

BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

127 NINTH AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

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August 2, 1962

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

Why Do Filipinos
Beg For Matches?

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

BAGUIO, Philippines (BP)--In most of the world, American tourists are constantly being asked for cigarettes. American money is begged, also, particularly in economically backward countries. In the mountains of the Philippines, a different product is sought from visitors.

A Baptist missionary visiting the mountain province of Bontoc was approached by scantily-clothed primitive men who begged for matches. This request intrigued the missionary, and he asked for the reason.

"Why should these people ask for matches?" In answer, he was told, "They have no use for money. They raise the rice they eat. Clothing, as you can see, is no problem. They make their own smokes. But matches! Those are something they cannot make or buy in these mountains. Fire and light is a basic need of these primitive folk. It is for that reason they want matches!"

A mountain girl who came to Baguio discovered that her people need something far more wonderful and basic than matches. While in Baguio, she was led to Christ by Baptist missionaries. She came to her missionary friends with a burning question.

The girl told of her ancestors and relatives who are headhunters in the mountains. They wear tatoo marks on their bodies to signify the heads of people they have killed. Her question was: "Can pagans such as my people be saved?"

Southern Baptist missionaries are in the Philippines seeking to give to such people a light far more wonderful than matches...Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.