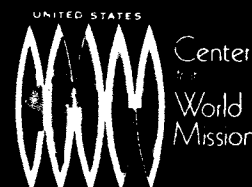


MISSION FRONTIERS



THE BULLETIN OF THE UNITED STATES CENTER FOR WORLD MISSION
1605 East Elizabeth St.
Pasadena, Ca. 91104

April/May Vol. 1:4
1979



Pictured above is the present student body of the Institute of International Studies. These are only a fraction of today's youth who have received extensive missions input. What happens to the thousands of students who attend Urbana, who have in some way come into vital contact with the missionary call? Where are they now?

THE GREAT ROADBLOCK:

**The Pre-candidate Crisis
in American Missions Today**

How the U.S.C.W.M. is Invading the Secular College Curriculum

Fact: An estimated 1.2 million really dedicated Christian students are currently enrolled in secular colleges.

Fact: These future church members and leaders are immersed for four solid years in an atmosphere generally characterized by skepticism, secularism and ignorance or disdain for the Christian movement.

Fact: In such a corrosive atmosphere, a high percentage of entering Christian students eventually reject Christ or at best acquiesce to the tacit assumption of a dying and irrelevant Christianity.

Fact: Secular education offers little reason to believe in Christianity's vitality. For example, few secular courses on Africa will normally mention that 85% of Africa's schools and hospitals have been founded by missionaries, or that in Africa and Asia, 1000 new churches are opening their doors each week. Have you ever heard these two astonishing facts?

Thus, it is ironic that at the very hour in history when the Christian movement is stronger and more successful worldwide than ever before, there is a growing feeling that just the opposite is true. Satan has accomplished this by sealing Christians off from the facts.

The USCWM is now operating a prototype program which effectively counters the severe misinformation or vacuum of the typical secular college curriculum. The *Institute of International Studies (IIS)* is an intensive semester/quarter designed to invigorate the Christian student (in secular colleges) with new vision, direction and purpose for his life--all while he or she loses no time or money in college.

HOW DOES THIS PILOT PROGRAM WORK?

There are few subjects which Christianity does not vitally affect. *History*, for example, is more coherent when taught from the perspective of God's hand in world events. *Anthropology/Sociology*--the study of man and his cultures--is strengthened by a biblical view of man. *Philosophy* is clarified by a Christian realization of man's full purpose and value on earth.

The IIS prototype program now offers fully accredited courses from a Christian perspective as a one-semester/quarter supplementary program (not competing with Christian colleges or Bible schools). This exciting course gives biblical, historical and international perspective of God's work all across the world. The IIS program thus rapidly injects the vitamins into the purely secular perspective normally given to Christian students at secular colleges.

College students normally invest an average of 55 hours each week towards course work. Now, IIS allows them for one high-powered semester or quarter or even January inter-term (whichever fits), to receive a brief but powerful reorientation.

This brief "vacation from secularism" into uplifting prayer and purpose energizes the rest of their secular college career with the understanding of God's presence behind secular interpretation. Yet, such a reorientation--fully transferable and secularly accredited--is only half the cost of most private colleges.

Prototype?

The concept of a one-semester, accredited intensive study of Scripture and God's purposes, as an oasis in the midst of a secular college career, is now being examined by Christian colleges as a viable alternative to abandoning most Christian students to totally secular input.

With the participation of colleges across the country, space for perhaps 20,000 young people per year would be available (the present IIS prototype can only accommodate 2000). (Incidentally, this participation by Christian colleges would also rescue them from the current crisis in funding caused by dropping enrollment.) As the idea catches on with more and more Christian colleges, perhaps another 100,000 annually could be reached. An independent study course for adults is already available. Such a massive, powerful reorientation to the FACTS of God's work in the world could well revitalize the church's vision and ministry in the world.

The Institute of International Studies
1605 East Elizabeth St.
Pasadena, Ca. 91104

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IIS WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS, OR CALL (213) 794-7155.



Let's Fish Below the Dam

Imagine a million salmon migrating up the mighty Columbia River. They elude nets and fishermen until they reach the first dam. In the pool below it they gather in a great swirling, seething, churning mass of moving bodies. No fisherman who has seen the sight will ever forget it.

Only a few of those fish will find the fish ladder and pass the dam. From Christian homes today 4,000,000 students are at secular colleges and universities. Perhaps 1.2 million of them are earnestly dedicated to Christ. Over 17,000 of them were at Urbana '76; half of them indicated their willingness to be missionaries should God call them. In other meetings, retreats, camps and conferences across the nation an estimated 20,000 "missionary decisions" are made each year.

The Problem

But...informed Christians find small comfort in those facts. The dam of secularism is awesomely effective. Few students ever pass from pre-candidate status to become active missionary candidates.

The above 1.3 million dedicated Christian students are products of a humanistic society. Their career foundation is being laid during four years at a secular college or university. This is true of at least 85% of Christian students in the U.S.

They are forced to make a career decision on inadequate data. Their spiritual potential is stifled by the secular miasma in which they live and move and have their being. These young people deserve an opportunity to see the world as God

sees it. Only this experience will permit them to make intelligent Christian career decisions.

To try to rechannel the 1.3 million students into four year terms at Christian colleges is not viable. Neither facilities nor force to do it exist.

Nevertheless, the present reality is a vast tragedy. Four years of "higher education" without a glimmer of God's purpose for mankind! How deadly is the desert of secularism. What a waste of lives results. Millions of students make career decisions without knowing facts on which alone a God-guided decision can be made.

The Solution

A practical alternative is at hand for such students. A college campus is being purchased for the purpose of giving them a divine perspective on the world.

The focus is pre-vocational. The aim is simple. Students are not pressured to make a "missionary decision," nor are they given missionary training. For missionary candidates excellent facilities elsewhere exist to impart needed skills, but 85% of the dedicated Christian students in the U.S. never reach the level where that choice confronts them.

Here is the plan. Students are invited to leave their secular school for a one-semester intensive course in our special mix of Christian orientation which we call "international studies." Credit is available by transcript for transfer to any college or university.

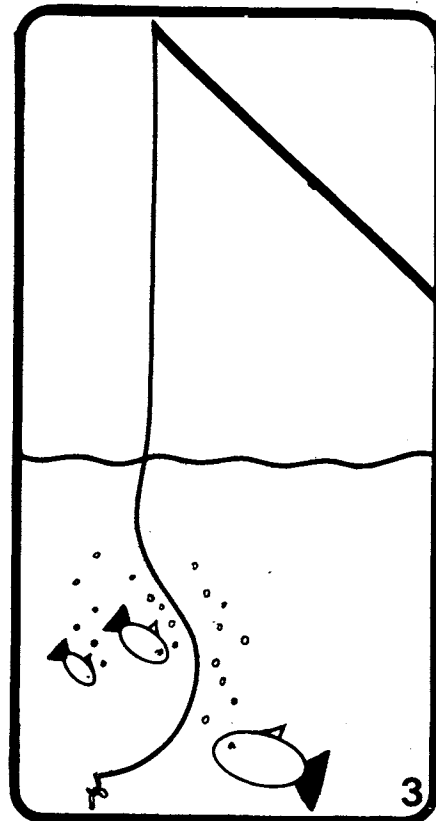
Here in Pasadena these students are afforded a thrilling spiritual experience. Suddenly they are among scores of like-minded youth. Outstanding mission leaders, executives and professors are flown in from all over the U.S. to address them and

answer their questions. Such reality is like a voice out of eternity for young people who want God's will. Results are transformed lives.

This one-semester experience is an oasis in the educational desert of secularism. It is a valid alternative to four years of unrelieved humanism.

Thus, now Christian students have a valid option. To get away for a totally relevant and refreshing semester! Then back to their college or university as more effective ambassadors for Christ.

The one-semester IIS concept is dynamic. It should spread and become an attraction at Christian colleges nationwide. When that occurs the full-orbed message of world missions will be given to countless thousands of Christian youth. We are fishing in a student pool that could flood all present Christian college facilities. Let's fish below the dam.



What would you say if I were to ask you to sum up your life's direction with a word?

Two weeks ago I was struck by a missionary statesman's answer to this question. After thumbing the pages of his Bible, he paused and began to read those powerful words of the Lord to the prophet Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you, and before you were born, I set you aside for my holy purpose and made you a prophet for the nations..." (Jeremiah 1:5).

Down through history other men in other places have been captivated by a sense of God's holy purpose for their lives. And down through the years certain words have been to them a guiding light. In the late 1800s tens of thousands of young college students in the United States were flung out across the world in response to one such call, their Watchword, which was "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation."

Their goal was stupendous--more stupendous than they could ever know. For a few short years the world was relatively at

peace, then it erupted again in first one and then another major world war, preceded and followed by hundreds of smaller local ones. Yet these volunteers left scattered around the globe growing healthy Christian churches by the thousands.

Did they evangelize the world in their generation? They certainly got to places where Americans had rarely gone before... and they usually stayed for the rest of their lives. Yet the world has grown larger. Now we know that we cannot just reach to the 250 nations of the world. Now our courses in anthropology teach us that the world is not made up of geographical boundaries so much as of peoples within those boundaries. And all too often those closest to each other hate each other the most.

Just a few weeks ago I was in a small meeting with seven other young people and two veteran missionary couples: Dr. and Mrs. Donald McGavran, members of that early Student Volunteer band, and Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Winter. We were gathered around a book printed in 1891 which discussed the dreams of those early volunteers. In the heart of each of us present was the cry, "Lord, do it again!" We knew the need now was just as great as then. We had all grappled with the fact that there are still 2½ billion people beyond the reach of any mission or church anywhere in the world. What would it take for the Lord to again send forth young people, like us, by the thousands? What could be the watchword for our day that would grip their hearts? We knew that to follow Christ's example, we had to not only evangelize but gather

those won into living fellowships of mutual support and commitment. Only then could they grow and as a body reach out to win the rest of their tribe, their language group, their "people".

"How about A CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2000?" one of those gathered there suggested. The task it outlined was tremendous. Could we do it? The task would belong to us, the young, but we knew there were thousands like us around the world who loved our Lord just like we did who would want to share in that harvest. They only needed to be touched by that certain spark!

So we examined that watchword. Did it say all we wanted it to say? What would following it require of us?

1) This Watchword requires a sensitivity to culture.

I stood recently in the great Hall of Crucifixion and Resurrection at Forest Lawn in Glendale, California and viewed there the mural which covers one entire wall. The central mural of three, standing 50 feet high, is a graphic representation of the millions of people who will greet their Lord at His second coming. There stand the Anglo-Saxons, the Scandinavians, the Latins, the Gauls and other European peoples. The splintered peoples of Africa join the Indian, Dorean and Oriental peoples of Asia. As I looked on all those faces, so enrapt at seeing their Lord return, I thought of John the Apostle's description of a similar scene in Revelation where people from every tribe, tongue and nation would be gathered in front of the throne (Rev. 7:9). Surely, if we understand what John was

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for every PEOPLE



saying, how sensitive we should be in reaching people within their own cultures. The bride of the Lamb will not be complete until there are some from every tribe, tongue and nation who call him Lord.

My mind went back through history. I thought of the many times when against extreme odds the gospel had managed to penetrate a culture and change its people from Celtic headhunters to Irish saints, slave hunters to hymn writers, careless, idle youth to flaming wandering evangelists. Throughout the expanse of time and space, across geographical boundary and successive generation, the gospel had managed to cross the threshold of culture again and again and in amazing power make of that culture what it could never dream of becoming.

Yes, the gospel was effective. The Holy Spirit could be counted on to be faithful. How about us?

Just recently, in a discussion with one of the foremost missionary thinkers, Dr. Alan Tippett, I was fascinated with the story of the Fiji Islands. Once a place of many tribal factions, it has experienced a fascinating metamorphosis as a result of the penetration of the gospel. The Church has become established in many of these societies. I inquired as to whether there were any more frontiers of any kind in Fiji. He told me of the 260,000 people from India, 30,000 of whom are most likely Muslim. Also, he said, massive urbanization has created a severe stratification of the original social structure. Fiji is now grappling with the problems of suburbia!

Applying this same cultural



Brad Gill, Personnel Director

filter to the rest of the world, we find that 16,750 peoples have yet to hear the gospel in their own cultures. The watchword of this generation must articulate that only as we are equipped with a cultural sensitivity can we objectively recognize the frontiers that lie before us.

2) This Watchword requires a "strategy of closure." The church must continually define its purpose as that of working toward the completion of the Great Commission. It is very easy for Christians to feel we are accomplishing this end when all we are doing is broadcasting the seed by radio, by television, by literature, by whatever method without perhaps ever going back to see whether some of that seed has taken root and grown. Yet it would be foolhardy to cross new cultural frontiers if we do not have a definite, measurable plan for bringing new converts

into churches of their own kind which on their own will reach out even further to others within that same language group. "Closure strategy" says that it is not enough for us today to go across the world and do a good job. We must work toward finishing the task, toward bringing all the sheaves in, toward completing the full count of the bride of Christ.

When Hudson Taylor turned his eyes to the inland areas of China, it was not because these coastal areas were fully evangelized. He saw that to complete the Great Commission, those beyond had to be reached. He had a plan and a measurable objective and set out to reach all of China. In so doing, he was following "a strategy of closure."

Fifty years later in 1910 at the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, most of the known missionary societies of the world joined together in an effort to strategize the completion of world evangelization. Essential to the basic fabric of this meeting of hearts and minds was a "strategy of closure." Only recently have plans been developed for another conference of this same sort. The World Consultation for Frontier Missions, to be held again in Edinburgh in 1980, will also draw together all the known mission agencies of the world, both Western and Non-Western, in order to strategize between themselves how to go about reaching those 16,750 still unreached peoples of the world. This again is a "strategy of closure."

I do not believe that we can be content with "vague general-

(continued on page 7)

by the year 2000 A.D.



Facing the Facts:



Past and Present

"Show me, if you can, why you should not obey the last command of Jesus Christ?"

In the Report of the First International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions held in Cleveland in 1891, are recorded the burning concepts and the motivating material that the Holy Spirit used to fuel the fires of the career missionary commitments of 100,000 U.S. college students in an era when the student population in America was only 1/37th of what it is today.

During my undergraduate years at Princeton in the late 60's I heard much about Woodrow Wilson's foreign policy and that of our other noted alum, John Foster Dulles; not once did I hear even a mention about the work of Robert Wilder and Robert Speer, two Princeton Students. Together with other, older spirit-filled saints like A.K. Gordon, these student leaders gave scriptural motivation and direction to a "foreign policy" which sent 20,000 young men and women out to live and sometimes die in nations around the world. They were supported by an amazingly active clergy and lay backing made up of 80,000 other "student volunteers" who preached the gospel of God's salvation in Jesus Christ while establishing educational and medical facilities for whole nations. The results have changed the world in an enduring, continuing way. Contrast that "foreign policy" contribution to that which millions of students, Christian students, study dutifully year in and year out at thousands of colleges across the land; the work of Wilson and Dulles, now for the most part period pieces in need of overhaul and replacement, is

kicked along like a fraying football with each succeeding American political administration.

In the recorded speeches of the Student Volunteer Movement we hear the characteristics of the vibrant undertaking propounded over and over again, the characteristics that would prove so enduring, so valuable in the world-wide growth of the Church of Jesus Christ. It demands from its members first of all a total personal and disciplined commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour based on a daily, private walk with Christ. Prayer, in fact, was the foundational element for the launching of the movement. The data was there too; the facts about the unreached people which Hudson used to call "the accusing map". Gordon alerted those gathered to another foundational principle: it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that true missionary work can be undertaken and sustained.

Most unavoidably, we can see in the leaders of the Student Volunteer Movement a personal and

consuming concern for the lost. Theirs was a compassion paralleling the concern of Jesus Himself as He looked at the multitudes in Matthew 9:36; Jesus was so moved that He was literally torn up inside. The S.V.M. leadership not only had that kind of concern, but they also conveyed it to others.

I am convinced that we must have a new Student Volunteer Movement for Frontier Missions. Facing the facts of the 2.5 billion "Hidden People" of the world, and looking at the next twenty years of forecasted population growth, I believe this new movement must raise up cross-cultural missionaries prepared to give their lives if necessary to plant churches amidst over 16,000 sub-cultures of the world. If such a new student movement arises, complete with watchword and declaration, may it be based as solidly on the Word of God, the enabling of the Holy Spirit, and the consuming passion for the lost as was the Student Volunteer Movement in the springtime of its vigor and Holy Spirit Power.



Passing
 the baton
 to a new
 generation...?

BEGIN HERE!

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(from page 5)

Today's Challenge (continued)

zations" when dealing with the Great Commission. These 16,750 ethnic groups still need a viable church planted within their societies. India alone has 2,900 such unchurched peoples. By the year 2000 we must attempt a final

push across these remaining frontiers. What will be the response of the Church to this challenge? This I believe is the final condition inherent in our watchword.

3) This Watchword requires a sacrificial commitment.

In an age of specialization, when academia and the various media encourage young people to

pursue profitable careers arising from their personal interests, one wonders if this generation can ever really link up with a task as costly to self interest as the Great Commission. Can their priorities be shifted? Can their small ambitions be shelved in light of the mandate which confronts us? In the words of John Wesley, our watchword--"A Church for Every People by the Year 2000"--can provide the "expulsive power of a new affection" which will wipe all small ambitions from their hearts.

Who will be required to make this sacrificial commitment? Is it only U.S. and European students? No, now there are resources world wide. In conferences in Singapore, Korea, India, and other countries in the Third World students are considering the claims of the Great Commission on their lives. The watchword today is made in the context of an international thrust.

There must also be an inter-generational thrust. Young men will see visions but old men will dream dreams! Without the resources and commitment of those who remain and fortify the base, the ability of many young people to launch into service will be hampered. The entire generation, both young and old, must take up the challenge.

Our watchword, then, like that almost a hundred years ago, must not be too weak to demand our best. It must not be so limited that it fails to work toward completing the task. And it must be wise enough to reach people within their own cultures and languages, no matter how many that may involve. "A CHURCH FOR EVERY PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2000" requires all three of these. May we find it within ourselves, fueled by the facts and consumed by the Holy Spirit and by our love for the Lord of the harvest, to give ourselves to this great mandate.

« « . » »

32 meet the *Director's wife*

This page should probably have been first in this issue because I am introducing two new writers. My husband, Dr. Ralph Winter, left last night for Korea, where he is speaking at a major missions conference--the first of its kind--which pulls together the leaders of all the denominations there. The Korean Church is ready to take its place as one of the major mission-sending countries in the world. Isn't that exciting?

You will notice that this issue stresses students. Consequently we have asked two of our younger staff to write the two major articles. The first, "A Church for Every People..." is by Brad Gill, formerly of Boston. Although only 27, Brad is our Personnel Director. He was one of those early Institute of International Studies students at the time when it was only a summer program in Wheaton, Illinois. There he met Beth, his wife (our oldest daughter) and became a firebrand for frontier missions, as you can see in his article.

The second article, "Facing the Facts..." is by David Bliss. Like Beth and Brad, Dave and Debbie are mentioned repeatedly in my Jericho book because they played such an important part in our early development as a Center. A recent graduate of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Dave is already a member of African Enterprise. He, his wife Debbie, and daughter Sarah, are current-



Roberta Winter

ly in South Africa with African Enterprise. There is a real possibility that AE will loan Dave and Debbie to the USCWM for two years starting in September. Two of the concerns that are foremost in their thoughts are: 1) to isolate and describe the "hidden peoples" of Africa, and 2) to challenge the students of this generation to take seriously the completion of the Great Commission. It is their prayer that the Holy Spirit will generate a new student missions movement.

Mission executives come through the Center every week and express amazement at the excitement and dedication of our Institute of International Studies students. And

they are great! But when they see these young staff members, almost all graduates of the same program but now bearing tremendous responsibilities, they can hardly contain themselves. We can see why! God has touched these young staff in a very special way. All are restless to get to the field, yet feel that the path of obedience for them just now leads right where they are. Pray that God will use them to inspire thousands of other young people to go with them to seek for those "Hidden People" and bring them to the Cross.

One thing more: I spoke of the mission agencies. Ten of them are so impressed by our IIS program that they are sending our publicity flyers to their own mailing list. Let me name these: Africa Inland Mission, Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, North Africa Mission, Overseas Crusades, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, Regions Beyond Missionary Union, Sudan Interior Mission, Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Worldteam, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

God bless all of you. We love you and depend on your prayers and your telling others about our needs. We have two major payments coming up in just a few days. Satan is on our trail constantly, but God is by our side. Christ has already won the victory; this we know! Claim it with us.

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