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GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Baptist GI Wives  
Busy 'Missionaries'

BERCHTESGADEN, Germany (BP)--Riding with a busload of Christian women, I saw by the towering mountains and the German road signs that we were approaching Berchtesgaden, site of the European Protestant Women of the Chapel convention.

"Now, Ginny," I began to prepare myself: "Remember this is no Ridgecrest or Glorieta you are going to. There will be women from denominations very different from yours. Don't expect too much!" I wasn't really being snobbish....I expected to be a little disappointed by this meeting for I have been accustomed to the high standard of WMU meetings!

The hotel of our conference was situated high in the Bavarian Alps near the "Eagle's Nest," Hitler's famous mountain retreat-house.

The program was a pleasant surprise....Early morning devotions, workshops, sermons, music and an afternoon for "rest, meditation, recreation, study" and last vespers. Even the Christian fellowship was exceptional....I discovered Baptist friends from my Louisiana hometown!

In the well attended conferences a few stray chaplains sneaked in...just like our Baptist preachers in WMU conventions!

I had already found overseas that Baptist women whose church training has fitted them for effective service, are busy in military chapel programs where workers are sorely-needed. I noted that on the convention registration forms a place was provided for writing one's denomination.

Our bus was ready to leave after the convention was over when the organization's president got out of bed to give me information I had requested. "I'm curious to know how many Baptists are present at this conference," I had told her. She handed me the count: out of 476 registrations, 153 were Baptists!

"Why, that's almost one out of three!" I exclaimed, not nearly so surprised as I sounded. Because Baptist women must be busy in Christ's service even when displaced from home by Uncle Sam!