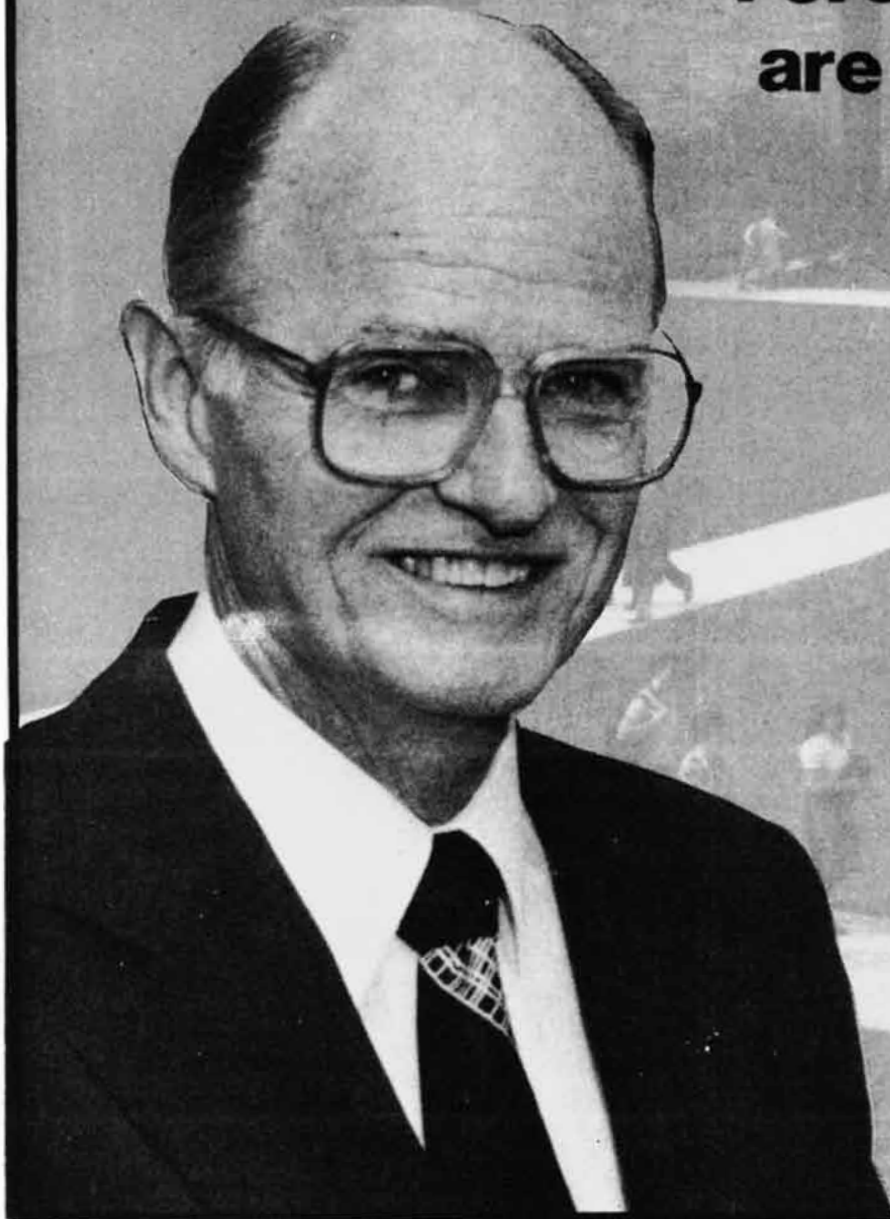




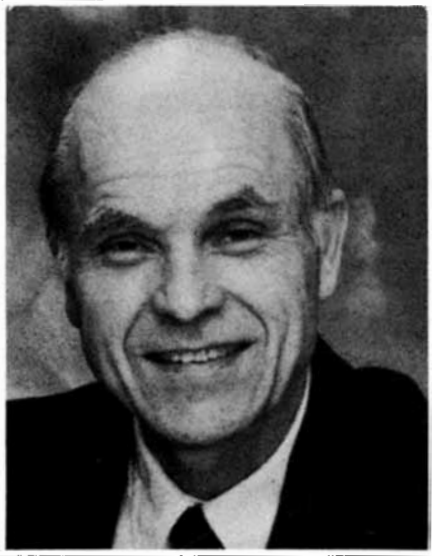
# MISSION FRONTIERS

**Spiritual Dynamics and  
Foreign Missions  
are Emphasized  
at Columbia  
Bible  
College**



**J. Robertson  
McQuilkin**

# NOW WHAT?



**FORECLOSURE!** Today is Sept 4, the first business day after September 1st, when we were due to pay \$300,000. We are \$154,000 short..

The phone conversation a few minutes ago: "I am very, very sorry, but my instructions are to proceed with foreclosure." Those words I did not have to try to memorize! Labor Day yesterday was quiet. But what a strange week this will be!

1. This is the week (what timing!) when Christianity Today (Sept 7) has a cover story on our Center. And it is very appreciative!

2. This is the week we are receiving the near-final total of the registrations for the largest meeting of mission executives ever to meet on the West Coast - Sept 24-28.

3. What irony. This is ALSO the week in which just now we have received the notice of FORECLOSURE, which means a 90-day countdown leading (if we can't stop it) to the loss of all our properties. We have come very close to foreclosure before, but it has never quite happened. (See further on page 4.)

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 Reflect for a moment on what could be lost . . if we cannot dig out and get into a truly effective forward move right away.

Now I am boasting: Not even the massive "Pentagon" in Washington, D.C. is the center of the LARGEST military power on earth. China, India, and the Soviet Union have larger populations, and the latter has greater military might in many ways. But, something else in America is still more powerful . .

The U.S. Center for World Mission is the largest nerve center for the mainstream of what is in fact the LARGEST missionary force in the world. U.S. missionary "might" far outstrips that of any other country, is LARGER than that of all other countries together, and the impact of American missionaries in this century has succeeded in producing phenomenal enduring change for the better. That blessed, world-wide impact, however little known, vastly EXCEEDS the influence of any other major force, such as world wars, Viet Nam type wars, secular education, etc. (Indeed, the most valuable things that flow in international trade, education, and medicine are due to the direct and indirect impact of missions.)

Well, back to work. On page 4 I'll give at least a hint of our "dig out of foreclosure plan." No, it's not to ask for \$184 from each of the 46,000 people who get this bulletin - and who have already given.

Yours, thoughtfully,

*Ralph D. Winter*  
 Ralph D. Winter



Keen people from 64 mission agencies work together at the U. S. Center for World Mission to foster the growth of a "frontier missions" movement among Christians and churches in this country.

There are three major components of this movement:

First, there are the mission agencies which are willing to make the penetration of new people groups with the Gospel their highest priority.

Then, there are the students--the missionary volunteers of the new era of missionary outreach to frontier peoples.

Finally, there are the churches who make the establishment of churches in groups of people where the church has not existed their highest priority in prayer, in giving and in sharing this vision for the frontiers with others.



# MISSION FRONTIERS

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

August 1984

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# LET'S GO FORWARD!

"That you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" Romans 15:13

## WE ARE NOT GIVING UP

I need to be determinedly honest.

In my editorial (on page two) I have already hinted at the very curious mix of events this week: foreclosure, a cover story in Christianity Today - Sept 7, the largest meeting of mission leaders ever held on the West Coast. (How embarrassing to be in foreclosure during these meetings!)

### Who is the enemy?

Cover stories, big meetings are fine, but our whole sky is overcast by the foreclosure issue.

First, let's be perfectly clear. Who is the "enemy"? It is NOT the fine Christian college to which we owe the money. Those good people are buying a larger campus on Pt. Loma in San Diego.

Their faith and sterling good will from the beginning are the only reason we are still here.

These campus properties here in Pasadena are the holy ground over which they labored and prayed for 70 years before we came, and they would do anything they could for us.

But they will lose their new campus unless we pay them for this one. Foreclosure? They may well believe that they are helping us by sounding the alarm. I can believe that. If you've got cancer, no use pretending, or closing your eyes, or putting off going to the doctor!

### The Enemy is Us?

Probably so. Many say so. They tell us that it is all our fault: "If you had just been willing to raise money like everyone else, if you had never gotten into this silly \$15 one-time-gift plan."

Not just another Christian project "that needs money"

The difficulty for people I talk to, is to understand that this Center really isn't "just another Christian project that needs money."

People have no great problem with our vision of reaching the final, untouched mission fields.

What they find it hard to sense is the fact that we feel God leading us to avoid competing for funds with mission agencies at the level of the local churches. But why? Because we feel it is more honorable (if we are trying

exclusively to HELP mission agencies) not divert money from them!

It is a harder way to go? Yes, harder and better. Why? Because we are forced to stir up vision among far more people!

## FORECLOSURE!

We were today, Sept 4th, notified that the college formerly owning this campus will need to move ahead with foreclosure proceedings. Thus by the time this gets to you, say Sept 15, it is understood that we will be in a 90-day foreclosure period.

One year ago we faced an over-\$6 million balloon payment which we could not make. (We are grateful for the \$1 million we did receive!)

That thrust us into a much more difficult, higher-payment TWO-YEAR automatic extension that ends Sept 1st, 1985, with not-quite-as-large a balloon payment.

The \$1 million which we did receive (plus a trickle of continuing gifts since then) have lasted us until now. But we are left short \$154,000 toward the \$300,000 due last Saturday. Thus the foreclosure proceedings.

We must understand this as a fair and serious warning. It will be fatal only if we do not take it seriously.

## HOW TO DIG OUT OF FORECLOSURE

Point One: What does it take to get out of foreclosure?

Answer: Pay up! All we need to do is to pay the rest of the payment--we lack \$154,000. A little is coming in each day.

Point Two: Why is it more serious than that?

Answer: Because we already need to be saving up an additional \$300,000 for the December 1st payment. That means a total of \$454,000 needed by December 1st or we'll fall right back into foreclosure again.

Point Three: Is the problem still worse than that?

Answer: Yes, both worse and more exciting than that. These quarterly payments are merely the Devil's diversionary tactics, or perhaps, the Lord's way of keeping us on our toes.

On Sept 1st of next year, which is now less than one year away, we will face both a \$6 million campus "balloon" (all at once) payment and a \$2.5 million balloon payment on the housing portion of the campus.

If we are not saving up for those payments, we are really hiding our eyes from reality. There is no existing legal agreement regarding any extension beyond Sept 1st of 1985 (last year there existed a 2-year agreement beyond Sept 1st).

### SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Our Center for World Mission, occupying a 35 acre, \$25 million property with 300 fulltime staff (from 70 agencies) has been designed from the beginning to operate on a self-sustaining basis. Thus we don't need a long-term donor list, ONCE THE CAMPUS IS PAID FOR.

Secondly, the Center has been designed to serve existing evangelical agencies, not compete with them for funds, even in its founding period when we are trying to pay for the property. We must honor our purpose and (difficult though it may be) not go for funds to the same churches on which the agencies depend.

How can we possibly raise the remaining \$8 1/2 million in less than 12 months? Many solutions have been proposed. Some of them have interesting possibilities, others have problems beyond our control. We do appreciate all your ideas, however.

IDEAS SUGGESTED: First, three that have serious problems:

- 1) Sell off part of the property and pay for the rest. This has been seriously proposed many times. However, there are some serious problems:
  - a) Our contract does not allow us to sell off a portion of the property and use those funds to make the payments.
  - b) We need the permission of the original owner to sell any part of the campus, and it is unlikely that we would get permission to sell very much because it would make the remainder both unusable and therefore harder to sell.
  - c) Furthermore, to sell off the housing portions of the campus would irreparably damage the self-sustaining base of the campus, forcing us into a completely new

policy about long term donor support and damaging, if not destroying, the very purpose of the institution to serve other agencies without competing with them for funds.

### 2) Limited Partnership Plan.

On several occasions we have spent an immense amount of time, and some funds as well, to explore the possibility of selling the entire property to a limited partnership of private owners who could use it as a tax shelter and in effect make the USCWM the beneficiary of that depreciated value.

This is a very tricky system, and while it has been and is being done elsewhere, the IRS is now trying hard to plug this kind of loophole. Furthermore, all things considered, the kind of people who really want to "give" are not interested in schemes like this, and the kind of people who are trying to "get" can fairly readily find better ways of getting a return on their funds. So far this simply has not worked out.

### 3) Refinance for 20 or 30 years.

Basically, this means to get out of the horrendous \$8 1/2 million balloon payment in September of '85 and spread the payments out over 20 or 30 years. It sounds good because this is the way people buy houses. But ordinary people who buy houses are not giving away their services but are earning a salary which then can allow them to pay payments.

In our case, in order to continue serving the mission agencies, we would have to shift into a long term donor constituency system which would force us into competition for funds with the agencies we serve and thus jeopardize and likely destroy the collaboration which is the founding purpose of our organization.

In other words, the unending need to make monthly or quarterly payments would not only sap the strength we need to serve but would also drive away the collaboration with the mission agencies which is our fundamental purpose for being.

### OTHER GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

- 1) Simply pray; don't tell anyone your needs.
- 2) Hire a professional organization to plead your cause.

3) Give up your small gift plan. Answer: The problem is, we have promised everyone on our list that we would not ask them for money again. True, we have not made such promises to new people. Can we, should we, follow a different plan with them?

### OTHER, MORE SPECIFIC IDEAS:

1) We've heard of a church in which there are 57 millionaires. Suppose each one were to give \$150,000. That would cover the \$8 1/2 million right there.

2) We have promised the 46,000 people on our mailing list that we would never ask them for further funds. Someone says, "But you can pray that, unasked, they will all send in a check for \$184.78. That's \$8 1/2 million right there!"

3) Ask all the big religious television stations to send out a free copy of the book giving our exciting story - the new expanded version of "Once More Around Jericho," now called "The Kingdom Strikes Back: The Secret Mission."

4) Find enough people who will give \$16 and give them in return a significant blessing of inspiration and vision building materials. It would take 566,667 people this way.

### SO, YOUR PLAN?

Our plan is to launch a simple, durable "Prayer-Vision Chain." This is a perfected version of the expanding network we have initiated in the past. More than ever we believe a human chain must be the key. Such a chain can both expand mission vision and also finish paying for this strategic mission center.

As you know we have had a lot of experience by now, and we realize that we have not in the past offered a plan simple enough and clear enough for people to readily take hold of it, nor did we offer to keep them informed of the distant ripples of their influence!

But in all our struggles we have discovered some exciting things. We are delighted, for example, to have discovered that there are so many wonderful, loving, earnest, busy readers of *Mission Frontiers* who are wealthy in good deeds.

*Touch Ten/Coach Three*  
Such people, we believe, are

as willing as ever to do a simple, clear cut task to help us: "Touch Ten and Coach Three" under this new, more disciplined program.

With the help of our ingenious computer center we will report monthly to every single person just what the ripples of impact of their prayers and outreach are - names to the second generation and numbers to the seventh.

All such volunteers will be supplied with a variety of brochures, booklets, pamphlets to assist them as they mail out or hand out such invitations. We have believed since 1977 that God wants us to touch a million lives.

The touchstone, we feel, is to "register" new \$15 Founders of the Center, in the process offering them a whole armload of other good things, coaching some to reach still further out.

If they are serious enough to give \$15.95 we will then have the funds to introduce them to all these other things! (The entire \$15 goes into the property - we do not divert one penny to fund raising or anything else - and the \$.95 pays for what we send them. (See the 15 examples in the list to the right.)

Let's take a new breath of faith!

I have felt a glow of wonder and great personal satisfaction ever since I watched those numbers in the chart in the last issue click out of my little home computer.

It is truly astounding what an enthusiastic human-chain, multiplication process is like. No wonder fads travel so fast. In our case only five hundred people, volunteering to track (with the help of our computer staff) 7 generations can reach more than enough people whose one-time \$15 gifts will cover this campus. We'll go into more detail next issue.

The truth is that anything fine and good is bound to travel by itself. All we need to do is to make the GOOD WORD clear. Alas, here in Pasadena we are sitting on so much factual inspiration about what God is doing all around the world!

**"Expect Great Things from God,  
Attempt Great Things for God"**

We all, dear reader-follower, are now at the place where we have  
(Continued on p. 15)

# Spiritual Dynamics and Foreign Missions are Emphasized at Columbia Bible College



A visitor driving onto the campus of Columbia Bible College and Columbia Graduate School of Bible and Missions might mistake the beautiful, lush tree-lined campus as just another of the many small private colleges which dot the Southern States.

But that would be wrong. For 61 years, this campus has produced hundreds of warriors in the battle for world evangelization.

"To know Christ and to make Him known" has been the motto of the school from its founding in 1923 by Dr. Robert C. McQuilkin, a missionary volunteer in the Student Volunteer Movement who couldn't go.

Dr. McQuilkin's son, Robertson McQuilkin, today

serves as the school's third president. He came to the school in 1968 after twelve years as a church planting missionary in Japan.

Almost 1,000 students study each year on the school's campus just north of Columbia. Thousands more study the Bible in Columbia's extension centers throughout the U.S. and in many foreign countries.

What makes Columbia, ("CBC", as it is affectionately called) able to maintain its priority focus on world evangelization?

Mission Frontiers' consulting editor, David Dougherty, recently visited with President McQuilkin to discover the answer to that question. He found him soft-spoken, a true Southern gentleman, but more than all else a man with a passion to communicate the truth of God's word to people without an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Dr. McQuilkin loves students and manages to add a classroom schedule to his other leadership and administrative responsibilities. He has authored a hermeneutics textbook, as well as the recent book on missions -- THE GREAT OMISSION -- featured elsewhere in this issue. But his interests always center around the heart of a loving heavenly Father for a lost creation.

A. Well, I wrote a little book to try and answer that question. I hope it will be used of God to help people go. (See chapter 2 reprinted in this issue). The book is based on my own Biblical studies, and much of it has grown inductively from my dealings with young adults through the years. I've tried to look at what the non-motivating factors are. I think that the basic motivation is primarily what is missing today, and if that is cared for; the other things will tend to fall in line.

One primary factor today is self-orientation. I think Christians have always struggled with the temptation to be self-centered. But at least in other eras, we were ashamed of it, felt guilty about it, tried to compensate for it, or at least cover it up. Today, we defend it.

At the conscious level we reject this as a philosophy. Nevertheless, I think it rubs off on us and is seen in all sorts of attitudes. Take for example the attitude, "I've got to be fulfilled. I must realize fully all of the potential that is within me." Instead of having life consumed with a desire to find God's fulfillment to do His thing, we have turned it around the other ways to make ourselves the central factor in our motivation.

I'm afraid another factor is simply our abysmal ignorance of what the Bible really says about world evangelism's centrality in God's purpose. We hold Great Commission Workshops in a number of churches. Only the most mission-minded churches usually schedule these because they require an intensive time and work commitment on the part of the church's leadership.

But I discovered that even in these churches, pastors and mission leaders do not really understand that from the beginning of the Bible God is a missionary God. They don't know that the Old Testament is a missionary book.

And of course, in many of our churches, there isn't much familiarity with the basic theology and strategy of

## The World View Of CBC

Q. DR. MCQUILKIN, YOU'VE BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE GREATEST ISSUE OF OUR DAY IS THE QUESTION OF THE UNREACHED PEOPLES. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

A. Well, I would say that the greatest issue of any day is to do God's will. He has clearly given us the command to disciple all the nations and to proclaim the gospel to every person. When we contemplate the

tremendous number of people who have yet to hear the gospel, I can't perceive of anything being a higher priority for the church or for the individual Christian.

Q. DR. MCQUILKIN, LET ME REPEAT A QUESTION THAT A STUDENT ASKED YOU SOME YEARS AGO. WITH SO MANY UNREACHED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, WHY ARE SO FEW CHRISTIANS GOING?

missions in the New Testament either. I guess we got our motivation in the old days from the inspiration of exciting stories and exciting people. Today, with our emphasis on logistics and strategic concerns, we need to learn the Biblical basis of missions. I think this is the problem.

I am greatly encouraged by the new student (mission) movements, that there is some real activity and enthusiasm among young people here and there. But more than that, they seem to be a praying people and I think that is good.

(Yet) I don't think preaching the lordship of Christ is the only answer to our dilemma. I think there is a great ignorance of what the Lord wants done. Preaching the lordship of Christ must occur in the context of preaching what the Lord wants done in the world.

## How CBC Faces The Challenge

Q. DR. MCQUILKIN, ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF CBC HAS BEEN ITS CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON BOTH A FAITHFUL WALK WITH THE LORD AND ALSO A STRONG EMPHASIS ON FOREIGN MISSIONS. WHAT HAS BEEN THE STUDENT RESPONSE TO THIS CHALLENGE OVER THE YEARS?

A. Each year we ask our graduating seniors to indicate their future vocational plans. Through the years about 50% of them have indicated plans for some form of foreign missionary service. Now the actual percentage of those serving is not quite that high. Still it represents a substantial number.

I think when we get all the facts together, it's safe to say that 1/3 of those from the graduate school and 1/4 of those from the undergraduate school have gone into missions. Now another thing that you can say is that 1/2 of those who have gone into Christian service have gone into missions. Bible colleges in general quote that about 10% of their graduates have gone into missions and 1 to 2% into seminary. This past year of the 102 we graduated from the seminary program 70% were headed toward missions. We also graduated 150 from the undergraduate level, 60% of whom

were headed towards missions. Those are probably the highest proportions in years. We would like to see up to one-half the graduates from our Graduate School program and up to one-third of the graduates from our Bible College program moving toward the mission field. That would seem to be a healthy proportion. The need is so vast. The laborers are so few.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS AT CBC TO CREATE ITS UNUSUAL SENSE OF AWARENESS OF AND MOTIVATION FOR THE TASK OF TAKING THE GOSPEL TO EVERY PEOPLE, TRIBE AND NATION?

A. I think the commitment of our entire administration, faculty and staff is solidly a commitment to the task of world evangelization. We see it as the central focus of our program. Both our faculty who have returned from the mission field to teach in our program, and those who have never been on the field share this commitment equally. For example, in the Graduate school, we have a New Testament professor who has never been to the mission field, but who teaches a course on missions in the book of Acts that is one of the most dynamic courses on missions that we have. He is completely committed to this.

I suppose the Student Foreign Fellowship, born here on our campus, is another significant factor. They have the responsibility to present a chapel program two to three times each month. They sponsor a "World Christian Week" here in the winter quarter each year.

As far as active and dynamic leadership, it is the strongest organization on campus, and they provide leadership not only here but for the whole Southeastern region (for an) annual meeting of 600 or 700 students in Atlanta from 15 to 20 schools. It's more than that now since the secular campuses are being represented. They meet annually for inspiration and to strategize (for mission mobilization) for their own campuses.

Q. WHAT ABOUT MISSIONARIES VISITING ON CAMPUS?

A: I would guess that we average 10 visitors a week who come to talk with students about serving overseas.

Q: EVERYDAY AS STUDENTS

FILE INTO CHAPEL, ON THE WALL BEFORE THEM THEY SEE THE SCHOOL'S MOTTO AND THE MAP OF THE WORLD. THOSE ARE DIFFICULT TO IGNORE OVER THE COURSE OF THREE OR FOUR YEARS. WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESULT?

A: These two bed-rock commitments have been the foundation of CBC from the beginning in 1923. The motto "To Know Him and to Make Him Known" has always been more a purpose statement than just a motto. It has meant knowing Christ in the sense of victorious triumphant, Spirit-filled Christian living. And "making Him Known" has had the sense of world evangelization.

Our hope is not that every graduate would become a missionary. We need a strong support base here at home. I think that a 3 to 1 ratio of support personnel to overseas workers would be a good support base. Our prayer is that the homemakers, the lay people, the pastor, the school teacher will all be Great Commission pastors, Great Commission homemakers, Great Commission teachers, and that they will provide the support base for reaching the world for Christ in this century.

Q. I KNOW THAT CBC'S MAJOR MESSAGE IS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY ADEQUATE, SUFFICIENT SOURCE OF LIFE AND HIS GREAT COMMISSION IS THE OBJECTIVE TOWARD WHICH HIS LIFE IN US IS TO BE DIRECTED. EVERYTHING HERE SEEMS TO WORK IN HARMONY WITH THAT OVERWHELMING EMPHASIS. THERE IS A COHESIVENESS AND UNITY HERE THAT IS UNUSUAL IN CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION.

A. Well, that is the objective we hold. We have had a number of evaluations and examinations and visits over the past five years in connection with our accreditation. They always seem astounded at the cohesiveness of faculty and staff, whoever they talk to, wherever they go. Each one knows what we are about and they are committed to it. Apparently, from the surprise of the evaluators, that is not a common experience. But what you say is true. To know Him and to make Him known is not just a motto here. And the emphasis doesn't come automatically. We are working on it all the time.

# Seeing It God's Way

An Excerpt from The Great Omission by J. Robertson McQuilkin

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

**H**ow does one see the world from God's viewpoint? It would be difficult to find a better vantage point than this familiar summary of what the Bible is about. Standing at this overlook we can see what God is like, what God is up to, what God has done, and what God has said. Any one of these should open wide the shutters of our minds to see the world from God's perspective. In combination the vision is clear and sharp—and overwhelming.

## What Is God Like?

We begin here because God's purpose, activities, and all that He says flow from what He is.

Certainly God is powerful. The most primitive tribesman, isolated in the jungles of some remote island, cowers before the overwhelming forces of nature and recognizes the power of the unseen. Yet the most educated and influential Christian on his knees also recognizes how helpless and hopeless he would be without the power of an infinite God.

Of course, God is wise. Yet Satan, though no match for God, is powerful and wise beyond our knowing. In the hands of evil, how terrifying and monstrous are authority and power coupled with great intelligence. The difference is that God is more than powerful and wise: He is just and righteous.

When I contemplate my own miserable sinfulness, a powerful, wise, and holy God of justice who gives me what I deserve would be the ultimate terror. Thank God the Evangelist could write the exhilarating, liberating announcement: "God so loved. . . ." The loving character of God makes the salvation of alienated people the primary focus of His attention.

## What Is God Up To?

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever," the Westminster Shorter Catechism assures us. As a summary of a human being's proper view of reality, this statement is illuminating and authentic. But how does man fulfill this chief end? Surely by adoring and worshiping his Creator; certainly by obedience, as one is recreated by the Spirit after the moral pattern of God Himself; indeed through the building up of God's church. But the human event that brings greatest glory to God and satisfaction to His heart occurs when a prodigal returns home, when one immigrates out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son. Human redemption is the focal point of God's purpose in this world.

Redemption, above all else, is what God is up to. From the Garden of Eden, where He sought the miserable Adam and Eve and promised the triumph of the coming Messiah (Gen. 3:15), down through the ages to the consummation when He welcomes home His bride gathered from every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Rev. 5:9, 10; 19:7), our God, with single-minded determination, is seeking the lost. He is not willing that any should perish. His character and work are spotlighted by glorious fulfillment when ". . . whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

## What Has God Done?

Folk wisdom has it that actions thunder so loudly about one's character and true intent that feeble words of explanation cannot be heard. What do God's activities demonstrate of His loving character and purpose of world redemption? It is not too much to affirm that every major act of God since creation has been a missionary act.

Even creation does not focus on the intricacies of the atom nor climax with the infinite galaxies. The



crescendo builds to a climax in the creation of a being in the likeness of God Himself. This was the overflow of a love which bound the Three in a unity from all eternity. God's desire was to create a being who would have the capacity to fully receive His love and, in turn, to love Him freely and fully. This very likeness to God, the freedom from coerced or programmed choices, set the stage for man's rebellion and alienation.

Man changed but God did not. And thus His purpose shifted from loving companionship with humankind to re-creating the broken pattern of God-likeness so that the loving identity of life could be restored. Thus the sacrificial system, the calling of a special people, the redemption from Egypt, and the giving of the Law all centered in redeeming and restoring.

When God chose to communicate with man in written form, His purpose was the same. The Bible is not a revelation of all of God's activities or purposes from eternity. It is not a record of all human antiquity. It is the story of redemption, climaxing in the greatest event in human history, the Incarnation. This invasion of human life by God Himself was deliberately designed from all eternity, we are told, to provide redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These events, more than anything else Scripture tells us, reveal the purpose and character of God: love reaching out to save hopelessly lost people. What has God done? "God so loved . . . that he gave his one and only Son. . . ." This act of love goes beyond all human comprehension. What could reveal with greater clarity God's character and purpose? What could demonstrate more forcefully the center and circumference of His attention?

The next major event, Pentecost, was the descent

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**"The loving character of God  
makes the salvation of  
alienated people the  
primary focus  
of His attention."**

---

of the Holy Spirit to establish the church, to be sure. But the purpose was clear. The entire record of the

early church reveals how the apostles viewed the primary purpose of the church toward the world. It was to be God's instrument for world evangelization.

Indeed, it is not too much to say that every major activity of God among men since the Fall has been a saving, missionary act.

### What Has God Said?

No matter what the folk wisdom may say, words are not feeble. In fact, words are essential to accurately interpret activity and to fully reveal what is going on in one's mind. God is mysterious and His infinities are far beyond our probing. But He is not a silent God. We can know Him because He has spoken; He has revealed Himself and His will.

We are told that the God of the Old Testament is a narrow-minded, tribal deity. Is this the portrait that Moses draws? Listen to Moses' report of the call of the first selected and segregated person:

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

"I will make you into a great nation  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you"

(Gen. 12:1-3).

Far from being a narrow-minded tribal deity, from the beginning God was revealed as purposing blessing for the whole world. Did Abraham's descendants lose sight of this? They might have, but God reminded them repeatedly. To Abraham's son Isaac, God renewed the covenant and kept His intentions in focus: ". . . and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed . . ." (Gen. 26:4).

Isaac's son, Jacob, might certainly be described as a narrow-minded person of considerable self-interest. But to Jacob also, God clarified His intent: "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring" (Gen. 28:14).

The chosen people never forgot that they were chosen. Listen to David in his great celebration of God when the ark was brought to Jerusalem.

He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word he commanded, for a  
thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.  
He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:  
"To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as the portion you will inherit."

When they were but few in number,  
few indeed, and strangers in it,  
they wandered from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another.  
He allowed no man to oppress them;  
for their sake he rebuked kings:  
"Do not touch my anointed ones;  
do my prophets no harm"  
(I Chron. 16:15-22).

Surely David, like all the chosen people, clearly remembered God's promises to Abraham and the patriarchs. Often, they forgot God's worldwide purpose through them. But not David:

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;  
make known among the nations what he has  
done.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength,

Tremble before him, all the earth!  
The world is firmly established; it cannot be  
moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let them say among the nations,  
"The LORD reigns!"

(I Chron. 16:8, 23-24, 28, 30-31).

The psalmist leads us in what must surely be our daily prayer: "May God be gracious to us and bless us" (Ps. 67:1). How hopeless we would be if we received what we justly deserve, so we plead for mercy. We pray, "God bless my work, God bless my health, God bless my family, God bless my church."

The psalmist adds, "and make his face shine upon us." If God mercifully forgave us, received us, and graciously prospered us but did not smile on us, assuring us of His favor, what a bleak life we would have. So we rightly ask for God to forgive our sins, bless our affairs, and lovingly companion with us.

But why? The psalmist continues: "that thy way be known upon earth, thy-saving power among all nations." (RSV) How could the ancient songwriter of Israel declare more clearly his own missionary purpose in total alignment with the purpose of his missionary God?

All this revelation of God's purpose of world redemption was gathered up in the magnificent declarations of the prophet Isaiah:

---

**"It seems that we deliberately  
wear dark glasses with  
blinders, focusing in Scrip-  
ture on our own small,  
self-oriented world."**

---

"Turn to me and be saved,  
all you ends of the earth;  
for I am God, and there is no other"  
(Isa. 45:22).

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that you may bring my salvation to the ends of  
the earth"

(Isa. 49:6).

I have held Great Commission Workshops with the leadership of many churches, all of which have a strong missions interest. As we examine the biblical basis of missions I have come to expect very little understanding of what the Old Testament has revealed concerning a God who loves the world and from the beginning has actively pursued world redemption. Pastors, church leaders, and missions committee members in churches with active missions programs do not know what God has said from the beginning concerning His worldwide intent. I thought that if world missions in the Old Testament is so little understood, perhaps missionary fervor is built on a thorough understanding of New Testament teaching. But in virtually every church, the leadership can recall little world vision in the New Testament prior to the Cross, and has consistently affirmed that the Great Commission was given only on one or two occasions.

Yet Jesus Christ clearly revealed His worldwide

intent before Calvary, even when His own primary mission was to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel." At the beginning of His ministry we are told, "God so loved the *world* . . . that *whoever* . . ." (John 3:16; italics mine); and at the end of his ministry He said, "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached *in the whole world* as a testimony. . . ." (Matt. 24:14; italics mine).

Jesus Christ came back to this theme repeatedly on virtually every appearance following His resurrection. He gave this mandate to His church certainly on three occasions, probably on four, and possibly on five occasions recorded in the New Testament.

On the evening following Christ's resurrection He met with the frightened band of disciples and gave them the motive for their mission: "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). At His command they went north to Galilee, and there He met them and gave them the model for their mission:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20).

The disciples returned then to Jerusalem. I see the events recorded in the last verses of Luke 24 as taking place at this time rather than before they went to Galilee. Here Christ gave His disciples the message of their mission, showing them in the Old Testament how it was prophesied: "and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47, 48).

Our Lord then went with the disciples out toward Bethany to the Mount of Olives. They were still thinking of a political mission of restructuring a very unjust society, and inquired about the timing of Christ's earthly conquest. Our Lord came back to the same theme, giving the method of their mission.

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:7-8).

We do not know the occasion of the most famous Great Commission recorded in Mark 16:15, but it may well have been yet a fifth occasion following Christ's resurrection in which world evangelization is expressed as the will of God, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (κ.ϛν)

If a person is minded to question that this was the clear statement of the will of God, all he need do is examine the interpretation put on these commands by those who were present and heard Him. The disciples who heard these words left us thirty years of action demonstrating how they understood it, and the Holy Spirit considered it important enough to leave a book documenting that interpretation. World evangelization is indeed the expressed will of God.

This, then, is the biblical basis for missions: World evangelization is the *expressed will of God*. Spiritual redemption is the *demonstrated activity of God*.

Evangelism and redemptive activity are expressed as the will of God and the demonstrated activity of God because it is the nature of God so to will and so to act. Love is the *revealed nature of God*. The salvation of lost men is that human event which *brings greatest glory to God*.

Because God is such a God and has given the church such a command, our mandate for action is to make known the good news of life in Christ to every person and to establish a congregation of believers in every place. Until every person has heard with understanding and every community has a witnessing congregation of God's people we may not say to the Father, "It is finished . . . the task which you have given, we have accomplished."

Why is it that we are so far from fulfilling God's design in the world? One reason is that we have not opened ourselves to the full force of the missionary message of Scripture.

"How come?" Because we don't see well. God gives us so clear a revelation of His character, His purpose, His activity, and His will for us, but it seems that we deliberately wear dark glasses with blinders, focusing in Scripture our own small, self-oriented world. Meanwhile the world God loves is lost. May God open our eyes to see the world in focus as He sees it.

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# SPECIAL EVENTS at the

## What One Church Can Do

Bethlehem Baptist Church (Baptist General Conference) in Minneapolis/St. Paul last winter sparked such an interest in missions that 25 students from that area came to the USCWM for the July "Perspectives" course. Only twice before has such a large group from a single area come such a great distance to take the course. One was from Boston, the other from South Africa. Twenty of the Minneapolis group were from Bethlehem Baptist, five from Central Baptist and one from Hope Presbyterian Church.

Tom Stellar, associate pastor of Bethlehem Baptist, accompanied the group. "Historically our church has had a very strong mission focus," he explained. "Personally, I have always had a burden for missions, but it only became an all-consuming burden last October. One night I couldn't sleep, and while listening to religious music it struck me that if I loved the Glory of God I would have to see His glory extended. While I felt an overwhelming willingness to go wherever the Lord wanted I also felt the need for some extensive training," Stellar said. "Meanwhile," he continued, "my pastor, John Piper, was preaching a nine-week series called 'Christian Hedonism,' and among the things he said was 'Being a missionary doesn't mean giving up your joy; you are just following the God who gives fullness of joy wherever He leads you. Jesus is not asking anyone to give up anything of ultimate value.'"

One result of the series on Christian Hedonism was a spiritual awakening in the church, and things began to happen. "We had something called 'Missions at the Manse'" said Stellar. "All those who were planning to go into cross-cultural missions or full time vocational ministry at home were invited to Pastor Piper's home to see what the church was doing. Ninety people came! Since then the church has realized that we need to plan concretely to help

these people into the field. So they changed my job description to Missions Pastor."

"In January a meeting was held to see who would be interested in taking the Perspectives course, and 30 people showed up," Stellar said.

What has the Perspectives course done for these students? "People are very positive about it," said Stellar. "In fact, five of us are staying for the week of Coordinators Training so as to bring the course back to the Twin-Cities area." Stellar is now planning to teach the same course at Bethlehem Baptist from October 8th to March 11th, 1985, with at least 10 churches cooperating.

Three of the 25 from Minneapolis who came to the USCWM for the course, Stellar said, are headed for pastoral ministry. But most of the others are very seriously considering going as missionaries. Back home another 50 to 75 people are also seriously contemplating mission work.

"We have a slogan at our church that we prayfully adopted," said Pastor Stellar. "It's called '90 by 90.' What that means is 90 people will be sent out from Bethlehem in cross-cultural ministry, either career or short term, or into full time vocational ministry at home -- all by 1990. We're real concerned that Bethlehem be a balanced church," he said, "with a thrust beyond our shore but also into our city. Our theme is 'Alive for the city, a love for the world.'"

Stellar paused, then concluded, "A lot of people made some real significant sacrifices to come out here. Some took extensive leave of absences or quit their jobs altogether, and many accepted some strong financial burdens to make the trip possible. But we felt that there is a great advantage into coming to Pasadena to take the course if that is possible. And we are excited about the new enthusiasm and leadership for missions we are taking back to Minneapolis/St. Paul."

## Olympic Outreach

The 1984 Olympic Outreach was a massive evangelistic endeavor. Of the 11,000 full-time volunteers who came from 77 nations and 73 denominations to spread the Good News of Jesus, 3350 were members of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), receiving a good part of their training at the U.S. Center for World Mission and using USCWM technical and research facilities.

Bernie Ogilvy, YWAM Olympic Outreach Director, said the



16,000 attend the Pre-Olympic Praise Celebration.

## EFMA/IFMA Open to Southern

All Southern California friends of the USCWM are invited to attend the evening plenary sessions of the Ninth Joint Study Conference of the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (EFMA) and the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA), to be held September 24-28, 1984 on the USCWM campus in Pasadena. Some 400 mission executives and mission professors are expected to attend.

Evening plenary addresses are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude by 8:30 p.m., and will be followed by sessions of prayer. The public will be invited to make freewill offerings in order to defray

# USCWM

## '84 Workers Trained On USCWM Campus

training "started from the concept that all were strangers to Los Angeles. The outreach teams were oriented in the geography of the area, the L. A., society or demographics itself, and then the historical factors -- what has God done in this area with its large Christian population."

Then came the 'nuts and bolts' training: how to communicate with various people groups, how to successfully operate as outsiders in the local area, how to deal with the host community -- both Christian and non-Christian, the ways of street evangelism, learning to do friendship evangelism in the relaxed atmosphere provided by the Olympics, and

encouraging people and helping them in the area of prayer.

Trainers provided much emphasis on spiritual warfare and on acquainting volunteers with the wide range of literature available for distribution. Additional preparations revolved around the staffing of crisis centers, 24-hour hotlines, drop-in centers, and soup kitchens to help the spiritually and physically needy.

"This was the first YWAM outreach where we were computerized," said Ogilvy. "The logistics were staggering," he confessed. "Just in the case of food alone, we had to serve meals in 38 different locations. Transportation was a madhouse."

But it all happened! The workers in Olympic Outreach '84 gave out more than three million pieces of Christian literature and shared the love of Christ in word and deed. What helped to make it possible was the strong cooperation of churches in the Los Angeles area. In fact, the whole project was backed by 1,846 area churches and thousands of additional intercessors, including many in prayer cells in Korea. Some of the fruit of all these efforts were the more than 1000 people each day during the 16 days of outreach who accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Where do the volunteers go from here? "The whole thing is being followed up with a large outreach to the Caribbean next week," Ogilvy replied as the 1984 Olympics came to a close. "In doing this we are taking a large number of new converts to the field. An orientation for this group is set at the U. S. Center." In addition some 50 YWAMers will be giving one to four weeks of volunteer service at the U.S. Center to further preparations for the IFMA/EFMA conference on campus, scheduled for the last week of September.



The King's Kids opened many doors to the gospel.

## Evening Sessions California Friends

conference expenses. Scheduled speakers are:

Monday evening, September 24

**BIBLICAL BALANCE IN MODERN MISSIONS:** David Hesselgrave, Professor of World Mission, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Tuesday evening, September 25

**BIBLICAL BALANCE IN MISSION PREPARATION:** Ron Blue, Associate Professor of Missions, Dallas Theological Seminary

Wednesday evening, September 26

**URBANA REPORT:** John Kyle, Director, Inter-Varsity Missions



EFMA and IFMA mission leaders frequently gather for discussion and prayer.

**BIBLICAL BALANCE IN PARTNERSHIP** Paul Cedar, Senior Pastor, Lake Avenue Congregational Church, Pasadena

Thursday evening, September 27

**WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP REPORT:** David Howard, General Director, World Evangelical Fellowship

**BIBLICAL BALANCE IN A FUTURE THRUST:** Ralph Winter, General Director, U.S. Center for World Mission

For more information about attendance at evening plenary sessions, call Darrell Dorr, Center Coordinator, at (818) 797-1111, ext. 229.



# LETTERS

Dear USCWM Staff:

I have appreciated Dr. Winter's influence on my life and outlook since I heard him in a series of lectures in Denver, Colorado several years ago. Each of your efforts are appreciated. I only wish I had the resources to do more.

I want to present materials to each member of our church's Outreach Committee. Please suggest other materials that I should include to help them appreciate and understand the efforts the Center is making.... I would gladly make each one on the committee a founder, but I would rather they did that on their own.

Dick M.  
Maher, CO

I've had several [Hidden Peoples] parties and I have already sent in a follow-up questionnaire. I've had about 30 people in all, and almost 3/4 of them left the "I'm Starting!" cards. It has been a real joy and privilege to be involved in the Hidden Peoples projects....

People really respond when they understand the facts and needs and realize the urgency of world evangelization.

Mrs. T.S.  
Wortham, TX

Dear USCWM Staff,

I am very thankful for the work being done through the Center. I belong to the Caleb Project and read the **Global Prayer Digest** and **World Christian**. This spring I had the great privilege of taking the IIS extension course -- "Perspectives" -- on my college campus. I've learned a great deal, and I am seeking to more actively share the vision I've gained for the frontiers.

May God empower you as you continue to educate and help mobilize Christians concerning world evangelization.

Wayne R.  
Cedar Rapids, IA

Dear James (Stewart),

Thank you so much for the copy of [the June-July issue of] **Mission Frontiers**. I remember talking to Warren Webster, the general director of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and he remarked back in 1982 that he wondered if God was doing something special on our Christian college campuses because there were two missionaries just appointed to the presidency (Dave Rambo and myself).

Now to see six was just thrilling, and thank you for featuring it.

I hope you don't mind me mentioning one correction in the interview, but there needs to be some clarification. In the first question I am quoted as saying, "We see that in California, by 1990, over 50% of the people will be non-English speaking."

I believe I said, "... that in California, by 1990, less than 50% of the people will speak English as their mother tongue." There is quite a difference in the two statements.

Thank you for your commitment to the frontiers.

Yours for equipping Christian leaders,

Clyde Cook  
President  
Biola University  
La Mirada, CA

Dear friends,

It excites me to see what God has been doing through the ministries of the USCWM (especially in my life).

I attended the SCOWE missions conference this year, and, among other things, saw the potential of the Center. I'm planning to go to the mission field when God makes the way clear, but in the meantime I'm trying to spread the vision to friends at church. I am interested in finding out all material that you have available for exposing/exciting Christians about God's work around the world.

In our Lord,  
Fred V.  
Orange, CA

Dear friends at Frontier Fellowship,

Just have to reiterate what inspiration and challenge it is to receive and use the **Global Prayer Digest**. Have been getting it about 6 months now, and continually find ways of sharing a page or two--a paragraph or an entire mini-biography of some great missionary. I send them in letters or share them with friends. So far I'm the only one in my family or prayer circle who uses it, but, O, what blessing the Lord gives me through it!

Annabel M.  
Santa Barbara, CA

Dear friends,

We attended a Hidden Peoples Party and have mailed out 20 letters to friends and relatives.... We believe in what you are doing. It is a real privilege to be a part of God's miracle.

Jim and Mary M.  
Newberg, OR



# NEWSBRIEFS

## COVER STORY IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY

Tim Stafford, who wrote this article, has been a professional writer for years with *Campus Life*. Later in Africa he set up a Christian magazine in Nairobi, all the while doing work for *Christianity Today*.

We'll be printing this article in its entirety next issue. One comment right now: alas, journalism tends to glorify or vilify. We appreciate the fact that since we haven't yet quite failed, vilification is not yet in order. But the one is as artificial as the other. Neither is deserved. Tim is very kindly, but God is the one that enables us, and who will enable others as well. You don't have to be "an unusual person" to be considered so by an enthusiastic writer!



(Continued from p. 5, "Let's Go Forward")

to believe that there really are enough people in America today who are right now prepared to accept new HOPE for the world . . . people like Simeon in the temple (Luke 2:25-38) who can see with the eyes of faith what other people cannot see.

Such people, with clean lives and pure hearts, are able to believe that America is on the verge of a major new thrust to the ends of the earth. They are able to believe that America will survive ONLY if a staunch and substantial minority is willing to bestir itself and make massive new commitments to the ends of the earth, for the glory of the Lord.



*Sessions of prayer will be featured at the conference.*

### Largest West Coast meeting!

Never before have as many mission executives planned to be in the same place on the West Coast as is the case at the three-way meeting Sept 24-28 on our campus. They represent what is today the mainstream of American missionary outreach.

These people serve and vitally influence about 25 million people in the U.S.A. We are receiving the final registration data on some 400 of these executives, who will arrive in a few days.

The oldest of the three organizations is the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA), which serves Canada as well as the USA. These are often called "the faith missions" but are more accurately the new generation of "inland" missions which came into being at the end of the last century to push into the interior of China and Africa and Latin America.

Then there is the younger, more diverse, Evangelical Foreign Mission Association, which includes both denominational and interdenominational agencies, and both "charismatic" and non-charismatic agencies.

These two agencies together have over 200 member agencies, and

over 20,000 missionaries on the field. Probably 400 executives will represent them.

Finally, there is an exciting group, the Association of Evangelical Professors of Missions, which represents hundreds of men and women who man the strategic teaching posts in Christian colleges and seminaries today.

Our students are finding other places to stay during these five days. We have volunteers swarming all over the campus painting, cleaning rugs, putting in a raft of temporary phones, moving mountains of linens, dishes, etc.

We are not a "sending" mission. (True, about 80 of our staff have left for the mission field, just as perhaps a 1,000 have gone to the field through one of our training programs.)

- But they have gone out under OTHER, standard sending missions! We don't send them ourselves. Thus we are not "another mission." We try to assist ALL missions.

That means our over-300 "home staff" here, deriving from 70 mission agencies we serve, are not the headquarters staff of a major sending mission. We have been called a mission "Pentagon" where think-tank research, church-level mobilization and student training takes place.

## Seeing It God's Way

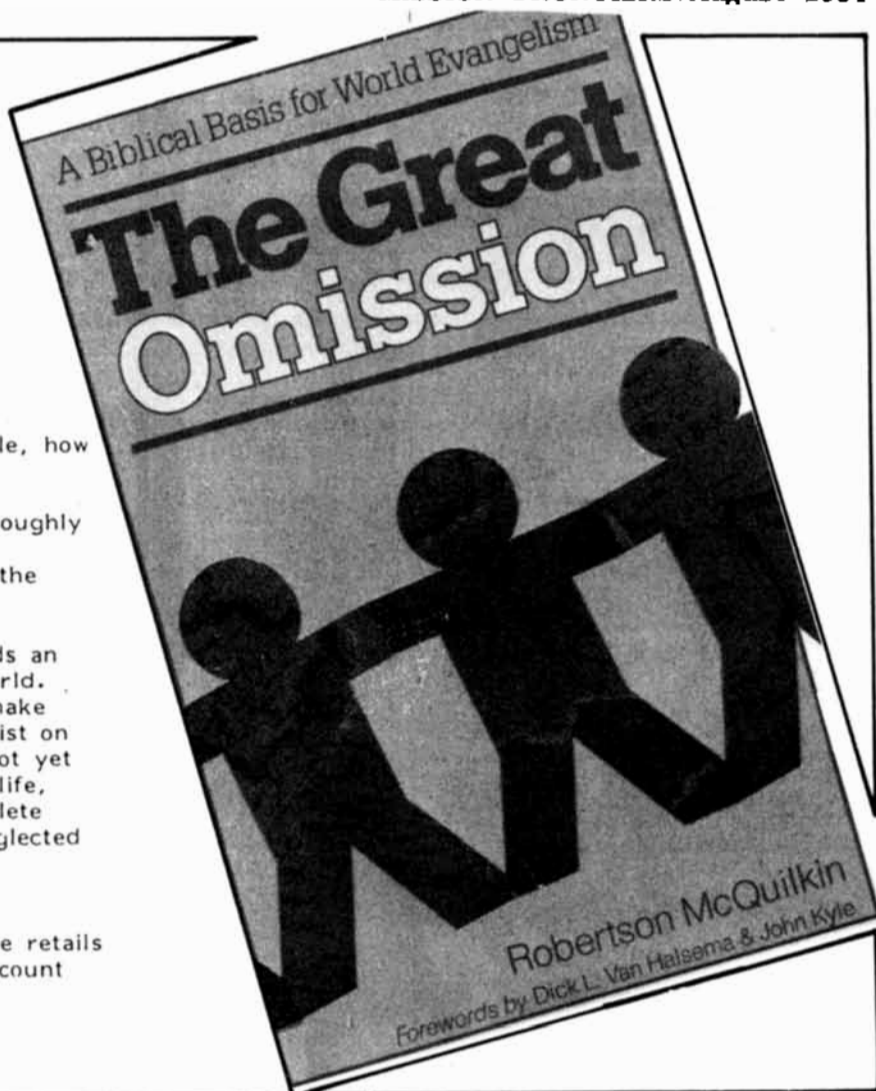
An Excerpt from *The Great Omission*  
by J. Robertson McQuilkin

"How come? With so many unreached people, how come so few Christians are going?" For Robertson McQuilkin, this is one burning question that must be dealt with. He thoroughly investigates the reasons so few Christians attempt to carry the message of Christ to the "so many" who have never heard of Him.

"Acknowledging Christ as Lord ... demands an active pursuit of God's purposes in the world. It means commitment of one's total life to make the greatest possible impact for Jesus Christ on this generation. And for those who are not yet certain of God's vocational appointment in life, true discipleship must surely include complete openness to this most needed and most neglected of all vocations: pioneer missionary evangelism." (from the back cover)

This 103-page book from Baker Book House retails for \$4.95. Your MISSION FRONTIERS discount price, postpaid, is \$3.50.

(See chapter 2 reprinted in this issue).



... AND COMING SOON ...

*The Kingdom Strikes Back: The Secret Mission*, the revised, expanded version of *Once More Around Jericho*, by Roberta H. Winter. Here is the amazing story of the founding of the U.S. Center for World Mission. Read about cliff-hanging deadlines, conflicts with an Eastern cult, and explosive growth in the face of adversity. Learn how a cooperative mission center has rapidly advanced the cause of "unreached" or "hidden" peoples in just eight short years. And discover why some have likened this Center to the famed town of Rivendale in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*--a place "where visions can be born, where fragile dreams can become reality, where battle plans can be laid for great battles ahead, and faith renewed in ultimate, inevitable success."

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