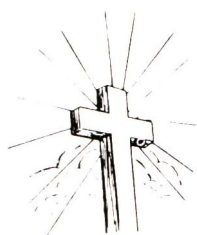


A CENTURY OF CONCERN



***The Story of the
FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS
of the
CENTRAL UNION MISSION***

Washington, D.C.

1884 - 1984

*This book is dedicated to
the men and women, long
since gone and still alive,
who have loved and served
with their lives and
spiritual gifts the
Central Union Mission*

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REV. LATHAM A. DOUGLASS

PREFACE

When Superintendent Thomas Hanlon, with the approval of the Board of Directors, asked me to write the history of THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION, I accepted the assignment with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension. Application to the task was delayed by the unsettled time preceding the Mission's relocation, the sudden passing of Rev. Hanlon, and adjusting to the new facilities.

Thanks to Dr. Robert Rich's encouragement and assistance and the kindness of Genevieve Staalsen in taking over much of my routine duties, I have "lived" the history of Central Union Mission for the past few months.

Very soon I was impressed with the fact that the history of Central Union Mission is more than an account of buildings and programs and statistics. The history of Central Union Mission is the story of people.

It is the story of men, some victims of alcohol or other drugs, some "down on their luck" -- of women in desperate need or in the clutches of sin -- of children caught in crisis situations. It is the story of a little group of men and women who were moved to reach out with the concern of the Lord Jesus Christ to meet the material needs of those men, women and children, but more important, to introduce them to the Saviour who alone could lift them above their circumstances to a new life in Him.

It is the story of the great host of those who have followed through the century to carry on the work -- some in places of leadership, superintendents, Board members, officers of various groups -- many more doing the necessary, unnoticed tasks, busy pastors and laymen bringing the Gospel in message and music in the every-night services, members of the guilds sewing, serving tables, attending meetings and spreading the word of the Mission ministries among their churches and friends -- and many, many more praying and giving of their means that the work might go on.

It is the triumphant story of men, women and children who have found their way out of the darkest circumstances into

the wonderful light of God's saving grace -- diamonds in the rough, claimed and polished to become precious gems for the Lord Jesus. That is what the history of the Central Union Mission is all about.

Although the work has been done more hurriedly than I would have preferred, it has been done carefully. I have striven for accuracy, drawing information from Board Minutes, Mission Bulletins and Annual Reports; and I am deeply indebted to Major William H. Ramsey's history of THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF CENTRAL UNION MISSION. I am also indebted to Mrs. Herbert E. Eberhardt and Mrs. Ruth Duet for valuable material they supplied, and to John Bigbee for his patient advice and assistance.

Putting together this history of an organization that in thirty-seven years has come to mean very much to me has been a "labor of love," a privilege and a joy. No one is more aware than I that the results are not perfect. The greatest deficiency, I am sure, is the omission of the multitude of persons who should have been included. They are omitted, not because their contributions are not important or not appreciated, but only because of the utter impossibility of mentioning all who are so deserving. Their names and deeds are written in the records of heaven.

Washington, D.C.
June 20, 1984

Lillian Thorp

INTRODUCTION

As this book was being written and published in the first half of 1984, there raged a debate in the nation's Capital and across America about hunger and deprivation. The question asked was two-fold, "Are there really Americans who are hungry - so hungry that they are in danger of losing their health, and are there really Americans who are deprived - so deprived that they are equally in danger of losing all and finding themselves, in effect, standing naked, destitute and alone in the middle of a proverbial field?"

Latham A. Douglass, the founder of Central Union Mission, could well have asked himself the same question about thousands of men, women and children who apparently were in great need in Washington, D.C. But he and the men and women who were to lead this unique Mission in the decades to follow realized full well that the troubled stares of men and women who entered the Mission daily reflected the tragic reason for their deprivation, namely, a terrible estrangement from the Lord God Almighty. And this spiritual malady vividly expressed itself in drunkenness, moral depravity, loss of self-respect and shame, broken homes and abandoned children.

Yes, children were not immune from the effect of such callous disregard of decent restraint. They came or were brought by the dozen to Central Union Mission's Children's Home where they received tender, loving care and an opportunity to survive in a world they knew only to be cruel and loveless.

Every man, woman and child who walked, hobbled or was carried through the doors of Central Union Mission eventually left having been touched by the Mission's Gospel ministry of caring for the masses of humanity ignored or shunted aside by families, friends, peers and generally an uncaring society.

In this history, though, you will read of a part of society that did care, and cared very deeply - men, women, churches, mission societies, organized Sunday school classes and private and secular offices and agencies who faithfully through the century served in and supported the work and ministry of the Central Union Mission. We can only thank God for the commitment and the compassion of the few among the many.

Only the Lord is aware of what the future holds for the Central Union Mission. If He tarries yet another hundred years, may the history of the second century of rescue mission service reflect the same care and concern in the name of the Lord so evident in the first hundred years.

Washington, D.C.
June 19, 1984

Robert R. Rich
Executive Director

Chapter One

GROWING TO MEET THE NEEDS

A Succession of Leaders

1884-1914

REV. LATHAM A. DOUGLASS, A MAN OF PRAYER

A young man's heart was burdened with concern for the lowly, the neglected, the outcast who walked up and down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. intent on business, pleasure or dissipation.

The year was 1884. The young man was Rev. Latham A. Douglass, recently from New York City where he and his wife had often attended meetings of the Jerry McAuley Water Street Mission. He yearned to open such a place on Pennsylvania Avenue for the preaching of the Gospel to those with physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Friends who shared Latham's dream joined him in several prayer meetings -- men like A.L. Swartwout, George W. Wheeler, George A. Hilton, J.H. Hitchcock, Nathaniel A. Robbins and William Dubois, and a Mrs. S.D. LeFetra. Following a series of such prayer meetings, the organization of the Central Union Mission was effected at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1409 New York Avenue, N.W. on Tuesday evening August 19, 1884. The name "Central Union Mission" was immediately suggested by Latham A. Douglass.

Another friend prominent in those early meetings was Dr. S. H. Greene, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, where Latham Douglass was a member. On the occasion of the Seventh Annual Meeting of Central Union Mission Dr. Greene shared his memories of Latham Douglass:

"It was my privilege to know the man very intimately into whose brain and heart the thought of this work first came. He saw the thousands that were beyond the apparent reach of the churches. He saw them as they swarmed up and down the Avenue. It was the burden of souls in which this movement began. That man was a man of prayer. I shall never forget the time when, before any meeting or committee was called together, he came to my study and unfolded his thought in reference to those unchurched thousands and

begged me to kneel with him in the study and ask God to lead him out into this work. I shall never forget that here his faith was greater than mine.

"He next sought out men of like faith and kindred spirit with himself. Thank God he found them, and they are largely here tonight. How did this work begin? I want to emphasize that it was its spirituality and soul-burden for the lost -- a soul kneeling before God and praying for the lost -- a soul reaching out toward others, and they in turn going forward in the same work. It seems to me if there ever was anything apostolic in its origin, it is the Central Union Mission."



GEORGE W. WHEELER

Almighty God answered the prayers of those early missionaries. A room was located and rented at 909 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (now part of the site of the F.B.I. Building). The room cost \$50.00 a month and would seat seventy-five or eighty people. There in a spirit of great rejoicing the first public service of the Central Union Mission was held on Sunday night, January 25, 1885, with George W. Wheeler as the leader. The attendance was thirty-five. On Friday night, January 30, occurred the conversion of Peter B. Sweeny, who has always been recog-

nized as the first convert of the Mission, and who was to serve two short terms as Superintendent of the Mission. Mr. Sweeny later spoke of that night:

TESTIMONY OF PETER B. SWEENEY

"What has been said about Brother Douglass throwing his arms around men's necks and touching their hearts is true. That is the way he reached me. When I first came into the meeting, I remember his putting his arm around my neck. I came in wet and draggled, and he says, 'My brother, I want you to love Jesus. He loves you and has died for you.' I was not used to having such words said to me."

Mr. Sweeny gave further testimony concerning his conversion at the Third Annual Meeting of the Central Union Mission held at Calvary Baptist Church, October 19, 1887:

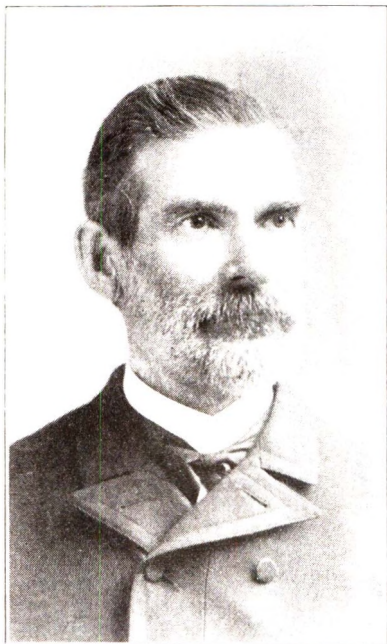
"Just before coming up into this meeting I was in the young people's meeting, and while I was sitting listening to the reading of the Scripture a good many thoughts came into my head, and the one regret was that I had not commenced as young as the dear boy leading the meeting tonight. I felt that he would not have all this great trouble to go through that I did if he would only stick to that blessed Saviour. But I am glad that I did come in at the eleventh hour. I found a few of God's people down on the Avenue at the Mission. Dear brother Douglass was one of them. I thank God that he is in heaven now listening to and seeing the fruit of the blessed work started by him. I thank God that I am here tonight. I have been a sinner. It seems to me that I had such a chance as Saul of Tarsus had. It seemed that when I was converted it was something like Saul of Tarsus. It surprised me and I did not know what to make of it. I would sit down and think, and some one would say, 'The Lord is good to you,' and I could only say, 'Yes, He has been good to me truly, for I was converted."

"One Sunday morning I happened to come in here and our dear pastor was just speaking to the Sunday school scholars. He gave the invitation to any one who wants God's people to pray for them to stand up, and I stood up. I know I am His child; I have been trying to live the life that he would have me to live. But listening to the sermon today by our pastor I thought how ungrateful I had been in not living a better Christian life while I had the chance, and I am going to make it my heart's service to live as close to God as I can."

ORGANIZATION

"THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF THE CENTRAL UNION MISSION" written by Major William H. Ramsey in 1934, states that the Mission was incorporated January 7, 1887 for a term of twenty years, preliminary to leasing new quarters at 930 Pennsylvania Avenue. The certificate of incorporation was recorded January 10, 1887. It was incorporated again in March, 1892, the

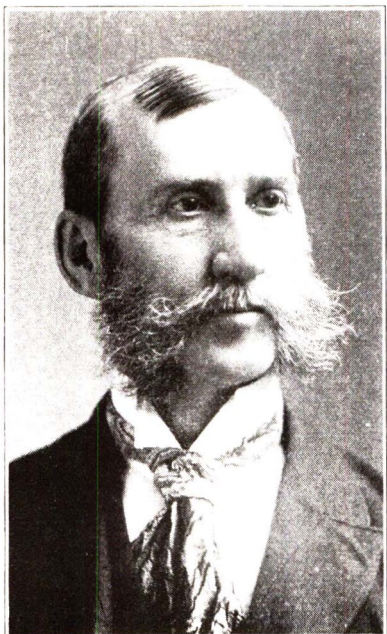
CHAIRMEN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JAMES H. HITCHCOCK
1884 to 1894



EDWIN D. BAILEY
1894 to 1899

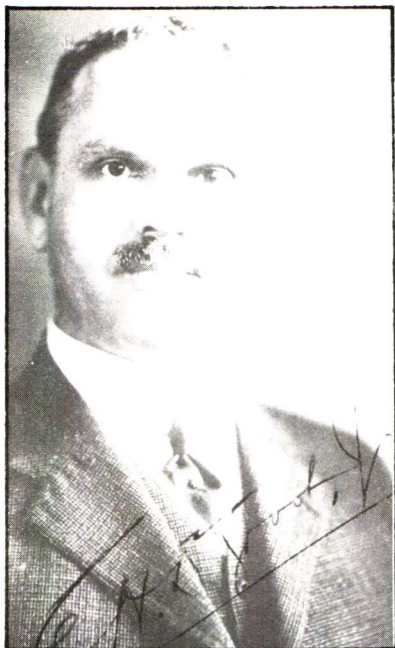


O. B. BROWN
1899 to 1911



E. E. RICHARDSON
1911 to 1922

CHAIRMEN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



EDWARD H. DeGROOT, Jr.
1922 to 1947



WILLIAM H. RAMSEY
1947 to 1957



MERRITT L. SMITH
1957 to 1975



JUNIOR F. CROWELL
1975 to Present

term being perpetual. It was incorporated a third time in the summer of 1923; but each reincorporation preserved the identity of the original organization, and did not create a new corporation.

The Board of Directors, on November 13, 1906, transferred legal title to the Mission's real property to a Board of Trustees, consisting of Lewis E. Payson, Aldis B. Browne, John B. Kinnear, Ivory G. Kimball, Daniel Fraser, Theodore A. Harding and William H. Martin, to hold for the use and benefit of Central Union Mission. The title so remained unto the second reincorporation of the Mission in 1923, when it was vested again in the Mission itself.

From the beginning the governing body of the Mission has been a Board of Directors, selected from the various Protestant denominations. The number of members and the frequency of meetings of the Board has changed from time to time. At the first the Board met weekly and took a very active part in the daily operation of the Mission. The first Board consisted of five members: Capt. James H. Hitchcock, Chairman; Latham A. Douglass; George W. Wheeler; William Dubois and Nathaniel A. Robbins.

It was Christian concern for the lost and needy men on Pennsylvania Avenue and throughout the city that prompted the establishment of the Central Union Mission. In "THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS" we read:

"The Mission was organized for the purpose of helping and rescuing men who are down and out. The original organizers saw, day after day and week after week, the great crowds of tramps and men who had lost hope, who come to Washington, or pass through on their way North or South as the seasons change from summer to winter or from winter to summer, greatly needing a helping hand, a word of encouragement and an uplift toward a better life. The Mission has been continuously in that work from that time to the present."

"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCHES"

Just when the title, "The Mission of the Churches" was first applied to the Central Union Mission is not known. It was in use at least as far back as the 1923 Annual Report. Long before that, the first issue of the "Mission Bulletin" reported the following resolution adopted at a meeting of the Baptist pastors of the city November 23, 1885:

"Resolved, That we heartily commend the Central Union Mission to the sympathy and benevolence of our churches."

Similar resolutions were passed by the Presbyterian and the Methodist pastors.

From the very start, pastors and laymen and laywomen of the churches participated in and actively supported the services of the Mission in the Mission hall, the Mission's several branches and the Gospel Wagon. They carried on a ministry of visitation to the needy, the sick and the jailed. New York Avenue Presbyterian Church invited the Central Union Mission to hold its first Annual Meeting in its sanctuary, setting a precedent followed by various churches in ensuing years.

Soon after the organization of the Board of Directors, an Executive Committee was appointed, to consist of one or more representatives from each church in the city. Their duties were to aid the Directors in informing the public of the needs of the work, enlisting laborers, obtaining employment, food and other supplies for the needy. The Committee met the second Tuesday of each month. It seems that much of the financial support of the work was pledged at the Annual Meeting by church members, who then handed their gift in installments to their church representative on the Committee, who in turn carried it to the monthly meeting.

THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

On February 3, 1900, resolutions were adopted by the Board of Directors creating a Ministerial Associate Council to consist of one pastor from each of a number of religious denominations named. They were to sit with the Board and take part in its deliberations. The purpose of the Council

was to keep the Mission in closer contact with the churches and to have the advice of men of recognized standing in the churches. The Council eventually formed its own organization and worked separately yet in harmony with the Board. The Council ceased to function in 1964, but the interest and support of many pastors of the area remained indispensable to the ministry of "The Mission of the Churches".

THE MEN'S BAND

Laymen of the churches, along with Mission converts, organized the Men's Band in October, 1892. It met at the close of the Sunday afternoon service, when seekers in the afternoon meeting could be gathered into the Men's Band meeting, and there be encouraged by prayer, exhortation and testimony. The Men's Band also rendered effective service in the public meetings of the Mission and the Gospel Wagon and elsewhere. The "Bulletin" of January 12, 1893, names the following officers:

- L.L. Smith, President
- W.I. Graham, Vice President
- W.C. McMichael, Secretary
- Mr. Nevin, Treasurer

The records show various reorganizations of the men in the Mission under the names of "Convert's Club" and "Christian Laymen's Fellowship" superseded the Men's Band. Whether organized or not, the assistance of volunteers from the churches has always been an integral part of the ministry of the Mission, especially in conducting the Gospel services.

THE WOMEN'S BAND

Women have been prominent and effective in the work of the Mission from the very beginning. The first issue of the "Mission Bulletin" in 1886 reports a Gospel and prayer service held every Sunday afternoon, conducted by the women of the Mission. Those meetings resulted in many conversions and were times of great spiritual uplift. The meetings continued until about 1926 and were led for many years by Mrs. William H. Ramsey.

A Young Ladies Band was organized in March, 1892. A part of

its work consisted in helping to conduct meetings at the Gospel Hall Branch. In February, 1907, the Women's Band became the Ladies Auxiliary, which in turn reorganized March 10, 1910, into the Women's Cooperative Committee. Mrs. Francis J. Lukens, wife of Superintendent Lukens, was its President until December, 1914.

TESTIMONY OF E. PEARL CLAYTON

One notable convert of the Sunday afternoon meetings was E. Pearl Clayton, whose testimony appears in "THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS" as quoted from the "Bulletin" of March 23, 1916:

"Seventy-eight persons testified to the power of God to save in the evening service on Sunday, March 19th. Two hundred and sixty-two people listened to the stories of converts, told in short and graphic sentences of their experiences of misery, crime and degradation left behind for a life of respectability.

"The occasion marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Mr. E. Pearl Clayton, who brought tears to the eyes of three-fourths of the people present when he told of having panhandled his own father on the streets of Washington, having been estranged from his family for eighteen years prior to that time.

"His father recognized the wayward boy, but did not want the man with whom he was walking at the time to know it was his boy. So he excused himself with the explanation that the young man was the son of a friend and that he wanted to talk about his mother. Mr. Clayton's father was a Methodist minister, and he knew of the work of the Mission, so he took his boy to the service and they listened to the testimonies of the converts, and when the invitation was given the boy was reminded by his father that his mother had been praying for him all those years and his hardened heart was touched.

"He went forward and asked God to forgive him his sins and he has been kept by His power ever since. Today (1916) he is a well respected citizen employed by the Government, and best of all, he is ever ready to testify to the saving and

keeping power of our Saviour, in hope that some poor wretched sinner may take courage and commit his ways unto the Lord who is able to save 'from the uttermost to the uttermost.'"

THE GOSPEL WAGON

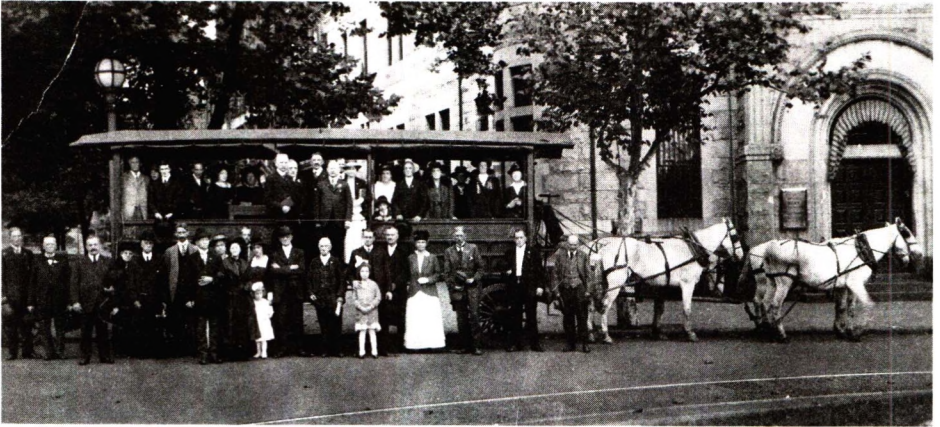
Very early in its history open-air meetings became a part of the Mission out-reach. Ten meetings with the Gospel Wagon were recorded in May, 1886. Apparently an omnibus was hired for some of these meetings which were held at various places throughout the city during the summer with audiences estimated from twelve to fifteen hundred. The audience at a meeting at Market Space on August 28, 1887, was reported as composed of about twenty-five hundred.

The first issue of the "Mission Bulletin" June 10, 1886, describes the first of three stops on the Sunday afternoon tour of the Gospel Wagon:

"Last Sunday the Gospel Wagon made its fourth trip, and everybody says it was the most successful of all. At the wharf chairs and benches were placed on the sidewalk to accommodate a part of the congregation, and this added not a little to concentrating the audience. The attendance was larger than any preceding Sabbath, and the manifestations of interest were greater. Slips with some Gospel hymns printed on them were distributed in the audience, and the effort to have the people join in the singing was quite successful. A show of hands indicated the presence of more Christians than on previous occasions, and inquiry showed that news of the meetings had spread in the community and drawn out many who have lived long in neglect of all Christian privileges though professing to be Christians.

"The simple recital by the speakers of incidents of the saving power of Jesus in reclaiming the lost brought tears to the eyes of many hard looking men who caught at the promises of the Scriptures with eagerness. The number of those indicating by the up-lifted hand a desire to be saved was remarkably large and came from all parts of the audience. The people seemed reluctant to go at the close of

“Go out into the highways and hedges and constrain them to come in.” (Luke 14:23)



The Gospel Wagon, 1886 to 1918



*Ford business car
purchased in 1916
carried wood and
donations during
the week and the
Gospel on Sundays*



*Auto truck, gift of Mrs. J.J. Duff in 1920 to
provide outings for the youngsters in the Chil-
dren's Emergency Home and to assist in the open
air ministry.*

the service, and hats were lifted as the wagon drove away. One noticeable fact of the meeting was the stillness and reverence during prayer. Hats were removed and heads bowed."

In June, 1886, Major George A. Hilton wrote his opinion that the Mission should have its own vehicle, suitably constructed, and sent ten dollars toward that purpose. Additional gifts followed, and on August 14, 1887, the Mission dedicated its own Gospel Wagon, built to order by Pearce & Lawton of Georgetown at a cost of \$748.00. Lettering, curtains and lamps raised the cost to \$771.65, which was entirely paid before the end of the season. The wagon was furnished with a small organ, the gift of Mr. Julius Estey, president of the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont.

The first Gospel Wagon was destroyed in a fire that consumed the Knox Warehouse on July 25, 1894; however, it was insured for \$800.00, nearly enough to pay for a replacement. The new wagon was ready to run in May, 1895. It was twenty-three feet long and eight feet wide. Folding seats accommodated thirty workers. The little organ having been destroyed with the wagon, Mr. Estey generously gave another. This later organ is currently on display in the Mission. Mr. George W. Knox furnished four horses and a driver at the nominal rate of five dollars for each Sunday afternoon.

According to the Board Minutes of May 2, 1916, "The present horse (actually there were four horses) and wagon having spent their usefulness," an auto truck for Mission work was purchased at a special price of \$300.00 with a rebate of \$25.00. Painting cost another \$20.00. The 1917 Annual Report states this truck was used during the week to deliver wood and collect donations, paper, etc. on Sunday "a splendid little folding organ, gift of Mr. O.B. Hayes, was slipped into the truck and it became a second Gospel Wagon." At that time both vehicles were carrying the message of God's love to thousands who had almost no religious interest. Many of the converts of the Mission were the fruit of this out-reach. The continuation of this ministry, at least in a limited measure, is indicated by the report in the Board Minutes of April 6, 1920, of the gift of an auto truck, cost \$1,079.00 from Mrs. J.J. Duff for open-air work and children's outings.

TESTIMONY OF THOMAS B. IRONSIDE

One of those reached by the Gospel Wagon was Thomas B. Ironside. Born in Scotland and educated at the University of Edinburgh, he came to America to escape the drink habit; but the habit came with him. Arriving in Washington in such slovenly condition he was ashamed to be seen, he waited in a cemetery on the edge of the city until he could slip in under cover of darkness. He was attracted by a Gospel Wagon service, followed the wagon to the Mission, was saved, rehabilitated, and eventually became Superintendent of the Market Street Mission in Morristown, New Jersey.

THE COMING OF MAJOR AND MRS. WILLIAM H. RAMSEY

One serendipitous offspring of the Gospel Wagon was the attraction to the Mission of a young man who attended a street meeting on the evening of Saturday, October 2, 1887. Somewhat troubled by having left a small pastorate in Ohio to enter a Government position in Washington, William H. Ramsey was looking for an opportunity for Christian service. The next day after arriving in Washington he found the Gospel Wagon. Years later he wrote about that meeting, "After listening to their singing and preaching, I went with them to their meeting hall and gradually became an integral part of the Mission." His wife, Ida, who joined him a month later also found scope for her leadership in the women's work already in progress in the three-year-old Mission, personally conducting the Sunday afternoon evangelistic meetings and assisting in many other ways.

THE BRANCH MISSIONS

An outgrowth of the Gospel Wagon ministry was a series of cottage prayer meetings. As some of these meetings became too large to be accommodated in homes, and in response to evangelistic needs in various parts of the city, a number of branch missions were established. Workers and converts from the Mission were assisted by volunteers, and several churches shared their chapel or Sunday school facilities for this out-reach ministry.

REACHING OUT FOR SOULS

In 1891, when the Mission was just seven years old, eight branch missions and the Gospel Wagon carried the message of salvation through Jesus Christ to all parts of the city.



Rescue Branch.



Old Northeast Branch.



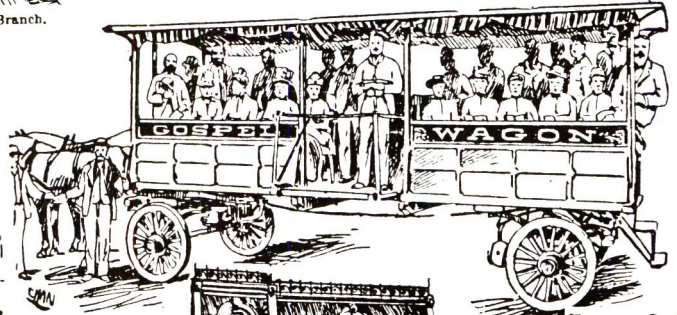
Georgetown Branch, 31st st., south of M.



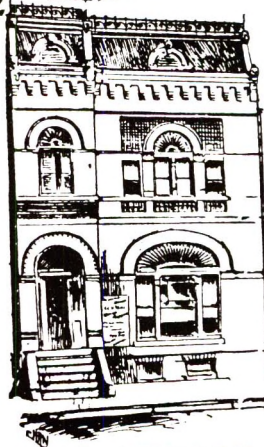
Southeast Branch, Cor. 9th and K.



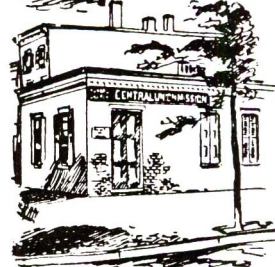
The Northeast Branch, Md. ave. and 18th st.



Gospel Hall, Water and Twelfth streets.



Bethesda Branch, 1609 7th St. N. W.



Howard Branch.

Children's meetings and Bible classes for adults were held at the branches and at the main Mission hall. The branches were discontinued one by one as the work was increasingly concentrated in the main location.

GROWING PAINS

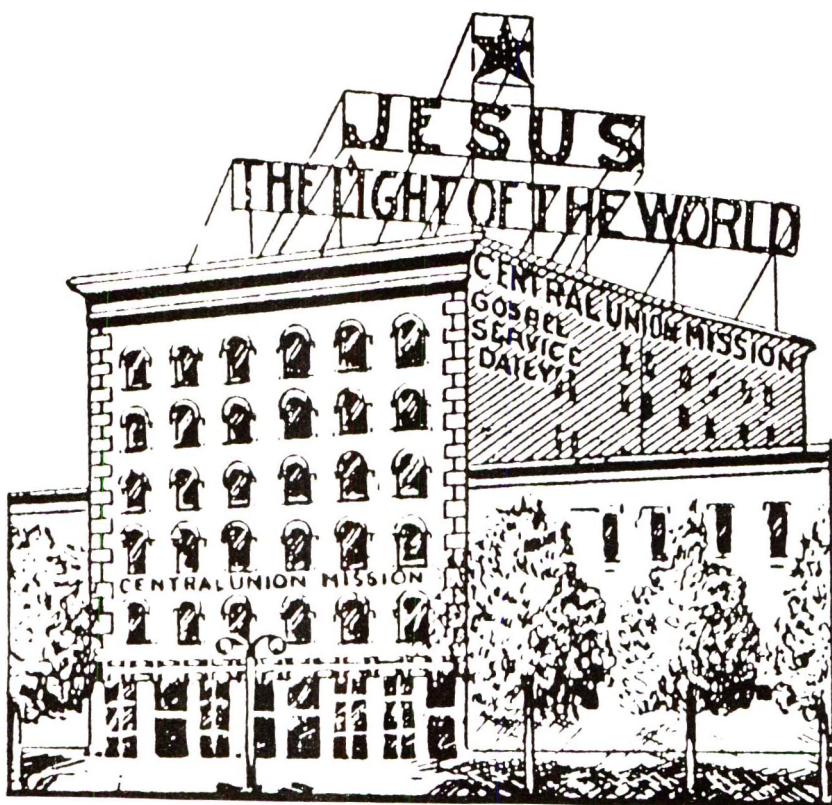
Although the first little, second-floor Mission hall at 909 Pennsylvania Avenue was soon crowded to capacity, Latham Douglass could not wait for men to find their way in to the sound of the Gospel. So anxious was he to reach lost men for the Lord, he would go out on the street and invite those passing by to go upstairs.

By May, 1886, the congestion necessitated moving the Sunday night services to the "Dime Museum," a theater located at 1106 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Attendance was reported to run close to one thousand at these meetings.

On January 1, 1887, the Mission moved to larger and better quarters at 930 Pennsylvania Avenue, a building called the "Chesapeake House" where men and boys were known to spend their days and nights drinking and gambling. The property was leased for five years at \$1,800.00 a year. Again, the first meeting was conducted by George W. Wheeler.



THE MISSION'S HOME, 1887-1892
930 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.



622 LOUISIANA AVENUE
And The Electric Witness

The purchase of this building in 1892 gave the Mission much needed space for its growing ministry until 1923. The "Electric Witness," erected in 1910, was a notable landmark in the city for 13 years. It was 90 feet long and 26 feet wide and contained a total of 539 lamps, including the star which measured 8 feet from point to point and contained 75 lamps.

A HOME OF ITS OWN

The earliest suggestion that the Mission should have its own building came in December, 1886, from the founder, Rev. Douglass. He was then pastoring a church in Pennsylvania, but his heart was still with the work he had helped to begin in Washington. The idea grew slowly, but finally at the Fourth Annual Meeting a proposal was made that \$50,000.00 be raised to purchase a lot and erect a building. A few gifts and promises came in; and a Building Committee was appointed and held its first meeting in April, 1890, with Judge Ivory G. Kimball as Chairman.

The project was given impetus at the Seventh Annual Meeting, October 15, 1891, when Edwin D. Bailey of the Board of Directors presented the fact that the Mission was confronted by an emergency. The building at 930 Pennsylvania Avenue was dangerously overcrowded. In addition, the yearly lease would expire January 1, and a renewal would be at an increase of \$540.00 a year.

By August, 1892, a building was purchased for \$56,000.00, of which \$30,000.00 was covered by a first trust. The building was a six-story brick structure at 622 Louisiana Avenue N.W. (later 624 Indiana Avenue), built in 1864 as the Seaton Hotel. It had also served for some years as the City Post Office. Repairs and alterations were made at a cost of \$11,000.00. This would be the Mission's home until it was razed in 1923 to make room for the new building on the same site.

THE ELECTRIC WITNESS

Gifts from the Women's Interdenominational Missionary Union made possible the erection atop the Mission building, on May 18, 1910, of a magnificent sign reading: JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Friends were invited to send one dollar to burn the Witness for one hour on the occasion of a birthday or anniversary or in memory of a loved one.

On May 2, 1917, little Carl Schultz celebrated his birthday by burning the Witness and accompanied his gift with a poem:

*"I am nine years old today:
And I ask you all to pray
For my mother dear and me,
That we may live eternally.
Accept one dollar every year
In honor of our Saviour dear."*

The Annual Report for 1917 states that at the time it was installed it was the first sign of its kind in the world. The same Report says, "We rejoice because we have been able to burn the Electric Witness four hours every night ... The Vaughn Class of Calvary Baptist Church succeeded in getting thirty Bible classes from different evangelical churches to be responsible for one night each month."

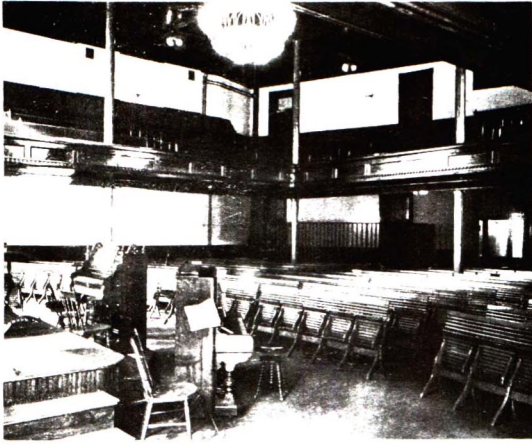
When the building was razed in 1923, District building regulations would not permit the sign to be restored on the new building.

MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

Although the compelling motive behind the organization of the Central Union Mission and its first priority throughout the years has been to reach lost men, women and children for the Lord Jesus Christ, there has always been the deepest concern for their material needs. Free meals, lodgings and clothing have always been an integral part of the Mission ministry. Thanksgiving, 1885, dinner was served to "not less than five hundred" of the poor of the city at the Mission or in their homes. That number increased each year until in 1889 "about 1800 or 2000" were fed. Beginning the next year food baskets were sent to the homes of four hundred needy families.

In the building at 622 Louisiana Avenue, in addition to free lodging and meals for those who could not pay, small rooms were rented at a very nominal cost to young converts trying to make a new start in life; and meals were available in a cafeteria for ten, fifteen or twenty-five cents. A woodyard and broom factory in the basement provided useful work for unemployed men.

The Mission has never forgotten that the same Lord Jesus who said, "Ye must be born again," also said, "Give ye them to eat."



Auditorium

**SCENES AT
622 LOUISIANA AVENUE**

1892 -1923



Men's Waiting Room



Thanksgiving Dinner



Wood Yard



Business Office



Superintendent's Room



JOHN S. BENNETT

Superintendent

1915 - 1937

ADA JEAN BENNETT

Superintendent

1937 - 1943



Chapter Two

PERSEVERING TO MEET THE CRISES

John and Ada Jean Bennett
1915-1944

THE ARRIVAL OF THE BENNETTS

The Central Union Mission faced a crisis in January, 1915. Superintendent Francis J. Lukens had resigned. The Mission building, not new when purchased in 1892, had with the passing years become a dilapidated firetrap. There was still an unpaid balance of \$23,000.00 on the first cost of the building coupled with a large current expense debt.

The Board appointed Chairman E.E. Richardson and Treasurer William H. Ramsey as a committee "to get in communication with prospective candidates" for the position of Superintendent. At this time the Board of Directors was considering a change in the administration of the Mission. The work had always been conducted under the close supervision of the Board. At weekly Board meetings every part of the work was closely scanned and action taken. Board members were personally responsible for conducting meetings, counseling and maintaining the various ministries. The Superintendent was simply the arm of the Board to carry out its directions. Now, however, thought was given to making the new Superintendent more independent in planning and action, though still under the direction and control of the Board. Considerable care was exercised in selecting the right man for the position. Some thirty-six names were considered before John S. Bennett of Brooklyn, New York, was chosen by unanimous vote of the Board at its regular meeting on May 4, 1915. He began his duties on June 1, 1915.

Mr. Bennett was a convert of over seven years standing of the Jerry McAuley Water Street Mission in New York, where he continued to take an active part in the Sunday night meetings. This is the same mission in which Latham Douglass had received his early inspiration and love for the ministry of rescue. Mr. Bennett was employed as a clothing salesman in Brooklyn, but he had a vital interest in rescue mission work and was eager to become Superintendent of a mission.

TESTIMONY OF JOHN S. BENNETT

John S. Bennett's testimony in rhyme was printed in the "Mission Bulletin" of September 9, 1915:

*'Twas the twelfth of December, 1907,
When I first started on the road to Heaven;
The downward path I had trod long enough,
And I was good and tired of being a bluff.
No good in my life had I ever done,
For I was always busy getting on a bun.
Of whiskey, I drank, I dare say casks,
But I found 'twas a profitless task.
To quit the old habits I had often tried,
But the devil always had me spied,
And as soon as a cure I would take
He would make me believe it was a fake;
He always showed me how much better time,
I could have by drinking whiskey and wine.
I tried cures, sanitarium, pledges and all
To get over the cursed appetite of alcohol,
But each time the old devil was right on the job,
And just as surely my good vows he would rob.
I lost everything I had in the world,
And my brain always seemed to be in a whirl,
For me to be sober was out of the question
'Til in a Rescue Mission the boys made this suggestion --
"Jesus is your friend -- ask Him to guide and guard.
The road, at first, may seem to you hard;
But pray with all your might, both day and night,
And soon you will get the great peace,
Which, if you are honest, will never cease."
Then I asked Him my sins to forgive
And promised that as long as I lived
I'd lead a good, Christian life,
No matter what the strife.
So, I'm here now to tell the story
Of Jesus and His great glory;
And how He saved this helpless bum,
From committing sin and drinking rum.
I'll tell each time I get a chance,
How He once took me out of a great trance,
How He has kept me all the way,
And placed my feet on the Rock to stay.*

*Now, boys, this Saviour is here tonight,
So, if you wish to make the great fight,
All He asks is to give Him your heart.
Come up here in front and make the start,
Ask His forgiveness for all of your sins,
Then go away rejoicing and a new life begin.*

THE MORTGAGE IS (NOT) BURNED

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett had a passion for souls, and they were convinced that the Mission should present a clean, wholesome environment favorable to developing "twice-born men" and establishing new converts in the new life in Christ. For this, they envisioned a new building. But first, there were the mortgage and other debts!

In July, 1915, at the suggestion of the Superintendent, the Board of Directors borrowed \$1,200.00 from the Women's Co-operative Committee to pay current bills and establish good credit. This loan was repaid with interest by the end of 1915, and for the most part current expenses were kept paid up even during the depression.

As for the mortgage of \$23,000.00 on the building, that too was paid off, year by year, until on May 3, 1921, the Board authorized the final payment. A quote from Mr. Bennett's notes reads: "On May 13, 1921, the old mortgage note was supposed to be burned at a great celebration in the Mission Auditorium; but, to be perfectly honest, the writer of these lines substituted another note, and the original now rests in a safe deposit vault -- one of the proudest and most successful treasures of our lives."

THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY HOME

In the fall of 1916 a new crisis came by way of a telephone call that was not only to change Mrs. Bennett's life, but to open up a whole new ministry for the Central Union Mission and to bring assistance and blessing into the lives of thousands of boys and girls for years to come. The call came from a social worker who asked Mrs. Bennett to arrange care for two little girls. Mrs. Bennett replied that this was a

CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY HOME

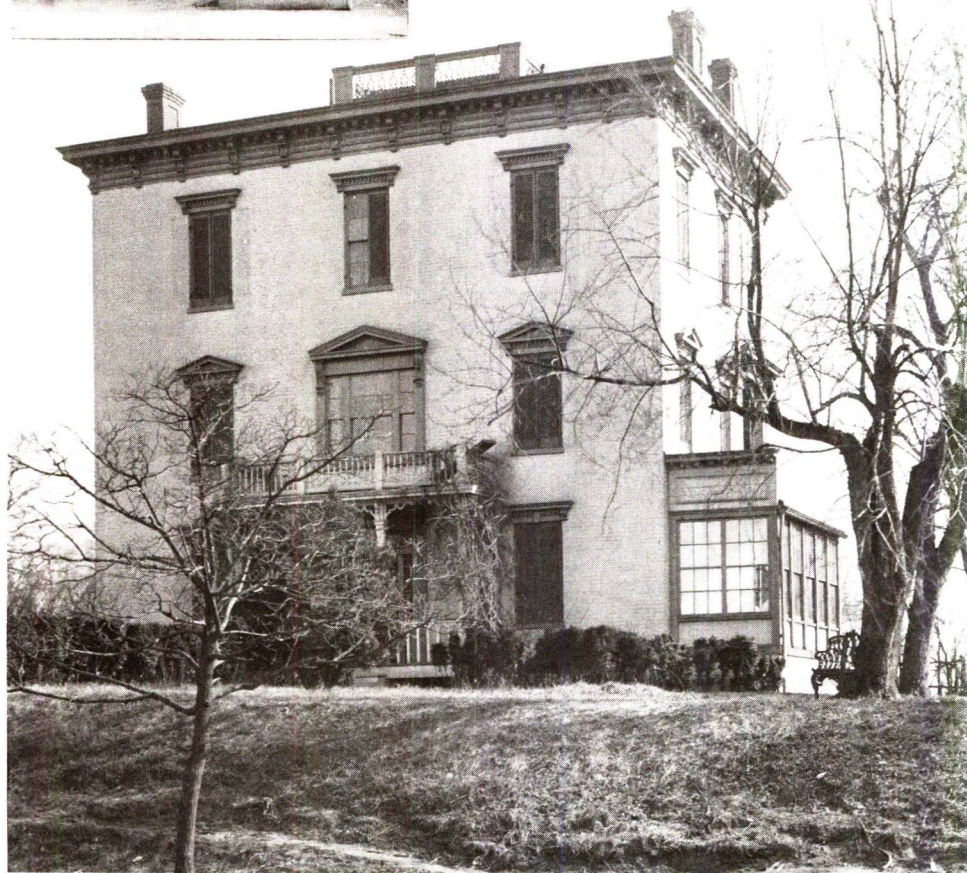
1917 - 1919

458 C Street, N.W.
First location of the
Children's Emergency Home



1919 - 1924

1207 First Street, N.W.
"The Old Bates Mansion"
Room for more children and
a yard for them to play in



mission for men; we had no facilities or staff for the care of children. Said the social worker, "I thought your institution was like a stage coach -- always room for one more." This was a challenge to Mrs. Bennett, the more so because only a short time before she and Mr. Bennett had laid to rest their own little daughter. After thought and prayer, they took the two little girls into their own home.

Soon more children came. There was no agency in the city able to give the immediate care that an emergency in the life of a child might call for, such as a sick mother, eviction, or other family crisis. Someone suggested that Mrs. Bennett open a children's home and donated \$50.00 to start it. Other gifts increased the amount to \$150.00.

The Board minutes of February 6, 1917, read: "Brother Ramsey moved that Supt. Bennett be empowered to procure a home and make arrangements for children's work." The minutes of March, 1917, report that a house at 458 C Street, N.W. had been rented at \$35.00 monthly, furniture bought, and everything in readiness. A mother and three children were being cared for.

Dr. C.N. Chipman offered his services to the Mission and Children's Emergency Home, and dental services were contributed by Doctors Clarence, Elmer and Irvin Kohlmeier.

At first there were no funds for salaries for workers in the Children's Emergency Home. Most of the care of the children was done by volunteers and much of the physical toil fell to Mrs. Bennett. From this circumstance we glean a vignette with far-reaching results. The story is found in a lengthy article in the Washington Sunday "Star" of June 2, 1940, honoring Mrs. Bennett's completion of twenty-five years at Central Union Mission. It states that Mrs. Bennett felt it was unnecessary for mission workers to wear dowdy clothes, and she made it a point of effecting as smart an appearance as possible; however, she was not too proud to don a gingham apron when necessary. Thus in the early days of the Children's Home, two ladies, Mrs. Seaton Perry and her sister, Mrs. John J. Duff, calling unexpectedly, found Mrs. Bennett, in apron, performing some needed task. The next day's mail brought a check for \$50.00 from Mrs. Perry with the simple note, "Hire a servant." The checks continued to come each month. Mrs. Duff also became a very generous supporter of the children's work.

Mrs. Duff and Mrs. Perry became members of the Advisory Council formed to assist in administering the Home. Other members were Mrs. James W. Wadsworth, Jr., Mrs. Preston Gibson and Madame Christian Hauge.

The lack of staff was soon remedied, and the Children's Emergency Home expanded so that larger quarters were required. On February 13, 1919, the Board authorized the leasing of the "Old Bates Mansion" at 1207 First Street, N.W., at \$75.00 per month. Here the children had more space and a yard in which to play. Crisis came again, however, when another child-care facility in the city was destroyed by fire. This caused a rigid investigation of all such institutions, and the Central Union Mission was ordered to make its Children's Home safe or move to a fireproof building. The condition of the Mission building itself also was such as to make it highly important that a new building be erected at the earliest practical time.

FIRE!!

Fire broke out on the sixth floor of the Mission building on April 4, 1922, at about eight p.m., supposedly caused by a lighted cigar or cigarette butt thrown into a closet. Most of the occupants of the building were in the auditorium where the nightly Gospel service was about to begin. A newspaper account reports that, "because of the fragility of the building, it appeared for a short time that the entire building was in danger of destruction. However, the effective work of the firemen confined the blaze to the sixth floor, and within two hours the fire was extinct." The paper also reveals that virtually all rooms in the building were affected by the tons of water that seeped through the ceilings tearing away large blocks of plaster. Damage to the building and contents was set at about \$2,500.00. The building continued to be used until August, 1923, when the Mission moved to temporary quarters at 428-432 Tenth Street, N.W. while the new building was being erected.

THE BUILDING CAMPAIGNS

The Board minutes for June 7, 1921, read, "The Superintendent reported for Treasurer Winner that on May 13th the mortgage was burned and the building declared free from debt." And the very next sentence, "The Superintendent suggested plans for raising funds for new building," L.E. Breuninger, E.A. Stevens and Charles P. Light were appointed a committee to formulate plans to finance the building. In February, 1922, the committee was enlarged to include:

Charles J. Ball	James Wilmeth	John C. Letts
John Jay Edson	Merritt O. Chance	Charles H. Butler
L.E. Breuninger	Henry Brewood	Jesse C. Adkins
W.T. Galliher	Charles P. Light	Charles Baker
John B. Larner	Isaac Gans	Mrs. A. Hopkins
Mrs. Seaton Perry	Mrs. John J. Duff	

The National City Bureau, a local concern, was employed to conduct the campaign, which lasted from April 24 (the day of the fire) to May 6, 1922, and resulted in raising \$65,000.00. That amount was not sufficient to begin building operations, necessitating another campaign conducted in 1923 with the goal of an additional \$35,000.00. Many friends gave sacrificially of their time and efforts. In the midst of the campaign Mrs. John J. Duff gave \$100,000.00 specifically to erect the wing of the building which would house the Children's Emergency Home. The gift was a memorial to her sister, Mrs. Seaton Perry, who had recently passed away. A large plaque in the lobby proclaimed the building the "gift of Clementine Farr Duff in loving memory of her sister Mary Farr Perry, 1924." This plaque is currently on display in the new Mission facility.

Mr. John C. Letts contributed \$1,500.00 to provide seats and other furnishings for the new chapel, which was named for his wife, the Ida Letts Chapel.

Appleton P. Clark, Jr. was selected as architect, and the construction contract for \$217,000.00 was let to Dorsey E. Nichol.

In November, 1925, a mortgage was placed on the south wing of the Mission building to secure payment of part of the unpaid balance on the building. No encumbrance was placed in the children's wing. Two more campaigns were conducted before



***CENTRAL
UNION
MISSION***

***613 C Street, N.W.
1924***

Victims of the Depression soon taxed the capacity of the new facilities.

The heart of the Mission -- nightly Gospel services in the chapel.



the Board minutes of October 6, 1931, stated that the Mission was "free of recorded encumbrance."

"THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS" mentions the impossibility of naming all who gave invaluable service in the debt and building campaigns. The old building was cleared of debt during the presidency of Dr. E.E. Richardson. The campaigns concerning the new building were conducted under the leadership of President Edward H. DeGroot, Jr. All campaigns were conducted under the constant and vigilant attention of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bennett.

A BUILDING UNIQUE

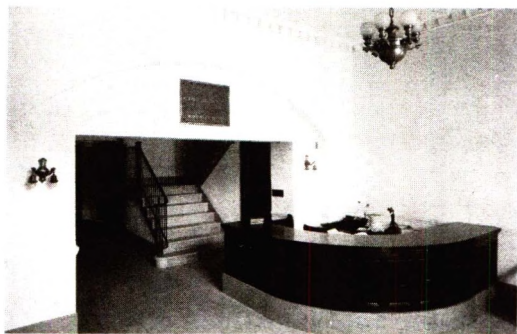
The first service in the new building was held on Sunday evening, December 14, 1924, with Superintendent John Bennett and Major William H. Ramsey of the Board of Directors in charge. Rev. James H. Taylor, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, preached the first sermon.

The following description of the new building is copied from a pamphlet issued by the Mission under the title, "SOMETHING".

"Seven stories high and fireproof, the Central Union Mission might from outward appearance be a modern apartment house. Its two separate wings form a letter 'U', the Mission building fronting on C Street, the Children's Home opening on Louisiana Avenue, near the busy corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventh Street in the Nation's Capital.

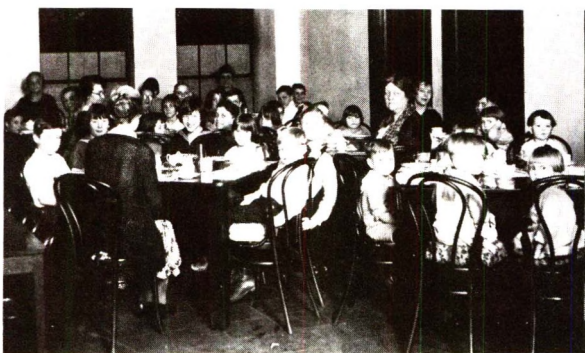
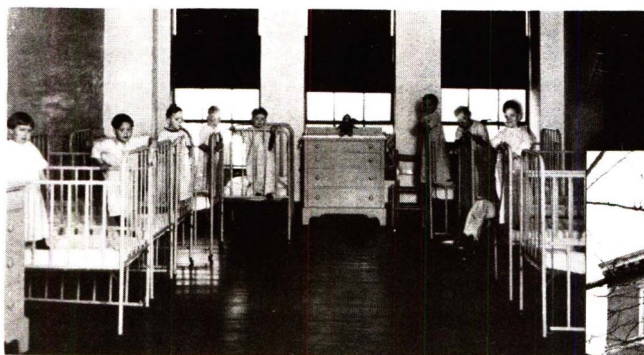
"Modern it is throughout, with fine equipment, thorough cleanliness and sanitation. Bathrooms that would grace a good hotel, electric refrigeration, electric elevator, oil heat, efficient kitchen and laundry ... Are these things 'too fine' for down and out men? Whether they are or not is part of our story.

"A basement with kitchen, dining room and laundry; a main floor with chapel, office, lobby and writing room; a top floor with free beds for 70 men; and in between four floors devoted to single rooms which converts of the Mission can rent for little during the first weeks of their 'new jobs.' Such, physically, is the 'mission side.'



***CHILDREN'S
EMERGENCY
HOME***

***624 Louisiana Ave.
1924***



*ENTRANCE
DORMITORY
DINING ROOM
CHAPEL*

"Opposite, the 'children's side' has seven floors, the top one for play with a sun room and an open roof playground, the ground floor for offices and Board rooms, the second for reception and dining room and kitchen, and four intermediate floors, each with its own dormitory and a matron, for boys and girls of differing ages. (The 1925 Annual Report indicates there was room for forty children and seldom an empty bed.) One roof covers both buildings.

"Mechanically, here are buildings with no unused corners, no makeshifts ... smooth-working machines of brick and steel and cement built to fulfill one intended purpose, yet doing it to an extent that leaves an observer wondering what makes it possible.

"For certainly two seven-story buildings, however scientifically constructed, cannot of themselves accomplish much human reform. Back of them, permitting their fullest results, the secret of what goes on within them, must be ... 'SOMETHING.'"

What went on within those buildings during the next fifty-eight years was truly "something" of the love and grace of God as He continued to bless and use the Central Union Mission to point many to the all-sufficient Saviour Jesus Christ. "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:23)

Birthday
celebration
in the
Children's
Emergency
Home



THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The Depression Years -- crises in the nation -- in lives -- in the Mission! Scanning the Annual Reports for the thirties one can only wonder at the increase, year after year, in the number of men who were given meals and lodgings. How did they accommodate so many? As early as 1930 the new building was overcrowded; and in September, before the winter had even started, an overflow dormitory was opened on Sixth Street. The box below from the 1930 Annual Report and the chart on the facing page from the 1932 Report tell their own story.

WHAT A YEAR!

Figures aren't usually very interesting; but look at these!

	<i>Last Year</i>	<i>This Year</i>	<i>Increase about</i>
Free Meals Furnished Men	13,557	39,595	191%
Free Shelter Furnished Men	9,895	23,137	133%
Attendance At Religious Services	22,659	29,179	29%
Professed Conversions	2,005	2,524	25%
Receipts from Our Good Contributors	\$25,540	\$29,393	15%

Think what such a record means in times like these

From the Report for 1939 we quote the following:

"When in 1929 the Mission served to men 13,557 free meals, it was considered a "prosperity high". When in 1935 the free meals reached 99,584, emergency had arrived. When in 1937 the number went to 124,514, emergency was thought dire. Last year with 149,361 was staggering ... but 1939 with 164,700 free meals (12 times the "prosperity" figure) shows more clearly than words can express the destitution and despair of today, and the still growing need for relief. These are not inanimate statistics ... they are human souls, human misery, human desperation, expressed in figures."

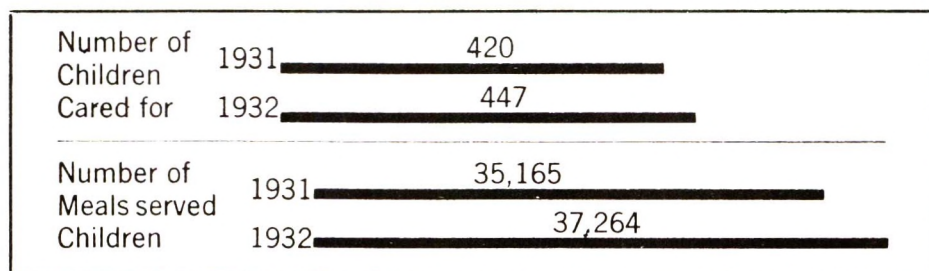
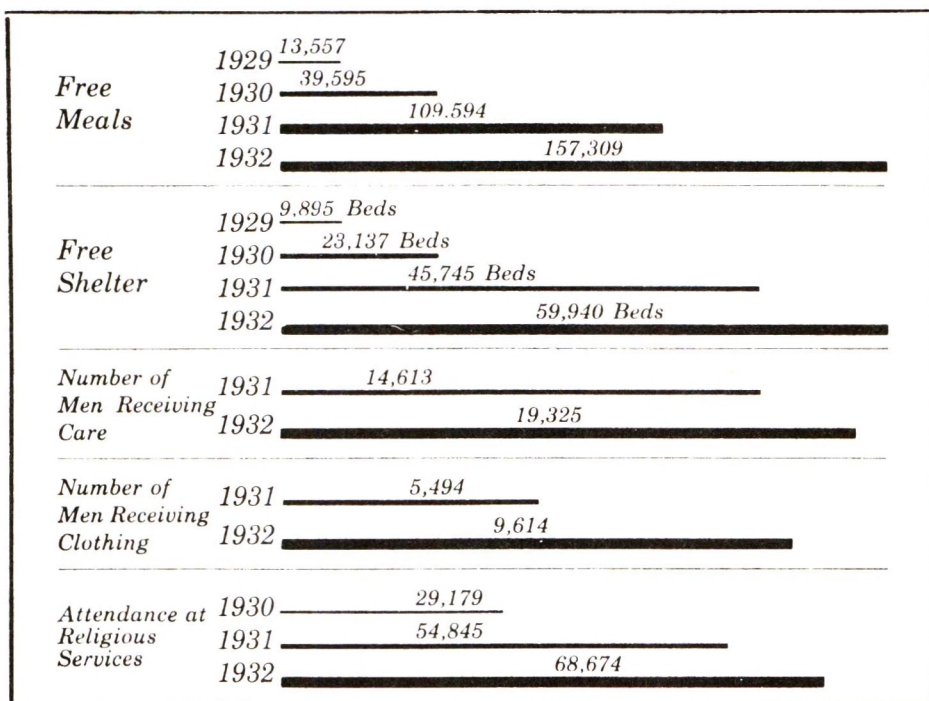
The fact that the good people of Washington faithfully supported the Mission through these difficult years (surely with much personal sacrifice) is noted with gratitude. The tremendous task would have been impossible without the assistance of the churches and God's people.

A YEAR OF EMERGENCIES MET

PICTURED below in graphic form are eloquent figures . . . but back of those figures, try to picture almost 20,000 human tragedies represented directly by as many different men and children who found comfort in the Mission and the Home last year. Then picture the far greater number of human tragedies represented indirectly by wives and children of those men, and mothers and fathers of those children. To all of those in some measure, whatever you contributed to this Mission during the past year gave comfort. For many, it helped pave the way to reunited, restored homes.

Think of these graphs, then, not as food and beds, but as friendliness, sympathy, religious comfort for the men, complete, loving homelike care for the children, and kindly interest in all their families.

And note especially that in a year of deep depression, when physical comfort might well be expected to dominate, as usual far more men attended the Mission's religious services than asked for its free beds; and of those men, no less than 3,513, almost 500 more than any previous year, by professing conversion, joined the long list of the Mission's converts.



The Annual Report for 1931 was entitled, "The Story of a Tragic Year," and 1932 was called, "Another and More Tragic Year." Yet, with the Depression and demands increasing, 1933 was declared, "The Greatest of Forty-Nine Years." The reason for this happy position must be found in Superintendent Bennett's remarks:

"Spiritually speaking, it has been a glorious year. That very love of God that has been offered through our every-evening chapel services alone to an attendance of 63,530 during the year; and that love has been accepted by 3,007 men who deliberately have professed conversion. Think of it! An average attendance in chapel of 174 every night, and each night about eight men finding 'something' that cures that deep, dark deadly despair only a human soul can know."

Mr. Bennett also expressed appreciation to radio station WOL for the privilege of broadcasting part of the chapel service on Saturday nights from 8:30 to 9:30. The Mission Glee Club was a regular feature of these broadcasts, and listener response indicated that thousands in all walks of life heard the Gospel message. This radio outreach continued for a number of years.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD

On February 14, 1924, the Women's Cooperative Committee (formerly the Women's Band) became the Women's Guild. Its first officers were:

Mrs. William H. Ramsey, President
Mrs. John S. Bennett, Vice President
Mrs. H.E. Risler, Second Vice President
Mrs. G.G. Kundahl, Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. M.H. Stocket, Recording Secretary
Miss Harriet Leich, Treasurer

These ladies continued the assistance they had always given to the religious services of the Mission. They served Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, cared for the linens for the Mission, repaired and made over clothes for the Children's Home, sewed and filled Christmas Bags, prepared and delivered Christmas gifts for the elderly at Blue Plains, canned food

from the Mission Farm. They gave \$6,000.00 toward the new building, and bought an electric washer and extractor for the Mission laundry, an electric refrigerator for the Children's Home and furniture for the lodge at Camp Bennett. Their most notable project was the Homer Rodeheaver - Seth Parker concerts which raised \$12,500.00 -- enough to purchase the Mission Farm with enough left over to buy a Steinway grand piano for the Mission chapel.

THE EVENING AUXILIARY

The Evening Auxiliary was organized in 1922 for business women, many of them Government employees, who could not attend the daytime meetings of the Women's Guild. A monthly dinner meeting with Christian fellowship drew members from many denominations. At one time, they showed a membership of over eleven hundred. They immediately took on the burden of the "End the Debt" campaigns, helped supply furnishings for the new building, assisted in selling tickets for the Seth Parker concerts, and have continued through the years sponsor-



The dedicated ladies of the Women's Guild made invaluable contributions to the Mission, Children's Home and Camp Bennett through their skill with needle and thread.

ing many projects for the Mission, the Children's Emergency Home and Camp Bennett.

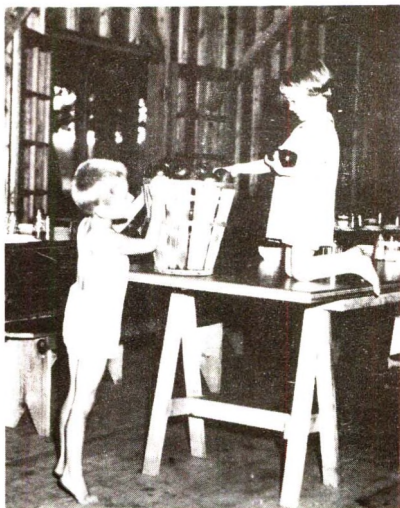
The first officers of the Evening Auxiliary were:

Mrs. Annie E. Benner, President
Miss Marian Larner, Vice President
Miss Bertha F. Thomas, Recording Secretary
Miss Annie Cornwell, Corresponding Secretary
Miss Harriet Leich, Treasurer
Miss Maggie Moddie, Assistant Treasurer

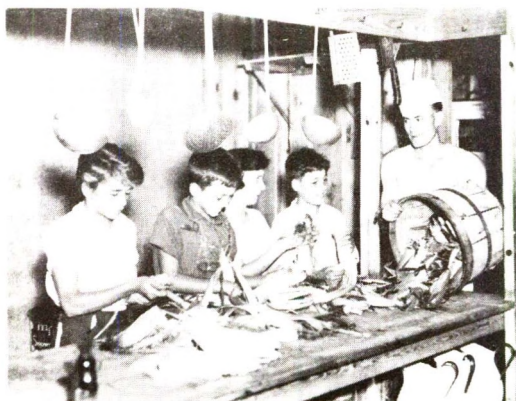
MISSION FARM AND CAMP BENNETT

Sunday evenings in 1931 would find many radios across the nation tuned in to "Seth Parker" (Phillips Lord) and his "Jonesport" neighbors, and Homer Rodeheaver, who was a popular music evangelist. Mrs. Bennett induced these two to put on a Seth Parker concert under the auspices of the Women's Guild of Central Union Mission. Constitution Hall was engaged and tickets put on sale. The 3,800 seats were sold out, and second and third concerts were equally successful. The next year another concert by Mr. Lord and his company was held. The net income from the four concerts was about \$12,500.00.

There was no previous public commitment as to the use of the funds, but Mrs. Bennett had a dream. She longed for a country place where the precious boys and girls of the Children's Home could be given relief from the summer heat of the city. Several places were examined, and a farm one mile north of Brookeville, Maryland, seemed ideal. The farm comprised 234



Campers were delighted with fresh fruit and vegetables from the farm



CAMP BENNETT

*Sunday, July 22, 1934,
500 friends gathered
for the dedication of
the new camp*



*Mrs. Bennett took time
to enjoy a story with
some campers*



*Just three of the thousands
of youngsters who have ex-
perienced the joy of going
to Camp Bennett. Many have
come to know Jesus Christ
as their Saviour.*



*Main lodge
-- housing
the kitchen,
dining room
and recrea-
tion hall*

acres. One remote corner was a beautiful, wooded area, providing the perfect setting for a children's camp. Check in hand, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Ramsey, President of the Women's Guild, approached the Board for their approval. A committee consisting of President E.H. DeGroot, Jr., L.E. Breuninger, William H. Ramsey, James Trimble and A.M. Cooper examined the property and completed the purchase for \$11,275.00. On September 25, 1933, title was taken, and the farm became the property of Central Union Mission, entirely free of debt.

Even before the camp buildings were constructed, the farm provided useful work for unemployed men; and the food they produced was a very real help to the Mission and the Children's Emergency Home.

But buildings were needed before the children could enjoy the camp. And buildings cost money. The Board voted to conduct a campaign to raise \$15,000.00 for camp buildings. The Women's Guild and Evening Auxiliary went to work again. Friends responded. In spite of the financial depression, the funds were raised. The construction was done under the close supervision of Henry L. Breuninger of the firm of L.E. Breuninger & Sons. Two twin dormitories, one for boys and one for girls, provided room for eighty-eight children and their counselors. A large lodge comprised recreation hall, dining room, kitchen and a room for Mrs. Bennett. Although the Breuningers refused any profit, the construction cost \$5,000.00 above the \$15,000.00 raised by the campaign.

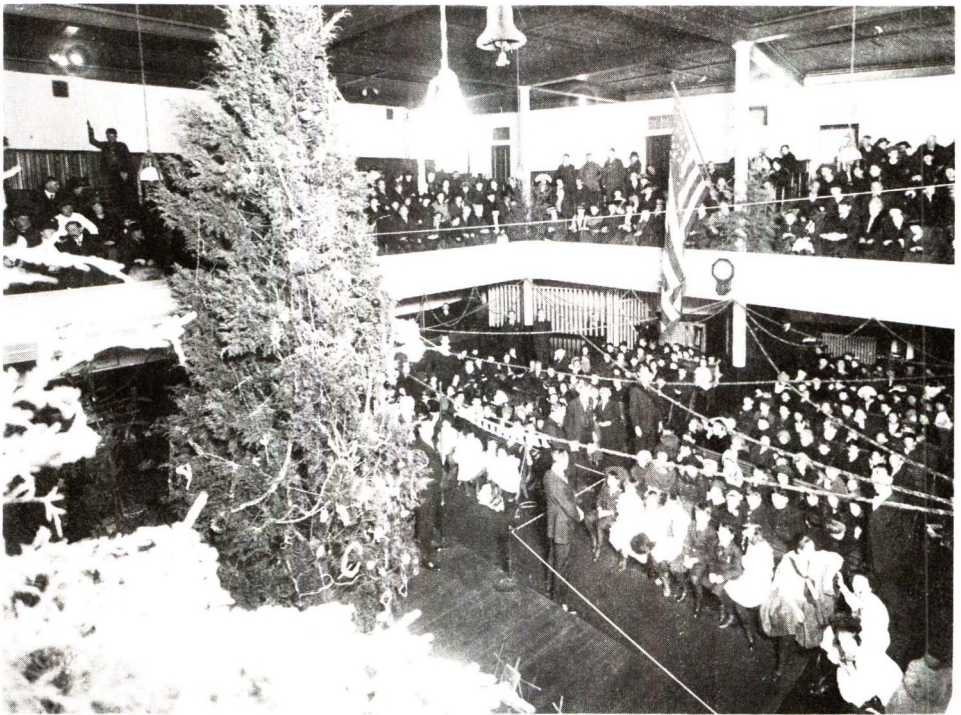
On Sunday, July 22, 1934, the camp was dedicated; and, by the authority of the Board of Directors, was christened "Camp Bennett". A newspaper clipping reports that about five hundred friends attended the ceremony. The Montgomery County Band played, and the Secretary of State of Maryland, David C. Winebrenner, delivered the principal address.

In 1937 a bequest from Mrs. Kate Brashear, specifically designated for the camp, permitted the addition of a chapel of log construction matching the original buildings. This was a most helpful provision since worship and religious instruction has always been a prominent part of the camp program. Many youngsters who may have received little Christian training at home, have learned of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him as personal Saviour in the beauty of the camp.

CHRISTMAS BAGS

"Christmas is for children," someone has said, and certainly the little ones are not forgotten at Central Union Mission. From the Annual Report for 1917 we read:

"for the past two years the Mission has provided a unique celebration for the poor children of the District at Christmas. This affair is in addition to the free Christmas dinner served at noon. Last year 556 Children and 563 adults attended the celebration. The children occupied the whole lower floor of the auditorium, while the grown-ups watched them from the galleries. Each little girl was presented with a beautifully dressed doll, each boy was given a baseball and glove, and every child received a Christmas stocking containing candy, nuts and fruit. A huge Christmas tree, lighted with electric bulbs, delighted the hearts of the little ones. What a joy it is to be able to bring sunshine and happiness into the lives of little children."



Christmas celebration for the children, circa 1917

GIVING OTHERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Mrs. John Bennett, Mrs. W.H. Ramsey and President E.H. DeGroot hand food baskets to grateful mothers



At Christmas Bag Party Santa (John Bennett) is assisted by Mrs. Bennett and First Lady, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge

Proud boys show new coats to Mr. Bennett

Out of this happy event developed the Christmas Bag Program. Friends of the Mission and church organizations were invited to fill bags for needy children. The Program continues to this present day. At first, the Women's Guild and Evening Auxiliary made cretonne bags. Now large, handled, paper shopping bags are used. The Mission supplies the bag with name, age and size of a needy child. The donor shops for new clothing and toys for that specific child and returns the filled bag to the Mission. The bag is then given to the child at a big Christmas Bag Party just before Christmas, and the child returns a "thank you" note to the donor.

During the Depression more than 1,500 bags were provided for boys and girls who might have had very little Christmas cheer. Different area theaters opened their doors to the crowds, too large to be accommodated at the Mission. First Ladies, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, Mrs. Herbert Hoover, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt and Mrs. Harry Truman, appeared to hand out the first bags.

JOHN S. BENNETT CALLED HOME

On September 1, 1937, John S. Bennett, Superintendent of the Central Union Mission, was called Home after a long illness. He had won the hearts of the Board members, workers and those to whom the Mission ministered. All mourned the loss of a beloved friend.

In 1915, Mr. Bennett had come to a dilapidated, debt-burdened mission. He left one of the most modern and efficient missions in the country, a Children's Emergency Home and a camp for needy children -- all paid for -- plus an endowment fund of some \$35,000.00. More than that, John Bennett loved the Lord, and the statistics reflect his concern for the salvation of men. Attendance at the religious services in the chapel in 1915 was 42,558, with 384 professed conversions. In 1936 the attendance was 63,095, with 2,287 professed conversions.

ADA JEAN BENNETT CARRIES ON

John and Ada Jean Bennett had worked together as a team. She had carried her full share of the fund-raising to disperse debts and to erect buildings. She has shared in every part of the Mission ministries. During the months of Mr. Bennett's

JOHN S. BENNETT MEMORIAL

1941



*On C Street light color
shows new section and
first-floor windows
bricked up to reduce
street noise in chapel*



*Indiana Avenue entrance
to addition to Children's
Emergency Home*

*Renovated
and enlarged
chapel pro-
vided room
for more
men to hear
the Gospel*



illness she acted as Superintendent in his stead, even to conducting the weekly broadcasts.

After much prayer and deliberation, the Board of Directors came to the conclusion that Ada Jean Bennett was the one person most capable of carrying the work forward as she and Mr. Bennett had conducted it in the past. She accepted the challenge with her usual courage.

THE JOHN S. BENNETT MEMORIAL BUILDING

1938 -- again, lack of space -- another building campaign -- delays -- disruptions for construction -- and eventually fine new additions to both wings of the building. Certainly, no memorial would please John Bennett more than the provision of space for the men who had to be turned away from the Mission every night.

The campaign for \$125,000.00 was held in the fall of 1938, but there were delays. And then came the war with escalating prices and shortages of material and labor. At last the John S. Bennett Memorial Addition was dedicated at Easter, 1942. It meant added dormitory space for men, more play and sleeping room for the children, an elevator in the Children's Home, the seventh floor open play area enclosed for a meeting room, and an enlarged chapel.

Once more, the Central Union Mission thanked the Lord and the good people of Washington for another need met and another crisis passed.

THE JOHN S. BENNETT MEMORIAL SERVICE CLUB

The lines of homeless and unemployed men eventually became shorter and shorter. But there were new lines -- lines of young men in uniform, far from home, serving their country. They desperately needed overnight accommodations especially on weekends, when the city was crowded with Service Men from the nearby camps.

In the 1942 Annual Report Mrs. Bennett wrote, "The Board of Directors decided to make the best use of our splendid facilities by housing the Service Men. This did not mean the

cessation of the work of the Children's Home and Camp Bennett." She also stated that non-service men who really needed shelter were provided bed and breakfast. "Religious services are held in the chapel every night as always, and on Saturday nights we have a non-sectarian religious service from 8 to 9; social hour 9 to 10:15; broadcast 10:15 to 10:45 and the sociability usually continues until midnight." She invited friends to bring a cake, or pie or cookies for the boys.

THE JEAN BENNETT GUILD

The Jean Bennett Guild, at first known as the Junior Guild, and later named for Mrs. Jean Bennett, was organized at the home of Miss Marjorie Webster on November 30, 1941. During the war members acted as hostesses for the Service Club.

Their purpose has always been "to cooperate with the Superintendent and to create an intelligent and sympathetic understanding of the work and to promote Christian fellowship ... thus inspiring interest that will result in spiritual and material support of the Central Union Mission."

Members assist in various ways in the work of the Mission as well as raising funds for special projects. They have taken a special interest in the children and have provided playground equipment, craft supplies and New Testaments for the boys and girls at Camp Bennett and they fill two Christmas Bags each year.

The first officers of the Jean Bennett Guild were:

Marion Allen, President
Elizabeth Ogden, Vice President
Bernece Moser, Second Vice President
Ruth Taylor, Recording Secretary
Josephine Mabry, Treasurer
Louise Gray, Corresponding Secretary
Gladys Smith, Financial Secretary
Marta Hood, Parliamentarian

ADA JEAN BENNETT CALLED HOME

Six years after the death of her husband, Ada Jean Bennett passed away on September 19, 1943. She had stretched her home and heart to make a place for boys and girls in need of loving care in the Children's Emergency Home and Camp Bennett. She had bravely accepted the responsibilities of Superintendent. She had made the Bennett Memorial Service Club, not just a place to get a night's lodging, but truly a "home away from home" and a substitute church for many a man in uniform.

They mourned her passing. Board members and Mission workers, converts, children, club associates, church friends and Service Men -- all realized that a most remarkable woman had slipped away.

When she went to the hospital, Mrs. Bennett left Mrs. Carl Orebaugh in charge, with Miss Sarah Lynch in authority in Mrs. Orebaugh's absence. This arrangement was continued under the general supervision of Major William H. Ramsey until a new Superintendent was secured.



HERBERT E. EBERHARDT
Superintendent
 1944 - 1962



MABEL J. EBERHARDT
Director of
Children's Work

GOD'S ORGAN

I watched God play
 on nature's organ
 As the rain drops from
 His hand
 Struck the petals of the
 rose bush
 First here, then there, from
 out the rain soaked air,
 Silent sounds, we knew
 as the bushes grew
 Would soon bring forth
 the fragrance and
 the beauty of the rose,
 His great symphony
 of sight and sound
 May His skillful
 hands playing on
 my heart,
 First here, then there,
 through joy and care,
 like thorn and rose,
 Blending each until
 there comes through Him
 The fragrance and the
 beauty of a life
 Washed and watered
 by His abiding spirit.

---Herbert Eberhardt
 (Sketch by Dessie Hallett)

Chapter Three

RECONVERTING TO MEET THE VICTORY

Rev. Herbert E. Eberhardt

1944-1962

REV. AND MRS. HERBERT E. EBERHARDT

The Board of Directors entertained no illusions of finding anyone to fill the place of John and Ada Jean Bennett, who had so effectively led the work of the Central Union Mission for twenty-eight years. They were confident, however, that somewhere God had a man - or a couple - who could successfully carry on the responsibilities of Superintendent of the Mission. The task of finding that man was assigned to Major William H. Ramsey, Vice President of the Board.

Major Ramsey took his task seriously. He corresponded with numerous prominent rescue mission workers. He attended the annual convention of the International Union of Gospel Missions. He traveled to several cities to interview superintendents and see their field of work firsthand. At last he returned with his recommendation, Rev. Herbert E. Eberhardt of Indianapolis, who was unanimously approved by the Board and the Ministerial Council.

Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt came to the Central Union Mission on October 2, 1944. Unlike most rescue mission superintendents of that time, he was not a mission convert. He was a graduate of North Central College and Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois. After pastoring churches in Illinois, and Indiana, Rev. Eberhardt left the pastorate to become Assistant Superintendent and later Superintendent of Wheeler City Rescue Mission in Indianapolis. Attending their first convention of the International Union of Gospel Missions in New York City in 1924, Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt were so impressed with the testimonies and fellowship of other rescue mission workers they were convinced that was the field where the Lord would have them labor.

When the call came from Central Union Mission, they had been at the Wheeler City Mission for twenty-three years, and Rev. Eberhardt had erected a new mission building, entertained



BENNETT MEMORIAL SERVICE CLUB

The Bible Quiz conducted by Evangelist Dale Crowley over WWDC was a regular Saturday night feature. Winner made a free phone call back home. Participating: Ensign James Downing, S 1/c Noble Dashiell, Lt. Cdr. Everett Livesey, Y 1/c Rosanna Dean, Rev. Crowley, Mary Lou Bergeson, Announcer Sgt. Mark Austad, Sgt. Herbert Myers, Sgt. Morris Townsend.



Sgt. Morris Townsend and Ensign James Downing cut the cake at the second birthday celebration of the Bennett Memorial Service Club. Looking on are: Lt. (j.g.) Carrie Williams, Mrs. Eberhardt, Sgt. Morris, Capt. Dudley N. Carpenter, and Rev. Herbert Eberhardt.

If you are about to be shipped out, a little mail call insurance might be a good thing.



the annual convention of the I.U.G.M., and produced the first rescue mission radio broadcast in the United States. The respect of his rescue mission co-workers was attested by the fact that he had served several years as President of the Chicago District of the I.U.G.M., had been elected International President five times, and was much sought after as speaker and seminar leader, and as an adviser to new mission workers and in problem situations. Mrs. Eberhardt, a graduate of the Indianapolis Teachers College and the Metropolitan School of Music, was an experienced children's worker and an accomplished musician. She was highly qualified to direct the Children's Emergency Home and give leadership in other mission activities.

UNTIL VICTORY CAME

One thousand servicemen and women a week passed through the Bennett Memorial Service Club, and Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt accepted the challenge of offering them spiritual as well as social activities. Saturday night was a busy time beginning with a free dinner furnished and served by various churches assisted by members of the Evening Auxiliary and Jean Bennett Guild. Then a Bible Quiz, conducted by Evangelist Dale Crowley, was broadcast over WWDC. An exciting feature of the program was the free telephone call back home offered to the G.I. who answered the Bible Clue Question. Other G.I.s might win a phone call to a loved one by finding a nickel in a piece of cake. Many civilians came to watch the Bible Quiz and stayed for the Youth for Christ Service which followed. Some of those mentioned as helping in these programs were Lt. Commander Everett Livesey, Sgt. Morris Townsend, Commander D.A. Seiler and Musician First Class Julius Whiting.

On Sunday morning the Jean Bennett Guild opened a free canteen, and a Servicemen's Bible Class was taught by Ensign James Downing. In the 1944 Annual Report he wrote:

"The Lord's leading has been very evident in these contacts. Many of the fellows are seeking an opportunity to accept and confess Christ. One Sunday morning I saw three fellows in the Bible Class who had received Christ the previous Sunday. Upon opening the meeting for testimonies, all three arose and recommended Christ to the others present. Most of the men are transferred before they have opportunity to come back to the class."

"On a recent Sunday a soldier could hardly wait until the invitation was extended. When it was given, he left his seat so quickly the two sailors standing next to him were knocked off their balance. To our surprise and joy, they both followed him to the front to confess Christ."

THE CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY HOME RE-OPENED

Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt were more than grateful for the opportunity to have ministered to the young men and women in uniform and to provide for them during the war, as well as they could a "home away from home". Their own son had been with the U.S. Army in Europe. But "victory" for the Eberhardts meant reconverting to a rescue mission program, and priority was given to the children's work in response to increasing requests. One man had been calling daily. His wife had died and he could find no one to care for his two little girls. In spite of Mrs. Bennett's gallant efforts to keep the Children's Emergency Home and Camp Bennett in operation during World War II, shortages of materials, and especially of help, made that impossible.

After six months of making various adjustments and changes in the facilities of the Home to meet new requirements of the District of Columbia License Committee, the Children's Emergency Home was re-opened on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945. The first matron, Katherine Clayton, who had worked with Mrs. Eberhardt in Indianapolis, was ready to receive the two motherless little girls and twelve other children who were confronted with crises in their lives and needed a place to live and someone to care for them.

CHRISTMAS BAGS

The traditional Christmas Bag project was resumed in 1944 with friends, church groups, and office staffs filling bags with new clothing and toys for 324 needy children. The party was held in the Mission chapel. By the next year the number of bags was up to 520, and in 1947 Mrs. Harry Truman continued the custom of First Ladies assisting in the Christmas Bag Party. This special project has continued with friends sharing generously, even in times of inflation, to help boys and girls have a happy Christmas and to supply the clothing they need to wear to school.

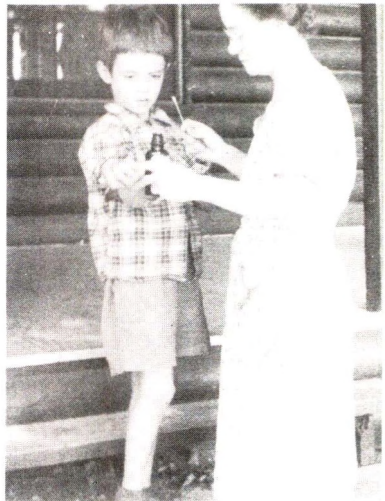
CAMP BENNETT RE-ACTIVATED

For three years Camp Bennett had been abandoned to the caprices of wind, weather, mice, squirrels and accumulated dust and dirt. The grounds were strewn with fallen tree limbs; electric wires dangled; poison ivy flourished; and ticks abounded (at the time of the Rocky Mountain fever scare). All during the spring clean-up crews went out from the Mission.

But camp opened in 1945, and children were taken out in groups of fifty for two-week periods. There were problems. Mice ate everything not protected in tin cans. Katherine Clayton became adept at treating bee stings. At bed time, counselors checked every child for ticks. And then there was the time a black snake crawled over Mrs. Eberhardt's foot from under the piano she was playing. The children were coming into the chapel. She knew they would never come into the chapel again if they saw that big snake there. She called to them, "You're marching fine! How about turning around and marching all the way out and around the swings, then coming back to your seats?" While the children marched, she called a maintenance man who chased the snake out the back door.

In spite of the problems, the children enjoyed their time in the out-of-doors away from the city. They gained weight on the regular, nourishing meals. Above all, as the result of Bible classes, chapel services, and the influence of Christian counselors, eighty percent of the children accepted Christ as their personal Saviour!

At Camp Bennett and in the Children's Home - whatever the hurt - "Miss Katherine" Clayton applied the TLC. She was always Mrs. Eberhardt's "right arm".



CAPITAL CHILDREN FOR CHRIST

The camp season was over and the children returned to their homes. But Mrs. Eberhardt was bothered by a question that would not leave her mind. "What would happen to all those boys and girls who had professed Jesus Christ as Saviour at Camp Bennett, and the others who had heard the Gospel, perhaps for the first time, but had not made a decision for Him?" Some might find their way into churches where they would be helped to grow as young Christians, but she knew that many came from homes where they received no Christian training and many would never be taken to Sunday school or church; rather, they would be surrounded by life-styles of the most unwholesome kinds. They needed help!

The answer was "Capital Children for Christ" -- a meeting every Saturday morning with motion songs, flannelgraph Bible stories, Christian movies, Scripture memory verses, and refreshments served by various church groups. Average attendance that first winter was 72 each week. Some changes have been made during the years, but attendance and interest have grown. Capital Children for Christ was not a substitute for Sunday school. It was a means of helping children who were not enrolled in Sunday school and of keeping in touch with those who had been to Camp Bennett or had received Christmas Bag.

MOTHERS' MEETING

Mrs. Eberhardt's active mind was asking more questions. The Capital Children for Christ meetings were helping boys and girls, but they really needed spiritual training at home and to get into Sunday schools and churches where they would receive regular instruction in God's Word. If the key to a Christian home was a Christian mother, how could we reach the mothers of these boys and girls for Christ? Again Mrs. Eberhardt came up with the answer.

In 1952, after much prayer and planning, the mothers of all the boys and girls who came to Capital Children for Christ, had attended Camp Bennett, or had received Christmas Bags were invited to their own meeting. At first, they met twice a month as "Mothers' Club". The mothers and grandmothers came and they brought their friends. Soon they asked if they might meet every week, as the children did. And so they came

every Wednesday morning. The name was changed from "Mothers' Club to "Mothers' Meeting" to emphasize the spiritual aspect of the gathering. Outstanding speakers from churches, most often women, were invited to bring a practical devotional message. The program included singing, prayer requests, reports of prayers answered, testimonies and Bible memory verses. The meeting closed with an invitation to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

After the meeting the mothers had the opportunity to select what they needed from the clothing and household articles which had been donated to the Mission. These were always given to the mothers, never sold. If a woman had a spiritual or personal problem, she would find a staff member ready to listen and counsel from God's Word. Birthdays were observed with cake and ice cream once a month. Later birthdays were celebrated once a year with a very special luncheon and gifts for each lady present. The Evening Auxiliary and Jean Bennett Guild supplied birthday and Christmas gifts for the ladies. The "Mothers' Birthday Luncheon" continues to the present day.

The mothers had no choice but to bring their pre-schoolers with them. The little ones played in the back of the chapel (not always quietly) or sat restlessly beside their mothers. Often a mother had to take a crying baby out of the meeting. Staff members and a few mothers offered to baby-sit so that mothers who needed to hear the message could stay in the chapel. And so "Tiny Tots Time" was organized. Tots who were old enough learned simple Bible verses and action choruses and listened to Bible stories.

RETURN TO RESCUE

Reconversion to a full-time rescue mission program was a gradual process. After the close of World War II there were still many Service personnel stationed in or near Washington or passing through. The Mission continued to welcome all and to keep sufficient beds available for their needs, but this need diminished.

Another need increased, however. As Servicemen were discharged, many came to the Capital in fruitless search for employment. They came to the Mission, discouraged, hungry and tired. The Mission was ready to take them in.

Reconversion was not easy. The Servicemen had paid at least a part of the cost of lodgings. These men had nothing with which to pay. Public support had fallen off during the war years, and people had to be informed of the need. Every-night Gospel services were an essential part of a rescue mission ministry. Churches had to be contacted to secure assistance in reinstating this program.

By the end of 1947 Rev. Eberhardt could report that every phase of the changeover had been accomplished. The Children's Emergency Home was open; Camp Bennett was operating; Gospel services were being conducted nightly; and transient men were being sheltered, fed and told the Good News of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ; and the Mission was reaching out with a weekly radio broadcast.

'THE HOUR OF POWER

December 22, 1946, was the date of the first broadcast of "The Hour of Power" through the courtesy of Station WMAL-AM 63. There have been changes in the time and length of the broadcast, but it has continued to carry music, news of the Mission and the Good News of the Gospel to the Metropolitan Area through the years.

For some time the program was broadcast live from the studio with the use of several musical instruments. Musicians who assisted from time to time included: Mrs. Eberhardt and Mrs. Mabel Frost, organ and piano; Katherine Clayton, chimes, Frank Cox and Nony Jahnke, celesta; and James Kraackevik, violin. Among the vocalists were Millard Beal, Daniel and John Bigbee, Lee Meredith, Winifred Richardson, and George Moudy.

It would be impossible to mention all of those who brought the message on occasion, though this was usually done by Rev. Eberhardt. However, Charles Richardson very ably took over this responsibility during Rev. Eberhardt's last illness.

Rev. Eberhardt had conducted a radio broadcast from Wheeler City Mission in Indianapolis for nineteen years, and he was well aware of the value of such an outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as acquainting people with the work of the Mission. Every Superintendent and Executive Director

since has been grateful for this opportunity, and many listeners have written the Mission to express appreciation for the music and the inspiration of the messages.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Breuninger Memorial Organ

Someone has aptly said that God has three answers to prayer: "Yes," "No," and "Wait." The 1946 Annual Report included in a list of "Special Needs" a Hammond organ. There was a two-year wait for this instrument, which Mrs. Eberhardt felt would be an immense benefit to the nightly Gospel services. Subsequently, the 1948 Annual Report carried a photo of her playing a beautiful electric Hammond organ.

The organ was a gift in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Breuninger by their five children: Mr. Lewis T. Breuninger, Mr. Henry L. Breuninger, Mrs. Esther Janny, Mrs. Robin B. Lukens and Mrs. Ruth B. Stickle. Their father had made an outstanding contribution to the Central Union Mission as a member of the Board of Directors from 1908 to 1942, giving invaluable advice and assistance through his expertise in finance and construction. It was his firm, L.E. Breuninger and Sons, that constructed the first buildings at Camp Bennett at cost, adding many extras in the process. His son, Lewis T. Breuninger, succeeded him on the Board.

The Crowell Celesta

Mr. and Mrs. Junior F. Crowell, a member of the Board of Directors, gave a celesta in memory of their parents, and the delicate tones of this unusual instrument added much to the Gospel services and "The Hour of Power" broadcasts.

Memorial Signs

Two attractive new signs to be placed over the two entrances of the building were also pictured in the Annual Report for 1948. The C Street sign was given by Mrs. Edna Thomas Mooney in memory of her uncle, Mr. Daniel W. Perkins. The Indiana Avenue sign was a combined gift from Miss Effie Brodnax in memory of her family, from Mrs. Carl Orebaugh in memory of her husband, and from the Evening Auxiliary.



The sign and cross given by Mrs. Virginia Lyman in memory of her parents.

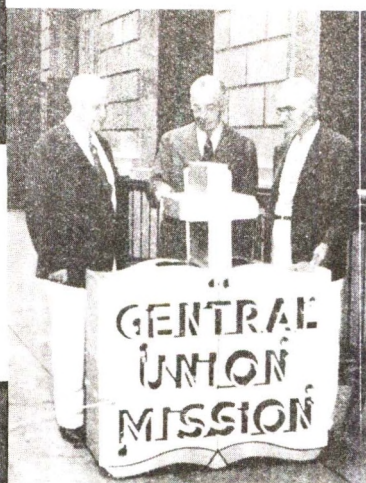
SOME MEMORIALS



Mrs. Eberhardt plays the Breuninger Memorial Organ.



All donors of bequest to the Mission are listed on this memorial plaque given by Rev. Eberhardt in memory of his father. Looking on: Rev. Eberhardt, Mrs. Austin Cooper, Mr. Henry Whitefield Samson and Major William H. Ramsey.



Mrs. Eberhardt and children with sign for the Emergency Home entrance.

Above: Mr. E.H. DeGroot, Jr., Rev. Eberhardt and Major Ramsey examine the reverse side of the sign.



"Come Unto Me"

Another long-awaited answer to prayer was a replacement for the "Electric Witness" that had proclaimed from atop the old Mission building, "Jesus the Light of the World." Many who remembered or heard of the old sign prayed that a similar witness might shine forth again to the multitudes passing up and down Pennsylvania Avenue. In 1952 God used a humble, self-effacing, retired schoolteacher and widow to answer that prayer with a replacement.

The new sign, designed to comply with District regulations, was a white neon cross, fifteen feet high, together with an invitation, "COME UNTO ME," in red letters each three feet high. This twenty-five foot wide sign could easily be read for several blocks and attracted many to the Mission. A later gift, an electric carillon, broadcast hymns from the Mission roof.

The donor of the sign and carillon, Mrs. Virginia Lyman, preferred that the gift be anonymous. But after her death Mr. Eberhardt and the family agreed that her kindness should be made known. The sign and cross were then dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Lyman's father, Millard D. Owen, and the carillon to Mrs. Lyman's memory.

Upon hearing of these gifts someone asked if Mrs. Lyman were a woman of means. "No," was the reply, "she was rich only in the grace of her beloved Lord." The money for the cross, the sign and the carillon was inherited from her father. The sacrifice behind these gifts was characteristic of her selfless devotion. To her it was truly, "More blessed to give than to receive." For years her gifts continued to give forth praise and honor to our precious Lord Jesus and caused the busy, hurried shoppers in the street to pause and lift their hearts in a moment of worship as they saw the cross, read the invitation, and heard the sound of the chimes. It was truly an "electric witness" for the Lord.

When the Mission moved to its new location in 1982, the cross and sign were placed on the new building to invite the needy souls on Fourteenth Street to "COME UNTO ME" and find the Saviour at the cross.

1959 -- DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

"What Hath God Wrought"

1959, the 75th Anniversary of the Central Union Mission was a year of victory in many ways. The home-going of Major William H. Ramsey on February 27, was a victorious climax as he met the Saviour whom he had served so faithfully through the Central Union Mission for seventy-two years! Though a sad loss for those left behind, it was victory for him and a joyous reunion with his beloved Ida who had gone before in 1955.

The year was full of special events:

- Jan. 25 - Open House, Anniversary of the first gospel service
- Apr. 16 - Mrs. Eberhardt was elected District of Columbia Mother of the Year and honored at a luncheon at the Cosmos Club. In May she and Rev. Eberhardt attended the American Mothers Conference at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York.
- Aug. 2 - The 25th Anniversary of Camp Bennett was observed with a special program attended by 400 friends.
- Aug. 19 - Mr. E.H. DeGroot, Jr. was guest of honor at a luncheon at the YMCA. This was the actual 75th Anniversary of the organization of the Mission.
- Sep. 14 - A stained glass window in the Prayer Room was dedicated to the memory of Major and Mrs. W.H. Ramsey.
- Oct. 2 - A reception honored Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt on the 15th Anniversary of their coming to Central Union Mission.
- Oct. 16 - The 75th Anniversary Banquet was held at National City Christian Church with Dr. Clarence Cranford of Calvary Baptist Church as speaker.

A Visitor from the Past

"Little Gracie Douglass, has, with her mother's assistance, recently sent two dollars to help in paying for a portrait of her father, the late Rev. L.A. Douglass, the founder of this Mission. The portrait is to be hung in the room of the Board of Directors."

**THE MISSION'S
DIAMOND
ANNIVERSARY
1884 - 1959**



It's wall-to-wall kids for Capital Children for Christ -- and eyes sparkle when Church groups serve refreshments afterwards.



Mrs. Grace Douglass Taber, daughter of Latham Douglass



Children of the Emergency Home present a Mother's Day program.



Three D.C. Mothers of the Year distribute 400 Christmas Bags -- Mrs. Ruth Youngdahl Nelson, Mrs. Jessie Sudduth (1958), Mrs. Mabel Eberhardt (1949).

This clipping was found among some old papers. The portrait, carefully transported with each move of the Mission, hung in the first floor Board Room at 624 Indiana Avenue. One day Mrs. Eberhardt found an attractive lady looking at the picture. When Mrs. Eberhardt greeted her, the lady pointed to the picture and said, "That is my father." She was, indeed, Mrs. Grace Douglass Taber of Cowlesville, New York, daughter of the founder of the Mission.

Mrs. Taber returned to attend the Open House, January 1959, on the 74th Anniversary of the first gospel service of the Mission. Also present at that occasion was Miss Estelle Wheeler of Washington, whose father, George W. Wheeler, conducted that first service.

Through the kindness of these two ladies, their fathers' Bibles are now on display at the Mission. Yes, it is the very one George Wheeler used in that first service.

FROM THE 75th ANNUAL REPORT

The 75th Annual Report of the Central Union Mission is a thirty-two page praise to God for the blessings and victories in its history. The reports by the presidents of the three women's groups suggest the unique and significant part women have had in the ministry of the Mission.

The Women's Guild

The Women's Guild, the Mission's first organization, was formed as the Woman's Band in 1892. Mrs. William H. Ramsey served as its President for more than forty years until her death in 1955.

In 1922 the Guild organized the Evening Auxiliary for the benefit of those women who could not attend a day-time meeting, a "child" that has since outgrown its parent.

During the past sixty-seven years these wonderful women in the Guild have helped in many ways through their prayers and good works. They sponsored the Seth Parker programs in Constitution Hall and used the proceeds to purchase the farm on which was erected Camp Bennett.

Their regular program has consisted of weekly sewing days

THE LADIES LOVE CAMP BENNETT



Women's Guild members spent a day at camp mending comforters, making curtains, etc. to be ready for the children.

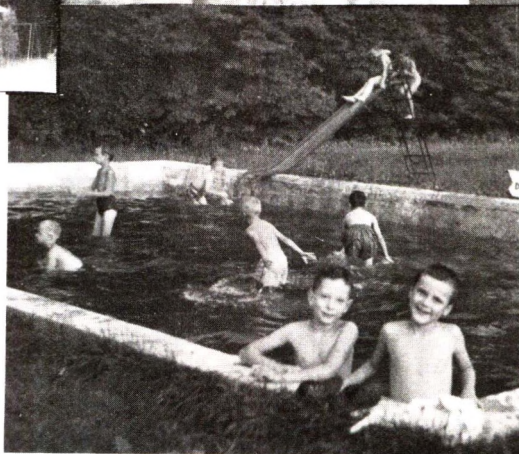


In 1949 Auxiliary President, Mary Terrell, presented a check to Mrs. Eberhardt to pay for the new craft shop. Looking on: Rev. Eberhardt, Mary Willie Allen, Effie Brodnax and -- oops! the Ramseys weren't quite camera-ready!

The neon cross on the roof was given by Helen Boss in honor of Mary Terrell.



KP was part of the fun at a Jean Bennett Guild outing -- Virginia Elliott, Elvira Shiffbauer (Dunham), Virginia Stolhanske, and Mabel Moore (Sorrell).



Campers were delighted with the Evening Auxiliary swimming pool in 1947.

at the Mission to take care of the making of sheets and pillowcases, as well as mending of clothes for the boys and girls in the Children's Emergency Home and men in the Mission. This past year about 1400 garments were mended and 872 new pieces were made. The women in the Guild have been interested in providing linens and mattresses for all the counselors at camp this past summer. At Christmas these women presented gifts and special homemade refreshments to the men who work at the Mission. On the second Thursday of each month they hold a luncheon meeting at which time they hear an interesting devotional speaker and receive reports of the activities of the work from Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt.

- Alma Thompson, President

The Evening Auxiliary

The Evening Auxiliary was organized in 1922, and now has a membership of six hundred business and professional women from many denominations.

Its objective is to give financial aid to carry on the work of the Children's Emergency Home and Camp Bennett. The annual budget usually includes money for several other projects. This past year we paid for a tractor for Camp Bennett, an electric typewriter for the Mission office, and an electric dishwasher for the Children's Emergency Home. (Previous projects include a swimming pool at camp in 1947 and a craft shop in 1949.)

A dinner meeting is held once a month in the Charlotte Darrow Hall (named for a past president of the Auxiliary) on the seventh floor of the Mission, which usually fills the hall to capacity. These meetings are truly inspirational. In addition to the Christian fellowship around the table there is a program featuring special music and an outstanding speaker from one of the leading churches or perhaps a missionary home on furlough. At each meeting contributions are presented through the Calendar Plan not only from our members but from friends far and near. Monies are also collected through a "Harvest" offering in the fall and a birthday offering at our Annual Spring Banquet. Thus we have a part in the great work of the Mission because we know "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

- Lilas S. Jones, President

The Jean Bennett Guild

The Jean Bennett Guild was organized at the home of Miss Marjorie Webster on November 30, 1941. During these past seventeen years they have lived up to their resolution "to cooperate with the superintendent and to create an intelligent and sympathetic understanding of the work thereof, and to promote Christian fellowship ... thus inspiring interest that will result in spiritual and material support for the work of the various departments of the Central Union Mission. During the war they acted as hostesses for the Service Club.

The Guild holds monthly dinner meetings with very interesting programs. In addition to supplying the children in the Children's Home with "bread" they gave several parties for them. Two teen-agers were completely clothed at the holiday time for the Christmas Bag Party. A lunch was prepared and served for Capital Children for Christ. The usual camp prizes were supplied, and for the third year, each camper received a copy of the New Testament. The Guild held a silver tea and the proceeds were used to purchase a new projection screen and a temperance film for camp.

Members assist in many ways at the Mission, serving the Evening Auxiliary dinners, playing the piano for Mission services, furnishing special music, as well as helping with the children.

- Nony Jahnke, President

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

In connection with the Diamond Anniversary Rev. Eberhardt wrote a sixteen-page pamphlet entitled "Diamonds in the Rough"* in which he compared the ministry of the rescue mission with mining for diamonds. He observed that in an African diamond mine three tons of blue dirt must be moved to produce just one carat of diamond -- a ratio of 14,000,000 to one. He compared that with the effort needed to win one soul for Christ and the incomparable greater value of that one soul than even the beautiful Hope Diamond.

Copies of "Diamonds in the Rough" are still available from the Mission upon request as long as the supply lasts.

"What a parable of life! Carbon -- the soot in your chimney, the soil on your shirt, the knock in your engine, but by heat and pressure transformed into a diamond. Carbon -- the picture of sin, the black, soiled, useless life of the sinner, separated from God, and yet, under the heat of His Holy Word and the pressure of the Holy Spirit, transformed into a shining jewel for God's service. This is one of the fascinations of mission work, for we are privileged to see this miracle, this transformation happen again and again."

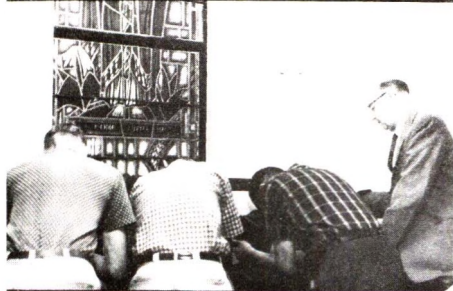
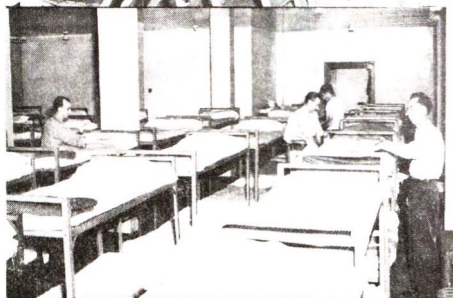
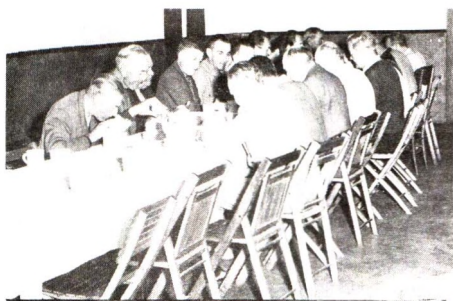
THE MISSION CONVERTS CLUB

By 1947 Rev. Eberhardt had re-activated the Mission Converts Club which met for supper every Sunday evening and enjoyed a time of fellowship, discussion, Bible study and prayer before moving to the chapel for the Gospel service. Rev. Eberhardt was the Sunday night speaker, conducting a through-the-Bible series of messages. Members of the Converts Club participated with testimonies, prayer, and singing as a chorus. The primary purpose of the Club was to encourage the "diamonds in the rough" to become polished gems, fit for the Lord's service. Most members of the Club were recent converts of the Mission, but a few men who had found the Lord at the Mission in years past joined the fellowship. One of these was Joe Fisher, who had continued in close touch with the Mission since Christ had set him free from sin and drink. Joe perceived a need and met it. Some of those who brought the message felt that the platform was too high and removed from the men. They preferred to speak from the floor. As a token of his appreciation for what the Mission meant to him, Joe gave a beautiful movable pulpit.

TESTIMONY OF JOE FISHER

Joe Fisher's testimony was published in the 1948 Annual Report:

"'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.' How I thank my God through Jesus Christ for setting me free from that awful habit of drink! Back in 1920 as a young policeman in Baltimore I became a victim of the habit. The craving grew worse until I lost that position and several others and finally my home and family. An outcast, I struggled with the habit for ten long years,



DIAMOND MINING

IT REQUIRES

Many Meals

Many Lodgings

Many Gospel Services

Much Counseling

TO PRODUCE

Converts Club Members

- Diamonds in the Rough

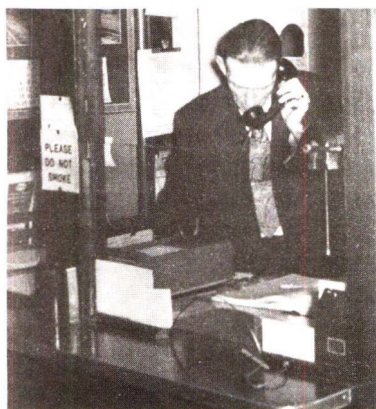


trying every available cure but finding nothing that would help me. At last I arrived in Washington, after traveling back from the West Coast by freight train, and was told that I might find a place to sleep at the Central Union Mission. I attended the Gospel service that night and heard a man speak about a Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the Cure. I knelt at the altar and asked Him to come into my life. When He came in, the habit went out. That was seventeen years, nine months, and five days ago. I stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made me free."

- Joe Fisher

TESTIMONY OF BOYD SHEPPARD

Sometimes amusing things happen in the Mission. One is recalled by a little story in the 1960 Annual Report. Someone from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare called to tell the Mission they had received a call from a person who wanted to know, "What kind of organization is the Central Union Mission? I called them, and they didn't talk like mission people; they talked like intelligent people." The man who had answered that call and "talked like intelligent people" was Boyd Sheppard, who served for many years as desk clerk after the Lord transformed his life. Mr. Sheppard was liked and respected by all for the gracious and efficient manner in which he answered phone calls and met those who came into the Mission. Some called him "The Voice with a Smile." His testimony appeared in the 1948 Annual Report:



Boyd Sheppard

"I am thankful for the privilege of testifying for One who means so much to me. I'm so glad that a little over a year ago I decided to give God a chance in my life. I had gone a long way down the pathway of sin before I knelt at the altar at the Central Union Mission, homeless, friendless, and addicted to the use of narcotics for twenty-nine years, and pronounced hopeless and incurable by any number of doctors. I surrendered all to God and asked Him to help me. He not only blessed in many ways, but through His wonderful salvation He provided the

cure that all medical science had failed to give.

Through His wonderful love I have the assurance of keeping the promise that I made to my mother, who went to a premature grave with a broken heart over a wayward son. I know that some day I will meet her in heaven. And for the present, I would not give up the joy and happiness I have in knowing my Saviour for anything this world has to offer. "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep --."

- Boyd Sheppard

TESTIMONY OF BEN C. GUTHRIE

Another of those diamonds that became a precious gem for the Lord was Ben Guthrie. After working in the Mission for a while, he found employment outside, became a deacon and teacher of the men's Bible class in a local church -- and married Miss Mildred Mihailov, the girls' matron in the Children's Home. Both remained active in the Mission until the Lord called Ben home. His testimony appeared in the 1957 Annual Report:



Ben Guthrie

"It was the Lord's will for me to be born in a Christian family and to be raised in a Christian environment. But early in life I decided to leave home and go out into the world and seek my own livelihood. Almost immediately success began to come my way. Advancement after advancement came and with each advancement I drifted further away from my mother's teachings and became more confident, thinking I could defeat the whole world in my own strength. Finally, the inevitable happened. Setbacks came and I was not able to face them and turned to whiskey as an escape. Ultimately I became an absolute slave to alcohol.

The time came when my family and friends deserted me, and one of the

greatest psychiatrists in the world gave me up as a complete loss. It was then the thought occurred to me that I could escape by running away, and my mind was made up to leave New York where I was then living and go some place out West. But the Lord would not have it that way. Instead, He led me to Washington and the Central Union Mission where I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was the same Gospel I had heard many times before, but it was preached in such a manner I had to apply it to myself, and I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour the night of March 4, 1951.

That night Christ did in a wink of the eye what some of the best doctors, psychiatrists, and I myself had been unable to do in years. He not only forgave my sins and gave me a new life, but took all desire for alcohol from me. He has been with me every day since and has given me the only true joy and happiness I have ever known. All that I am and all that I have I owe to Him, and I praise and thank God for His saving and keeping power."

- Ben C. Guthrie

TESTIMONY OF CLARENCE A. DUET



Ruth and Clarence Duet

Another man who found the Lord and a wife at the Central Union Mission was Clarence Duet. He, too, found employment outside, became a deacon and teacher of a class of boys in a church, and married the Mission's book-keeper, Miss Ruth Purchase. They lived in the Mission building, and Clarence was always "on call" to sing or speak in the Gospel service, to counsel a man or to assist in any way. Serving the Lord at the Mission was his greatest joy until the Lord called him to his reward. His testimony was printed in the 1955 Annual Report:

"I praise God for the privilege of testifying for my Lord

and Saviour. My job led me to Washington, but like other jobs I had had in the previous year, I did not hold it very long because I was a slave to alcohol. Soon I was without money and had no place to stay. Someone told me about the Central Union Mission. Praise God for that, for on the night of June 4, 1952, I was in the Mission service and heard the Word of God for the first time in my life. God's Holy Spirit spoke to me from His Holy Word, which told me that I was a sinner in need of salvation. Romans 6:23, 'The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' I could not save myself. God had provided for my salvation by sending His own Son the Lord Jesus Christ to die on Calvary's Cross as a substitute for my sins. God's Holy Spirit convicted me. I repented and called upon God to save me for Jesus' sake. That night my sins were washed under the blood of the Lamb."

- Clarence A. Duet

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES K. HOOVER

And then, there were those "gems" from the churches -- men and women who came and gave of their time and talents without pay or recompense except the joy of serving the Lord. One of these was Charles Hoover who came several times a week to assist in the Gospel services, accompanied by his wife, Flora, who played the piano.

"The Central Union Mission has for me the assurance that 'God is no respecter of persons,' that, 'Whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.' In the words of D.L. Moody, 'There is no man so far gone, but the grace of God can reach him; no man so desperate or bleak but that He can forgive him'"

- Charles K. Hoover

MAJOR AND MRS. WILLIAM H. RAMSEY

A resolution was introduced into the Minutes of the Board of Directors in time to be savored by the worthy recipient. It marked the sixtieth anniversary of Major William H. Ramsey's first contact with the Central Union Mission:

"Around no name other than that of William H. Ramsey cluster the golden memories of full sixty years of consecrated service in the Central Union Mission. From October 2, 1887,

his wholesome counsel, sane and firm faith, unswerving loyalty, and self-sacrificing spirit, have made him an important factor in the Mission's success.

"It has not always been smooth sailing, but always has he stood firmly for the evangelistic character of the Mission, and squarely but lovingly against all efforts to divert it from its chartered course.

"As a personal worker he has led many men to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, and grateful memories of William H. Ramsey have been carried to the ends of the earth as these men have gone on their way rejoicing.

"Above all, Major Ramsey has always been an exemplification of the highest Christian character, and the members of the Board of Directors are grateful for the memory of his services and kindly fellowship.

"In appreciation of all that he has done and is doing to bring in the Kingdom of God on earth, this testimonial is ordered spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy suitably made for presentation to him, our beloved fellow-member and Vice President.

"Unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors of Central Union Mission this Second Day of October in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Seven."

The Mission's 63rd Annual Report for 1947 carried a full page each by Major and Mrs. Ramsey in which they reviewed and commented on their sixty years of association with the Mission. We can quote only a part of each:

"We have not needed a seminary course in the Evidences of Christianity, for, as the years have passed, we have seen the hand of God at work in the various activities of the Mission, heard the Gospel of the Son of God in its simplicity; and we have found that 'it works.' Scientific men are striving to find means by which the problem drinker, the so-called 'alcoholic' may be cured, but they are compelled to admit that their efforts have thus far largely failed. The rescue missions have found the cure in the faithful preaching and acceptance of the crucified and risen Christ as the one and only cure for the disease of sin, including the drink habit."

- William H. Ramsey



"Good-Morning"

**MAJOR & MRS.
WILLIAM H.
RAMSEY**

*They came
as newlyweds--
they devoted
their lives
to serving
the Lord at
Central
Union
Mission*



WILLIAM H. RAMSEY
gave 72 years
1887-1959

IDA CLOSE RAMSEY
gave 68 years
1887-1955

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:8)



And Mrs. Ramsey added her comments:

"Personally, sixty years of mission work has enriched our own souls and our lives more than we can tell. It has been a pleasure and a treasure to give out the message to those who are discouraged and have lost their hold on life. Fellowship in service with Christ means vastly more to us than the hope of earthly gain. As I look over the events from year to year through this period of sixty years, and see 'what hath God wrought' in the lives of men who seemed to have no ray of hope, yet have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and have again become useful and desirable citizens, my heart rejoices with joy unspeakable. Sometimes these 'men' so-called, were only boys, not yet beyond school age, and so have been saved to useful lives to their families and to society."

- Ida Close Ramsey

Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey came to Washington as newlyweds. He had an appointment as clerk in the War Department. Later he was commissioned Major in the Judge Advocate General's Department of the Army, and transferred to the Department of Justice. At age 44 he entered law school, was graduated, admitted to the bar, and became an attorney in the Justice Department. At age 72 he was retired from Civil Service, but was recalled during World War II. After retiring the second time, he opened his own law office. Both Major and Mrs. Ramsey were active members of Hamline Methodist Church of Washington. He was ordained as a local minister and was an ex officio member of the Official Board of the Church.

However, from the very first day in Washington, when he came upon a Gospel Wagon street meeting and followed the group to the Mission, his first priority was always the Central Union Mission. He was associated with the Mission for seventy-two years; was elected to the Board in 1910 and served for forty-nine years; was Treasurer eight years; and was Vice President ten years. In 1947, at the age of 81, he was elected President of the Board of Directors and served for ten years, continuing as President Emeritus for two years. For the Mission's Golden Anniversary Year, 1934, he wrote the history of "The First Fifty Years of the Central Union Mission".*

* Copies are no longer available for distribution.

On January 27, 1959, at the age of 93, the Lord called Major William H. Ramsey to his reward. Regardless of the hour of the day, Major Ramsey's constant greeting was, "Good morning! My sun is rising." Surely it was a joyous morning as he met the Lord he had served so well and greeted his beloved companion who had gone on before in 1955.

Mrs. Ramsey had also put her heart into the work of the Central Union Mission. She was a leader in the successive women's organizations -- the Young Ladies Band, the Women's Band and the Women's Guild, serving as President of the Women's Guild for forty years. In addition to holding religious meetings, this work involved making and mending clothes and linens for the Children's Home and the Mission, preparing and serving holiday meals, canning produce from the farm, making curtains, comforters, seat covers and the like for the camp, counseling, and visiting the sick.

A most appropriate memorial to Major and Mrs. Ramsey was a beautiful stained glass window portraying Christ the Good Shepherd with the words, "COME UNTO ME." The window was the gift of a granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Ketcham, Jr. Mrs. Ketcham's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ramsey, completely redecorated the prayer room. When the Mission moved to its present facility, the window was placed in the new prayer room, and continues to extend to those who enter the Lord's gracious invitation to repent and find the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

MERRITT L. SMITH ELECTED PRESIDENT

Merritt L. Smith was elected President of the Board of Directors of Central Union Mission on November 18, 1957. He was elected to the Board in October, 1945, and became Secretary, November 10, 1952.

Mr. Smith was an active member of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. He was employed as Assistant Secretary of the American Automobile Association. His volunteer activities included Christian Endeavor, where he served as International Secretary and a member of the Executive Committee.



HOMER RODEHEAVER

Homer Rodeheaver, famous songleader with evangelist Billy Sunday, had a warm spot in his heart for rescue missions. He was a regular part of the anniversary meetings of Central Union Mission from 1932 to 1955.

One of the most memorable services was the 66th Anniversary held in Constitution Hall in 1950.

Illustrating the theme, "The Answer to Skid Row," a stage set depicted the rescue mission upholding the cross in the heart of Skid Row. The Mission Converts Club sang Gospel songs and gave testimonies; fifty boys and girls from Capital Children for Christ delighted the audience with their action choruses; members of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Gospel Missions made remarks -- and that vast crowd sang "Rescue the Perishing" led by Homer Rodeheaver and his inimitable trombone!



REV. HERBERT E. EBERHARDT CALLED HOME

On April 24, 1962, the Lord called unto Himself Rev. Herbert Ernest Eberhardt. This brought to a close forty years in the service of rescue, eighteen of those years at the Central Union Mission. His influence was not limited to Washington, for his heart reached out to the cause of rescue throughout the country. He was held in the highest love and esteem by all of the International Union of Gospel Missions. The Resolution passed by the Board of Directors reads in part:

"By his great heart of love for his fellowmen winning uncounted souls to Christ -- mediating to all the saving grace of his Lord ... From the year 1944 on to his passing, he brought to Central Union Mission a high order of administrative ability; and when, at times problems arose which seemed overwhelming, he never lost sight of the high and noble purposes and goals of the Mission, the redemption of souls ...

"His translation leaves a great void in our midst. It was a privilege to have known him and to have shared his fellowship. All admired him and held him in highest esteem for his loyalty, his devotion, his complete dedication, his fidelity to his loved ones, to his work, and above all, to his God. Surely he will hear his Master say, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'

Mrs. Eberhardt's plans for the summer session with the boys and girls at Camp Bennett were well underway, and she consented to stay on and conduct the camp one more season.



REV. ERNEST A. TIPPETT

Superintendent
1962 - 1965



HORTENSE TIPPETT

Director of
Children's Work

Chapter Four

CONTINUING TO MEET THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Rev. Ernest A. Tippet
1962-1965

THE ARRIVAL OF THE TIPPETTS

It is not easy for a great institution such as the Central Union Mission to change leadership, especially when a man of the administrative and spiritual stature of Rev. Herbert E. Eberhardt has been Superintendent for almost eighteen years. However, the transition was greatly ameliorated by the fact that Rev. Ernest A. Tippet had already been engaged to come as Associate Superintendent.

Rev. and Mrs. Eberhardt had informed the Board that they would like to retire December 31, 1962; and Rev. Eberhardt had suggested to the Board his first choice as successor, Rev. Ernest A. Tippet. He called attention to Rev. Tippet's almost forty years of experience as Superintendent of three missions before being selected as Executive Secretary of the International Union of Gospel Missions, the office he was then administering most efficiently.

Rev. Tippet was invited to meet with the Board of Directors November 13, 1961, and was engaged to come on June 1, 1962, as Associate Superintendent with the expectation of assuming the responsibility of Superintendent at the end of the year. The sudden passing of Rev. Eberhardt, April 24, 1962, moved Rev. Tippet into the duties of leadership upon his arrival. Mrs. Tippet became Director of Children's Work when Mrs. Eberhardt retired on October 1, 1962.

TESTIMONY OF TOM BROWN

One of those who found his way into the Mission and thus to the Lord at about this time was Tom Brown. He tells his story:

"My earliest recollection of hearing about the Lord was when I was a child. Every evening at bedtime my mother



Tom and Tommy
Brown paint
a pantry at
the Mission

would gather her ten children around her and pray with them. However, my father always had beer in the refrigerator, and I was introduced to it at a very early age. As a young man, I enlisted in the Air Force, serving in Guam, Europe and Alaska. After these tours of duty, I was given an Honorable Discharge.

"Unexpected heartache came into my life, and I turned to the bottle instead of to the Lord. I became a drunkard! I didn't want to disgrace my brothers and sisters, so I came to the Washington, D.C. area and hit 'Skid Row'. My clothes began to wear out and I was hungry, so I sought help at Central Union Mission. There I heard the Word of God, and the Lord spoke to my heart in a very real way one night in 1962. I went to the Prayer Room during the invitation

and accepted Christ as my personal Saviour. I entered the program for Mission men, which helped me grow spiritually.

"In 1964 Roberta Lynch came into my life. A widow with a daughter, Roberta Jean, and a son, Jimmy, she joined the Mission staff and became Assistant Director of Mothers' and Children's Ministries. The Lord gave me I Corinthians 2:9 ('But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.') which He fulfilled in an amazing way. On March 4, 1966, Roberta and I were married and moved to Virginia. The Lord blessed our marriage with another son, Tommy. Today we have three wonderful children and four precious grandchildren. Roberta is now Director of Family Services at the Mission, and all three of us are members of a Baptist church in Virginia. Praise the Lord! Great things He hath done!"

- Tom Brown*

* Roberta Brown continues to serve the Mission to this date as Director of Family Services.

EDWARD H. DeGROOT, Jr. HONORED

Resolutions and words of appreciation are too often, like funeral flowers, reserved until the one worthy of honor is rejoicing in the Lord's, "Well done," and has no further need of earthly bouquets. It is good, therefore, to find in the Minute Book this resolution addressed to Edward H. DeGroot, Jr., and adopted by the Board on November 4, 1947. It is quoted only in part:



Edward H. DeGroot, Jr.

"In our journeys along the pathways and railways of life, we meet many and varied personalities. One is self-absorbed, without interest in the burdens, needs, or responsibilities of others. Another is sympathetic and offers good advice, but no more. Still another will help with a little lift, but leave the responsibility to you. But what a joy it is to find a man who, though burdened with cares and responsibilities of his own, is still able to take on one more burden and carry through another good cause to success. This was the case with Edward H. DeGroot, Jr. in the spring of 1922, when the Central Union Mission was much

in need of a leader who would carry through a campaign for funds necessary to erect the fine, new buildings which now house the Mission work and its Children's Emergency Home. Mr. DeGroot already had on his hands more work than one man should be expected to carry; but the question with Mr. DeGroot was not how much he was already carrying, but whether the merit of the new appealing cause was worthy of his efforts and in line with the will of his heavenly Father. So he lifted the new burden and carried it through to a successful conclusion."

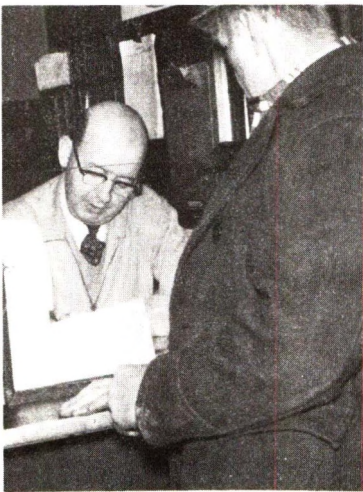
The occasion for this resolution was the resignation of Mr. DeGroot as President of the Board of Directors after serving most effectively in that position for twenty-four years. It did not, however, indicate the termination of his Mission

service. He immediately accepted the office of Vice President, which he held for sixteen years until he was called to glory March 26, 1963, after almost forty-one years of Mission service.

Mr. DeGroot was asked to serve on the Board because his known abilities and expertise were needed to head up the financial campaign for funds for the new buildings. He was a trustee of the National Baptist Memorial Church and a leader in several other religious and community endeavors. He had a long and distinguished career in railroad operations as well as public service in the Interstate Commerce Commission.

He successfully led the Mission through the construction of the new buildings and the Bennett Memorial Addition as well as the purchase of the farm and erection of Camp Bennett. He kept the operation running firmly on track through the difficult days of the home-goings of John and Ada Jean Bennett, the coming of the Eberhardts, and the reconversion to a full rescue mission program. The name of Edward H. DeGroot, Jr. is significantly written in the annals of the Central Union Mission.

As a fitting memorial, the platform and pulpit, where he had conducted many Gospel services, were remodeled; and the new platform was dedicated to the memory of Mr. DeGroot as a feature of the Open House on March 8, 1964.



TESTIMONY OF MARVIN W. TYLER

Marvin Tyler found the Lord as his Saviour at Central Union Mission on October 20, 1950, and remained as a faithful and effective employee of the Mission until the Lord called him home on January 28, 1965. His friendly, out-going personality and his eagerness to be of assistance won him a warm place in the regard of his fellow-workers and all who came to the Mission. The Board of Directors passed a memorial resolution which included Mr. Tyler's testimony:

"I came to the Central Union Mission seeking something but not knowing what. I wasn't interested in going to the service, but I went along with the other fellows and found the testimonies of others were interesting. For the first time I realized that others had their problems too. In one of the testimonies a man told of troubles like my own and how the Lord had so wonderfully blessed him since he had accepted Christ as his own personal Saviour. Soon after that I gave my life to the Lord, and He took away the taste for alcohol and gave me a testimony, and in place of my swearing He gave me a prayer. My mother's prayers caught up with me here at the Mission, and I am no longer the wayward son, but a son saved by grace, praise God, through His Son, Jesus Christ."

- Marvin Tyler

ONE YEAR IN GOD'S WORK

The Minutes of the Board meetings reveal Rev. Tippet's zeal for keeping the physical plants of the Mission, Farm, and Camp Bennett in the best condition; but always his chief concern was for the people who came in their time of need. From the Annual Report for 1965 we glean some interesting figures: 5,388 different men received 52,071 free meals; 21,150 free lodgings; 3,952 garments; 150 job referrals. There was a total attendance of 23,122 at the Gospel services, and 329 professed decisions for Christ.

In her report for that year Mrs. Tippet told of 17,336 meals and 3,819 lodgings provided in the Children's Emergency Home. Total attendance at Capital Children for Christ was 5,195; and at Mothers' Meeting, 1,955. Friends filled 525 Christmas Bags for children. 242 boys and girls enjoyed outings at Camp Bennett directed by Mrs. Roberta Lynch (Brown). Many of these made decisions for Christ.

Pastors and laymen continued to make Central Union Mission truly "The Mission of the Churches" with at least 135 churches having some specific part in the ministry, participating in the Gospel services, speaking to Mission groups, serving refreshments to Capital Children for Christ, taking picnics to Camp Bennett, inviting the Superintendent to speak and tell about the Mission, or rendering other services too numerous to mention. All of this was in addition to the many contributions from churches or church organizations to support the ministry.

O.B.C.A.

One church related organization that has been especially supportive of the Central Union Mission is the Organized Bible Class Association. In 1965 they continued to sponsor the Sunday Morning Bible Class* begun in 1959 for the men of the Mission with Mrs. Myrtle Powell and Mrs. Volena Williams in charge of arrangements and Clarence Duet as Mission chairman. Through the years they have often invited the Superintendent (Executive Director) to have part in their annual conference at Westminster, Maryland.

Individual classes and members have been involved in various Mission programs. They have provided message and music for the Gospel services and other meetings, filled Christmas Bags, and supported the activities of the Evening Auxiliary and Jean Bennett Guild. Rev. Herbert Eberhardt once observed that "O.B.C.A." could very well mean, "Our Best Christian Associates".

THE REHABILITATION CENTER VISUALIZED

While faithfully administering all of the established programs of the Mission, Rev. Tippettt recognized another opportunity. The Mission Farm appeared to be an ideal location for an Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center where the man with a drinking problem could be helped before the habit had brought him to the low state of most of the men who came to the Mission.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors March 10, 1965, Rev. Tippettt presented his plan to renovate a building at the farm into a six-unit, motel-type structure to house twelve men.

The Board approved the project and suggested the employment of a qualified, competent leader to administer the program. Construction was immediately implemented, and at the Board meeting on September 13, Rev. Tippettt reported that the building was nearly completed.

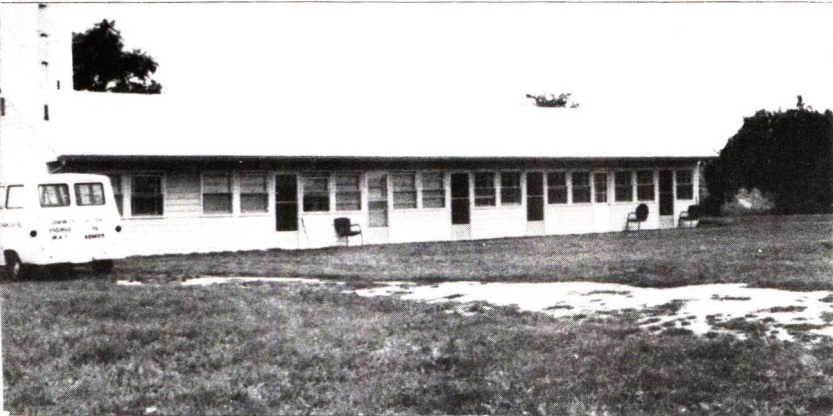
* The Bible class and the fine relationship with O.B.C.A. continue to this date.

However, for health reason, Rev. and Mrs. Tippet were forced to offer their resignations to be effective September 30, 1965, and Rev. Tippet, unfortunately, was not able to see his plan through to fulfillment.

THE TIPPETTS' RETIREMENT

The Board of Directors passed a Resolution to be introduced into the Minutes of September 13, 1965, expressing ...

"its deep and abiding thankfulness for the outstanding service which had been rendered to the Central Union Mission by Rev. Ernest A. Tippet and by Mrs. Tippet, in their respective offices as Superintendent and as Director of Children's Work, as well as for their spiritual leadership, and for the inspiring example of their devoted lives ... and that the Board offers its warmest and best wishes for their health and happiness in retirement after forty years of active and fruitful service."



Living quarters for the men in the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Program prepared by Rev. Tippet

REV. FRANCIS V. CRUMLEY

Superintendent

1965 - 1974



MAUDE CRUMLEY

*Director of
Children's Work*

*"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin
against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."
(1 Samuel 12:23)*

Chapter Five

STANDING FAST TO MEET THE CHANGES

Rev. Francis V. Crumley
1965-1974

THE COMING OF THE CRUMLEYS

In the spring of 1965, when Rev. and Mrs. Tippet advised the Board of Directors of their impending retirement, Rev. Tippet suggested that Rev. Francis V. Crumley might be considered as a successor. He had been doing a fine work at the Sunday Breakfast Association of Philadelphia since 1947.

Rev. Crumley met with the Board on March 10. All members of the Board were favorably impressed by him, and Rev. Crumley was invited to come to the Central Union Mission as Associate Superintendent July 1, 1965, and to assume leadership October first upon Rev. Tippet's retirement.

Washington, like the whole country, was in a state of changing and conflicting ideologies; and this change was reflected in the programs of the Mission. For example, whereas previously most of those coming to the Mission for help had been white, simply because traditionally the races did not mix; now more and more blacks were looking in need to the Mission. The District of Columbia Welfare Agency adopted a new policy of placing needy and abandoned children in foster homes rather than in institutions, which meant that fewer boys and girls were referred to the Children's Emergency Home. Young people accustomed to more permissive attitudes at home and at school caused disciplinary problems, requiring more adults present to monitor Capital Children for Christ meetings and a separate camp period for teens. The Central Union Mission was most fortunate to have a man of Rev. Crumley's good judgment and dauntless trust in the Lord to direct the work smoothly through those changing times, always keeping in mind the first priority of the Mission to present the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour to the lost.

At the 1968 convention of the International Union of Gospel Missions, Rev. Francis V. Crumley was elected President and subsequently was elected to serve two more years until he declined re-election. This indicates the high esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in mission work.

THE ALCOHOLIC REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Rev. Crumley's first major project was to bring into operation the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Program at Camp Bennett begun by Rev. Tippett. The Board granted permission to extend and enclose the porch on the farmhouse to provide a dining room and waiting area for the men. The rest of the farmhouse would be living quarters for the Director and his family. The motel-style sleeping quarters for the men were already near completion.

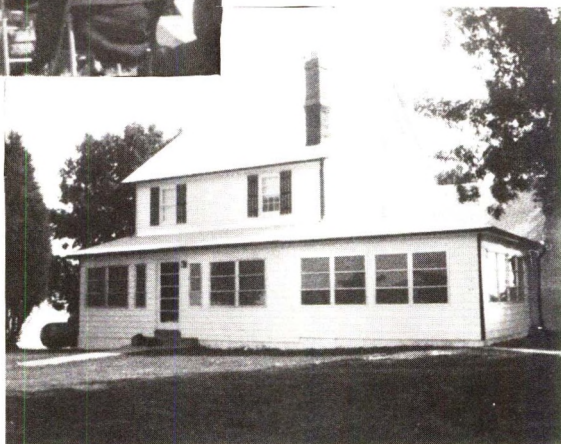
The program opened February 1, 1966, with six men enrolled. About ninety people attended a dinner and dedication service on May 30. The program was first directed by Robert Spencer and his wife, followed in turn, by Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Tenley, Rev. Jackson McChesney, and Rev. and Mrs. Leslie B. Crumley.

The philosophy of the program was that a man should come of his own free will and stay for two or three months of isola-



Capital Children for Christ Chorus sang at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center dedication service.

The farmhouse porch was extended and enclosed to make a dining room for the men.



tion, prayer, Bible study, counseling and work therapy. All of this was directed to the end that the man would recognize the Lord's claim upon his life and commit himself to Jesus Christ.

Subsequent reports in the Board Minutes indicate that some men returned to their families and jobs and were doing well. Others left and were never heard from, so it was difficult to evaluate the results. Pastors did not refer as many men as was hoped; on the other hand, some men "walked in" of their own accord. While Rev. Leslie B. Crumley was in charge, a substantial number of men came for the Bible study and counseling at various appointed times during the day and evening without entering the program. Some men were sent out from the Mission to help maintain the camp and at the same time benefit from the program.

CHURCH RETREATS

In response to a growing number of requests from churches to use the facilities of Camp Bennett for weekend retreats, several buildings were winterized in 1966. The Mission served all meals at a nominal cost so that all members of the church groups could participate fully in their own program. It was emphasized that Camp Bennett was dedicated to spiritual purposes, and pastors and retreat leaders were encouraged to make the most of the quiet, secluded atmosphere to help their members and guests enjoy a meaningful experience with the Lord. To this day the retreat program remains one of the most popular Mission services.

TESTIMONY OF MARLENE COTTOM

1967 was an exciting year. 288 children, ages six through twelve, attended Camp Bennett and enjoyed the new swimming pool provided by the Evening Auxiliary. What is more, 117 of those children asked Jesus Christ to be their Saviour. The Capital Children for Christ started with a rush and grew and grew. On one particular Saturday morning 493 boys and girls attended Capital Children for Christ at the Mission. Total attendance for the entire year reached an astounding 10,448, with 267 youngsters making decisions for Christ.

The inspiring Mothers' Meetings on Wednesday mornings had a total attendance in 1967 of 1,422. A total of 11,573 pieces



THE LADIES WERE BUSY

EVENING AUXILIARY'S new swimming pool thrilled campers in 1967. It was complete with lifeguard station, and was big enough for diving!

WOMEN'S GUILD met for sewing every Thursday - Picture 1966, Olga Burke, Violet Ford, Alma Thompson, Unidentified, Sylvania Lloyd.



JEAN BENNETT GUILD served a picnic at Camp Bennett -- Ruth Duet, Lola Thorp, Elsie Wood, Grace Hosford, Lorene Denard, Virginia Saunders.

*Marlene Cottom
checking in boys
and girls to go
to Camp Bennett*



of women's and children's clothing were distributed. For one mother, that year was especially important. Marlene Cottom tells about it:

"I want to give a short testimony of my years at Central Union Mission. I first came to the Mission to a Mothers' Meeting. I did not know anything about God or salvation, and wasn't looking for it. I needed some material things for my family and myself.

"But in 1967 Mrs. Richard Sweetman (wife of the pastor at that time of Forestville Baptist Church) came to speak to the Wednesday Mothers' Meeting, and her message convicted my heart. I repented of my sins and accepted Christ that day. I can truly say that the Lord has been the most important part of my life since then. Two of my sons accepted the Lord as their Saviour at Capital Children for Christ and also went to Camp Bennett. Now I have been working at the Mission for fifteen years and witnessing everywhere I can for Jesus. Praise the Lord!"

- Marlene Cottom

TESTIMONY OF ELVA LEE MURPHY

Sometimes a mother needs assistance on different occasions over a period of years, and the Mission is glad when it can meet her needs. When a mother continues to keep in touch to express her gratitude; when she brings her children to Capital Children for Christ and attends the Mothers' Meetings to hear the Word of God; when she demonstrates real spiritual growth and finds a place of fellowship and service in a local church -- then the Mission workers praise the Lord. Here is the testimony of one such mother:



Elva Lee Murphy

"In 1935, when I was eight years old, I went to Camp Bennett for two weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were there and I just loved being with them. My home life was hard because my dad was an alcoholic and my mother worked nights. I remember the fun times I had in the evenings around the campfire talking and singing about Jesus loving and dying for me. I became very close to the Lord there, and He became very important in my life as the years went by.

"When I had children, they went to Camp Bennett also. I had to work, so the Mission helped me by keeping

my children in the Children's Emergency Home for a while until I could stay home with them. I also baby-sat for the children in the Home when I got off work in the evenings. I had the joy of being Secretary of the first Mothers' Meeting.

"Much happiness was given to my children with the Christmas Bag Party for many years. In 1964, when my husband hurt his back and was unable to work, Mr. and Mrs. Crumley came through with food for our family. We grew to love them very much.

"My husband and I used to attend the evening services, where we had the chance to share Christ and what He had done in our lives. Mr. and Mrs. Eberhardt, Katherine Clayton, Ruth Duet, Lillian Thorp, Roberta Brown and many others became very special to me over the years.

"I pray there will always be a Mission to help meet many in need and to share my Lord."

- Elva Lee Murphy

CAMP BENNETT IN THE SIXTIES



Boys enjoy the new basketball court.

A junior counsellor helps campers learn Scripture verses.



WOW! A church group brought out watermelon for everyone!

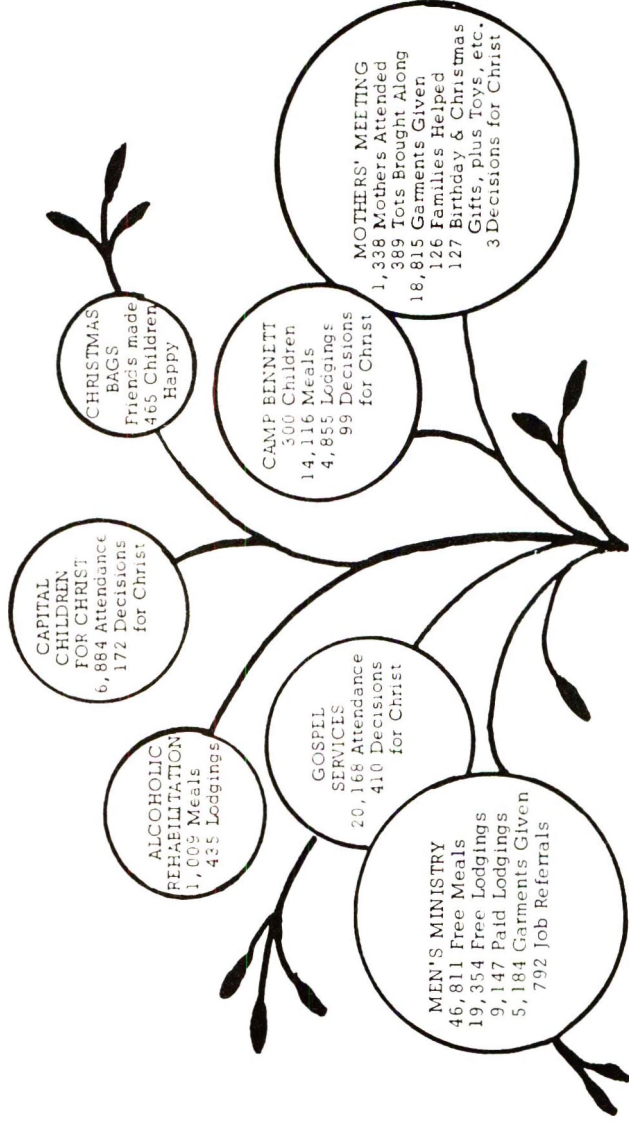


It was an exciting day in 1969 when one whole camp went for a cruise on the Presidential yacht, Sequoia.



The President's daughter was hostess and signed a certificate for each child.

Fruits from Your Gifts and Prayers



"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. - For we are labourers together with God." - 1 Corinthians 3:6,9

FROM 87TH ANNUAL REPORT - 1971

MINISTRY TO MEN

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." (Ps. 115:1)

"We take great joy in thanking God for His mighty hand upon us for good during the past year. Ezra used that expression in praise to God for His goodness and delivering power and we say a hearty, 'Amen.' There are many areas at Central Union Mission for praise to God and thanksgiving.

1. Thank God for every soul at whatever service that accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour or who dedicated their lives to His service.
2. Thank God for the faithful groups who came each night to preach the Gospel through song, testimony and the Word. God blessed. Praise the Lord!
3. Thank God for individuals that spoke to Mothers' Meetings, Capital Children for Christ, and other meetings.
4. Thank God for each contributor that made possible every service given in the name of Jesus Christ.
5. Thank God for the Board of Directors who so ably directed the work and encouraged Mrs. Crumley and me.
6. Thank God for the Evening Auxiliary, Jean Bennett Guild, and the Women's Guild who sacrificed and served that the work of God at Central Union Mission could be carried on.
7. Thank God for church groups, Government agencies, Sunday school classes, individuals and everyone who had a part in making the Christmas program and Camp Bennett possible.
8. Thank God for every gift, large or small, sacrificially given to our Lord Jesus Christ and used for His glory at Central Union Mission.
9. Thank God for those who maintained our facilities here and at Camp Bennett.
10. Thank God who has exhorted that in everything we should give thanks. This we do, for the work is His and to Him we give all praise."

- Francis V. Crumley, Superintendent
(88th Annual Report - 1972)

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on September 11, 1972, Rev. Crumley announced that in another year he would reach the age of 65. It was his suggestion that the Board begin a search for his replacement. The members of the Board expressed their reluctance to see him leave; but according to his wish, they began a year-long search for a successor.



REV. THOMAS B. HANLON

Superintendent

1974 - 1981

DOROTHY K. HANLON

Co-Director

*Children's & Mothers'
Ministries*



"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Chapter Six

LOVING TO MEET THE UNLOVED

Rev. Thomas B. Hanlon

1974-1981

TESTIMONY OF REV. THOMAS B. HANLON

Rev. Thomas B. Hanlon had a warm spot in his heart for the men and women who came to the Mission because he "had been there." He was led to the Lord by Rev. Louis West at the Chicago United Mission. After working with Rev. West for some time, he was called to head the Bible Rescue Mission in Chicago. For fourteen years he was used of the Lord to build up that struggling little mission and to see it through the erection of a fine new building. He was invited to assume the leadership at Central Union Mission January 1, 1974. Rev. Hanlon wrote his testimony at about that time:

"I had the same opportunities as any other boy in life, but I never heard my family pray at home or read the Bible. When I was in the ninth grade, I started drinking beer, which naturally led to stronger drink and trouble in high school with threats of being expelled from school; but I finished school and went to work for a large corporation.

"Needless to say, I was unable to hold any kind of position with my drinking habit. Private hospitals didn't help. Medicine and therapy didn't help. And I would not listen to any one who started talking to me about Christ. I finally went into the Army, which was no help to my drinking problem. After I left the Army I roamed around and ended up on Skid Row. Praise God for the missions on Skid Row. I had to turn to them for material help -- clothing, food and shelter -- but I wanted none of their preaching. I went forward in many missions -- hundreds of times for material gain -- clothing, bed or money. There was no change in my life. Then I would go forward to ask the Lord to take away the drinking problem, but nothing happened until I really asked Jesus Christ into my heart and life.

"It was a cold night in December. All I had on was summer clothing. I would have sold them if I could have found a buyer, just to get a drink. I had already sold my glasses

(my vision is 20/600 without glasses). Then it was that I wandered into the Chicago United Mission -- knowing now that the blessed Holy Spirit led me there -- and heard the Gospel. I attended three nights in a row, the third night going forward at the invitation to accept Christ (given by Louis West). I was saved that night. Christ changed my life completely. I stayed at the mission, studied the Word of God with the men there, and worked.

"During this time of growth at the mission, the Lord burdened my heart for other men on Madison Street in Chicago. I prayed that the Lord would give me a work with these men. He did this as I directed the work at the Bible Rescue Mission for fourteen years. He gave me a wonderful wife, a son and a home. I thank God, with everything within me, from the bottom of my feet to the top of my head, as it were; for everything I have in this world. But most of all, I praise Him that I'm saved. Pray for me. He did take the desire for alcohol away! CHRIST IS THE ANSWER!"

- Thomas B. Hanlon

MERRITT L. SMITH ELECTED PRESIDENT EMERITUS

After serving most effectively as President of the Board of Directors for eighteen years, since 1957, Mr. Merritt L. Smith expressed his desire to be relieved of the duties of the office. He was thereupon elected President Emeritus by a standing vote of acclamation at the regular meeting of the Board on November 10, 1975. He was appointed to the Executive Committee and has continued as a very active and involved member of the Board.



Harry Bumpass put a new suit on the man. We pray that the gospel of Christ preached in the every-night service will put a new man in the suit.





*Friends at Camp Bennett
Open House -- at left,
Merritt Smith, Mrs. Mae
Smith, Junior F. Crowell.
-- Campers sing Gospel
songs they have learned.*



A Resolution of Appreciation was introduced into the Minutes of the Board of Directors of January 12, 1976:

"WHEREAS Merritt L. Smith has been associated with the Central Union Mission as a member of the Board of Directors since 1946, and

"WHEREAS, during the past eighteen years, since 1957, he has served with outstanding leadership and faithful devotion as President of the Board, executing his duties with efficiency and effectiveness, and,

"WHEREAS, he has at all times stood firmly for Christian principles, loyalty to the Master, and his goal has been

expanding the work of the Mission in reaching lost men, needy women and children for Christ, both at the Mission and at Camp Bennett,

"NOW, THEREFORE, be it Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Central Union Mission, in recognition of the services of Merritt L. Smith, which were rendered by him graciously, willingly, prayerfully and equitably, without the hope of worldly reward, express their appreciation and gratitude upon his retirement as President for his outstanding work in furthering the ministry of Jesus Christ through the Central Union Mission."

JUNIOR F. CROWELL ELECTED PRESIDENT

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors, November 10, 1975, Mr. Junior F. Crowell was unanimously elected as President. Mr. Crowell was elected to the Board of Directors in 1948 and gave valuable guidance in the financial affairs of the Mission as its Treasurer. He also served as Treasurer of the Heritage Christian Church and the Washington City Bible Society.

At the same meeting John A. Patterson, Jr. was re-elected as Vice President and Andrew W. Allen, Jr. as Secretary. Russell E. Dyke was elected to succeed Mr. Crowell as Treasurer.

The officers were installed at a special service at the Mission on Sunday, January 25, 1976, the 91st anniversary of the first Gospel Service of the Mission. The installation message was delivered by Rev. Richard Miller, pastor of Heritage Christian Church; and a concert of sacred music was presented by John Bigbee and Lee Meredith.

TRIBUTE TO REV. LESLIE B. CRUMLEY

After retiring as Superintendent of the Sunday Breakfast Association of Philadelphia, Rev. Leslie B. Crumley (brother of Rev. Francis V. Crumley and father of Mrs. Robert R. Rich) came to the Central Union Mission on several occasions on a temporary basis when special assistance was needed. He was always warmly received by staff members and those to whom the Mission ministered. For several months he directed the work at the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center at the Mission Farm. Superintendent Hanlon wrote in the Annual Report for 1976:



Rev. and Mrs.
Leslie B. Crumley

"We thank the Lord for our farm near Brookeville, Maryland, removed from the temptations and boredoms of city life. We have had an average of seven men living there this year. Several have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. This portion of our ministry is under the able direction of Rev. Leslie B. Crumley. The men study the Bible, receive counseling, attend prayer meetings, and perform various duties as a work therapy. Rev. and Mrs. (Flo) Crumley are affectionately known as "Mom" and "Dad" to these men, as they often do special favors for them just to show God's love and concern for each one. Other people from the area (not living in the facility) often stop in for counseling and prayer with Rev. and Mrs. Crumley."

TESTIMONY OF SAMUEL J. ROSS, JR.

Every child who receives Jesus Christ as Saviour at Camp Bennett is cause for thanksgiving; but it is only occasionally that the thrilling results come back, perhaps years later. The answered prayers of Anthony Ross was one such occasion. His father tells about it:

"As a young lad my dreams were to have a large family to enjoy and a home. This dream was being fulfilled with four children and one on the way when due to a corrupt and sinful life that I had been living, my marriage was suddenly shattered. I left home leaving my family no security, my wife pregnant with the fifth child, and the rent about three or four months behind. I had tried to make my marriage work but I just couldn't.

Upon leaving, I indulged more than ever in sin and even began living with another woman and drinking very heavily in order to try to live with myself. It was during this time that our first-born child, Anthony, came to spend some time with me. During his stay, I sent him to Camp Bennett through the Central Union Mission. The year was 1972. Upon his return home, he said that he had got saved, which meant nothing to me at the time. But I do remember that my life became even more miserable after his return.

"About two years later, I learned that Jesus Christ would save me and give me a new life, and Jesus did save me. Very shortly thereafter, the Lord put my family back together after four years of separation and I shall never forget the words, "This is what I've been praying for," that our son Anthony spoke as I entered the door to where my family was living.

"It finally dawned on me that God heard the prayer of a nine-year-old boy who had prayed for two years that God would bring his father back home. Therefore, I shall ever be grateful to the Central Union Mission and Camp Bennett.

"I shared the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with my wife and children and brothers and sisters and they all got saved. Also some of my relatives got saved and many others have come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour through the cab ministry that God gave me, and I attribute it all to the prayers of our nine-year-old son. God took Anthony at the age of 16, but it is comforting to know that we all shall be together again in heaven where my dreams shall at last be complete."

- Samuel J. Ross, Jr.

NEW FLAGS AND HYMNALS

The Mission Newsletter for July-August, 1976, reports that the Vaughn Class of Calvary Baptist Church presented 125 new hymnals and a Christian flag for use in the Mission chapel in recognition of the years of service at the Mission of two of their members, Rev. Thomas O. Jones and Mr. Clifton E. Henry. They also presented an American flag in honor of Mr. John A. Patterson, Jr., Vice President of the Mission's Board of Directors. The class comes regularly to conduct the Gospel service and share in other ministries of the Mission.

THE WOMEN'S SHELTER

*"The pounding of hammers and the smell of fresh paint!
Bright new bedspreads! Colorful curtains! We're doing
SOMETHING!"*

"Any woman in dire circumstances has a hard time finding emergency help in our community. Now the Central Union Mission is doing something about it! All that activity is involved with preparing a place where the woman who has no place to go can find lodging, meals, clothing, spiritual counseling and assistance in solving her problems. It is expected that most of our guests will be able to move on to a more permanent situation within a few days." (It soon became evident that many guests required extended help to effectively meet their needs.)

Thus was the preparation for the opening of the Women's Shelter announced in the Mission Newsletter for February, 1978. The opening of the Women's Shelter was implemented through a study group established by the Board of Directors "to identify women's needs and suggest ways in which the Central Union Mission might respond." Mr. Russell E. Dyke was asked to chair the committee. Other members were Mr. John Bigbee, Rev. and Mrs. C. Gordon Clews, Mrs. Beatrice Lowery, Dr. John T. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt L. Smith.

*The Vaughn Class of
Calvary Baptist Church
presented hymnals and
flags. Back: Charles
Baldwin and Rev. Hanlon.
Front: John Patterson,
Neil Woodcock, and
Dr. Nelson Blake.*



The shelter, located on the second floor of the Mission building, comprised a lounge, kitchen, laundry facilities, and nine rooms to be occupied with two ladies each.

Mrs. Loretta Pruett, a member of Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, who had considerable experience directing shelters for international students, came out of retirement to supervise the new ministry. In September, 1979, Mrs. Pruett retired for health reasons, and Mrs. Joseph (Genevieve) Staalsen, a returned missionary from Japan, became director of the Shelter. Her husband's zeal to use his carpentry skills wherever needed about the Mission is exceeded only by his eagerness to counsel with any man who has a spiritual need.

Mrs. Staalsen wrote in the Annual Report for 1981:

"Visitors say the Women's Shelter is the brightest spot in the building. It is an active place. Each morning we meet for ten minutes of prayer and meditation on God's Word. On Sunday evenings we have our own church service, and on Mondays a Bible study.

"We had a Christmas party, complete with tree, gifts, games, carols and refreshments. We cooked our own Thanksgiving dinner -- including turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie.



Loretta Pruett registers the first guest in the Women's Shelter.



Genevieve Staalsen takes time for a friendly talk with a guest.

"During the year 84 different women stayed in the Shelter. Five made professions of salvation, and four rededicated their lives to the Lord. We are thankful for each bit of progress made in lives. We wish that more had opened their hearts to the Lord and pray that there will be more next year as we endeavor to 'in love serve one another.'"

-Genevieve Staalsen

TESTIMONY OF MARIE BOWEN

One of the guests in the Women's Shelter told what it meant to her in the Annual Report for 1980:

"In the midst of a period of homelessness and deep confusion as to my place in the world, a Christian friend said to me that I was a case of the 'prodigal son'. I rejected his analysis because I only saw the parable in a material sense.

"By God's grace I was led to Central Union Mission where gradually my fears of homelessness left me. As I had time to attend to my spiritual needs by going to chapel, morning devotions and Bible classes and reading the Bible on my own, Christ began to become the focus of my thoughts.

"One day as I was looking through a hymnal, I saw the title, 'The Way of the Cross Leads Home'. I felt a piercing feeling in my heart because I understood and I believed. As I read the words, I started to cry because I had found my spiritual home in Christ. Now when I see the cross atop the Mission building, I smile."

- Marie Bowen

SUPERINTENDENT HANLON'S LOVING CONCERN

"What if the Chicago United Mission and the Lord hadn't given me one more chance -- many times over?" That was apt to be Rev. Hanlon's answer when there was a question about whether to give a man who had slipped another chance. He could never forget his own repeated failures during his time on Skid Row. He had a heart of love always ready to reach out to anyone with a real need. He was also happy when he could find room in the Mission building to accommodate such organizations as the Washington City Bible Society with its Scripture distribution and the National Rehabilitation Program for pre-released prisoners, although these were never actually a part of the Mission's ministry.

DIAL-A-TEEN

One outside ministry which Rev. Hanlon "adopted" in the name of the Mission was the local branch of Dial-a-Teen. This program is a telephone hotline whereby teens in trouble or with a problem can call and talk with a peer who has been trained to counsel from a Christian perspective. Among the most prevalent problems that cause teens to call in are loneliness, suicide, pregnancy, runaways, alcohol and other drugs. Each call is answered by a teen. An adult is ready to assist if needed; and a referral is made to an appropriate agency if professional help is deemed advisable.

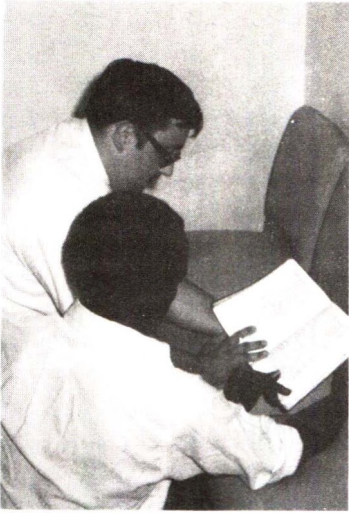
Two of the things that keep teens willing to give their time to come and sit waiting for the phones to ring are: first, the enthusiasm and personal concern of their director, Mr. Al Woods; and second, the "Joy Chart" on which are listed the names of all callers who make a definite profession of receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour while on the phone or as a result of the follow-up literature and correspondence.

Each summer since 1980 the work of the local young people has been augmented by a group of thirty or more from all parts of the country, trained and organized by Teen Missions to carry on an intensified twenty-four-hours-a-day telephone ministry. When not on telephone duty, the young people go out to the streets, parks and tourist attractions witnessing and distributing tracts.



*Between calls,
Director Al Woods
and counselors
study the Bible
for answers to
questions teens
ask.*

THE HARVESTERS CLUB



*Ron Wewerka (left)
counsels a man in
the Prayer Room.*

Rev. Hanlon became concerned for the number of elderly men who could not afford to rent a decent place to live. He obtained permission from the Board to set aside a limited number of rooms to be rented to senior citizens at a nominal cost. Then, when he observed that some of these men seemed to have little to occupy their time and thoughts, he set up a program known as "The Harvesters Club" to which any man over 60 was invited.

Ronald Wewerka of the Mission staff had charge of the weekly meeting which included a devotional or Bible study, free lunch and some entertainment such as a travelog. In good weather the Mission van might provide transportation to the National Arboretum, Mount Vernon, Camp Bennett or some other point of interest.

THE FOURTH MONDAY FORUM



Muriel Nase

"I don't go out at night," was heard from many members of the Evening Auxiliary and Jean Bennett Guild as well as church women who were invited to attend the monthly dinner meetings of these groups. Rev. Hanlon sensed another need, and he had to do something about it. He asked Mrs. Muriel Nase to chair a committee consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Bennett, and Mrs. Beatrice Lowery (Lillian Thorp of the Mission staff was added later)

to plan a daytime activity for these people. Their answer was "The Fourth Monday Forum".

The first meeting was held October 27, 1980, and the same format has continued to be well received. The meetings begin with an informal time of fellowship at about 10:00 a.m. with coffee and cake, followed by a simple handwork project supervised by Mrs. Lowery. Later in the morning a forum is held with a guest speaker knowledgeable in some subject of interest to senior citizens such as travel, safety, health, etc. Lunch is followed with a short devotional message. There are no dues, no budget, no business meetings. A basket is set out for those who wish to give something for the lunch. Both men and women are members of the Fourth Monday Forum.

REFLECTIONS

Superintendent Hanlon felt led to present to the Board of Directors a summary of his seven years at the Mission at their meeting on January 16, 1981, which reads in part:

"On January 1, 1974, we came to Washington to assume the superintendency of the Central Union Mission ... realizing the challenges in serving the Lord here. The rewards and blessings have been great ...

"Some new ministries added are:

- * The Harvesters Club on Thursday has been a blessing to those in attendance;*
- * The Saturday morning Bible class for adults (while the children are in Capital Children for Christ) has been appreciated;*
- * Attendance at the Bible classes throughout the week for the program men and others has been encouraging;*
- * Dial-a-Teen has been a real blessing throughout the year and especially last summer when we were able to minister to 35 young people, who, in turn, ministered in this area;*
- * The National Rehabilitation Program gave us an opportunity to work with pre-release prisoners;*
- * Providing space for and cooperating with the Washington City Bible Society in sharing the Scriptures with the rest of the area has proven a real blessing;*



Rev. and Mrs.
Hanlon on "The
Hour of Power"
which has told
mission news
and the Good
News of the
Gospel since
December 1946.

- * The Fourth Monday Forum for those who cannot come out at night and also an outlet for senior citizens has been well attended;
- * One of the greatest blessings has been the Women's Shelter where we have seen hundreds of women come through and a great number of lives changed;

"The above is just a review of what we have seen; all of the increases have been made possible by the Lord Jesus and His children who have contributed time, money and other materials... Also, all the increases and blessings that we have seen here at the Mission have been made possible because of a sincere, dedicated Board, who have given us one hundred per cent support. We look forward to another year of service and anticipate growth in many areas. We await direction from the Lord and from the Board as to what to do in the future."

- Thomas B. Hanlon
Superintendent

Rev. Hanlon could not know that he had less than a year of service before the Lord would call him home. He and the Board were very much aware at that point that they needed to await direction from the Lord. For several years the Mission had been operating under an ominous cloud -- the possible necessity of imminent relocation.

CHRISTMAS BAGS!

Isn't a smile like this worth the time and cost to fill a Christmas Bag? Every year hundreds of generous friends think so -- and hundreds of boys and girls smile!

Staff members prepare for the big party when bags are distributed -- Margaret Andreoni, Dorothy Hanlon, Marlene Cottom, Roberta Brown. And Rev. Hanlon gets a smile from a happy child.



PADC -- THE CLOUD GROWS BIGGER

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION -- "a little cloud like a man's hand" -- It arose in 1964 when the Government announced plans to renovate the area along Pennsylvania Avenue, including the site of the Central Union Mission. The cloud grew slowly. There were occasional mentionings in the newspapers -- slight rumblings in the distance. The work of the Mission went on.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors on October 3, 1973, noting some activity of PADC, record a recommendation by Mr. Crowell that the Mission establish contact with the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation so that it would be informed of developments as rapidly as possible. From then on the Minutes are interspersed with references to PADC:

July 28, 1974 - "We may have to vacate the present building in two years ... a joint meeting of the Relocation and Program Committees was scheduled ..."

Feb. 10, 1975 - "If Congress approves funds ... demolition of the building could start fifteen months later ..."

March 10, 1975 - "The elevator was still a problem ... the concern of either repairing or replacing the elevator was whether the cost could be recovered from PADC in the event we had to move."

May 2, 1975 - "Push for a decision as to whether PADC will permit the Mission to remain where it is ..."

April 5, 1976 - "The Chairman of the Relocation Committee reported that the PADC appeared to be dead for the present."

Sept. 13, 1976 - "A recent community meeting emphasized that the Central Union Mission could possibly be required to move within two years."

Jan. 10, 1977 - "PADC is active again and Mr. Camalier will keep abreast of the plans."

March 14, 1977 - "If Congress authorizes funds, the Mission could be forced to action within a short time."

May 15, 1977 - "The consensus is that the Mission will not be in immediate need of relocating."

SEEN AROUND THE MISSION



Mothers enjoy Wednesday meeting while tiny tots are cared for elsewhere.



The evening Gospel service - always the heart of the work.



Staff and others appreciated Lola Thorp's tasty dinners.



Rev. Hanlon was always ready to share God's Word.

Mrs. Hanlon and Mrs. Brown have devotions with guests in the Women's Shelter.



Charles Richardson is happiest when leading praises to the Lord with wife Winnie at the piano or singing solos -- John Bigbee (left) is another favorite soloist.

"The call to come up higher is the completion of a child of God's life here on earth and his entrance into that place that Jesus Christ has gone to prepare. How wonderful it must have been for Brother Tom to experience what the hymn-writer expressed in the following words:

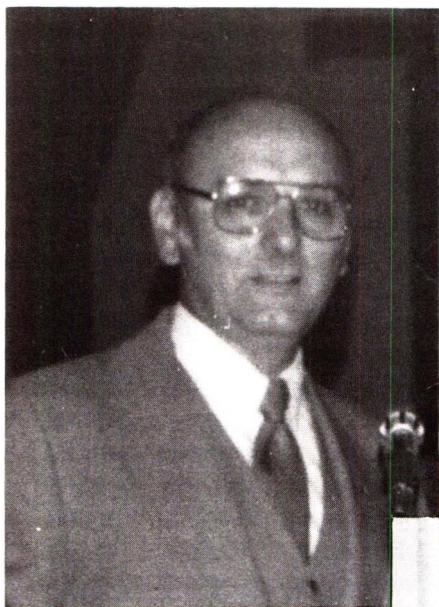
*'But think of stepping on shore
And finding it heaven,
Of touching a hand
And finding it God's,
Of breathing new air
And finding it celestial,
Of waking up in Glory
And finding it home.'*"

WELCOME BACK, REV. FRANCIS V. CRUMLEY

When Rev. Francis V. Crumley, retired Superintendent of the Central Union Mission, approached the Board with an offer to help in any way he could in that critical period; the Board gratefully asked him to return as Interim Superintendent. He agreed to come as soon as he could fulfill certain obligations in Florida. He assumed his duties August 1, 1981, and remained until September, 1982, giving the Mission the benefit of his support and experience during the crucial time preceding relocation.

A motion was passed, recorded in the Minutes of November 30, 1981:

"... changing the title of the chief executive officer of the Mission from Superintendent to Executive Director, effective December 1, 1981, and that the present Superintendent, Rev. Francis V. Crumley, be appointed the first Executive Director of the Central Union Mission."



DR. ROBERT R. RICH

Executive Director

1982 - Present



BETTE E. RICH

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free,
ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)*

Chapter Seven

MOVING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES

Dr. Robert R. Rich

1982 - Present

DR. RICH TAKES UP THE CHALLENGE

Again the Central Union Mission was challenged to find the man the Lord would have to administer His great work. Before his sudden home-going, Rev. Hanlon had informed the Board of Directors that he and Mrs. Hanlon would like to retire and had suggested that they look for a replacement. In response, the Personnel Committee asked Charles Richardson to attend the Annual Convention of the International Union of Gospel Missions at Glorieta, New Mexico, to look for prospects. Now, because of Rev. Hanlon's death, the search took on new urgency. Several rescue mission leaders were interviewed, but the Lord had other ideas. He led the Directors to the pastor of a church in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Dr. Robert R. Rich was saved while serving in the United States Army in West Germany, and immediately felt called to preach. He retired in 1964 in the rank of Major after twenty years' active duty, most of it as an intelligence agent and staff officer. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; and Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1965, and pastored churches in West Germany and Maryland. He was introduced to rescue mission work by his father-in-law, Rev. Leslie B. Crumley, and shared in his ministries in Philadelphia and Wilmington. Dr. Rich and his wife (Bette Elaine Crumley) have three sons and a daughter.

Dr. Rich took up his duties as Executive Director of Central Union Mission on January 11, 1982. The first and foremost task before him was the tremendous challenge of moving the Mission from its location of 92 years to the new facilities in an entirely different part of the city. Perhaps one aggravating factor of the challenge was foreshadowed by the fact that his installation service had to be postponed because of a snowstorm. (The announcement came over a local



CENTRAL UNION MISSION

1350 R Street, N.W.

1982

The Central Union Mission moved into this building at Fourteenth and R Streets, N.W. on December 6, 1982. It was completely renovated to suit the Mission's needs. The first floors of the two buildings on the right provided garage parking and quarters for the Washington City Bible Society (which soon moved to another location) and Dial-a-Teen.

The cross and sign, "COME UNTO ME," were moved from the old building, and continue to shine forth the Lord's invitation on Fourteenth Street.



*Rev. Francis V. Crumley
presents Dr. Robert R.
Rich, the new Executive
Director.*

radio station that Dr. Rich's "inspiration at Central Union Mission was cancelled." He was duly installed the following month, with inspiration intact, and then began the "waiting game".

Renovation of the new facilities was progressing with The Leapley Company as contractor and William Cochran as architect. The target date for occupancy was set for May first, but the contractor requested a thirty-day extension. In June some activities were begun at the 14th and R Streets building, but renovations continued, always with the promise that they would be complete "next month". The move was announced and postponed; dedication services were scheduled and rescheduled. The work went on at the old building, but with growing tension felt by all of the staff. The presence of Rev. Francis V. Crumley with his advice and assistance in so many ways was of inestimable value until he returned to Florida in September.

THE MISSION MOVES

At last, on December 6, 1982, the big move took place! In spite of careful planning, it was a real challenge to try to cram the contents of two seven-story buildings into one five-story building. Dr. Rich was heard to say often in those early days, "You can't walk in a straight line more than three feet around here without stepping in, on, over or around something." Everyone agreed with him.

While there was dormitory space to sleep more men, office and storage space was definitely curtailed. Adding to the confusion, additional construction work was necessary. Projects such as partitions, doors, wiring, the installation of lights, painting and plastering were done by Mission men to claim additional office and storage space and establish personnel control in the new building. The unperturbable attitude of Dr. Rich helped the staff to carry on their duties as order was

slowly achieved. Special mention should be made of the Mission's new Director of Men, Rev. Paul Thompson, who because of his expertise became the "project director" as the new facility was completed, and his assistants, Mr. George Bolden and Mr. Joseph Staalsen.

Before the move, the first Mothers' Meeting was held in the cluttered chapel of the new building with an attendance of 94 mothers and 119 tots on November 3, 1982. The following Saturday 125 boys and girls came for Capital Children for Christ, and twenty adults attended the Bible class. It was evident the move was not going to cut attendance at these meetings, and soon new mothers and children were coming in from the neighborhood.

The first regular Gospel service in the new building was held on Sunday night, December 12, with a group from Clinton Baptist Church participating. Many new men from the area were soon finding their way into the Mission in need of shelter and food -- and hearing the Gospel of Christ.



Dr. Rich and George Bolden check on progress as a former auto showroom committed to selling cars --

-- is transformed into a mission chapel dedicated to saving souls.





*The letters,
"CENTRAL
UNION
MISSION"
go up to
identify
the new
building.*

DEDICATION OF THE NEW FACILITIES

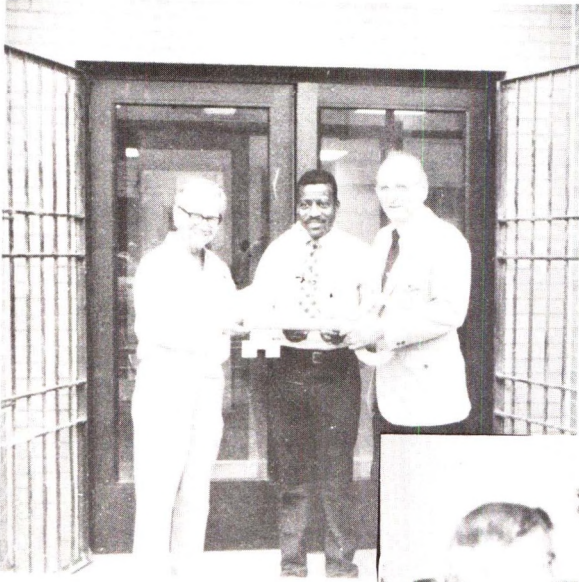
By March, the new facilities were ready for "company" and suitable ceremonies were planned by the Dedication and Open House Committee comprised of Floyd Robertson, Charles H. Burton, Franklin D.R. Gee, Ernest J. Higgins, Charles C. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Merritt L. Smith and John Bigbee, chairman.

A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was held on Saturday, March 12, 1983, with remarks and cutting of the ribbon by Junior F. Crowell, President of the Board of Directors, and response by Dr. Rich, followed by testimonies and music by "The Spiritual Doves" and "The Missionaires".

A more formal Service of Dedication was held on Sunday, March 13, with a dedicatory sermon by Rev. William Wooley, Executive Secretary of the International Union of Gospel Missions. Monica Ortiz, soprano, was guest soloist; Clea Hutchinson, organist; Steve Hiser, pianist; and Charles Richardson, song leader.

Refreshments were served after each service by Mrs. Merritt L. Smith, assisted by Mrs. Robert Rich and several Board members' wives. Conducted tours of the facilities were available throughout the day.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES



Charles Richardson, Chairman of the Relocation Committee, hands key to the new building to Dr. Rich. George Bolden smiles approval.



John Bigbee, Chairman of Dedication Committee, and Dr. Rich help President J.F. Crowell cut the ribbon.



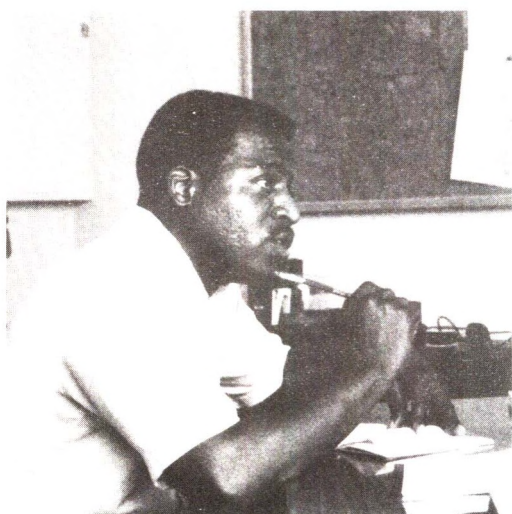
Refreshments were served in the new dining room: Board wives - Alice Allen, Erma Patterson, May Day Folk; staff members - Ruth Duet and Roberta Brown.

THE NEW FACILITIES

Those who took the tour rode the elevator to the fifth floor where they saw the Executive Director's office, the Conference Room, and sleeping quarters for men in the Mission's Spiritual Recovery Program. On the fourth floor they found the transient men's dormitory and baths. On the third floor was the Women's Shelter and an apartment for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Staalsen. Mrs. Staalsen was the Director of Women, and her husband a men's counselor. A nursery for the care of the Tiny Tots during Mothers' Meetings was also on the third floor. On the second floor were administrative offices and a staff kitchen and dining room where the Evening Auxiliary, Jean Bennett Guild and other groups would hold their dinner meetings. On the first floor were the lobby and reception desk, men's kitchen and dining room, chapel and prayer room. In the basement were a men's waiting room, men's and women's clothing rooms, a laundry, and electrical and mechanical facilities. Back on the first floor, they went through the garage to quarters for the Washington City Bible Society and Dial-a-Teen.

The guests were impressed with the neat, attractive appearance of everything (and the staff secretly wondered just what had become of all those boxes and more boxes, boards, tools, etc. etc. they had been stumbling over!)

TESTIMONY OF GEORGE BOLDEN



George Bolden

Sometimes a child of God can find himself in such a situation that he needs a place to stay. George Bolden came to the Mission at such a time. He received the help that he needed and stayed to give invaluable help as a member of the staff. He is now employed as the Assistant Director of Men.

"As a child my parents did not teach me 'Snow White' and 'Alice in Wonderland'. I am very

glad they did not because they were teaching me the Word of God. Proverbs 22:6 says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.'

"I have not departed from this training. I have learned as we come to God's Word each day, we must hear, listen, and obey what God is saying. Remember James 1:22? When you study the Word of God let James 1:22 become a part of your life, 'But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.'

"I thank God for Jesus and His wonderful teaching. Each day He is doing something in my life. The love that God has given me, I want this love to go out to all mankind."

- George Bolden

THE WOMEN'S SHELTER

"The streets of Washington, D.C. are full of women who are hurting and needing help of every kind. Since March, we have ministered to twenty-four women and two children.

"Our daily schedule in the Shelter included a period of Bible study, as well as household and cleaning chores. Counseling sessions were held with each girl regularly. Also attendance at evening chapel services was required three times a week. I tried to pray with each girl as she entered the Mission. Many came back again and again to ask for prayer. Sadly, some left without opening their hearts to the Lord. But others have shown a real desire to follow the Lord and to commit their lives to Him. Some have shown real gratitude to the Mission and to me personally for the help received. Truly, it is a privilege to minister to these needy ones."

Writing in the 99th Annual Report for 1983, Mrs. Genevieve Staalsen, Director of Women, reveals her deep concern for every woman who came to the Shelter.

The Women's Shelter in the new facility opened in March, 1983, but had to close temporarily the following July due to difficulties inherent in housing both a men's and women's shelter in the same building. The Board of Directors reaffirmed its commitment to operating a women's shelter, and voted unanimously to seek a suitable location within the Washington Metropolitan Area to re-open the shelter.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE NEW LOCATION

Some friends questioned the wisdom of moving the Mission into the Fourteenth and R Streets area. It certainly was not any person's choice location. Only after an exhaustive search, with the Lord somehow blocking every possible alternative, did the Board of Directors conclude that this was His will for the Central Union Mission. No one could deny that it was one of the most spiritually needy places in the city. The challenge was to get the spiritually destitute people on Fourteenth Street into the Mission where they would hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A comparison of statistics for the last year on Indiana Avenue and the first year on Fourteenth Street shows that more people were being reached in the new location, with the increase in the number of decisions for Christ being most significant.

TOTALS	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>
Meals -----	84,821	64,037
Lodgings -----	39,008	25,059
Meetings (all types) -----	988	815
Attendance (all meetings) -----	41,209	34,917
Decisions -----	707	294
Clothing Distributed (pieces) ----	30,425	20,970
Children's Christmas Bags -----	440	372

THE SPIRITUAL RECOVERY PROGRAM

As soon as the Mission was settled in its new location, Dr. Rich put into operation a project that was dear to his heart, the Spiritual Recovery Program.

Fully recognizing the priority of preaching the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and bringing men to a decision for Him, Dr. Rich was challenged to see these babes in Christ nourished and established in the faith and launched into a victorious, triumphant Christian life. This was the goal of the Spiritual Recovery Program.

The concept of the Spiritual Recovery Program was presented to the Board of Directors in business session, September 13, 1982, and was unanimously endorsed. Preparations began

immediately to put the program into effect. New staff personnel were employed, including Rev. Paul M. Thompson, as Director of Men; and the Mission staff and ministries were adjusted to accommodate the new program. The Spiritual Recovery Program was put into effect September 9, 1983, and since its inception has been a blessing to the men and women who have become involved in the Program, both staff and clients.

The scope of the Spiritual Recovery Program is based in the truth that Almighty God is able to save and return to a man or woman a sense of peace and personal worth. Once this is accomplished, the client can develop as one of the Lord's disciples and determine God's will for his or her life. A client enters the Spiritual Recovery Program of his own free will with the intention of staying for at least fifteen weeks of closely disciplined training, including Bible study, work therapy, and personal physical, emotional and spiritual counseling. The number in the Program is limited so that each person can be given individual assistance. At the heart of the Program is a series of Bible lessons devised by Dr. Rich, using a compilation of known Bible study materials and self-generated Scripture exercises, designed to lead a client to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ or to a renewed fellowship with the Lord through a growing understanding of basic Bible doctrine. It is hoped that by the time he receives his certificate for completing the course he will be ready to live a life of faithful discipleship, committed to Christ and a new direction in life.

When a client completes the fifteen-week basic Bible course he is given opportunity to engage in further training. The Discipleship Course is an additional fifteen-week Bible seminar for those who express a desire to go on to study the deeper truths of the Bible for themselves. Upon completion of the Discipleship Course the graduate is introduced to an ongoing process of self-study in the Scriptures to insure constant spiritual growth and encouragement.

Dr. Rich is in the process of re-establishing the Mission's Converts Club so that men and women who complete the Spiritual Recovery Program and depart the Mission can be followed up for encouragement and Christian fellowship.

TESTIMONY OF GERALD LEE ROBINSON

The following testimony is by Mr. Gerald Lee Robinson who is currently in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Central Union Mission.



Gerald Lee
Robinson

"I grew up in the church in New York City. My mother and I would go to church every Sunday, but we never really knew nor were taught the Gospel. We tried to live by the 'Golden Rule', but still my life was nothing but sorrow and despair. I knew there had to be a better way. I searched and tried everything to make my life come together, but everything I did was to no avail. I became a slave to sin and bad habits, including alcohol and drugs. That's the way it stayed for sixteen years. I married at the age of twenty, and three children and four years later separated from my wife.

"I came to Washington, D.C. in 1973 to work with my father. I got away from drugs, but became an alcoholic. I could not keep a job. I developed a terrible attitude toward everything. I began drifting and panhandling, and kept it up for eight years.

"Someone told me about Central Union Mission, and I came in off the street -- a homeless, hungry man. I attended the chapel hour and heard the word of God. I realized I was apart from God, and that was the reason my life was so distorted and corrupt. I remember hearing the words from Matthew 11:28, 'Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' That was the encouragement I needed.

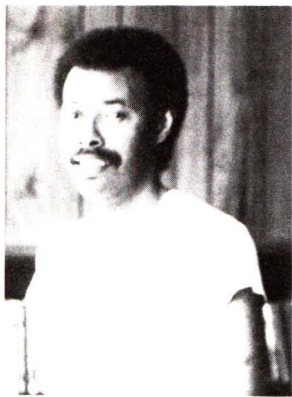
"One night during the chapel hour I heard the words from John 14:6, 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes unto the father but by me.' I wondered how I could put my trust in the Lord and get strength to overcome the hold sin had on me. Then I heard these words: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' (Phil. 4:13). Right then and there I received the Lord Jesus

Christ and gained the victory over alcohol. I was accepted into the Mission's Spiritual Recovery Program, began to attend Bible classes, and went on to the Discipleship course. I grew spiritually and my self-respect began to return. I visited my family, and they saw a difference in me. The awareness of God's help became a reality to me.

"Since Christ has come into my life I have had a blessed relationship with God and my fellowman. My first desire each day is to apply Proverbs 3:5 and 6 to my life, 'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths.' I thank God for letting me know the realization of His love and mercy, and for giving me the victory over drugs and alcohol. I am very grateful and proud to be a child of God." - Gerald Lee Robinson

TESTIMONY OF KEMPER HOFFLER

The following testimony is by Mr. Kemper Hoffler who is currently on the staff of Central Union Mission.



Kemper Hoffler

"I was born into a religious family, and as a child I was very active with my family in the church. At twelve years of age I was baptized and became a member of the church. As a teen-ager I dropped out and began living a life filled with sin and rebellion. Years later, my life fell completely apart; everything went wrong. Much of this I brought on myself, and other things seemed to happen in spite of anything that I did, regardless of whether it was right or wrong.

"Try as I might, I was not capable of putting my life back together. I realized I needed a power greater than I to put the pieces back together again. In each crisis I would call out to the Lord. I knew who Christ was, and I now know I was relying on how good I could feel about myself for my salvation. The message of

my real need of Christ came ever so slowly over a long period of time. Finally, I came to a point when I knew I was a lost man.

"I came to Central Union Mission and found a calm that lasted a short time. I attended chapel services seeking an answer to my turmoil. I was accepted into the Spiritual Recovery Program and began attending the Bible classes where I heard the statement, 'It is a fact that you can be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.' It was plain and simple, and the simplicity of it all was a revelation to me. I believed the Word of God in Romans 10:9 and 10, that, 'If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.' I prayed the sinner's prayer in Bible class one day during the week of study on salvation, and I was baptized a month later.

"I have hope for the future and sincerely believe that God has something wonderful in store for me. My language has changed; my thinking has changed; and I am working on my relationships with other people. I have become very concerned for the souls of lost men." - Kemper Hoffler

CONTENT OF THE BASIC BIBLE STUDY COURSE

- Session 1 - The Bible
- Session 2 - God
- Session 3 - Jesus Christ
- Session 4 - The Holy Spirit
- Session 5 - Sin
- Session 6 - Repentance
- Session 7 - Salvation
- Session 8 - New Birth
- Session 9 - Faith
- Session 10 - Prayer
- Session 11 - Abundant Life
- Session 12 - Judgment
- Session 13 - Rewards
- Session 14 - The Church
- Session 15 - How to Witness

CONTENTS OF THE DISCIPLESHIP SEMINAR

- Session 1 - The Priority of Discipleship
 - Introduction
 - Setting Objectives
 - Jesus and His Disciples
- Session 2 - The Process of Discipleship
 - Introduction
 - The Process Identified
 - Prayer in the Process
- Session 3 - The Disciple and Conversion
 - Introduction
 - The Meaning of Conversion
 - Characteristics of Conversion
- Session 4 - The Disciple's Personal Testimony
 - Introduction
 - Defining the Testimony
 - Developing the Testimony
- Session 5 - The Disciple's Task
 - Introduction
 - Soul-Winning
 - Bible Teaching
- Session 6 - Discipleship and Spiritual Growth
 - Introduction
 - Resources for Spiritual Growth
 - Evaluation of Spiritual Growth
- Session 7 - Applying Spiritual Growth
 - Introduction
 - The Beatitudes
 - Purity of Life
 - Suffering
- Session 8 - The Disciple's Doctrine
 - Introduction
 - A Statement of Faith
 - Comparing Religions
- Session 9 - Course Critique

Although confronted with such on-again-off-again reports, the Board had been active. Several possible sites had been examined. Special study groups had assessed the various programs of the Mission to determine what facilities would be required in a new location.

A Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Committee was eventually appointed including Wilbur Baughman, Floyd Robertson and John A. Patterson, Jr., with Merritt L. Smith as Chairman. On February 5, 1979, this Committee, along with President J.F. Crowell and Superintendent Thomas B. Hanlon, had an hour-long meeting with Mr. W. Anderson Barnes, Executive Director of PADC. Subsequently, Mr. Barnes and Jerry M. Smedley, Chief of Real Estate Operations, and a third member of the PADC staff toured the Mission buildings. They seemed favorably impressed with the extent of the activities of the Mission and the cleanliness and appearance of the buildings. They expressed their opinion, however, that the buildings did not qualify as historical buildings, nor would they fit in with the type of buildings proposed for the area. They also believed that the Mission could be relocated without damage to our activities. They suggested that knowledgeable professionals be engaged to guide the Mission through the difficult months ahead.

Special meetings, committee meetings, consultations, tours to inspect possible sites -- there seemed to be no end to the demands on the members of the Board during the next two years. President Crowell directed all with his usual calm purposefulness, and every member devoted himself unsparingly to the need. (It was rumored that one man's wife asked him why he didn't just rent a room and stay at the Mission, since he spent so much time there.) Special commendation is due the members of the Relocation Committee: Andrew W. Allen, Jr.; Alfred Rasch; Floyd Robertson; Franklin D.R. Gee; and Charles Richardson, Chairman. Superintendent Hanlon was deeply involved in all developments while maintaining the full program of activities of the Mission.

More than forty locations were considered. The possibility of merger with the Gospel Mission or some other Christian organization with similar ministries was explored. After much prayer and waiting upon the Lord's direction, every option seemed to close until on June 5, 1981, a contract was signed to purchase a vacant building at 14th and R Streets,

N.W. at a cost of \$650,000.00, subject to the contingencies of a feasibility study and the securing of an occupancy permit. Two small adjacent buildings on 14th Street were also purchased to provide garage space. The total cost of the three buildings and renovations amounted to approximately two-and-one-half million dollars. This was covered by remuneration for the old buildings from PADC.

REV. THOMAS B. HANLON CALLED HOME

On Sunday, June 7, 1981, Superintendent Hanlon suffered a heart attack, and on June 13 the Lord took him home. All of the Mission Board, staff and friends were shocked and saddened by their sudden loss.

The Board and staff cooperated in maintaining the ministries of the Mission during the emergency. President Crowell and Treasurer and Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Russell E. Dyke, were especially helpful. Floyd Robertson gave invaluable assistance by taking responsibility for the "Hour of Power" broadcast.

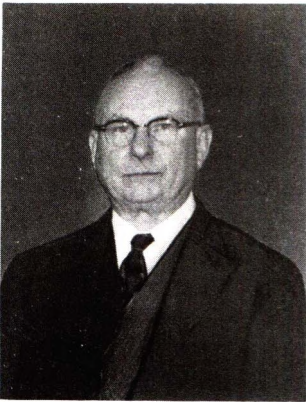
Rev. Francis V. Crumley wrote the following tribute to Rev. Hanlon in the Annual Report for 1981:

"Brother Tom, as we knew him, was proof that the work of the rescue mission is effectual and enduring. In his early teens he was introduced to the curse of alcoholic beverages that ultimately led him to leave home, employment and friends for the terrible experience of living on Skid Rows across our land.

"In the Chicago United Mission he heard the story of God's love and of the Saviour who died for his sins and rose again even as He had promised. He repented of his sins and turned to Jesus Christ for forgiveness and new life, and the Holy Spirit gave him victory over the old life and his sinful habits.

"God led Brother Tom to a lovely Christian lady who became his wife and helpmeet. Then God led him to direct the work of the Bible Rescue Mission in Chicago, and in January, 1974, the Hanlons came to the Central Union Mission. God blessed their being here, and the ministry of the Mission was expanded.

A VERY SPECIAL MINISTRY



Dr. Clarence F. Kohlmeier

In 1943 Dr. Clarence F. Kohlmeier made a gift of five hundred dollars as a first payment toward establishing a trust fund "for use in educating worthy Christian young men and women who are not financially able to undertake or complete their higher education." The fund was to be known as the "Fred L. and Susan Kohlmeier Educational Fund" as a memorial to his parents. He stated that funds could be dispensed either as gifts or as loans on the personal promissory notes of the beneficiaries, and that all repayments of gifts or loans should be returned into the fund for further use. Dr. Kohlmeier made additional contributions to the fund and left a considerable bequest in his will in 1974 to assure the continuance of its availability.

For years Dr. Clarence Kohlmeier and his brothers, Dr. Elmer and Dr. Irvin Kohlmeier, provided dental service to the Mission and Children's Home without charge. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church and active in the A.B. Pugh Bible Class. Dr. Kohlmeier had a warm place in his heart for Central Union Mission. He often attended the Gospel services, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1952. He seldom missed a Board meeting. After he retired and moved to Indiana, he frequently returned especially to attend.

TESTIMONY OF RONALD WEWERKA

One of those who benefited from the Kohlmeier Educational Fund is Ronald Wewerka, presently employed at Central Union Mission as Business Systems Administrator while continuing his studies at Capital Bible Seminary.

"Serving in a ministry such as Central Union Mission certainly has its challenges. One of the biggest is to properly present the Biblical witness to men who come to the Mission for assistance and counseling. My studies at the Capital Bible Seminary in Lanham, Maryland, provided a thorough and consistent view of Biblical subjects and

doctrines, and has given me a fuller understanding and appreciation for God's Word and its application to men's lives. The Central Union Mission's Kohlmeier Educational Fund provided tuition support that enabled me to attend the Seminary where I gained a greater capacity for ministry."

- Ronald Wewerka

THE FIRST WOMAN MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ruby Broom and Emily Amor, Past Presidents of the Evening Auxiliary, at the Camp Bennett 50th Anniversary Open House.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on March 14, 1983, the first woman elected a member of the Board of Directors of Central Union Mission was warmly welcomed by President Crowell. She was Miss Ruby C. Broom, an employee in the Personnel Department of the "Washington Post". Miss Broom is a graduate of George Washington University, and received a Teaching Certificate from Mid-

western University. Her election to the Board of Directors was based on her demonstrated dedication to the ministry of Central Union Mission as a member of the Evening Auxiliary. She served as President of the Auxiliary for two years and subsequently accepted the office of Treasurer of that group. Miss Broom currently serves as Secetrary of the Board of Directors.

**THOSE
WONDERFUL,
INDISPENSABLE
WOMEN!**



VIRGINIA SAUNDERS
President
Jean Bennett Guild



ELLA MILLER
President
Evening Auxiliary

THE EVENING AUXILIARY and JEAN BENNETT GUILD continue their marvelous, supportive work. Each holds a monthly dinner meeting with an interesting program and Christian fellowship. Besides contributing funds for special projects for the Mission and Camp Bennett, individual members give of their time to assist in various ways.



EVENING AUXILIARY OFFICERS, 1984-85: Virginia Nicholson, Treas.; Miriam Sanford, Corr. Secy.; Ella Miller, Pres.; Alice Allen, Vice Pres.; Emily Amor, Fin. Secy. (Past Pres.); Mabel Clark, Rec. Secy.

THE CORNERSTONE BOX

The razing of the former Mission buildings at 613 C Street and 624 Indiana Avenue, N.W., began on January 23, 1984. The cornerstone in the older section constructed in 1924 could not be retrieved. The cornerstone box from the John Bennett Memorial Addition built in 1941 was secured. It contained the following:

1. John S. Bennett's Bible, dated September, 1920.
2. "First Fifty Years of the Central Union Mission" copy signed by Major William H. Ramsey, undated, in memory of John S. Bennett.
3. List of Officers and Committees of the Evening Auxiliary of the Women's Guild of Central Union Mission, dated August 20, 1941, with remark that membership totals 1,144.
4. Constitution and By-Laws of the Women's Guild of Central Union Mission, undated, but remark made that the Guild was organized March, 1910.
5. A total of 41¢ -- one quarter, one dime, one nickel, and one penny.
6. Mr. Bennett's cross he wore on his watch fob.
7. Mr. Bennett's Kiwanis International pin.
8. List of Officers of the Women's Guild; membership as of August 20, 1941, listed as 115 ladies.
9. Fifty-Sixth Annual Report of the Central Union Mission, dated 1940.
10. Fifty-Third Annual Report of the Central Union Mission, dated 1937.
11. Newspaper clippings about laying of cornerstone from: "Evening Star" August 14, 1941; "Evening Star" August 19, 1941; "Times Herald" August 19, 1941; "Washington Post" August 16, 1941.

OUR 100th ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Directors anticipated the 100th Anniversary of the Central Union Mission with excitement and the hope that many friends would join in the celebration. The Anniversary Committee appointed to make preparations included Ruby Broom, O. Harold Folk, Franklin D.R. Gee, Floyd Robertson, John A. Patterson, Jr. and John Bigbee, Chairman. President Junior F. Crowell, and Executive Director, Dr. Robert R. Rich, were ex officio members. After much deliberation and planning, the Committee proposed four special events for the Centennial year.

Open House at the Mission

The first special event for the 100th Anniversary Year was Open House at the Mission on Sunday afternoon, January 29, 1984. A good number of friends were present for a program with Charles Richardson leading the congregational singing, and John Bigbee providing special music. The guest speaker was Dr. Jerry Moore, pastor of 19th Street Baptist Church and District of Columbia Councilman-at-Large. Refreshments were served by Board members' wives.

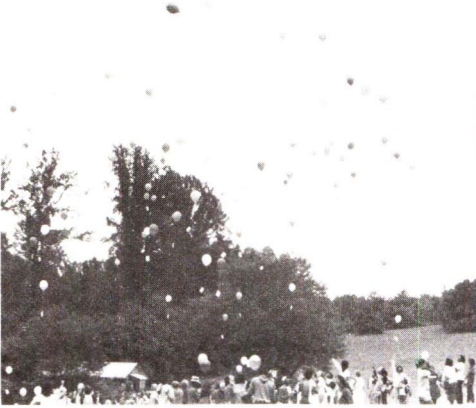
Jubilee Concert

The second centennial event was a Jubilee Concert featuring the Capital Baptist Chorale conducted by Sandra Skeens at the National City Christian Church on April 13, 1984. The audience was thrilled by the outstanding performance of sacred choral works by this group made up of choir members from approximately twenty churches of the metropolitan area.

Open House at Camp Bennett

Since this year marked the 50th Anniversary of Camp Bennett, a special all-day outing was planned. Unfortunately, rain kept some friends home, and the picnic lunch was served indoors. However, those who attended went away feeling it was a good day. The program included a Christian film in the

CAMP BENNETT 50th ANNIVERSARY



Cards sent into the air by balloons came back from as far away as Pennsylvania.



Campers present a program of songs and Scripture they have learned.

Among those present: Board members John A. Patterson, Jr. and Andrew Allen, Jr. with Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Merritt Smith, Mrs. Allen



A swing full of Dr. Wick's grandchildren and daughter, Susan Thompson.



Mr. Rainbow's tricks delighted young and those not so young!



Camp counselors display new American and Christian flags to be dedicated.

morning. After lunch "Mr. Rainbow", a professional clown with a TV program in Baltimore, delighted children and adults and closed his performance with a sincere presentation of the Gospel of Christ. A program of choruses and Scripture by the campers revealed the excellent and innovative training given by the Camp Directors, Howard and Carol Andreoni.

Closing the day's activities, each person was given a balloon to release into the air. To each balloon was attached a self-addressed card, informing the finder that it was celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Camp Bennett and offering a gift for the return of the card. After two weeks, some twenty cards had been returned, one from as far away as Pennsylvania.

100th Anniversary Banquet

At this writing, plans are underway for the climax of the 100th Anniversary Year -- the celebration banquet to be held November 16, 1984, at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. The program includes testimonies, special music, presentations, and a message by Gordon Loux, President of Prison Fellowship International. Several out-of-town guests who have had a part in the history of the Mission in the past have been invited. The Committee is sparing no effort to make this a memorable event.

A PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

HELP for the helpless ... HOPE for the hopeless

In a brochure* issued during our Centennial Year, Mr. Floyd Robertson, a member of the Board of Directors, presented this apt description of the underlying purpose and goal of the Central Union Mission. We quote it only in part:

"Not all who come to the Central Union Mission are hungry and homeless nor helpless and hopeless, but many are. Whatever their status or state, for years the doors of the Mission have been open and the welcome mat out for those in need. The basic philosophy has not changed since the Mission was founded by Latham A. Douglass in 1884.

(continued on page 138)

**This brochure is available from the Mission. Ask for extra copies for your Bible class or other friends.*

CENTRAL UNION MISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1984



JUNIOR F. CROWELL
President
1948



MERRITT L. SMITH
President Emeritus
1945



ANDREW W. ALLEN, JR.
Vice President
1967



T. WILLIAM BLUMENAUER, JR.
Treasurer
1982



RUBY C. BROOM
Secretary
1983



CHARLES H. BURTON
Counsel
1979

DURING THE CENTURY
103 MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HAVE GIVEN THEIR
TIME AND ABILITIES
TO DIRECT THE WORK
OF THE MISSION. FOR
THE COMPLETE LIST
SEE APPENDIX A.



CHARLES C. RICHARDSON
Assistant Secretary
1972



ALFRED P. RASCH
Assistant Treasurer
1972



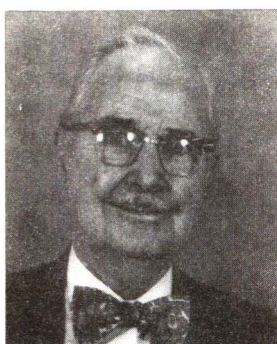
DR. WILBUR N. BAUGHMAN
1967



JOHN C. BIGBEE
1974



FRANKLIN D.R. GEE
1982



ERNEST J. HIGGINS
1979



JOHN A. PATTERSON, JR.
1963



FLOYD ROBERTSON
1977

"Over the years it has been known as 'The Mission of the Churches' and the Bible is the source of its philosophy. To help meet the physical, material and social needs of individuals has been its first order of business, but its highest priority has been the preaching of the Gospel according to the Scriptures to meet the spiritual needs.

"The Mission ministers daily to the needs of people who are seeking refuge and assistance for one reason or another because they cannot cope with the circumstances in which they find themselves. First, the hungry are fed, the homeless are housed and clothing provided if needed. All who stay overnight must attend the Gospel service.

"The philosophy of the Mission says that a man is a sinner not because of what he does but what he is. All the wrong things that people do are correctly called sins but these are only the symptoms of what is in a person's heart. The Lord Jesus said, 'For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts...' (Mark 7:21-22). There is only one sin that separates a person from God. All others may be forgiven, but not the sin of unbelief. 'He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already ...' (John 3:18).

"Symptoms of sin like alcoholism, drug abuse, gambling and immorality, can be debilitating and often totally paralyze a person's ability to function normally. The Mission is ready to offer symptomatic relief to the victims of such problems. Some symptoms may be arrested temporarily or even permanently. However, unless the root cause (the sin of unbelief) is replaced by faith in Jesus Christ the penalty for sin (which is eternal death) must eventually be paid notwithstanding how well the symptoms are controlled or concealed.

"When Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Son, thy sins are forgiven thee,' He simply affirmed that sin was the disease and palsy was the symptom. But when He said to the man, 'Take up thy bed and walk,' Jesus demonstrated His power over the cause of man's problems as well as the symptoms. He alone is the answer to all our needs.

"That is the philosophy by which the Central Union Mission has ministered to men, women and children the past one hundred years That is the eternal HOPE the Mission wants everyone to have. We offer HELP to those who are overwhelmed by the trials and tribulations of this present life, but not without the offer of HOPE through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- Floyd Robertson

AND FOR THE FUTURE

A wise person once observed that the value of a thing or an organization is in its future, not its past. As you have read this history of the first hundred years of the Central Union Mission, we trust that you have joined us in praising Almighty God for those stalwart Christian servants who gave unsparingly of themselves to offer HELP and HOPE to those in need; you have thanked Him for the souls that have been saved through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ and for the lives that have been transformed through the power of His Holy Spirit.

In Luke, chapter 19, the Lord Jesus told a parable of a certain nobleman who went into a far country. He left ten pounds with his ten servants with the command, "Occupy till I come." Upon his return the nobleman commended and rewarded those servants who had been faithful to the task committed to them.

And so to us our Lord has committed the sacred trust of this ministry. How long may it be His will for the doors of the Central Union Mission to remain open to those in need? How long may it be His will for the invitation to shine forth, "COME UNTO ME"? We cannot know. We ask you to pray that we and those who may follow may faithfully occupy -- till He comes -- for another hundred years -- for whatever time He may allow -- for the continued honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION STAFF 1984



DR. ROBERT R. RICH
Executive Director



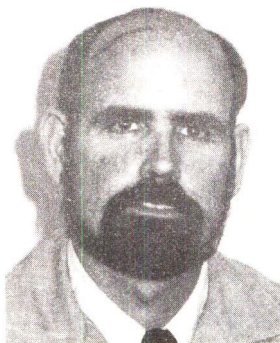
REV. PAUL M. THOMPSON
Director of Men



GEORGE BOLDEN
Assistant
Director of Men



DONALD HARRIS
Men's Supervisor



SCOTT VALENTINE
Men's Supervisor



RONALD WEWERKA
Business Systems
Administrator
Men's Supervisor

MISSION STAFF 1984



BETTE RICH



DORIS THOMPSON
Receptionist



GENEVIEVE STAALSEN
Director of Women



ROBERTA C. BROWN
Director of
Family Services



RUTH C. DUET
Financial Administrator



LILLIAN THORP
General Secretary

CAMP BENNETT STAFF



MARLENE COTTOM
Staff Assistant



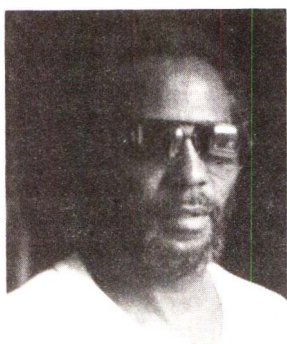
HOWARD AND CAROL ANDREONI
Directors



SUPPORT STAFF 1984



*JOSEPH STAALSEN
Men's Counselor*



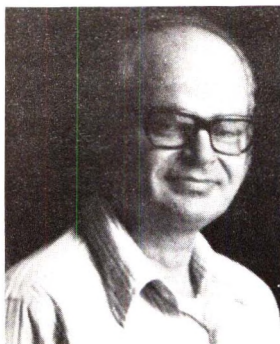
*RUSSELL GASKINS
Men's Supervisor*



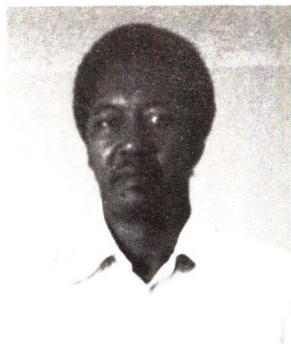
*JAMES GREEN
Staff Cook*



*KEMPER HOFFLER
Assistant Cook*



*JOHN LITTLE
Driver
Desk Clerk*



*NATHANIEL SIMON
First Cook*

Appendix A

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Service Terminated</i>
James H. Hitchcock Aug. 19, (?) 1884		Died Sept. 10, 1894
Latham A. Douglass Aug. 19, (?) 1884		Retired from Board early 1885
George W. Wheeler Aug. 19, (?) 1884		Withdrew in 1906
William Dubois Aug. 19, (?) 1884		Retired from Board June 1889
Nathaniel A. Robbins .. Aug. 19, (?) 1884		Resigned about Jan. 1897 (Reelected later)
A.L. Swartwout 1885		Resigned Spring of 1902 (Reelected in 1907)
W.C. Tyler 1885		Died about March 5, 1907
Edwin D. Bailey 1885		Resigned March 28, 1899
Percy S. Foster May, 1889		Term expired Oct. 20, 1890 (Reelected later)
O.B. Brown 1889		Died Nov. 29, 1911
F.C. Severance 1889		Resigned, probably June 1894
A.E. Miley 1889		Declined reelection Oct. 1889
George W. Havell Oct. 21, 1889		Resigned March 28, 2899
W.F. Paxson Oct. 20, 1890		Declined reelection Oct. 16, 1893
Percy S. Foster Oct. 16, 1893		Date not found
A.S. Pratt Nov. 1894		Resigned Sept. 1895
J.C. Pratt 1895		Died, Fall of 1913
Allen Wood Sept. 1895		Resigned Feb. 1901
Mark C. Pope July, 1897		Resigned 1899 (?)
R.B. Warder Oct. 1897		Resigned Aug. 1898
Charles J. Ladson 1898(?)		Resignation accepted Nov. 6, 1915
Silas Boyce 1899		Date not found
Nathaniel A. Robbins 1899 (Reelected)		Died Nov. 1913
Theodore A. Harding 1899		Resigned Summer of 1905
E.P. Seeds Oct. 1901		Resigned about Aug. 1902
Clayton E. Emig 1902(?)		June 27, (?) 1907
Henry D. Gordon 1902(?)		Date not found
William L. Speiden 1905(?)		Resigned Dec. 30, 1907
Owen P. Kellar 1906		Resignation accepted Jan. 14, 1908
J.S. McCartney Oct. 15, 1906		Date not found
J.G. Thompson May 1907		Died about May 1, 1909
A.L. Swartwout June 27, 1907 (Reelected)		Resignation accepted July 26, 1910
J. Scott Johnson Oct. 15, 1907		Resignation accepted Feb. 22, 1910
S.E. Morse Dec. 30, 1907		Resignation accepted Feb. 16, 2909
E.L. Parks Jan. 14, 1908		Date not found
Daniel C. Roper April 7, 1908		Date not found
Lewis E. Breuninger ... May 26, 1908		Died April 23, 1942
L.P. Hieston Feb. 23, 1909		Oct. 18, 1909
E.A. Stevens May 4, 1909		Resigned Sept. 1934
Homer Brown 1909		Date not found
W.D. Yingling Oct. 18, 1909		Died Oct. 11, 1913
William A. Hyde Feb. 22, 1910		Date not found
E.E. Richardson July 26, 1910		Expiration term Oct. 22, 1927
William H. Ramsey Sept. 6, 1910		Died Jan. 27, 1959
Alfred Wood 1910		Resignation accepted Oct. 3, 1911
Nicholas Vasant Oct. 3, 1911		Died about Nov. 1925
Charles J. Gates April 23, 1912		Resignation accepted April 15, 1913
Jesse M. Patterson June 11, 1912		Resignation accepted April 3, 1917
Jackson A. Winner June 25, 1912		Died Jan. 1, 1937
Austin M. Cooper March 11, 1913		Died July 22, 1952

Appendix A (continued)

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Elected	Service Terminated
Millard F. Thompson ...	Sept. 15, 1914	Resignation accepted May 1, 1923
Charles W. Warden	July 3, 1916	Expiration term, Oct. 24, 1931
Charles W. Ray	April 3, 1917	Expiration term, Oct. 15, 1923
James T. Lloyd	April 3, 1917	Resignation accepted Jan. 5, 1926
Eugene N. Sanctuary ...	Jan. 7, 1919	Resignation accepted Oct. 7, 1919
Charles P. Light	Jan. 7, 1919	Resigned Fall of 1928(?)
Charles J. Ladson	Fall 1919	Resignation accepted Jan. 3, 1928
(Reelected)		
James Trimble	Nov. 1, 1921	Died Aug. 6, 1939
Edward H. DeGroot, Jr..	June 6, 1922	Died March 26, 1963
Merritt O. Chance	June 5, 1923	Declined reelection Oct. 28, 1939
W.K. Cooper	Oct. 15, 1923	Resignation accepted May 13, 1930
S.W. Cockrell	Jan. 5, 1926	Expiration term, Oct. 21, 1933
Wilbur LaRoe	Oct. 4, 1927	December 1942
E.M. Willis	Dec. 6, 1927	Resignation accepted Nov. 5, 1929
Harry Hoskinson	Nov. 20, 1928	Declined reelection Nov. 26, 1940
E.B. Shaver	Oct. 26, 1929	Resignation accepted Oct. 6, 1931
A.L. Baldwin	March 4, 1930	Resigned Oct. 10, 1938
W.H. Baden	April 28, 1931	Resignation accepted June 7, 1932
William W. Everett	Oct. 6, 1931	Died March 15, 1949
Arthur G. Bishop	May 11, 1937	Died Dec. 23, 1948
Charles E. Resser	Oct. 28, 1939	Died Sept. 1943
Wilson Compton	Dec. 11, 1939	Resigned Feb. 19, 1940
William O. Tufts	Dec. 11, 1939	Died Sept. 1948
Lewis T. Breuninger ...	Oct. 12, 1942	Died Jan. 27, 1974
Dudley N. Carpenter ...	Oct. 12, 1942	Died March 25, 1955
D. Stewart Patterson ..	Dec. 14, 1942	Resigned Sept. 9, 1947
Raleigh G. Koiner	Oct. 29, 1945	Declined reelection Nov. 14, 1960
Merritt L. Smith	Oct. 29, 1945	Still serving
Junior F. Crowell	Sept. 14, 1948	Still serving
Page McK. Etchison	Sept. 14, 1948	Died June 2, 1952
George B. Fraser	May 12, 1952	Died Oct. 3, 1953
Clarence F. Kohlmeier .	May 12, 1952	Died March 28, 1974
Martin D. Schram	May 12, 1952	Died Jan. 22, 1963
Charles H. Cooke	March 14, 1955	Died Sept. 23, 1955
Millard H. Hess	March 12, 1956	Declined reelection Nov. 13, 1967
Ernest W. Greene	May 27, 1956	Died Nov. 9, 1967
Renah F. Camalier	Nov. 14, 1960	Died June 14, 1978
Edwin A. Johnson	Nov. 14, 1960	Died Spring of 1964
John A. Patterson, Jr. ...	May 12, 1963	Still serving
Allen M. Laster	May 10, 1964	Died April 9, 1974
Frank A. Frost	Nov. 8, 1965	Declined reelection Nov. 17, 1969
Andrew W. Allen, Jr.	Nov. 13, 1967	Still serving
Wilbur N. Baughman	Nov. 13, 1967	Still serving
Woodford T. Moseley ...	Jan. 19, 1970	Resigned Sept. 11, 1972
Alfred P. Rasch	Nov. 13, 1972	Still serving
Charles C. Richardson .	Nov. 13, 1972	Still serving
John C. Bigbee	Nov. 19, 1974	Still serving
Russell E. Dyke	Dec. 6, 1974	Resigned March 14, 1983
Floyd Robertson	Nov. 14, 1977	Still serving
Charles H. Burton	March 12, 1979	Still serving
Ernest J. Higgins	Nov. 6, 1979	Still serving
T.W. Blumenauer, Jr.	April 15, 1982	Still serving
Franklin D.R. Gee	April 15, 1982	Still serving
O. Harold Folk	June 23, 1982	Died July 26, 1984
Ruby C. Broom	March 14, 1983	Still serving

Appendix B

NAMES OF ALL SUPERINTENDENTS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Service Began</i>	<i>Service Terminated</i>
A.B. McAllister.....	Reported in Bulletin of Nov. 4, 1886	
Rev. H.H. Hinman.....	Reported in Bulletin of Nov. 4, 1886	
W.P. Colly.....	Reported in Bulletin of Nov. 4, 1886	
Michael F. McIntyre.....	Reported in Bulletins June and Nov. 1886	
John C. Moore.....	Aug. 3, 1886	
Peter B. Sweeny.....	Jan. 1887.....	June, 1887
John E.M. Gantt.....	June, 1887	
Peter B. Sweeny.....	Again a few months later....	March, 1889
William C. McMichael.....	March, 1889.....	March, 1899
A.H. Tyson.....	June, 1899.....	July 1903
Mrs. A.H. Tyson.....	Succeeded Mr. Tyson	
Rev. J.W. Steele.....	Feb. 16, 1904	
Rev. S.N. Vail.....	Early in 1906	
William E. Parrish.....	About June, 1906	
Rev. Richard R. Reidel.....	About April, 1907.....	Resigned Oct. 1, 1907
Mr. Yingling.....		May, 1908
Rev. Francis J. Lukens.....	June 11, 1909.....	Resigned Dec. 31, 1914
C.C. Smith.....	Jan. 1, 1915.....	May 31, 1915
John S. Bennett.....	June 1, 1915.....	Died Sept. 1, 1937
Mrs. John S. Bennett.....	Succeeded Mr. Bennett.....	Died Sept. 19, 1943
Rev. Herbert E. Eberhardt....	Oct. 2, 1944.....	Died April 24, 1962
Rev. Ernest A. Tippet.....	June 1, 1962.....	Retired Sept. 30, 1965
Rev. Francis V. Crumley.....	Oct. 1, 1965.....	Retired Jan. 1, 1974
Rev. Thomas B. Hanlon.....	Jan. 1, 1974.....	Died June 13, 1981

(Title Changed from Superintendent to Executive Director)

Rev. Francis V. Crumley.....	Aug. 1, 1981.....	Jan. 11, 1982
Dr. Robert R. Rich.....	Jan. 11, 1982.....	Present

(SUPERINTENDENTS' WIVES WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN THE MISSION)

Mrs. W.C. McMichael	Mrs. Richard R. Reidel	Mrs. Ernest A. Tippet
Mrs. A.H. Tyson	Mrs. Francis J. Lukens	Mrs. Francis V. Crumley
Mrs. J.W. Steele	Mrs. John S. Bennett	Mrs. Thomas B. Hanlon
Mrs. William E. Parrish	Mrs. Herbert E. Eberhardt	Mrs. Robert R. Rich

Appendix C

NAMES OF ALL PRESIDENTS

WOMEN'S GUILD

Mrs. Ida Close Ramsey

Mrs. Alma Thompson

Mrs. Gladys Cutright

Mrs. Olga Burke

Miss Ardelle Humphrey

EVENING AUXILIARY

Mrs. Annie E. Benner

Mrs. Lilas S. Jones

Miss Charlotte Darrow

Mrs. Louise Norris

Mrs. Mervin Lanham

Mrs. Emilia Davies

Miss Marjorie F. Webster

Mrs. Flora A. Mordhorst

Miss Carrie A. Williams

Miss Mildred E. Gillingham

Miss Ida McMillan

Miss E. Elizabeth Cornes

Miss Mary O. Terrell

Dr. Irmagene N. Holloway

Miss Effie T. Brodnax

Mrs. Mary C. Righter

Mrs. Dessie N. Hallett

Miss Ruby C. Broom

Miss Cora D. Croft

Miss Emily A. Amor

Miss Hazel N. Feagans

Miss Ella M. Miller

JEAN BENNETT GUILD

Mrs. Marion Allen Zysk

Miss Louise Crum

Miss Nony Jahnke

Mrs. Mabel Moore Sorrell

Mrs. Ethel Mitchell Taylor

Mrs. Elvira Schiffbauer Dunham

Miss Aileen Sundstrom

Miss Frances Hatfield

Miss Lillian Thorp

Miss Virginia Stolhanske

Miss Virginia Elliott

Mrs. Geraldine Smart Howard

Mrs. Ruth Purchase Duet

Miss Nellie Mabel Smith

Mrs. Mildred M. Guthrie

Mrs. Ruth G. Carpenter

Mrs. Genevieve Staalsen

Mrs. Naoma Thompson Huckaby

Mrs. Virginia F. Saunders

Appendix D

NAMES OF 100th ANNIVERSARY DONORS

FOUNDERS CLUB

(Gifts of \$100 or Over)

UNDESIGNATED GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur N. Baughman
Mr. and Mrs. John Bigbee
T. William Blumenauer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Art Brown
Carroll and Murl Cornelius
Lola G. Legore
Dorothy B. Marvil
Zelma Edna McIlvain
Operation Blessing
Ethel F. Reigelman
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Robertson
Virginia F. Saunders
Mr. and Mrs. Merritt L. Smith
Edith Wagonseller

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>In Honor of:</i>
Robbie and Louada Chisholm	J.F. Crowell, President
Friends	Bethany Christian Church
Alma B. Keyes	My Friends of Central Union Mission
Pastor F. Mervin Martin	Andrew W. Allen, Jr.
Donald Taft Nair	My Mother, Nancy B. Nair
Dr. and Mrs. Robert R. Rich	Our Parents
Rev. and Mrs. Paul M. Thompson	Our Parents
Mrs. Howard E. Tompkins	Members of Susie's Kitchen Band of Evening Auxiliary
Vaughn-Faith Class	Mr. and Mrs. John A. Patterson, Jr.
Miss Carrie A. Williams	Miss Helen M. Boss

FOUNDERS CLUB

(Continued)

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

Name:

In Memory of:

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew W. Allen, Jr.	Their Parents
Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Crowell	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Bishop
Anna E. Dougherty	George M. and Jennie M. Dougherty
Gertrude F. Davis	Carson Davis
Mildred Edgerton	Nellie Smith
Virginia Elliott	Mrs. Jean Bennett
Mrs. Herbert Eberhardt	Herbert E. Eberhardt
Miss Nettie Golladay	Mr. and Mrs. William H. Ramsey
Mildred M. Guthrie	Ben C. Guthrie
Mr. and Mrs. Eston Johnson	Clifford H. Jope
Margaret Ramsey Ketcham	Charles H. Ketcham, Jr.
Margaret Ramsey Ketcham	William H. and Ida Close Ramsey
Mrs. Carlton M. Long	Sharon Elizabeth Dove
Elizabeth W. Majors	Barbara Lee Williamson
Dora McGrath	Son, Fred McGrath
Grace E. McKendrie	My Parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. McKendrie
Mr. and Mrs. Erwin B. Nase	Mrs. Stella Polson
L.B. Orebaugh	J. Carl Orebaugh
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Patterson, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. John A. Patterson, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richardson	Their Parents
Mr. and Mrs. Don Schoen	Rev. Tom Hanlon
Lewis and Florence L. Shollenberger	Katherin Del Grosso
Mrs. Sisk	Roger F. Sisk
Catharine H. Talbott	James A. Talbott
F. Gerald Toye	My Brother, Lloyd Toye
K.G. Williams	Carl S. and Emilie C. Williams

DIRECTORS GROUP

(Gifts of \$50 to \$99)

UNDESIGNATED GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

Mr. and Mrs. David A. Dryer
M. Louise Fenby
Eva Geraldine Howard
Bruce H. Joffe Associates
Mrs. Gladys Lane
The Mutual Insurance Agency, Inc.
Roger W. Powell
William R. and Miriam E. Sanford

HONORARY GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>In Honor of:</i>
Rev. and Mrs. Francis V. Crumley	Merritt L. Smith
Mrs. Herbert Eberhardt	Katherine Clayton
Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Receveur	Charles and Winifred Richardson
Miss G. Ruth Wright	Mrs. Dessie M. Hallett

DIRECTORS GROUP

(Continued)

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

Name:

In Memory of:

Dr. Nelson M. Blake

Miss Clara Blystone

Mabel I. Clark

Clora J. Crider

Ruth C. Duet

Ruth M. Fisher

A Friend

Madge C. Griffin

Mrs. Faith Jenkins

Rev. William P. Blake

Florence Marshall Stellwagen

Loved Ones

Albert L. Crider

Clarence A. Duet

Sharon Elizabeth Dove

Nellie Mabel Smith

Loved Ones

My Parents, Rev. and Mrs. M.

Ray Japhet

Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Kaiser

Madaline S. Laster

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Staalsen

Mrs. Hortense A. Tippet, David

G. and Douglas F. Tippet

Elizabeth H. Walker

Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Wright

Dr. Clarence Cranford

Allen M. Laster

Rev. Thomas Hanlon

Ernest A. Tippet

Miss Annie M. Walker

Mrs. Denton M. Baldwin

MINISTERS CIRCLE
(Gifts of \$25 to \$49)

UNDESIGNATED GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

Jean M. Chisholm
Evelyn D. Cornick
Emily E. Jack
Clara B. Jeffery
William G. McHenry
Dr. and Mrs. Louis A. Miller
Flora Mordhorst
Virginia Nicholson
Dorothy L. Wooten

HONORARY GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>In Honor of:</i>
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Bartell	Lola E. Thorp
Mr. and Mrs. Tom W. Brown	Our Parents
Mabel W. Clark	Volena Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Combs	Miss Clara Blystone
Ken and Shirley Deal	C. Gordon Clews
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Gross	Warner E. Paulson
Frederick J. Haas	Elizabeth McM. Hass
The Heritage Class of Ryland Epworth U.M. Church	The Soul-Winning Men of Epworth Methodist Church
Denise A. Kilfoil	My Father, Paul A. Turgeon, Sr.
A Mission Friend	D. Stewart Patterson
Richardson Bible Class	Charles C. Richardson
Lillian Thorp	Lola E. Thorp
Marion A. Zysk	Mabel Allen

MINISTERS CIRCLE

(Continued)

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A PAGE OF THIS HISTORY WAS CONTRIBUTED BY:

<i>Name:</i>	<i>In Memory of:</i>
Olive R. Aldridge	My Parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Ramsey
Emily A. Amor	Rev. Robert W. Olewiler
Mrs. Elmer L. Castrodale	Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bennett
Margaret Dorman	Clarence A. Duet
Harry M. Douty	Esther M. Douty
Grace F. Drone	My Mother, Mrs. Florence Drone
Family	William "Ham" Earp
Mrs. Lena L. Flinn	Rev. W. Gerald Flinn
A Friend	Dr. Eldon Koch
Allen H. Gardner	Theobelle S. Gardner
Isabel Geller	Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bennett
Dorothy K. Hanlon	Thomas B. Hanlon
Mr. and Mrs. Alden B. Imus, Jr.	Julia Bon Durant
Gladys D. Lake	Louis Golson and Charles Lake
Mr. and Mrs. John Lide	Herbert Eberhardt and Tom Hanlon
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A Mission Friend	Renah F. Camalier
A Mission Friend	Dudley N. Carpenter
A Mission Friend	Austin M. Cooper
A Mission Friend	Edward H. DeGroot, Jr.
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A Mission Friend	Clarence F. Kohlmeier
A Mission Friend	Raleigh G. Koiner
A Mission Friend	Martin D. Schram
Lillian and Paul Nagle	Rev. Robert W. Olewiler
Potomac Grange No. 1	Anna Breckenridge
Mrs. Harrison T. Randolph	Rev. Harrison T. Randolph
Mary Righter	Arthur Righter
Geraldine Sherman	Rev. Thomas B. Hanlon
Ralph G. Shure	Mr. and Mrs. R. Deane Shure
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Smith	Donald W. Lorenz
Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Tenley	Their Parents
Katharine Wilfley	Rev. Earle Wilfley (her father)

