

"PROCLAIMING CHRIST OVERSEAS"

by Baker J. Cauthen

Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, since January 1954, is a native of Texas. He is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin Teachers College, Nacogdoches, Texas, Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to his present position he served Southern Baptists as secretary for the Orient, of the Foreign Mission Board. He was professor of missions at Southwestern Seminary from 1935 to 1939 at which time he was appointed as a foreign missionary by the Foreign Mission Board. He has held pastorates in Texas.

In the task of world missions we are committed to an enterprise of vast proportions. Southern Baptist mission work is more widely extended than at any period in the history of our denomination.

Nine hundred thirty-six missionaries of our Board are at work in three broad areas of the world.

In Africa, Europe and the Near East the largest concentration of missionaries is in Nigeria where a highly effective Christian witness has been established.

In Latin America the major concentration of mission work is in Brazil where three missions represent Southern Baptists throughout that extensive country. Southern Baptists are represented in thirteen Latin American countries.

In the Orient, although missionaries can no longer be located in our oldest and largest mission field, they have upon withdrawal from China extended work throughout Japan, Korea, Formosa, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaya, Thailand, and are located in the doorway of Red China at Hong Kong and Macao.

In the dark days of the depression when Dr. Charles E. Maddry became executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board in January, 1933, even the most courageous and optimistic people among us would not have dared predict Southern Baptist world witness could possibly become so extended as it has now developed to be.

In the task of world missions many sacrifices have been made. The going of every missionary represents a major life commitment. Those of us at the Foreign Mission Board are continually brought nearer our Lord by the testimony of splendid young people who dedicate everything they have to their Master and ask only for a place to make their witness effective in helping the world to know the Saviour.

On mission fields around the world heroic faith and selfless devotion characterize the labor being done in the name of our Lord. When crises arise in which possessions, security, or even life are imperiled, missionaries of our generation show the same stalwart qualities of those who first pioneered in this mighty undertaking.

The grave of Dr. William L. Wallace in Wuchow, China, who died in a Communist prison cell after fifty-three days of unspeakable suffering is a constant reminder of the extent to which commitment may have to go and the readiness with which God's servants will make that commitment.

The devotion of missionaries is matched by that of national Christians in many lands throughout the world. If at any time a missionary grows discouraged as he sees the slow spiritual progress among people around him, he has but to remember the behavior of national Christians when they are brought face to face with crises for their Lord. Christians in China have suffered through the years for their Master and they are doing so today. Even now as we assemble in this Convention some of the choicest of God's servants languish in prison in that country.

Our labor in Korea has been made especially joyful because of the privilege of working with people who have suffered so much for their Master and who count such suffering a privilege.

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The sacrifices for world missions have not all been made abroad. When we consider the labor of Woman's Missionary Union through the years as especially expressed through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, we thank God for the devotion and sacrifice manifested.

The recent Lottie Moon Christmas Offering came to an unprecedented total of \$3,602,554.80 which represented an increase of \$322,182.86 beyond the amount of last year. Never in the history of Southern Baptists has there been such a magnificent Christmas Offering for world missions.

Even more wonderful than the great total this offering has reached is the sacrificial giving of the part of so many thousands of people which makes this total a possibility. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering does not represent the giving of that which is only surplus. In many cases it represents genuine sacrifice.

When we consider the total gifts of Southern Baptists, whereby the income of the Foreign Mission Board for last year came to the total of \$9,201,059, we must conclude that this indicates on the part of many a high degree of sharing which can best be understood in the story of the widow's mite.

The enterprise of world missions has borne rich fruit. Thousands of people have been won to Christ. Churches have been established, leaders have been trained, and far-reaching ministries of love and mercy have been extended to those who are in need.

People from our Convention who have had opportunity to visit the mission fields come back with a unanimous testimony of the worthwhileness of this great undertaking and freely confess that they had no idea that such fruit had been borne.

When one visits churches, schools, hospitals, seminaries, publication agencies and relief undertakings sponsored by Southern Baptists throughout the world, it makes him feel that he has made an investment in the most fruitful enterprise to be found.

We cannot overstate the urgency of the task of world missions in our generation. It is more than ever a life and death struggle. For the individual around the world it has always been the turning from death unto life when he has found the Saviour.

In our generation the whole world rests under a cloud of potential tragedy which is almost too horrible to contemplate. Even though we do not like to think of it, it is real. Every international conference emphasizes the gravity of our time. Each report of atomic and hydrogen bomb developments warns us of impending danger.

Southern Baptists have committed ourselves to an effort to place 1,750 missionaries around the world to witness for Christ. Even if we had that number today, we would not feel that our responsibility has been accomplished. As long as there is any means of our increasing the ministry to a broken-hearted lost world it is clearly our duty to do so.

Our destiny as a great people of God depends largely upon our being able to grasp the significance of the times in which we live. If we are wise, we will see that God has raised us up for the distinctive purpose of heralding His gospel to the ends of the earth in a crucial hour of history.

If we accomplish this mission, we cannot know to what extent God may bless and strengthen His work through us in the days to come. If for any reason we fail to see the distinctiveness of this challenge and turn away from the world task in our generation or give to it a minor emphasis while laying great stress on other issues, we will have failed in our hour of destiny.

As the Foreign Mission Board looks toward the future with settled determination to press on in a mighty world enterprise, we do so with confidence that Woman's Missionary Union at every step of the road will undergird this task through prayer, missionary education, and Christ-honoring stewardship.

Our hearts are very tender at this meeting of the Convention because

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Dr. M. Theron Rankin and Dr. Everett Gill, Jr. are no more among us. These men were glorious in their life, powerful in their ministry, and faithful unto death. When we think of them we hear the words of the scripture saying, "Considering the issue of their life, imitate their faith."

When the name of M. Theron Rankin or Everett Gill, Jr. comes to mind, it causes us to realize again the worthwhileness of this mighty enterprise to which we are committed. Their early passing into the realm of the immortals also reminds us of the limited period in which each of us has to serve. The conclusion comes powerfully to one's heart that if there is any devotion one wishes to give to Christ or any service he should render in the name of his Lord he should rise up in the strength of his Master and do whatever may be in his heart, rather than wait for another day.

I have a special request to make of Woman's Missionary Union. That request grows out of a deep conviction.

I am fully convinced that Southern Baptists would be challenged to their greatest missionary possibilities by the sight of a thrilling number of our finest, noblest young people who offer themselves to go to the mission fields.

There ought to be twice as many volunteers knocking on the doors of the Foreign Mission Board annually as there now are. Those volunteers should represent the highest standards of Christian dedication and preparation.

The Foreign Mission Board does not call missionaries. The calling is done by our Sovereign Lord who moves upon the hearts of His people by His Holy Spirit. Our Saviour taught us to pray that the Lord of the harvest would thrust out laborers into His harvest.

The request I have to make of Woman's Missionary Union is that in a specific manner this great missionary organization will pray that God will move the hearts of a great host of young Christian workers to answer the call of God for life service in the mission task. As you pray God will stir many hearts and missionaries will be available. My imagination is kindled by the thought that if in each of the more than 29,000 churches of this Convention there were earnest, fervent prayer for God to call out of that particular congregation some one to go as His messenger to a lost world there would be a great increase in mission volunteers. Such prayer will mean a chain reaction. You will pray God will move hearts, missionaries will volunteer, and Southern Baptists will provide the money, and advance will continue.

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Woman's Missionary Union Convention
St. Louis, Mo.---1954

RELEASE: Anytime

Miami Fla. --- 1955

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION CONVENTION

By Mrs. George R. Martin

*This needs
Cutting*

Mrs. George R. Martin, president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1945, is a native of Virginia. Prior to ~~her~~ election to her present office she was president of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia. She served twice in that capacity--May, 1926, to May, 1931, and from May, 1933, to July, 1945. In 1948 Mrs. Martin called together in London fourteen women from eleven different countries. Out of this meeting came the European Baptist Woman's Union.

Woman's Missionary Union will meet in ~~St. Louis, Mo.~~ *Miami, Fla., 5-17*, May ~~20~~ June 1, for many reasons. We believe that the world's crucial situation needs Christian women; we believe there is a word of God for our time and that together we can discover his power and his will. We will go seeking the ways in which Woman's Missionary Union can render its most signal service. We will go seeking a new dimension of thinking in some areas we care most about. We will go to ~~St. Louis~~ *Miami* to quicken our faith, to find new directives and to gain fresh hope. We will gather strength for new thrusts in life as women and as an organization. Many of our members will be denied the privilege of attending this meeting. Surely they will remember to pray fervently for those who do attend. The united prayers of all our women will be needed as we seek to find God's will and way!

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RELEASE: Afternoon papers,
Tuesday, June 1

STATEMENT BY MRS. LESLIE B. AREY

Mrs. Leslie B. Arey, president of the Woman's American Baptist Mission Society, New York, N.Y., is a native of Ohio. A member of the Council on Missionary Cooperation of the American Baptist Convention, Mrs. Arey is a representative of the American convention on the general board of National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

It is heart-warming, in these days of uncertainty and anxiety, to look upon the strength of the Christian church in troubled lands, and to recognize the devotion and ability of national leaders who, more and more, are assuming major responsibilities for the development of Christian work. It is a new and unusual day in which we are endeavoring to carry on a foreign mission program, and it demands new and unusual plans. We must be constantly on the alert to move into new areas of work, and willing, if need be, to lay aside some of the old methods on which we have depended for years. It is a time for pioneering along new lines, as we seek to give the unchanged message of Christ to a changing world.

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