

CROWNING CHRIST LORD

"And Jesus came and awoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20.

In obedience to this command of our Lord we want to send missionaries into the various nations of the world to preach, teach and heal as means of introducing people to Christ as Saviour and baptizing them into the fellowship of the churches. We can proclaim the gospel of Christ through preaching from the pulpits in the churches and mission stations, through teaching in our Baptist schools and through ministering in Christian love in the hospitals and orphanages.

Our Foreign Mission Board projected a plan and program for advance in foreign missions in 1948. At that time there were 635 missionaries under appointment for service in nineteen countries. That was not long after World War II had ended. Work was renewed in China and Japan. The outlook for the work in Japan has continued bright. In China the new beginning was good with two hundred workers under appointment there. But the situation was soon changed when communism came into control. By the end of 1951 all of our missionaries were removed from China. Disappointment was keen. Nevertheless, God has continued to work through His people in mysterious ways.

With expansion to other fields already under consideration, a splendid opportunity was provided for the relocation of the missionaries already under appointment. The tragedy of China proving the wisdom of entering new fields. Missionaries courageously turned their faces to other countries where they brought their experiences in China to bear upon the opening doors in these new fields and laying foundations for long-range missionary service. The missionaries were transferred from China to Taiwan, the Philippines, Hon Kong, Macao, Thailand, Korea, Singapore, Malaya and Indonesia.

After entering these nine areas, it was not until 1957 that other new work in the Orient was undertaken. By then progress could be noted in Hong Kong, the Philippines and Taiwan, fields which have proved to be very responsive to Southern Baptist effort. By that time also Thailand, Korea, Singapore, Malaya and Indonesia were moving into stages of strengthening, development and expansion.

After missionaries went to East Pakistan in 1957, four additional fields were entered in the Orient: Vietnam, Okinawa, Guam and India. Work in Pakistan and Vietnam has been very slow in the face of great odds. Missionaries believe that medical personnel and a hospital in Pakistan will be the "door opener" to Moslem homes. Work in Okinawa and Guam is chiefly English-language work with an evangelistic ministry. Okinawa's infamous Hack Saw Ridge of World War II now has a Baptist church. A missionary couple assigned to an already existing Christian college gives Southern Baptists hope for a more extensive effort in India where we have sought an opening for a decade.

Baptist work in Portugal was started by missionaries from Brazil in 1908. The Brazilian and Portuguese Conventions invited Southern Baptists to join them, and in 1959 the Foreign Mission Board's first representative went to Portugal. Our fraternal representatives (one couple) work alongside the fifteen national pastors in twenty-two churches. Missionaries in France and West Germany work with English language churches. Jamaica is our fifty-third field.

It is the expectation that when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Atlantic City in May there will be 1,800 foreign missionaries under appointment. This is the goal toward which we have been working for fifteen years. How far we will go toward it depends upon lives dedicated to the Lord's service and willingness to follow His leadership regardless of the circumstances and consequences.

It is gratifying to know that the organized churches and chapels total 10,633 and that the membership is 487,943. A large program of Christian education is maintained on mission fields. There are forty-one theological institutions with 1,394 students enrolled and six woman's training schools with an enrolment of 467. These institutions, along with twenty-seven colleges and teacher training schools with 9,723 students, give promise of increasing national leadership in the days ahead. Altogether there are 1,060 schools with a total enrolment of 169,178.

The eighteen hospitals have a total bed capacity of 1,156 and reported 35,144 inpatients. There are also forty-six clinics and dispensaries. There were 293,754 outpatients given attention in these medical installations. These medical ministries are served by fifty-five missionary physicians and fifty-six missionary nurses along with eighty-two national doctors and 207 national nurses. Many more missionary nurses are urgently needed.

Publication work is an important phase of missionary service. Bibles, periodicals, books and tracts are produced for use in the churches. Last year a total of 13,030,227 pieces of material were produced.

Southern Baptists have sixteen orphanages on foreign soil with 705 boys and girls and twenty-two good will centers in which 4,736 children and 2,323 adults are enrolled. Great progress is being made in the field of radio and television also.

The possibility of continuing a sustained program of advance depends upon a consistent supply of mission volunteers and increasing financial resources. Southern Baptists are now placing more than twenty million dollars in the hands of the Foreign Mission Board annually for this worldwide enterprise. Dr. Cauthen reminds us that the operating budget for current expenses, whereby missionaries are supported and ministries are maintained throughout the world, must be increased more than a million dollars each year in order for advance to continue. As missionaries move into new areas and work develops, urgent needs develop for residences for the missionaries, churches, schools, hospitals and various other capital requirements which call for large sums of money.

As to the personnel on the fields of service, we have 582 missionaries in Latin America, along with 1,736 nationals; 537 missionaries in the Orient, along with 1,285 nationals; 508 missionaries in Africa, Europe and the Near East, along with 645 nationals. This makes a total of 1,627 missionaries and 3,656 nationals.

In Latin America we have 2,215 churches, 1,189 of which are self-supporting, and 4,695 chapels. The church membership is 227,997 and the contributions last year were \$2,999,279.83. In the Orient we have 783 churches, 672 of which are self-supporting, and 820 chapels. The church membership is 177,517 and the contributions were \$779,403.55. In Africa, Europe and the Near East we have 785 churches, 290 of which are self-supporting, and 1,335 chapels. The church membership is 82,429 and the contributions were \$664,255.04.

In Latin America we have 97 missionaries who are teachers in our schools and 1,013 national teachers. In the Orient we have 93 and 967 respectively. In Africa, Europe and the Near East we have 100 and 3,676 respectively. The total is 290 and 5,656 respectively.

In our publication work we have 65 missionaries on the staff and 452 nationals. In our orphanages we have 8 and 68 respectively. In our good will centers we have 15 missionaries and 114 nationals.

Of the total gifts of Southern Baptists 16.91% went to missions, and of our church 23.83% went to missions.