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## How Much Mission Work is Done in Churches of Christ?

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# HOW MUCH MISSION WORK IS DONE IN CHURCHES OF CHRIST? *3:1:23*

I. We've things that are interesting and odd.

A. One is figures.

1. Came statistics and stats.

2. Here are some:

a. Changing times.

B. Do figures prove anything--if so what about church.

II. History of church.

A. Acts 2 - starts, 3000

Acts 4:4 - 5000 *men*

Acts 4: *32* - multitudes *believe - 1 heart*

Acts 6: *1* - Multitudes *multiplier*

Acts 8 - Ethiopian

Acts 10 - Gentile world

Acts 16 - Macedonia

Acts 28 - Rome

Col. 1:23 - Whole world

1. This in spite of opposition, hardships physically, no mechanics like P.A., printing, radio, etc.

B. Present day.

1. Prior to World War II

a. Church in 16 nations counting U.S. -- few with active preachers.

b. Less than 10 missionaries.

2. Then began to lift up eyes.

a. Remember Gatewood at DLC gymn.

b. Now Faith Corp., mission workshops, youths at Harding.

c. Wasted much in travel, begging and inapt men in field.

d. In 1950 no mission club at Freed-Hardestman--today has 200 members.

e. Campaigns--1/6 of entire F.H. body went last spring.

f. Using camp, Bible chair, Exodus.

g. Now 8,000 preachers, 2-1/4 million, 20 M congregations, 7th in U.S.

## II. Here we stand.

### A. Our figures.

1. 250 to 500 foreign missionaries.

2. Henry Farrar builds first hospital.

3. In 100 countries, 7 times what 1940 was.

a. Yet can't say we've converted country.

4. 50% world's nations not one congregation, 2/3 nation no preacher.

a. Amazon River clip.

5. 1500 congregations with 70,000 members outside USA, 1000 native preachers.

6. Nigeria--50,000 members with 500 congregations. Also started Mormonism here. Has 275 native preachers, 10 schools, 2 colleges, 1 hospital.

7. We are in 20 nations of Europe.

a. Germany first - 60 churches with 1200 members.

8. 19 countries of Asia--Philippines largest, 136 churches with 6000 members.

a. Japan 65 native churches, 15 American with combined 2000 members.



b. Australia -- 30 churches with 500 members.

c. Korea 3rd -- 1500 members in 20 churches

d. S. America's one of greatest.

e. Canada 100 churches with 4000 members

### B. Our Task.

1. 55 nations not 1 church -- 75,000 foreign Chr. against 3 billion folk.

2. 3% preachers have ever been on foreign soil.

3. 1 Chr. to 1200 world wide.

a. If everyone told one we could do it in 4 years.

b. ~~Port hole light~~

West End - 12/12/65



**SOUTHWEST  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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# NEWS AND VIEWS

MACK LYON, MINISTER AND EDITOR

FE 2-3427

November 28, 1965

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Far up the Amazon River an evangelist was using a flannel graph to tell a group of school children about Jesus. As he talked, an elderly man with stooped shoulders and gray hair, joined the children. He sat with rapt attention as the teacher told the story of God's grace revealed in Christ. After the children were dismissed, the old man came forward. "May I ask, Sir, if this interesting and intriguing story is true?" "Of course," said the teacher. "It is in the word of God." Both countenance and voice revealed his doubt. "This is the first time in my life I have heard that one must give his life to Jesus to have life with God forever." Then with finality he said, "This story cannot be true or someone would have come before now to tell it. I am an old man. My parents lived their lives and died without having heard this message. It cannot be true or someone would have come sooner." Although he tried hard, the evangelist could not convince the old gentleman. Shuffling back into the dense jungle, he kept repeating the words, "It cannot be true or someone would have come sooner."

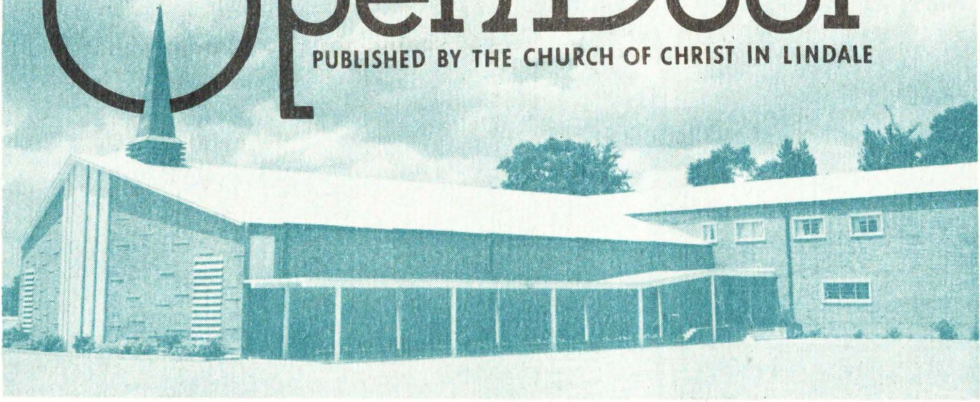
This story may or may not be true. It is taken from a church bulletin which comes to us each week. Even if it is not a true account of an actual incident, it so accurately relates what is happening around the world today that it makes us shudder. If we really do believe that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, and men must come to him for that salvation, the stinging question still lingers, "Why have we been so long in going with the gospel?"

What ever excuse we offer, there is one that we do not consider valid --we cannot convince the world we have not had the financial means to do it. God also knows of our prosperity and how much we spend foolishly, so He will never accept it. Though we have been long in getting started, we are going. Give liberally that others may live eternally.ML



# Open Door

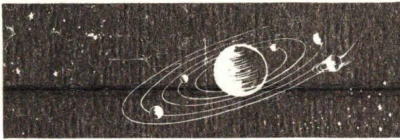
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## Changing Times

The twin fetishes of Liberalism and Scientism are still making inroads among the American people.

Two sociologists of the University of California, Dr. Charles Y. Glock and Rodney W. Stark, are releasing a publication in December entitled "Religion and Society in Tension." This book, the result of a survey of 1987 American adults, contains the following information:

(1) Only 52% of America's Protestants and 57% of its Catholics believe "doing good for others is an absolute requirement for

salvation."

(2) "The devil is definitely going out of style with most everyone but Catholics and conservative Protestants." For example, only 6% of the Congregationalists believe that the devil "actually exists."

(3) Only 55% of the Protestants and 54% of the Catholics believe that prayer is necessary for salvation.

(4) Few believe that drinking liquor can prevent salvation. "The only significant holdouts were 15% of the Southern Bap-

self-improvement, etc.

Not long ago figures were released showing how an average American spends his dollars. These gave the following amounts of each dollar: Living expenses,  $24\frac{1}{2}\%$ ; luxury,  $22\%$ ; waste,  $14\%$ ; miscellaneous,  $13\frac{1}{2}\%$ ; investments,  $11\%$ ; crime,  $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ ; government,  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ ; schools,  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ ; religion, three-fourths of  $1\%$ .

In light of this miserable sum, I wonder how God feels about the inscription, "In God We Trust."

Study carefully your budget and see where you have placed God.



Every member of the congregation  
requested please to complete his purpose  
the elders or to the church office by next Sunday.

### DO WHAT YOU CAN

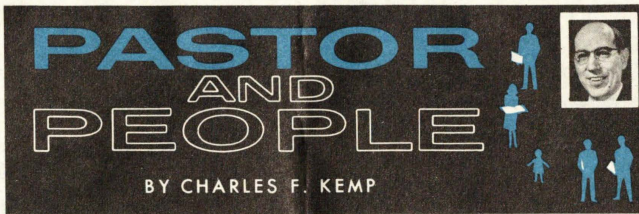
An Atlantic passenger lay on his bunk during a storm, deathly seasick. A cry of "Man overboard!" was heard. He prayed, "Lord, help the poor fellow. There is nothing I can do." Then the thought came to him, "At least I can put my Lantern in the porthole." This he did.

The man was rescued, and recounting the story next day, he said, "I was going down in darkness for the last time when someone put a light in a porthole and it shone on my hand. A sailor in a lifeboat grabbed it and pulled me in. If it had not been for that light I'd have drowned."

Weakness is no excuse for not putting forth all of the little strength we have. We cannot tell how God will use it. The little light you put forth in your daily life may be the determining factor in the salvation of some precious soul. Let your light keep burning, send a gleam across the wave; some poor fainting, struggling seaman, you may rescue, you may save.

- Selected





## STATISTICS and COMPASSION

SOMEONE has said that a Christian is one who can read statistics with compassion. Every now and then in the popular press one reads a list of statistics about people. One out of ten persons in this country will be hospitalized for a mental illness before they die. Some say a more accurate figure would be one out of nine. Almost a million and a half are hospitalized every year for psychiatric treatment, over 800,000 at any one time, over 269,000 are children.

There are more than 5,000,000 alcoholics in this country and many more problem drinkers. There are more than 50,000 drug addicts.

There are various figures as to the number of retarded children in America. Much depends on whether you include the borderline cases. If you include them all it is in the millions; if you only included the severely retarded it is 30 out of every 1,000.

More than 400,000 divorces are granted each year, which averages over 1000 a day. More than 6,000,000 children live in homes broken by death or divorce.

Almost 2,000,000 serious crimes are committed each year; a million and a half juveniles are arrested each year.

There are more than 18,000,000 people in the United States who are over 65, beyond what government and industry call "retirement age." Seven million are over

75. They are confronted with the loss of income, loss of friends, loss of status, and often intense loneliness.

Fifteen percent of all school-children are said to be suffering from some physical handicap in hearing, sight, speech, etc.

The list could be extended indefinitely. It could include the transients (who knows how many transients there are—homeless, jobless, purposeless, moving from one place to another?), the unemployed, unwed mothers, migratory workers, etc.

These figures tell only part of the story. For every person who is included in a column of statistics, there are others whose lives are affected. For every person hospitalized for mental illness there are others in the family who are experiencing emotional problems as a result. It is estimated that every alcoholic affects the lives of six to ten other people—husband, wife, parents, friends, children, employers, employees, etc. Every delinquent boy causes concern to others. Every divorce has its own story of frustration and sorrow, which always touches two lives, usually more.

Statistics are only part of the picture. The statistics on mental illness say nothing of those countless thousands who are wandering in that no-man's-land between happiness and unhappiness, satisfaction and frustration, adjust-

ment and neurosis. The figures on the retarded child say nothing of the much larger group of slow learners who find school difficult, who cannot keep pace with their more gifted neighbors and for whom failure is a constant threat. The statistics on unemployment do not include that group of people whose work is monotonous, uncreative, unsatisfying and is endured rather than enjoyed. The statistics on divorce do not include those who are living together but whose lives are characterized by more bitterness than love, who continue the relationship of husband and wife but without deep happiness.

Such figures stress the wisdom of John Watson's motto, "Be kind, for every one you meet is fighting a hard battle." They emphasize the need of a church fellowship and a church program that is truly redemptive and healing. The world needs it. The people need it. Nothing superficial is adequate. They emphasize the need for persons to study and prepare themselves to serve. It is persons that are important.

As Christians we are not concerned about statistics but persons. Each statistic is a person and if there is one person in your church who has a need, he is deserving of your service and your love. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."