show progress toward attainment of church goal

Here are some ideas which may spark you to do a creative job:

1. Arrange a Christmas tree and use small worlds to decorate the tree. Each world may represent a certain amount of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal and be placed on the tree as the amount is given. Gilded curtain rings may be used to frame the worlds painted on cardboard or construction paper.

2. Make a poster showing your church's offering goal. Attach small worlds which may be secured in the Global Seals Kit for 30 cents from Baptist Book Stores. The kit includes thirty gummed seals, paper, instructions for making favors, and suggestions and patterns for other ways of using the seals. Each world may represent a specific amount of the total offering and may be added to the poster as these amounts are contributed.

3. Make a Christmas arrangement with holly, evergreen branches, Christmas tree balls, and candles. Each candle may represent a portion of your offering and may be placed attractively in the arrangement as these amounts are given.

- ☐ Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelopes have been provided each WMS member
- ☐ Visuals suggested for use in prayer meetings have been prepared

☐ Materials have been ordered. These may include additional offering envelopes (free according to state plan) and program covers (25 for 60 cents; 100 for \$2.00 from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, or Baptist Book Stores).

☐ Observance of the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will be evaluated. The following may be used for evaluation:

Activities	Evaluation		
	Fair	Good	Excellent
preparation	_____	_____	_____
attendance	_____	_____	_____
response	_____	_____	_____

☐ The goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was attained.

☐ This amount was larger than that given in 1967.

So you want to be a good group leader? Fine! Look at these suggestions and see if trying to follow them will help you accomplish your purpose.

1. Lead your group in planning its work. Plans will include such activities as: planning monthly study sessions, prayer experiences, and mission action; planning use of calendar of prayer at meetings; previewing general WMS study topic for coming month; contacting absentees and prospects, etc. (see *planning chart* in WMS Leader Manual, pp. 113, 114, 115).

2. Make efforts to involve all group members in conducting the work of the group.

3. Study resources provided for your mission group (see *WMU Year Book 1968-69*, pp. 59-63).

4. Evaluate the work of your group regularly.

5. Relate your group properly to other mission groups and to the total WMS program (see WMS Leader Manual, p. 36).

6. Keep group members informed of WMS activities, such as the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, December 1-8, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, reading the book, *Colombia: Land of Conflict and Promise* by W. R. Estep, Jr. (85 cents from Baptist Book Stores).

Preview the January WMS Study Topic

To preview the January WMS study topic, "Churches, Training and Nurturing for Missions," prepare the following questions and answers and ask group members to fill in the blank spaces. Now tell them that at the January WMS meeting they will learn how churches train and nurture Christians so that they are awakened to responsibility for missions advance and action.

Q—How do churches help Christians grow in concern?

A—By engaging in _____ and _____
(missionary) (education)
(training)

Q—When Christians discover persons of special need, what do they do?

A—They _____ and _____ to these persons.
(minister) (witness)

Promotional Feature

In order to point up the need for every group member to participate in the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, give each member the following invitation:

COME MEANS ME

an invitation

To Pray and Give

December 1-8

(give time and place and explain plans for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering)

MISSION STUDY GROUP LEADERS

Leaders of mission study groups will discover that learning aids attract and hold the attention of group members. They also make learning easier and enable learners to move along at a more uniform pace.

See *WMS Leader Manual* page 54, for descriptions of these learning aids: flip chart, clip chart, strip chart, maps, hidden chalkboard, turnover chalkboard, and posters.

Keep the aim of the learning session in mind and also the method(s) to be used when choosing, preparing, and using learning aids. This will help you select the more suitable ones. Be sure that the aids are simple and attractive too.

PRAYER GROUP LEADERS

To vary the prayer experience this month you may want to ask group members to be prepared to tell something of what participation in the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering meant to them.

Such a sharing period might include testimonies of blessings received from getting up early for prayer breakfasts; or becoming better informed about overseas missions work, or praying with the family for foreign missions; or learning of sacrificial offerings for missions given through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

It is hoped that prayer group leaders will cooperate with the activity chairman in every possible way to publicize the activities of the week. You and your group members will pray with concern for those preparing to lead the prayer sessions. You will pray for an awakening among Southern Baptists of their responsibility to go, to pray, and to send that the gospel may be preached to the ends of the earth.

MISSION ACTION GROUP LEADER

Ask yourself this question, What makes mission action different or unique?

Is it because the Christian, motivated by love for God and man, seeks to minister and to witness in Christ's name to persons of special need?

Rate your group's mission action according to the following questions:

QUESTIONS

Score
Good Fair Poor

- How do group members score in their understanding of mission action as ministry and witness to persons of special need? ☐ ☐ ☐
- How consistent are group members in their use of mission action group guides in planning and conducting mission action? ☐ ☐ ☐
- How effective is members' participation in the sharing, evaluation, and in-service training processes? ☐ ☐ ☐

Christmas is a time when Christians want to be involved in sharing and serving and witnessing. Take advantage of this fact and if your group needs help with Christmas activities, share this information with the WMS executive committee. At this meeting plans can be made to take care of your need.

One of your duties as WMS director is to lead in organizing new Women's Missionary Societies.

Here are some steps to take to discover the need for additional societies:

- Make a survey of the women of the church to learn why they do not belong to WMS, to discover their preference regarding meeting times and places, to discover their desire for mission groups.
- Study findings of survey with WMS committee and WMU council.
- Study present WMS organizations in your church. How many societies are in your church? What is the membership of each society? How many mission groups are there in each society? What types of groups are they? What is the membership of each group?
- Decide whether preferences of prospects can be cared for more easily with present societies or with additional ones.
- If additional societies are needed, secure nucleus for society and elect a nominating committee to secure WMS officers.

I guess the difference between you and me is that I have

The Talent for Surrender

by Philip H. Briggs

IF FRB GARDNER'S play entitled *A Thousand Clowns* has as its chief character Murray Burns who is in full revolt against modern social structure and the pressure to conform. His brother, Arnold, is a business executive who disagrees with Murray's philosophy of life. One of the classic lines in the play is in a dialogue between them. Murray, the rebel, insists that he cannot conform to society. Arnold replies, "I guess the difference between you and me is that I have the talent for surrender."

The talent for surrender is the place where the leader starts to become an enthusiast. In the words of Ordway Tread "Ultimately, such compelling enthusiasm is related also to the basic life faith . . . which one holds." One can never diminish the faith factor in the leader's enthusiasm. It begins with overcoming the pessimist and the cynic or the one who never knows enthusiasm. The leader who would be enthusiastic must rise to meet the challenge of the cause to which she is giving herself. This takes surrender!

What I am trying to say is better said by Donald Bell: "The Christian leader knows that he is in league with God." Strange as it may seem the etymology of the word enthusiasm means God in us. The en-

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thusiastic leader who has committed himself in total surrender to God possesses resources and "powers" which the leader in other realms of life cannot have. The significance of his work . . . is made possible only because he is in league with unlimited Power."

There should be no shame on the part of the good leader about her enthusiasm nor her faith in God. She must realize that her own personal zeal is a large portion of the measure of her influence and success. Tread calls this a "surcharged experience with dynamic emotion." He says that it springs from at least two sources—physical vigor and definiteness of objective.

Although you and I have considered together the fact that we are to be committed to Christ, we are also faced with the great truth that the key to divine action is human instrumentality. The leader, if she is enthusiastic, has caught a glimpse of the fact that she becomes an instrument in the hand of the Divine to bring about action in the lives of others.

The enjoyable book *Leaves of Gold* records an excellent series of principles concerning enthusiasm. Let's consider each of these principles as a practical guide to becoming an enthusiastic leader.

Principle 1: "Enthusiasm is reason gone mad to achieve a definite, rational objective." The enthusiastic leader must know where she is going! The adage is fitting, "If you

ain't got no place to go you ain't going anywhere." Whatever your job may be in the Woman's Missionary Union of your church you must nail down that objective so overwhelmingly that you will believe in it without hesitation.

Principle 2: "Enthusiasm is inflamed by opposition, but never converted, it is the leaping lightning that blasts obstacles from its path." Dr. Ordway Tread discusses women leaders in *The Art of Leadership*. He says that women followers often criticize women leaders. Ofttimes it is the criticism from one woman to another that brings about the loss of heart on the part of a would-be leader. Enthusiasm becomes the balm that overcomes when a committed leader who has given her life in service to God pursues her objective enthusiastically. Let it be said of you that criticism never altered your leadership but matured it thence to greater heights.

Principle 3: "Enthusiasm is a contagion that laughs at quarantine and inoculates all who come in contact with it." The maintaining of a strong mental attitude is fortified by the woman who would preserve her energy as well as her good health. Perhaps it is simply nothing more than the charm of the female which God gave the world which will help convey enthusiasm.

Principle 4: "The enthusiastic leader is known by her consistent Christian life." The directing of

genuine zeal and enthusiasm have as their launching pad a consistent Christian life. True leadership which is enthusiastic is not conferred on an individual but is earned. The price is a Christlike life. "Regardless of all that may be included, it means that the leader is a [person] of integrity... character is above reproach... dependable... sincere... consistent... humble."

Principle 5: "Enthusiastic leadership demands preparation." 'Tis true but true, "we get what we get ready for." Ofttimes in the busy woman's work of being homemaker, wife, and mother she finds herself running on simply external enthusiasm which wears thin. Superficial enthusiasm will last awhile but finally it becomes dull because of the lack of preparation. The words of the great teacher who once said, "I would rather my pupils drink from a running stream than a stagnant pond" should be the motto of every leader. Unpreparedness is a gnawing type of emptiness which makes the would-be leader feel cold. The edge is gone. Nothing eats away at the confidence and ultimately the enthusiasm like the lack of preparation. It is much like the unwise woodsman who would continually chop away at tree trunks without spending time to sharpen his axe. Enthusiasm comes by being prepared before presentation.

Principle 6: "The leader must maintain a balance between her emotion and her mental alertness."

In the field of sports, timing is the thing. Without timing effectiveness is absent. The woman golfer knows well how to manipulate the various portions of the body in order that her timing of the swing is perfect. The athlete knows that the timing of the team will determine who captures the honors. All of these things are based upon a balance principle.

Principle 7: "The leader realizes that she leads persons who are beset by discouragement and lack of motivation." Not everyone whom we lead is a genuine or even a potential leader. The majority work of the

Master is carried on by average individuals. It is the inspired leader who recognizes this essential. The inspired leader is one who can be a fountain of enthusiasm even when times are hard. I deeply appreciate the thoughts of Dr. James D. Williams writing in *Vital Principles in Religious Education* when he says that the leaders come from the crowds and not from the clouds. There would be no mountaintops of our life's experiences if it were not for the valleys. And certainly those of us who would seek to be leaders must recognize that our enthusiasm rises and falls but it must best be in an ascending position when times are hard. Williams calls this the combative drive, the drive "to get rid of any obstruction to any purposeful effort." He pictures the ineffective lay Christian leader as one who leaves the impression of being "lazy, a soft-sort of a person who drifts with the tide, void of such positive personality traits as zeal, vitality, emotionality, cordiality, mentality, individuality and spirituality." Certainly "combative drive" is the kind of drive that is so desperately needed when the leader would be enthusiastic.

Principle 8: The leader must keep in touch with reality! "Enthusiasm is a telescope that yanks the misty, distant future into the radiant, tangible present." Girls, let's face it; oftentimes it is the woman who tends to be overly enthusiastic and to daydream beyond the point of reality. This condition is produced by unrealistic thoughts and unrealistic objectives! Ofttimes unrealistic leadership has an overdose of enthusiasm. A symptom of this malady is seen when the leader ignores the immediate and looks too far ahead. To reach any objective, certain specific intermediate steps must be taken. An illustration from music would help us here. In teaching the do-re-me scale it is much simpler to teach the would-be singer to learn do-re-me-fa-so-la-to-do rather than to try to teach her the octave from do to do. Wise, realistic, enthusiastic lead-

ership does it a little bit here and a little bit there.

Enthusiasm makes men [and women] strong. It wakes them up, brings out their latent powers, keeps up incessant action, impels to tasks requiring strength, and these develop it. Many are born to be giants, yet few grow above common men from lack of enthusiasm. They need waking up; if set on fire by some eager impulse, inspired by some grand resolve they would soon rise head and shoulders above their fellows. But they sleep, doze, wait for public sentiment, cling to the beaten paths, dread sacrifices, shun hardships, and die weaklings.

I think we find ourselves much in the position of the apostle Peter when we fail to grasp the opportunity of the moment with visionary enthusiasm. On the rooftop that day there appeared a sheet with the various unclean animals upon it. Peter was commanded to rise, kill and eat. Here was an opportunity for Peter to do something that he had never done before, minister to the heathen Gentile. And yet with his Jewish background he rebelled to say, "Why Lord, I have never done this." Dr. Robert Naylor feels that under his breath Simon Peter must have said, "And I never will." Perhaps this dilemma of determination keeps many possible leaders from reaching their potential. Let's do something we've never done before. Let's return to our basic objective. Capture the talent for surrender—Recognize that it is through commitment to Christ that we become enthusiastic.

When this has been accomplished then set our minds and hearts to let God use us as the key to Divine action; then let's apprehend our overwhelming objective, defeat criticism's wet blanket, supercharge our followers with contagious courage, live the Christ-centered life, prepare ourselves to the gigantic task of not merely leading but becoming genuine leaders that precipitate enthusiasm. Show the world that God is truly in us.



the wmu leader

planned by June Whitlow
royal service • december 1968

information for WMU council members

WMU Lexicon

Here are a few terms with which all WMU officers and leaders need to be familiar. Some are new and some are not so new. How do you score?

Advanced recognition—Second level of achievement on achievement guides

Curriculum supplement—A prepared aid which speeds up learning and is designed to focus attention, adding sight to sound

Distinguished recognition—Third

level of achievement on achievement guides

Graded series books—Books for study which are recommended each year to precede the weeks of prayer for foreign missions and home missions

Merit recognition—First level of achievement on achievement guides

Mission action—The organized effort of a church to minister and witness to persons of special need or circumstance who are not now enrolled or immediate prospects for a church

Mission study—Term to designate all study which takes place in WMU Part—A prayer partner plan which links Baptists on the North and South American continents in intercessory prayer for the Crusade of the Americas

Tasks—Basic continuing activities of primary importance in helping a church move toward its objectives

WMS director—Person who coordinates the work of WMS organizations

WMS groups—Persons grouped together on the basis of interest

WMS groups are of three types: mission study groups, mission prayer groups, and mission action groups

WMU Achievement Guide—A tool for planning, coordinating, and evaluating WMU work

WMU director—Person who has overall responsibility for WMU work in a church

WMU leaders—Adult leaders responsible for giving leadership to age-level organizations

WMU leadership committee—A group of persons to assist in selecting and enlisting WMU leaders

WMU Manual—A book which interprets the organization and work of the WMU program

WMU Record and Report Book—A book which gives the WMU director clear instructions for keeping records and reporting to external groups

Events for December

1-5—Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

2—Associational Training Union "M" Night

8—Foreign Missions Day in the Sunday School

Emphasis for December: Foreign Missions

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

Theme—"His Saving Grace Proclaim"

Date—December 1-8 1968

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal—\$15,500,000

The WMU council should have made plans for churchwide observance of Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions (See p. 47 in *The WMU Leader November 1968*). Age-level directors should have coordinated any plans and activities which relate to more than one organization within the age level.

Equipment, Materials, and Supplies

The WMU council is responsible for seeing that the equipment, materials, and supplies essential to conducting WMU work are provided.

Equipment

Equipment may be an integral part of the church building or external to the basic furniture in the building. Equipment includes furniture, projectors, tape recorders, record players, easels, chalkboards, and other items. This equipment is usually

shared by more than one WMU organization, and frequently by more than one church group.

Materials

WMU materials are expendable, printed resources used to conduct the WMU program. These include magazines, Year Book, manuals, record and report materials, plan books, curriculum supplements, pictures, charts, and other printed pieces.

Supplies

WMU supplies are nonprinted resources for use in conducting the WMU program. Basic supplies may be considered aids to learning. They include crayons, paper, paints, newsprint pads, poster board, and other supplies. Additional supplies which may be considered as attractive extras are WMU jewelry, pennants, and notebook binders.

It would be wise to take a few moments at the council meeting to take inventory of the equipment, materials, and supplies which each organization has and determine if additional materials are needed to carry on an effective program of missions education. (See chapter 5, WMU MANUAL, for further discussion.)

Guidelines for Organizing New Units

Is there a need to organize an additional WMS, YWA, GA, or Sunbeam Band organization in your church? ☐ Yes ☐ No

1. Analyze needs.
Determine the number of prospects for each age level among those who are members of your church, Sunday School, and Training Union. List names of prospects according to the age levels to which they

belong. You may also list them according to interest or time when it would be convenient for them to meet. Then decide what organizations are needed and how many of each on the basis of this information (see chapter 5, WMU MANUAL).

2. Secure leadership

The WMU leadership committee works with the church nominating committee to secure adult leaders. The WMU director will inform the leadership committee of leader needs.

3. Organize the group

The leader manuals for each organization will suggest a simple, flexible plan of organization for each group. The associational WMU director or age-level directors are available for any assistance which may be needed.

Order the basic materials needed in starting a new organization. Priced materials available from Women's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203, or Baptist Book Stores are:

WMU Year Book, 35 cents
WMS Leader Manual, YWA Leader Manual, Intermediate GA Leader Manual, Junior GA Leader Manual, Primary Sunbeam Band Leader Manual, Beginner Sunbeam Band Leader Manual, 75 cents each, and The Sunbeam Nursery, \$1.25

From WMU only:
Royal Service, \$2.00 a year

The Window: Tell Sunbeam Activities, \$1.50 each for one year

Additional materials listed in the WMU Year Book may be ordered as needed.

to officers

To: WMU Director and Assistant Director

Leadership Courses

Are there officers and leaders in your Women's Missionary Union who have not completed a leadership course? Because of the new organi-

zation plan, chances are that many persons who are holding places of leadership completed a leadership course before October 1. However, there is always need for follow-up. Here are some approaches for training persons who may have missed the study on the first round. Find out the number of persons who need the WMU Leadership Course and each of the age-level leadership courses and plan with the WMU council accordingly.

• Schedule a time and place; secure a teacher; conduct a class study.

• Suggest that two or three persons get together in an informal setting and study the appropriate course.

• Offer to meet with individuals or small groups and help them with the study.

• Use the buddy system; suggest that one person who has taken the course help another.

• Promote individual study by setting a time when all persons will study the course.

Church Stewardship Emphasis

With the beginning of a new church year there is usually special stewardship emphasis. This is the time when church members are confronted with financial support of their church and its worldwide witness. In pointing up the special church stewardship emphasis, remind WMU officers and leaders of their responsibility for: (1) considering the tithe as a minimum in support of His kingdom's work; (2) being aware continually of the lost world and bringing love gifts in addition to their tithe.

Council Agenda

1. Call out WMU terms; ask for volunteers to give definitions. Let this lead into a brief discussion of the new organization plan and allow time for council members to report on progress of plan or problems which they have encountered.

2. Show poster on which you have listed the events for December (see information for WMU Council Members, p. 61). Announce activities for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. Check with Training Union director and Sunday School superintendent and announce plans for the last two events. (You probably learned of these plans at the last church council meeting.)

3. Before the council meeting, ask each director to compile and bring to the meeting a list of equipment, materials, and supplies which their leaders use. At the meeting ask directors to read their lists. Discuss what WMU provides for the organization and list on the chalkboard items which they feel they need. Discuss how these items will be ordered.

4. Discuss the follow-up plan for leadership training which you plan to use. (This may require some telephoning before the council meeting to know the number of leaders who need leadership training.)

5. Secure copies of the past year's church budget and the proposed budget. Distribute copies at the council meeting and call attention to the amount for the Cooperative Program and other missions giving. Allow time for discussion. Lead council members to see both their own responsibility for giving through the church and their responsibility for leading others to give.

Announce church stewardship plans and suggest how WMU is to assist



To: Secretary-Treasurer

Keep Accurate Minutes and Records of Work

Minutes should be an accurate, concise presentation of what occurs at the council meeting, arranged in a manner that is easy to read and refer back to.

While the WMU director may not call for the minutes to be read, just for the record, the following things should be included:

1. Name of the organization, the place, date, and time of meeting
2. Reports of officers or committees
3. Unfinished business and action taken
4. New business and action taken
5. Signature of secretary

Before the Meeting

Read through last month's minutes and see if there are items which are to come up. You may want to give the WMU director a note about any unfinished business.

During the Meeting

Listen and record what goes on. You are responsible for getting down everything important; however, it is not necessary to take down everything that is said word for word.

After the Meeting

Prepare the final draft of the minutes and attach any additional records or reports you might have. Arrange the minutes so that important matters such as motions, resolutions, and votes can be instantly determined; then place them in the minutes book.

The WMU council is well aware of the importance of good minutes and as secretary you can do much to make the meeting run smoothly.

To: Directors
WMS
YWA
GA
Sunbeam Band

Curriculum Supplements

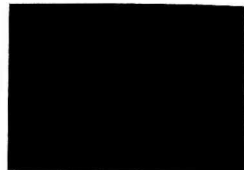
Directors, have you made arrangements for ordering the curriculum supplements for your leaders? Check with them to see if they plan to use these supplements during the year. If so, make plans for ordering the number which will be needed.

A curriculum supplement is a prepared aid which supports the study topic and is designed to aid learning. During the unit for which the supplement is prepared, suggestions for making maximum use of the supplements will be written into materials. Here are the supplements which are available this year.

WMS—a set of ten posters showing study topics for the year, \$1.25 from Women's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

YWA—"Missions Milestones," a chart showing epochs and personalities in missions history to be used in January 1969, \$1.00 from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 (available November 1).

GA—"Heroes of Baptist Missions," ten pictures of Baptist missions heroes to supplement the study in January, February, and March 1969, \$1.00 from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.



Sunbeam Band—a picture booklet with text for Primary children is "What Missionaries Do," 54 cents, from Woman's Missionary Union, 600 North Twentieth Street, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

Preparing to Lead

Working with persons who lead others is a task which is both challenging and rewarding. It is important that you approach your task as WMS, YWA, GA, or Sunbeam Band director prayerfully and with understanding and skill. As director, you are in a position to encourage and guide other leaders with whom you work. Persons will not follow leaders who are uncommitted or uncertain; therefore, you can help them grow in their commitment to God and to his work in the world.

Before you can lead others effectively, you will be conscious of your need for inner strength. Because of the pressures of life, it will not always be easy to demonstrate strength and courage. It will not always be easy to love those with whom you work, or to be patient and understanding and sensitive to their needs. A deep resource of strength and power will be necessary as you attempt to lead in planning and coordinating activities. The Holy Spirit is that power. Reflect on the words of Jesus when he said: "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31 RSV). Your time alone with God may be short, but it will bring a renewed vigor for service and perspective of purpose. The leader who is too busy to allow God to renew her is too busy to serve him with her best.

You are an example to those with whom you work.

Dear Pastor—

It is so well known among Southern Baptists that December brings the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering that you may feel it is trite for us to mention it in this letter. But we feel a keen obligation to bring it to your attention mainly because we believe this particular December 1968 emphasis on praying and giving focuses our attention, as no other single emphasis is likely to do, on the beginning of the Crusade of the Americas, 1969.

We shall be coming together—as women, as men, as young people, and more important as a church—to listen, to pray, and to give.

As we come together, we shall be full of expectations:

- that God can do great things with us and through us
- that we will gain new insights from sermons and study materials
- that we will discover sensitive response from unexpected sources in prayer fellowship
- that our giving together will provide new dimensions to plans and dreams of missionaries.

It is altogether possible that God will hear our prayer for the whole world and give us a new awareness of what we are and what we must do as his children if we are to begin 1969 with a Crusade in this part of the world.

We are deeply concerned, as we know you are, that changes must come in our lives and in our churches—if we are to have more than just the usual revivals and evangelistic services.

We sincerely hope that the study materials in our WMU magazines will enliven for God the people in your church and that the Holy Spirit will lead us in a new and clear way to look at all our activities in the light of need in today's world. Will you add from your knowledge of the work and needs of our Foreign Mission Board and lead your church family—as never before to pray and to give a great Christmas offering for the cause of Christ.

Special allocations of the 1968 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will give assistance to all the countries in Latin America in their efforts for the Crusade. They are dependent on it, and so this becomes a major emphasis for us outside our own continent. This promises a new dimension for a new challenge to deep-seated concern for the whole hemisphere Crusade.

May this December bring us a clarion call to come to grips with the reality of the desperate situation of our own land. With confidence and humility we seek your assistance.

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DARGAN CARVER L10 55B
127 9TH AV N
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions

DECEMBER 1-8, 1968

*and the
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*

GOAL: \$15,500,000