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Evangelical Visitor - January 13, 1969 Supplement on Missions

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Missionary Deputation

The practice of sending representatives from the mission field to visit the home church is commonly known as deputation. Since this is usually done by missionaries on furlough it is spoken of as Missionary Deputation. Ever since Paul and Barnabas instituted the practice at Antioch, this method of fellowship and involvement with the churches has proved beneficial. While there are obvious financial implications the real significance of deputation goes far beyond budgetary concerns.

The Missionary visiting a local congregation is representing one segment of the body of Christ to another part of that body. He stimulates the desire of members to better know and minister to the needs of converts, prospects and the missionaries themselves. While his story is often fascinating its message is enlightening and stimulates the motivation of the will of God's people. What happens before and after the missionary service is of equal significance to the impact of the public presentation. In both giving and receiving there is nourishment to the body of Christ.

The Church being visited wants a more vital relationship to and involvement with the mission field. If the interchange is healthy, the congregation gives both its hand and its heart. It receives a new dimension of purpose and experiences a growing vitality. To its children a vision of what the church's task is all about will be sharpened. To its aging members there will be the revitalization and extension of their ministry far beyond the limits of their tired bodies. To those members of the church who carry the burden of the heat of the day there will come new courage and perspective.

Tips — There are certain things that go together to make a good missionary program:

... both pastor and missionary should understand what goals are sought through the meeting.
... both should recognize that while missionary stories, pictures and curios may be interesting to the uncommitted, the thrust of the missionary message is to enlist and develop the energies of God's people.
... while there is great inspiration in filling a house with those who are in love with missions, there is really more potential in using the missionary to teach and enlighten those who are new and only partially informed about the work, method, and purpose of missions.
... effort should be made to help the newer people become personally acquainted with the missionary. If those who are deeply committed to missions will allow the newer members to do the visiting with the missionary while they limit themselves to the handshake at the door, a good missionary conference is assured.
... it must be recognized that missionary deputation is frequently harder work than the missionary's field service. The very exposure to inquisitive people, while essential to communication of the missions challenge, is far more tiring than most other forms of "service."
... the families of missionaries must be respected as having the same needs of rest and relaxation as others do. It is no sign of shortcoming for a missionary to shield his wife and children from undue exposure to the public.
... on the part of overseas missionaries, deputation is sandwiched into a furlough, the major purpose of which is rest and revitalization.
... many young people experience the call of God from a meaningful missionary meeting, or the visit of a missionary to their homes.
The needs of our several hundred missionary personnel on the fields are recognized in this budget. The actions of the 1968 General Conference are reflected in it. New challenges in various fields await us in 1969. Your wholehearted support of this budget will bring harvest and blessing to your own life and the Church.

Your part in fulfilling the 1968 assignments is deeply appreciated.

## Tools

For Promoting Missions

- **Missionary Conferences**: Long range planning with Missions Office is desirable.
- **Missionary Speakers**: Normally coordinated by Office but may be individually arranged.
- **“Greater Works Because”**: A program with narration and pictures which can be done by local congregation. (Contact Office for booking.)
- **“Publish Glad Tidings”**: A musical program with narration which can be produced with local musical talent. (Contact Office.)
- **Films**: MCC film strips and several sound films to be released soon.

## Announcement

At its December 19 meeting, the Board for Missions appointed J. Earl Musser to a three year term as Director of Missions effective July 1969. This appointment, reviewed by the Board of Administration December 20, will be presented to General Conference for confirmation.

To provide for the orderly transfer of responsibilities, which Henry N. Hostetter has carried since 1949, Earl Musser will begin full time service on April 1 as Associate Director of Missions.

**J. Wilmer Heisey**

Executive Secretary
MISSIONARY PERSONNEL

MISSIONS

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Edna M. Switzer

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Evangelism Team: B.C. Bible School, P.B. M 98, Bulawayo, Rhodesia, Africa.
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Phumula Mission: Private Bag T 188, Bulawayo, Rhodesia, Africa.
Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Bolgrien

Phumula Mission Hospital: Private Bag T 188, Bulawayo, Rhodesia, Africa.
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