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October 15, 1960

GLOBE-TROTTING With Ginny.....

Yugoslav Women Have
Determined Outlook

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia--(BP)--I smile as I think of the energetic Baptist women of a century ago who, in spite of discouragement from their menfolk, began our Woman's Missionary Union.

They were determined, inspired pioneers who used their feminine gifts to further missionary endeavor.

The Baptist women of Yugoslavia find themselves in a similar pioneer position today.

Twelve years ago, there was no women's work in Yugoslavia. Today there are women's unions, a monthly paper, conferences, and women seminary students.

Mrs. Elizabeth Flugge, of Germany, president of the European Baptist Women's Union, visited women's conferences and rural churches in Yugoslavia. At times transportation was by horse and buggy. Once her party was carried, one by one, to the train station on the back of a motor bike.

Baptist hospitality overwhelmed her. She wondered where the crowded families slept when she remained overnight. One night she slept in a room with a family of five, and during the night the baby cried and another child fell out of bed.

The leader of one little church had a real conflict with his conscience because, by Paul's words, women are to be silent in church. Yet his church's guest was a distinguished woman visitor from the European Baptist Woman's Union.

After a long discussion, he agreed Mrs. Flugge might continue (after the meeting had already lasted an hour and half). She avoided the pulpit and carefully chose Bible passages about women, trying to make the men feel it was the women who were "getting a lesson". The leader thanked her after the services, admitting that during her talk he had a new thought revealed to him from the Bible.

The women were inspired to increase their missionary projects, meetings and activities. The Yugoslavian women now realize they are not a small group of weak women, but a part of a great fellowship of Baptist women that reaches over Europe and around the world.