

INTER-NATIONAL HARVEST

SPRING 1995 VOL. 37, NO. 1



Things To Come Mission Board of Directors
Guiding TCM into its 5th Decade!

1955-1995

THINGS
TO COME
MISSION

40th Anniversary



"Unto the ends of the earth"
Romans 1:5 John 4:35

FROM THE EDITOR

40 years is a long time for most of us. Well, even if you are older than 40 years, you would still probably agree that 40 years is a long time.

1955 to 1995. WOW! In 1955 Herbert Palmer advertised in Moody Monthly asking for church planting missionaries to come to Western Colorado.

Inquiries came from a number of foreign sources but none from the USA. Grace Literature was sent to individuals in South America, India, and the Philippines.

Brother Palmer had a real desire to see people growing in the knowledge of the Dispensation of the Grace of God (Eph. 3.1-9 and 2 Tim. 2.15). He wanted to see: 1) people saved, 2) believers growing in the knowledge of God's Word rightly divided and joining together as believers in a local assembly, and 3) local leaders being trained to carry on ministry and outreach.

After 40 years, TCM still retains these three goals! Though many things have changed in these years, our goals have not. TCM has

helped establish churches in India, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Holland, the Philippines, Australia, Brazil, England, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

All of this has been possible and continues to be possible because you, and others like you, have been faithful to pray and financially support this work and the missionaries who go out.

Truly the Lord has been gracious and merciful. Take time to read all the articles. We present both the old and the new. One article and two reports are reprinted from the first issue of the *International Harvest* published in February 1958. It is exciting to read this history. I trust you are blessed as you read.

But, ministry in the past is only **history**. When it continues into the present, it becomes **something you can participate in**.

Will you renew your commitment to stand with us as we begin our 5th decade?

***Ministry you can
participate in!***

THE DIRECTOR SHARES

by Joseph W. Watkins



A NEW DIMENSION

As I have traveled across the USA visiting churches to present the ministry of TCM, several times I have been asked the question, "Why doesn't TCM start churches here in the States like you are doing in other countries?" This questions goes back to 1967. My answer was that there are Grace Churches in America and that we did not have a man burdened for this type of ministry.

Since being assigned to the USA office ministry, my thoughts have changed. A couple things have helped produce this change.

Several people had written saying they were going to redirect the support they had been giving to me. They wanted to support a missionary who was overseas, not one working here in the US office. Because of this, I tried to explain that the office ministry is just as important to the ministry of TCM as the

ministry of the missionaries on the foreign field. Without the office missionaries, the missionaries on the foreign field could not continue their ministries.

The second thing I began to notice was that some Grace churches were closing their doors. Other churches were becoming weak because of a loss of membership. Some were made up of mostly senior citizens, with no young people or children. I was able to visit many smaller groups which were struggling to start a Grace church. Also, there are some states where there are NO Grace churches at all.

Realizing the above and paying heed to TCM's motto, "Dedicated to worldwide evangelism through the methods of the Apostle Paul," I began to see a need for TCM to begin a ministry of church planting in North America.

New churches also provide a broader base for missions.

During the recent TCM board meeting, it was agreed that TCM would include in its ministries the ministry of church planting within our own borders.

How will this work? This ministry will exist as any other ministry of TCM. When a pastor is burdened to start a new Grace church, he can apply to TCM as a USA church planting missionary. He would fill out the application and go through the same process as any other missionary candidate. The TCM board would discuss his application and personally interview him (and his spouse if applicable). When he is accepted as a missionary, he then can raise the necessary support needed for his ministry. All gifts for his ministry would be channeled through the TCM-USA office for proper handling.

Several years ago Brother Don Fromer, and his wife Arlene, approached TCM with the ministry God had laid on his heart. He had become concerned about the Grace churches in America that were without pastors. He

wanted to help meet this need by being an interim pastor for 6 to 12 months. He would seek to help the church remain strong and united as they looked for a permanent pastor. He asked TCM to help which we were glad to do. Now the Fromers are missionaries with TCM. They have been able to help a number of churches. He calls their ministry *Grace Interim Ministries*.

Would you please pray for this new ministry dimension of TCM? I would like to have your thoughts concerning this. ☺

THE FRONT COVER

The present board of TCM beginning our 5th decade consists of (from left to right):

Ed Wishart - Secretary
Joel McGarvey - Member
Joe Watkins - Exec. Director
Roy Kelsey - Chairman
Dan Sidebottom - Treasurer
and Development Director
Dave Adams - Member
Eldred Sidebottom (not pictured) - Director Emeritus
and life-time member-retired

A LOOK AT HISTORY: "Carey" the Light

This article, originally entitled "The Andersons Embark," was written by *J. Herbert Palmer*, the founder and first director of Things To Come Mission. It is copied from the first issue of the *International Harvest*, published by Things To Come Mission in February 1958. The first Stateside missionary couple--Vernon and Darlene Anderson--had embarked on the beginning of their missionary career two months before.

The Andersons embarked from Los Angeles on December 14th, on the S. S. President Cleveland, bound for the Philippines and the Far East, D.V. Another milestone reached in the history of modern missions!

Nearly 2,000 years have gone by and the first missionaries have been sent to the Orient with the Pauline Gospel of the Grace of God.

No doubt most of our readers have read the thrilling story of the June day in England, way back in 1793, when William Carey and family, with John Thomas, sailed for the land of India. There is no doubt that Carey's family and friends were in great anxiety over these poor, overzealous missionaries leaving their homes, loved ones, and friends, to go to a faraway country where they might never be heard from again.

It seemed to some that Carey was losing his mind or going crazy to undertake the impossible. For after all, had anyone ever done any thing like this before and survived?

To think that Carey would leave the modern conveniences of England and take his family to a country like India was too much for the majority of Christendom. There must be something radically wrong with a man who would leave England and embark upon the uncharted seas to a land less known, as far as geography was concerned, to preach the gospel. "Poor foolish man!"

Sailing was very dangerous and treacherous in those days, to say the least. The oceans, for the most part, were unknown as far as charts and maps and lanes of the seas were concerned. Pirates, storms, waterspouts--to say nothing of the



The Andersons - 1964

quicksands along the African coasts--were some of the perils with which they were confronted. But none of these things moved or deterred them from their goal! Carey had a God-given vision of a lost and dying world, without hope and without God; therefore, he counted not his life dear unto himself. By the Grace of God he was determined to take the Gospel of Christ to the "Regions Beyond" at any price, even if it took the lives of himself and his family.

Let us suppose for a moment that Carey had remained at home with all the so-called modern conveniences, luxuries, wealth, culture and opportunities that England had to offer him and his family! Suppose that Carey had been reluctant to leave his family, friends and society to embark upon such an adventure! Suppose that Carey had listened to his friends and associates of modern Christendom of that day! Just what did the churches and Christianity of his day have to offer to these poor foolish missionaries who were steadfastly preparing to embark upon such an impossible task of converting the heathen?

God forbid that you or yours should be found with the guilt and blood of the millions who died without hope or without Christ in that generation long ago! Hear what the so-called Christians and Christendom had to offer in the way

of advice and counsel to the Careys who were going to a lost world:

If God wanted the heathen converted He would have converted them long ago!--God can save the pagans and heathen without your help!--It is not the time for the heathen to be converted!--If God were concerned about the heathen of the world He could and would do something about it.--In God's time He will see to it that they get converted!--There are those to be saved and there are those to be lost, so there is nothing we can do about it!--There is no use worrying about the heathen; we have enough of them in England without worrying about India and the islands of the seas!--This is not the time for the pagans and heathen of India and Africa to hear the Gospel!

Oh! How wicked for the saints to talk like that in the face of Calvary! It does not seem possible that Christians could say such things.

Oh! Christians awake! Stop slumbering in a life of ease and complacency, and let's listen to the risen and ascended Christ:

--Behold, now is the ac-

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A LOOK AT HISTORY: Our Spirits are High!

This letter was written by *Vernon & Darlene Anderson*, the first TCM missionaries from the USA. They had just arrived in the Philippines a few weeks before. The letter was written to the mission director at the time, J. Herbert Palmer. It is copied from the first issue of the International Harvest published by Things To Come Mission in February 1958.

We greet you from the other side of the world in the precious name of our Savior-God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

You are about 10,000 miles away from us as we write this letter. Of course we meet with you daily at the throne of grace. First of all, we want to thank you for the time you spend at that throne in our behalf. God has answered each and every prayer and has poured us out a blessing we can't obtain. We have perfect health after traveling all these many miles and days. Saturday, December 14, we left Los Angeles on the S. S. President Cleveland. We traveled 3rd class which meant that the great majority of our fellow travelers were Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Hawaiian, and Gypsy. The first day out on the Pacific we were given the opportunity to lead the Sunday A.M. service and the Lord blessed in spite of the sea sickness among the passengers. The next day the Lord

opened the way for the beginning of a daily Bible class from 3:30 - 4:30 each afternoon. Through these classes I contacted a Filipino pastor and a Japanese missionary pastor. As the class grew in number, these men became very good interpreters, in fact, we had a Sunday service with 3 messages, in 3 languages; Ilocano, Japanese, and English.

After 17 days on the Pacific, we reached Manila. A Christian brother acquainted with TCM met us in Manila. Pastor A. M. Mendoza is a highly educated man supervising a dozen secular schools and colleges in the Philippines. Without our brother's aid, I doubt whether we would have left Manila yet! He had already arranged lodging for us and introduced us to Pasqual Umbal, our host. We fell in love with this young man of God. He is a full-time pastor living on a salary of 5 pesos (U.S. \$2.50) a week! His one room is provided by the church. His diet is rice,

fish and fruit. Pasqual's desire is to reach his people for our Lord Jesus Christ and he is sacrificing to do it. Living on a small salary is not easy in the P. I. [Philippine Islands].

After these days on the Bohol, we arrived in Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental, Mindanao, P. I. Here we met Pastor Garcia, a fine Christian man. Later we met our TCM leader in Ozamis City, Pastor Potenciano Undag.

*These men are bold
for the
Word rightly divided.*

Brother Undag has a family of eight children and his salary is about 50 pesos (U.S. \$25) a month. Potenciano has shown us already that TCM has a fine zealous representative in Ozamis City. Juan Undag, his brother and the Director of TCM in the Philippines, came from Molave to meet us. This afternoon we all sat down and had a good talk about the gospel of the grace of God and the work of TCM here. We were thrilled with the news of how God is blessing. These men are bold for the Word rightly

divided. They are willing to sacrifice to get it out.

A group of about 30 small churches, the Evangelical Church of the Philippines, seems to be quite interested in combining forces with TCM. The leader of this work is Brother Mendoza, the man that met us in Manila. He has studied the books of C. R. Stam, C. F. Baker, and Sir Robert Anderson and is convinced of the truth for this age. He wants the pastors in the Evangelical Churches to know it too. By combining forces he believes it would be easier to bring them the Word rightly divided. He wants me to visit each of these churches. These possibilities all demand your prayers.

Our spirits are high. There is a real challenge for the Lord's people here. We want to conquer in Christ's name! Last night we had an open air meeting in Tenacla-an, Clarin, about 6 km. from Ozamis. We started the meeting at 4:00 and finished at 8:00--four hours! A very large crowd listened attentively. What an opportunity to preach the gospel. A question of the deity of Christ came up and I saw Potenciano answer it taking one

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A LOOK AT HISTORY: "Cleared Up" from Confusion

This report was written by *Pastor Bernardo Ballares*, a pastor in the Philippines. It is from the first issue of the International Harvest, published by Things To Come Mission in February 1958. Pastor Ballares continues to minister with TCM in the Philippines. He is presently a board member and has been instrumental in starting many churches and influencing many youth to study at the Bible Institute.

In the church I'm serving I have found that members are active and cooperating in the Lord's work. Sympathizers come to worship with us and gladly receive the Words of God. I appointed one Elder to be trained in preaching as well as a Sunday School teacher. Now, in my absence due to some invitations from other churches, they could lead the services.

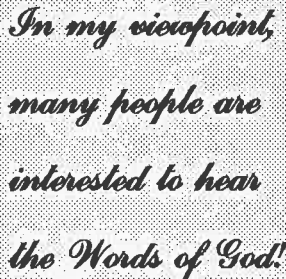
There are certain places in Molave, especially in the mountains, that needs the Pauline preaching. They are willing to hear the Gospel. With regard to the Subanos, I'm teaching them the way of salvation. Moreover, they are thirsty for the Words of God . . .

I thanked God that the Evangelical Church of Christ, led by Rev. Mendoza, is not particular in water baptism. Although some of them are using water, I

believe they would gradually understand that water baptism is obsolete in this Dispensation of Grace. There was one of their pastors arguing with me about water baptism. While we were discussing he was convinced, and he was no longer siding on water baptism. At present he believes the Pauline Gospel.

During the Conference of the Evangelical Church of Christ, we had an open air service, or Evangelism held outside among the people. We were victorious and happy to tell the good news. TCM

and Evangelical Church of Christ were united to preach the Gospel at that time. In my viewpoint, many people are interested to hear the Words of God. However, we are sad indeed that we lack the outfit to go to certain places and the miscellaneous expenses for the travel.



*In my viewpoint,
many people are
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the Words of God!*

Nevertheless, we will give our best to God to undergo the hardship for necessities of life. For to me, I'll be happy to serve God even in the midst of trials and predicaments for the sake of His glory and praise.

On the month of October 19, 1957, I was again invited by one of our members in the Barrio of Liason to have a Bible study. I brought with me Brothers Nathaniel C. Gonzaga, Florencio Gonzaga, and Bernardo Malugao. The Seventh Day Adventists challenged me [to] a debate pertaining to the Ten Commandments and the Law of Moses. I've observed that people here disliked the doctrine of the Adventists, since they have been attending our Bible study.

My teaching is not by the Law of Moses, but by grace. People here in this place were cleared up from their confusion. Several members of the Adventists understand the main point of our doctrine, or what is necessary in this Dispensation of Grace. ☺

("Spirits ..." continued from page 9)

hour to do so. Without any notes he went from book to book, chapter to chapter, verse

to verse, explaining the deity of Christ. When he finished, the people actually clapped because they were so satisfied with his answer. They begged us to return again on Saturday. I believe TCM has two of the finest men in these islands as leaders of the work. They are sold on the message of grace and give it out daily by word and literature.

A jeep is desperately needed in the work. We are going to pray that God will supply this need. ☺

TCM's New Board Member

During the September 1994 board meeting of Things To Come Mission, Joel McGarvey was accepted as a new board member. Please be in prayer for Joel as he serves in this important capacity. Decisions are made which affect the future of ministries around the world.

Joel has served as the assistant pastor of Moorland Community Church in Ravenna, MI., pastor of Grace Bible Fellowship in Kent City, MI., and is presently pastor of Altoona Bible Church in Altoona, PA. ☺

MEET TCM'S NEWEST MISSIONARIES

During our January 1995 board meeting, the TCM board accepted three individuals as missionaries. We rejoice in their willingness to be missionaries and their desire to serve the Lord through TCM. Please be in prayer for these three people.

JON & VICKI SHRIVER

Jon and Vicki have been serving as missionaries in Adelaide, New South Wales, Australia since 1987. They had been under Word of Grace Mission. They resigned from that mission effective December 31, 1994 and were accepted as missionaries by TCM in January 1995. TCM is happy to have them join us and we are excited to have a part in the Lord's ministry in South Australia.

Jon grew up in Australia as the son of missionaries. Although saved as a young child through his parents' ministry, his salvation became a reality for him in 1985. After completing high school in Australia, he came to the US for

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SONJA COULBOURN

Sonja grew up in a family that went to church each Sunday morning and evening. However, it was not until the end of her junior year of high school that she finally accepted the Lord as her Savior.

After high school she worked and for two years, three evenings a week, she attended Baltimore School of the Bible. She transferred to Philadelphia College of the Bible and, after two additional years, felt the Lord leading her to become a missionary with New Tribes Mission. Her first term in Brazil was spent at one of their schools for missionary children. During this time she also worked

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("Jon & Vicki ..." continued from page 12)

college. He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1986. Desiring to serve as a missionary in Australia, he applied to and was accepted by Word of Grace Mission. In 1992 he married Vicki and their first child, Emily, was born in 1994.

Vicki is Australian and grew up in a Christian home. She accepted the Lord when she was eight years old.

Jon and Vicki have been ministering in Smithfield, South Australia. Their ministry includes the regular church services as well as Bible studies, ladies' and men's fellowship groups, family activities, a radio ministry, and literature production and distribution. Due to a shortage of funds for their personal and ministry needs, Jon has been working part-time in the secular field. Please pray for the additional support needed so they would be able to concentrate fully on the ministry. Let's pray for "much fruit." ☺

* * * *

Director's note: Some have voiced concern about Jon's teaching on "self-esteem." When I was in Australia visiting with the Shrivvers, we discussed this issue. I am satisfied that Jon is grounded in the teaching of God's grace and believes that man, without God, is unable to save himself and unable to please God. Lewis Sperry Chafer, in his book "GRACE," mentions some principles which can not co-exist with grace. Jon agrees with these. He sees God's justice being satisfied by Jesus Christ on the Cross; God's grace shown in His offer of salvation to mankind on the basis of Christ's shed blood; man's inability to offer anything for salvation either before or after the fact; and that mankind, Jew and Gentile inclusive, is equally without merit before God.

WEDDING BELLS RING!

On February 17 Michelle LeFeber, our missionary in North Brazil, walked down the aisle to join hands with Joaquim Campos in marriage. Michelle has been serving as a missionary since January 1994. They are presently in the USA where Joaquim will seek further Biblical training. Please be in prayer for this young couple as they begin their life and ministry together. There will be many adjustments to make during these initial months together. They will also be meeting with the TCM board to consider their future ministry. Your prayer and financial help will be greatly appreciated. ☺

("Sonja..." continued from page 12)

with tribal Indians. She returned to the States for furlough and, two years later, went back to Brazil with Unevangelized Fields Mission International. She spent three additional terms on the field as a teacher and the librarian at a school for missionary children.

In 1985 she returned home to care for her dying mother and, later, for her father who had a serious heart condition. During this time she started a Christian book-lending library. In 1986, Sonja became a member of a Grace church in Naples, Florida--Naples Bible Church.

Since her father has recently passed away, she is ready to once again get back into an overseas ministry. Things To Come Mission is happy to announce that Sonja was accepted as a missionary during our January 1995 board meeting. She is desirous of ministering in the Philippines and working with the educational needs of our missionaries' children.

Please be in prayer for all the details which must be worked out. If your church would be interested in having Sonja share her burden and vision with you, please let us know. Sonja hopes to leave for the Philippines before the end of this year. There will be many decisions Sonja will have to make as she prepares her travel plans, sells and packs her possessions, corresponds with the Philippines regarding her future ministry, and waits upon God to raise up prayer and financial supporters. ☺

"THANK YOU" FOR SERVING!

During the TCM board meeting on January 18, 1995, the board accepted the resignation of Gordon Sooy as a board member of the mission. Gordon first became a board member in 1985. He brought a fresh perspective to the board as he was the president and manager of a number of NAPA Auto Parts stores. Recently he became the owner. His business knowledge allowed him to look at various mission issues from a different perspective. However, his business needs required more of his time and he felt it was best to resign as a TCM board member. Thank you Gordon for your willingness to serve the Lord in this way. We pray the Lord will continue to bless you richly. Gordon continues to serve as treasurer at the Berean Grace Church in Grafton, Ohio. ☺

A LOCAL CALL REACHING LONG DISTANCE!

Are you tired of all this competition for long distance calls? How about considering a "local call?" TCM would like to extend a call for volunteers (single individuals or a couple) to help in the thick of things in the mission main office.

Location:

- TCM headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana

Term:

- 3 years minimum

Criteria:

- Single or married
- Self-supporting (retired?)
- Provide own housing
- Personal transportation helpful

Ministry:

- Computer data entry
- Help with prayer letter preparation
- Help prepare mailings
- Help with required purchases

Personal Profile:

- Christian
- Agreement with TCM Doctrinal statement
- Trustworthy
- Maintain confidentiality
- Conscious of Detail
- Basic typing skills

- Willing to work behind the scenes
- Self-motivated
- People skills (working with other people)

Benefits: (to you)

- Performance of a valid, necessary ministry
- Up-to-date awareness of missionary activity
- Storing up of heavenly rewards ☺
- Attending the Grace Church of Indianapolis

Benefits: (to the mission)

- Allows greater ministry accomplishment
- Allows Executive and Development Directors more ministry time
- Greater productivity in serving the missionaries and churches
- Financial

Application Process:

- Pray for guidance
- Study TCM Doctrinal Statement
- Study TCM Mission Overview
- Contact the mission at:
Things To Come Mission
2200 English Ave
Indianapolis, IN
46201-4000
Ph: (317) 262-8806
Fax: (317) 262-8852

Development Director

("Carey . . ." continued from page 7)

cepted time; behold now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6.2

--The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3.9

--For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3.16

--Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2.4

--For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? as it is written, How

beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10.13-15

--Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4.2

--Do the work of an evangelist (missionary). 2 Timothy 4.5

If William Carey had believed and acted like his generation, there would never have been a London Missionary Society. And as far as you and I are concerned there would never have been a missionary by the name of William Carey! Spiritually speaking, India is in a deplorable condition today. What would India have been like today had Carey failed God and the lost and dying millions in that land of superstition and sin?

It baffles the human imagination to think what India might have been like today had Carey and others failed, in unbelief, to go to them! If Carey had lived in his self-satisfied complacency there in England, India today would abound in paganism and idolatry of the

*1955 - 1995 Praise God with us for these 40 years
of bearing eternal fruit!*

"Frankenstein" variety. Wickedness and sin would rule as king if Carey had failed God in that day. But, praise God, Carey heard, believed, and obeyed God. Romans 10.17.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5.20

I am thankful that Carey carried the Gospel of Christ to India. By his obedience to the Lord we of Things To Come Mission, and many other missionary societies, are able to minister there today. Carey was a consistent and obedient Christian to the Glorified Christ. Carey dared to go. He dared to face the impossible for Christ, and to suffer the hardships and trials, that he "might save some."

How we do praise God that the Andersons too have heard the Lord --they have believed, and they are obeying their Head, Christ Jesus! The Andersons have a God-given vision. They have answered the call. They have gone with the Gospel of the Grace of God to a lost world. They are willing to sacrifice all--yes, even life itself--that others might hear and believe and be saved.

What would you and I and the world be like today had the Lord remained in Glory? Suppose the Twelve Apostles had kept their lips closed in fear and doubt. What if the great apostle to the Gentiles

had not opened his mouth? Where and what would you and I be today?

The Andersons are taking the message of reconciliation and life to a lost world! They are beseeching men, women and children to be reconciled to God. "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation"--2 Corinthians 5.19. I believe the Lord will use them greatly throughout the world, because they have been obedient and willing to go to the "regions beyond" with the glorious message of reconciliation of the cross of Jesus Christ.

As far as I know, no missionary society has ever sent missionaries to the Far East with the distinctive message of the Apostle Paul for this Age of His Body, the Church. That is, with the dispensational emphasis upon a rightly divided Word. Of course, it is true that many missionaries of the cross have gone to the East and the islands of the seas with the gospel; but it is the Andersons who are going for the first time to the Orient with the revelation committed to the Apostle Paul for His Body, the Church. Most missionaries, if not all, have gone out with the message committed to the Twelve; the Petrine Gospel.

But, praise the Lord, the



"For God So Loved The World"

Andersons are going to the people of the Orient and to the world with the pure, unadulterated message to the Gentiles as revealed to and through the Apostle to the Gentiles--the Apostle Paul. See Ephesians 3.1-9 and Romans 16.25.

Am I not justified in my contention that it is another milestone and epoch in modern missions when for the first time a missionary society such as TCM has [officially] sent out missionaries with the message committed to the Apostle Paul for this age? We are confident that the Andersons' embarking upon a long journey is not just another missionary entering upon his or her career. No, we believe that God has called these dear young people to the Far East, and

that He is going to use them mightily there for His glory and praise.

We thank God for the ones who have had a part in sending out the Andersons as His ambassadors. You have made it humanly possible for this dear family to go with the Grace of God to a needy world. They are being consistent in following the Apostle Paul--1 Corinthians 4.16; 11.1. They are in His will and purpose and commission for this age. God has called them, and He has called you and me, to evangelize the lost world by His Grace and Power--2 Corinthians 5.7-21.

I believe the Andersons are obedient to His will and purpose in going to the nations with the message of reconciliation! 1 Corin-

thians 11.1; Philippians 3.17, 4.9. They are "redeeming the time, for the days are evil." (Buying up the opportunities.)

Oh, beloved, what are you going to do about the lost and dying millions for whom Christ died? The wicked, the lost, are without God and without hope in the world. If you do not witness to them and take the good news that Christ Jesus died for them (sinners), who will? If they die in their sins their blood will be upon your hands. It is true, in a dispensational sense today, that you are your brother's keeper! Will you let him eternally perish because of your inconsistency and disobedience to God? Will you do something about their fate? Will you believe God? You have seen the vision! You have heard the call! Are you willing to go and tell of Him who died that they might live?

Every born-again Christian is held responsible before God for the evangelizing of the lost of the world in his or her generation. Why? Because your generation will pass away and another one comes to take its place. Oh! Christians, will you continue to persist in unbelief and disobedience to God? Will you let God have His way in your life now? You must go! You must go today! God takes no excuses or pious reasons. If it were possible for you to give to God a reason for not going as a missionary to the

unsaved--the logical and scriptural conclusion would be that you send a substitute in your place. You may persist in procrastinating for a time, but some day there will be a "pay-day"--1 Corinthians 3.12-15; 2 Corinthians 9.10-11.

If Christians continue to persist in their unbelief and are determined that they will not go to the unsaved with the message of life ("Holding forth the word of life"--Philippians 2.16), then they are committing spiritual suicide!

Someone must go! There is no choice in the matter! If they refuse to go, then they must send someone in their place. The lost and dying millions of the world are waiting for someone to come and tell them the story that "Christ died for their sins, and that God raised Him from the dead"--Romans 5.6-8.

What are you going to do about it? Beloved, will you go? Or will you take the second best, and send someone in your place? Beloved, God is calling you. Why not obey His call and go? If you can't go, why not pray and send someone else in your place.

"And Samuel said, Hath Jehovah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams!"--1 Samuel 15.22. ©

FOCUS ON MISSIONS

by Don Fromer

This article was written for the Enumclaw Northwest Bible Church newsletter. Don and Arlene had served as interim pastor in the church for a number of months. At the present time they minister in Evansville, Indiana. Please pray for them.

I was honored to be asked to contribute a column for this issue of the NWBC Newsletter. Arlene and I think of you folks often, and remember with great joy the time we spent with you during our interim ministry there.

We are missionaries with Things To Come Mission, Inc. Many people think of a "missionary" as one who serves the Lord on a "foreign" field. Yet, as citizens of Heaven, we are all living on a "foreign" field. This world is **not** our home, and we are here as **missionaries**: "Ambassadors for Christ."

Our God is a **missionary** God. Ever since Adam's fall, God has manifested His missionary heart. He is "not willing that any should perish . . ." But missionaries come in many shapes and sizes. Jonah was a missionary to the **pagan** people of Ninevah. Israel was to be a missionary to the **whole world**. In contrast, the Old Testament prophets were missionaries to **God's own people**.

But why would God send a missionary to **His own people--to a nation of missionaries?** It is because even God's people can lose their spiritual vision. Paul declares that Jesus came to "seek and to save" lost sinners, and that now, "in Christ's stead," we are to invite lost sinners to be reconciled to God in Christ. Our Savior went all the way to the cross in His missionary zeal. Sometimes God's people must be reminded of God's purpose for our existence here on Planet Earth. Pastors are missionaries to **God's people**, as were the prophets of old.



Don and Arlene Fromer

A church that is not a missionary church is not **really** functioning as a church at all. It is through local churches that men and women are equipped to do the work of the ministry, and then go out as missionaries. And it is the local church that undergirds their work with prayer, and, where necessary, financial support. The church our daughter attends in New Mexico has a sign over the door that is seen by the people as they leave: "**You are now entering the mission field.**" Yes, every believer is a "foreign missionary."

Our belief that spiritually strong churches are essential to God's missionary program is the basis of our interim ministry. Churches tend to become **weak** without the leadership of a pastor. Satan often takes advantage of such opportunities to **divide** and **discourage** the saints. It is our prayer that God will use our ministry to **strengthen, unite, and encourage** the saints in the churches we are privileged to serve.

We are now in our third month of interim ministry in a troubled church; a church with a history of strife and division. We are here as missionaries to remind these dear saints that they, too, are here as missionaries. Please continue to pray for us. We love you! ☺

BLESSINGS and TRIALS FROM KENYA

The president of Kenya has declared he will rid the country of Satan worshippers. Some are trying to accuse TCM's ministry of worshipping Satan. Please pray! Linda Bedore is ministering to about 30 children weekly and 12 have been saved during a recent two week period. Lou Ellen is working with some women and 6 recently accepted Christ and strengthened their commitment to their family. Genesis and Verna are progressing well in their language study. Cliff and Lou Ellen will take a 6 month furlough in June and will also care for some medical needs while home. There will be 11 men graduating from the Bible Institute. Most of the missionaries might have to move due to rent agreements. The Kenyan Field Ministry's monthly budget needs are about \$1,000 over the amount received from US donors. The missionaries try to make up this need. Please pray! Vernon and Darlene have been asked by Prison Mission Association to visit their work in Cameroon. ☺

DON and SUE SOMMER plan to return to the Philippines on May 26. They have had an extended furlough in order to provide Carl with additional medical care and therapy. While here in the US, Don has helped in the bookkeeping and development ministry as well as spoken in various churches reporting on the Philippine ministry. When back in the Philippines, Don will be helping in seminars and continuing educational training for the pastors and Bible women. He will also oversee the finances for the Philippine field. They will be living in Cebu City. Pray for the additional funds needed as the cost of living continues to rise in the Philippines.

DOUG and VICKI LeFEBER are home on furlough. Doug has been leading the construction of the new church in Ibura. This has been a large project and Doug has put much of his own money into this. Please be in prayer for the needed funds to complete this project. The building will be a great help in providing space for *Project Abba* as well as to the local church ministries. Doug would love to have the chance to share about the Brazil ministry. If you would like to have Doug and Vicki visit you and your church, please contact them through the mission office. Pray that their furlough will be refreshing to them as well as informative and challenging to the people and churches they visit.

THE BRAZIL MINISTRY is undergoing some change. Three TCM board members--Joe Watkins, the executive director, Roy Kelsey, the board chairman, and Dan Sidebottom, the development director--visited there from March 12 to 21. **Tony and Barb Sistelos** will be overseeing the ministry in North Brazil while the **LeFebbers** are on furlough. Next year Tony and Barb will plan to take their furlough during which time Tony hopes to take additional Biblical training.

In South Brazil we were able to meet with **Mario and Ella Indino, Gomer and Nene Indino**, and the national board. Because Joel and Darcy Molina are not able to get their visa for Indonesia, TCM is asking Mario and Ella to return to the Indonesian field. Mario and Ella will return to the States sometime this year and seek to raise support for travel to, and ministry in, Indonesia. This will be a significant change

for them so we ask your special prayer for them.

Gomer and Nene Indino are doing well in their understanding of Portuguese. They will be directing the ministry in South Brazil. This will be a great responsibility for them after being on the field for only a short time. Pray for them.

Sanny and Jeannette Sumilhig will be meeting with the TCM board in May. It is probable they will be assigned to help in the ministry in North Brazil. Sanny has had some physical problems on the field and it is hoped this time of being home will allow him to relax and prepare for their new ministry in the North.

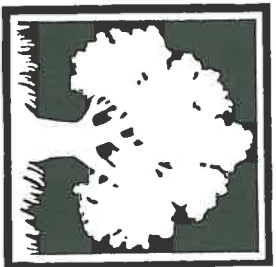
Each of the missionaries in Brazil continue to struggle with the rising cost of living. Since the change of currency, the value of the dollar continues to decline and their funds for ministry also drops.

Please be in special prayer for the **BOARD OF TCM-USA**. We have a big responsibility which each of us feel. Our decisions affect the lives and ministries of missionaries as well as the future and growth of field ministries. Sometimes drastic and costly measures are needed. We understand it will be a large expense to ask the Indinos to transfer to Indonesia. However, we feel the ministry in Indonesia needs another missionary and it is hoped Mario and Ella will be able to get the visa necessary to enter the country.

The board is concerned with the slow growth of the ministry in Brazil and we hope these changes will help strengthen the ministry and set the stage for the Lord to raise up "much fruit."

DANIEL and JENNIFER SIDEBOTTOM had an auto accident on February 18. The car was totalled and Jennifer suffered a broken right pelvis. She is recovering well and able to limp along without crutches. They are grateful the accident happened over two months after Jennifer's left ACL knee surgery. Pray for complete recovery and praise God the accident was not worse than it was. They are still car-shopping.

JON and VICKI SHRIVER report blessings and trials in Australia. The church and radio ministry are bringing blessings. One trial is the "death" of their computer in the middle of producing their Bible study magazine, *Things Old and New*. Please pray for them!



A CONTINUING GIFT

Things To Come Mission would like to acknowledge the following gifts which have been given in memory of some family member, friend, or respected individual who has passed away. Cards have been sent to the families of those whose memories you have honored.

- LAURENCE E. GUST - Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Stromer
- NANCY LEACH - Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bishop
- WALTER S. ANDERSON - Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Stromer
- GAYLON FLEER - Mr. & Mrs. Archie Smith
- RALPH R. PETERSON, SR. - Grace Peterson
- HELEN FRANKLIN - Helen Franklin Estate
- MRS. ALURA MORRIS - Eastern Shore Wesley Bible Church; Women's Mission Society

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How will your estate be divided? Don't let the government do it for you. Why not make plans now so it will help further the Lord's ministry.

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SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST!

Last issue we announced a candidate interested in going to the former U.S.S.R. The door has temporarily closed to TCM and the candidate but we ask you to continue to pray. TCM continues to hope to enter this vast and needy area. Your prayers can make a difference. Pray that the door will open. ☺