

interNATIONAL



harvest

John 4:35

"Unto the ends of the earth"

Romans 1:5

VOL. 10, No. 2

THINGS TO COME MISSION

October, 1968

THE BURDEN OF BRASIL



- 21 STATES
- LARGER THAN U.S.A. (without Alaska)
- OVER 90 MILLION POP.
- LESS THAN 50% LITERATE
- LARGEST ROMAN CATHOLIC COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.
- LARGEST PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.
- GREAT LACK OF "GRACE" LITERATURE IN PORTUGUESE

TCM NEEDS:

- BIBLE INST., NEAR CURITIBA.
- TWO OR MORE MISSIONARY FAMILIES
- CHILDREN AND Y.P. WORKERS
- FOLLOW-UP ON GROUPS IN PARAGUAY, ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY.
- PRAYER FOR NATIONAL EVANGELIST AND PASTORS WITH TCM

SCALE 2500 K.M. (1562.5 mi.)

THE EFFECTIVITY GAP

by Wm. Heath, Ozamis City, P.I.

Since we started out on deputation a little over a year and a half ago, I estimate we have traveled over 15,000 miles by auto, plane and ship. We have bounced along for 18 hours at a time on primitive busses, ridden through dust, rain and unbelievable traffic situations on our Honda and walked over trails impassable to any vehicle. We have traversed superbly beautiful—but treacherous—streams in an outboard powered banca and ridden small but tough horses on homemade saddles.

Yet the most difficult part of all this travel is that *last ten feet* that brings us face to face with the souls we have come so far to find! It is sadly possible to travel 15,000 miles to tell the lost about Christ and then rub elbows with them on the street, ride with



William Heath

them on the jeepneys, buy from them in the stores and live with them in the barrios without their ever hearing from us the gospel.

Partly this is a problem of recognition. In Paul's call to missionary work in Europe he saw a man from Macedonia saying "Come over and help us." When he arrived there, however, it was no easy task to find that eager man! The wealthy Lydia praying by the river side didn't appear to need help and the jailer didn't want any. Yet both of these were in God's mind when He called Paul to Philippi. Where are the people whom God had in mind when He brought us to these distant shores? Only the eye of faith can see them in the sly merchant who doubles her price when she sees the Americano coming; the jeepney driver who runs our Honda off the road; the successful and self

satisfied business man or the religious neighbor who steals our bananas just before they are ready to harvest. Only by faith can we travel that last ten feet to tell him of God's grace instead of scolding, arguing or 'just visiting' with him.

Communication complicates the problem. English is spoken by a much smaller portion of the people than I had expected, and most of them speak it—at least in the rural areas—with a pronunciation as hard for us to understand as ours is for them. Most of the unsaved people we meet are not in a meeting place where there is an interpreter. I will never forget the man to whom I had just given a tract written in Cebuano. He spoke just enough English to let me know that he wanted to talk to me about Christ. Before I could even understand his name or where he lived he had to get off the jeepney. Nor will I forget the sneer of contempt of the Moslem when he found out I couldn't speak the language used in the tract I had just given to him.

Witnessing to our neighbors through a tract or an interpreter is difficult when we haven't been able to explain why we chased his pigs out of our yard or had to send his children home one day. Our small children learn the dialect easily, from the barrio children, but if we knew what they were saying in it we might have to wash out their mouths with soap! We can't depend on their linguistic help. That last ten feet might involve a year of language school!

The very activities of missionary work can keep us from personal witness if we are not careful. If keeping the radio programs on the air and the school in operation is not linked with the *personal* outreach for souls, the whole effort soon becomes sterile 'business as usual' routine. Helping the nationals reach their own people

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FISHERMEN OF BRAZIL

by Margaret Fromer

Old Zebedee had two fishermen sons in Galilee who followed Jesus. Senhor Agenor in Parana, Brazil has four. Son Aroldo, unlike James and John, preferred music to fishing;



Margaret Fromer doing home visitation in Southern Brazil.

he was in demand at all the festas in the sea-coast area near the port of Paranagua. As fisherfolk danced to the beat of Aroldo's guitar or accordian, pinga, (Brazilian hard liquor) flowed freely. One day Aroldo met Henrique, German missionary of Things to Come Mission, and heard the story of the grace of God. The Spirit opened his heart and his life was transformed. Aroldo's fishing village, Pontal do Sul, buzzed with news: "Aroldo is one of the believers . . . no more drinking parties . . . he reads the Bible . . . and prays . . . a changed man." And he was—and is, a new creation in Christ.

Curious brothers watched the new life grow. One by one they and father

Curious brothers watched the new life grow. One by one they and father Agenor surrendered to the love of God. Today the family fishing boat, the "Galileia," not only provides meat



AROLDO, wife and family—new creatures in Christ.

might be transformed into Sons of

God.

God.

On February 18, 1968, Eldred Sidebottom (Director of TCM) stood by Henrique Schmidt's side as he dedicated Aroldo to the Lord's service and placed him as pastor of the TCM church at Pontal do Sul. His brother Maneco and three others were also ordained evangelists to carry God's message to the far corners of Brazil, possibly into Paraguay where Henrique years ago began to evangelize a group of Indians.

Pray for these men and for me also as I go to live in their village to train Christian workers. Several Brazilian girls will be living with me to learn how to work among children, youth and women. Six kilometers down the coast the village of Marca also waits for me and Ilha do Mel (Honey Island) needs help.



The Church at Pontal do Sul, Parana, Brazil; Aroldo's pastorate.

Where are there courageous, dedicated young people who are willing to serve Christ and His body, empowered by His Spirit and impeeled by His love? Where are those who are willing to leave all and take the gospel of grace to these?

I heard His call, "Come follow!"

That was all.

My gold grew dim,
My soul went after Him,
I rose and followed:

That was all.

Who would not follow
If they heard Him call?

W. R. Newell

LADY, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

by Mrs. Darlene Anderson,
Ozamis City, Pl.

The lady (and it's usually the ladies) is accosted by the beggar (and missionaries are usually thought to be beggars) only to hear the plaintive cry: "Lady, can you spare a dime?" This happening in American life is rather comical yet quite realistically similar to the missions endeavor in the churches today. Over and over again it's the ladies Missionary Circle, Prayer Band, Dorcas, Priscillas, or other who hear the missionary call, "Lady, can you spare . . . ?"

God bless the ladies—but where are the men? Should the mammoth job of reaching the heathen world with the gospel be left up to the Ladies Society? Or sometimes just the Sunday School kids? Why shouldn't men, *especially* the head of the family, be the ones to promote a vision for worldwide evangelism?

Sparing that beggar a dime will never cause him to leave beggardom. And no casual tossing of a bill or check into the offering plate ever finished the missionary need. Missions is an individual dedication to the purpose of Christ—to seek and to save the lost. There is a definite change of heart and thought necessary to be "mission minded." It is more than obligatory or polite attendance at the monthly meeting of missions. "Sister, can you spare some time?" "Missions minded" means a daily knowing and always caring about the work of Christ among the lost, usually in distant places.

Say you want to start being "mission minded." How do you start?

Take another good look at that "beggar," that missionary.

Whenever a missionary comes to your church, get close enough to him to know him and remember his name and burden. Invite him to your home for a meal and fellowship. You'll be surprised at all the stories he can tell that are really interesting! Mission-

aries are people; no need to fear you'll be outdone spiritually. Missionaries spend most of their time with the spiritually ignorant, and how they treasure some real closeness with American brethren in Christ.

One contact is not enough to know a missionary or his field. Request prayer letters and circular information for your personal reading and mission education.

For increasing your family's "world vision," buy a world map and sacrifice a wall in your home for it. Mark it with all the missionaries you know. (This will reveal to you almost immediately how *few* missionaries there are to preach the gospel.)

As you begin to know some names and places, make a set of small cards with each missionary's name, mission and country. Rotate the cards as you mention one name at each meal time prayer. In this way you are sure to be praying every day for missions. It is surprising how often you'll be remembering to pray—three times daily makes at least a thousand personal prayers a year for missions—this type of intercession has P-O-W-E-R!

Your "mission mind" is now beginning to thrive and you will want to pray for specific requests you hear. You are ready to really help out. ADVERTISE among the brethren so that they too will be aware of a need. Write directly to a field for the latest news. Pray until that need is supplied. Watch the way your interest grows as the Lord develops a field. Prayer requests are now your delight rather than the dull drudgery of a year ago. (Needless to say, by this time you are a working part of the missionary program of your church, not merely an attender but a promoter.) Subscribe to missions periodicals. Read missionary biographies for true inspiration—they have "top"

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REPORT FROM BRAZIL

by Henrique Schmidt



Henrique Schmidt, note Portuguese "God's clock of the Ages" in background.

From the three coastal cities of *Pontal do Sul*, *Marca*, and *Ilha do Mel* (Honey Island) he writes: The believers are waiting for the coming of sister Margaret (Margaret Fromer presently assisting Bethesda Missions in Aracaju, Brazil; but who intends to join with Henrique's work this coming December). A house is empty and waiting for her. Two sisters plan to be her helpers: Lica, Adolfo's sister, and Nazide, the daughter of Pastor Jose Matias of *Marca*, who has dedicated her life to Jesus and is ready to be Margaret's right hand.

Of *Santa Cruz* we hear: The money has arrived for the purchase of land for a training institute. We expect the contract to be complete soon. Building should begin immediately; we will appreciate help from our brothers in the U.S. to buy construction material. Your brothers in Christ on the coast are putting aside offerings out of their poverty for this work.

About the work in *Cercada*: In the mountains about 40 km. from our home in Witmarsum, Parana, live a number of humble folk, many of them criminals who fled from the city years ago. Recently God has been working among them and a small group of them have come to trust in Christ. My wife Anna and I spend our Saturdays working among

them when I am not with the churches on the coast.



Left to right: Adolfo, Deti, Jose (Pastor at Marca), Maneco, Aroldo (Pastor at Pontal do Sul) and Henrique.

The motor of my jeep needs repair. We are asking God to give us enough to fix the motor and keep the jeep on the road so that His work will not lack anything. PRAY: for the new converts at *Cercada*; for seed sown at *Ilha do Mel*; for sister Margaret's arrival; for the construction of the Bible training school; and for the repair of the jeep.

WIERING CHILDREN SEND GREETINGS



Front row: Roy Timothy 9, Vernon Paul 5 days, and Kenneth Mark 2. Back row: Dwight Jonathan 6, Lucy Rose 8, and Daniel Neal 4.

From Dieren, Holland come greetings from the Peter Wiering children. The Wierings are TCM missionaries serving the Lord these past eight years in Holland. We rejoice with them in the birth of Vernon Paul, the cause of joy in the above photo.

SHRIVERS TO VISIT SHRIVERS

Pastor Harland Shriver, president of Things To Come Mission board, and his wife Virginia will leave this month on a survey trip of the Philippines Islands.

Harland has resigned his church in Carter Lake, Omaha, Nebraska, and is seeking the Lord's leading, possibly to the 'regions beyond.' The cost of this trip to the Philippines has largely been underwritten by Pastor Shriver's self-employment as a painting contractor. Like the apostle Paul, he has been willing to subsidise his pastoral work as the need arose.

Harland and 'Ginny' hope to take with them a vehicle that the John Shrivens (Harland's brother) need so desperately in their work in Luzon's Bikol region.

You can help make these plans a reality—pray God's direction upon the Harland Shrivens. They are giving of their means and time to seek the Lord's leading—will you do the same on their behalf? Write them at the Mission address (Box 96,) Cope, Colo. 80812) and let them know your prayerful concern is with them. At this writing funds are not yet complete for this needed vehicle; pray these will be realized in God's own good time.



HEADQUARTERS HAPPENINGS

One of the relatively new ministries within the Grace Gospel Fellowship is that of the full-time director of a mission board.

Pastor Eldred Sidebottom was led of the Lord two years ago to resign his church and devote his full time directing the Things To Come Mission.

The Mission Board has earmarked approximately \$100 per month from the general fund, to the Sidebottoms for their administrative services. The remainder of their income is dispensed to them just as it is to any other TCM missionary. This means that what ever the Lord sends

through the mission designated for them, they receive. Thus, they live on the same faith principle as do those on other TCM fields of service.



Sidebottoms home; recently moved adjacent to the building housing the TCM office in Cope, Colo. Many of you have prayed and given to make this a reality.

The TCM Board has long advertised for secretarial assistance for the Sidebottoms to ease the heavy administrative load at the Cope, headquarters. A family has responded! They are willing to move to Cope, and live by this same principle of faith. This family is one of TCM's most faithful supporters. Their willingness to serve the Lord at Mission headquarters is a real step of faith. Would you be willing to stand with us and them in prayer? Could we hear from you with an expression that would confirm God's leading in this new venture of faith.

"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Phil.4:17.



"The first and most striking difference between his (Paul's) action and ours is that he founded 'Churches' whilst we found 'Missions'."

-Roland Allen

EFFECTIVITY GAP

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is of central importance, but it does not bridge the 'effectivity gap' for us personally.

Perhaps the greatest hinderance to our going that last ten feet is our growing familiarity with the people. Before we met them we thought of them only as lost souls—and came half way around the world to tell them of Christ. Now, we think of them as people with a different culture, varying personalities and individual problems. Our attention tends to be diverted to these secondary considerations and we may find ourselves allowing the culture conflicts or personality clashes to blind us to their real need. What a glorious day it is when we can know them as *people* without losing sight of their lost condition. How wonderful to be able to use these personal contacts as tools to lead them to Christ rather than allowing them to *take the place* of a clear testimony.

Does it seem strange that the missionary should have such difficulty going the last ten feet? Basically, once he is on the field and it has become 'home' to him, he is faced with the same problems in witnessing that every other believer encounters.

As you recognize how difficult the 'last ten feet' is in your own neighborhood, you will understand our problem. It is then that you will be burdened to pray that the Lord will give us even greater victory than we now know in this area. As we pray for one another we can both see the 'effectivity gap' more tightly closed and souls brought to our Saviour in ever greater numbers.



"The chief objective of missions is to plant churches."

-MISSIONS IN CRISIS

LADY, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

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excitement and you will be amazed at the number of Christian martyrs in *your* generation. Lend these books to others too with your personal recommendation and challenge.

Now, getting back to that tap on your shoulder with the familiar "Brother, can you spare a dime?" Look again. Could it be the Lord in that missionary beggar asking you to spare a dime—for *HIM*?

(Changes the situation totally, especially when you are "mission minded!")

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



58 in '68



There they are! count them—34 men and 24 women—the student body at International Grace Bible Institute, Ozamis City, Philippines.

This 1968 class is the largest in the school's history. Will you share in training these young lives in the rightly-divided Word of God? True, the facilities have been taxed to the limit to house and board these students. Now we must expect from God the means by which they can be fed and housed.

We see in this group by faith many Timothys, Phebes, Aquilas and Priscillas. Thank you for laboring with us in this life-molding ministry.

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India Holland



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