THE GI GOSPEL HOUR IS BORN

It was on Saturday evening 6 May, 1945, that the GI Gospel Hour had its first meeting in the mortuary of Antonio Quieque on Rizel Avenue in Manila. After a time of singing hymns, choruses and the giving of testimonies, Chaplain George S. Hixson gave the evening message on the subject: "Harden Not Your Heart." Seven decisions for Christ were made when the invitation was given.

The first GI Gospel Hour to be held in Japan was on 15 September 1945 at the Sagami-hara Arsenal near Fuchinobe, approximately 20 miles outside Yokohama. However, it was short-lived as the troops in that area soon moved to Tokyo.

On 7 October 1945, the Yokohama GI Gospel Hour held its first meeting in the Yokohama Kaigan Church, the oldest Protestant church in Japan. The church became known as the Yokohama Base Chapel. Likewise, on 21 October 1945, the Christian Service Center was officially dedicated in the basement of the Kaigan Church under the auspices of the Yokohama GI Gospel Hour.

It was on Saturday evening, 24 November 1945 that the GI Gospel Hour had its first meeting in Tokyo proper. On the opening night, amid the scaffolding erected for the repair of the downtown Ginza Methodist Church suffered from the bombing, about 200 GIs with a sprinkling of Japanese civilians, sang hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

By 1947 there were 15 GI Gospel Hour organizations in Japan. A few of the groups in Japan and Korea were renamed "Youth for Christ."

Wide and influential are the ministries which have grown out of the
GIGH (GI GOSPEL HOUR), especially the (FECC) Far Eastern Gospel Crusade which now has over one hundred missionaries in Japan, the Philippines and other Pacific areas.

The United Evangelical Action points out in its issue of September 15, 1946 the program of activities carried on by Christian GIs in the Tokyo-Yokohama area:

Hundreds of Christian GIs are practicing their Christianity in the Tokyo-Yokohama area by conducting Sunday schools, making hospital visits, teaching English classes, holding medical clinics, and doing relief work among the Japanese.

During the past eight months, it is estimated, the group has contributed over 250,000 yen to needy Japanese pastors, churches, American missionaries who were in Japan all during the war, orphanages and Bible seminaries.

At least one dozen of the GIs are seriously thinking of returning to Japan as foreign missionaries. Christian GIs in Tokyo alone are operating four different medical clinics in the slums and repatriation centers in the city with the volunteer help of Japanese doctors and nurses, using medical supplies sent by individuals and churches in America. On Sunday mornings a small group visits five different Japanese veterans hospitals, visiting the different wards and holding one large religious service in each hospital.

Another group conducts five different Sunday schools every Sunday with a total enrollment of over 500 Japanese children.

On Saturday nights the group sponsors the popular GI Gospel Hour, patterned somewhat after the mammoth, city-wide, Saturday Night Youth for Christ Rallies in America, at the Ginza Methodist Church. The church is jammed-pack with GIs, civilians and a sprinkling of Japanese nationals.
every Saturday night who come to hear the brass ensemble, choir, three-minute messages from GIs, and a regular message by a chaplain who is "on the ball" spiritually. For the late-comers there is only standing room. Practically every major denomination is represented in the group. The policy of the Christian GIs is to stress Christ as the personal Savior instead of denominationalism, to assist the local pastors in rebuilding their churches and to relinquish leadership as soon as Christian young people are trained to take over the work.

THEY ADOPTED A PREACHER

In 1967 and 1968, while I was serving as Staff Chaplain for the 106th General Hospital (USA), the nurses, doctors and dietitians became interested in the Yokohama Christian School for the Blind. They made Christmas packages of fruit, nuts and candy for all the children.

Later, Hiroshi Aihara, Public Relations man for the school, brought the children to the hospital to sing and play for the patients. It was a mutually rewarding experience and built lasting friendships.

One young Japanese man who felt called into the Christian ministry was adopted by the 106th. He was married, had two children, and so the hospital staff promised to provide minimum support for the family so the young man could give himself to seminary study. The Japanese man entered Seinan Gakuin University Theological Department in Fukuoka and became an outstanding student. He graduated with honors from the seminary and was called as pastor of one of the most promising churches in Japan.

--Chaplain (COL) Alpha A. Farrow

HELP A VIETNAMESE CHURCH

Marine Chaplain Earl Eugene Keele writes of his work in Vietnam from January 1968 through January 1969:

Our chapel congregation at Marine Aircraft Group Eleven, 1st Marine
Aircraft Wing, Danang, Vietnam, assisted the Tin Lanh Evangelical Church by supplying English teachers for classes; also scrap lumber to enable the church and the school to cook their food. Moreover, the scrap lumber aided their construction needs.

In addition to the above assistance, our chapel congregation made regular contributions of $100.00 to $150.00 per month.

On two occasions groups from the Vietnamese church attended our chapel. In return our chapel congregation was invited to the Vietnamese church for their Christmas program. I preached the Christmas sermon.

TWO IMPORTANT RETREATS

Chaplain Vaughn H. Tollett was retreat master at two important retreats held in Korea in 1959. He writes:

Dr. Alfred Carpenter on his last visit with me at Turney Air Force Base said: These two retreats meant so much to the retreatees and our foreign missionaries that from that time on retreats were set up on a permanent basis.

We used our missionaries who were in Korea as our guest speakers. They preached the Word of God and these two retreats helped to keep the faith of our military personnel alive and glowing.

Some of the foreign missionaries were Abernathy, Jones and Marler. Between 50 and 75 military personnel were in attendance at each retreat.

BUILDING A CHURCH ON OKINAWA

Chaplain Edmund F. Savage, Jr., USAF, tells of his work in building a church on Okinawa.

I served on Okinawa from June 1952 through June 1953. The project of our Protestant chapels were to build a church building for the Christians at Ishikawa. This building was completed and I attended the dedication service.
I also worked with a native Okinawan Christian named Ohoma. He was ordained a Baptist minister by Air Force Chaplain Chester McGlelland. I went with him to several villages and spoke. He served as my interpreter.

OPERATION EDUCATION

Chaplain William Neale Williams, USAF, led in the construction of a Youth Hostel in Ubon, Thailand.

The Warin Hostel was already full to capacity; so the Council desired to open a second Hostel. The establishment of a new Youth Hostel called for $3,000.00. This would provide for 25 young children from rural villages. Here they were given a Christian atmosphere and opportunity for further education. Fourth grade would have been the extent of their education in most cases had this not been provided.

Some have since gone on to Bible college and will likely be Christian leaders. The $3,000.00 was raised on base for this project as well as physical labor and help encouraged by many GIs in other ways. The couple who are house parents are retired school teachers and help with special tutoring for the children.

Also here I had the privilege of baptizing a young Lieutenant who helped in this work. He was baptized in the Moon River at Ubon.

SPONSOR FOR EDUCATION

Chaplain Cecil R. Threadgill, U. S. Marine Corps, writes of his experience in sponsoring a Vietnamese girl who wanted to come to the United States and study to become a doctor and then go back to Vietnam and help her people:

While serving with Marine Aircraft Group 11 in Da Nang, through Christian and Missionary Alliance Missionary Leroy Josephson, I met a very dedicated Christian girl, Miss Ai Lan Thi Dead, who desired to become a medical doctor
and thereby serve God and her people. My family and I sponsored and financed her trip to America. In February 1967 at the age of 16, she arrived in Texas where she lived with my wife and daughters until she was graduated from high school. With the help of the Calvary Baptist Church, Pilot Point, Texas, 76258, and some concerned individuals, we have her in medical school at last.

She was graduated from Texas Woman's University in May 1970 with honors. Purdue University then gave her a teaching assistantship to work on a Masters Degree in biology. Except for two courses, she completed that work in one year. When she was accepted by the University of Hawaii Medical School, Purdue agreed for her to take the other two courses there to be transferred back to Purdue at which time her Masters Degree will be awarded.

Ai Lan is presently (1 Dec. 1971) in her first semester of medical school at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. She still hopes to return to South Vietnam to serve God and her needy people when her medical study is completed. We feel that were are engaged in a real missionary endeavor with Miss Doan.

NIGHT CLUB CONVERTS

At one time a swingin' night club, now a Christian service center! The aim: To fill the spiritual and moral needs of 12,000 young marines in the area of Camp Hansen Marine Base (Kadena Air Base, Okinawa).

To find the place the picking was slim. The most suitable spot was an area occupied by a night club building -- Club Ammy! For land and construction the cost ran up to $17,000.00.

Donations of money were generous; and by November 1970 the Camp Hansen Service Center was dedicated. Many men who had previously sought entertainment at bars and night clubs now became regular participants at the
Center. At the Christian center they found the joy and wonder of Christian fellowship. They tuned out drugs and tuned on Christ. They joined in the recreational activities: ping pong; volleyball; chess; checkers and the like.

Many men participated in the Bible studies on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. There is a study room where books are available for those inclined toward study. The Reverend and Mrs. Ray Kalbach are directors of the center and they have worked closely together in producing the best for the men who come to the center.

Chaplain Gary E. Penton has been an important member of the Advisory Board to Camp Hansen. Moreover, the God and Country Award and program for Scouts is regularly a part of his ministry.

STARTING CHURCHES IN ICELAND AND SAN DIEGO

Chaplain Harry W. Holland, from 1962 to 1964, was a charter member of a Southern Baptist Church in Iceland which was pastored by navy enlisted man, Wallace Rice. Wally and his wife, Lois, started the church. He retired on 1 January, 1972 and began work as a full-time evangelist.

In 1956, I helped start the First Spanish Southern Baptist Church of San Diego, in the home of deacon Leopolde Longoria. I preached for them until they called their first Pastor. In 1965, I helped them again until they called a pastor.

NEW CHURCHES IN KANSAS AND NEVADA

Chaplain William M. McFraw, USAF, makes a brief statement about new churches founded in Kansas and Nevada.

"My wife and I were charter members of a church established in Junction City, Kansas in 1954. At the time I was a line officer stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. We were privileged to work and worship with one of the most
dedicated congregations we've ever seen.

"In 1965 we united with the North Las Vegas Baptist Church at North Las Vegas, Nevada. Most of the members were from the U. S. Air Force, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. This, too, was a memorable experience for us."

MISSION PROJECT OF 63RD SIGNAL BATTALION

LTC ELMER H. GRAHAM, Commander. Chaplain Delbert G. Payne. Two missions:
   One orphanage was with 28 children living in residence. Sanctuary and one school.
   One trade school with 18 orphaned boys enrolled. One sewing class with 21 girls enrolled; 23 orphaned children living in residence. One school and the church sanctuary.

Motto: "We must not forget that these children could be our children dependent upon someone else for their needs."

(Scripture: Mark 10: 13-16. TEV.)

FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR INDIANS

Chaplain Richard A. Headley, a comparatively new chaplain in the U. S. Air Force, writes:

As a young chaplain, I have not had too much experience in missionary work projects; but have worked with the local children ministers in meeting the religious and physical needs of the local Indians in Michigan. We recently distributed over a ton-and-a-half of winter clothing and over seven tons of food.

MISSIONS IN ALASKA

Chaplain William M. Stricklin, in the Air Force for a little over six years, writes:
During my remote tour in Alaska, 1969-1970, I spend the months traveling out the Aleutian Chain. At Cold Bay, Alaska, there was a small Quonset hut chapel maintained by a Christian group. However, they had not had a worship service in two years, just a sometimes Sunday school. A little persuasion resulted in a group of men from the radar site going with me when I was there on Sundays and we doubled the group in number, resulting in a respectable size worship service. I arranged my schedule to be there on Sundays as much as possible. On Christmas Eve of 1969 at the communion service, the worshipers presented me with a set of bookends which I have on my desk as a memento of a small missionary effort.

During this same tour, Southern Baptist folk were in the process of building a chapel at King Salmon, Alaska. For several months I preached to the folk who would combine with the site group and then we would go to a community building to hold evening services. After the church was built and Missionary Don Rollins moved on the field, our men helped build the building from the excavating to the roof. It is the only church in town. It is also interesting to note that Chaplain John Wagener, my Roman Catholic traveling partner for a year, drove many nails into the roof and helped in other ways also. He is a great man, a genuine Christian.

CHURCHES BEING DISMANTLED AND REBUILT

Chaplain Ralph Medlock, in the service just over 3 years, reports on his ministry in Vietnam:

My work in the chaplaincy up to this point has been in the area of work with young men. The Basic Training Brigade at Fort Dix was my first assignment. There I was able to influence a few young men for Christ and a few more for the Christian ministry. I worked on the Drug Team at
Dix and helped to establish a Group I type of drug education and treatment program using AA principles in dealing with young addicts.

In Vietnam I work as an advisory chaplain to the Vietnamese 22 ARUN DIV. My responsibility is two-fold: 1. To provide for the preaching ministry and care of souls for all MACV U. S. Army personnel in Binh Dink Province. 2. To advise my ARUN, Protestant-Catholic and Buddhists counterparts in their mission to their congregations both military and civilian. This latter has been a great opportunity to participate in Foreign Missions directly rather than indirectly. My contact with Vietnamese Christians has helped me appreciate the position of a minority Christian group attempting to evangelize and influence its own culture in the midst of a war of survival.

Because of the phase down of U. S. Forces many items such as organs, pews, altars and funds have become available to local national and military pastors. I have collected and distributed seven organs and many other objects of worship as well as funds to my two Christian counterparts and five local pastors. We have dismantled and rebuilt a military chapel for dependents. Also, I have worked with the Reverend Bob Comfort the Southern Baptist Convention missionary to assist his ministry in Qui Nhon, Vietnam. This work I have enjoyed greatly.

PREGCHED HIS FIRST SERMON

Chaplain Jacob A. S. Fisher writes: In 1959 along with a Navy Doctor and a Navy line officer we helped to organize the Southern Baptist Military Fellowship that eventually led to the placement of a full-time missionary on the Island of Guam. I preached the first sermon at our first service. I baptized our first convert into the Agana Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, my home church.
There is a Jacob Fisher WMU Circle in the Ingleside Baptist Church that has been a real support to me in my ministry. I think possibly this is the only circle supporting a military chaplain.

STORY OF PARK (PAK) BUM SOUL

Lloyd Chaplain Walter Phillips reports from Korea (1965-1967). Here we go:

While on tour in Korea, December 1965 to January 1967, I became acquainted with a Korean boy by the name of Park (PAK) Bum Sool, who was one of twelve Korean Boy Scouts on our military compound. He stood above the other eleven boys in potential—at least that was my opinion.

Mrs. Phillips and I decided to adopt him. Upon inquiry from the Holt Adoption Agency in Seoul, Korea, I found that the cut-off age for adoptions—if the child was coming to the United States—was fourteen. I talked with Pak’s family and found that Bum Sool had become fourteen the month before. So the adoption was out of the question. He had been out of school two years and two months. His father had disappeared from their home in Pusan three years before and Pak’s mother, his three brothers and sister came by bus all the way up to the DMZ area to live. Pak had become a member of the Korean Boy Scout Troop and had been on American compounds for two years.

In 1966, with the help of the local pastor, I put Pak back into school, though the school year was already two months past. He completed the seventh grade in a small rural school near our military base.

In January, 1967, just prior to my departure to the USA, I moved Bum Sool to a better school in the city of Kum Chon. I paid his room and board and school tuition. He moved gradually to the top of his class and graduated from Middle School (Ninth Grade) as top student.

In Korea one has to take a written examination to get into high school.
Cut of 378 students, Bum Sool was one of 178 to pass the examination.

After I departed Korea, I wrote to Pastor Kim who was pastor of the Baptist church in Munsan-ni, to have Bum Sool come to his home for a week and teach him the plan of salvation and doctrines and beliefs of the Baptist faith. Most of the protestant churches in Korea are Presbyterian. At this time—during school summer vacation—Pastor Kim led Bum Sool to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and baptized him into the membership of the church. Later Pak felt the Lord’s call to enter the ministry.

For the past two years, his last two years of high school, Pak was military leader of his school. In order to be selected as military leader in a Korean high school (junior ROTC), one must have a grade level average of 90 or above.

Our plans were to send Pak Bum Sool to our Korean Baptist Seminary in Taejon in February of 1972. However, the law in Korea requires all male persons to spend three years in the military. So Pak took the written examination—one of 17 from his high school—and the physical endurance examination for entrance into Korean Military Academy (Army). He was one of two to pass and be accepted into the Academy. Here he will get an equivalent to a college degree. When he has completed the Academy and fulfilled his military commitment, he will go to the seminary at Taejon.

Needless to say, after more than six years of supporting Pak Bum Sool in school, financially and with food, clothing, quarters and the like, I am elated and happy for his achievements and that I have had a small part in helping him get a start in life which will enable him to be a great witness for the Lord and his country wherever the Lord sends him.
As a result of my tour in Korea, my wife and I did adopt two Korean-Caucasian children. We have a 16-year-old son, Nathan Lloyd Phillips, and a 6-year-old daughter, Rebecca Ann Philipps. Nathan is in the 11th grade and is on the high-school honor roll. Rebecca is in her first grade of schooling here at Fort Benning, Georgia.

One-Way Coffee House

Chaplain Jack Elliott Brown, Jr., located now in Europe (1972), First Brigade, 8th Infantry Division, has worked with others in Mainz setting up a coffee house which has been very successful. Brown reports:

In November, 1971, members of the chapel congregation and four young civilians began a Christian coffee house next door in an abandoned fire station. This is a real excitement to the whole area, and a number of soldiers and older teenagers, as well as young married couples, are committing their lives to Christ through the coffee house ministry. It is called the One-Way Coffee House and is distinctively Christian. It is an extension of the chapel ministry. This is my first experience with a Christian coffee house, and what a wonderful ministry this is proving to be. I am very excited about this.

A Brief on the One-Way Coffee House

It is an extension of the Mainz Area Chapel and is an interdenominational and international house. Goals are:

1. To provide a warm and friendly Christian atmosphere for any and all persons who may decide to drop by.

2. To provide a place where inquirers can find out more about the Christian faith and can be assisted in their search for real meaning in life.

3. To provide both basic and ongoing instruction in the Christian faith.

4. To provide wholesome entertainment, i.e., films, music, singing, etc., on a regular basis, and

5. To provide all of the above services free of charge, for they are offered in the Master's name.
WORLDWIDE MINISTRY

Personal testimony as given by Chaplain (LTC) Merle F. Pedigo.

I was ordained 18 August 1940 at First Baptist Church, Cookeville, Tennessee. Graduated from Southern Seminary with Th.M. Degree in 1944. Became pastor of the Riverside Church, Nashville, Tennessee. The church was divided over their former pastor. We began work by visiting, conducting Vacation Bible School, preaching and teaching. Through the years we helped heal the breach. The church grew to 340 members; we bought adjacent building lots for $2,000.00. We built a lovely 500-seat auditorium.

Three of us Southern Baptists became chaplains and came on active duty at approximately the same month: Chaplain (LTC) Ray Riddle; Chaplain (MAJ) Kenneth Nettles and I. Pastor-Chaplain at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, from 4 July 1953 to September 1956.


My next ministry was at Robins Air Force Base from 1 June 1960 to September 1964. I conducted services in the base chapel. Also I led a teacher-training program of biblical studies which I called "A Bird's Eye View of the Bible."

From September 1964 to September 1967 I had a beautiful tour at Mildenhall, England. We gave support to a Southern Baptist group that had initiated a mission work near RAF Mildenhall. We also led numerous retreats to Berchtesgaden.

In July 1967 I went to 33 Air Division (ACC) at Fort Lee, Virginia. Here I visited radar sites, fighter-interceptor, and missile units up and down the east coast.
My next ministry was at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, July 1969 to 27 May 1971. I became involved in the Wichita Falls Council on alcoholism and conducted a training session for supervisors at Sheppard on how to deal with alcoholism and alcohol abuse problems. This was primarily a ministry with students and we used the coffee-house approach.

Our next assignment was in Ubon, Thailand, 1 June 1971 to 1 June 1972 and there we completed a project of building an outdoor concrete basketball court for a Christian Youth Hostel. The court will afford an excellent recreational area for some 25 children attending Ubon schools and residing at the hostel.

On Easter Sunday, 1972, our men at Ubon, Thailand, gave over $900.00 to build a Youth Hostel at Songrangthap, Thailand.

I now have returned to Sheppard Air Force Base, where I am serving as Chief of our Health Care Sciences Branch of our chaplain ministry.

FOUNDING AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHURCH IN BRAZIL

Chaplain Rodney Cheshire Wurst reports the founding of an English language church in Brasilia. A Presbyterian missionary, the Reverend David Wayne Smith and I founded the first interdenominational, international, interracial English language church in the capital city of Brazil—Brasilia. Services were first held in the bar of the Brasilia Palace Hotel where they had an electronic organ.

The nucleus was formed by USAF personnel stationed there on temporary duty. Later, U.S. and British Embassy personnel, Peace Corps members, USAID and missionaries joined. Also U.S. business people and local nationals who understood the English language joined.

From 1966-1978 I would be on temporary duty there for 3-6 weeks during
which time the Reverend Smith and I served as co-pastors. The church today has its own meeting place and is known officially as The Community Church of Brasilia. The Reverend Smith is now in the United States, but the church has its own pastor.

PEOPLE WALKED FOR MILES TO HEAR THE GOSPEL

Chaplain Winston P. Fox reports on an evangelism emphasis among GIs in Korea in 1962-1963:

While I was stationed at Osan, Korea, in 1962-1963, I assisted some Baptist laymen in helping to erect the So-Jo-Ni Baptist Church in the village of So-Jo-Ni. The Reverend Kim Kisu was the pastor and the building was finished in time for the New Life Evangelism emphasis that year.

The Reverend Jim Ponder (then a Texas pastor, and now Secretary of Evangelism in Florida) came to preach.

People walked for miles on dirt roads from surrounding villages, and many of them heard for the first time the story of God’s redeeming love in Jesus Christ. What a joy it was for the GIs to provide a place for these Koreans to hear and believe the gospel of our Lord.

Lay leaders in this project were: Sergeant Henry Greene of North Carolina; LTC Lee Booker from Alabama; and COL Jim Boaz from Florida.

HELPED REBUILD A LEPER COLONY

Lawrence Beauforth Graham, a chaplain for 13 years in the Army, APO, New York 09035, reports:

1. While serving in Key West, Florida, was pastor of a mission church at Big Coppitt Key, a mission of the First Baptist Church, Key West.

2. During the Vietnam tour sponsored a leprosy colony. Helped to rebuild the colony to achieve sanitation, medical help and the raising of living standards.
THE RETREAT ENDS

LIFE magazine, August 14, 1950 in Korea show pictures of troops set up in dry bed of Kum River tributary. "They fight; they retreat; and they bury their dead." Chaplain John C. Burkhalter leads a memorial service. He is with the 51st Signal Battalion. He stands before his congregation in a faded fatigue uniform, feet braced, chest thrown out, jaw thrust forward. Everything about his field chapel is plain. His sermons are plain, too. For example he says: "This world is just a little dressing room for the big auditorium of God."

He is from the West Flagler Baptist Church in Miami, Florida. He is decorated with a bronze star, a silver star, a purple heart; and has 3 Presidential(163,99),(851,930) citations. 18 years ago he gave up a career as a professional boxer and was ordained a minister in the Baptist church. In a letter dated June 19, 1972, he writes: "I believe that I am the only chaplain in the entire armed forces who was a former professional fighter." Also he says he was the only Baptist chaplain in the D-day invasion.

Burkhalter went over to France on D-day with the "Fighting First" division. He became known as "the praying chaplain." "I had been praying through the night as we approached the French coast but now I began praying more earnestly than ever. Danger was everywhere. Death was not far off. I knew that God alone is the maker and preserver of life, who loves to hear and answer prayer. We finally landed and our assault craft was miraculously spared, for we landed with no shells hitting our boats...."

At the conclusion of his letter, Burkhalter passes on one of the heroic anecdotes which concerned a youthful colonel who had led his regiment onto the beach in the early hours of the morning.

This blue-eyed soldier stood on the beach where thousands of men were pinned down by enemy fire, and in a quiet drawl he said: "Gentlemen, we are being killed out here on the beaches; let's move inland and be killed there."
BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP IN FRANCE

Chaplain Jefferson D. Norman, III, shares with us some of the marvelous experiences he has had with Baptists in France.

My family and I arrived in Dreux Air Force Base, France, in January 1963. I was to replace another Southern Baptist chaplain, Lewie Miller. He told me of a struggling Protestant congregation in the nearby city of Dreux. We made it a point to make visits to the pastor, who was an invalid, to take food baskets, clothing and to receive designated offerings for this congregation of French Protestants, during the three years of my ministry there.

Also during those three years (1963-1966) we supported the ministry of a Rumanian Baptist pastor serving refugees in Paris, France. This pastor, Jeremie Hodoroaba, became a dear friend to me and to our congregation at Dreux Airbase. He spoke at our chapel often. We gave financial support to his radio ministry and his ministry to furnish Bibles to people behind the Iron Curtain. We also contributed clothing for the refugees to whom Jeremie ministered.

We also learned of a Protestant Children's Home in Paris. Pastor Bouchard was the director. Some 100 boys were in this home—a large, old chateau in East Paris. Our PWCC took the home as a project and received both designated offerings, clothing and food for this work. We had the choir from this children's home (Home d'Enfant de Bon Secour, rue Pierre Semard) come to the chapel to present concerts of sacred music, and we would take them to the NCO club for American style dinners. I still correspond with Pastor Bouchard.

There was an English-speaking Baptist Church in Evreux, France (35 miles from Dreux) made up of U. S. Air Force families. Frequently our people would fellowship with this congregation. Our chapel choir presented a concert there. I baptized several Air Force dependents there. The
pastor and I would meet for lunch and fellowship together. I spoke at their brotherhood meeting.

There was a large chateau near Dreux that was the home of over 100 refugees (many of them elderly) who came from East European countries and Russia. Our chapel people would visit the home presenting musical programs, taking food and clothing and gifts (especially at Christmas time).

Dr. David Barnes, director of the European Bible Institute, Lamorlaye, France, would bring his students and faculty members to our base to present special programs. How our people appreciated their "Christmas in Europe," programs each December. Our people in turn would visit the school (primarily PWOC'ers) and contribute in small ways to the school. Again, I still correspond with Dr. Barnes.

There were also times that our enthusiastic, generous Protestants would lend support to nearby Catholic orphanages. Food and clothing were received more than once for children in the orphanage in Dreux City. Also we arranged a concert to be presented at a large orphanage having over 600 boys (sponsored by the order of priests known as Fathers of the Holy Spirit). The men and women of the chapel took our high school band from the base, and the chorus, along with refreshments, for this program and the boys of the home turned out in mass to listen readily and to visit with these concerned American adults and youth.

Now I want to move to the tour I had in northeast Thailand (October 1969-October 1970). Here again I had the privilege of serving with a group of Protestant men who were ready and eager to put their time and talents to work in Christian missions. We gave gifts of money and materials to leprosy hospitals; the local Protestant church; schools; and the like.
TO OKINAWA ORPHANS CHAPLAINS

BECOME PART-TIME PAPA-SAN

The war years have produced many orphans in the Far East. And on Okinawa, the trend runs pretty much the same as throughout Asia's war-torn countries. Orphanages have been built in several villages on this island.

During the war, chaplains have managed to work with missionaries once or twice a month. That was about all the time they could spare away from the front lines and the troops in the rear echelons.

With the advent of the post-war years, service chaplains have come to devote more and more time in working "hand-in-hand with missionaries in nearby villages and orphanages."

"Missionary work is an important part of our over-all program in the Far East," asserts Chaplain (LTC) Richard G. G. Graham, 313th Air Division. "It's all fine and well to provide homes for those unfortunate orphans," he continued, "but a sense of parental affection and love has to be in evidence if we are to brighten the lives of parent-less children."

Stemming from the same motivation, the chaplain sections at the two wings in the 313th sponsor a well-rounded missionary program, placing particular emphasis on the stout support of orphanages on Okinawa.

Headed by Wing (MAJ) Marlin B. Morris, Kadena annually contributes well over $3,000.00 for the general welfare of children at these orphanages. Besides this amount, the chaplain section each year sponsors a number of students at seminaries in Japan.

"We work hand-in-hand with the missionaries in the surrounding villages, says Chaplain (MAJ) George H. Marrs of Naha.

Various church organizations at Naha and Kadena also visit the local
orphanages at regular intervals. Last Christmas, for example, Naha sponsored a mammoth party for approximately 1,500 orphans. And if they're anything like Chaplain Morris and Chaplain (MAJ) Nathaniel H. Brittain, the idea of playing "part-time papa-san" to children at the orphanages becomes the stepping-stone to adoption and setting up a permanent home for parentless tots.

Ask Chaplain Morris about his adopted little girl and he'll insist she's the finest in the world.

LETTER ABOUT JESUS

My name is Craig Joseph. I am a Christian, a Jesus freak, a part of the Jesus revolution.... Without Christ my life had been worth very little. Ever since I was a small child, I have been dissatisfied with what I was doing.... At the age of 14, I had my first run-in with the law. I had become involved in a burglary. We were caught, but for some reason we were not persecuted or arrested....

At the age of 15, I had my first experience with marijuana. It was a whole new experience for me and I began to worship it. It was the perfect way to escape all my problems (or so I thought)....I experienced LSD, Mescaline, Methadrine, and many other uppers and downers that I didn't know the names of....I soon tired of the scene in my hometown and took off for San Francisco. At the age of 16, I became interested in Satanism....

My friends and I organized a cover of sorts. Through this cover we combined drugs with the ceremonies and rites that our false idol, the satan Lucifer taught us. Through all these different things, there was something vital (God) missing.

Soon my parents had me arrested for incorrigible behavior and possession of marijuana. I was only locked up for a week. The charges against me were
dropped for no reason. This is the way my life continued through my graduation from high school.

Three months after I graduated, I enlisted in the Army for lack of motivation to do anything else....I tripped on LSD most of the way through AIT. Then I came to Wurzburg, Germany. It started here the same way, only the name of the drug is different....

Then something happened. A Coffee House started at our kasern....It was a shelter and a place to gather for those who had found themselves in Jesus Christ. For some reason this house of God attracted me like a magnet. After several visits and deep discussions, I began to look at myself and my life in a different light.

I began to wonder if I could really have the peace and joy that I saw in these new friends of mine....Soon through these tools of Jesus, I made the big step. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. It is the best thing that has happened to me. My new life is completely different and superior to the empty life I had before.

Jesus filled that void I had always felt. He took away all desire to get stoned or to hate. I am high on the love of our Jesus 24 hours a day. I go to sleep and he is with me. I wake up and he is with me....

What is needed are more contemporary houses of God where his children can show others the way. My biggest desire for the future, is to help spread the word. This is what I live for, to help with the Lord's work here on earth. For without Jesus I am nothing.

---A letter condensed from a longer one written by a convert and put in the hands of Chaplain Jerry D. Autry....

HELP FOR 12 KOREAN ORPHANAGES WITH OVER 1,000 CHILDREN

Chaplain Marion S. Reynolds, Jr., USAF, reports basewide assistance
efforts to sponsor 12 Korean orphanages, numbering over 1,000 children in their care.

While in Korea I also had a close relationships with Presbyterian Medical Center missionaries located at Chon-ju. During February, 1971, I helped organize and conduct a radio-marathon on Kunsan Air Base which raised over $4,500.00 to provide ear and heart surgery needed by orphans and performed by Presbyterian Medical Center.

CALLED FIRST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Chaplain Alexander J. Turner reports on his brief achievements in the chaplaincy:

Developed the largest and most effective Sunday school program in the military service at Grand Heights Chapel, Tokyo, Japan, in 1950 with over 1100 in attendance.

Called first civilian religious education directory in the chaplaincy.

Led to the use of the first course of instruction at seminary and graduate level for prospective chaplains. This course now being taught in 19 seminaries in the United States.

Originated the One-Day Religious Retreat Program which is now being conducted throughout the military service with outstanding results.

Appointed as workshop director for the Fourth U. S. Army in the field of counseling to plan and conduct workshops in marriage and family counseling throughout the army area.

Asked many times to speak on radio and TV on "The Role of the Chaplaincy in Military Service."

BAPTISTS IN THE RHINE VALLEY

Chaplain Frank A. Rice, USAF, in the summer and fall 1964 worked with
and counseled Baptist laymen eager to organize a Baptist church. "I worked with and counseled laymen stationed at Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, who were interested in organizing a Southern Baptist Church in the area. A fellowship group of Baptist people had been meeting in homes, and I made the facilities of our chapel available to the group. After several months, the decision of the group was to organize into a church. In November 1964, I served as moderator of the meeting at which the Thine Valley Baptist Church was organized."

HUNGER FOR THE BIBLE

Chaplain Lewie H. Miller, Jr., for over 20 years a chaplain in the Air Force, has developed a program on the Bible entitled: "Bible Displays and Lectures, Inc." His headquarters: Box 2535, Olympic Valley, California 95730.

Chaplain Miller believes that one of the greatest needs people have around the world is to get acquainted with the Bible--Word of God.

Back in Austria in 1952, the Chaplain began a ministry of the distribution of portions of the Bible in a unique way -- in the form of sticks of chewing gum.

Moreover, with the aid of the American Bible Society, he gave away to DPs 100 nicely bound volumes of the Bible in German. Miller utilized every opportunity that came to him --or that he made -- to spread the Word of God abroad--in Vienna, in Paris, in the Holy Land and last but not least in Southeast Asia and Saigon.

Chaplain Miller speaks of his outstanding contact of the Saigon period with Southern Baptist missionary Jim Humphries. He always moved at top speed and cooperated with us in "our very busy Base program of outreach and ministry to the men at Tan Son Nhut airbase."
The chaplain points out that two events stand out as opportunities to minister in the last seven years of his chaplaincy. One was the increase of New Testaments distributed in 1966 at Travis Air Force Base—50,000 in 12 months. The other was the opportunity to provide for the first time for a group of Montagnard tribesmen a portion of the Gospels in their language.

THE CHURCH IN YOUR HOUSE

Chaplain Curtis Ward Brannan tells of having the privilege of beginning a mission in his home along with Doyle and Mrs. Purifey. The mission later became the First Baptist Church of Cavite City, Republic of the Philippines (1955-1956).

Later with the help of missionary Ted O. Badger from Manila, we rented and renovated a building. The Bible Study group then became a basis for beginning a mission point. I was on active duty as an enlisted man stationed at the Navy Communications Station, Sangley Point.

MISAWA BAPTIST MISSION, MISAWA, JAPAN

Chaplain Clyde C. Wilton, new pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas lists some accomplishments in Japan, as follows:

Helped establish the Misawa Baptist Mission, Misawa, Japan.

Participated in preaching tour in 1963 led by Junichi Ishekawa.

Sponsored Hiroshi Suzuki who is presently a student at Golden Gate Seminary, Mills Valley, California.

NEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES

Chaplain George E. Roberts, Jr., USAR, reports:

Our Army personnel at Fort Riley, Kansas, led in establishing the First Southern Baptist Church of Junction City, Kansas, in 1954. I became
a member of this new congregation and upon separation from service was called as their first pastor.

Air Force personnel were instrumental in beginning Southern Baptist work in Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska. About the same time, military men helped begin work in Olathe, Kansas.

GREAT DEBT TO DEACONS

Chaplain James R. Taylor, USAF, in the military 15 years, pays this tribute to laymen:

I would just like to make the statement that my overseas ministry in the chaplaincy has been greatly strengthened by those Baptist deacons, laymen, and their families who have seen fit to sacrifice their own desires to become missionaries to the military. My ministry has been made much more effective by their help and encouragement. One of the greatest missionary fields in the world is the military.

THE NEW ONES ARE COMING ON

James Roscoe Wilson has been in the chaplaincy about four years. How did he become a chaplain? "My relationship with Jack Roberts at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. Jack is a Navy chaplain. He opened my eyes to the need and the opportunity for service.

When will Wilson retire? 1999!

Chaplain Carl E. Bilderback, USAF, speaks of being new in the chaplaincy (three years) but he feels that God is leading him.

Located now at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas, he has preached in many of the churches in the area. He has spoken several times on "The Southern Baptist Chaplain: A Home Missionary."

"I believe the greatest outreach has been a weekly radio program which
goes out over one of the most popular radio stations in Wichita. I’ve been
the host of an interview type, 30-minute program called "Religion in Question"
for two-and-a-half years now. Through it I have interviewed leading religious
personalities and movements in this area and have found it a tremendous means
of letting the civilian population know what the chaplaincy is doing as well
as what is happening in the civilian community.

"I have been alerted that I have orders coming which will take me to
Vietnam in March of 1972."

THE HOT LINE

Hospital Chaplain Martin A. Schlueter at Memorial Hospital Medical Center,
Long Beach, California, reports: 1967-1970. Worked with and assisted in
direction of suicide prevention service -- Hot line: Memorial Hospital
Center, Long Beach, California.

MONEY FOR HOSPITAL - FOODSTUFFS FOR MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

Chaplain Angus Oneal Youngblood, after 20 years in the chaplaincy, USAF,
reflects on missionary activities:

1. One little chapel congregation at Taipei Air Station in Taiwan in 1964
raised $1,600.00 on one Sunday to equip an operating room for the Crippled
Children’s Hospital in Mid-Taiwan.

2. We also provided 20,000 pounds of clothing and non-perishable
foodstuffs for the mountain people (aboriginees) of the scattered mountain
villages of the island. These were from our own resources and from chapel
groups which we contacted in the States.

3. From 1956-1959 the congregation at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska,
gave significant offerings of money, food, clothing and medicine to Alaska
mission activities.
I CAME -- I SAW -- WE BUILT

Chaplain Robert S. McCarty tells the story in brief of the building of the Zama Chapel Center, Japan. He says:

I recall three outstanding spiritual experiences in my life: My conversion, a trip to the Holy Lands, and the building of Zama Chapel Center, Zama, Japan.

According to my orders 24 November 1952, I expected to go to Korea. But three of the 42 on orders were diverted to Japan. I had never heard of Zama, nor could I find it on the map. Nonetheless, I was assigned a jeep with a Japanese driver and we set off -- bag and baggage -- from Cape Drake to Camp Zama.

And when we got there we were met at the gate by fifty angry, rowdy Japanese pickets. Suddenly we were allowed to enter the compound. But the next morning the adjutant was surprised to see me for I was not expected.

Zama was at one time the West Point of Japan and the mission of the post was to support AFFE Headquarters (the little pentagon). Zama Chapel Center was to be the third building in the Far East complex so it had a very high priority.

The post engineer took me to the building site and I witnessed a scene of unorganized chaos of wire, lumber, cement, trusses, steel cables, etc. I asked myself: How in the world are we going to build a $99,000.00 Chapel Center from this dismal array? My fears were not ungrounded for we were hampered by many board feet of green lumber, a language barrier, inferior materials, lack of safety precautions, and an occasional earth tremor.

This kept me near the site day and night since I had to be consulted on the religious motifs and architecture. I had to check on the ecclesiastical appointments, curtains, drapes, candles, miscellaneous furniture, pews and the like. There were to be religious education rooms for about
three to four hundred, six telephone circuits, offices for two chaplains with assistants.

So we began to build. Many wanted the chapel to be completed by Easter; but this was impossible. Finally, the probable date was set for May 24, 1953. Dedication day dawned beautiful and bright. The Japanese florist placed beautiful flowers in all parts of the Chapel Center. Highlights of the triumphant occasion was the presentation of the six-pound key to the post chaplain. Certainly the blessings of the Almighty were present among the happy group as the day's activities came to a victorious close....

Again, by way of reflection, what about the past, the present and future of the majestic edifice which has been seen at a distance by thousands in the Far East since its dedication?

I feel the following is quite true: The Chapel Center has served as a church home for those who have served there; it has provided help and assurance in their religious faith.

It has served well as a place of worship and work for all those who would take advantage of its facilities.

It has been an inspiration to persons who have found a few minutes to see the stately building.

My son after making a hurried trip to the Chapel Center one dreary Sunday afternoon in 1970, wrote me: "Dad, it was beautiful. I'm glad I took time to see all of it."

Another surprise: orders for Korea in November 1953—one year from the time I crossed the Japanese picket line. I spent the last evening in Zama Chapel reflecting on how the Lord richly blessed our personnel in giving us this beautiful building. As I walked about the chapel I loved, it seemed
to say to me:

O look up at how stately spire
   Cased in grandeur ever green-turfed sod,
A sanctuary of peace and quietness
   The blessed accolade of God.

CALL TO REGULAR NAVY

What led me into the regular Navy chaplaincy? So asks Gene Bishop Andress. And he answers:

An interview with then CDR J. W. Kelly at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, in 1954. God had been speaking to me for some time about becoming a reserve chaplain as I was pastoring a church (while attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) that had many servicemen (AF) and their families. I didn't understand them and wanted to be able to minister better to them. The Air Force was "closed" and about that time Chaplain Kelly came to SWBTS preached and led interviews. I got a glimpse of a great ministry and felt warmed to enter it. After two years of active duty (with USMC), I applied for regular Navy (while sitting on a rock in Okinawa) and was accepted. It has been a continuously wonderful ministry.