

**FOURSQUARE
MISSIONS EDUCATION
FALL/WINTER 1977
TRI-MESTER**

PANAMA



FOURSQUARE MISSIONS EDUCATION

FALL/WINTER 1976 – PANAMA

"Foremost of all missionary needs is the ministry of faithful intercessory prayer."

Missions Education Packets provide information about Foursquare missionaries, the country where they serve, and the type of ministry with which they are engaged to reach people for Jesus Christ.

These materials are sent automatically to each Foursquare church, free of charge. They are prepared through co-operation with the Foreign Missions Department and the Department of Youth and Christian Education.

The Missions Education Packets are sent on a tri-mester basis. This fall/winter packet provides materials for the months of September through December and features the country of **Panama**.

The scheduling of materials has been adopted in an effort to give current information and inspiration for teaching missions to early childhood, children, youth and adults through the local church. It can augment missions education for:

Sunday school	Family night services
Children's church	Children's crusades
Youth group meetings	Weekday clubs
VBS	Devotional times
Special meetings for all ages	Home

CONTENTS

The following materials are available this tri-mester to assist you in the missions education program.

1. **Missions Education Manual**—provides information and plans for teaching early childhood, children, youth, and adults.
2. **Comparative Chart**—to record the monthly giving and giving to date. One of these charts may be used for each class or department.
3. **Missions Education Calendars**—one for each month is provided. One of these calendars may be used for each class or department. It can be posted on the class or department missions bulletin board along with other items of interest relating to missions.

USING THE CALENDARS

The Missions Education Calendars can be used in various ways—according to your need! Specific suggestions are given within each age-group section of the manual.

The purpose of the calendar is three-fold:

- (1) To aid in **planning** for missions education, projects and giving.
- (2) To provide **learning activities** for each of the age-groups.
- (3) To serve as a **reminder** of the country, the missionary and his work.

Planning—Use the calendar to plan projects and events; missions education (what/who is in charge/meetings/dates, etc.); missionary guest schedule; showing missions films; goals for giving and prayer.

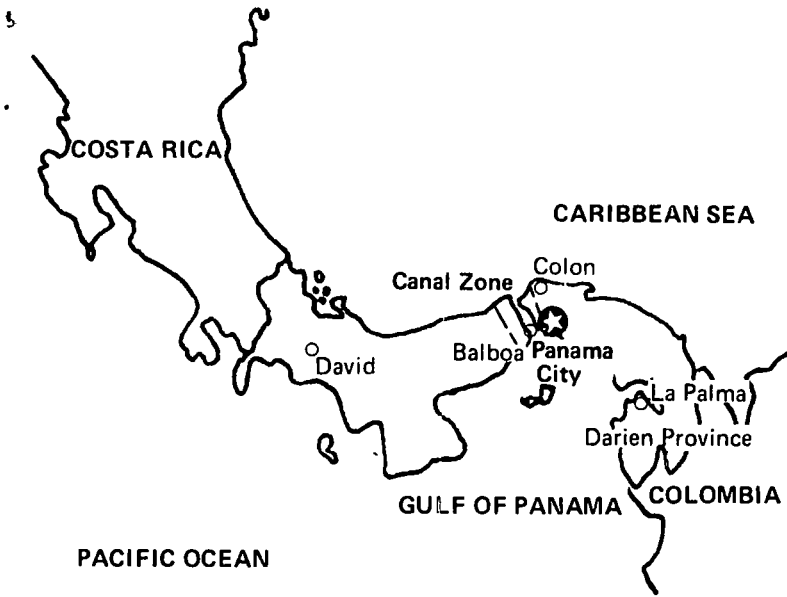
Learning activities—Use the calendar pictures to aid in the presentation of the stories; introduction of the missionaries and the country. List the missionaries' birthdays. Fill in the information called for at the right top strip. Color the pictures &/or add to them. After the month has passed the pictures can be cut from the squares and made into a booklet, or add them to your missions education resource file for future use. The calendars can be more than just decoration—**use them!**

Reminder—The calendar can serve as a reminder to all ages of the need to pray for the country and the missionaries. It will recall the need for giving and show the progress toward giving goals. Generally it will create a missions "awareness".

MANUAL CONTENTS

PANAMA	3
FOURSQUARE MISSIONS IN PANAMA	5
MISSIONARIES CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS	7
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FOURSQUARE MISSIONARIES TO PANAMA		8
STORIES FROM THE COUNTRY OF PANAMA	10
MISSIONS EDUCATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD	33
MISSIONS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN	37
MISSIONS EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS	53

PANAMA



THE COUNTRY

The Republic of Panama is often called the "crossroads of the world" for it occupies the southern end of the isthmus which forms the land connection between North and South America. It is bounded on the west by Costa Rica, on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by Colombia, and on the south by the Pacific Ocean. Panama is bisected by a 10-mile-wide strip of territory known as the Canal Zone, which, by grant in perpetuity from Panama, is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States. The world-renowned Panama Canal, which crosses the famous isthmus, is forty miles long. Its economic and military importance lies in the fact that it provides a more direct water route connecting the two oceans than is possible otherwise.

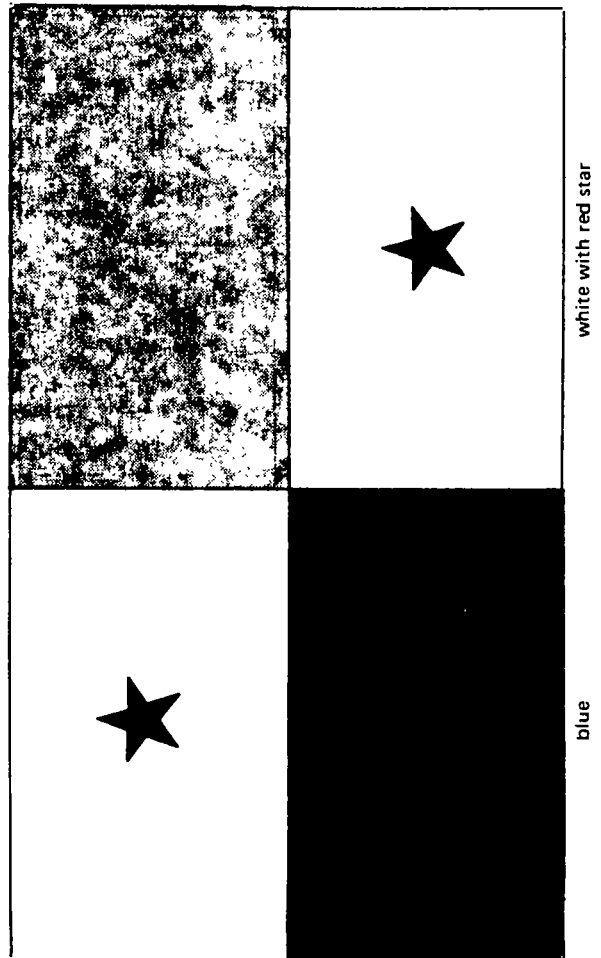
The landscape consists of large mountains and hills with two main mountain ranges forming the backbone of the isthmus. There are coastal lowlands on both sides of the isthmus. The Caribbean side and eastern Panama are covered almost entirely by heavy tropical rain forests. In width, Panama ranges from 118 miles at the widest point, down to thirty miles at the narrowest.

Population: (1974) 1,618,100 Language: Spanish

Capital: Panama City (largest city) Cities: Colón, David

Area: 29,209 square miles, slightly smaller than So. Carolina.

NATIONAL FLAG OF PANAMA



Unit of Currency: The balboa, at par with the U.S. dollar

Main exports: bananas; petroleum products; shrimps.

Religion: Roman Catholic 90%

Education: 85% of the people more than 10 years of age can read and write.

History: Columbus sighted Panama in 1501, and 12 years later Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the isthmus and "discovered" the Pacific Ocean. The Spanish maintained ports on the Caribbean Sea, which became points from which expeditions went into Peru and Central America to find much of the wealth of the Spanish Empire. When Panama obtained her independence from Spain in 1821, she joined the Republic of Colombia. In 1855, the Colombian Congress made Panama an autonomous state, though thirty years later, Colombia once again claimed control of Panama.

In 1903 Panama gained its independence through a bloodless revolution. At about the same time a section of land across the Isthmus of Panama was ceded to the United States. After this transaction, the Panama Canal was built.

The people: The culture, customs, and language of the Panamanians are basically Spanish. English is widely understood in Panama because of the proximity of the Canal Zone. Antilleans (immigrants from the West Indies and their descendants), many of whom speak English as their first language and are protestant, and indigenous Indians constitute the two principal ethnic minorities.

The Climate is tropical, and rainfall is heavy but seasonal. The Caribbean side has a much higher precipitation and a less well-defined dry season than the Pacific side. The humidity is high and rust and mildew develops rapidly.

FOURSQUARE MISSIONS IN PANAMA

Your missionaries:

Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Coombs stationed in Panama City

Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Donham stationed in the Canal Zone

Facts of the field:

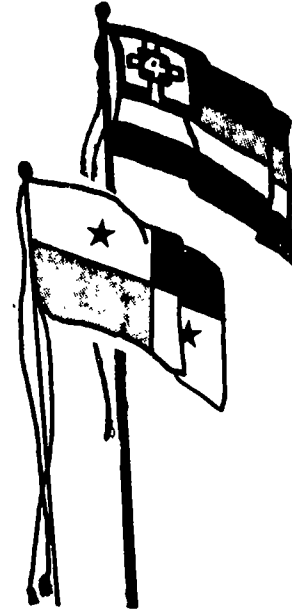
175 churches

95 meeting places

2 Bible schools

204 national workers

2 missionary units



Rev. Edgar Coombs is the missionary advisor of the Foursquare work in Panama.

How it began:

The waves were rolling over the decks of the gigantic ocean liner as though it were a toy in a bath tub. The passengers on the ship were not frightened by this storm as much as weary and restless to set their feet on dry land. At least the 10 days of this voyage had brought all the excitement and adventure the travel folder had promised.

The Lord had laid this land on Dr. Arthur Edwards' heart in a vision before he entered L.I.F.E. Bible College. He and his wife were saved in San Jose, California and attended the first service conducted by Aimee Semple McPherson in Angelus Temple in 1923. They realized their need for more training so entered Bible College the first semester it was opened. They were appointed as the first Foursquare missionaries to Panama in January of 1928, and set sail for that country with their three children, Donald, Barbara and Leland.

This pioneer missionary family began to minister to the people of Panama by first holding street meetings in the city. They toured the villages nearby and services were held in the town plazas. Many people came to know the Lord as their Savior, and many were miraculously healed. New hope was brought to this country which had no full gospel churches until this time.

National workers were trained in the Bible Institute in Panama City and began to pastor new churches throughout the country.

In the thirties, Rev. Donald Edwards was appointed to the pastorate of the Foursquare Church in Colón and supervised the works on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus, until he was transferred to another field. Rev. and Mrs. T. Tuttle assumed this pastorate in 1947 until their retirement in 1968.

Other missionaries joined the Edwards in Panama, making their own special contributions to the furtherance of the Gospel—Rev. and Mrs. Frank Moncivaiz, Rev. and Mrs. Granville Shelley, Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Darnall, Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Knapp, Rev. Mary Frost, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Aguirre, Rev. and Mrs. Claude Updike, Rev. Lucille Hicks, Rev. Doris Cochrane, Rev. Mattie Sensabaugh, Rev. and Mrs. Mike Frederick, Rev. and Mrs. Loren Edwards.

After the Panama Canal was built, churches began ministering to the people in that area. These English-speaking workers were assigned to the Canal Zone and often reassigned elsewhere soon, causing the congregation to constantly "shift". Rev. and Mrs. Carl Thompson felt burdened for this area and established the Foursquare Church there in 1955 until their retirement in 1975. In June of 1975 Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Donham were appointed to the Canal Zone ministry.

In 1937 Dr. Leland Edward was appointed as a missionary to Panama. Following his father's retirement in 1947 Dr. and Mrs. Edwards remained to serve as supervisors of the Panama field. Under their ministry Bible schools to train national converts were opened; summer camps were begun; and an outstanding radio ministry was launched. In 1960, Dr. and Mrs. Leland Edwards moved to Los Angeles to serve in the headquarters Foreign Missions Department which they now direct.

After his training in the Bible Institute was completed, a national minister traveled south into the Darien Province to pastor a new work among the Choco Indians. Many of these people came to know Jesus as Savior and experienced His healing power as well. In 1952, Rev. and Mrs. Vinton Johnson served in the Darien Province and began the work of translating their spoken language into written symbols so that the Bible could be translated. A school was started to teach the people to read and write their language. In 1962 Rev. and Mrs. Dick Scott continued this work and were responsible for the translation of the books of Mark and Acts.

In 1967, Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Coombs were appointed Foursquare missionaries to Panama. Over 200 national pastors carry on the work. Rev. Edgar Coombs, missionary advisor, holds missionary conferences; Leadership Training Institutes; coordinates the TEE Program; as well as being active in all facets of the work throughout the entire country.

MISSIONARIES CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Mark the dates on the calendars, remember the missionary, and pray for them.

Brenda Frederick	11/23/65	<i>Argentina</i>
Leahna Frederick	12/14/69	<i>Argentina</i>
Rev. Edwin Gurney	10/9	<i>Argentina</i>
Judith Gurney	10/4/58	<i>Argentina</i>
Rev. Fred Cowan	10/23	<i>Australia</i>
Sherri Cowan	11/27/57	<i>Australia</i>
Rev. Jack Anderson	11/27	<i>Bolivia</i>
Rev. Marguerite Hawley	12/18	<i>Brazil</i>
Rev. Gary Royer	10/21	<i>Brazil</i>
Lisa Royer	10/7/62	<i>Brazil</i>
Rev. Glen Pummel	11/4	<i>Chile</i>
Rev. Sharon Pummel	11/18	<i>Chile</i>
Elizabeth Davies	11/27/60	<i>Colombia</i>
Rev. Betty Pritchett	9/27	<i>Costa Rica</i>
Judith Richey	12/4/59	<i>Ecuador</i>
Rev. Charles Gosling	11/24	<i>El Salvador</i>
Rev. Nelwyn Gosling	11/3	<i>El Salvador</i>
Charlene Gosling	11/7/60	<i>El Salvador</i>
Becky Gosling	10/3/62	<i>El Salvador</i>
Mrs. Chrysoula Denos	10/29	<i>Greece</i>
Nicholas Denos	10/9/57	<i>Greece</i>
Timothy Truett	10/30/65	<i>Honduras</i>
Terry Truett	9/24/68	<i>Honduras</i>
Darla Truett	12/19/69	<i>Honduras</i>
Rev. Arthur Gadberry	11/21	<i>Honduras</i>
Rev. Ronald Williams	10/23	<i>Hong Kong</i>
Rev. Carole Williams	11/29	<i>Hong Kong</i>
Scott Williams	12/27/63	<i>Hong Kong</i>
Mark Williams	10/16/67	<i>Hong Kong</i>
Rev. Francis Curtis	12/31	<i>Jamaica</i>
Rev. Ludwig Mantei	11/5	<i>Mexico</i>
Rev. Teri Paz	10/27	<i>Mexico</i>
Rev. Virgene Hughes	11/18	<i>New Guinea</i>



Rev. Shirley Walker	10/17	<i>Nicaragua</i>
Rev. Mitchel Belobaba	9/13	<i>Nigeria</i>
Karen Belobaba	9/24/60	<i>Nigeria</i>
Rev. Harold Jones	9/1	<i>Philippines</i>
Rev. Mollie Chaves	10/24	<i>Philippines</i>
Rev. Arlene Ziegler	11/29	<i>So. Africa</i>
Peggy Ziegler	10/22/57	<i>So. Africa</i>
Rev. Emegene Manthe	10/1	<i>So. Africa</i>
Clarence Manthe	11/5/62	<i>So. Africa</i>
Rev. Harold Muetzel	11/29	<i>South Korea</i>
Rev. Cheryl Muetzel	10/2	<i>South Korea</i>
Rev. Charlotte Meyers	10/28	<i>South Korea</i>
Daniel Meyers	10/26/70	<i>South Korea</i>
Rev. Alva Aguirre	9/20	<i>Spain</i>
David Aguirre	9/30/59	<i>Spain</i>
Jill King	12/10/71	<i>Costa Rica</i>
Rev. Bruce Donham	12/3	<i>Panama Canal Zone</i>
Rev. June Donham	9/7	<i>Panama Canal Zone</i>
Zachary Donham	10/8/59	<i>Panama Canal Zone</i>

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FOURSQUARE MISSIONARIES TO PANAMA

Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Coombs

Edgar Coombs was born into a Christian home. His parents were charter members of the Foursquare Church in New Castle, Colorado.

The Coombs had become particularly interested in the baptism with the Holy Spirit and frequently discussed the scriptures relating to this experience. During one of their conversations, a deep spiritual hunger awakened within the young boy, Edgar, and he determined to receive this experience.

One summer the New Castle Foursquare Church conducted a special revival. With almost perfect attention Edgar listened to the evangelistic message. During the preaching it occurred to him that he wasn't even a Christian! He was the first to raise his hand at the invitation and the first to go forward to pray at the altar. A deep conviction came over him and he wept in earnest repentance of his sins. Thus at the age of seven he entered into a full experience of salvation.

Edgar passed through a long period of illness in which the Lord miraculously spared his life. As he was recuperating from this illness, he was privileged to attend a Foursquare youth camp near Denver, Colorado. The Lord blessed the camp in a very precious way and Edgar's heart was touched.

Upon returning home from camp, the young people began to hold youth prayer services each week. It was in one of these prayer services at the age of thirteen that God called Edgar Coombs to be a missionary. Edgar was near the front of the church praying when the Holy Spirit definitely spoke to his heart regarding missionary service. Frightened, he refused to say "yes" to this call. He got up from his knees and sat down, thinking that the prayer time had ended for him. Just as he settled back to observe the others in prayer, one young lady turned from her place of prayer at the altar and started toward him with her eyes closed. She touched him with her outstretched hand and began to pray that Edgar would be willing to say "yes". At that time a powerful force came over him and he finally said "yes" to God and service to a foreign mission field.

Just prior to his graduation from high school the principal called him to the office to inform him that he would be eligible for a scholarship to any college in the state. Edgar surprised the principal when he informed him that he wished to prepare to be a minister, and become a missionary.

Two years after his graduation from L.I.F.E. Bible College, Edgar married Miss Darlene Buescher.

Darlene is the daughter of a pastor. She gave her heart to Christ during a family altar time at the age of eight. When she was twelve she received the infilling of the Holy Spirit and spent her teen years actively serving in many church positions including district crusader president. She especially enjoyed the missionary activities. Mrs. Coombs testifies that her call to the foreign field came at a summer youth camp at the age of thirteen: "It came in the form of great love for souls; a great burden to go to dark skinned people".

The Coombs served as Foursquare pastors for five years in Abilene, Kansas.

In 1955 Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Coombs were sent to Venezuela as Foursquare missionaries. They served there until 1967 when they were reassigned to the field of Panama.

Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Donham

Bruce Donham was born to a family of nine children in McPherson, Kansas. Though he grew up during the depression days, God gave his father work in the oil fields and the family was provided for.

During his early years his family didn't attend church, and though he didn't have the benefit of learning from the Bible as he grew up, one of his mother's teachings remained with him for she made sure that her family understood that "the Bible is true". This fact proved to be useful in his life in later years when he did come face to face with God and His Word, the Bible.

But it was not until he was twenty years old that he had a conversion experience. By this time he had a job with the oil company driving a truck and was living far from the Lord. He was somewhat intrigued by the Pruitt family who lived about a mile from the Donhams. They made fun of this family for attending the Foursquare church, yet he found their daughter, June, to be interesting. She invited him to attend the church with her and he refused. He invited her to attend various worldly activities with him and she refused. He thought that it was outstanding for a girl to be that faithful to the teachings of her church. He didn't realize that her faithfulness was to Jesus.

In December Bruce was invited to be in the church Christmas play. He consented, but later reconsidered. When his father found out he said, "Son, we are people of our word so you will have to go and be in that Christmas play." His folks could hardly believe that he would participate in this church activity.

A few weeks later the church was conducting special services. June had invited him to attend and he consented on the last night. It was on that night, January 9, that Bruce Donham accepted Jesus as his Savior.

"In those early days the Lord laid on me a missionary calling" testifies Rev. Donham, and "all through my ministry, everytime we had a missionary service or we sent out a missionary, I always felt I should be the one that was going. . . I had that kind of a call and God really dealt with me all along these years wanting me to make that decision to go."

Bruce and June were later married, and the Lord blessed them with a son, Ron, before He called them to go to Bible college. Their second son, Dan, was born while they lived in Los Angeles attending LIFE Bible College.

While studying at LIFE the Donhams co-pastored the Bell, California Foursquare Church. After leaving college in 1955 they pioneered a church in Appleton, Wisconsin. They also served in pastorates in Minnesota, Indiana, and Iowa.

It was while they were pastoring the Newton, Iowa Foursquare Church that they submitted their application to the Missions Board. About six months after they were notified that they had been accepted (January 1975), Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Donham and son Zachary left to be Foursquare missionaries to the Canal Zone of Panama.

Their congregation is primarily made up of Americans who are servicemen or civilians working in the Zone. It is a "shifting" congregation in that these people are often transferred to the Canal Zone only to be transferred to another location in a short time period.

With the sacrifices and adjustments that were necessary, the Donhams have witnessed the blessing of the Lord and His faithfulness to His promises to them.

STORIES FROM THE COUNTRY OF PANAMA

"VISIONS OF HARVEST"

It was January 1, 1923.

The doors of the new building opened wide, and the soloist sang "Open the Gates of the Temple" as people rushed in to secure one of the 5,300 available seats. Hundreds, even thousands, had to stay outside; there just was not room.

Among the 5,300 who were seated that day were a man, wife, and their three children. They had traveled nearly 400 miles to be there for the opening of this gigantic edifice, dedicated to world-wide evangelism. Their hearts were stirred by the scores who, like themselves, had been swept into this Pentecostal revival.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Edwards lived near San Jose, California, on a fruit ranch. As he sat there that day, Mr. Edwards thought of other doorways which had opened before them in earlier days.

In 1920 the door of a Sunday school class opened to him. He hesitated. He had never taught before. While sitting under a tree on his ranch he pondered and prayed over this opportunity and suddenly became deathly ill. When rushed to the hospital, the doctors said he could not live. It was while here on his predicted death bed that God gave him his first vision. He appeared before the throne of God with no souls. From this time, as God healed him, he knew he must win souls.

The next year, Aimee Semple McPherson held a great campaign in San Jose. Here, amid the mighty miracles of salvation and healing, the Edwards heard teaching of divine healing and the baptism with the Holy Spirit for the first time. Sister McPherson said it was the "Foursquare Gospel".

Shortly after this campaign funds were raised to erect beautiful Angelus Temple, and as he sat in this great Temple today, Mr. Edwards thought of their own contributions, made two years previously, to this work. He now felt the need of training for the ministry himself.

One night as he sat alone in his home, he made plans to attend Bible College. He would plant vegetables between the rows of the fruit trees on the ranch and use the additional funds for this education. The seed order was immediately prepared.

As he retired that evening Mr. Edwards had still another vision. He was sitting in the cab of his truck waiting for the market to open. The truck was loaded with the harvest of vegetables. All of a sudden down the street came an old-fashioned fire engine, pulled by firemen. As they pressed south to a place called Balboa, they seemed so tired that their tongues were hanging out of their mouths. Suddenly, Mr. Edwards saw the fire of God's judgment fall. He awoke! The Lord showed him that had his truck been empty he could have put the fire engine and the men in the truck and helped to avoid the destruction. Mr. Edwards and his family did not wait for the seed to be planted and the harvest to be reaped; they went immediately to Los Angeles and enrolled in L.I.F.E. Bible College. God had opened this door.

In study Mr. Edwards learned that Balboa was the port of entry to the Republic of Panama and the Lord gave him the assurance that He would open the door for them to preach the Gospel there.

While attending L.I.F.E., one day as he prayed in the chapel Mr. Edwards saw yet another vision. An old man bent over his plough in a large field of grain. The laborer, worn with age and ill in body, had white hair and a long, white beard. Seemingly he could not continue his work and looked to the Lord in prayer for someone to come to take his place. Mr. Edwards realized another door was about to open.

After testifying of the first vision one day in Angelus Temple, Mrs. McPherson called him to her office. He told her of God's call upon his heart and how God had already opened doors for him. When he had finished, Sister McPherson appointed the Edwards family as Foursquare missionaries to Panama. They sailed in 1928 and at once began the work with a tent campaign in Panama City.

When he stumbled at that first door—many years before when he was asked to teach that Sunday school class—little did he realize God would direct his entire family to this country to proclaim the Foursquare Gospel.

Shortly after arriving in Panama, Rev. Edwards was called to the Gorgas Hospital to see if it were possible for him to identify an elderly American who had been brought here from the interior of the country. Mr. Edwards found the man of his vision lying in the bed. The man spoke softly in tongues as the Spirit gave him utterance. In a short while, God called him home.

Later when visiting the old man's mission station in the interior, they found no established church and no record of converts. But among his belongings, meager as they were, they found a copy of the "Bridal Call Foursquare" and other writings of Aimee Semple McPherson. This old man had learned of the fullness of the Holy Spirit and divine healing through these books and God had used him to pave the way—to open the door—for future missionary work in that country.

And in the aged saint's diary it was found that about the same time Mr. Edwards saw the vision of the old man with the plough, this man had prayed and written that prayer in his diary. He had reminded the Lord that he was advanced in age and felt that he could not continue in the work. He had prayed that God would send someone to take his place!

The door had opened to the Foursquare church in Panama. It was 1928. The Edwards children, Donald, Barbara, and Leland, all assisted in the work.

* * * * *



Abigail Jimenez

When a tree fell on his head, Abigail Jimenez was unconscious for two weeks. Through prayer God mightily touched his body. When he regained consciousness, he promised God that if He would heal him completely, he would not only give his heart to Him, but would also preach His Word. God completely healed this man in the Darien, and raised him up in a miraculous way.

The healing and the change in his life was such that it could not be denied, and one by one he began winning the members of his family to Jesus Christ. Mr. Jimenez stayed true to the promise he made to God and began a church at Rio Iglesia in the Darien Province.

* * * * *

While her husband was away itinerizing in other regions of the Darien, the missionary's wife was left alone in the Choco Indian camp.

One of the Indians and his wife came to her and suggested that they stay with her at night because they were afraid that some danger might befall her.

"Before I was saved", the man explained, "I did many things to try and kill your husband. I paid money to the witch doctor to have him destroyed, and I even tried to poison him. I tried to set fire under the house, but it would not burn. Now he is away and I'm afraid that others who have not found Christ as their Savior and Lord will try to harm you. Please let us spend the night here with you."

The missionary's wife said no. She explained to this troubled Indian couple, "Since Christ came into my heart and life and into yours, Satan has no power against us. He that is within is greater than he that is in the world."

The couple, their faith in the Lord strengthened, went to their home. The missionary's wife was protected just as God had protected her husband earlier by not allowing the fire to burn under the house when the attempt was made.

* * * * *

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In the town of Chorrera some 20 miles from Panama City in the Republic of Panama, the young people from the first church in Panama City were conducting an open-air campaign. Unknown to them they were in front of the house where a woman lay dying with cancer. The doctors had sent her home to die. She could no longer eat so was just waiting for death to take her.

After this service, they were asked to return the next week. The "dying" woman sat in the group to welcome them. Two years later the Foursquare missionary visited this city and had the privilege of being in the beautiful church building that was erected where the outdoor meetings had been held. The same lady testified of the healing power of the Lord.

Praise God—here was a little lady, dying, no hope—but in the Lord Jesus Christ there is true hope—and two years later she was living proof of the power of the all-sufficient Christ.

* * * * *

"Clarita"

Who is Jesus Christ? Clarita didn't know. Why? Because when she went to church with her father and mother, it was only to worship idols. Therefore, she had never had an opportunity to hear the gospel. At a certain time every year the whole family had to make a journey to the town of Cartago to their church. They went for the purpose of doing penance for their sins. They were not allowed to ride, but were required to walk many, many miles. This was part of the sacrifice that they must make. Upon arriving and entering the church, everyone would light a candle, and get down on their hands and knees, crawling down the aisle to the altar carrying their candles and praying to an idol as they went. You see they did not have the light of the gospel but were in darkness and thought they must do this to be forgiven for their sins. One day while they were doing penance Clarita became careless with her candle and caught her father's beard on fire. He was so angry, he took Clarita and her mother out of the church and never went back.

A number of years later, Clarita and her parents moved to Panama. This was the beginning of a new and happy life for her. One evening as she was passing by an Evangelical church, she joined a great crowd of people standing outside the church listening to the service by means of a loud speaking system. She heard the happy singing, testimonies and the sermon. Everyone seemed so happy. She went back again and again. The more she heard the missionary talk about being "saved", the more hungry she became. Clarita's mind went back to Cartago and the way they crawled to the altar to worship idols. She remembered this had failed to bring her happiness. Would accepting Jesus Christ bring her the joy she longed for? Surely it would for she could see the happy faces of boys and girls all around her. You may have guessed the end to the story. She DID answer the altar invitation and found not only forgiveness for sin, but genuine HAPPINESS.

* * * * *

When Mrs. Edwards first became a missionary to Panama in 1928, she had to adjust to a new and different kind of life. This was the most beautiful land she had ever seen and held many new adventures for the Edwards family.

Making a home in this land meant going shopping for food. She stated that she would never forget her visit to the market place. She had never seen so many different kinds of fruits and vegetables in all her life. All the amazing odors that were created by the mixing of all these kinds of foods made her ill. Her first visit was very short but as time went on she went back often to find just the kinds of foods her family enjoyed.

Meat and fresh fruits were always a problem because there was no refrigeration available. So the family lived on fish, rice and more fish. Since bananas were tree ripened they were sweet flavored. They were prepared baked, fried, combined with other fruits, or served raw fresh from the land. They could purchase many of the North American foods in the stores in the American Canal Zone. Food and clothing were easily obtained.

* * * * *

The Missionary to the Darien

I was traveling alone down the Sambu River one day, going to a place called Chunga to preach. There was a deer swimming across the river so I wanted to see if I could catch it. I finally caught it and was able to kill it, but before long, night had caught up with me. I went to a place I thought was Chunga, but realized I had come the wrong way and was on the wrong creek. As I made my way back with a flashlight, I noticed little orange reflections along the river bank—like those you see on the freeways. I thought they were animals drinking. Later, as I arrived at Chunga, and as the Indians gathered around me to see the deer, I found out that the “little” orange lights were “large” alligator eyes, and that down futher in the river were even larger alligators!

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“Every language is a temple in which the souls of the people who speak it is enshrined.”

One only has to hear the people “oh” and “ah” when they finally understand the message in their own language to grasp the meaning of the above quotation by Edwin Smith of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Just imagine that the Bible had not been in your language and you had to hear it in a tongue that was foreign to you. There would be passages that you would understand, but there could be other areas that would remain somewhat hazy to you due to the language barrier. Then, how joy would flood your being as you would hear words spoken in your mother tongue. There is just nothing like communicating in the language of the heart—the tongue native to you.

After listening to a long Scripture passage read to him in his own language, the Choco man said, “That sticks me right in the heart!” (The Word is a sword.)

The missionary who was translating, read the Scripture to his informant, Jose Cabrera to see if it sounded correct. He wasn’t hearing any comment from Jose. He would ask Jose, “How does it sound?” and was told to keep reading. After several minutes of reading, the missionary wondered if it was really being understood. He looked up to see tears streaming down Jose’s cheeks as he listened to the Word of God in his own tongue.

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At the very first meeting in Panama held under the Foursquare banner, it began to rain. Dr. Arthur Edwards said to the small crowd gathered there, “Folks, this rain is just a message from the Lord. God wants us to know that from this day forward, He is going to pour out of His Spirit on Panama!” You may call it faith, or call it prophecy, regardless of the definition, the facts substantiate this expectant statement. From that day, constant revival has been the portion of the Panamanian Foursquare work and thousands of souls are still being won to Christ.

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Rev. and Mrs. Dick Scott and their small son Mark, were about to land in Las Palmas, a short airstrip in the jungles of Panama.

Just as the wheels of the light plane hit the ground a gust of wind—a cross wind— caused the plane to complete a ground loop. As this happened, the door flew open and out went the child. He landed along the side. Rev. Scott said it felt suddenly as if the hand of God caused the plane to settle down and no one else was injured. Mark was bruised, but with no serious injuries.

Later as the Scotts were home on furlough, they relayed this story in one of their services. At the close, a young man came to Rev. Scott and as they talked he asked what the Scotts were doing on a specific date. As they thought back, they realized it was the very day that this accident had taken place. The young man told his story.

On that day the young people had decided to come together at the church to have a time of prayer. As they were praying, they suddenly felt a heavy burden for the Scotts. The young people prayed for nearly 2 hours, until just as suddenly as it had come, the burden was lifted. There came a deep assurance that all was well.

The missionary and the young man compared the time of that day. The time the prayer meeting was in progress, was the very moment that the plane came to a stand still on the air field in the jungle.

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Sister Lela, one of the lady ministers in the Darien, was working in her farm late one afternoon. A couple came to her with a small bundle in their arms. The reason they had come—their child had been killed. It seems the child, age 2, had been playing up in the Choco house which stands 8–10 feet from the ground. The child had fallen off, hit its head, and had died. The parents thought at first that she was merely stunned, but after 2 hours of doing all they knew how to do, they realized that the child could not be revived. They wrapped the child in a white bed sheet and came to Sister Lela, asking if they might borrow her outboard motor to go across the bay to use the cemetery.

Sister Lela said, "Let me have the child." As the child was placed in her arms, she felt the coldness of the child's body. She began to pray, "Oh, God, I just rebuke the spirit of death on this child and would ask that you would restore the spirit of life." The child remained cold and stiff for several moments. Then all of a sudden the child moved her head slightly, and she opened her mouth with a lusty cry.

The parents were so overwhelmed they fell to their knees and repented of their sins. They returned to their village, and when their other children saw them coming up the trail, they cried, "Oh, you have brought our little sister back to us alive!"

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The fertillance snake is a dreaded snake of the jungles of Panama. There is no known cure for its deadly bite. The venom of the snake enters the blood stream and breaks down the corpuscles, causing profuse bleeding through the pores and through other body openings.

Sister Lela's brother-in-law was working in his field one evening, when a fertillance snake bit him on the foot. He made his way to his house with his leg already beginning to swell. He told his family to go out and get all the Christians and bring them to his house. By the time they gathered, his whole body was swollen and the bleeding had already started.

The Christians stayed beside him, and prayed through the night. By the time the morning light came, the man was healed. He showed the missionary the scare where the snake had bitten him.

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"A Vision for Missions"

The missionary became burdened because of the apparent waning of evangelistic spirit in the churches of Panama. This field had been an example of evangelism for many Latin American countries. In fact, many of the workers in other fields had come from this country. But now, it seemed the fervor for evangelism was lessening.

Rev. Coombs observed that the people were very active in their churches and loved their churches, but the main activity seemed to be to build more beautiful buildings. They had lost the vision for extending out which had been so much a part of them before.

In the first meeting with officers of the country, the missionary shared his burden. The reply of a lack of funds was the reason. Workers were in abundance but funds were needed. The missionary countered that the number of churches in Panama precluded that adequate funds would be available. He felt that they needed to renew the missionary program which had been so strong in former years.

Many caught the vision and missionary conferences were begun in several areas.

That year two lady national workers were sent to the annual convention for the Central Provinces. These ladies were known for their missions vision. They were to conduct classes in the mornings and to preach during the evening services.

But when the ladies arrived, they were informed that the convention program was planned and did not include them. They were welcomed to attend the services.

On the last night, the man who was scheduled to preach came to them. He said, "I have been thinking. You ladies have come all the way from Panama City and we really should hear from you. I would like to ask one of you to preach tonight."

As the woman gave the message, the Spirit of the Lord moved on hearts. At the end of the service the people flocked to the platform. They said, "We haven't heard of this missionary faith promise program. We would like to have the cards and envelopes. We want to be in on this."

The barrier was down. In 1968 this area had given about \$15.00 to missions. Five years later the same area gave between \$2 and \$3,000. More churches sprang up in that area than anywhere else in Panama.

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A young lady came to Panama City to attend the Bible school. She loved the study of the Word, but after a few months she told the leaders, "I just cannot stay here. The strong urge to go out to preach is too strong." So Mrs. Mercabes de Santana left to go back to the central provinces, her home, to preach.

One Sunday as she was preaching, a young man who had been working in the cane fields staggered to the back door of the church. In his drunken condition, he stood in the door. When the altar call was given he came to the front and accepted Christ. He stood up, completely sober. He said, "I am going back up into the mountains to tell my people what God had done for me."

After a few days, he returned. He told the lady minister, "I have told my people what God has done, but I can't tell them how to find Christ as you told me. Could you and some of your people go up there and give them the gospel?"

The next week throughout the services, the pastor began announcing that they would have a gospel team go to this mountain village. On Sunday morning, she asked who would volunteer to go. Not one hand was raised. She was upset, "Why won't you go? We have gone on teams in other areas? Why won't you go to the Las Minas area?"

"But, Sister Mercabes, don't you know this place has a fame which is known all over Panama. They have the worse criminals. There are festivities, and there are always murders. Drunkenness and knifings go on all the time."

"Well, if none of you will go with me, I will go alone." The next morning she rode the bus to the end of the line. The new convert met her as she got off and escorted her up the mountain trails to his village. They traveled many miles by horseback. What met the pastor's eyes was dreadfully depressing. Small children could be found in a drunken stupor—sin was rampant.

When she returned she told her people, "You are not going to see very much of me from now on. I am only going to come here on Sundays. The rest of the week I will be up in the mountains."

Groups of 300 and 400 people gathered to hear the Gospel. After Sister Mercabes gave the message and prayed with those who wanted to receive Christ, she would then pray for the sick. Some outstanding miracles were recorded from this faithful ministry.

The area judge asked one of the Foursquare pastors, "I would like to know what has happened in that area. We used to have so much trouble up there. Every week-end we would have to send in our police groups to bring out these men under arrest. But, it has been months now, and we haven't had to send a single policeman up there."

The gospel completely transformed the entire mountain area. After three years of her ministry there, one of the first baptismal services was held with 141 new converts being baptized.

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"No Witch Doctor Needed"

"She is going to die" they whispered. "That terrible fertulance snake has bitten her!" Verna was only twelve years old. While playing in the jungle one day she had been bitten by a poisonous snake. She lay in her father's hut, her leg swollen by the poision which ran through her body. It appeared she would die.

Jose Cabraro and his family live in the jungles of Panama. They are Choco Indians. There are nine children in this family and Verna is one of them. If you would want to visit in their hut, their home, you would probably board a small, one engine, six passanger plane, and fly over the ocean and jungle to the village of Sambu. There the Foursquare missionary and Foursquare Christians would meet you with broad smiles and great delight. They may invite you to visit in their huts which boarder along the Sambu River.

Because Jose and his family live further up the river, about a 3 hour ride by dug-out canoe, you would probably spend the night in this village before continuing your journey. In the morning the missionary and several Choco Indians lead the way to the river and get you settled in the canoe. Because the tide has come up the river is high enough and you start right up the river to Jose's village.

Verna was bitten by the snake several days before we arrived in her village. Her mother and father were quite concerned. The leg was swollen and did not seem to be getting better. Because this family is a Christian family, they believed God and had prayed that God would heal this leg. Some of the people in the village said, "Jose, you need to take Verna to the witch doctor. He will mix a strong potion and help her." But Jose said, "No, when the missionary came he told us of God. We are Chrisitans and we know that God's power is much stronger than the witch doctor's power. God will heal Verna. Jesus is the healer, and we are trusting in Him." But his friends argued, "This is a serious thing, Jose. No one lives after he is bitten by a fertulance snake. You are foolish. You will live to regret this." "Oh" said Jose, "the God we serve is the only true God. In His Book, the Bible, we have read of His mighty miracles. He can heal the sick and He can deliver the possessed. The missionary has read this Book to us and we believe. God does not change and what is written in that Book is the same today. There is nothing that God cannot do."

Jose and his family continued to pray. It did look as if their little girl would die, but they believed the Bible. God would not fail. They continued to watch their daughter and to pray. Then one day the leg began to look different. The swelling was going down. Her family become more excited. God was answering prayer. Now they saw the proof. Day by day they watched as the leg gradually became normal again. They thanked God for hearing them and healing Verna. Soon she was completely well. Now she runs through the village, playing with her friends and showing them where the snake had bitten her. "But", Verna said "Jesus loves us, and when we prayed, He healed my leg."

Jose and his family attend the Foursquare Church in this village, in fact, Jose is the pastor of this village church. Verna helps her father when she can and the whole family remembers that Jesus heals today just as He always has.

(This story is recorded on cassette, "Teach It Here, Teach It There", available from Foursquare Publications.)

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“Beyond The Road’s End”

Have you ever wondered just what you would find beyond the road’s end? This is where the road ends and the trail begins.

At first glimpse the traveler in Panama sees nothing but the lush countryside fertile with coconut palms, papayas, bananas and colorful flowers. The beauty of the land seems to cover the poverty of the people as with a veil, but as the traveler probes beyond the end of the road, the loneliness and desolation of those who have so little become apparent.

Our trail started at the end of the road. The twisting, winding path led us through heavy undergrowth and finally to the edge of a river. In our country we build steel and concrete bridges to cross our rivers, but the bridge which we must now cross in Panama had been crudely put together by the natives. Planks were precariously balanced on rocks and as we doubtfully started across, it took all our balancing power to stay on the planks.

Safely on the other side of the river, we picked up the trail and continued our arduous journey. Suddenly, there it was—the small and humble village of Selud. The natives quickly gathered around us as we were welcomed by the national pastor. Proudly they pointed to the Foursquare Mission church in Selud. It was the best building in the village, but in our estimation it would hardly be recognized as a church! The village itself was comprised of a very few thatch roofed huts. It was apparent immediately that the people who lived here had very little of this world’s goods. Luxuries were unknown and food was of the first priority in each person’s life.

As we walked around the tiny village with the native pastor, **there he sat**—(the man in the picture). He was probably the most desolate person we had ever seen. They called him Manuel. He did not seem to notice us as we walked toward him. At first we thought it was preoccupation with his task of grinding rice into meal. He sat before a large earthen bowl holding a huge mallet or hammer which he dropped into the bowl with a rhythmic, monotonous regularity. All you could hear in the still, loneliness of the moment was the thump, thump, thump of the falling mallet. It wasn’t until we came a little closer that we realized this man was blind. He had never seen the blueness of the sky, the dazzling beauty of the Bird of Paradise or the sweet smile of a very young child. His heart had no hope for a brighter tomorrow. Nothing to look forward to but the endless grinding of rice into meal that the hungry in Selud might eat. There never seemed to be enough food to go around so that all might be satisfied. Manuel had longed for release from the endless drudgery of his life.

Then one day, light shown in darkness. A native pastor came to Selud to open a Foursquare Mission Church. Manuel was one of the first to accept Christ as his Savior. Then it didn’t matter that he could not see the flowers or the blue of the sky for he had seen Jesus. The gospel of Jesus Christ had gone beyond the end of the road and brought salvation to one who sat in darkness.

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MANUEL



For many years the Foursquare Church in Panama has been broadcasting the gospel. The program called "La Iglesia del Aire" (The Church of the Air) reaches beyond the borders of the country. Testimonies such as the following are received:

One Sunday evening at the end of the church service a young man responded to the altar call. He said, "I was in a very bad mood this afternoon. My wife had left me several days ago taking our baby with her. I didn't know where she was and knew she was not coming back. I reached into the dresser drawer for a revolver and planned on ending it right then and there, by taking my life, when for some reason or other I turned on my radio and heard your program. I had never heard words like these before and decided to come to the church." He found his way to the Lord and received the strength that only the Heavenly Father can give.

Another rewarding phase of this ministry comes through the letters received. One such letter came from a man in the country of Venezuela. He wrote that they had no pastor for their congregation. Every Sunday afternoon when the "Church of the Air" came on, the people would gather with the radio on the pulpit and there, together with the people of Panama, about 2,000 miles away, have their service.

A university student from Argentina wrote telling of his interest in the gospel and desired to know more about the Lord, Jesus Christ.

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Some of the people of Panama supplement their earnings by hunting aligators in their spare time. One Christian man had just thrown out a large baited hook at a place they had seen the 'gator pass. The animal took the bait and the man moved closer in his boat to haul it aboard. As he reached toward the water to get a better hold on the line, a large 14-foot animal came out of the water with razor sharp teeth. The man could only call out, "La sanger de Jesucristo" (the blood of Jesus Christ). For some unexplained reason the animal released his hold, raking his huge jaw down the arm of the man leaving long ugly gashes. For over a month the other Christians prayed with him until finally every wound was completely healed. How this man thanked God for sparing his life and healing his arm.

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"Jose Cabrera"

One of the outstanding conversions on the Panama field was that of the Choco Indian man, Jose Isabel Cabrera.

For a month and a half one of his boys had become desperately ill with no remedy that would cure him. Jose had gone to a well known witch doctor where he said, "I want you to tell me frankly if there is anything you can do to heal my boy."

After the witch doctor had contemplated the suffering child's condition, he told Jose that he would have to go to another witch doctor more powerful than himself. After consulting the other medicine man, Jose was sent to another that was considered superior with evil devil powers that could cure his boy. The last witch doctor recommened certain medicines that reduced the boy's fever and later ordered them to go home as the boy would soon be well.

As soon as they arrived at their stilted hut in the jungles, the boy again became deathly sick. In his anguish, Jose asked his father to come and said to him that he had no other place to take the child and all hope seemed lost. The father told him that perhaps one other place might be tried.

He went on to say that there was a white man who lived up the river who it was reported had healed the blind, and those with fevers and other diseases. Jose gave the boy over to his parents instructing them to take the child to the white man's place. He then said, "If the child is not healed there, he will surely die. If you don't return in three days, I'll know the worst has happened, but you may bury the boy there as there is a cemetary in the nearby village."

When this elderly couple with the dying child arrived at Rev. Vinton Johnson's home, he asked them if they had ever heard of God's Son Jesus Christ. After they told him that they had never in their lives heard at all about Him, the missionary told them that Jesus could heal the stricken child if they would only believe in Him.

In their simple explicit way, they said, "We believe".

Jose was so surprised to see his parents bring the child back alive that he wondered if this white missionary could help him also. One day he went to the missionary's home and told him that the child was completely healed. He then told him how he had become a confirmed alcoholic, constantly drunk from the local "agua ardiente" (fire water). So desperately he had tried to overcome the vice without any success.

One Colombian man had given him a medicine that was to cure him forever of the drink habit. He did forsake the vice for just two weeks, but returned to become worse than before.

A woman he met promised to make him a secret potent that would free him from his alcoholism. She ordered him to gather some jungle insects including three cockroaches which she ground up and made an almost deadly liquid. After forcing himself to drink this, Jose became violently ill. He began to wretch until he despaired of his own life. After it all passed, he again could not resist the temptation to return to the strong habit.

His family threatened to leave him and Jose decided to end his own life. He climbed a high tree with every intention of throwing himself to the earth and ending it all. As he looked down to the ground far below, something seemed to speak to him to go back and try to live as a true father and husband in his family. He knew how futile it would be to try alone, so he went to the missionary seeking help.

The missionary told him that if he would place his faith in Jesus just as his parents had done for his dying son, he could be healed also. Jose was amazed when he realized all desire for strong drink had left him and finally he was free.

Since then God has used Jose to lead many fellow tribesmen to know Christ. He later became the informant who helped the missionary translate portions of the Bible into the Choco language so that it could be printed in written form and placed into the hands of the Choco people.

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“Life In Panama”

Have you wondered what it would be like to grow up in another country such as Panama? Have you tried to think how children play, what family life is like, what they eat, and what type of clothing is worn?

Boys and girls who live in the Canal Zone play much as the boys and girls in the United States due to the American influence there. They play American games such as hopscotch. Girls like to play with dolls and the boys like to play cowboys and Indians because they have seen this so much in the movies.

But the majority of the children do not have a lot of free time for play because they must help with various chores at home and go to school. The girls help their mothers in the house and the boys help their fathers outside with farming chores and care for the animals that the family might have such as chickens, cows, horses, etc.

Purchased toys are too expensive for most, so simple toys are made at home. A father might carve a doll from a piece of wood for his little girl to play with.

Many homes have a television set. There are some children’s programs and on Saturday afternoon a three-hour long children’s program can be viewed. Everyone seems to have a radio and listening to the rhythmic latin music is a favorite pass time.

Children are required to go to school. The school year lasts from March to December. “Summer” vacation lasts from December to March which is harvest time. Boys and girls are needed at home to help with the harvesting of crops, therefore the school schedule is set up to provide for this in most areas. Boys and girls in the Canal Zone do not live on farms and go to school from September to June.

Children must wear uniforms to school. They cannot wear whatever they choose. The uniform will vary depending upon the school. Generally girls wear a white blouse with a gray, blue or plaid skirt. Boys are dressed in the same manner, with a white shirt and gray, blue or plaid pants. They must wear a particular type of shoe, such as a loafer.

In the country school, one teacher may teach several grades together. The schools have high standards and strict requirements. By the time a pupil finishes the seventh grade, he has pretty well decided which field he will enter. The choices are from the sciences, business, or a basic course. The universities offer a wide variety of courses and fields to be studied.

Most children who are raised on farms will follow their parents and take over this work. Girls are not expected to pursue a career and usually assume the position of wife and mother. There is a growing interest among the young people to move to the city in order to further their educations and better their way of life, and earn the maximum salary.

Most homes in the interior of Panama do not have running water. Either a well is dug or water is collected from a stream or river. It is kept in a big basin and dipped out by the use of a hollowed-out gourd. Mother cooks on a small two-burner gas stove or an open fire outside.

Because it is very warm and humid in this tropical country, clothes made from cotton are most comfortable to wear. Many make their own clothing, but a selection from which to choose is available in the cities.

The Foursquare Church ministers to boys and girls through the Sunday school, Vacation Bible school, and Cadets.

Cadets is held for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders on Sunday afternoons. They are taught what the church believes and how to live for Jesus. They have crafts, learn cooking and other skills.

Vacation Bible school is held each year at summer vacation which is in February!

In Panama City, Sunday school is conducted in separate classes for each grade, boys from girls. In some of the interior churches the children are grouped together because there is not sufficient facilities nor teachers.

Recently the TEE Program has been conducted by Rev. Coombs. Many people are attending and being trained to work in the Sunday school and church. Many more qualified workers are produced in this way—many who could not leave their home in order to study in the city.

Panamanians enjoy eating rice and chicken. Rice is cooked in a variety of tempting ways. Rice and coconut, rice and beans (mixed together), and rice with chicken are favorites. Home-grown vegetables are eaten. Tomatoes are a principle crop and Panama has ketchup factories. Tropical fruits are also enjoyed such as pineapple, coconut, bananas, mangos, oranges, and tangerines. Some strawberries are grown in the mountain regions. They are very expensive to buy. Coffee is another important crop. Even children drink this strong, thick brew!

For breakfast the family dines on eggs and bread. "Micha"(mee-cha) is a football-shaped roll. "Ojalera" (o-hal-era) is another type of bread. It is made by stretching the dough out very thin and deep frying it. It is very good and crunchy.

Children enjoy a type of snow cone. Fruit flavored syrups are poured over the crushed ice and condensed milk and honey is dipped on to the top. This cone is very popular with children for it tastes sweet and cool. Ice cream is also enjoyed.

After lunch is siesta time. During this time of rest all businesses and stores are closed from noon until 2:00. They re-open at 2:00 until 6:00 P.M.

Soccer is the favorite sport in Panama. Football is not played because of the expense involved to purchase the equipment and uniforms, etc. Baseball is played some and the country has professional baseball players.

Teenagers like to have fun wherever you may travel. They have many friends, although dating is not as prevalent as it is in North America. They get together in groups or visit in the homes of their friends after school. The church provides various activities for the youth such as outings to the beach or the river. Youth camps are held for the young people where they enjoy fellowship and spiritual inspiration. On Saturday evening the young people gather for the Crusader hour. On Sunday afternoons they may go to the parks to evangelize and give out tracts and invitations to the church. Sometimes they go from house to house to do this.

Christians in Panama love to worship their Savior. They take this very seriously and everyone prays fervently during praise and prayer times. They love to sing to the Lord and devote time to this in each service. They sing many rythmic songs using the tambourine & guitar.

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“Christmas In Panama”

Christmas is a happy time in Panama and there are lots of parties to celebrate the holiday.

They do not have Christmas trees, but instead each family decorates their home by making an elaborate manger scene. It may take up the space of half a room and is complete with manger, baby Jesus, Joseph and Mary, three kings, shepherds, angel, star, sheep, and goats. Each family tries to make the prettiest in town and everyone visits in the homes of their friends to admire the manger scenes.

Gifts are given to the children, but they are not brought by Santa Claus. Instead children go to bed on Christmas Eve and dream of the baby Jesus who will bring their gift during the night. They will receive one special gift instead of many gifts as their parents cannot afford to buy so many.

On Christmas Day the family gathers for a big feast. Some will spend extra to have turkey or ham for the dinner, or they will serve the special Christmas tamale. This tamale contains a piece of meat such as chicken, mixed with olives and seasoned well. It is cooked with an orange masa on the outside. They are wrapped in a banana leaf to keep them fresh or for steaming to warm them up. Each one is large enough to serve as a meal in itself.

On the Sunday before Christmas the church will present a drama or a program in which each child gives his own part. They also make presentations to their teachers, etc.

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“New Year’s In Panama”

At the turn of the new year you may see fires in Panama! A type of dummy is made to represent the old year. This dummy is wheeled about in a wheel barrow until midnight when it is burned, thus the old year is gone and the new begun.

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"An Unusual Christmas"

On Christmas Eve of 1957 a Christmas tree, highlighted by lamps and candles underneath, shone brightly from the window of the missionary's house on pilasters in Sambu in the jungles of the Darien, Panama. The ornaments on the tree had been craved of balsa wood and colored with blueing, jagua, (a black coloring), and achote (a red coloring). Other trinkets were made of sea shells. The tree had been fixed on a large trunk, that was used to hold extra clothes, so that it could be enjoyed by those who passed by on the trail. The Christian Indian boys and girls especially enjoyed coming from their houses around to gaze at the tree in the window.

Christmas day dawned bright and many Indians were busy with preparations for a communal dinner that had been planned for mid-day. Then came the news that an Indian of the Christian group had died and that his body had been carried to the burying grounds. The wife was asking for someone to come and bring the Christian message. The missionary wife responded. Leaving the Indians and others in preparations, she walked to the dug-out canoe, which took her upstream. There was a half-hour's ride in the canoe and then another half-hour following the Indians, who were cutting a new trail through the jungles. As the progress was slow behind the singing machetes or Bowie knives, you could look up at the green sky peaking through the trees and forest cover, interlaced by the green-brown of vines extending from tree to tree. From a distance came the sounds of hammers constructing the coffin and the moaning of women's voices in their lament for the departed husband and friend.

As the machetes broke through into the clearing, an Indian cemetery, desolate and forlorn, took shape. Mounds of dirt with crude crosses or a post or a stone or without other distinction, marked the last resting place of one, who in all probability wandered from the scene of this earth's activities to an endless night, hopeless and barren. At one side of the clearing two Indian men were digging a new grave. Close by, the wife was kneeling at the side of the dead husband. There were his wooden pillow, his blanket made of the bark of one of the trees of the forest, an extra loin-cloth, his dishes and a bottle of lice taken from his body. These items would accompany the casket when it was lowered into the grave. The remaining women were seated one by one at different trees around the enclosure.

The wife, looking up through her hair, which had been combed down over her face, said, "I knew that you would come. Your love for us and for my husband did not end in bringing Christmas to Sambu, it can only end in continued help to His children. You left the festival in town to bring Christ and Christmas to the grave. I have peace now because I know that my husband is with Jesus." The missionary asked the group what song they would like to sing to begin the funeral service. The wife replied, "Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; There is Room in my Heart For Thee."

The simple service ended and the body laid to rest awaiting that new morning when the dead in Christ shall rise with incorruptible bodies, the group returned over the new trail. The green of the sky had turned to deep gray and the green-brown lace of trees and vines, to dark silhouettes. The abiding peace in those Choco hearts atuned to the infinite, broke out again in the Christmas story, "Ven a mi corazon, oh, Cristo; pues en el hay lugar para ti".

A Christian brother said, "Christmas used to mean for me as well as for my family, liquor. Now it is joy and peace." With quickened steps they arrived at the dug-out canoe and again travelling down river, the song welled from hearts humbly vibrant, "Oh, Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus, There is Room in my Heart for Thee."

* * * * *



The news spread rapidly throughout the region of Aguacate near Lake Gatun, that the man known as El Tigre de Aguacate (the tiger of Aguacate) had been almost fatally wounded. This man who long had been hated and feared by everyone, was the virtual owner of all the lands near the village of Aguacate. He ruled his domain with a iron fist. He had instilled such fear in many because he always carried side-arms which he would use on anyone that dared to cross him. Recently Tiger organized a festival featuring a rooster or cock fight. One man got into an argument with him and before it ended had drawn his dagger. This he stabbed viciously into the Tiger's abdominal region. The wounded man was rushed to the hospital with everyone despairing for his very life. In his weakened condition Tiger called out, "Oh Lord, if you'll just save me, I'll give myself to the God of the Evangelicals." That next morning a group of doctors were hovering near his bed in special consultation. He overheard one of them remark; "And just to think this "cholo" is still alive!" (Cholo is their word for a country person or persons having quite a lot of Indian blood.)

Several weeks later the Tiger was almost fully recovered and sent home. One day he learned that Rev. Gilberto Alvarado, Colon District Supervisor, was to be in his town for special services. He went to this service and at the altar call he went forward to accept Christ. The very next day this man's mother heard what he had done and became quite angry with him. She too, carried the title, Tigress of Aguacate and proceeded to warn him that he would lose all his money for having thrown in with the Evangelicals. As she talked with him, however, she noted the great change that had come over her son. That night, she was present at the service and went forward to make a profession of faith.

* * * * *

THE DARIEN

"Beginnings"

The first few years in the Darien Province saw the Four-square missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Vinton Johnson, dividing their supervision of the Spanish-speaking groups, and beginning the work among the Choco Indians. Eventually help was sent to the Spanish speaking works so that they could devote themselves to the work among the Choco Indians. They began by first winning their friendship, and then winning them to the Savior. Rev. Johnson wrote,

"The Indians are slow at making friends with those outside of their own people, so that except for the Indians who have already accepted the gospel, we have had difficulty in making friends with them. Lately we have begun to see some reason for this. It is reported that in the beginning of the work some of the witch doctors accepted the gospel, noting that there were true healings. Later they found that in accepting the gospel, they had lost their power to call up the devil. Now, it is reported that some of them have even beaten their people for coming to the church. Like the men in the book of Acts who saw that their hope of gains was gone, these witch doctors can be counted on to do everything in their power to hold back the work of the gospel. Opportunities are great. Wherever we have gone, the Indians have listened with respect and some have accepted."

The labors of the missionary were not in vain, for God soon began to give them souls as a definite breakthrough occurred when God miraculously healed the dying son of Jose Cabrera.

"The Choco"

The Choco Indians number about 25,000 in Panama and Colombia. It is estimated that about 5,000 of them live in the valley of eastern Panama called the Darien Province.

"Sambu"

The missions station is called "Sambu" mainly because it is located on the Sambu River. This area became the center of the many scattered Choco tribes. It was the only stretch of land untouched by the Pan-American highway. Entering the mouth of the Sambu River you would wind through flat mangrove swamps for about ten miles. The roots from these trees are matted together above the ground to form an almost impenetrable jungle. The scenery soon changes to that of a narrow river, tall grass and wild cooking banana trees known as plantino.

“culture”

Choco is the name of the language of these Panamanian tribes and to the world's knowledge there was no set standard of pronunciation or alphabet known to anyone except tribal members. The Choco language had isolated itself among its people. However, more and more the Indians began to learn Spanish in order to be able to trade and sell their banana crops.

Like most area tribes, the people live in houses built on stilts because of the large amount of rainfall. The houses have thatched roofs and no walls.

The men wear loin cloths and the woman wear wrap-around sarongs. Most of the people decorate their bodies with the stain of fruit juices. Silver coins are worn for jewelry.

The Indians are agriculturalists and hunters. Their main occupation is to sell bananas on a weekly basis, with corn and rice crops to to sell when they are ready for harvest.

Celebrations for the Choco tribe were usually simple parties, with homemade brews, corn and sugar cane treats.

The women weave beautiful baskets of all sizes. The men make dug-out canoes that are the transportation of practically all in the Darien. The rivers are the only roads!

“religion”

The Choco Indian believed that there was a God, but that He is not interested in humanity. Therefore, he worshipped the devil, as being the one most interested. Among these Indians there seemed to be little governmental set-up. The witch doctor was the head in nearly all things. One of his chief functions is to heal the sick. When a sick one is brought, he instructs the family of the sick person in making a beverage. The men of the family of the sick person have to construct a new small hut in which to perform the ceremony. In this way the witch doctor sets up his altar. Then the sick person is brought and the ceremony begins. The witch doctor takes some of the drink that the women have made and begins with his incantations to attract the devil. When the devil arrives, if he likes the drink that he is offered, he stays to heal directly or to prescribe in most cases herbs that the sick person should take as medicine. According to some of the later witch doctors, the sick person should be taken to a regular physician.

"The Gospel in
Choco"

In more recent years, the role of the witch doctor has diminished greatly as the Choco found Jesus to be his Savior and "Healer". Formerly many died with fever and other diseases, but now they continually come for and receive healing from the Lord.

In 1961, Rev. and Mrs. Dick Scott went to Sambu with the express purpose of helping the new converts in this tribe to obtain God's Word in their language. They began by trying to learn as much about the Choco people as they could. The more involved they became with the people, the more they understood their language. "First you try to communicate with a people, and then to analyze what you have learned from any discussion. "Within several months we felt we could tap some of the Chocos' basic thoughts. Then we had to reduce their language to written form and ultimately, teach as many of the Indians as we could to read."

"The first thing to do is to establish a good contact, and the first Indian we met, Jose Cabrera, turned out to be our contact man and chief informant." Spanish was used as a contact language.

To be able to translate the Bible, the missionary would explain simple passages in Spanish to Jose. Jose would then use a tape recorder to say what this meant to him but he would use the Choco language. Then the missionary would take this and use it as the basic translation. It was a very difficult, arduous task which took days of constant work to find adequate words for the translation.

"In work of this kind, it is easy to translate passages relating to such actions as Jesus taking a boat and going across the sea of Galilee, or His healing, and so on, but it is far more difficult to translate passages dealing with the grace of God, baptism, the work of the Holy Spirit—mental concepts for which there may be no exact or precise meaning for the Indians, or any they can describe in their own tongue."

"For example, there was the problem of 'angels'. The Chocos assumed 'angels' were babies who had died, but we used the phrase, 'heavenly helpers' and that got the idea across."

Like any other tongue, Choco has its complexities, and expresses a form of thought alien to white cultures. No primitive language has fewer than 20,000 words, which is about the vocabulary of William Shakespeare.



At times as Rev. Scott and Jose Cabrera were writing down the Scriptures, certain expressions seemed almost impossible to translate. It was at such moments that they would stop and go to prayer and ask God to guide them to the right words. Often a whole day would be spent in prayer before the right expression would come to them. They would then rejoice knowing they were one step closer to placing in the hands of these indigenous people, God's very words for them.

It took fourteen months for the Gospel of Mark to be translated. After the first manuscript was finished, Jose and the missionary were invited to a special Bible Society meeting in Lima, Peru. Several weeks were spent in comparing texts and making further changes. As the final correction was made, the missionary and his informant were told that this fine translation would now serve all Chocoland where thousands of these Indians live. After it was completed the American Bible Society published it. Later the Book of Acts was also translated and published.

"Advancements"

In addition to the translation work, the missionary helped to build a community or "Indian Center." This has helped the people to become more adaptable to civilization. They were helped to become tailors, teachers, and learned new trades. In this way it is hoped that when the American Highway is finished, the people there will be able to cope with the new way of life. The Choco Indians have made great advancements and their future now holds much more than it ever could if the mission station had never been set up.

Though the benefits of civilization were needed by the Choco, the missionary was glad that it was the Word of God that was an inroad to these people, bringing them joy and giving them life. When the Word is spoken in Spanish many understand, but when it is translated into Choco, how their faces light up, as it then truly speaks to their hearts. "This we know, where the Gospel has been, civilization always follows."

LEARNING CENTERS

The following are ideas for teaching missions at the learning centers. Develop and adapt these according to your particular missions education needs.

Storytelling: Choose an appropriate story from the story section of this manual. Simplify it for your age-group. If you have set up the jungle room, sit together on the mats in your "hut" for the story. Introduce a few words in Spanish (perhaps recorded) to enhance the understanding of boys and girls in Panama by the young children. "Other boys and girls love Jesús (Hay-soos) too. . ." Use the pictures from the Missions Education Calendars to introduce the missionaries and people in Panama and to illustrate the story.

Art: Various art work and crafts are suggested for making the jungle room. Talk with the children about life in the jungle as they make these items.

Homeliving: Place the previously mentioned items in the homeliving center. Guide the children as they play out their roles. Foods may be brought into the "hut" for serving. Explain that the Choco Indians do not have roads but travel up and down the river in their canoes.

Books: Bring books that show life in the jungle, etc. Panama travel books can be borrowed from the local library.

God's Wonders: Set up a display as described in the jungle room instructions. Bring "touchable" items as well as pictures.

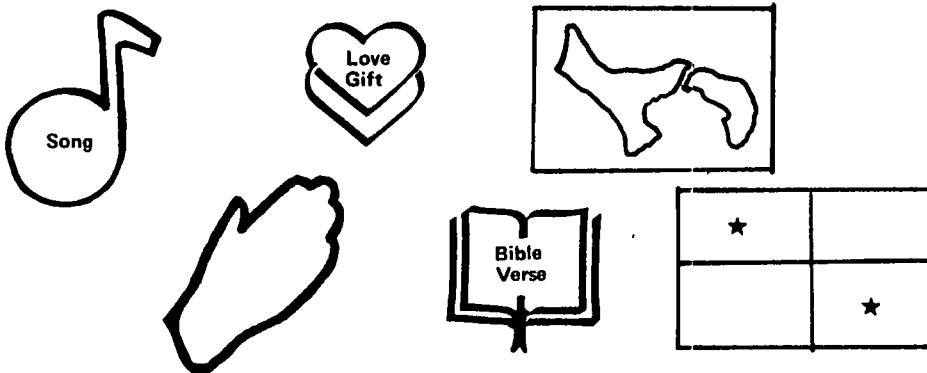
Music: Music can be used at any of the centers at any time during the morning. Mature five-year-olds may enjoy learning the Spanish chorus printed in the children's section of this manual. At together time, when the love gifts are dedicated, "We will Help"* can be sung.

MISSIONS EDUCATION CALENDARS

Use the calendars as you teach the children about the missionary and his work in Panama.

As you sing a missions song, place a song sticker on the calendar. Place a heart sticker on the calendar as you dedicate the missionary offering. When you tell about the country, place on a map and flag sticker. A praying hands sticker can be placed on as you pray for the missionary, etc. While emphasizing the Bible thought, place a Bible sticker on the calendar.

Use the following as patterns to make the stickers.

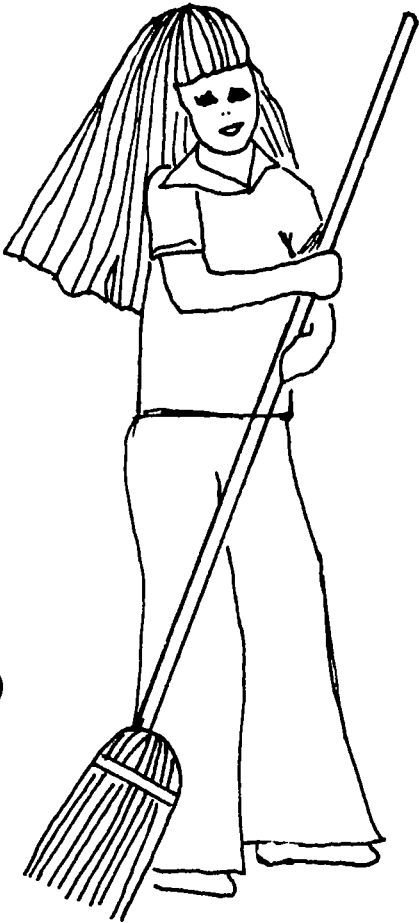


HELPERS ACTIVITY PAGE

Make copies of the activity page for each child. The teaching aim is to show that helping is a way to obey. Follow the aim and the stated procedure which is printed on the back of the activity page.

*See "Little Ones Sing", G/L Publications, P.94.

HELPERS



“Children obey your parents...
for this is right.”

I can be a helper.

I can _____ to help.

NAME: _____

HELPERS ACTIVITY PAGE

Make a copy of the activity page for each child.

Teaching Aim: That the child may know that God wants him to obey his parents. "Helping" is a way to obey.

Boys and girls in Panama are helpers and obey their parents.

Procedure: (refer to Bible thought on the page) Our Bible tells us, "Children obey your parents. . . for this is right". We can obey our parents by being helpers at home.

Boys and girls in Panama are helpers. (refer to top squares) Girls help their mothers in the house. This little girl is sweeping the floor. Boys help their fathers outside. This boy is feeding the chickens. These children are helpers. You can be a helper too.

As you talk with the children about being helpers, assist them in glueing straw on to the broom, sand on to the floor, feathers to the chickens, and bird seed for chicken feed.

Help children determine ways that they can be helpers. "What can you do to help, Mary?" Write in the word(s) on the blank for each child.

Let us pray that Jesus will help us to be good helpers.

MISSIONS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Fall/Winter 1976 Tri-mester: September, October, November, December **Country:** Panama
Missionaries: Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Coombs, Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Donham

* * * * * **FOR THOSE WHO STUDY MISSIONS ONCE EACH MONTH** * * * * *

September	Introduce Panama and the Foursquare Missionaries
October	Share stories from the country
November	Engage in missions education learning activities
December	Christmas and missions projects

* * * * * **FOR THOSE WHO STUDY MISSIONS EACH SUNDAY DURING THE MONTH** * * * * *

SEPTEMBER	INTRODUCE THE COUNTRY AND THE MISSIONARY
Sunday #1	Show a picture of the missionaries (use calendar) Give the testimony &/or biography of the missionaries.
#2	Learn the facts about the country. Do a map of the country &/or make the flag.
#3	Do a crossword puzzle about the country and the missionaries.
#4	Quiz about the country, the missionary and his work in Panama
NOVEMBER	LEARNING ACTIVITIES & GAMES
Sunday #1	Missions Matching Game
#2	Panama Surprise Picture
#3	Thanksgiving & Missions
#4	Music Activities

OCTOBER	STORIES FROM THE COUNTRY
Sunday #1	Present the story (stories).
#2	Review "Visions of Harvest" & make plans to dramatize it (or do alternate idea).
#3	Make costumes, props, scenery (or alternate activity).
#4	Dress rehearsal for the drama (or alternate activity).
#5	"Visions of Harvest" performance time (or alternate plan).
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS & MISSIONS PROJECTS
Sunday #1	Missions at Christmas
#2	Christmas is for Sharing
#3	"Feliz Navidad" en Panama
#4	A Forward Look

* * * * * **FOR THOSE WHO STUDY MISSIONS OTHER THAN SUNDAY MORNING, CHOOSE FROM THE ABOVE TO SUIT YOUR PARTICULAR OBJECTIVE AND MISSIONS EDUCATION LEARNING NEEDS** * * * * *

INTRODUCE THE COUNTRY AND THE MISSIONARIES

1st Sunday—

Show the pictures of the missionaries using missions education calendar.

The testimony and biographies of the missionaries may be presented in a number of ways. Choose from the following:

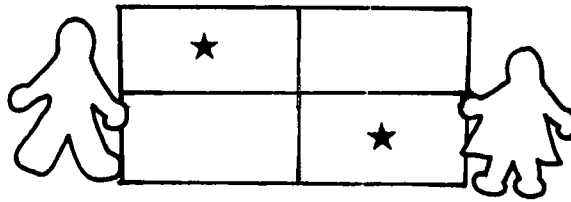
In advance, assign several children each one of the missionaries. They may read or tell about the life of the missionary as though they were that person.

Record the presentation of the biographies with sound effects added.

Conduct an interview by letting children assume the role of the missionary and responding to questions, such as, "Where did you grow up?" "How did you come to know the Lord?" "How did you decide to become a missionary?", "What do you do as a missionary in Panama?", etc.

2nd Sunday—

Facts about Panama may be learned in a similar manner as the above: research and reports; interviews; read; recorded; illustrated. Artifacts and exhibits can also be displayed.

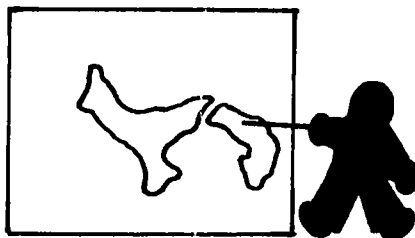


Using the Panama information page and the missions education calendar, children can make the national flag of Panama. The four rectangles can be made from blue, red, and white construction paper with the red and blue stars to be pasted on. Or the children can use crayons, paints, or markers to color a flag. Small flags can be made and stuck to toothpicks. Use the flag for room decoration or for the missions education bulletin board as a prayer reminder.

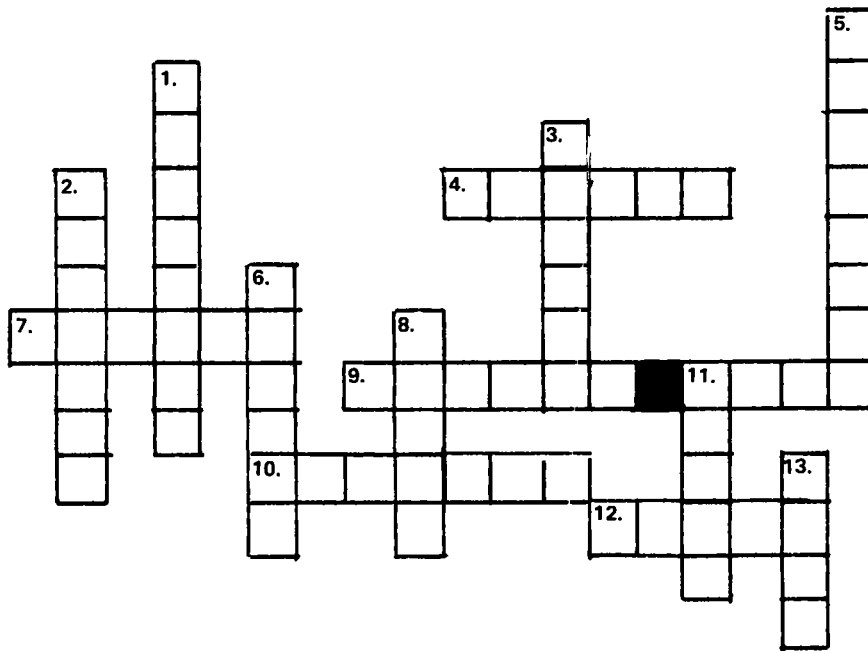
Children will enjoy learning about Panama by making a map. Use the Panama information page to make an enlarged outline for the children to complete.

A relief map may be made from plaster of paris or paper-maché. This three dimensional form will show the mountains and hills, the rivers, jungle, and Panama Canal. Secure an atlas which shows these features.

A mosaic map may be made by gluing various types and colored dry cereals to the outline of the country drawn on heavy paper. Or, bits of broken egg shell may be glued to the outline and painted to show mountains, cities, etc.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

4. Missionary advisor for the Foursquare works in Panama.
7. Unit or currency & name of city in the Canal Zone.
9. Capital city of Panama.
10. First Foursquare missionaries to Panama.
12. Name of indians who live in the Darien Province of Panama.

Down

1. Discovered Panama.
2. Chief exported crop.
3. Foursquare missionaries to the Canal Zone.
5. Rust and mildew is caused by the high—.
6. Jungle province near the Colombian boarder.
8. A famous water-way in Panama.
11. Major city on the Atlantic side.
13. Choco man who helped the missionary with the translation work.

Ways to use the crossword puzzle. Choose the method which best meets the missions education learning needs of the children.

1. Reproduce the puzzle (without the answers) for each pupil. Allow a specified amount of time to complete the puzzle, then exchange papers to correct them.
2. Draw the puzzle on a large piece of paper or on a chalkboard. Furnish each pupil with the clues. Let them take turns to fill in the squares. This can be done individually or by team competition.
3. Present another story &/or facts about Panama and the Foursquare missionary efforts there. Use the crossword puzzle as a review to reinforce your presentation.

QUIZ

1. The first Foursquare missionaries appointed to Panama in 1928 were:
 - a. **Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Edwards**
 - b. Rev. Edgar Coombs
 - c. Rev. Bruce Donham
2. The Official language of Panama is
 - a. English
 - b. **Spanish**
 - c. Choco
3. The climate is very
 - a. hot and dry
 - b. cool and wet
 - c. **warm and humid**
4. The largest city is also the capital of Panama. Its name is
 - a. Colon
 - b. **Panama City**
 - c. David
5. The missionaries who began the work in the Canal Zone
 - a. **Rev. and Mrs. Carl Thompson**
 - b. Rev. Bruce Donham
 - c. Rev. Leland Edwards
6. The missionary to the Canal Zone since 1975
 - a. Rev. and Mrs. Carl Thompson
 - b. **Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Donham**
 - c. Rev. Leland Edwards
7. Panama is slightly smaller than which United States state
 - a. California
 - b. Maine
 - c. **South Carolina**
8. Panama's neighboring countries are
 - a. **Colombia**
 - b. Guatemala
 - c. **Costa Rica**
9. One of the major goals for the missions work in the Darien
 - a. bringing civilization
 - b. treating diseases
 - c. **translating the Bible into Choco**
10. Jose Cabrera is called an "informant". This means that
 - a. he is a spy
 - b. **he helps with the translating work**
 - c. he watches the witchdoctor
11. The monetary unit is
 - a. **the balboa**
 - b. the centavo
 - c. the lempira
12. The missionary advisor for the works in Panama is
 - a. Rev. Leland Edwards.
 - b. Rev. Dick Scott
 - c. **Rev. Edgar Coombs**
13. A water body that divides North America and South America
 - a. **Panama Canal**
 - b. Sambu River
 - c. Mitola Waterway

14. The first churches in Panama were begun as a result of
- a. evangelistic meetings
 - b. government support
 - c. education
15. Since 1928, many missionaries have served in Panama. Which did not
- a. Dr. & Mrs. Leland Edwards
 - b. Dr. Donald McGregor
 - c. Rev. Mrs. T. Tuttle
16. Besides holding church services other ministries were established. They are
- a. radio broadcasts
 - b. youth camps
 - c. Bible Institutes

True and False Questions:

- T 17. Death is eminent for those bitten by the fertilance snake.
- T 18. Jose Cabrera was delivered from alcoholism when he was converted.
- T 19. There are now over 200 national ministers in Panama.
- T 20. The full Gospel message still makes an impact upon the people of Panama.

Ways to use the quiz. Choose from the following alternatives.

1. On a Sunday prior to the quiz give a copy of the questions to each child. As a research project let them find the correct answers. On the 4th Sunday give an oral or written quiz to see what was learned from the research.
2. Develop "quiz teams". Coaches for each team will help the children understand the questions and answers. After sufficient study, hold a contest. The finals may be held during one of the public services, or hold the event to be attended by special invitation to parents and other adults.
3. Add more questions or use fewer.
4. Present another story &/or facts regarding Panama and Foursquare missions. Use the quiz as a review to reinforce your presentation.

PRESENT STORIES FROM THE COUNTRY

1st Sunday—

“Visions of Harvest” is the story of the Dr. Arthur Edwards family, how they were called to Panama and their pioneer efforts in that country. You will find it in the story section of this manual.

This story may be presented in various ways. It will have most impact if you do not attempt to read it, but “tell” it with the proper expression.

2nd Sunday—

Review the story and assign characters as you plan to dramatize it. The story easily falls into the following scenes:

Scene 1 — “The First Call” (events which took place at San Jose, California)

Scene 2 — “The Second Call” (events which took place at Angelus Temple and LIFE Bible College)

Scene 3 — “The Call Answered” (the 10-day trip by ship and what they found in this new land)

Scene 4 — “The Call Fulfilled” (the Edwards family holding street & tent meetings & the old man of the “vision” found in the hospital)

Scene 5 — “The Fulfillment Continues” (Choco translation work; radio broadcasts; Bible Institutes; leadership training; church planting; etc.)

The children can work together to form a script for the story. Characters can be assigned speaking parts, or the story can be narrated with the “actors” portraying their assigned roles.


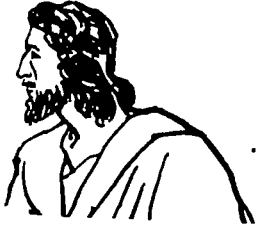
Alternate: If you do not plan to dramatize a story, select another story (stories) which are appropriate for your age-group. Present these true stories in various ways. You may tell different stories to each group of 4 or 5 children. Ask the groups to illustrate the stories and then tell the story to the entire class using their pictures. Or, after telling a story, you may assign characters mentioned to each child. Ask them to draw or write how they felt in that role, etc.

3rd Sunday—

Make costumes, props, scenery for "Visions of Harvest". Rehearse the drama.


Alternate:

Tell stories about boys and girls in Panama. Then help the children to make a picture of their own. The following example may serve as a guide:

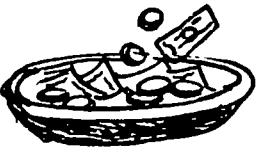

Many  in Panama had not heard about .


The missionary came to tell them about . They heard

stories about Him from the . Now many

belong to Jesus. They want to tell  in their

country about Jesus too. They are thankful that people in North America

give  and  so that the missionary

could come to Panama and tell the people that Jesus  them.

4th Sunday—

Stage the dress rehearsal for the drama. Repeat the rehearsal until those participating feel comfortable with their assignments.

Alternate: Many of these true stories from Panama involve God's supernatural power to heal the sick. After telling such stories, provide the opportunity to explain this doctrine of divine healing to the children.

For resources available from Foursquare Publications see:

"I Believe Course"

"Cadet Handbook—Section II" (revised)

"We Believe In Divine Healing"

"Foursquare Declaration of Faith" Year II, Parts II & III

5th Sunday—

"Visions of Harvest" performance—it may be done for all children's groups, or guests may be invited for the presentation.

Alternate:

Tell stories not previously shared. Provide each child with drawing paper and crayons. As you tell the story, ask the children to use a color which describes how they feel about the event, etc. Afterwards, talk together about their impressions. Example of colors that describe feelings:

yellow — happy

blue — sad

purple — mad

orange — cheerful

green — relaxed

gray — want to ignore

MISSIONS MATCHING GAME

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|
| 1. Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Coombs | <u>c</u> | a. discovered Panama |
| 2. Balboa | <u>e</u> | b. first Foursquare missionary to Panama |
| 3. Bananas | <u>h</u> | c. missionary advisor in Panama |
| 4. Spanish | <u>f</u> | d. missionaries located in the Canal Zone |
| 5. Choco | <u>j</u> | e. unit of currency in Panama |
| 6. Colombus | <u>a</u> | f. language spoken in Panama |
| 7. Rev. and Mrs. Bruce Donham | <u>d</u> | g. Choco informant |
| 8. Jose Cabrera | <u>g</u> | h. main export of Panama |
| 9. Dr. Arthur Edwards | <u>b</u> | i. capital city of Panama |
| 10. Panama City | <u>i</u> | j. language spoken in Darien Province |

Ways to use the game. Choose from the following alternatives.

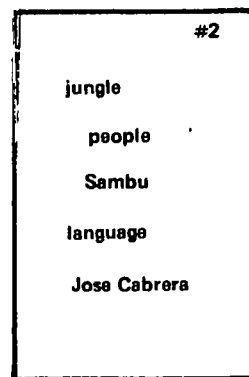
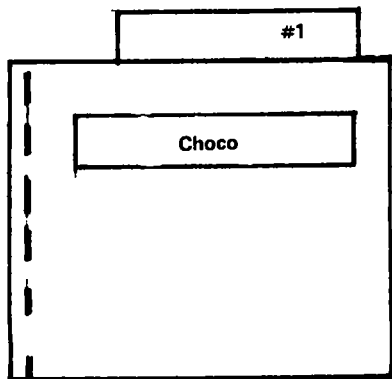
1. Give a copy of the matching game to each child (without the answers). As a research project let them find the correct answers.
2. Add more questions or use fewer, depending upon your age-group and missions education learning aim.
3. Present another story &/or facts regarding Panama and Foursquare missions. Use the game as a review to reinforce your presentation.
4. Make the game more exciting by dividing the group into teams to compete to find the correct answers more rapidly than their opponents.
5. Make a "Bible Password" game for each four pupils.

Bible Password

Prepare: Make password pockets with several strips with 5 words that relate. Use this missions manual for the information. Make the pockets by folding a 6" x 9" piece of construction paper in half and stapling it along one side and the bottom end. Cut an opening near the top, that is large enough to reveal one word at a time. Cut a piece of construction paper 2½" x 9". List the related words (5) for the clues on each strip.

Proceed: Four players play in teams of two each. The teams take turns alternately giving a clue to the word. A point is scored when the word is identified. Two lists are marked for team #1 and two lists are marked for team #2.

Example:

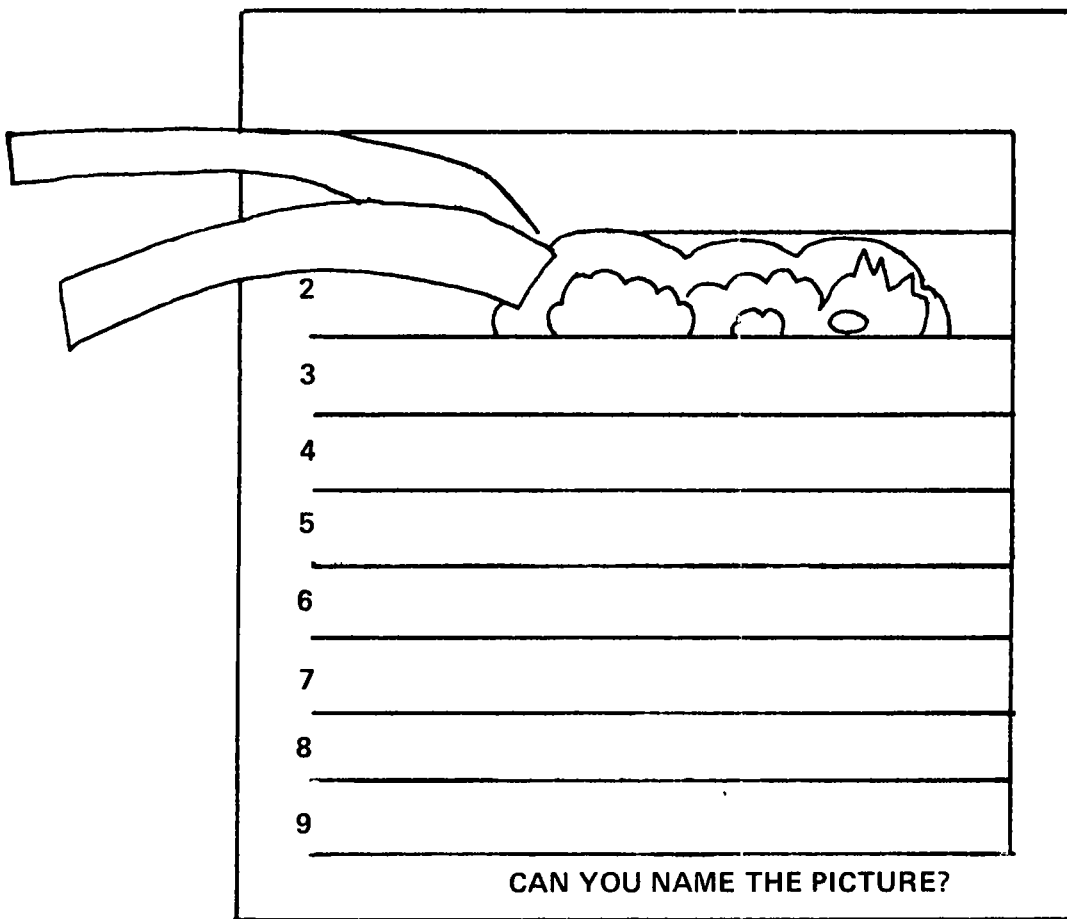


PANAMA SURPRISE PICTURE

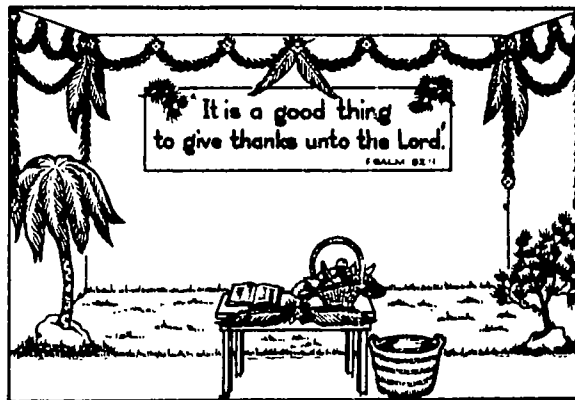
Draw a picture depicting one of the stories from Panama; draw the map &/or the Panamanian flag; or use the pictures from the Missions Education Calendars.

Prepare the container pictures with strips that can be opened one by one to reveal a small portion of the picture.

Four to six players take turns. Each chooses a strip to be opened. As each has a turn, he tries to identify the picture (or missions story). The player that makes the correct identification is further challenged to relate more information about the picture (or story events). A number of pictures can be placed in the container at one time, and removed as they are identified.



THANKSGIVING AND MISSIONS



A thanksgiving day in Panama is not generally celebrated except by the Americans who live in the Canal Zone. It is celebrated much as it is in the United States with a large family dinner.

Help children to understand that thanksgiving is an attitude of life—much more than eating turkey and pumpkin pie once a year.

Use word cards or chalkboard to explain the following formula:

TRUE THANKFULNESS IS

THINKFULness = always remembering the good things

ThanksLIVING = putting it into action by sharing, giving, caring

From the story section of this manual, contrast the life of a child in Panama with those in the group. Allow each child to list things for which he is thankful as a result.

Encourage children to put into action expressions of thanksgiving by encouraging them to share with one another, give to those in need, care for others, such as children in other countries, etc. Explain that their giving of offerings, and prayers for the missionary and his work, are ways to put thanksgiving into "action" or "thanksgiving".

*Dear God, I ask for many things
And I am well supplied,
Indeed, I have so very much
It puffeth up my pride.*

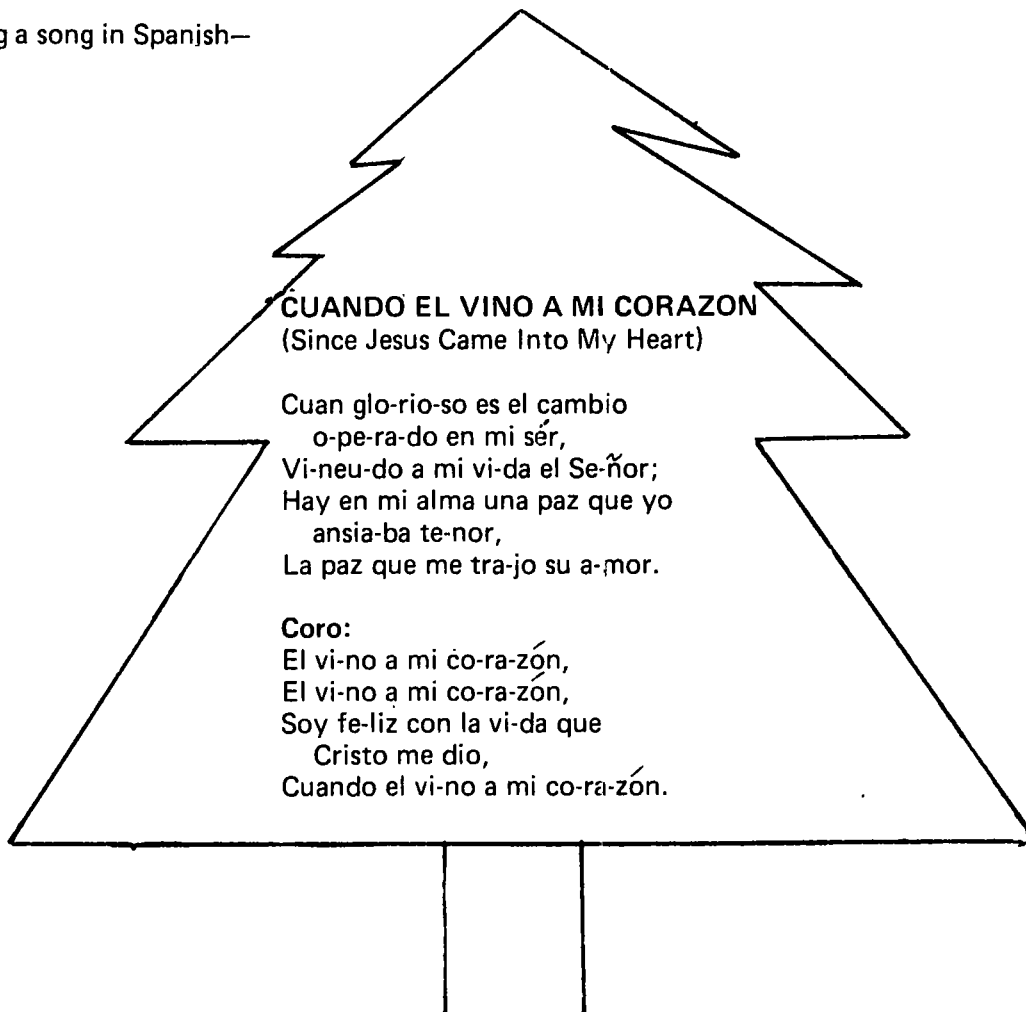
*But, Lord, there's one thing missing—
Without it I'm so small,
Please fill my heart with gratitude—
I need it most of all.*

—Nita Nelson

MISSIONS MUSIC ACTIVITIES

Music provides a natural and meaningful way for children to express their love and thanks to God. They need this opportunity to be provided by you. Although you may not feel you are especially musical, you can learn simple songs about missions which are appropriate to your age-group. When you lead the singing from a heart of love for the Lord, the children are quick to catch and reflect your feelings. Choose from the following music alternatives:

1. Use a visualized song such as "We've A Story To Tell" (available from Foursquare Publications, \$3.95).
2. Form a puppet choir. Help children make Panamanian looking puppets to sing together.
3. Write new words to a familiar hymn or chorus. Let mature learners help with the writing. Possible tunes that would be easy to work with are "Jesus Loves Me", "Onward Christian Soldiers", etc.
4. Let the children help draw and letter a "song and word chart" to illustrate the missions songs.
5. Sing a song in Spanish—



1st Sunday—

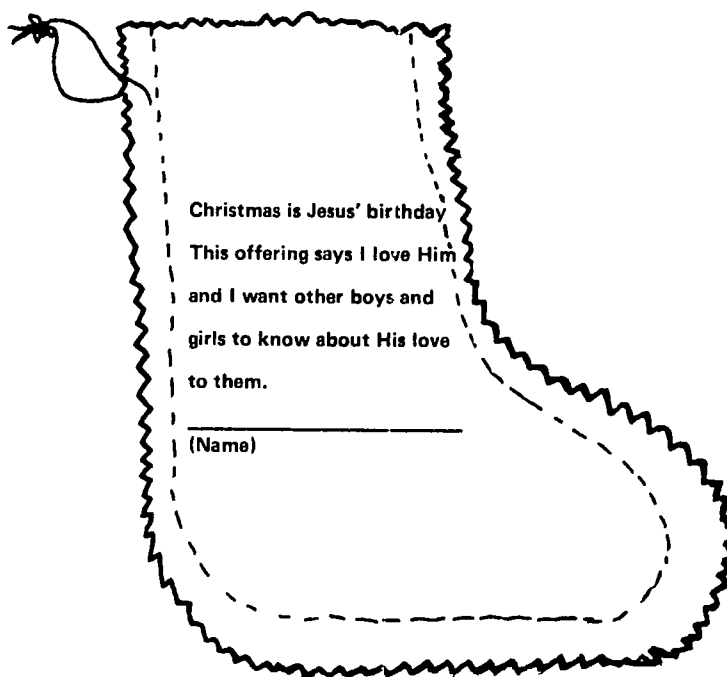
Missions At Christmas

Isn't Christmas an ideal time to stress missions? The time that Jesus came to give Himself for the lost world. Help children to realize that the true meaning of Christmas means that God gave His Son, Jesus, Who gave also. He gave Himself for us.

Children can be encouraged to give Christmas offerings so that boys and girls in other countries can know about God and His "giving" love.

Make small Christmas stockings from felt scraps as shown.

Children can glue the prayer and giving reminder on to the stocking and take it home, put coins into it for the next two weeks and bring it back for a missions offering on Christmas Sunday.



2nd Sunday—

Christmas Is For Sharing

Christmas began with sharing—the Father sharing His love and His Son; Jesus sharing His life; the wise men sharing their wealth. The Foursquare Church is committed to sharing the gift of Jesus Christ with the world. Children can have a part in this sharing by participating in a "missions Christmas tree" project. The verses in Acts 20:35 and Matthew 10:8 are appropriate for this project.

An undecorated Christmas tree could be set up at the front of the department or class. The size of the tree to be determined by the size of your department or class could fill with decorations.

Decorate the tree by bringing a missionary offering each Sunday of December. Choose from the following alternatives:

1. Each class might place one ornament on the tree each week with the total of their offering written on it. On the last Sunday of the month, place a large star "ornament" with the total amount given on the top of the tree.
2. Have a quantity of tinsel icicles ready and for each \$1 given an icicle is put on the tree. When a class gives \$5.00 five icicles could be put on, plus a decorative ball. \$10 would mean 10 icicles and 2 balls, etc. (Note: The amounts can be changed to 10¢ for each icicle, \$1 for each ball, etc. if used in younger classes only.)
3. Have a "white" Christmas tree. Use white tissue paper or other white paper wadded into balls which could be placed on the tree according to the amounts given as explained above.
4. Use a white tree and wadded-up dollar bills to decorate it! (Be sure to remove afterwards and replace with play money.)

3rd Sunday--

Feliz Navidad En Panama

From the story section of this manual, tell the children how Christmas is celebrated in Panama. They will be interested to know that they do not decorate Christmas trees and that there is no snow in Panama—not even for Christmas. This information can be reinforced by use of one or both of the following ideas:

1. **Matching Game**—Children are to place the words which describe Christmas in Panama and at home in the proper columns. When you correct their decisions, note that several words apply to both.

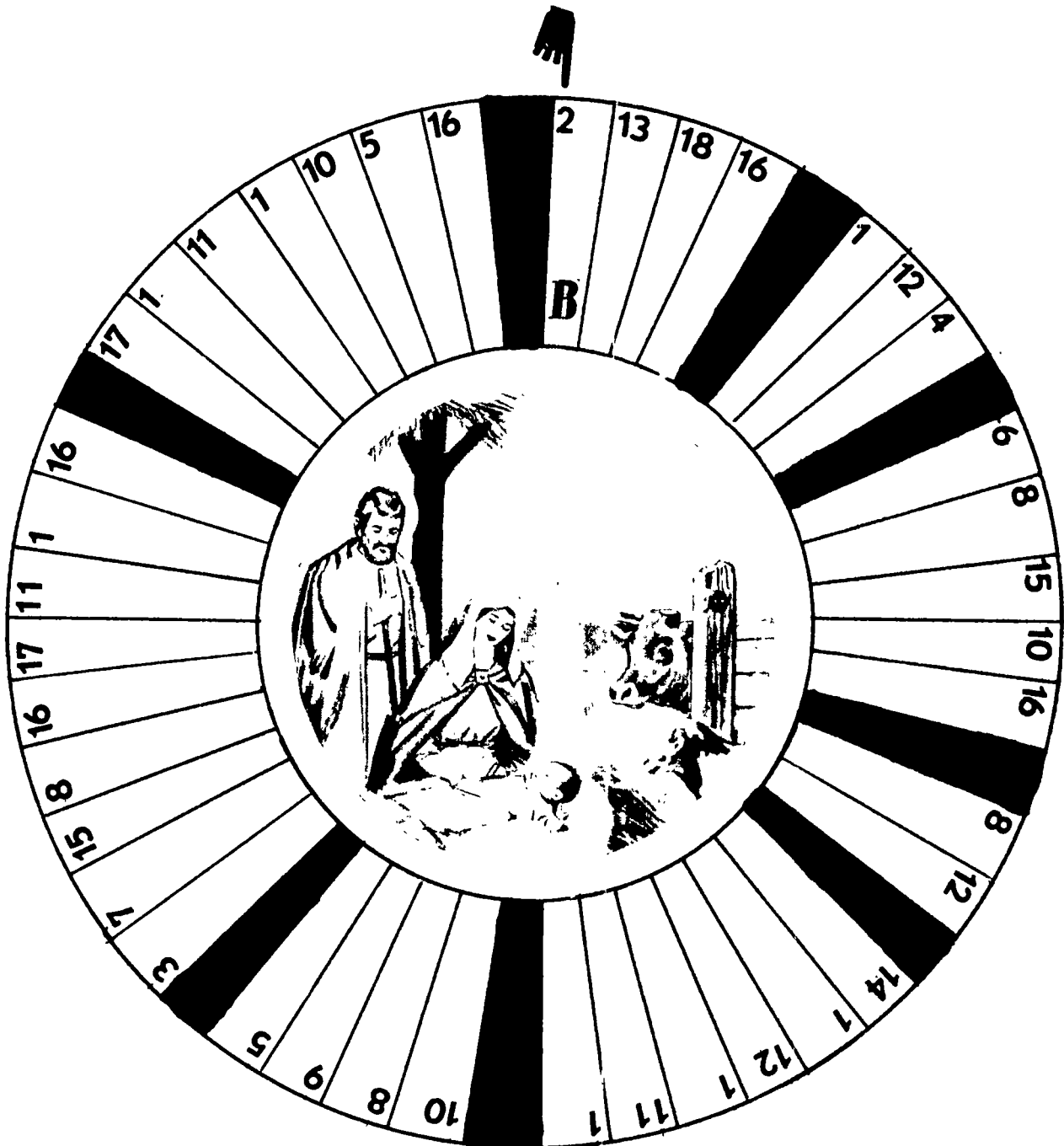
CHRISTMAS IN . . .		
PANAMA	HERE	MATCH THESE WORDS
		baby Jesus a feast sleigh bells Christmas trees large nativity scenes tamales snow balls expensive gifts parties colored lights tinsel plays and programs friends summertime vacation Santa Claus

2. Christmas Code Game—

Make enough copies for each child to have the game.

Use the secret code to finish the sentence. Start at the top of the circle with the letter "B". Then write the sentence on the lines below.

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18



A FORWARD LOOK

The New Year's holiday is one in which we think about the things that took place over the last year and think about what the new year might be like. We think about the things that we would like to do, and we think about how we would make changes in our habits, etc.

Discuss these things with the children, then talk about the way New Year's Eve is celebrated at home and in Panama.

Talk about how their giving and prayers can affect Foursquare missions this year. Suppose we stopped giving—missionaries would have to leave the countries and the Gospel witness would be diminished. Suppose we give more than last year—perhaps even more missionaries could be sent and the Gospel witness could spread farther more effectively.

Decide upon an activity that can make this personal to the children in your group. Perhaps they can make a personal "Old and New" Chart. After they have listed things they want to change under the "old" let them tear this half from the chart and "burn it" by throwing it away (into a container brought by you.) Then ask them to list the good traits under the "new" column. Let them keep these lists in their Bibles as a reminder. Pray together about these desires.

"OLD AND NEW" CHART

OLD

cheating
forgetting to pray for
the missionaries
hitting
being stingey with my money

NEW

honest
pray for the missionaries
Love others
bring offerings

MISSIONS EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

What is the best way to present the missionary program to your group? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you that leading as you plan for this will prove to be the most successful ingredient for successful missions education.

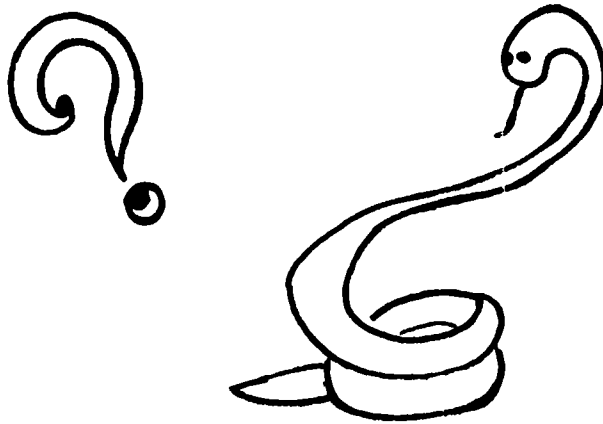
What should be presented about Panama and the Foursquare missionaries? Review all of the informational material in the beginning pages of this manual to acquaint yourself with the country; the Foursquare works there; the missionaries; and true stories from Panama. Also, look at the Missions Education Calendars which show the people and places to be studied. Decide how you can best use this information to make it meaningful to your group.

What will be your plan for education? for projects? for giving and prayer? Meet with a core group to plan and prepare for the missions meetings and projects. Use the Missions Education Calendars to plan your education, projects, and giving goals for the next four months.

What are some ideas? The next few pages give ideas to help you acquaint your group with the work of our missionaries in the country of Panama. You won't be able to use all of the ideas. Select those that will be best for you to work with to communicate the story of the Foursquare Church in that country.

What can be done? Let us help missionaries go to the field by our prayer and financial support. Let's go with them in spirit (Mark 16:16).

"DOODLES"



What is your view of the Foursquare missions work in Panama?

Ask each person to draw a doodle of some kind that will represent how he views missions in Panama. For example, one may simply doodle a question mark, indicating that he doesn't know who the missionary is, or what Foursquare is doing to minister in Panama. Someone may doodle a snake, which describes a story about a healing of a snakebite which he has heard. Allow two or three minutes for this first doodle.

Next give the information about the country and the Foursquare missionaries in Panama. Use the Missions Education Calendars to show the missionaries' pictures. Divide this information into several segments to be presented by several persons in various ways.

How would you change your doodle in the light of the information just given?

Ask each person to make appropriate additions or modifications to their first doodles. For example, the person who doodled a question mark may scratch a large "X" across it signifying that his questions had been answered. Allow two or three minutes for these doodle additions.

Have each individual share his completed doodle with those in the group and explain why he made the modifications that he did.

Close the session with prayer for Panama and the missionaries.

“NO WITCH DOCTOR NEEDED”

Relate the true story about the daughter of Jose Cabraro. Verna was bitten by a deadly snake which inhabits the jungles of the Darien, Panama. Rather than heed the advice of his fellow villagers, Jose and his family believed God to heal little Verna and raise her up. God does not fail; He receives glory through this incident.

To introduce this story mention that the Bible teaches us that Jesus heals the sick when we pray. The missionaries have taught this truth to many people around the world. This is a true story of God’s healing power.

Discuss the themes of “Jesus is Healer” &/or “A God greater than the Witchdoctors”. How would you feel if this incident had taken place in your own family? What would you have done?

Consider the results if God did not heal the sick. In this case:

1. The villagers may have returned to their man-made gods and the witchdoctor.
2. The girl would have died.
3. God’s Word would have been doubted.

Read Hebrews 13:8 together. This scripture reminds us that Jesus does not change and that He will heal the sick as we pray. Do you believe Him for this?

Share in prayer together on behalf of those who are sick. Pray for the Choco Indians and for the missionaries to Panama.

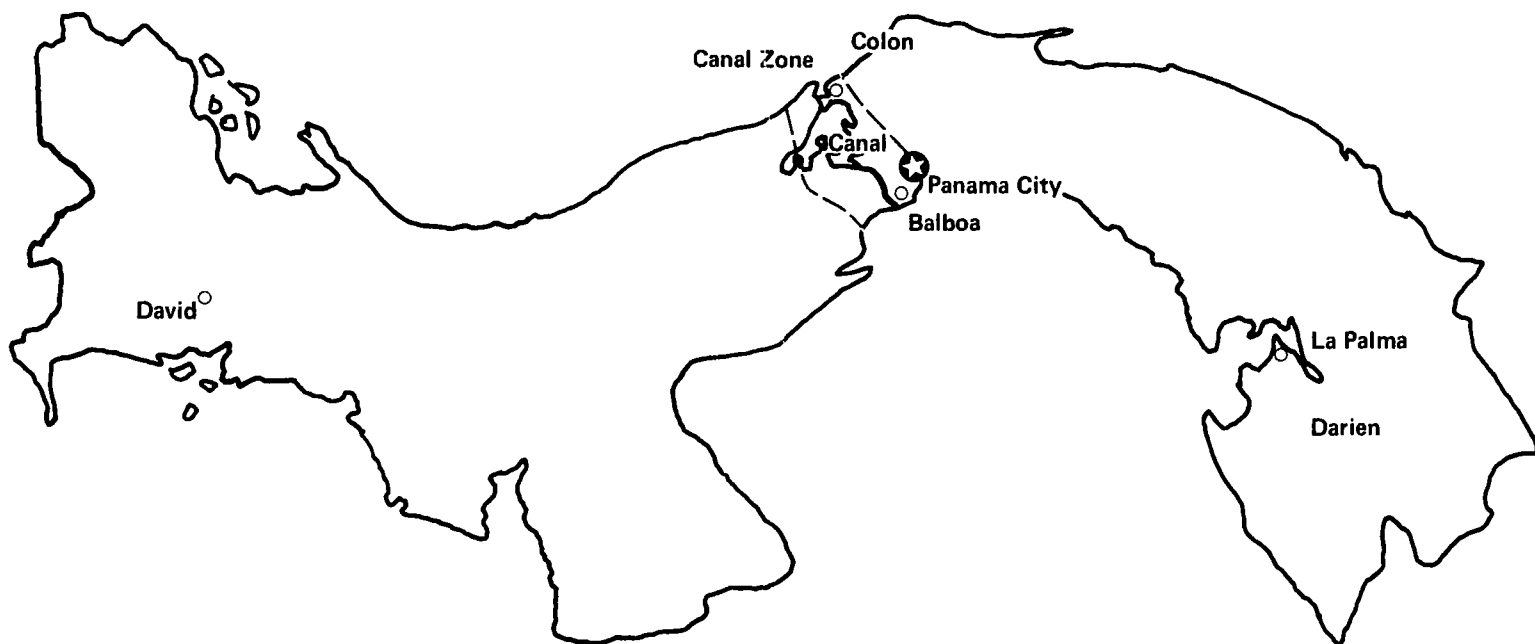
WALKABLE MAP OF PANAMA

Use the church parking lot in a unique way. Add interesting dimension to the missions study of Panama by painting the surface of the parking lot with a huge, walkable map of Panama, the Panama Canal, Canal Zone, Darien Province, port of entry, cities, etc.

Cardboard props can be added to various locations to depict churches, Bible schools, mission stations, and events which took place there.

Invite the entire church (& community) to walk through and learn the story of Foursquare missions in Panama.

(And poster paints will wash off with a couple rains.)



"PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE"

One of the important privileges Christians share is that of prayer. Often we pray in time of need, or for a particular desire, but fail to realize the importance of prayer beyond that. We forget that others need our prayers, and missionaries tell us over and over that they "depend" upon the prayers of Christians at home.

Rev. Edgar Coombs, missionary to Panama said regarding prayer, "It is more than just praying every day for your missionaries. I think, more important, is that we should be alert to the Spirit's voice. If suddenly in the night God should awaken you and you feel a burden for some particular field or missionary you should get right up and spend some time in prayer, for God is using you as an intercessory for a dangerous time in that missionary's life."

This important topic can be presented in various ways. Choose the method which best suits your particular missions education aim.

A **sermonette** can be presented to show the importance of prayer. The following outline can be used—

1. Prayer Made A Difference

Relate the New Testament incident of the release of Peter from jail as a result of a prayer meeting.

2. Prayer Makes A Difference

A. On the mission field

Relate the stories from this manual which show God's working in the lives of praying people.

B. In our lives

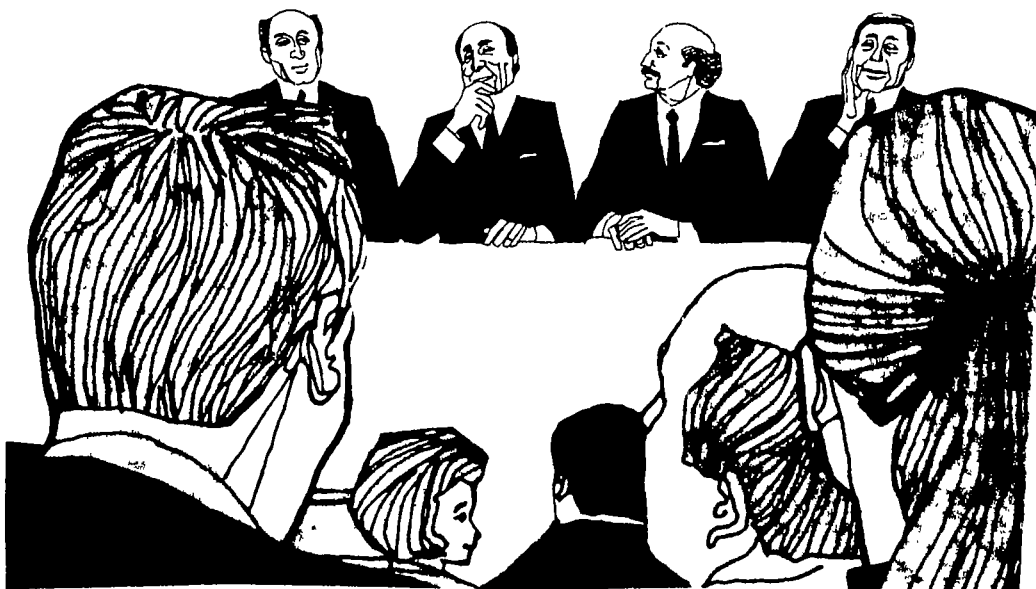
Share appropriate scriptures which tell us to pray.

Share answers to prayer from the group.

A **symposium** may be held to present this topic. Select three or more speakers who will prepare to give their opinions on this issue. The speakers should sit in front, facing the group. These speakers do not "discuss" their opinions, but simply present them.

A question and answer time can follow so that the group can ask speakers questions about what has been said during the presentation.

This symposium will present various viewpoints on the topic of prayer, explore the issue, and perhaps air any controversial areas regarding it.



CHRISTMAS AND MISSIONS

"Musical Missions"

Divide into several groups. Furnish each group with information about the missionary and the Foursquare work in Panama. Assign each group a Christmas carol for which they will write new words to express what they have learned from the missions information. Or, each group could write a stanza to the same tune. Some possible carols are "Silent Night", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", "Away in a Manger".

After ten minutes for working on these stanzas, encourage each group to sing their stanzas together to unfold the story of God at work in the distant country of Panama.

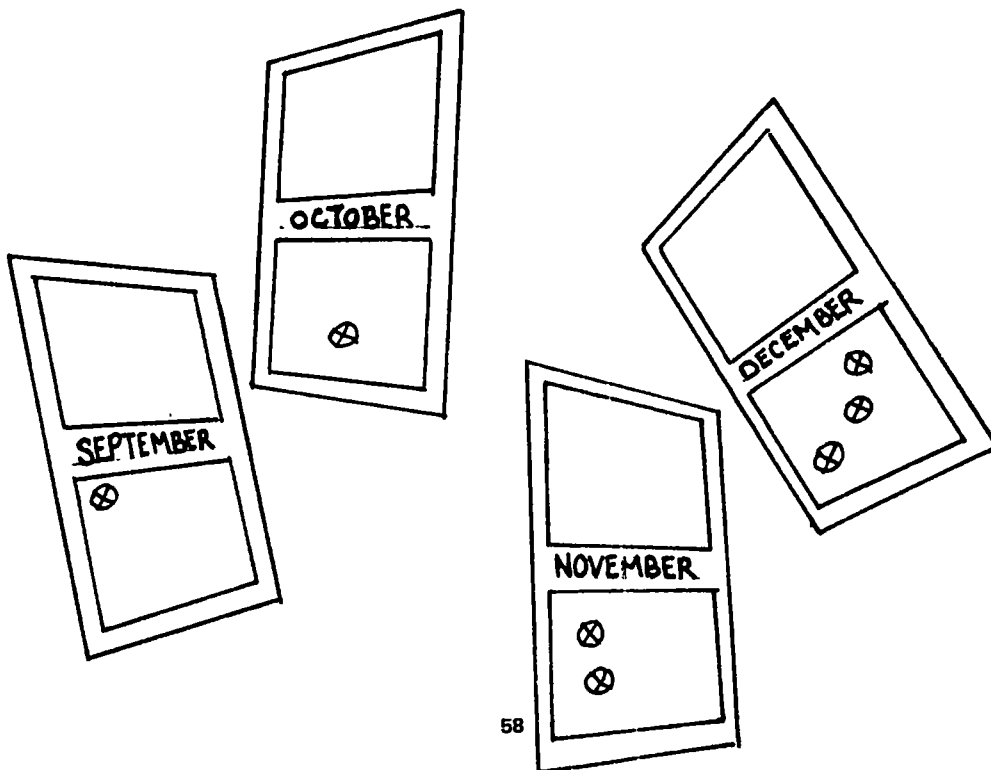
"Christmas Missions Giving"

Christmas is a time of giving. Don't forget your missionaries and Christians in other countries.

Divide the group into four smaller groups. Assign each group a month for which to plan (September, October, November, or December). Furnish each group with the list of missionaries' birthdays, and the appropriate Missions Education Calendar.

Using the calendars they should first fill in the blanks at the top right strip. Write the numbers on the calendar squares and then write in the names of the missionaries' whose birthdays fall in that particular month.

Then mark the Missions Education Calendar to show when missions education will take place; what the giving goals will be; and in which missions activities will be engaged.



"Christmas and Missions Bulletin Board"

The Christmas season is an exciting time for missionary emphasis. Help the group to understand the greatness of God's gift to us in His Son, and to think of others and to follow God's example of love and unselfishness through giving and ministering to others.

Cover a large bulletin board with Christmas gift wrapping paper of a solid, light shade and place a wide ribbon horizontally and vertically across it to resemble a large gift.

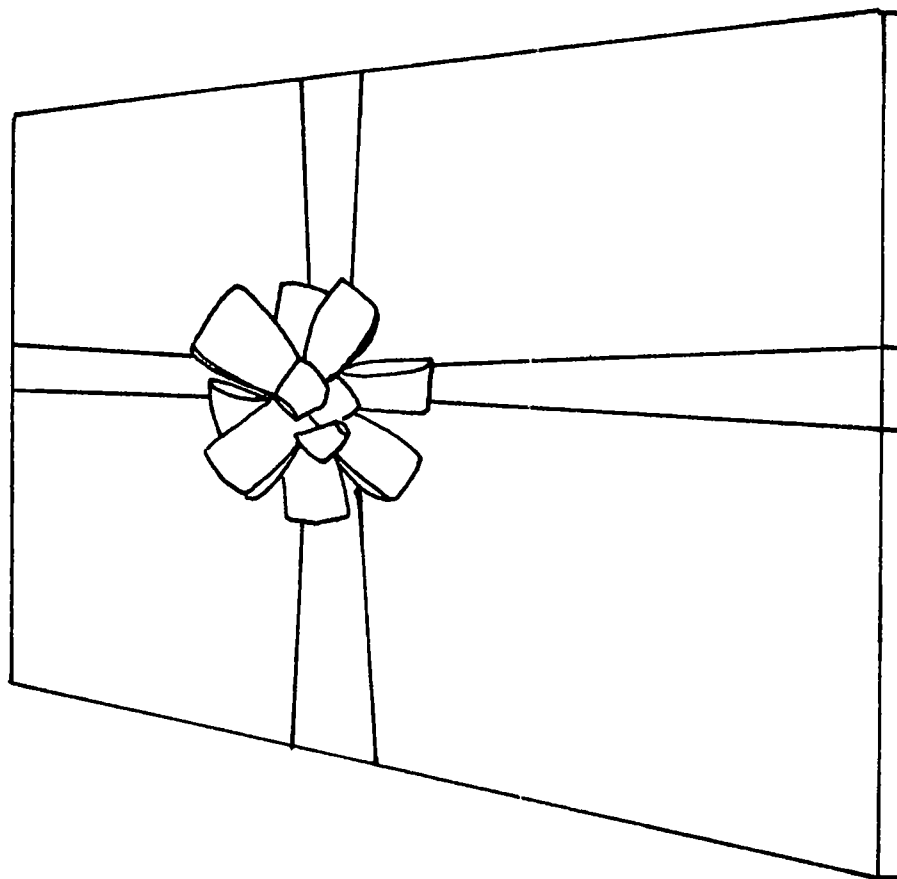
On one quarter of the board as separated by the ribbon, display pictures of the missionaries. List their names and birthdays.

On the second quarter of the board place a map of Panama. Indicate the specific location of the missionary units (Balboa, Canal Zone, Panama City).

On the third section of the board, feature current items about the country. Use newspapers, news magazines, the "Advance" magazine, and missions "Communique" for this information.

The last quarter of the board may depict clothing styles, housing, and customs of the country. Use magazine pictures, visual aids, or students drawings. Bookstores, stationery supply outlets, travel agencies, etc., are sources for display pictures depicting styles and customs.

This board will help your group learn about missions. Help them to also see their own responsibility toward missions—to give, to pray, and to yield to God's will for their own lives.





Copy the above illustration for a poster or visual for the meeting. Perhaps a group picture of the individuals who will attend the meeting could be placed in the "wanted" poster.

Share the story of Dr. Arthur Edwards. Point out that he was an adult and had established his family and occupation when God called him to the foreign field. Emphasize that adults should not rule out the possibility that God may want to use them in a more expanded ministry. Youth should be guided as they make decisions about their futures, and should be encouraged to be open to the Lord should He desire them to be missionaries.

Share together the scriptures which give a Bible basis for the missionary ministry.

Romans 10:15; I Cor. 9:9, 13, 14— Missionaries should be sent out and provided for financially so the lost can hear the gospel.

Matt. 28:19, 10; Mark 16:15—The Great Commission is a mandate to take the gospel not only to nations (peoples) but to individuals.

Acts 1:8—Everyone is responsible to be a witness, so in a sense everyone is a "missionary".

LOCATE THE WORDS

This simple puzzle should be used at the end of your study of the missionary work in the country of Panama. All of the words hidden in the puzzle are important names, places or events from the materials contained in this packet. Make enough copies of the puzzle for each person in the group. Words may be spelled vertically or horizontally. There are a total of 16 words hidden below.

F H J L N P S P A N I S H H T V X
R R H P E D W A R D S I J U F C A
R T V D I K F N S V W B U M K M O
I J H F E Z D A R I E N N I H L B
O S O M C O O M B S C A G D L N P
U W X Z A N N A A B H C L I D G I
W A R M N E H C L K O B E T A G H
T B C J A C A I B D C E J Y F N O
A X C O L E M T O C O L O N B Y D
G K P R T V X Y A L S M S A C E J
K S U W B E G J L N Q O E Q M I G