

LOCAL MISSION
STATIONS



R. C. HOWARD

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How and Why

by

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Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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How to Establish and Conduct Local Mission Stations

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The writer having led his church in the establishing of 23 Local Mission Stations, 7 of which have grown into full time Baptist churches, has often been requested to write a book on HOW to establish and conduct Local Mission Stations. With repeated requests from interested brethren, and seeing no such book available, I have undertaken to give a brief history of our work, and the good that has come from it. Also to point out some pit-falls and dangers that may be avoided, as well as some suggestions that may be helpful in carrying on the work.

History of Our Mission Stations

In the first place, let me state that in May, 1924, I was asked by my pastor to go over to what had been Kelham Avenue Baptist Church, where the church had moved away and left a little building which could not be moved on account of a reversionary clause in the deed, and to see what could be done to hold the property for the Baptist cause. At that time I was an active layman and deacon in the church, but had never told any one I felt a call to preach, though such a call had been with me from my early youth, even before I was saved.

After some two weeks, a few of the old members and other Baptists in the neighborhood (our church is a neighborhood church, being located in what was then the extreme east outskirts of Oklahoma City), began to talk of re-organization, and the calling of the writer as pastor, to which I replied that I was not a preacher; but they insisted, and the church was re-organized with 28 charter members, and the ordination of the writer took place. The Lord had finally cornered me, and I could not say no.

Suffice it to say that during these years we have had over 6,500 additions, over half of them by baptism, and the little group has given out over 1,000 members with which to establish churches out of our missions, and has at this time 2,850 members.

Our work grew from the first, people were saved at almost every service for quite awhile, but after some two or three years, we saw we were not baptizing people as we should, we were not reaching enough unsaved. Feeling the press of the Great Commission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and feeling the "MUST" that I believe he felt when at the age of 12 he said, "Didn't you know that I MUST be about my Father's business?" and again when he said, "I MUST preach to other cities also," I began to go out and send out groups of laymen to school houses, and other available places, calling these Gospel Teams, as I felt we MUST reach more lost souls for Christ, as that was our business.

OUR FIRST MISSION STATION

Not many months had passed, with the reports of Gospel Teams, and with a stress from the pulpit frequently that we must reach out to others that were not being reached, one of our members, who had recently built a modest 4-room house out some 2½ miles from the church in the most extreme edge of the city, and not near any other church of any kind, said to me one day, "Brother Howard, could we establish a Sunday school in my home on Sunday afternoons?" I replied that we certainly could, and would if she were willing.

So the following Sunday afternoon, with three or four teachers, we went out to her home, to find that she had gathered 18 or 20 people together, mostly children, who lived in tents and shacks of different

kinds and varieties, most of whom were unkempt and poorly clad. After stating the purpose of our gathering, we organized the group into three or four classes. After teaching the lesson for the day, the writer brought a brief message to the people, and announced that the Sunday school would be held each Sunday afternoon in the future. It was a fine meeting, and we felt the presence of the Lord.

The following Wednesday night, the matter was brought before the church, and the church voted to establish this as a mission point, and voted to extend the arm of the church out there. We called it the "North Mission." It was on or close to Kelham Avenue, 2½ miles north of the home church. The church also elected a superintendent of the Mission Sunday School and elected the teachers for it. Thus our first Mission Station was on its way.

After a few weeks our attendance had grown to 40 and 45 and the 4-room home was over-run, and we were holding classes in our cars parked about the home. A teacher would take 4 or 5 pupils and go out to a car and get in it and teach the pupils. Then we found we must have a house to meet in, so the church voted to buy the lumber, the bill for a 20 x 30 building at that time without a floor and with a rubberoid roof was, as I remember, \$325.00, which we agreed to pay out \$25.00 per month. One of our men's classes agreed to build the building free, and planned to do it in one day, so a day was set and 15 or 16 men and the pastor went out to the lots which had been offered by the lady and her daughter, who owned the home where the Sunday school was started. Our W.M.U. said if the men would build the house, they would feed them at noon with a chicken dinner. While the men were slowed down considerably after eating the dinner, yet the house was finished before night, and during the week benches were constructed. An old pulpit, the one we had started with at the home church, was moved out. We had decided to meet in the morning instead of in the afternoon. There we were with a brand-new building with a dirt floor, benches, pulpit, and everything, even to a baby bed that someone had donated for a nursery.

From there on out, we had Sunday school in the morning, and a short sermon or exhortation by the superintendent, for at that time we had no preacher to send out. Then we organized a B.Y.P.U. and also had night worship, sending out different ones to preach. We started a prayer meeting on Thursday evenings, so that the pastor of the home church could meet with them.

This mission building was moved several years later to another location in another part of the city which was more promising, but there had been at least 75 professions, most of whom were baptized from this place, and a number of backsliders were reclaimed. Some years after the building was moved away, another Baptist church built in the same community which has now built up, and they are carrying on a good mission work.

OUR SECOND MISSION STATION

After our first mission got under way, an intensified mission spirit broke out in our church, and two or three members came and talked

with me about other points. One young man with his wife and a helper or two, upon the approval of the church and pastor, went out to a little school house several miles in the country and started a Sunday school for Sunday afternoons, but the roads were so muddy in the winter that a car could not get there and the work was abandoned.

OUR THIRD MISSION STATION

Not many months had elapsed until the man who had been superintendent of the first mission felt that some one else could do better there, and he wanted to move on to a new field. We located a school house some two miles from the home church on the same side of town and not close to any other church, and with permission of the trustees, we started an afternoon Sunday school in the basement of the two-room school. The writer went out and held a two weeks revival, resulting in 27 professions of faith, most of whom were baptized. By this time our mission had outgrown the school basement, so we had a lumber bill figured for a 40 x 50 foot tabernacle, this, too, to have a sawdust floor. The ground was leased and the building erected, which cost some \$1,200.00. We then established a regular schedule of worship, same as at the first mission, with prayer meetings on Thursday nights.

At this mission, we had a young man who was sent out to do the preaching, and seemingly he was doing very well. While the writer was sick in bed, he got some of the members to circulate a petition to have the mission organized into a church, so he could get more salary, and be pastor of a church instead of a mission. As soon as the writer was able, we called the people together, and though he had stated the demand was from the people, the two ladies who took the petition around got up in the meeting and began to weep and said, "Brother so and so had us take the petition around." He went out the back door and never came back. We soon got another pastor, and they carried on and grew, and perhaps some 200 souls were baptized from the mission. When the mission was large enough to be self-sustaining, we recommended that they become a church. The church was organized with 122 charter members, which we lettered out. The church was called the Eastern Avenue Baptist Church. It is now known as the VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH, and is doing a fine work with a church house and grounds valued at \$30,000.00. When they became a church we deeded them the property.

OUR FOURTH MISSION

Hearing of the discontinuation of an Interdenominational Sunday school, six or seven blocks from our State Capitol, and that the building was offered for sale to the highest bidder, the bids being sealed bids, I went up on the day of the sale. A number of men were there to bid on the building for a garage, or for other purposes. The building was about 20 x 30 feet, sawdust floor, rubberoid roof. I figured some one would probably bid up to \$75.00, and maybe some one \$76.00, so I bid \$77.00. My bid was high, so I paid off, and on Wednesday night I told my church what I had done. They immediately voted to reimburse me, to move the building up out of the mud, and to establish the CAPITOL BAPTIST MISSION. The building was pulled to a new

location, with ropes, a Ford car, and two or three helpers. We rented land and re-located the building. The work there was carried on as at the other places: Sunday morning Sunday school, morning and evening worship. We elected as teachers some of our members who were living out near the new mission. By this time we had other preachers. In fact, young preachers who had no place to preach and little encouragement began to come to us, feeling we would provide a place, and that we were interested in young preachers. We will have more to say about this in another place.

This mission station was conducted as a mission until it was financially able to carry on as a church. When we recommended that they become a church, a day was set and, as always, a council was called from other churches of the Association. The church was constituted with some 87 members into the Capitol Baptist Church. All property was given to the new church and she was set up in housekeeping, and some day will be one of the larger churches of Oklahoma City, as it is wonderfully located.

Incidentally, one of our largest churches in the city at the time I bought this, refused to buy it or to have a mission, saying we didn't need over four churches in Oklahoma City, or five at the outside.

OUR FIFTH MISSION

People in the northwest section of Oklahoma City, on the outskirts where there was no Baptist church in two or three miles, or any church of any denomination as to that matter, and where a lady told me she had lived as a widow for 28 years and reared a family, where it took \$1.75 on the street car to get her brood to Sunday school, and she didn't have the money, sent us word that if we would put up a building out there they would get the lots. I took the matter up with the church, and the church voted to establish a mission there, and voted to move our first mission building out there, where there were more people, though I do not believe it would average over one house to a block. The people bought a tax-title lot for \$50.00 and we moved the little 20 x 30 building out there, just pushed a truck under it and moved the whole thing, bell and all. We held a three weeks revival there, and I baptized 48 people at one time from this place.

We established the same order of services, extending an arm, and receiving the people into membership as at the home church. In these new missions we always found people willing to go out as teachers, and some one to superintend the work, and we had a preacher, sometimes a lay-preacher, but usually a licensed or ordained preacher. Of course, we had to have men who were helping themselves by making a living in secular work, as we could not pay much. Sometimes we paid \$5.00 a week, sometimes \$7.00 to start, then as the work grew we increased the salary as the income increased.

Often we had student pastors from Oklahoma Baptist University or the Southwestern Seminary. Though the salary was small, it meant the difference between going to school or not going to school, for in the depression times money was hard to get. We always withdrew our home church help as to teachers as they were found and developed on

the mission field. As soon as possible we would get a local man as Sunday school superintendent, B.T.U. director, and so on.

This Mission grew and became the University Heights Baptist Church. We gave them the property we owned, and they have since purchased 17 lots, and have a great situation. I forgot to say that we outgrew the little building in one month's time, built an auditorium 40 x 50 feet, and moved the little original building around to the rear for Sunday school purposes.

The first man for whom I performed a marriage ceremony became the first superintendent of this mission, later surrendered to preach, and was ordained. One of his first converts was his 8-year-old son, who is now a licensed preacher attending Oklahoma Baptist University and studying to become a better minister and preacher.

OUR SIXTH MISSION

A small group of Baptist people in the southeastern section of the city, out in the newly developing oil field adjoining the city, had been made to feel very unhappy by a little church to which they belonged, going what they called "Fundamentalist," whatever that is. This little group appealed to me to help them get a place to worship. I went out to a meeting called in a private home, a little "shot-gun" house, and there with some 16 or 18 present, we heard their story, that they had been told to get out if they didn't like the way their little church was being run. So I told them I felt we would ADOPT them and I would present their appeal to our church, so on Wednesday night I told our church about it, and they voted to establish a mission out there, if we could find a building. The mission was established in a home. Later we found a good tract of land, which was given to us by a Mr. Foster, an oil man. We called it Foster Mission, and immediately began the erection of a building 40 x 50 feet, with a floor in it, and a shingle roof, all costing perhaps \$2,000.00 or \$2,500.00. The lamented A. E. Teem became the first pastor there. The mission outgrew the building in a year or two, and we built an educational building at a cost of some \$3,500.00. Soon thereafter, we called a Council, and they were organized into the Foster Baptist Church. They now have a parsonage and property worth \$15,000.000, with two busses that go out in the surrounding oil camps and bring in many people.

One mistake I made in this that I do not want to make again. Mr. Foster's representative asked me if a half block of ground would be enough, and I said yes. It wasn't a year until I wished I had asked for a whole block, for they needed more room. I find that most Baptist churches have too little room. We ought to get all the ground we reasonably can in the beginning to give ourselves room to grow, and especially in the outskirts, where property is usually cheap, and where later it may be much higher or almost impossible to get.

OUR SEVENTH MISSION STATION

A young preacher living in a downtown section of the city, where no organized church work was being carried on, and among a very destitute people, told me he knew of an old vacant store building, and

that he would like to see us establish a mission there. This young man was a licensed preacher, and needed a place to preach, and exercise his gifts, so I brought the matter before our church. They voted to establish that mission and to make it an arm of our church, and the young man was called to the pastorate. We could only pay him \$5.00 a week, but he threw papers and did other things to help out.

We held several revivals at this place, had one man saved who is now pastor of a full time Baptist church near Oklahoma City. And may I say that we have had many pastors go from these missions to larger and still larger pulpits, to grow and glow. Some four of them have been chaplains in our armed forces.

Another Baptist church started a mission, or was going to, just three or four blocks away. As this was somewhat out of our territory, and as we had six other missions, and they had none, we told them we would will the mission to them. They took it over, ran it a few months and quit. But we will always be proud of the fact that at least one preacher came out of this mission.

OUR EIGHTH MISSION STATION

One of our members, a lady who had a missionary heart, had been a volunteer to the foreign field when she graduated from Baylor University, but had been refused on account of her health, was a teacher in Irving School, one of the oldest schools in the city. She taught in the Elementary Department, where she saw hundreds of children who had no Sunday school or church life. Her heart became burdened for them, and she tried to get her pastor interested, but he was too busy; so she came over and joined Kelham Avenue and laid the matter on my heart. We tried to find a building in which to start a mission Sunday school, but search as we would, we could find nothing. We appointed a committee of three men and they looked for months, and never could find a thing vacant, for it was in walking distance of downtown and in the depression times people crowded into these houses. We decided that the next best thing, until we could find a place, was to take our cars and go down to the school building, where she would have the children 9 to 15 meet, and take them over to our home church, and then take them back. We had from 50 to 75. Sometimes as many as 15 to 18 cars would go, and sometimes it was necessary to make two trips, if we didn't have enough cars.

This went on two or three years, when one of our men saw a little grocery store move out of a building about 16 x 20. Immediately I went over and rented the building, even before I took it up with the church, for I knew we were interested and that we did not want this opportunity, though small, to get away from us. When I presented the matter to the church, they immediately voted to make it our mission and an arm of the church, and while we were greatly handicapped, and had at times as many as 75 in that building, we couldn't find anything else.

One day this same lady came to me and told me that a building around the corner from the store building was for sale at \$3,750.00, and that, if we would buy it, she would give the first \$500.00 which she had saved up from her salary. It had five rooms down, a room and a

half up, and a cellar underneath. We took out partitions, made an auditorium out of the two front rooms, provided two more rooms in the attic, fixed up the furnace room, and the Sunday school grew to 200.

This mission recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, and it is strong enough to be a church. We have perhaps baptized 400 or more from this mission, 104 in 1945. They have had a full time pastor for quite some time, whom they pay \$50.00 per week. Two pastors have served on this field and gone to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The mission has over \$3,000.00 in a building fund. We have built on another building. For two years now, we have put aside for them in a building fund all their offerings they do not use each month.

Someone might say, "Why keep it a mission so long?" We have two or three things which have been in the way. There has been a question of the Negro population taking this territory. It is a little close to another Baptist church. During the war, the matter of building materials has been a problem. We want to assist them and have asked them to wait until we can set them up in better house-keeping. This has been our greatest mission for reaching souls, the very thing which caused us to start the establishment of local mission stations.

Out of this mission have come several preachers, two of whom are full time pastors in Baptist churches in Oklahoma City today. A number of deacons have been ordained.

We have also taken the Lord's Supper to the members at these missions every quarter, the same as at the home church.

OUR SING-SONG

Several years ago, a fine man who later went to the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Mr. William Browning, one of the South's greatest educational directors, suggested to me that we ought to have something that would knit our missions and the home church closer together. There is always the danger that the mission members will not realize they are members of Kelham Avenue Baptist Church, but think only in terms of the mission station, and forget the home church and what it is doing for them.

At that time he was song leader in one of our missions, and at his suggestion we organized what we called a SING-SONG to meet at one of the mission stations or home church on the first Sunday afternoon of each month at 2:30. We would have one or two special numbers from each mission, and a short message from the writer, who has always been regarded as the pastor of all. This was carried on until the war broke out, and so many of our men went away, and the tire and gasoline shortage made it almost impossible for people to attend. These meetings were inspirational, we got acquainted with our mission members, and it tied the members from the mission stations on to the home church.

PASTORS' MEETING

Several years ago as our missions began to multiply, we began a regular monthly meeting of the writer and the mission pastors in the writer's home. Here we have gone over the problems, the progress, the outlook, the plans, etc. This, too, was discontinued when the tire ra-

tioning, etc., went into effect, but is now to be resumed again. It is very necessary with all of our varied work and plans and programs to have such meetings, and to plan for revivals, etc. One year we held 37 revivals in the home church and missions, and these cannot be carried on without the closest cooperation between the pastor (bishop) of the home church and the missions.

OUR NINTH MISSION STATION

During the height of the depression, a Baptist preacher came to me. He had no place to preach, nothing to eat. He wanted to preach, and he wanted to support his family. I helped him get work in a clothing store temporarily. There was a vacant building down near the Union Depot, in a settlement of Mexicans, Negroes, and Whites. He wanted to preach, so we brought the matter to the attention of our church. We voted to establish that as a mission station, and rented the building for \$5.00 per week. It already had pews in it, as some other denomination had been using it, but had given it up. This was carried on until the preacher was elected as superintendent of a school at another town, and also called as a pastor of a country church. He moved on, and we closed the mission, but we felt we had done some good, a few had made profession of faith in Christ, and a preacher had been helped and encouraged when it looked like starvation for his wife and three children.

OUR TENTH MISSION STATION

One of our young men at the home church felt the call to preach. He wanted to exercise his gift, and I told him to find a school house out somewhere, and we would establish a mission in it. He went out to several over the county and finally found one out some nine miles, where there was no worship, and our church voted to establish a mission there. This young man was given a place to work and preach, and today is pastor of one of our larger missions. We are paying him sufficiently to enable him to go to Fort Worth every Monday and back every Friday to attend the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

We had several different young preachers start in at this place. It was a hard place. The farmers were practically all renters and moved every year. We had to start over with a new group almost every January. We carried on the work for seven or eight years, then a church in town much nearer to it wanted to have a mission, so when the war came on, we turned it over to them. They ran it for two months and threw in the sponge. We will resurrect it again one of these days when we get a preacher with no place to preach—we want to keep all our young preachers busy.

One of our men, who got his first experience at this mission station, is a chaplain in the South Pacific, and baptizing people almost every week from the Navy into our church. Later we send their letters to the church of their choice when they get back home. He has been given authority to baptize into the fellowship of our church. This man is a graduate of the Southwestern Theological Seminary at Fort Worth.

At this mission we had a singer with one of the sweetest voices I have ever heard. She used to come into our Sing-Songs and sing, and would captivate the whole congregation. Her family were renters and they moved to another state, but someday I expect to hear again this sweet voiced singer who was converted in our Lone Star Mission, and who probably would never have found the Lord, or dedicated her voice to Him, but for this little mission.

OUR ELEVENTH MISSION STATION

Out some twelve miles, there had been a Baptist church, but it had gone down and was abandoned. The house was dilapidated, and the people could not pay a pastor even \$5.00 a Sunday to come. A young preacher wanted to go out there, but he had to have something, so I brought it to the attention of our church. They voted to make this an arm of our church, and to pay the man \$5.00 a week. He went out and the work grew, and they began to pay more. Times got better and the Baptists decided to reorganize, and so ended our eleventh mission, but we had been used of the Lord to re-establish a dead church.

OUR TWELFTH MISSION STATION

One of the oldest churches in Oklahoma County was the Dixon Baptist Church, perhaps the first Baptist church constituted in Oklahoma County. It had never had a building, but had met in homes and in the Star School House. It carried on with preaching now and then—mostly then—and had finally just ceased to exist, and had not functioned for eight or ten years. Then there developed in this school house, located seven miles from the city, an Interdenominational Sunday School. Sometimes there was preaching, and sometimes not. Sometimes one denomination had charge of the little Sunday school; they would play out and quit, then another denomination would take over. Finally they all quit.

About that time we had a young preacher boy with no place to preach, and waiting to attend Oklahoma Baptist University. I had a talk with him. He was a member of our church, or became a member about that time. Our church sent men out, and the trustees agreed that we could have a Baptist Sunday School in the school building. Although some people objected, we adopted it as our mission station, and made it an arm of the church, and sent this young student preacher out there. Although the work grew, we had trouble. People who were not Baptists didn't understand why they couldn't take the Lord's Supper with us. They fussed because we used Baptist literature and refused any other kind, etc.

Now this old church had at one time purchased about a half acre of ground, which was still in their name. We got a few of the old members together in a business meeting. They voted to consolidate the old defunct church with ours and deeded us the land, which was about a half mile away. Then we began plans to erect a building, and the young preacher said it was the happiest day of his life. He went on through Oklahoma Baptist University, out into the pastorate, then to Southwestern Seminary at Fort Worth, and has been a Chaplain in the Army in the European Theatre for two or more years, and has

baptized a number into the fellowship of our church. One day he baptized four, three of whom were later killed.

This mission grew, and after a few years was organized into the DIXON BAPTIST CHURCH, and are carrying on a full time work. They have added on to the building and are now building an educational building. We deeded them not only the land but the building and all.

OUR THIRTEENTH MISSION STATION

One day a man, who was a member of another Baptist church, came to me and said, "I know a place where there ought to be a mission. Our church cannot afford to sponsor it, or thinks it can't. I have found a batch of box-car siding that is all knotty and full of knot-holes, etc., but if I had \$20.00 more I could buy this lumber, and the men out there and I could build a little building after hours. If I can get it built, I believe my church will take it over as a mission, for we do not have a mission." It was on the opposite side of town from us, and I have tried not to establish missions in the territory of other Baptist churches, so I loaned the man the \$20.00. They built a little box-car building about 14 x 25 feet, and his church did adopt it as a mission. They later felt they had better get rid of it, as they didn't have time to look after it and were not versed in that kind of thing, so I paid them \$100.00, plus the \$20.00 I had loaned, and our church voted to take over the place and operate it as our mission station.

Later, we moved the building to a better location, built a new building 24x30, and now use both buildings. Though it has been a hard place, it has been the starting point for several preachers. The present pastor is in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth. This mission has an attendance of 50 to 75, and many people have been baptized from this community. Though it is in the packing town district, a poor people, it is practically self-supporting. When it was established there was no other worship in the addition, where some 500 people live.

OUR FOURTEENTH MISSION

The third Baptist church to be organized in Oklahoma City, after some thirty years or so, fell into the hands of a man who styled himself a Fundamentalist. The church split several times, and finally wound up by losing its property, some being foreclosed and sold at sheriff's sale. With the help of three others, who were co-signers on the note, I bought the building for \$7,500.00, that had cost some \$17,000.00. The building was clean. I brought the matter up with our church and they voted to adopt it as our mission, though they were not able to buy the building, so the writer carried the building. We started up a new work. It is in the down-town district in an older part of Oklahoma City. It is a large commodious building, seating some 500 people, a brick building, auditorium and educational plant.

The first Sunday we started we had four people present in that large building. The next Sunday we had seven or eight from the community, with four from our church. Then we had eleven. The work grew slowly, but in six months we had it to where it would support a

full time man. After some two years the mission was reorganized into a church and bought the building from the writer for just what I had paid for it. Today it is growing in a fine way as the Washington Avenue Baptist Church.

We will always be happy that we had a part in the re-establishing of a Baptist church and saving the property to the Baptist cause.

OUR FIFTEENTH MISSION STATION

In our church we had a man who didn't know whether he was called to preach or not, but he did want to try. He wanted to get a place where no one else had been, and where he would not be bothered. He would ride out into the country every Sunday, go to different school houses, and sometimes he would hear of a little abandoned church. He felt he must get WAY OUT.

One Sunday night he came back and said, "I have found a place where I believe we can get in and where I could work. It is a school house out fourteen miles in the black-jacks. There are about 35 or 40 pupils enrolled in the school. Another sect has been having Sunday school several months out of the year, but they have fallen out with themselves." Before I could get the matter looked into and approved, another sect got in there. I told the man to wait, that I would give them three months, then they would be in a fight, and then he would get in. Sure enough, in less than three months they had a fight among themselves. We went to the trustees, and got in. It was a little 18x20 building. We had the church adopt it, and elected this man as superintendent of it. He took two or three with him and went out. It was a hard fight, and he soon gave it up, and went out to establish another mission in a more convenient place. We carried on. We bought a tent and put it up out there, had a revival and a number were baptized. The only place we found to baptize was a little sandy branch or creek, just a mud-hole. When I went in to baptize I was up to my waist in mud, and didn't know whether it was quicksand or not. But we baptized several and got out all right.

This work grew. There was no other church in six to eight miles. We raised money and built a house 40x50 feet, which we continue to operate. It is out in a poor, black-jack community, and during the depression there was more Government aid there than in any other section of the same size in the state. The offerings from there have been small, and it has never been self-supporting, as most of our missions have. We now pay a man \$15.00 a week. He attends Oklahoma Baptist University, and works Saturdays and evenings, but he is carrying on. He has a place to preach, the people have worship, we have a Sunday school of 30 to 50, the roads are terrible when it rains, but we have carried on. It will probably never be a church, but we have seen a number saved and baptized from this place. There had been no church building there since Columbus discovered America until we established this one.

OUR SIXTEENTH MISSION

There was a little struggling Baptist church in the edge of Oklahoma City, with another non-cooperating Baptist church just two

blocks away It was having a struggle to live. Finally a pastor was called who thought it could no longer continue, and that there should not be two Baptist churches within two blocks of each other. He proposed that the church consolidate with our church, and that we then operate the place as a mission. I took the matter before our church, and they voted for it. Then he took the matter to his little church, and they voted for it. They deeded us their little house and lot. We took over and paid the pastor twice as much as he was getting. When he went to Oklahoma Baptist University, we sold the property to another denomination. We put the money into a mission building at Mission No. 15, so the price of the gift is living on for the Lord at another place.

OUR SEVENTEENTH MISSION STATION

Out in the country eight miles, in a school house, there had been for a number of years an Interdenominational Sunday school, with first one kind of preacher then another, then for months none, sometimes they would not have any Sunday school for months, then in pretty weather it would be started up again.

Finally, a young licensed preacher in the city, who had no place to preach, came to me and told me he thought he could get in out at this school house, if we would sponsor the work. He needed some support, and, of course, the other group would give him nothing. Somebody has to sponsor things if they are to go. I brought the matter to the attention of our church, after our church had been advised we could carry on as a Baptist Sunday school, and we could take care of all costs, this was what they were all afraid of—expense.

The young man went out and we adopted it, and carried it on. Soon a Baptist from the city moved out into the country. He began to tithe, and the Lord blessed him greatly. He gave \$500.00 for a building to get us out of the school and community building, which was inadequate anyway. This man was also such a liberal giver to the church that the mission was soon self-supporting, and we organized it into the Soldier Creek Baptist Church. They are out near the big Air Depot, and they have a big bus to go after the people. They have built a nice large parsonage, and have a full time pastor on the field.

OUR EIGHTEENTH MISSION

The man who had gone way out in the country to find our Fifteenth Mission Station, as stated, soon found that he didn't want to go out there. He found a little store building out some five miles on the highway, and he came to us with a proposition to rent the building for \$12.00 per month. It was only about 16x18 feet, but we adopted it, and held worship, Sunday school, B.T.U., and all there for two years. We baptized quite a number, built the Sunday school up to 40 or 50, but the building burned down and, as there was no other building, we had to discontinue our work at that point.

There was one interesting thing that came out of this work. A young man was saved there, and worked in the mission. Later he went to a town of some 5,000 population in the southern part of the state. He began to look around. He saw that there was quite a dis-

trict where there was no church, and the people were not coming to the First Baptist Church. He went to his pastor, told him how our church established missions, and told the pastor he felt there ought to be a mission in the east edge of town. The pastor told him he didn't think it necessary, that the people could all come to the First Baptist Church if they were interested. But this young fellow was insistent, and the pastor told him there was no building available, and they didn't have anything in the budget for one.

The young man began to look around and over on that side of town he found a vacant store building he could rent for \$30.00 per month. He went back to the pastor, and as a result, they did start a mission over there. The last I heard of it, they were having 65 to 70 in Sunday school. It shows that it pays to train people in local missions.

OUR NINETEENTH MISSION STATION

Out some 20 miles from the city a little Baptist church had functioned for a number of years. They had a building and all, but the depression came, and the people moved away, leaving the church without any pastor, soon without any Sunday school, and no meetings. At this point, one of our licensed preachers out looking for a place to preach found this country church building. He reported it to our church, we voted to adopt it as a mission station, and this man, who at the time was in the U. S. Army Recruiting Service, served the mission. The work was greatly revived, and after some two years the mission was in a position again to call a pastor and support him.

OUR TWENTIETH MISSION STATION

Some three years ago there was in our church a taxi-driver who felt the call to preach. We encouraged him all we could, provided places here and there for him, but we did not have a regular place. One day he came to me and told me that some five miles north of the Capitol on Highway 66 there was a "honky-tonk," dance hall, beer joint, etc., that had folded up, and the building was empty. Would we be interested in it, if we could rent it? I told him I thought we would. He went to see the owner, who told him he had been getting \$50.00 a month from the other people, but that he was so disgusted with that sort of business, they had been so rough and rowdy they couldn't sleep near it, where he lived, and that if we wanted it for a church, he would cut the rent to \$25.00 per month. He also said he would like to sell the building, and if we wanted it, we could have it for \$2,250. We rented it on condition that if we found the work going in 90 days, we could exercise our option to buy, with the 90 days rent to be applied as credit on the purchase price.

Our church voted to adopt this as our mission station, elected this man as pastor, and sent two or three with him to help. He put out circulars telling the people the dance hall had been changed to a soul-saving station. The first Sunday they met they had 52 present. It is in a tourist camp community, with not many residences nearby, but the work has been well worth while. A number have been saved and

baptized there. This young preacher was soon ordained and is now pastor of a full time Baptist church. Two other young preachers have had training there.

OUR TWENTY-FIRST MISSION STATION

For seven or eight years there has been a tract of land out some three miles east of the city on one of our main thoroughfares that has appealed to me greatly as a place where there ought to be a mission—in fact, I never see a vacant building but that I think there ought to be a mission in it, and whenever I see a good tract of land where building is going on, I feel we ought to buy some ground for our Lord and Master. In this particular locality, I saw one house after another go up. I have been scared half to death that someone else would get in there and build a church of some other denomination. I tried to buy the acreage mentioned but could get no price offer. The owner seemed not to care to sell, but finally last summer we got a proposition out of the owners and bought some three acres, and now we have a whole block, a most beautiful location. Then we bought an old tent, the best we could get, and held a revival. The home church voted to adopt this as a mission station. We then had plans drawn for a rock building, basement and auditorium, to cost about \$12,000.00. In the meantime, our tent blew to pieces, but a neighbor offered to let us meet in his basement. We have been carrying on there for nearly three months, having an attendance up to 80 at Sunday school in the basement of a five-room house. Our building will soon be so we can move into it. We will have a wonderful place, and it will doubtless grow into a full time Baptist church within a year.

The pastor is one of our own men, has led several of our missions, and is now attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Ft. Worth, driving back and forth each week. There is great satisfaction in seeing one's dreams come true and one's prayers answered. And it's great to be doing business for God.

OUR TWENTY-SECOND MISSION STATION

In October, 1945, a lady called one day on the telephone and said in part—"I am living way out northwest of the city; there are a good many families out here; we have no church or Sunday school of any kind nearer than two miles. Several of us mothers have talked it over at different times, and we have wanted to have a Sunday school at least for our children. My husband and two sons were converted and baptized from one of your missions, three or four years ago. I thought maybe you would be interested in helping us. We have found a little two-room dwelling that is vacant and the owner says we may have free rent for three months if we use it for church purposes." We told her we would be interested and would be right out, so my assistant and I got into my car and in thirty minutes we were out on 58th and May, eight miles from our church. We talked to the woman, to another one or two. We looked the little building over. It was a room about 14x14 and a little shed 8x12, no electricity, no gas, but we decided it was the thing to do. That night we brought it to the attention of the church, they voted to establish an arm out there, and to open

our twenty-second mission station. We announced to the people that we would be out next Sunday at 2:30 p. m., and for them to tell the neighbors. There is about one house to a block, a few blocks have two houses; it is probably 80 acres of land, most of the houses are two and three-room affairs.

When we got out there in our bus the next Sunday, my assistant and two teachers and myself, we found 32 women and children and one man waiting for us, they were so eager for the work. The Intermediates were taken out to our big bus and taught there, one lady teaching them. The smaller children were taught in the little room, and I taught the adults, some ten of them, in the large room. Then they all came back in. During the week we had brought out chairs, a little folding organ, and the old pulpit we have had for twenty-two years. As we brought a brief message to the people, they hung on to every word. When I gave the invitation, six Juniors and Intermediates came forward, one at a time, several with tears of repentance. Two weeks later I went out and preached two nights, with two others making profession. We then secured a pastor, a student of Oklahoma Baptist University, who had worked in one of our missions before he went away in the Army. He is now pastor there. On Thanksgiving, I baptized four out there in a nearby pond, making 300 persons baptized in 1945, almost half of them coming from our missions. We plan soon to build out there, having already contracted for 15 lots, which will give a fine play ground and community center, as there is not even a public building within two miles.

Yes, it is awfully small—most would have said too small to start a mission in, but it was the best at hand, and eight have already found Jesus there. When I read that 6,000 Baptist churches did not report a single baptism in 1944, I am made to feel proud of the little mission in the little shack, and as I think of the future, it gives me great joy of anticipation.

OUR TWENTY-THIRD MISSION

In the first days of January, 1946, it was brought to the attention of the pastor and church that out some four miles on N.E. Twenty-Third was a school house that once had a Sunday school (Interdenominational), and close by the Taylor Home for underprivileged boys. Upon investigation we found the superintendent of the home was glad to have us start up a work and for the boys to come. We also called upon a number of people and found them interested. We then called upon the two trustees of the school and found them favorable and permission was secured and the matter brought before the church on Wednesday night. The church voted to establish our 23rd mission, to pay the young student pastor \$10.00 per week. Announcements were handed out at the school house on Friday afternoon and some placed in nearby homes.

On January 12, 1946, the writer, accompanied by a pianist, a teacher, and the young preacher, went out to the school house and at the first service, though it was cold, we had 34 present; wonderful attention was given, the lesson was taught, the young preacher brought

a message, and some \$10.00 in offering was made. The writer came back after announcing the purpose, plans, etc., to the people.

So another mission has been born, souls will be saved, others trained in the ALL THINGS, and who knows, perhaps some day the city will grow out that far and a church house will be built. I told the people at my church that we should be encouraged, that Kelham Avenue Baptist Church started the first Sunday with only 31, and out there we had 34. The giant oaks in California started from little acorns.

What we are to do is establish mission stations in the name of Christ and work at it and Christ has promised to give the increase. Do not despise small beginnings, you never know what they may grow to be.

The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad. And we are looking forward to finding some more places in 1946, and as long as we live; for Christ said to go into all the world, and we feel that this means into every house, every block, every part of every city and town, and establish a work for Him.

Statistics show that the larger the church, the smaller on an average the number of baptisms each year. We feel that our Lord is better pleased when we win more, and we can win more with more groups at work. We believe a church of 500 active members is large enough, and even with 300 active resident members, is a good church, and when it wants to, can do mighty works. Divide to multiply seems to be the way.

From these years of experience and observation we feel that we need in a city a Baptist church every 10 to 12 blocks. In cities, say of four to five thousand, the Baptist church should establish one or two missions, for if it does not, another sect will come in, and first thing you know will have a tabernacle and will be getting quite a group of Baptists in, and will soon have a Sunday school of 60 to 100, which ought to be Baptist. Baptists can head that off by establishing outlying missions. Believing as I do that Christ established a Baptist church, I feel that Baptists ought to take the world for Christ.

I believe the way to do it is for every church of any size to have at least one mission station. Almost any church that wants to can do it. When we started in the local mission business, there was but one other mission station in this county, today there are 32, and many of our missions have grown into full time churches.

The old way to start a Baptist church was usually to have a church split and one group go off and start another church. We feel that starting mission stations and helping them to grow into churches is a better way. We certainly recommend this plan. Wherever there are 15 or 20 families in a neighborhood, there should be a mission. You will get 35 to 50 in a Sunday school, which is a fine group. You will find people out that way are not gospel-hardened and they are hungry for the Word, and you will have a lot more conversions and baptisms than you will otherwise.

SOME BY-PRODUCTS OF LOCAL MISSIONS

In addition to the winning of more souls with local mission stations, a church will train more teachers, more Sunday school super-

intendents, more B.T.U. workers, train more people for service, etc. On every field we have had new teachers developed; we have discovered dormant talent; men and women have become department superintendents that never would have had the missions not been started.

We have developed preachers, some 35 or 40 preachers have gone out from our missions to become pastors of churches. Young preachers have to get experience and practice. I believe a church is carrying out the Great Commission when it trains preachers and helps them to go through college and the seminary, and I believe every church has more responsibility along this line than most churches realize.

Instead of just preaching in one place on Sunday, our church is preaching in eight places. There was a time when we had ten missions, and therefore were preaching in eleven places. Eleven Sunday school superintendents; eleven B.T.U. directors, dozens more Sunday school teachers and secretaries, etc., were receiving training.

A few years ago, a young preacher came to my door and said, "I am a young preacher, spending my vacation from college here, and want to preach, but there is no place to preach. My pastor told me to come to you." I said, "Why doesn't your pastor MAKE A PLACE for you to preach? Why doesn't he give you \$5.00 or \$10.00 a Sunday, and a worker or two, and go out here to one of a dozen school houses that have no preaching or Sunday school? His church is twice as big as mine, why does he send you to me?" Then he told me he didn't have a thin dime, that he was living on charity of an acquaintance. We happened to have at that time a tent revival going on, at one of our missions. I asked this young preacher if he would be willing to sleep at the tent each night on a cot and watch the tent, help the evangelist, and do what he could; and I offered to pay him \$1.00 a day, and promised that the people would feed him. He jumped at the offer. He nearly hugged me, he was so glad to get off charity and get a chance to work for Christ. He had been discouraged to death. Here his pastor, with a church of over 5,000, had not found a place for a young preacher. Do we not have a responsibility to young preachers? Paul seemed to feel such a responsibility.

Local mission stations are something we can see. They will help to stimulate interest on the part of many members, who when they go to another church, will take the spirit with them. I am printing in this volume testimonies from some who have gone out from us, showing the imprint this work has made on their lives and how it affected others.

It will stimulate the evangelistic spirit in a pastor to get out and preach to those on the edges and highways and hedges. He will get where people are not watching the clock; where they want the speaker to preach on and on; where they are not gospel hardened.

It will provoke others to good works. It is an all round program of training and development. At most of our missions, especially the larger ones, we have a circle of the W.M.U. This circle of women, who in the main know nothing about our organized work, coming together with our W. M. U. of the home church in an all-day meeting once a month, will enlarge their vision, and receive knowledge and insight, and be more capable of carrying on for Christ. In some of our mis-

sions we have had units of our Brotherhood, which come together with the Brotherhood of the home church, in banquets, etc.; and it polishes off the rough corners, and makes them able to meet men and instructs them in the ALL THINGS.

Through the years we have had an annual picnic where each mission comes and brings its basket dinner with the home church in a common and central meeting place. This has helped us to get better acquainted.

Again, we have had annual teacher and officer banquets; each mission decorates its own table and brings its own food, and we have come together as a big family, and the fellowship has been wonderful. It takes some of the starch out of the members of the home church, too.

SOME DETAILS OF OPERATION

There are snags and jagged rocks in almost every whater-hole, and there are pockets of bones in most fish, so likewise are there thorns and snags in this establishment and operation of local mission stations. I want here to list some of the things to do, and some not to do, and point out some snags.

1. I have had a number of pastors say to me, "How do you keep them in line? I started one once," or, "We had a gospel team once," or, "We had something once, and it got away from us; so I have been afraid to venture again." Now in the very outset, to establish local mission stations is a most unselfish thing, and if one cannot reconcile himself to giving up workers, some of whom will never be seen in the local congregation again, then DON'T START. A pastor must see the Great Commission, feel the "MUST" and understand that a work for Christ is the same, whether in the First Baptist Church, or in a school house, or at the cross roads, or in the black-jacks. If he is not willing to get out, and go ahead, and say, "COME ON," then DON'T START.

I find in most cases where the situation got out of bounds, the pastor sent some one out, and he, like David, "went not along." Go along with your people if you want to start and grow smething. I used to work for a cattleman worth several million dollars. We would get up before day, on the coldest and rainiest days, and go right out with his men.

Many men are like a story I heard of a pastor who came riding up on a bicycle, and said, "Have you seen anything of a group of young people in a high-powered car?" The man answered, "Yes, they were here about an hour ago, and they went that way." "Well," said the pastor, "those are my young people and I've got to catch up with them." The moral is: Stay with your people, lead them. They do not have the experience to be turned loose.

See that the right ones are sent out. If you get the wrong ones, change them. If you get the wrong pastor of a mission, change him. You have to be the Bishop. Watch out for fellows who will want the mission to become a church before it is able to pay for its Sunday school literature. Knock that in the head by giving your mission pastor a thorough talking to before he starts. Tell him what is what;

that this is a mission and must remain a mission until YOU and the church are convinced it can pay a pastor and take care of its local work and give at least 10 per cent as a minimum to missions. I had a little trouble, as outlined in a previous chapter, but I haven't had any trouble like that in twelve years.

2. Be frank with the people, tell them what it's all about, that your church is backing it, and if you are not willing to put out any money, **DON'T START**. You can't expect a three year old baby to make its way, so do not expect a mission to pay its way from the start. Put something into it. Tell your people that all authority rests in the church, not in the mission. The mission is just a child in swaddling clothes, which hopes some day to be a man. If any differences arise, go to the mission, call a meeting, thresh it out, lay everything on the table, settle it. It is much easier to do that in a mission than in a church.

3. Require all teachers to be elected, or their election approved, by the home church, in fact, all officers. Require the pastor to bring in, or have brought in, every Sunday night or Monday morning, full reports of Sunday school, B. T. U., attendance, the names and addresses on proper cards of all received for membership and how received. There should be an assistant clerk in every mission. **SEE THAT THESE REPORTS ARE IN, OR ELSE**. Start right and you will keep right.

At this writing, we have seven mission stations, we have had as many as ten at one time, and every pastor brought in full written reports every Sunday night, together with all money. I will give elsewhere a suggested copy of report. We deposit all money to the credit of the home church, and all mission disbursements are made by check from the home church. Do not allow too much freedom along the line, you know how children do when given a little too much freedom in money matters.

We do not let the missions charge things that are not authorized by the purchasing committee. They are not allowed to buy anything in their own name, either. Watch the church's credit and standing. If a mission pastor can't pay his bills, help him, or fire him.

4. Keep a separate card or book roll for each mission station, with mailing addresses. Let them all know they do not belong to the mission, they belong to the home church, but worship at the mission, which is a branch of the home church. Watch your membership roll. All membership rolls are hard to keep, and the rolls of missions are worse, especially if you have several missions. They may forget to bring in the cards, or bring them incomplete. Don't let them get away with it. Strictness along this line will save trouble. If you don't, you will soon be getting requests for letters on people you do not have on your rolls. This is embarrassing, and may be discouraging.

5. Keep a historical record of the mission. Missions usually grow into churches, and the average church has no written history. Every mission and every church should have well kept and preserved records of all its doings. A mission is just a miniature church, it is a "church-to-be," so keep a record for the future. You will be glad you did.

6. Bring the mission members and home church members together

as often as possible. In our church, we take groups out to mission revivals from the home church. When we have a revival in the home church, we bring in groups from the missions. We have a mission night, usually the first Monday night of the revival. It helps out two ways.

7. Make up financial statements for the missions. Let them know where the money goes, and let them know what part the home church is paying. They will many times get the impression they are paying in a lot more than they are, and that the home church is getting fat off them, when perhaps they are not meeting half their expenses.

8. Show an interest in your mission. Don't let them feel you are not interested, or want to get rid of them, or are tired of your bargain.

SOME DON'TS

1. As before stated, don't turn them loose. Keep a close rein on them and their leaders.

2. Don't let them keep out part of the finances. Keep it all in the church's name at the bank.

3. Don't be stingy with them. They will enjoy Christmas treats and socials probably more than the home church folk. Boost them and encourage them.

4. Don't give them too much freedom about calling a pastor. They may want a George Truett, when you can't afford over \$10.00 a week.

5. Don't pay a man \$50.00 a week to lead a mission, when half the members are only getting \$25.00 or \$30.00 a week, and the chances are, unless he has a bigger field than the usual mission, he will loaf half his time.

(I have observed some churches who have gone into mission business with more money than knowledge, and have paid a man full time salary of \$50.00 or more a week, whereas a student would accomplish as much or more at \$15.00, or \$25.00, or maybe more if in Seminary. I have seen our mission pastors working part time at some secular work, or going to school, accomplish twice as much as others who were giving full time, and taking it easy. The members soon rebel against it.)

6. No unlicensed or licensed preacher has any authority to baptize, and it is best in most instances to have those from the mission baptized at the home church baptistry. However, it may be wise to permit an ordained mission pastor to baptize, in order to teach him how, and make him a more proficient servant of Christ. But remember, your pastor is pastor, and it should come from him if he wants the mission pastor to administer the ordinance.

7. Don't permit the Lord's Supper to be presided over by just any one. Send out some trusted deacons. It will do them good. Have it a day other than when the home church is observing it.

8. Don't permit the mission to have mid-week meeting on Wednesday night. Have it on Thursday or on Tuesday, so that the pastor

of the home church can attend, or some of the leaders, or both. Encourage members to attend the mission.

9. Don't ordain a lot of deacons in missions, unless they are the proper material. Many of our missions have never had a deacon, and have gotten along all right.

THE DOING OF IT

If you want to start a local mission station, as pastor pick out a location, or have a committee assist, and then bring the matter before the church, telling them what is proposed, of the initial and probable future costs.

When it has been officially adopted, if the house is already available, put out printed announcements in the community, telling of the organization of the work, and of the time of the first meeting. The Sunday School Board at Nashville, Tennessee, will give the first three months Sunday school literature free to a new mission or church. Write them and have the literature ready, if you know how much you need. If you do not, it may be well to have your first meeting, see what you need, and write or wire for it.

Select the superintendent of the mission, a preacher if you have one, or, even with a preacher, you may have a trusted deacon and a business man that you would rather put over a mission, as a kind of superintendent or director of it. Select a few teachers, and as fast as you get teachers from the mission field who are capable, withdraw your home church teachers. The people will like it better if they carry on with their own people.

Be careful not to discourage a young preacher by sending him out without a pianist, song leader, etc. He might get discouraged and quit. Back him up, or don't start.

You will need a piano or organ, proper seats, lights and heat. It's just like a young church starting out. You don't have to be elaborate. but do the best you can. Fix up as you go along. The people will enjoy it more if they have a part in it.

If you do not have a building, you will need to get suitable lots; get more than one if it has possibilities of growing into a church, for they will need it later. Do not build on an inside lot if you can help it. Get something as attractive as possible. Our Sunday School Board has a Department of Architecture, and has many plans.

Take a census of the community when you are ready to go to work and have something to work on. People in missions usually work harder than those in larger churches. Tell them what you want done and they will usually do it.

The superintendent of the mission is not necessarily under your superintendent of Sunday school, but your home superintendent may be of great help to him. Likewise your church clerk, and your treasurer, may have suggestions that will help the superintendent of the mission, or pastor, or whoever has charge of finances.

Put on an every member canvass in the mission and have them

make out a budget, the same as you do in the home church,—in other words, teach them the ALL THINGS. Your choir director may help the director at the mission, and so on.

The pastor of the home church can help the pastor of a mission by lending him books, and instructing him, etc., etc. Plan revivals in missions about once a quarter—they usually will stand more than a larger church. The home church will need to help some on revival offerings at the mission, and in getting an evangelist for the ordinary mission. No high powered man is needed, one more on their level is better. Frequently, perhaps once a year, the pastor of the home church will conduct the revival.

It is not a bad idea to let the mission pastor lead the home church mid-week meeting once in a while, or if at all capable, to preach at the home church when the pastor is away, or even some time when he is present. It greatly encourages a young preacher. Many times you will be surprised how the people will like it.

If you have a licensed pastor of a mission, and he has proven himself, say for a year, it is well to ordain him. The mission people will appreciate it, and he will feel freer, and too, you will not want to hold him back, if he can take care of a larger flock, you will want to see him do it, although it means you have to look for another mission pastor.

If you have several missions, it is sometimes good to change the pastors about if they seem to sour on the work. Pastors of churches sometimes do the same thing.

Do not stop at one mission, if there is room for more. I recently talked with a young Baptist pastor from Rio, Brazil, who has a church of 300 members, that has 35 mission stations, meeting mostly in homes. They meet every night of the week, every week of the year. Twenty-five of them have Sunday schools. They are led largely by laymen. I understand that Spurgeon at one time had 65 missions from his church. I heard Kagawa of Japan say a few years ago he had between 400 and 500 missions he was supporting, and had an ambition to have 1,000 going before he died.

I believe that Southern Baptists would baptize twice as many people if every church of any size had one or more mission stations. I believe that many of the little defunct Baptist churches that have no pastor and go a whole year without baptizing a single person could be brought to life if the churches that are able would pay a student or other pastor \$10.00, \$15.00, or \$25.00 a week, or perhaps more in some instances, to go out and serve these churches.

We who are strong ought to bear the burdens of the weak. Is it right that many large churches should have everything imaginable when some little pastor is going on soup to preach to a little congregation, when it's all the Lord's work, whether in a church of 5,000 or 25?

I hope that many who read this book will be inspired to start a mission, and will not long delay, but get busy at it. It will be a joy and recompense enough to me, if I hear from many who have been inspired to do this very thing. If you do it, you will be glad; and we will have fellowship in heaven some day because of it.

If a little church can start out with 28 members in a poor neighborhood, and lead all the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention in baptisms over a period of ten years, it must have something worth looking into, and that something is local mission stations.

There is no greater joy to a pastor than to hear the report of newborn souls. One of the greatest thrills I have ever had has been to get home on Sunday, and then to have the telephone begin to ring, and have this mission pastor tell how many he had, and how many professions he had, and what a joyous time he had, and that he will have one or two or more to be baptized on Wednesday night. About the time you hang up the receiver, another mission pastor calls, and he is bubbling over with what happened out at his mission. By the time you have had several reports your own cup will be running over.

Then perhaps at night after you are at home, some mission pastor calls you to share with you some joy of the day. Finally when you do get to bed, there is thankfulness in your heart that you have a part in the great work of the kingdom. We thank God for the opportunity of service, and feel that, after all, the more souls won the more joy there is in heaven, and you just know some day they will come from the East, West, North and South, and we will all rejoice together. If a man can't rejoice over souls being saved then he doesn't have the Spirit of Christ. There is no record where the angels rejoice over some big expensive building being finished, but the only thing that rings the bells of heaven is when a poor, lost, hell-bound soul turns to God.

AGAIN, there is great joy to a preacher's heart when he can look around and see young preachers who have grown and are now serving churches here and there. Some are missionaries, and some are evangelists. Sometimes you can meet them at conventions and other gatherings, or perhaps they come back sometime to the home church, and you have them supply for you. You have the consciousness that after you have gone on to glory many of them will still be carrying on for Christ.

There is no joy comparable to that of soul-winning, and he that winneth souls is wise. He shall shine some day as the firmament and as the stars forever and ever.