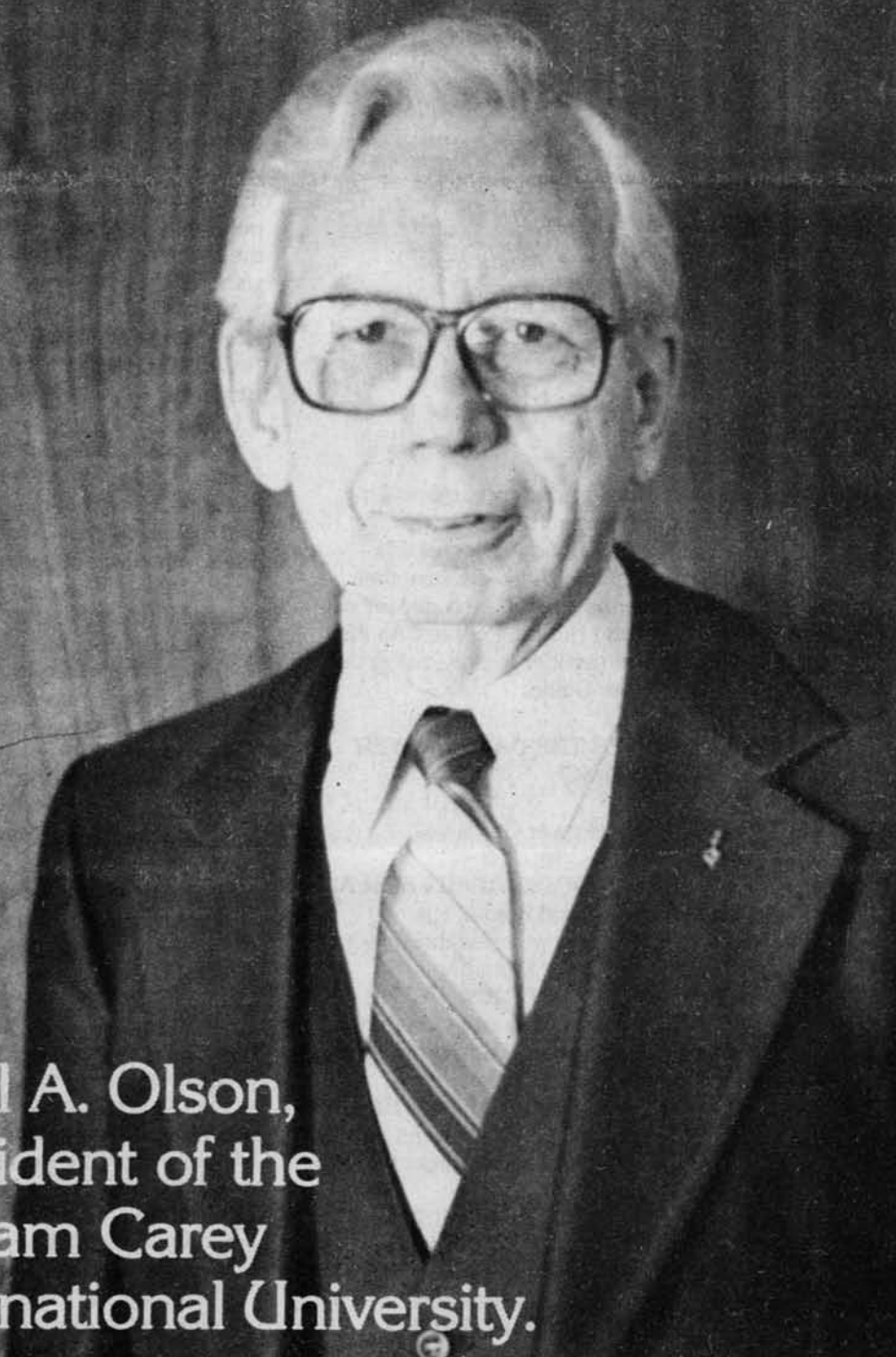


MISSION FRONTIERS

A black and white portrait of Virgil A. Olson, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Virgil A. Olson,
President of the
William Carey
International University.

The Daily Prayer Guide...

backbone of the Fellowship:

*A DAILY DEVOTIONAL DISCIPLINE
DESIGNED TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE LIVES
A MILLION CHRISTIANS — AND 2.6
BILLION HIDDEN PEOPLE!*

WHY A DAILY PRAYER GUIDE?

*"Nothing that does not occur daily
will ever dominate your life!"*

That's a basic fact of human nature.

Now, with the **Daily Prayer Guide**, you can take a few minutes each day to walk through the world. This unique prayer guide will focus your mind and heart on thousands of "hidden" nations cut off from Christian outreach—the Gospel's final frontiers. Every day, you'll discover surprises that will gradually and surely transform your entire outlook on God's world today.

FROM WHERE DID THIS DAILY DEVOTIONAL IDEA COME?

The **Daily Prayer Guide** is a part of a revolutionary plan for mission support which came from the Lushai Christians of Northwest Burma. They heard of the Dai people to the north, a mountain people without the Gospel. Determining to go as missionaries, Lushais needed prayer and financial support. So, they developed a plan.

As they prepare each meal, they set aside a handful of rice, using this simple act as a reminder to pray for their missionaries. These small handfuls, pooled together and sold by the church once a month, raise an

astonishing amount of support for Christian outreach.

In the American version of this Burmese plan, Christians save their loose change in a jar each day for new work among Hidden Peoples. As they do, they remember to pray, using the **Daily Prayer Guide**.

HOW DOES THE DAILY PRAYER GUIDE WORK?

The **Daily Prayer Guide** will encourage you to:

- 1) **PURSU**E GOD'S HEART FOR ALL NATIONS as you read of His redemptive plan revealed throughout the Old and New Testaments;
- 2) **PRAISE** GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE through men and women who have faithfully made His Commission the priority of their lives;
- 3) **PLEAD** WITH GOD FOR THE HIDDEN PEOPLES as you get a glimpse of cultures still untouched by the Gospel;
- 4) **PETITION** FOR PROMISING BREAKTHROUGHS just on the horizon as mission organizations move out to penetrate new frontiers;
- 5) **PRAY** FOR THE CHURCH'S OBEDIENCE and for your own obedience as you strive to make God's redemptive passion your own.

WHAT'S COMING IN THE JUNE ISSUE?

June's **Daily Prayer Guide** has some particularly exciting thrusts:—

Inspirational, convicting excerpts from the life and writings of Jim Elliot who was martyred by the Auca Indians of Ecuador.—

Vignettes on the life of Henry Martyn, a brilliant Bible translator who pioneered among the Muslims of India at the turn of the 19th century.—

Exhortations for mission education in the church from John R. Mott, a key leader of the Student Volunteer Movement, the most powerful student missions movement in history.—

Exciting plans being implemented for penetration of people groups beyond the reach of any current Christian witness.

HOW CAN MY CHURCH OR FAVORITE MISSION AGENCY BECOME INVOLVED?

Many denominations and mission agencies have already elected to distribute their own customized version of the **Daily Prayer Guide**. Groups already involved include:

Africa Inland Mission
Christian Missionary Fellowship
Evangelical Free Church
North Africa Mission
United Presbyterians...
and others.

Write to us and ask if a customized version exists for your group. If not, perhaps you can encourage your church or the mission agency you support to join these groups.

WARNING!

This is a dangerous booklet. As you read of God's consuming passion to redeem men of all nations, your world will never look the same. And as you pray for thousands of forgotten people groups locked behind barriers of language and culture, your world will never BE the same.

Today, decide to join with thousands of believers across the country in this daily devotional discipline to revolutionize the lives of 2.6 billion Hidden People.



HIDDEN PEOPLES??

In this publication, you will often come across the phrases "frontier missions," and "Hidden Peoples." Just for the record, let's review what they mean.

The term "Frontier Missions" has been officially defined and is now used by missiologists to describe cross-cultural outreach to people groups in which there is not presently a viable, indigenous, evangelizing church.

Note that this definition is identical to that of an **unreached** people group. Over 2.5 billion people live in 16,750 of these "hidden" people groups—hidden from our view and the conventional outreach of existing churches and mission agencies. "Frontier" missions is thus a critical complement to "regular" missions if new beachheads for the gospel are to be established within still untouched cultural groups.

The Hidden Peoples are found mainly among the **Muslim, Chinese, Hindu, Buddhist and tribal** peoples of the world. These thousands of bypassed people groups, whether in cities or in jungles, are the final Frontiers of the gospel.

Less than 10 per cent of the world's missionaries and only 5 per cent of mission money are focused on these 16,750 groups.

MISSION FRONTIERS

The News Bulletin of the U.S. Center for World Mission

May 1982 4:3

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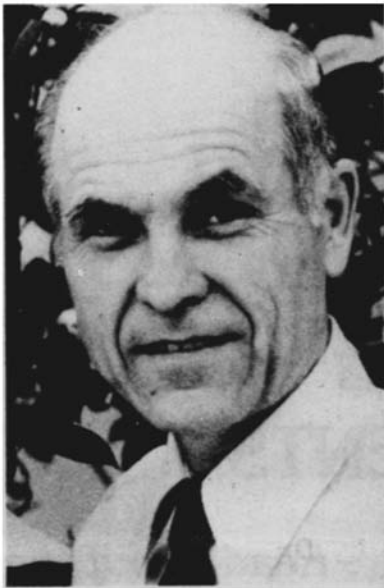
Read about the new President of the William Carey International University, Dr. Virgil Olson, on page 6. Then, discover his vision for the University on page 8.

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MEMBER
epa



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

8 April, 1982

Dear Friends,

This Center vs. the kangaroo! What is the parallel?--That strange animal and this bustling, burgeoning center? We are alike because only God could have invented the kangaroo!

1. We're not big--These 35 acres, 100 buildings (mostly residences), 500,000 square feet of floor space, are smaller than most college campuses. However we are trying to be a servant to 500 mission agencies in this country. Yet our space is a small percentage of all theirs.
2. We're not small--At least 500 people live and/or work on this set of properties, not counting students. That leads me to say...
3. We're not a college--although we occupy a former college campus, and in fact operate a small specialized university. (see p. 8)
4. We're not a mission agency--at least not the usual kind which must forever raise money to operate. We will be completely self-sustaining 1) once our property payments cease in two years, and 2) once no one on our staff is raising personal support in our name. (Our goal is for all personnel to be on loan to us from other missions. Already 42 agencies contribute personnel here.) We are, and always have been, self-sustaining except for these two items. This fact leads us to the next point...
5. We are not trying to create thousands of new frontier-mission donors for ourselves. As already mentioned, we do not foresee the need for any permanent donor base. Temporarily, yes, we must get the property paid for. Even for the property we hesitate to compete for funds against the very agencies we are trying to serve. If the Frontier Fellowship movement catches on (Pray!), it will bring \$40 million per year to the other mission agencies (of which \$6 million may come to us) and by the end of 1984 \$100 million per year.
6. We don't exactly send missionaries--We do allow our staff members to "escape" if they really feel God leading overseas. And almost 50 of our staff--and hundreds of our students--are now all over the globe, working under many different agencies. Our purpose in Pasadena is to keep enough people home so as to make sure no Hidden People group (out of over 16,000) is overlooked, and to make sure enough funds and recruits are alerted and sent that way.

Alas, how about you? No one on our staff has yet succeeded in neatly, simply, explaining what we are. Yet it's awfully important to do so. Write me a note if you have an idea. We can't sell ideas if we can't name them!

Yours in His Commission,

Ralph D. Winter, General Director

P.S. By now you should have received our special mailing of the New May Frontier Fellowship Daily Prayer Guide. That is our lifeline to the future. Please share it with others. Can you do that?



capsule comments

Discrediting Missionaries: Newsweek (March 8) went all out to discredit missionaries in Central America, especially Protestant missionaries, saying they haven't even been gutsy enough to take sides (like some Catholic missionaries have). Conclusion: "Whatever the missionaries are doing, they have no part in the future of Central America." Turns out they have taken sides, siding with the not-so-visible evangelical "middle"--now represented in a stunning turn of events by the new president of Guatemala. The evangelical movement is, in fact, a powerful force in Central America, and a creation of Protestant missions. Evangelicals are, in fact, the only hope for the future.

The Kingdom Strikes Back: A six-cassette album of talks given by Dr. Ralph D. Winter portraying the majestic power of God in missionary outreach from Abraham to the Second Coming of Christ...Too late to get on the order sheet, (Retail \$29.95. Order from Mission Frontiers Book Service for \$17.95.) Write it in on the back page. A much shorter version is available--see the "Congress on the Bible" tape on the back cover.

Who is Virgil Olson? You almost have to read between the lines in this issue to find out the chief qualification this man brings to our team. During the last seven years he was Director of the Board of World Missions of the Baptist General Conference. For two years he was also the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Foreign Mission Association. This is, for us, what overshadows all his other outstanding attainments--this role within the world of the mission agencies. Why is this dimension so important to us? Because 95% of the people and funds go to the front line through these holy instruments. Our primary focus is their health and impact.

Why the Frontier Fellowship? It is already generating enormous new hope--and action--everywhere it is tried. It invades our daily consciousness--where we really live! If we can (through other's help) enlist 400,000 people by September 1983, it will generate the essential \$6,000,000 payment we need at that time, plus another \$34,000,000 for cooperating agencies and churches.

Will the Frontier Fellowship Work? Can there be 400,000 people praying daily by September, 1983? Can it be? Yes. Will it be? Well, depends on a lot of people who are "waiting to see." But lots are not waiting! The Evangelical Free Church is sending out 1200 Prayer Guides, one to every pastor. The Southern Presbyterian church is considering a plan similar to the one sponsored by a large groups of evangelicals within the United Presbyterian Church.

Why Waste \$6,528.78 of the Lord's Money? That's the cash outlay for our special mailing. (A lot of human energy went into it also). The May issue of the Frontier Fellowship Daily Prayer Guide is excellent to introduce people to the fascinating, enriching experience of reading a page a day about the exploding power of God's work around the world. (Have you tried it?) What a colossal waste? What if only 6,528 readers do something with it. Already, phone orders are coming in for nick-of-time copies to be sent out for use in local churches. Don't let you copy be wasted. For copies for others you know, call us collect: Dial 0-213-791-1324, say, "Collect call, station rate." Ginny will answer.

VIRGIL OLSON

MISSIONS MOTIVATOR

by Florence Jacobson

Both Virgil and Carol met us as we were changing planes. Carol gave our Benji a set of David C. Cook's Bible stories in cartoon form, which he read over and over again. They also gave our boys some cassette tapes of stories, which they literally have memorized. Actually, we don't know if these were the thought of Carol or Virgil. But it is something that has dropped into the spiritual development bank of our kids, and we appreciate this thoughtfulness.

Jim and Barb Jacobson's recollection of their last moments on American soil tell a lot about the man who has led Baptist General Conference world missions since 1975.

Virgil Olson, ably supported by his wife Carol, brought to the job a pastor's heart. Those who have worked closest to him see him as much a personal counselor as an administrator. His concerns for people always overshadowed his concern for programs.

An only child, Virgil is the son of the late Adolf and Esther Olson. He describes his parents as being at their best with the common people, "the salt of the earth." His father's piety, theology and lifestyle reflected above all else the grace of God. Although circumstances kept the older Olsons from their dream of becoming missionaries, they were able to instill in their son a concern for people far away, who needed to hear of God's grace. "As a young boy, I never knew which missionary I'd wake up with in the morning, because my parents always opened our home to furloughed missionaries."

His home church—Bethany, St. Paul—he recalls as being missionary-minded. From this influence and from the countless missionary biographies he read, young Virgil concluded that the greatest thing in the world would be to become a missionary. He remembers others who encouraged him too. Like Esther Sabel, professor of Greek and Christian education at Bethel Seminary, who clipped articles from the American Baptist Foreign Missions paper and sent them home with Adolf for Virgil to read.

From his own family, his uncle and aunt, Walfred and Ann Danielson, went to India. "When I visited India the first time, many places were recognizable because I'd seen so many of the Danielsons' pictures."

Prior to his coming into the world missions office both Virgil and Carol studied for a month at Fuller Seminary's School of World Mission, desiring to prepare themselves as much as possible for what lay ahead.

When Virgil came into leadership of BGC world missions he came as a man of prayer. His heart cry was that he be both visionary and practical, emphasizing that we must walk more by faith, less by sight. Carol is also a person of great faith and prayer. Often she has picked up the phone to call the office and ask what needs she could pray for.

His experience as a teacher sharpened his communications ability, so he never seemed to be without words. Soon he was asked to prepare research papers for the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association. "Women's Role in Missions Today" and "The Unsupervised Missionary"

were two papers which he shared in the wider circle.

He came with his missiology pretty well worked out. Reading a lot of the mission strategy which developed in the 1950s and '60s, his ideas of partnership had roots. It is something he had been thinking about for years. His historical perspective—knowing where we came from and where we should be going—has affected many decisions.

Virgil Olson came into the office as a proven administrator, having seen Bethel College through its relocation process. Not one to leave loose ends dangling for any length of time, he sees a thing through.

One of the things that has made it fun to work under Virgil is that when he gives the staff a job to do he not only expects them to do it but he backs them up. He affirms his staff, never embarrassing or contradicting them. He brings out the best in people.

A MAN OF MANY GOALS

But what has he done for missions? Virgil came to world missions leadership with specific goals—goals based on needs he saw. He had helped pen the overall Conference mission goal, and then as head of the mission was responsible for implementing programs to better focus activities toward that goal.

One goal was to heighten the communication level of missions. The number of speaking assignments he's carried out in Conference churches indicates he's been an able articulator for missions. His "From My Perspective" column in the *Standard*

has had wide readership, and his four-page "Go-Between" has given cohesiveness to the mission family.

Aware that national churches would have to be given more recognition, he instituted the partnership concept. "Our mission has made rapid progress as most others in this," he feels. But he's not unaware of the problems partnership may cause for some missionaries.

One of the greatest needs during his term in office has been management control, to get more mileage from missionary dollars. "If we'd spent what the Conference promised us [what they voted in yearly budgets], we would be close to \$900,000 in the hole. But they didn't give it to us, so we set up a

It's a very disconcerting feeling to see that churches are spending proportionately more on themselves and less and less on global evangelism.

program to be fiscally responsible. We've lived not only within our budget but within our income."

A fourth need Virgil saw was to develop more flexible types of programs to meet emergencies. When we had a surplus of medical missionaries after turning most of our medical work in Ethiopia over to the government, we helped alleviate a shortage the North American Baptists were facing in Cameroon. When World Relief Corporation desperately needed medical help for their refugee program in Thailand, we sent one of our doctor-nurse teams. A skilled communications team, unable to return to Ethiopia, now is assigned to Daystar in Kenya, where the couple teaches and helps prepare learning materials for non-readers in Ethiopia.

A fifth need—to develop a missions education program for our churches—is still beyond us because we lack both resources and manpower to do it.

When asked what his greatest joy has been during these six years, Virgil thought for a moment. "Well, I've certainly enjoyed my fellowship with the missionaries and staff, but then I had similar fellowship at Bethel. I would have to say my greatest joy has been the opportunity to get acquainted with Christian leaders in the non-Western world—to have the privilege of a global friendship, realizing the wonders of the household of faith."

That feeling is mutual. One of the Ethiopian believers received a note from Virgil after his visit. "Look at this," he exclaimed. "He's the first person like this to have written especially to me to say thank you and to tell me that I'm a partner with him." Again, people above programs.

DISAPPOINTMENTS, TOO

Not a traditionalist, Virgil has tried to get us to think new thoughts. The missionaries know that. So does his staff. But one wonders how many of the churches have recognized it. The greatest disappointment to Virgil, the one that has caused him the greatest concern, is the paucity of support from churches. "It's a very disconcerting feeling to see that churches are spending proportionately more on themselves and less and less on global evangelism. That's been the heaviest, most frustrating aspect of my missions career."

Those who understand inflation and the purchasing power of the dollar

know it's been pretty much of a hold, break-even time for missionary dollars. He had higher expectations than that.

An article about Virgil wouldn't be complete without mention of his humor. It's incomparable! He has learned not to take himself too seriously. But about the things that are important—the grace of God, people, unmet budgets—he's very serious.

Those of you who have heard him speak or who read his column regularly, know the important place Virgil's family has had in his ministry. He has left Carol for weeks at a time on his overseas trips and on almost endless weekend assignments. The several times she did accompany him overseas the letters of appreciation about her equalled those about her husband.

Virgil and Carol have handed down to their three children their concern for others. Linda (Mrs. George Gianoulis), with a degree in teaching English as a second language, teaches Spanish at St. Paul Bible College. Ann (Mrs. Robert Neilsen) is a recreational therapist, working with mentally ill patients. Dan, in his final stages of earning his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago, is teaching part time at Wheaton College. ◊

Florence Jacobson is editor of world missions publications for the Baptist General Conference. Used with permission from *The Standard*, July 1981.



Virgil and Carol Olson

...and a few words from the President



Dr. Virgil Olson arrived in Pasadena January 28, 1982 to assume the presidency of William Carey International University. He is a proven administrator in higher education, as well as an experienced professor. Dr. Olson served as Dean of Bethel College from 1968 to 1974 after teaching at Bethel Seminary from 1951 to 1968. This article outlines another dimension of this gifted man

I believe that God who is on mission is opening the door to evangelicals around the world for another great movement in world evangelism.

At the beginning of this century, one of the greatest programs for recruitment of volunteers for world missions was in full operation. It was the Student Volunteer Movement. A hundred thousand students on university and college campuses across America signed the pledge to be a part of the mission to "evangelize the world in this generation." 20,500 of their number actually became missionaries in foreign nations.

After a few decades, the fire of the SV movement died down. Mission zeal began to lag. But then at mid-century another burst of mission energy took place following World War II. Young men and women who had returned from military service overseas challenged churches to respond to the open doors for missions, particularly in Africa and Asia. Many new mission societies were organized. Radio ministries were established. Relief

programs, often associated with evangelical mission programs, significantly underscored missions as being both creeds and deeds. Of the 663 mission agencies listed in the 12th edition of the *Mission Handbook*, 405 were organized following World War II, using 1944 as the first year of record.

It was my privilege to be a part of this post-war mission advance in my own denomination, the Baptist General Conference. The Conference decided in 1944 to organize its own foreign mission program. In a few years, missionaries were serving in ten nations.

During the past four decades churches have been planted in nearly every nation in the world. Partnership relationships are being developed between western and non-western churches. However, many of the mission agencies have continued to concentrate their personnel in areas where churches have been planted. Only a small percentage (10 per cent or less) are directly engaged in pioneer strategies and mission penetration among the people groups who are without a Christian witnessing community.

But the mission perspective is changing!

There is a new awareness developing among Christian leaders, mission agencies, churches. Many are responding to the vision of reaching 16,750 human groupings of people with sociological, ethnic identities.

The very reason for the existence of the U.S. Center for World Mission is to develop strategies, mobilize mission agencies, churches, students to give

primary priority to the task of planting churches among the many large blocs of people groups, the total of which include over half of the world's population.

The vision, this missionary challenge has drawn Mrs. Olson and me to Pasadena to be a part of a fellowship which is committed to "walk by faith," which believes that the barriers to the frontiers of the unreached people groups (Hidden People) can be broken. Already the Spirit of God is moving. It is up to us to follow.

Because of the changing political structures, the peculiar distinctives of cultures resistant to the gospel throughout the centuries, we believe that strategies and methods of mission penetration need to be re-evaluated, researched and re-designed. The new situations will call for increased skills in communication, coupled with educated sensitivities to meet the priority needs of developing nations.

The William Carey International University campus is becoming a locale for front line thinking, training, research for the new missionary advance. Although the university program is in the early stages of development, I believe it already has the marks of promise of being a creative, constructive instrument to help develop legitimate and authentic cross-cultural communication bridges with the many population blocs who are without the presence of a Christian witnessing community among them.

I grew up in a home which was influenced greatly by the missionary challenge of the Student Volunteer Movement. Fresh out of theological seminary, I was privileged to be a part of the development of one of the many mission agencies that arose after the last great war. At this stage of my life, I can think of no greater privilege than to be at the center of mission research, strategy and mobilization, where the vision of the mission mandate is epitomized in the goal: A witnessing community of churches in each of the 16,750 people groups by the year 2000.

Dr. Virgil A. Olson
President, William Carey International University
March 11, 1982.

See back page to order the complete WCIU catalog of courses.



LETTERS

Regarding the letter from C.W. in Indiana and the problem of being without change every day, there is a simple solution: trade bills for coins whenever you need some change. If you do this on a regular basis, you will also not face the time-consuming task of counting and packaging hundreds of coins when you are ready to send your donation for frontier missions!

In His love,
Pat Myers

Hagerstown, MD

Send \$.50 for a special key holder (\$.25 each if 10 or more are ordered) which allows you to keep four nickels and three dimes in reserve at all times. You can then safely give all your pocket coins each day and never be caught without emergency coins—Ed.

Enclosed is the first dividend from our loose change fellowship. The need out there is so huge, \$35 doesn't seem like much...but God will answer our prayers, and keep the Center functioning...

I was actually into the idea before I ever heard from you regarding this particular plan. For some time I had been saving my loose change, and encouraging my wife Cindy to do likewise, and growing in the conviction that we would send it to missions when we filled our "jar." Meanwhile I was praying regularly for the Center, and for missions in general, and a few missionary friends of mine, etc. I think I had already combined the two—praying for missions, and the Center every night while I emptied my

pockets, when you wrote me about "your new plan." I was a natural!

Anyway, the jar got full, so here it is. It's not going to get you out of debt, but the prayers that lie behind, and countless other gifts like it, just may.

"I am sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion..." To His name be glory.

Sincerely,
Charles S. Denison
Flora, IN

This letter allows us to clarify that our policy is not to use for our property payments more than the first \$15 that comes from the loose coins that are accumulated by the Frontier Fellowship. In fact, for people who have sent in \$15.95 already, we seek to send on all the loose coin offerings that happen to be sent to us. Why? Because all cooperating organizations are themselves earmarking the first \$15 coming in to them from Frontier Fellowship offerings. We truly want all coins beyond the first \$15 to go to other agencies—Ed.

Your book *Once More Around Jericho* really touched me. Reading about the faith others have placed in Jesus really thrills me, it challenges my own, letting me be free in believing my Lord as well.

Brother Winter, you speak of crossing cultural barriers with the Gospel message. For a long time this has been my prayer, only on a smaller level. You see my place of residence is a penitentiary. Still the love of Jesus is real.

My belief is if we are ever to reach those who don't know the truth we must cross these barriers. In other words, we must become the bridge to span the gulf between life and death, being willing to lay down our ideas, our life, so they may see Jesus.

For myself, if God would open these doors and allow me to go forth to another country preaching and sharing His Word, in a moment I would be gone. Seeing this is not afforded me at this time, my reaching out involves [me] here in this prison. If the term may be used, there are "hidden people" right here hiding from themselves and from the truth.

At this point there is not much money that can be sent, for there is not much made, however as my tithe and service to God I would like this to be where my support goes... Again thank you for your concern and God bless you in this outreach to others.

Love in Christ,
Stacey Fox
Huntingdon, PA

We received our first sample packet including the "Daily Prayer Guide" today. I have never been more excited about a missions program! This is filling a desperate need! We will be moving to New York state where I will pastor a larger church. I intend to introduce the Frontier Fellowship there. I also intend to introduce it here before I leave.

In His Love,
Dan Wray
Limington, Maine

The "Chinese world" (about a quarter of the earth's population) represents one of the major spheres of Hidden Peoples. Other spheres

include Hindu, Muslim and tribal peoples. Although there are many Christians among the Chinese today, and a church established in certain parts of the Chinese megasphere, for the most part, the Chinese world is

still largely untouched by a viable Chinese witness.

In this article, Dr. Gates outlines practical suggestions for reaching out to the Chinese world that has come to our country.

CHINESE...

and the Local Church

CHINESE AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

by Alan Gates

I listened with great interest recently as a mother stood to her feet in a missions workshop and told of her experience with a Chinese family which had recently moved next door. What began with a request for help in learning to drive, resulted in a new friendship and the chance to share the Christian faith—a real cross-cultural missionary situation right at her back door—in California!

This points up the growing awareness of churches to the fact that areas like Southern California are becoming extensions of the Third World. Ethnic groups are multiplying, especially Hispanic and Asian. The question in this case is "How can we involve ourselves in outreach to Chinese?"

The purpose of this article is to suggest answers to this question—concrete steps that you and your church can take towards Chinese ministry which might result even in the planting of Chinese daughter churches.

WHICH CHINESE?

Let us first distinguish some of the Chinese groups in order to sharpen our focus and concern. Chinese entering America are mainly university students, immigrants or refugees. Those coming as students are primarily from Taiwan, Mainland China,

Hong Kong and other Southeast Asians countries. Almost all of them speak English besides Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese or some other dialect. Chinese students are found on nearly every major campus in America.

Today's Chinese immigrants are mainly from Taiwan, China and Hong Kong but are not all conversant in English. They tend to settle in areas where large numbers of their own people are already living. The younger ones will quickly become fluent in English if they are not already. The older Chinese will often make do with minimal English and many speak none at all.

Chinese refugees are an unusual group which have come to America

under special, and in most cases, trying circumstances. Most of these have been arriving from Vietnam, and speak mainly Cantonese and Vietnamese. Those who are well educated will often speak some English. For most of them, however, English is a strange language.

BARRIERS TO ACTION

Not every church has had experience in "ethnic ministries." Most of us are "anglos" by descent and have not given much thought to working among peoples who are non-anglos. There may be some who are even opposed to bringing "non-white" groups into their church, fearful of





losing control or just apprehensive about how to deal with people who are "different from us."

Whatever the problem may be, it is good to remind ourselves that only a few generations ago, our forefathers were strangers and aliens in America. Indeed, they were all "boat people" in one sense or another. By God's grace and the open stance of this country, they were welcomed and given a share in America's wealth and opportunities. Now we also have fallen heirs to God's goodness. The words of the prophet are fitting at this point: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you also were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Ex. 22:21).

Even as the Lord reminded Israel to be open to the alien and the stranger

we do well to heed the same injunctions.

STEPS TO ACTION

Here are a few ideas for your ministry among Chinese:

1. **Organize for action.** This may be an outgrowth of your missions committee, or it may simply involve a number of concerned lay people. Whatever the case, there needs to be more than one person involved. The more shoulders to bear burdens the better. If you have a Chinese or two in your church, by all means, involve them.
2. **Inquire through whatever sources available as to the location of Chinese students, immigrants or refugees in your area.** The nearest Chinese Church may be the best source of information. Plot your findings on a simple map.
3. **Having located Chinese individuals or families, inquire as to their most pressing needs.** These will suggest useful ways of approach. It may be there are some who need help in learning to drive, or it may be a problem of learning or improving English. Needs will often point to doors for building friendship and mutual trust.
4. **Plan for a "China Night" in your church.** Show films on current China or have a missionary speaker or someone currently in touch with China, Taiwan, etc. perhaps just returned from

a tour of that land. Chinese food and decor could top off the program.

5. **Plan for your missions committee to visit and worship in a Chinese church.** Discuss possible avenues of Chinese outreach with the pastor and leaders of that church. Exchange pulpits for one Sunday service.
6. **Look into the possibility of sponsoring a Chinese "boat people" family.** Get your whole church involved providing living quarters, assistance in English coaching, helping the family in "learning the ropes" of living in America—shopping, transportation, getting children into school, medical advice, and so on.
7. **If a growing number of Chinese show an interest in having their own Chinese church service,** then consider developing a Chinese congregation using the "off hours" of your own facilities until they are able to purchase their own property.

As you launch into your own "Nextdoor Mission," God will reveal many ways of effective ministry not even mentioned here. Hopefully, you will share your discoveries with others who may do the same. May the God who loves China and the Chinese, even as He loves America, bless and guide you as you venture out in faith into this unique opportunity in "next door missions." ○



DR. ALAN GATES, veteran missionary in Taiwan with the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society and author of *Think China*, is Associate Director of the Evangelical China Office. See back page for ordering *Think China*.

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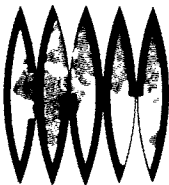
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