



**INTERNATIONAL  
HARVEST**

## BLESS THE MISSIONARIES

by Janet Shriver



JOHN, JANET, JULINE, VERNA LEE,  
AND JON SHRIVER

"Bless the missionaries around the world, amen." Sounds like a child praying, doesn't it? You're wrong! It's an adult. Children usually pray for specific things, "Bless Mommy's sore toe," or "help the African chief to receive the Lord Jesus." It is the adult who, after praying for family and self, adds "Bless the missionaries around the world." I've heard it in homes across America during furlough and often thought, "This is me they are praying for; no wonder I often feel weak and helpless on the field."

How, then, do you pray for missionaries on a foreign field? Do you simply command God to bless them all; then write to assure them you've been praying?

The first definition of the word "bless" is to "make holy" and surely that isn't what you mean when you pray, "Bless the missionaries." The second meaning is "to pray for the well being of a person." This is what you are doing. But go one step further and say "God bless the Shriviers" or name the missionary for whom you want to pray.

Is it enough to pray "bless the Shriviers?" Is this the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man . . .?" Is this

what David was doing when he watered his bed with his tears? Is this what Paul meant when he said, "Strive in prayers to God for me . . .?"

Though God knows the needs of *all* foreign missionaries (home missionaries too!), I am sure He is not pleased with such feeble efforts of intercession for those who are in the struggle rescuing souls from the clutches of the evil one.

You may ask, "How can I pray effectively when I don't know the specific things for which to pray?" You may not have heard from the missionary in many months (I speak this to the shame of foreign missionaries). Perhaps the pressure of the work has kept the missionary from even writing a newsletter. How then can you pray for him?

First, stop to think. There must be at least one missionary for whom you are aware of some specific prayer requests. If not, then perhaps you need to sit down with pen and paper and write a letter to the fields yourself. Secondly, I want to give you some guidelines to help you pray effectively for any or every missionary family. There are basic needs that are true of all missionaries on all fields of service and for these you can pray.

1. *Pray for the family of the missionary.* You know the problems of raising children in the homeland. That problem is magnified many times in a foreign land where children are subject to a different way of life, or perhaps only living with their parents a few weeks of the year. In our own family we have the problem of dealing with a language which to us is "foul and profane." We have to deal with our children, correcting them and keeping them from speaking and using many of the common words of the people. Sometimes missionary children rebel at the crowded schedule of parents. Pray that God will keep your missionary family from these and other

problems which most times the missionary will not take space in newsletters to write about.

2. *Pray for patience for the missionary.* In our country everything moves slowly. Standing in the line at the market, then packing my own groceries takes an entire afternoon. By the time I get home my patience has long been exhausted. Everything demands queuing up until I'm simply tired of getting into a waiting line.

A new believer goes back into sin. The missionary needs patience to lovingly deal with the backslider as well as the unsaved person.

The telephone rings and it is the same person for the tenth time that week. I need patience to listen to her problems and talk to her about the Lord when the flesh is crying out, "There are other things to be done."

In every foreign field the missionary needs patience to work with the people, the language, the customs and culture.

3. *Pray for the material needs of the missionaries.* You may not know the specific needs but remember that few missionaries have large bank accounts. If they are returning for furlough or just going back to the field those material needs are greater. There are always needs in the work on any field whether it be for literature, education of children, vehicles, food or clothing. You can pray that your missionary has his needs supplied.

4. *Pray for the physical well-being of the missionary.* Because of the pressure of the work, long hours of teaching, studying and preaching, and the battle against spiritual wickedness there is always physical weariness, as well as diseases which are abundant in most foreign lands. Satan will readily attack the health of the missionary. Prayer guards against his attacks.

Just plain tiredness is often the only ailment. After a month of after midnight bedtime, I have pleaded with my husband to take one night off and rest, to no avail. There is always too much to do and help is lacking. Thus most missionaries are almost always

tired. Pray that weariness might be turned to strength and victory.

5. *Pray for the foreign missionary's parents.* Perhaps you've never regarded this as praying for missionaries. A missionary in a foreign country who has elderly parents (perhaps in ill health) in the homeland has a love and concern for these parents. The parents also, in later years especially, may yearn for the closeness of their missionary children and grandchildren. Would it not be God's will to uphold the parents of your missionary in prayer too?

6. The last thing I shall mention is to *pray for the ministry of the Word of God.* This is perhaps the most important prayer request of every missionary. The Apostle Paul asks people to pray for him. He requests them to pray that he would be "delivered from unreasonable and wicked men . . ." (II Thessalonians 3:1-2). There are undoubtedly men who would seek to destroy the work which the missionary is building. They may be religious men who seek to turn people from the Word of God rightly divided. Pray for your missionary that he will stand fast in preaching God's Word.

In requesting prayer for the ministry of the Word, Paul also requested prayer "that the Word of God may have free course . . ." (II Thessalonians 3:1); "that God would open unto us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ, that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak." (Colossians 4:3-4); "and for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the Gospel" (Ephesians 6:19).

Most of Paul's requests for prayer for himself had to do with boldness to speak forth the Word of God. Every missionary needs this boldness. Though to some it means persecution, mockery or physical suffering, the Word of God must be preached if the Holy Spirit is to use it in convicting hearts. Pray for

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## A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

By Vernon and Darlene Anderson



DARLENE, VALERIE, VERNON, AMY AND BEN ANDERSON

Be careful for nothing but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6.

How do you react as your daily mail is opened and one by one you read the begging letters: "Send us \$5 and we will send you a book," or: "We *must* have \$100 from you today or the work will greatly suffer."

Where is our God? The scripture verse above implies emphatically that our God is not far away or prayer deaf. Rather He is waiting for our requests to be voiced to Him. Studying the earthly ministry of Christ, not once do we read of Him begging men for help for Himself, His ministry or His ministers. Progressing further to Paul's epistles we never read that Paul begged for himself, his co-laborers or his ministry. I Cor. 9 reveals Paul's attitude. He would never ask for funds. How then could he live and serve? Paul preferred to work with his own hands to support himself and those who labored beside him. In II Cor. 8 and 9 Paul begs not for support of his ministry, but he rallies the Corinthians to keep a promise which they had made to support poverty in

churches that had suffered from physical disaster. Such giving comes under charity, not ministry support.

We would like to give testimony here to the faithfulness of our God — that He has, is, and will supply all our needs. We want to go on record with our personal testimony of thanksgiving because for 18 years we have served Him without lack but continually supplied by His riches through the prayers of His saints. Very recently we were unexpectedly compelled to leave Indonesia for a season to reapply for our visa. It presented an expensive undertaking for a family of five, but the funds were amply supplied before we had to leave. The funds for our ministry in Communist countries was also abundantly supplied. Never have we lacked funds and never have we had to send out letters asking for funds. This is our thanksgiving and praise, "The Lord has done it all."

Financing by faith does not preclude plenty. There are memories of living on just bananas for three days during our first year in the Philippines. Another time in California we were down to 6¢, but the next day, completely by prayer on both sides,

a fellow student handed us \$100. Riding at 50% reduction sounds like a real deal, but it means taking a crowded, less popular plane. Recently on leaving Indonesia we rode the 4th class train where we took to the floor for the overnight trip just like all our fellows.

However, faith-living includes abounding also. The monies folks send to us help other national workers: we can entertain them joyfully in our home, offer help for medicine and other personal needs, buy a ticket for evangelism in some far area, or just to be there in a foreign land to tell the message — these are beautiful times of sharing our abundance with our brother.

Faith for living needs is not without its suspense. In 1957 we reserved ship space before we had funds, when only one promise of \$10 was in hand, and that unsolicited. But all we needed came to hand right at what is incorrectly termed "the last minute." It is not the last minute but *the exact minute* for we cannot hope to be strong in faith-living without His stretching process. Oftentimes the provision of a financial need indicates His will for us in a given situation and we can be assured He knows our needs to do His work. Simultaneously we reckon that our dreams and our needs differ while His promise reaches only to supply all our need. Although He loves to supply His children abundantly by His grace even beyond His promise, experience has taught us that our Lord desires a simpler life for His own — with the added benefits disbursed at joyful intervals.

Money may become a convenient crutch to determine God's will, so we must use caution in believing all things work according to our financial supply. Faith *beyond* finances presents an added challenge. In 1959 our family left for India to open a door of testimony but we had no visa or funds. It was a real test, a daily praying and considering of purpose. We were supplied — even in a guest house with very regular bills — this was adventure

in reality, actually a challenge to our faith by one who chided us for awaiting material indications before doing what we knew the Lord was calling us to do. "Foolish," you say? No, we had ample example in the widow's mite. To always compute, add, and sweat over what *might* happen if we give all to Him is not the struggle of faith but the struggle for comfort.

Faith-financing is close kin to limitation. Eve had a wide choice but she also had a limitation. By faith she could enjoy all God provided for her need, and she never enjoyed that which was her own desire. Depending on the Lord alone for finances for His work, we must curtail the eye gate. In the fifties we finally disentangled ourselves from installment buying — what a quicksand it was — but how rich we were when free of debt and able to give sacrificially with joy.

Mama and Papa must agree to cooperate on the faith principle. A young Indonesian father decided to cast all on the Lord and step out financially on the sea. At the same time his wife proceeded to the neighbors to borrow money! The project failed. Our eternal Father will supply for a lifetime. Our friend Eddie Siwi heard this drummed to him: "What? Give up a medical career to preach? How will you support yourself?" Anyone following the Master's call without visible, regular support is obliged to pray without ceasing while a revival experience unfolds during the wait for provision of a need. Our Father delights in holding back a provision till the deadline day or hour, and the closer to the deadline, the greater the hallelujahs of triumph and the closer the relationship with the Father.

Corrie ten Boom mentions something of faith-financing in her book *Tramp for the Lord* by Jamie Buckingham:

God takes His prohibition of asking for money very seriously, just as He means it seriously

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## ARE YOU PREPARED TO FACE GOD?

By Vernon Bigelow



JOY, PAT, RACHEL, VERNON, MARY AND LEAH BIGELOW

Paul in I Thessalonians 2:18 writes: "Wherefore, we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." No one in the Bigelow family makes any claim to be the servant of God Paul was, but we do believe Satan is just as active today in trying to hinder the work of God.

A few days before the family left for the Philippines, friends invited us for supper. Over the table there was a heavy glass chandelier with a brass point they brought back from Arabia. Suddenly, out of the corner of his-eye, Vern saw something falling. He moved a little and the chandelier glanced off the side of his head to land in Pat's lap. An inch the other way, and Vern would now be in the immediate presence of the Savior, but as it turned out he had only a headache.

Two weeks later, Satan again tried to hinder the Bigelows. On a flight from Legaspi to Manila, a man committed suicide by exploding a hand grenade in the lavatory of the jet aircraft flying at 20,000 feet. That man blew himself and the lavatories out of the plane, but the pilots were able to regain control after the jet went from 20,000 to 22,000 and down to 9,000 feet in about 14 seconds! According to company officials the plane should have disintegrated! Satan

may be powerful, but our GOD is more powerful. The lives of 58 people including five Bigelows were spared.

Hurting toward the ground, Vern, Pat, Joy, Rachel and Leah had assurance they would be with their Savior no matter if the plane crashed or not. Rachel and Leah were actually weightless against the top of the plane for a few moments. After the plane had landed safely, and the passengers had been checked by doctors, Vern and Pat had opportunity to tell some of the passengers that it was JESUS CHRIST who saved them, not the church, as one man stated, or some dead saint to whom others had been praying.

What about you? Are you prepared to face GOD? The HOLY BIBLE says: "And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27) We have accepted JESUS CHRIST'S work on the cross of Calvary as the only sufficient payment for our sins. The judgment was death, JESUS CHRIST died for us. If you too will believe the blood of JESUS CHRIST was shed for your sins, you too can have the assurance you will be with GOD when you die — maybe sooner than you think.

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## ON LEARNING HUMILITY while traveling from London to NYC

By Darlene Anderson

When you are literally *shoved* onto a moving English train at 11 o'clock at night without a seat to be sure of and three sleepy kids are piled in with you while your baggage is cast here and there and you really don't know what is happening and your husband is still trying to help you by finding out some kind of arrangements to ease your travelling difficulties and you don't even see him through the moving window to wave goodbye and your littlest kid with a bumped head is quietly crying missing Daddy and absolutely miserable with the hour of the night and the bump, what do you do? You get very humble.

When your train arrives 20 minutes before the estimated time and you're not quite sure whether you should get down or not and your group travel leader is a young, long haired, raggedy fellow somewhere in another car and you have three very sleepy kids by now and you don't know exactly how many things you have or where they were tossed in at Victoria Station and you look out and step down on the platform and a British porter steps up with an empty trolley and asks, "May I help you get your bags on the boat?" . . . you get very humble.

When you enter the boat ferry and look for seats where three sleepy kids and a mama could sit or lie down and there are none, front, back, up or down and you have all your heavy suitcases piled by the purser's lounge right under the stairs where everyone is jumping and running and all the lights are so bright and the steward has said, "You *must* find another place with all your heavy luggage" and you can't . . . you get very humble.

When you see others without palces also and you can find a little space on the floor amidst all the suitcases and you get out your Indian shawls with some purses and sweaters for pillows

and your kids curl right up on the floor and fall off to sleep while you just sit propped up by the wall and try to guard them and anticipate their needs while you are so dopey yourself . . . you get even more humble.

When it is almost 4 AM and everyone is rustling and the whole ship seems to be full of people sleeping on the floor and propped up by walls and it looks just about like an Indonesian train scene and the kids are shivering and you ask the purser about porters and he says there are none at that hour of the morning and you have to walk a good two flights of stairs and up a long ramp and across a wide area and through another long building and you don't know when the bus is going to leave and your son is so sick he can't even hold up his head very well for coughing and lack of sleep . . . you get very humble.

When another girl from So. Africa has the same amount of baggage to carry and can't hoist it and you have five of your own plus hand baggage and you make one long trek and leave your son standing by a long queue with some of your bags and hers and you make the long walk back rushing all the while thinking of everyone else being through with customs and formalities and a Belgian speaking porter suddenly appears and agrees to carry your stuff with his trolley . . . you get humble.

When the other girl delays coming and the whole line has passed the customs officials and you are still standing waiting for her to arrive and your own porter was confused about whether you wanted your bags on the train or where and you feel slightly frantic and then she arrives with her own porter and you quickly get through the guards and find the bus but your bags are not there and you run back into the station looking

wildly about and the Belgian porter suddenly hails you with your bags on the train platform and you finally get them on the bus and flop down . . . you get humble.

When you bobble your head and doze as the bus goes on for kilometers and kilometers and Ben keeps coughing and your suitcase keeps tipping over and your sandwiches from the English roadside cafe the day before are spoiled and you finally arrive at 7 and there's no porter again and all the cases have to be carried one block and down about 4 flights of stairs and the escalator only goes up and not down . . . you get humble (and your shoulders and arms ache!).

When you get out your passes and passports for the umpteenth time and stand in a long queue with 50 or more people and slowly wait for your tickets and then pay 16 US dollars for airport tax and then get in the other long queue and wait even slower for baggage checks and they change the departure time on the card from 9:30 to 10:00 and you are getting hungry . . . you get humble.

When your flight is called and you suddenly don't see Ben anywhere and all your fellow passengers are going toward the gate and you don't know where Ben could be and you start rushing about the tax-free shops and toilets and calling for him and he doesn't show up and you decide he must have gone to the gate before you and you grab up all the handbaggage and with Val and Amy go for the gate and when you get down this long hall about 2 blocks away from the lounge and there are only the steward and stewardess waiting with stern looks and they say the plane is going to leave and your son is missing and you know you cannot leave him behind and you don't have the money to throw away 4 good seats on the plane and beg them to just wait a couple more minutes while you can run back and they are paging Ben on the loud-speaker and he still isn't there and you ask a policeman to help and he just

shrugs his shoulders and no one has seen him and you are running and praying together and you look at the soft lounge chairs up on the observation platform near the big plate glass windows and see just the shoe and pant leg of Ben and he's slumped down and sound asleep and you jump up on the platform and shout to him, "Come on!" and the two of you go dashing pellmell through the terminal and wondering whether the plane will hold and around the hall and down the other long corridor and all the passengers have been belted and the steps to the back end are up and they are ready to go and you jump up those stairs and enter the hot plane filled with people who've already waited to board since 8:30 and you delayed them another good 20 minutes on board, you get humble (but you are awfully glad the Lord let you see that boy in time!).

When you have to seat Ben here and Val there and Amy up there and yourself on the window seat nearer the front and you know Amy is scared stiff and upset again at such proceedings you still must just pray and yield it to the Lord and thank Him again that you're on! You are humbled.

When the two Austrian ladies next to you are so kind and want to know all about you and change seats with Amy so at last she'll eat and not just sleep in her seat and you're stuck in this tight place with all the handbaggage jamming you in and you're still so tired and you keep thinking of the Grays and how they've been waiting literally for hours in NYC and they still don't serve that first meal for a long time after boarding you get humble.

When you have landed at Gander Airport (wherever that is) and then later have circled JFK Airport for how long and they finally land and you wonder if the kids have remembered all their handbaggage and you get through Immigration and then down

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## ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

By Berry Pumphrey



**BARRY PUMPHREY**

One of the most interesting aspects of the Christian Ministry is that of personal witnessing. The reactions of different people make this such a challenging and worthwhile work. One day last week, while out passing tracts with a visiting missionary, it was truly amazing to note the different reactions.

The Missionary had just come from a field where the harvest is truly great and people are almost begging for literature. He said that you almost had to fight people off. The demand was so great. He just could not understand it when the people here in Birmingham sometimes "scowled;" and that was the description he used when he sought to offer them a piece of gospel literature and the word of salvation. But sadly, this can so many times be the case.

Gone are the days when England was called a Christian nation. Gone are the times when almost every home had a Bible and almost all children were sent to Sunday School. Gone are the days when at least some form of the Christian faith permeated every area of the British way of life. An article in a 1974 copy of the International Herald Tribune stated that in Great Britain only 29% of the population now believe in a God. This is a fact not hard to believe when you go out on the street witnessing and knocking on doors with a desire to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While out with our missionary brother just last week, I spoke to three people who received tracts. One man said he'd been out of work three years and couldn't stop to think about the gospel presented. Another talked for quite a while relating how bitter he was because the Jehovah's Witness Movement had "taken" his two sisters and his son. We started to converse on Jesus Christ, and the moment he was faced with the fact that Jesus Christ is very much alive, he literally ran off across the road. A lady that was spoken to was greatly troubled because she felt if anyone should have been punished for doing wrong, it was she. Instead of that, her brother and sister who were apparently two very good people, very suddenly died. As so many times happens, she wanted to know why. I realized that the greatest need she had at that moment was to know Jesus Christ. I didn't try to give her any answer that would have diverted her from her real need. She didn't quite see the claim of our Lord on her life, but she did agree to read the tract and also go through the book of John, praying that God would answer some of her questions.

Basically, this is the ministry of the Fellowship of Grace believers here in the Birmingham area: constantly knocking on doors, seeking to give a word of Testimony, and pointing men and women to Jesus Christ; passing out tracts on the street and talking to people in the offices and factories in which our members work. Even though the work here is difficult, we are truly able to praise God for the many opportunities He provides to speak to men and women about their need of Jesus Christ.

Many of the believers here are working and living with people who are hardened to spiritual things. Strangely, though, these very same people, for all of their affluence, find

life empty. The reactions of people we know, in the family or at work, are very much the same as those we don't know. It is nothing in the personality of the witness that these people are rebellious against, but rather the fact that to accept Jesus Christ puts claims upon what they feel is their own private life. They just cannot see that when He enters in, their "comfortable" private lives become lives of fulfillment and satisfaction.

With a situation like this it would be so easy for us as a Missionary Fellowship to say, "Why bother, we keep talking and witnessing, we give up time that could be used in so many other ways, on fields where the harvest is great." It can be compared with Jeremiah when, after faithfully proclaiming God's Word and being faced with nothing but criticism, mockery and persecution, he finally came to a point where he said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name." It would be very easy to do just this. We know that things aren't going to get any easier with the world in its present state; and we could just give up thinking it really isn't worthwhile, just as Paul could have done when he was warned by the Holy Ghost that bonds and afflictions would face him in every city. And yet we press on.

Is it because we are an unusually hardy, stubborn race of people? Or are we blind to wasted effort? Or afraid of moving elsewhere? It is none of these things. It is simply because we have, as did Jeremiah and Paul, the power of God within us. Jeremiah gives his reason for carrying on, which he did in spite of the seemingly great odds against him. "His Word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay." Paul says basically the same thing, only he puts it differently: "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord

Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the Grace of God." (Jeremiah 20:7-9; Acts 20:23-24).

As a Fellowship we all feel that our calling is "to be about our Father's business." That was the desire of the Prophet Jeremiah and the Apostle Paul, and this is the desire of the Grace believers here in Birmingham. It would be easy to consider the reactions of men and set aside the very purpose for which He called us. This cannot be, however, and so we continue to strive knowing that the only ideal sphere of Christian service is "to be about our Father's business."

As the world political and moral horizons darken we are constantly looking for new ways to share Jesus Christ. Government owned and controlled radio makes it virtually impossible to get broadcasting time, and so we are constantly brought back to the challenge of personal contact, the spoken word and literature. It is not easy to get people out to church, to hear the gospel at a service, and so we must take the gospel to the people. God has brought us some new young people over the past months and we hope in the near future to challenge and use these young believers with a view to creating a gospel team. Again, this is not an easy ministry, but a very needy one. People can still buy rotten eggs and tomatoes, and believe it or not, they are not above throwing one or two, even in our 'civilized' day.

We are also looking to the repair of the Volkswagen Camper, which was left here by the Anderson family when they returned to Asia in 1972, as a means of transporting a gospel team around. This vehicle has been used to travel many thousands of miles with literature for the church in Eastern Europe; it was used in this way again at the end of August last year. We shall seek to turn this vehicle into the platform needed for the gospel team, and with it visit the many market towns dotted around Birmingham. Mike and Karen Buttery are constantly seeking to develop the literature side

of things. They use this method to reach the lost and establish Christians in the rightly divided Word of God. Gerald and Hazel Holland are now responsible for our missionary outreach, and constantly remind us that God's work is worldwide and not only here in Birmingham. It is really a great encouragement to us, to be faced time and time again with the privileged place we have to work alongside so many other faithful servants from the five world continents in God's universal missionary endeavor. We are small, but God is great. The work in Birmingham continues; new opportunities are sought in North Ireland, two or three of our members were involved in the Eastern Europe Endeavor at the end of August. All of this because "His Word was in (our) heart as a burning fire . . . and (we) could not stay." All of this because we are convicted that our service is "to be about our Father's business."



## Learning Humility

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to pick up your luggage and realize with a terrible shock that your brown briefcase was left on the plane and you rush to the stewardess and she says, "You can't do much about it — but get through Customs first and then go to KLM and inquire," and you can't go back out to the plane and the baggage comes through after how many minutes and you aren't permitted to take a peek to see if Grays are there in the other hall and you think of how much money you lost if that briefcase isn't found and the minutes are passing and the cleaning crew is probably finding that case just about now and the lines are long, long, long because 10 flights have come in almost together you get very humble (especially when you remember that your husband said to put that case inside the suitcase!).

When you finally finish Customs and they didn't open a thing and you come out into the anteroom and don't see a soul you know and thus go to the KLM desk to report the briefcase misplacement and she lifts her eyebrows but phones and they say, "Haven't seen anything" and your heart drops and then Mrs. Gray suddenly gives you a peck on the cheek and you're "found" and they have waited since 12 o'clock and Amy has a blister and is almost crying over the briefcase and you have to just keep asking that woman to phone and finally she calls again and they've found the case but they don't know if the money is inside and you go running off another block to the KLM office with Amy and one slipper and you know *absolutely* it was the answer to the prayer of a mother who needed help and called on the Lord and He answered you get humble . . . and you just know everything will be inside and it is — Hallelujah!

When you get out into that parking lot of car monsters all way too wide and big for the road according to Asian standards and you see the traffic and hear all the tales of lay-offs and prices and how important material things are you get humble and just wish you were back in Manado with your husband and family.

When you finally can drop into a big clean bed after calling daughter Hope to say you've arrived and just knowing that He has done it again you are completely humbled and happy and thankful. ●

## Are You Prepared?

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The accident was two months ago. Now the Bigelows are looking forward — not backward — praying GOD will work through them in the months and years ahead. Joy and Rachel are at Faith Academy in Manila. Mary is in Enumclaw, Washington. Only Leah is home. Please pray for the family as we are separated by space, but together in the BODY OF CHRIST.

## LET US HELP EACH OTHER

By Cherian T. Cherian

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful putting me into the ministry . . . for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting." I Tim. 1:12-16.

St. Paul is thanking the Lord for three things here. **FIRST OF ALL** he is thanking the Lord for He has saved him from his sins though he was the Chief among all the sinners. He says in the 15th verse, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief." Every Christian ought to have this testimony. **IN THE SECOND PLACE**, St. Paul is thanking the Lord for He has saved him freely. Salvation is a gift of God. If a man has to get it by a price, the poor Indians may not get it. Thank God for He gives it to any man whether he is rich or poor by grace through faith and grace alone. Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5 and Rev. 9:10. From the above verses we can understand that salvation is not given to any man by his works or performing any ceremony, but by the grace of God through faith.

**IN THE THIRD PLACE** St. Paul is praising the Lord for He has enabled him for the ministry of the gospel. He has called him and chosen him for this ministry. In Acts 9:15 the Lord is asking Ananias, "Go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." From this verse we can clearly understand that Paul is called for the gospel ministry so he is here praising the Lord for He is enabling him to proclaim this gospel message. We know that "gospel" is the good news. It is the solution of the problem of sin, and its consequences Jesus Christ has solved through His death and resurrection. St. Paul claims it as *his* gospel - "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised

from the dead according to my gospel." St. Paul says "my gospel." This is the gospel of grace which means that any man can get salvation whether he is a Jew, or Gentile, without any work or ceremony. It can be achieved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In this respect it is the duty of every Christian to proclaim this gospel. Every Christian ought to be a missionary.

By the grace of God I am proclaiming this gospel in India and outside, wherever I go, for the last 50 years. India, as you all know, is a non-Christian country. If you take the whole percentage of the population of India there is only two per cent Christian. If you take 100 people, there will be two Christians. In South India only we have more Christians, while in North India the majority are Hindus and other non-Christian religions. The majority of Christians claim that they are the converts from high caste Hindus when St. Thomas, one of the apostles of Christ, came here about 2000 years ago. Most of them are ceremonial Christians. It is very difficult to convert them from their formalism and ceremonial practices to the true gospel truth, that is, the gospel of grace.

Concerning the work among the non-Christians, we feel that the door is going to be shut for the gospel very soon. For the last 2000 years the Indian Christians were idle in taking the gospel throughout the country though they had very many opportunities. Now in some places our workers are beaten, some others are driven away, not allowed to preach by them. The situation is getting worse and worse. But we are not discouraged. We know that this is the eleventh hour and the midnight is coming soon when nobody could do anything. The need of gospel work in India is very great. Let us pray very earnestly for the evangelization of India.

Now I like to note certain facts to the TCM members abroad for the welfare of TCM of India. 1. TCM is one mission proclaiming the gospel of grace in India. All the missions practice water baptism. TCM workers have to face strong opposition from these missions and other nominal churches concerning this. 2. When we go and preach the gospel we may get some souls. We have to bring them up in the gospel truth. For this we need a building to come together at least once in a week. We need workers also in such places. We have to spend money for the building and also to help the worker. There are ever so many missions working here and they spend a lot in their mission field.

3. We have no publications such as magazines, pamphlets, and tracts to distribute among the public so that they know something about our doctrines and our work in India and abroad. 4. All the other missions have their annual conventions in different centers when foreign missionaries come and preach. Such conventions give new vigor and enthusiasm to the members and workers. We never hold such conventions in India which is a great handicap to TCM.

5. Before closing I should like to inform you that the TCM India needs an American missionary to take up the work here and supervise the work of the whole field. He can appoint an assistant when he leaves the headquarters. When an American missionary comes here he could realize the true situation and the need of the work, giving the real report. To say the truth the work of TCM India will flourish well then. Let us help each other in prayer. ●

## Personal Testimony

*Continued from page 5*

when He says He will care for and protect us. However, if we seek to raise our own money then God will let us do it — by ourselves. Many times we will be

able to raise great amounts of money by human persuasion or downright perseverance in asking. But we will miss the far greater blessing of letting Him supply all our needs according to His own riches. And, as I found out in the case of the guilders needed for the trip to Russia, God always has more for us than we would think of asking. I would much rather be the trusting child of a rich Father, than a beggar at the door of worldly men.

We join our praise to that of so many of His laborers who experienced the narrow way with Him. Will we stop after 18 years of living in this style? As long as He calls us to the regions beyond, we believe He expects us to go on with Him in the faith life also. This does not mean we go alone, He has answered our needs through the brethren in the team. But we personally must still trust Him. We not only believe He can feed His children in the wilderness, but we believe He will.

Now we are awaiting a new visa to Indonesia. Indonesia is a strange land. We never had to beg people to listen or study with us, especially the young people. During the past year and a half we have preached an average of once a day to large and small audiences in many places. Daily invitations were received to come and preach. Even Val was begged to teach Sunday school to the neighbor kids. Once we can enter Indonesia with our own fellowship we will have more freedom to move out farther and to establish local churches. How very thankful we have been for this busy ministry in Indonesia. It has been another whole matter of rejoicing to see how the Spirit feeds in a message on five minutes' notice. The pattern is so similar to the finances. The exact moment you stand to speak, you know what He wants you to say. Preaching, living, witnessing, all demand His personal attention to supply the moment's need. Can there by any

*Continued on page 17*

## TCM WORK IN NIGERIA SHINES OUT By Inno. I. Udoh



**INNO AND GRACE UDOH AND FAMILY**

The motto of the TCM in Nigeria is "Bear ye one another's burden and so fulfill the law of God." Yes, TCM in Nigeria was founded on a solid foundation and can best be compared to the mustard seed that we often read about in the Holy Bible. It now has abundance of branches and leaves and can really harbour or contain those who really want or care to trust and believe on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. TCM in Nigeria started in a small village of Obio Ndot (where the main station is today situated) on May 17, 1970. By July 11, 1971, five other locations were established and declared open, wattle buildings of thatched roofs. The population of the members was a bit above 800.

As the story goes on, it will be really interesting to note what God has done within that period and will do today for His Church. The founder of the Church is Paul (I Cor. 3:9-10), and the Foundation is Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3:11). The foundation is laid among nations (Rom. 15:20), and through this same Jesus Christ we are all saved. Through the establishment of TCM in Nigeria many homes have become true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. The name TCM is no more a strange name in this part of the world. God is campaigning for His work and the work is spreading more than any man expected.



**PASTORS AND OFFICERS OF T.C.M. NIGERIA CHURCHES**

Today TCM has nineteen churches well established, and the number of believers has risen to over 3000. My testimony today is to manifest the wonderful handiwork of God in Jesus Christ as a wonderful Saviour to mankind by His efficacious blood from Calvary, His resurrection from the dead, ascension into heaven, His mediatorship and life everlasting to the *Believers*. He taught us to be kind to the poor, desperates, widows and orphans, and to believe the Gospel according to His Holy Bible. Christ died for us and through His holy life, shed blood and resurrection, all mankind is saved. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 We are weak, but our God is strong and mighty. We of the TCM in Nigeria cast all our burdens upon the Lord, and He shall sustain us, He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. (Psalms 55:22) Our widows, desperates, and orphans are many, but they have all come to the Lord with meek and humble hearts. Since the establishment of TCM in Nigeria, two of our missionaries have visited us, Rev. Eldred Sidebottom, Director of world TCM organization, and Rev. Rollin Wilson, Jr. now serving in Bruce, Wisconsin, USA. Their visits have strengthened the faith of our believers and their preachings during their visits have added to the numerical strength of the believers and the number of churches today. Many have come in to open new churches for us, but we doubt their sincerity to continue with the service to serve God.

**APEALS:**

1. An average Nigerian can speak and understand pidgin English, since this was a British Territory, as such many are anxious to read and go higher in education but we lack funds to train our orphans.
2. Our Field Pastors are never tired and ashamed to go around preaching and putting up very effective campaigns for our Lord, but they lack means of

transport to travel far and wide.

3. We intend to put up a permanent church building at the Main Station, Obio Ndot. By permanent, I mean a building made up of cement and corrugated iron sheets. This will be the first in Nigeria for the TCM and contributions to this noble work of God will be highly appreciated.

4. Many orphans do go naked and hungry, and can be helped in no small way by contributing to their well-being. They are prepared to pray for those who help them and God will never fail to reward the donors in a big way.

5. We lack funds to build at least thatch houses, improvised buildings, for most of our believers to use as their churches for worship.

**ASSURANCE:**

The name TCM has a deep reflection on our past life and inspires us to lofty hopes that God has saved us for a purpose. Also the constitution of the Mission is dedicated to worldwide evangelism through the methods of Apostle Paul. What joy is ours as we consider the blessings we have of the Lord and the wonderful position that is ours in Christ Jesus. May we serve Him faithfully for it is "required in stewards that a man be found faithful." I Cor. 4:2 Please pray daily for TCM work in Nigeria. We do also remember you in our daily prayers.



*A call has come from a man in NOVA SCOTIA pleading for the mission to send someone to take over the work he has been doing for many years. Who will enter in? Where there is no vision the people perish. Why is it that there are no missionaries willing to go to our neighbor, Canada? Do we lack the vision of the need for these people? Write Box 96, Cope, CO 80812.*



## ALPHA TO OMEGA

By D. James



MR. D. JAMES

The Bible continues to be the best seller despite the spreading apostasy. To the majority of mankind it is a sealed book. The reason for this is given in I Cor. 2:14, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Again the word says, "The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness." (I Cor. 1:18). David says "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born." (Psalm 58:3). Yet again our Lord tells us, "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." (Matt. 7:13) The thorn, thistle and darnel class cannot understand the word of God. When pronouncing God's anathema on the Jews, Paul declared: "Well spake the Holy Ghost . . . hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive." (Acts 28:26).

Let us begin with the Alpha ages, "from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God." (Psalm 90:2) This verse gives us a glimpse of the eternity past. According to G. Campbell Morgan this verse should read "From vanishing point to vanishing point Thou art God." Next God tells us about the

creation of the first earth in Job 38:4-7 "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? . . . When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? . . . These verses refer to the dateless past. Lucifer appears to have been in charge of the original earth. His pride caused his fall. (Isa. 14:9-14; Eze. 28:12-15) He drew with him a third of the angelic host (Rev. 12:4), consequently a cataclysmic judgment fell on the primal earth — the domain of Lucifer. The earth became waste and void. Roaring deep covered the earth and stygian darkness enshrouded it.

The spirit of God brooded upon the dark waters and cosmos emerged out of chaos. This recreated earth was placed in charge of Adam. We all know how Eve was deceived by the Dragon, that old Serpent which is the Devil and Satan. From this point onwards it is a controversy between the strong man and the Stronger Man — between Satan and Christ (Matt. 12:29). This will end in the Lake of Fire. From Adam we take a big stride to Moses (without stopping to consider Noah and Abraham), a prophet like unto Christ (Deut. 18:15). From Moses the Law-Giver we come to Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that were against us . . . took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross" (Col. 2:14). The doctrines of the Church today are based on the epistles of Paul. The Mystery, Christ as the Head of the Body, the Church, the Rapture, etc. are exclusively Pauline revelation (Col. 1:18; I Thess. 4:16-17; I Cor. 15:51, 52; etc.). It is noteworthy, "When James, Cephas and John perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen and they unto the circumcision." (Gal. 2:9).

The Apostle of the Gentiles has condensed the entire New Testament in one verse: "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Tim. 3:16).

The Times of the Gentiles were ushered in by Nebuchadnessar in 606 BC (Lu. 21:24). The fullness of the Gentiles will occur unobserved when the last member of the Body of Christ is added to the True Church (Rom. 11:25). We are living in the Great Parenthesis or Gap caused by the Jews rejecting their Messiah saying, "We will not have this man to reign over us." (Lu. 19:14). This cry was translated into action when they stoned Stephen. This Great Parenthesis will end with the Rapture. From this point the Church's earthly history comes to a full stop. God's suspended prophetic programme would be ushered in.

After the Rapture a superman called the Anti-Christ, the Man of Sin and the wild Beast will appear on the world's stage. During the time of this world Ruler, the persecution of the Jews will reach its climax. Note how Jeremiah laments over the Great Tribulation, "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it" (Jer. 30:7). The next event in prophecy is the battle of Armageddon. Christ descends from heaven riding on a white horse as Man of war. The Beast and the false prophet are captured and hurled into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:19, 20). At the same time Satan is bound and imprisoned in the Abyss for 1000 years. With this arch enemy in prison the world enters into a period of blessing for 1000 years — known as the Millenium. After the 1000 years are fulfilled Satan must be loosed for a little season. He then leads a mighty host and encircles the Beloved City — Jerusalem. Fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours the host. Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:9-10).

The earth is renovated by fire (II Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21:1). Finally we get a glimpse of the Omega ages: "And when all things be subdued under Him (Christ) then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him (Father) that put all things under Him that God may be all in all." (I Cor. 15:28; Eph. 1:10).

## Personal Testimony

*Continued from page 13*

greater Supplier? Just one more example. Our brethren in INDONESIA presented us with \$100 for Bibles for Eastern Europe!

Can we expect this same personalized attention from the Lord in the matter of guidance and performance of our call? If we cannot, then our God is powerless, keeps not His word, and is not a father at all. Paul and company definitely experienced God's "No" in Acts 16:6-7. Then they received the Macedonian vision and immediately knew where the Holy Spirit wanted them next. We are still led by the Spirit today according to Galatians chapter 5. Through missionary journeys into India, Eastern Europe, Brazil, Australia, and our two living spheres of action, the Philippines and Indonesia, we have been following Him. The pattern is the same: *request, believe, wait* and then *do*. Sometimes the answer is negative as we experienced one time after charting a complete flight to Japan and beyond for the Cherokee-6. We never got off the ground. But a different time we flew the plane to Brazil and today we have missionaries there because of it. We are requesting now for the return to Indonesia and asking you to pray with us. Our Father loves to lead His children in cooperative ventures and yet, same as with finances, He may expect us to take a step beyond the group concept and step out alone again. Whichever way, we know we trust a supernatural God Who has personally guided us for more than 18 years and that He is eternally present everywhere all the time!

## LEARNING FROM CAREY

By Peter Wiering



PETER WIERING

William Carey will always be remembered as a pioneer in the missionary movement of the last centuries. While the Christian Church was not without some missionaries, it was nevertheless true that comparatively little was being done to spread the gospel into every tongue, tribe and nation of the earth before the days of Carey. Since that time thousands of dedicated believers have gone out into the world with the glad tidings of salvation. That has brought about a great interest in the work of the missionary and there have been discussions about missionary principles and policies. It is revealing to see how well Carey and his associates performed the task that the Lord had given them to do in India.

Carey was born in 1781. During the 18th century the Christian faith was stimulated greatly through the ministries of John and Charles Wesley, as well as Whitefield and others. Revivals have always paved the way for an increased gospel outreach — even to faraway places. Carey's formal schooling ended when he was 14, but by then books had captured his interest and he went right on acquiring knowledge while he repaired shoes. The Bible took on a new and greater meaning to him when

he put his faith in Christ at 18 years of age. Carey was exceptionally gifted and diligent in the study of languages. Eventually this ability was put to use in a phenomenal way. Assisted by others, Carey's pioneer Bible translation work left the Word of God in 35 languages and dialects in India. Carey also had a great interest in botany and in India he made a significant contribution to the development of botany and agriculture.

We should go back to England, however, and see what God used to call William Carey to become a missionary. He used primarily three books: First and foremost the Bible, and furthermore the "Life of David Brainerd" and "Captain Cook's Voyages." The latter book showed him the needs of people in faraway lands and by reading about Brainerd he learned how effective missionary work can be when it is done by dedicated persons.

It is not our purpose to tell you about all of Carey's experiences or accomplishments. Rather we would like to point out some of the principles that were agreed upon by Carey and his fellow workers at Serampore called "The Serampore Form of Agreement." When we realize that this was written in a day when most of our contemporary books on missionary work were not yet written, we are impressed by the insight these men had. We can only conclude that they were primarily taught by the Word of God, which, after all, is still the best textbook on missionary work!

The following excerpts from the Serampore Form of Agreement are not meant to be a condensed version of the whole. We have quoted representative parts to show the vital principles upon which they conducted their work. We believe they will be helpful and challenging to us. This Agreement was signed by nine

missionaries of whom Carey, Ward and Marsman were the leading trio. We quote:

“In order to be prepared for our great and solemn work, it is absolutely necessary that we set an infinite value upon immortal souls; that we often endeavor to affect our minds with the dreadful loss sustained by an unconverted soul launched into eternity. It becomes us to fix in our minds the awful doctrine of eternal punishment, and to realize frequently the inconceivably wicked one. If we have not this awful sense of the value of souls, it is impossible that we can feel aright in any other part of our work, and in this case it had been better for us to have been in any other situation rather than in missionary work.”

“To carry on conversations with the natives almost every hour in the day, to go from village to village, from market to market, from one assembly to another, to talk to servants, labourers, etc. as often as opportunity offers, and to be instant in season and out of season, this is the life to which we are called in this country.” “It is absolutely necessary that the natives should have an entire confidence in us, and feel quite at home in our company.”

“Another important part of our work is to build up and watch over the souls that may be gathered . . . We must have much patience with them, though they may grow very slowly in divine knowledge . . . Another part of the work is the forming of our native brethren to, usefulness, fostering every kind of genius, and cherishing every gift and grace in them. In this respect we can scarcely be too lavish of our attention to their improvement. It is only by means of native preachers that we can hope for the universal spread of the Gospel throughout this immense continent . . . We think it our duty, as soon as possible, to advise the native brethren who may be formed into separate churches to choose their pastors and deacons from amongst their own countrymen, that the Word

may be steadily preached, and the ordinances of Christ administered, in each church by a native minister, as much as possible without the interference of the missionary of the district who will constantly superintend their affairs, give them advice in cases of order and discipline, and correct any errors into which they may fall, and who joying and beholding their order, and the steadfastness of their faith in Christ, directs his efforts continually to the planting of new churches in other places, and to the spread of the Gospel throughout his district as much as is in his power.”

“It behooves us also to labour with all our might in forwarding translations of the sacred Scriptures in the languages of Hindoostan.”

“The doctrine of Christ’s expiatory death and all sufficient merits has been, and must ever remain, the grand means of conversion.”

“That which, as a means, is to fit us for the discharge of these laborious and unutterable labours, is the being instant in prayer, and the cultivation of personal religion. Let us ever have in remembrance the examples of those who have been most eminent in the work of God. Let us look often at Brainerd in the woods of America, pouring out his very soul before God for the perishing heathen, without whose salvation nothing could make him happy. Prayer; secret, fervent, believing prayer; lies at the root of all personal godliness. A competent knowledge of the languages where a missionary lives, a mild and winning temper, and a heart given up to God in closest religion, these are the attainments which, more than all knowledge or all other gifts, will fit us to become the instruments of God in the great work of human redemption.”

These quotations from the Serampore Form of Agreement are found in the book: *William Carey, Father of Modern Missions*, by Walter Bruce Davis and published by Moody Press, Chicago.

## WHO IS ABLE? By Warren Keiper



**WARREN, SHIRLEY, LEO AND  
CAROL KEIPER**

Rom. 15:4 says, "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning . . ." Learning what? ". . . that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (cf. I Cor. 10:11). We know that the mystery was revealed to the Apostle Paul who wrote the above inspired verses, but there is no reference to the mystery here. Surely, there are many things God would have us know about Himself and His purpose which had already been written. Among these are the hope of a Saviour (which is now known to be the Lord Jesus Christ), that He is able, is faithful. Of these we can learn much in the Old Testament through the experiences of Israel and can see His consistency through the dispensations.

Another attribute of God which is clearly portrayed in the Old Testament is His righteousness. Being righteous, He demands righteousness of those who would follow — serve Him. Since there is "no shadow of turning" in Him, God wanted the same from man. What God ordered was not "almost" or an interpretation of it or even — more or better. Fulfilling His will is called obedience. Then, how much variance can be found in the response and yet be called obedience? The example of King Saul is most enlightening.

On the day Saul was anointed to become king over Israel, the prophet of God, Samuel, told him that he was to wait for his orders from God to come through Samuel (I Sam. 10:8). Saul didn't prove himself patient or obedient in the next chapters, but assumed authority. In chapter 15 v. 3 Saul received a concise, though terrible order, ". . . utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not." For us it may seem very hard, but let us remember that God was using Israel on earth in His fight against evil and that it must be wiped out. Again Saul assumed that he could do God's purpose and even ADD to it the praise of sacrifice. Saul wanted to do even more than God asked and this meant doing the job in a different way than God had ordered. Oh, how vain we sons of Adam are!

Samuel then speaks the Lord's desire (v. 22, 23) and makes it plainly clear that rebellion is sin, that rejecting God's Word is rebellion and that "improving" God's Word is rejecting God's Word (cf. Deut. 4:2, 12:32), something Saul should have known. Jesus also spoke this same truth to His hearers (Matt. 5:48).

God has not given us detailed instruction as to exactly what He would have us do today or, for that matter, tomorrow; but He has given us clear instructions on how to consider our bodies dead to sin and alive to Himself (Rom. 6:3-18; Phil. 4:9) that we be led of His Spirit — thus doing His will completely — expressly. Natural man doesn't seem to learn from history. Can we learn from the scriptures? It is God's will for us! And remember, HE IS ABLE . . . are we "able" (Gen. 4:4)?

## HEADQUARTER NEWS

Eldred Sidebottom, Director



ELDRED AND BEVERLY SIDEBOTTOM

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (yield) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:1, 2.

Yes, we also beseech you to consider the foreign mission field for service in the years ahead, while doors are still open to have the gospel preached. What would God have you to do??? The Lord can use young and old on the mission field. The needs are great in many areas of the world and many English-speaking nations need missionaries. Let not the believer put on a masquerade (being conformed to this world) and appear as some one that knows not the Lord and His gift of salvation. We know that Satan puts on a masquerade and appears as an angel of light, but we need to let the *indwelling* Christ shine out through us to those about us (i.e. being transformed). This same word is used of Christ when He was transfigured on the mount. Christ's inner essential being shown forth on that mount and the Lord wants to shine through us to those about us. Have you really yielded your life to the Lord for service anywhere He directs in this world???

Be assured we do appreciate the faithfulness of those who pray daily for the Lord's work through TCM in its missionary endeavor about the world. We could not accomplish the work without your help and His!

We also appreciate the faithfulness of those who give month after month to keep the American Missionary and the National Missionary at the job of reaching people for Christ and then obeying II Tim. 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." What a responsibility we have in reaching the lost and then teaching them the wonderful message of the grace of God!

We appreciate those who are willing to send in large sums for special projects and by so doing have missed the Bible conferences because of a lack of funds. We call this a real sacrifice as a praying and giving missionary.

We appreciate each missionary that has been willing to go to the foreign land to minister God's holy Word, to be willing to give up some of the comforts of the States to minister in other lands. We know that often it is hard to provide the children with the education that is needed. There are miles separating parent and child during the education of the children.

We also appreciate those who help us out by putting a stamp on the business reply envelope. This saves 5¢ of the Lord's money, but really saves us 15¢. It costs 15¢ to collect a business reply envelope from the post office. Some even send in extra postage stamps for our mailing of letters here. How thoughtful and generous God's children are. Thanks to all who think of so many ways to encourage the missionary — writing letters, providing

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## MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

By Marvin Duncan, Executive Secretary



MARLENE AND MARVIN DUNCAN

Often we receive letters at the headquarters asking about the different missionaries and questioning about their activities. Not everyone receives the newsletters from the missionaries and may not know of the victories or trials on the mission fields. Let me quote from a few missionary letters to give you an idea of what is happening on some mission fields today.

John and Jan Shriver are serving in Australia in the city of Adelaide, located on the southern coast. Their ministry consists of tract distribution, correspondence courses, home Bible classes and a local church. John is teaching in a Christian Day School and Jan has Good News Clubs in their home. In a recent letter, Jan wrote, "Two weeks ago we were passing out tracts at the gates of the Adelaide show (like our county fair). Such hard people! 75 percent wouldn't even accept a tract, many who did tore it up dramatically and threw it on the ground, others swore and made other obscene and rude comments. Such a battering and abusive time but thrilling that the Word was given out to some 8000 people . . . we trust these were all read. It was also a good testimony to Christians as they passed through the gate to find a Christian giving them a Gospel tract and heart convicting to some as well, so praise God." Australia isn't an easy country in which to minister the Gospel. Yet if you want the challenge of a hard mission field,

the Shrivens would be more than glad to have you join them in this great work for our Lord.

The Vernon Anderson family had to leave Indonesia because their sponsor died and they couldn't stay in the country without a sponsor. They are in the States now trying to get visas to return to Indonesia to continue the ministry they started over a year ago. One of the men they have trained has been recognized by the government. It is this new organization who have invited the Andersons back to Indonesia and now we are praying their visas will be approved. On their return to the States, Vernon stopped over in Europe to minister behind the Iron Curtain and to take Bibles into Rumania. From one of Vernon's letters, he says, ". . . The next day we packed and hid Bibles. (150 Bibles packed under the rear seat of our van when we crossed into Yugo had all been given away to Rumanian believers in Yugo. What an act of God for this was the first place they later searched at the Rumanian border.) The remaining Bibles and books we carefully hid, dismantling part of the insides of the cars. Then we were set to cross the border about 20 miles away. We would cross first with Barry following an hour later. If he saw our van still at the Rumanian border then he was to turn back. Even the Yugo border guards warned us that if we had anything hidden, we had better declare it as the Rumanians made a thorough inspection. Our hearts pumped a bit faster. But we already had much news about how tough it was. Some of our Bibles, given to Rumanians in Yugo, had been discovered when the brethren crossed the border and were already in ashes. Yes, we knew it was all true but we had to cross with our precious cargo. This was our mission." The Bibles were taken across the border and were given to the Rumanian christians.



Have you longed for the adventure of serving Christ in the not-so-common way? Europe is a mission field today and few there are who are willing to accept the challenge it presents.

The William Heath family is holding forth the Gospel in the area around Davao City on Mindanao Island in Southern Philippines. "Bill" has oversight of the T.C.M. churches in this area and has a personal Bible class as well. Vernon Bigelow is acting director of all the T.C.M. — Philippine work and is living in Cebu City. These are the only American families now in the Philippines. The T.C.M. of the Philippines has need of more workers. Are you God's man for the Philippines?

Peter Wiering and his family are now in the States for a long overdue furlough. This is the first time some of his children have been in the United States. The Wierings are living in the Minneapolis area where the children are in school. Peter is available for meetings in churches to bring you up to date on the ministry in Holland and Europe.

If your heart is challenged for missionary service in any part of the world, we would love to hear from you. Write to Box 96, Cope, CO 80812 for information. ●

### **Bless the Missionaries**

*continued from page*

your missionary that he might have all boldness to speak. Strive in prayer for that missionary.

The third definition of the word "bless" is "to honour." As you pray for missionaries you honour God and you are honoured by God. You are thus a blessing and blessed. Try watering your bed with tears, striving in prayer for the missionaries. Imagine yourself in his struggles and fight his battles through intercession. Then you will behold a mighty God at work on the foreign field, in the life and work of the missionary and, importantly, in your own life. As missionaries in a foreign land we praise God for prayer warriors!

### **Headquarters News**

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food and clothing and sending gifts to them while on the field, etc.

We pray the Lord will provide your every need as you live to serve Christ Jesus our Lord. May Christ be glorified in your life and mine until we meet Him in the air and dwell in Heaven above with Him.

Every check for the Mission should be made out to Things to Come Mission, Inc. (never make the check to the individual missionary if you desire a tax-deductible receipt), but you can designate it "FOR THE WORK OF" any area of the ministry that you choose. The office staff is supported by individual and church gifts, therefore TCM does not take a percentage of the missionaries' gifts for office expenses. Every gift will be given 100% to the area of the work that you desire.

Some questions still come to us about TCM's position in regard to the Bible Conferences of GGF and BBF. TCM remains independent; we have no desire to become part of a denomination. We have had no displays at the GGF or BBF for seven years. Each board member and each missionary is privileged to belong to either organization or both or neither; but organizationally we remain independent of both organizations. We have enjoyed fellowship with many churches and individuals through the years and again we praise the Lord for those who are labouring to reach the world for Christ. Many of you have been in our home and we have enjoyed your stopping through to visit with us. Continue to pray for us daily as we do need wisdom from above in making the many decisions from the headquarters.

I beseech you to take the charge that Paul gave to Timothy, "Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist (Missionary), make full proof of thy ministry." II Tim. 4:5.

**THINGS TO COME MISSION, INC.**

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**TEN FUTURE MISSIONARIES**

Ten future missionaries heard God's call divine. One was married wrongly; that left only nine.

Nine future missionaries — they could only wait. Mother needed one, though; that left only eight.

Eight future missionaries bound for God and heaven. One got to making money - that left only seven.

Seven future missionaries — if only each one sticks. One lost out completely; that left only six.

Six future missionaries for the Lord alive. One preached in the homeland; that left only five.

Five future missionaries await an open door. One grew tired of waiting; that left only four.

Four future missionaries, "lost souls" is their plea. One no longer willing; that left only three.

Three future missionaries — for the need, how few. One the board rejected; that left only two.

Two future missionaries, how their faces shone. One developed ulcers; that left only one.

One future missionary — thank the Lord for him! He refused to ever let the vision dim.

Body, soul, and spirit, he to God did yield. Now for years he's laboured on the foreign field.

Faithfully proclaiming God's own holy Word. Folks have been converted, tribes have sought the Lord.

God in heaven rejoices: "Blessed child of mine, you have done My will — but what about the nine?"

*— Author Unknown —*

