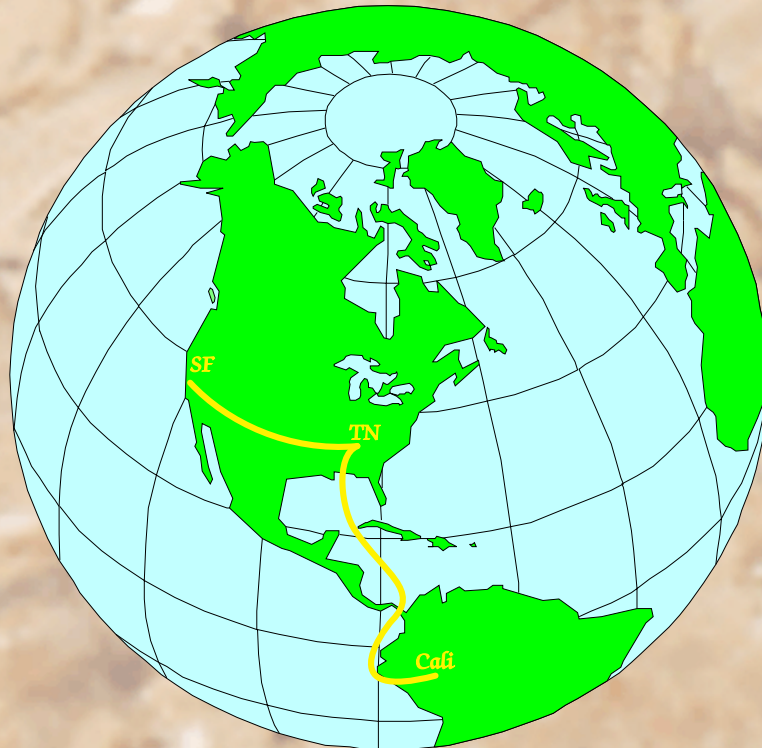


A Missionary Journey

The Ministry of
Davis O. Bryson and Gladys Holt Bryson
As Missionaries Commissioned by the
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
1931 – 1971



Davis and Gladys Bryson answered a call to the mission field and went to Colombia, South America in 1931 and served there, with the exception of furloughs, until Mrs. Bryson's health forced them to return to the states in 1946. A year later, in 1947 they answered yet another mission call and moved to San Francisco, California. There they worked with the young people at the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church until Mrs. Bryson's death in October 1971. The Rev. D. O. Bryson then retired and moved to Sunnyvale, California where he continued his ministry as a volunteer minister to senior citizens. He died in January 1990.

A Missionary Journey

The Ministry of

Davis Ozell Bryson and Gladys Holt Bryson

This book was inspired by Thelma Bryson Bennett, a niece of the Rev. Davis O. Bryson, because of her desire to share some of the history of the Brysons' missionary work and experiences with close family members and friends. Thelma started collecting information such as magazine and newspaper clippings, personal correspondence, and preliminary draft writings sent to her by her Uncle Davis as early as 1931. Much of the information in this book is from her files.

She asked Jim Bryson, Davis' son, for help in scanning the documents and putting everything together in an informal book form. I have added a section of pictures and some comments from personal knowledge and memory.

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March 2010



“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.’”

NIV Version Luke 10:1-2

“One advantage in going out by twos was that they could strengthen and encourage each other, especially when they faced rejection. Our strength comes from God, but he meets many of our needs through our teamwork with others.”

Life Application Bible, NIV Version, p. 2065

A Missionary Journey

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*A Personal History and a
Summary of Missionary Work of
Rev. Davis Ozell Bryson and Gladys Holt Bryson
and
Notes from a missionary's diary*



The following typewritten pages are copies of text that was written by Rev. Davis O. Bryson. These notes are from his personal experience and give an insight into the lives of two pioneer Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries, Gladys and Davis Bryson. The Davis Bryson humor will be found throughout these pages and the love of Christ of both Davis and Gladys Bryson is also obvious. Most of the material in the section "Notes from a missionary's diary" comes from diaries that were kept by Gladys Holt Bryson.

The following pages, on the work in Colombia, were written by Davis Bryson while he was in his 80s.

On July 15, 1906, deep in the heart of Texas, I (Davis O. Bryson) was born into a Cumberland Presbyterian family of long standing. My grandfather, J.F. Bryson, became a member of the historic Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Ellis County, Texas, prior to the Civil War. Six generations of the Bryson family were members of the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Four generations served as elder and Clerk of the Session. My roots run deep in the Shiloh Church. As a boy I served the church as its janitor, and years later I became its pastor.

In 1926 I graduated from Midlothian High School. My first year of college was at Texas A & M, Arlington, Texas branch. It was during my freshman year that I reached a decision to enter the gospel ministry. In the fall of 1927, I entered Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee, as a ministerial candidate.

It was a long way from Texas to Tennessee, and it would take a lot of money to get there. The most economical way to reach my destination was to hitchhike. My father took me to the nearest highway and bid me farewell. I soon got a ride and thought I was on my way. After traveling a short distance, the driver stopped and said, "This is as far as I go." When I got out of the car, I was somewhat disappointed to discover I was closer to home than when I started!

I arrived in McKenzie in time to enroll for the fall term at Bethel College. They referred to me as the boy who walked from Texas to enter Bethel. I received the B.A. degree in 1930, and I was honored by being granted the Doctor of Divinity degree in 1957. There was another degree that I really earned—M.D., Master Dishwasher. In the fall of 1930, I enrolled in the Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I later took some graduate work at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

On May 29, 1929, I was married to Gladys Holt, a missionary candidate from the Milan, Tennessee, Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She had graduated from Milan High School and had enrolled at Bethel College in the fall of 1927. In June 1931 she received the B.A. degree.

Gladys was truly a devoted missionary and was a great help to me throughout my ministry. Her consecration to the cause of Christ was always an inspiration to me. She was faithful to the task to which she was called until her death October 22, 1971.

In 1931 I became pastor of the Fifth Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee (which is now the Highland Heights C.P. Church). At the 1931 meeting of West Tennessee Synod in Jackson, Tennessee, we conferred with some members of the Women's Board of Missions regarding our call to the Colombian field. This call came to us when the Conyers family had to return to the States because of their son's illness.

On December 6, 1931, we were commissioned as missionaries to Colombia at the Milan Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and on December 12 we began our voyage to Colombia from New Orleans. Dr. Galloway, who lived in Pereira, asked us where we would be living in Colombia. We told him that we would be living at Apartado 301. He replied, "You sure are going to live in cramped quarters, for that is your post office box number!"

When we arrived in Buenaventura, we were thrilled to see Bernice Barnett and Ethel Brintle, missionaries who had come to Colombia in 1928, waving to us from the dock. We no longer felt alone because there were friendly faces to meet us who would be able to help us to see things through. We are indeed grateful for the help and encouragement they gave us. They were missionaries who knew what missions were about. They gave their full measure of devotion to carry out the work to which they had been called.

We arrived in Cali December 22, 1931. Our first task was to learn the Spanish language. A building known as Vilachi provided living quarters for the missionaries, as well as space for our chapel and classrooms for our school.

In 1933 we moved to the "Eder House." One building served as living quarters for the missionaries, and the other provided facilities for our mission program.

The tin-roofed patio was used as a chapel; a tin roof overhead in the tropics is a constant reminder of what life might be like if one fails to heed the gospel message.

We really got a big surprise one morning when we opened the school building and found that much of our equipment had been moved out, including the wash basin and plumbing!

The Eder House holds many memories for us, for it was there on January 10, 1934, that James Davis Bryson made his personal appearance in this world. He came by home delivery. Doctor Patino advised us that home was the safest place in Colombia to give birth to a child.

From the Eder House we moved to a large building on Fourth Avenue, which was near the business district of downtown Cali. This building gave us ample space for our missionary program.

We had some interesting experiences looking for a location for our mission. Most of the vacant houses that we looked at were flea-infested, and in a short time we would be covered with fleas. We really had to do a lot of scratching before we found a good location.

It was a day of great rejoicing when we moved from the Fourth Avenue location into the new Colegio Americano building. It was a dream come true to have our own building with adequate facilities to carry on our missionary program.

In October 1934 we moved to Pereira to take charge of the work in this new area. The Board had purchased property in the city in 1930 from Rev. Poehner, a missionary with the Brethren group. He had to leave Pereira because his family could not adjust to the climate.

Don Pasmino¹ became the pastor of this congregation, and a new Cumberland work was started. We saw great potential for developing a strong church here. Pereira had a population of about 75,000 and was surrounded by coffee farms and ranches. There were also a number of small cities within a short distance.

The building, a two-story frame structure, was in very bad condition. There were possums in the attic, termites in the ceiling overhead, and cockroaches everywhere. The roof and the back wall were covered with tin, and we would often get a shock when we turned the water on or touched the tin wall. The front of the building was made of stucco. The living quarters for the missionaries were on the second floor. On the street level there was one large room that we used for the chapel. Because the electric rate was based on the number of sockets and the wattage of the light bulb, a hole was cut in the ceiling, and a light socket was lowered from the second floor. When there was light in the chapel, there was darkness in the living quarters. If a larger bulb was used, it would blow a fuse, and then there would be trouble with the electric company. The current was turned on at sundown and turned off at sunrise.

A lot of foot traffic passed by our mission building, since it was located between the police station and the red light district, which was only a few blocks away. The doors of the chapel opened

¹ Don is the normal greeting in Spanish and is equivalent to Mr., however it is frequently used with a persons first name, for instance Don José. The feminine version of Don is Doña

onto the street, and we were exposed to rock-throwing and insulting remarks. One Sunday night while I was preaching, a man came riding down the center aisle on a white horse, and it was not the one mentioned in Revelation!

The facilities were inadequate for our mission program, but we were fortunate to find an adjacent building for rent. With this additional space we were able to establish a school and open a dormitory, which made it possible for students from the outlying communities to attend our training school.

From Pereira many preaching points were established, and some of these became organized churches.

The Pereira congregation was a wonderful and consecrated group of believers, faithful in their witness and stewardship. Some of the families had to leave their homes at 5:30 a.m. and walk three hours to attend our Sunday School and worship services.

The Pereira congregation had a dream of building a new church. Doña Emilia Sepulveda suggested that we start a building fund by giving a special offering once a month. To promote this idea she made small hearts out of red cloth and gave them to members of the congregation. Once a month we would celebrate the "Fiesta de Corazones" (Festival of the Hearts). The members would put their offering in the little red hearts and place them on the altar table as their gift to the building fund. Others would make gifts from their meager earnings of fifty cents a day. Some would sell eggs and chickens to have something to give.

We served in the Pereira field from October 1934 to 1939. We are indeed grateful to Rev. and Mrs. Martiniano Fajardo and Rev. and Mrs. Ignacio de Leon, who served with us. Mrs. de Leon, a registered nurse, gave valuable help to the church and community. Roberto Grisales, Joaquin Ramirez, and Francisco Arboleda, the supply pastor for the Cartago congregation, also made valuable contributions to the work by conducting services in the rural areas. From time to time we had the assistance of other missionaries including Bernice Barnett, Ethel Brintle, Betty Smith and Rev. José Fajardo.

The training school was also an important part of our mission program. Teachers Clara Sepulveda, Olga Albernoz and Hermenia Morales made important contributions.

NOTES FROM A MISSIONARY'S DIARY

Davis O. Bryson and Gladys H. Bryson

(From Gladys's personal diary and recollections by Davis)

Colombia—Its Geography and People

We arrived in Cali yesterday, December 22, 1931. The train ride from Buenaventura was an exciting experience. The narrow gauge railroad snaked its way through the jungles and over the Western range of the Andes Mountains to the Cauca Valley.

There is a special fascination about the tropics. The jungle, with its profusion of flowers of many colors, gives one the feeling of being in close communion with the splendor of nature's expression of life. The green vegetation in its density demonstrates the fullness of life in its natural state. In the beauty of the jungle, there is a constant struggle for survival. And the weak find that the beauty of nature does not support its weakness.

We soon came to a jungle village where we saw evidence of man's struggle to survive and maintain life in his natural surroundings. From the train we saw a hut with thatch roof and a dirt floor. A sick child was lying on a straw mat on the floor surrounded by half-clad natives. They were marching around the child chanting strange words and appealing to the spirits for help. They were evidently performing a voodoo ritual.

After several hours of travel through the jungles we started the climb over the mountain. We had to pass through many tunnels. And each time we passed through a tunnel our coach was filled with black smoke and cinders.

We reached the summit at La Cumbre. The view from this point gave us quite a different sensation from that of the jungle. In the jungle the view of the sky is limited, and the landscape gives one the feeling of being surrounded by mysterious and unknown forces. But from the summit, the sky is open and boundless and the panorama of the landscape gives one the feeling of freedom.

From the summit we could see the beautiful Cauca Valley spread out before us, with the Cauca River winding its way through the green valley like a giant boa constrictor. In the distance across the valley, another range of the Andes extends its peaks

into the clouds, and on a clear day the splendor of the snowcaps can be seen.

The language is strange, but the people are kind and friendly. I know that we are going to enjoy sharing our life with them and that they will be a blessing to us. We are thankful that we had faith to answer God's call to come to Colombia as His messengers.

Our First Christmas in Cali

It is Christmas Eve and the people are arriving early for the program. I was stationed at the door to keep order. The only words I could think of in Spanish were "Ferrocarril del Pacifico, vaya se!" ("Railroad of the Pacific, go away!") The place was soon filled to capacity and we had to close the doors.

The program was presented in the patio, which was a very beautiful setting. The palms in the background and the bright tropical moon sending its rays of light from heaven helped us to visualize the beauty of Christmas. After all, this is why we were here, to tell the good news of the gospel.

Christmas Day was an enjoyable occasion, even though we were far away from our loved ones in the states. We opened our gifts, and it was hard for Don Martiniano to keep the tears back as he opened the gift from José. We enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner, with the addition of the tropical fruits that were in abundance.

Our Mission Seems Like a Hospital

Just as we were ready for dinner, someone knocked at the door. It was an old man with two ladies, pretending they had come for the church services. We told them that we did not have church services on Friday night, but they continued to stay. Then suddenly the old man bent over and placed his hand on his side and said, "I have a pain," and he let out a cry of woe with a false expression of agony upon his face. He said, "What can I do?" and Bernice replied, "Rub it," but this did not bring relief.

What he really wanted was two pesos to buy medicine for a pain he did not have.

Today three children came by for their daily treatment. Doris fell and cut her head, and what a nasty looking wound it is! Emma has a large pus-filled blister on her hand that has to be opened and drained each day. Naomi fell on the floor and stuck a long splinter in her foot and she cannot walk.

We went on a paseo with the school children. A dog took a big bite out of Alfero's leg, and it will take weeks to heal.

The Beginning of a Wonderful Week

The delegates have arrived for the "Semana de Juventud," our youth conference. We were prepared to take care of eight delegates, but twenty-eight came. Somehow we managed to take care of their needs.

The classes began at 6:00 a.m., with breakfast being served at 5:30. The day was filled with classes and devotional periods. Public worship services were conducted each evening. After the evening meeting, we had a social time. This was really a fun time with music on the tiple² and the games we played.

It seemed that the shower never ceased running, as the delegates were continually bathing. One delegate was astonished when he saw the shower and said, "My, you can take a bath all over here!" Another delegate thought it was a waste of money to have a shower when there was a river flowing past our building. The week was a full one, and everyone seemed so happy.

On Sunday morning we had a sunrise prayer meeting on the mountain, and what a beautiful service it was! As the sun came up, rays of light broke through the misty flakes of clouds that shrouded the valley below. Surely everyone was drawn closer to God as we worshipped, surrounded by the beauty of nature.

The Sunday services were especially impressive. In the morning service we observed Holy Communion, and in the evening worship, important decisions were made by the delegates. Monday morning the delegates reluctantly departed for their homes, with a strong determination to return next year and bring more friends with them.

A Visit to Jamundi

Today we went to Jamundi, but they were not expecting us for lunch. However, our host proved

² Tiple is a Spanish word referring to a small chordophone of the guitar family and having 4 or 5 strings.

equal to the occasion. We sat down at the table for lunch, and I felt something move around my feet. It was a pig, so we had bacon under the table rather than on it! For lunch we were served chicken, but they did not have time to cook it until it was tender. José got a drumstick, and it was so tough that his teeth could not penetrate the meat. Then he remarked, "This must have been the rooster that crowed when Peter was reminded of what the Lord had said to him!" After lunch we had a good worship service.

A Girl Is Stabbed

Last night we heard a great commotion in the street, and about the time we got to the window some shots were fired. A man had stabbed a girl, and they were trying to capture him. The poor girl was left lying on the sidewalk with her blood running down the gutter.

Today We Went on a Paseo

Last Friday Gladys and Bernice took the girls on a paseo³, and what a paseo it was! The girls were here by 7:00 a.m., and we were soon on our way. Then came the downpour of rain. The top of the bus leaked and we were all drenched. Bernice gave Piedad a silver tray to hold under the leak, and about the time it was full, she would with regularity spill it on someone's lap. By the time we arrived at the finca⁴, the rain had stopped. We built a fire and put a pot of soup on to cook, but before it got hot, someone knocked over the pot.

We had a great day exploring the farm and swimming in the river. On our return home we encountered another rainstorm. We arrived in Cali tired, wet, and hungry, but thankful for a wonderful day in the country.

The paseo is an important part of a missionary's work. It gives us an opportunity to have fun and a time of worship. It also gives us an opportunity to talk with the students about their problems. It is indeed a time of Christian fellowship.

Mother's Day Program

What a crowd we had for this program! The chapel was soon filled to overflowing. It took three of us to hold and guard the door. Outside the door there was pushing, rock-throwing and general disorder. The police finally arrived, and a degree of order was restored. At 8:30 p.m. there was still a big crowd outside trying to get in. It would be wonderful if we had the facilities to let everyone come in

³ Paseo is a Spanish word for an outing.

⁴ Finca is a Spanish word for farm.

that wanted to. Maybe someday our dreams will come true.

A Trip to the Country

Today we went to the country with Don Martiniano for a service. We had a good trip and enjoyed the walk. There were some people in the service that had never seen a Bible and knew nothing of the Gospel. We got home late and Ethel had supper all ready for us. How tired I am tonight!

A Visit to Restrepo

Today ten of us are on our way to Restrepo, a small town high up in the mountains. It is about six hours by horse from the railroad station. We will go to La Cumbre, about a two-hour train ride from Cali. They will meet us with horses to take us to Restrepo with our baggage, including a hand organ.

By mid-afternoon they had not arrived with the horses. We sent a telegram to find out what had happened. They informed us that the horses had been sent to Buga, about a four-hour train ride in the opposite direction from La Cumbre. It will take about twelve hours for the men to reach us with the horses and then about six hours from La Cumbre to Restrepo.

All this confusion was caused by the telegraph operator in Restrepo trying to be helpful. We had sent a telegram asking them to meet us in La Cumbre. The operator was sure that a mistake had been made because we always asked that the horses be sent to Buga to meet us. So he changed the telegram to read send horses to Buga instead of La Cumbre, which resulted in an eighteen-hour delay.

We spent the night with Miss Wolf, who was a missionary in La Cumbre. We had a worship service that night, and the women were required to have their heads covered for the service. Bernice wore a big hat with a broad brim. She played the organ and we had rock and roll music because that is what the hat did. When she hit a high note, the hat would rock, and, when she hit a low note, the brim would roll!

We finally arrived at our destination and had wonderful services. We enjoyed the fellowship of these dear Christian friends, especially our visit in the home of Don Angel, an elder in the Restrepo church. It was a thrill to see how the living Christ had transformed their lives. In the home they had a small chapel where they had services during the week. Then on Sunday, they would ride to Restrepo for the church services there. Their devotion to the work of the Lord was an inspiration to us.

We left early in the morning for our return trip to Cali. The mountains were covered with a bank of clouds, and, as we made our descent to the valley, we were riding through the clouds on horseback.

March 13, 1932—Many Things Can Happen in One Week

Ethel came in late with Don Plutarco, and, after he left, she said that she had an announcement to make. "We are engaged and we plan to get married." This announcement came as a complete surprise, for they had never been alone together until that day. Their courtship had been carried on in the chapel surrounded by church members. We noticed that they did a lot of talking to each other. We assumed that they were making plans for the work. And the plans they made did work!

A Dismal Saturday Afternoon

It was raining and a rather dismal afternoon. And this was true of the lady that Gladys went to visit. Her heart was just as sad and dark. We talked of salvation and peace, and a smile came across her face. She said, "Oh, what joy it must be to have a hope that brings peace and salvation!"

She came to Sunday School, and I gave her a Bible with special passages marked. I pray that she may find the peace she longs to know.

A Time to Be Alone

The guests and the family have all gone, and I am alone with my thoughts and dreams. So natural in the life of a missionary and yet so seldom to have time to be alone to think about them. In the quietness the day is bright and the aloneness does not make me feel lonely but happy, not for all the time, but how I enjoy the moments that I can really be alone with God.

How full the days! When it seems we have all we can do, there still come more calls for help.

We had Lastina, the little blind girl, spend the night with us so that she would not miss any of the services.

Baptism by Immersion

Don Pedro insisted on being immersed, even though I had given him sufficient proof that sprinkling was a proper mode of baptism. We went to the river for the service. The water was very cold and swift. He was a tall man. I took him by the hand, and we entered into the water. I placed my foot firmly upon a round slippery rock. As he was being lowered into the water, my foot slipped and we both

ended up being immersed. The other candidates decided that maybe sprinkling was the best way to be baptized after all!

Today is a Sad Day for Us

Gersham, one of our outstanding Christian youth, died today after an operation for appendicitis. He passed away at 1:30 p.m. and his funeral and burial were at 5:00 p.m. We marveled at the strong faith of Mrs. Tanaka, Gersham's mother. Even in the time of her deepest sorrow, she was thinking of others. And through her witness, might others be brought to know Christ as their Savior.

Give Us Our Daily Bread and Strength to Meet the Task Before Us Today

After breakfast, Gladys started the day off by copying songs for the Easter program, arranged for music practice at 9:30 a.m., planned lunch for the dormitory and prepared our lunch. At 1:00 p.m. she visited Mrs. Rivera, who has a sick little boy. She returned at 2:00 p.m. and made out the Christian Endeavor program. She finished copying songs by hand for the Easter program, had rehearsal for the program from 3:00 p.m. until 4:20 p.m., taught a class from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., and prepared our dinner. Then Mrs. Tanaka came for a visit. Gladys attended prayer meeting and went to bed at 10:30 p.m.

A Visit with Two Ladies

Today Gladys went with Betsabe to visit two ladies. Her first visit was with a lady from Chile who knew nothing of the Gospel. She had a book on spiritualism, and she thought it was the Bible. We read some verses from St. John and tried to explain what the Christian life really meant. She showed some interest and promised to attend the meetings at the church.

The other lady was living in very poor circumstances. She had five children and was expecting another one. Her little girl, about eighteen months old, was sick and had no bed to lie on. The lady's husband could not find work. She took clothes to the river to wash every day, and with what she earned she bought food for her family. It took a lot of courage to carry on in the face of tremendous difficulties. Tonight Gladys fixed a basket for her so that she will have something in which to place her newborn baby.

The Fajardo Baby

Homer, the Fajardo baby, is doing fine. The neighbors are convinced that the baby will be de-

formed because they did not bind his hands and feet and wrap him up like a mummy.

October 15, 1934 — Pereira

We are in Pereira and are happy to have the opportunity of serving Christ in this community.

The Seventh Day Adventists were trying to get our members to join their church. The Sunday School enrollment was down to nineteen, but now we are up to sixty. The Lord is working in the hearts of his people, and they are responding by dedicating their lives to His service. The men come two nights a week to help remodel the chapel.

The mornings are filled with teaching in the day school and the afternoons in visiting. Many come to our door asking for help. They come wanting to know more about the teachings of the Bible. Others come requesting that we send a preacher to their community to explain the gospel to them and their neighbors.

Each day is a new day filled with new experiences, new joy, sorrow, and new blessings and trials.

Why are we so happy to be in Colombia, so far away from our loved ones and home? Surely it must be because we are answering the call of our Lord!

A Call for Help for a Very Sick Baby⁵

Doña Leonor sent word Sunday afternoon for me (Gladys) to come and see her baby. I followed her little boy up a mountain trail to her whitewashed adobe house. Inside in a dark hot, stuffy room, Maria was lying on a straw mat. Her eyes were rolled back and her jaw stiffly set. I asked the father to call a doctor. He refused, saying, "It is too late and the doctor would only scold me for waiting so long." I called Dr. Galloway and explained the case to him. He told me her problem was intestinal parasites that had reached her brain. The only hope would be to get them to come down. He instructed me to give her a medicated enema every thirty minutes. After working two or three hours with the baby, I was exhausted and went home to take a shower and have dinner. But before I had time to eat there was another call for me to come and see the baby. When I approached the house, some women were waiting for me on the front steps. They greeted me with the news that I had killed the baby. I went into the dark room with fear and trembling to see the baby. I turned on the light and before me I saw Maria sleeping peacefully. How grateful to God I

⁵ Copied from the diary of Gladys Bryson

was! Later the mother wanted to give Maria to me because she said, "Her life belongs to you." "No," I replied, "it belongs to God."

A Visit to the Country

Today we went to the home of a believer to conduct a service. At the close of the service, there was a heavy downpour of rain. Most of the congregation had to stay overnight. They had to walk a long distance to attend the service, and it was too dangerous for them to walk over the slippery mountain trails on a dark night. The house had only three small rooms. When we were ready to go to bed, all the doors and windows were closed to keep out the night air, which was believed to be bad for you while sleeping. There were about twenty people distributed in the three rooms all sleeping on the floor. The floor was covered from wall to wall with people, and we could not walk without stepping on somebody. The dawn was slow in coming, but what a relief it was to get a breath of fresh mountain air!

In a situation like this, you really can get close to your congregation!

Charms to be Used in Time of Trouble

Maria brings a knife with her to cut the pain from her body and wears a charm to keep the evil spirits from taking their abode within.

Solidad, the maid, has a remedy to get rid of boring company. You just put a broom behind the door and they will leave. This she did on one occasion and the company left immediately. She was fully convinced that the broom did the trick.

Don Ramon is recovering from a fever. He said that it was because he ate the eyes of a young bull.

Doña Inez appeared at our door with her small baby in her arms. She held up the infant's hand and wanted to know if we would buy a fingernail. If we bought one, it would bring us good luck. So we bought two fingernails at fifty cents each.

In La Helvecia we saw this sign at the entrance to the church: "Guns, machetes, and dogs are not allowed."

In Colombia Things Come Fresh

There is a knock on the door and it is the milkman making his deliveries. At the front door is a cow. He takes our container and milks the cow until he gets the required amount of milk. Our milk is delivered in its original container.

We go on a picnic and a lady takes a live chicken for her lunch.

For meat the animals are driven to the marketplace and slaughtered. They hang the carcass on a rack in the open air, with flies and dogs everywhere. You point to the part of meat you want to buy, and the butcher takes a handful and cuts you a chunk of meat. So you get a chunk roast or steak. But often it is so tough that you have to grind it before you can eat it.

A Visit to a Farm

Today we decided to visit Doña Cecilia, who lives on a farm in the mountains that is about a three-hour walk from Pereira. We had to follow a steep slippery path over the mountain. When we reached the summit, we could see a beautiful valley below. To get to the farm we had to cross the valley and a small river. There was a bamboo pole that served as a bridge across the river. On this visit we had the opportunity to read and discuss the scriptures and have prayer with the family.

On our return when we came to the river, there was no bamboo pole on which we could cross. A man who was opposed to the work of the missionaries had removed the pole. The only thing that we could do was to wade out into the river and hope for the best. We arrived home wet and hungry.

A Visit of the Young People

After a long day when we were exhausted and ready to retire, we heard a knock on the door. To our surprise there were 13 young people who had come to listen to a program on our radio. We were glad to share our radio with them because there are not many places where they could go and find wholesome entertainment.

The Language Can Be Confusing

When Jimmy was growing up, he wondered why there were two words for everything: potato—papa, bread—pan, water—agua. One day he asked me, "Are you my papa?" I told him that I was. Then he asked, "Are you also my potato?"

Sometimes a Missionary Has to go into Strange Places

Gladys went to visit Martha, one of the most attractive girls in her Sunday School class. She has been absent for two Sundays. When I inquired about her, the other girls said, "She has gone to live the life of a prostitute in the red light district." She did not want to go but her parents cannot work and they had no food.

Late in the week I went to visit her. The girls were dressed in their gay long dresses standing by

the door of their cottage. I found where Martha was staying and I went in to talk with her. Her eyes were red and filled with tears as we talked about Jesus and His power to save. Some of the other girls came in and over and over they asked if Jesus loved them. I assured them that He did. Soon it was dark, and the owner angrily shouted for me to get out and for the girls to go to work.

There was another girl who ran away with a man. But she soon realized that this was not the life for her and she returned home in disgrace. She had to remain in the kitchen and could not show her face when visitors came. We took her into our home, and she stayed with us until there was an opening in the dormitory. With the training she received, she was able to find a new beginning for her life.

Worshipping With Fear and Trembling

Today is a feast day, and the procession passes by our chapel, carrying their saint upon a wooden platform. The street is filled with people from curb to curb. They are repeating the Lord's Prayer, and, when they pass by the open door of our chapel, they let go a shower of rock upon our congregation. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" took on a deeper meaning for me.

Tragedy Is a Part of a Missionary's Life

Today Don Alfredo came to repair the tin roof on the mission building. He was holding a sheet of metal roofing and, as he turned to put it in place, the wind blew it into contact with the high line. He received an electrical shock that knocked him off the roof. He fell to the street and received injuries from which he did not recover.

Monday morning, Blas, one of our outstanding students from the country, had a high fever. Dr. Galloway came and said that he had typhoid fever and that we would have to send him to the hospital. We took him to the hospital, and they placed him on a thin mat on the floor. Every day I sent Carlos, his brother, to the hospital with barley water for Blas. Then one morning Carlos returned and said that Blas was not on his mat and he could not find him. Davis went to the hospital to see what had happened. They told him that he would find the body in the back patio. There were several bodies covered with sheets. He looked under these sheets until he found the body of Blas.

Davis bought a black wooden casket, and we carried the body to the chapel for the funeral service. Word was sent to some men of the church to go to the cemetery and dig the grave. And at 5:00

p.m. we slowly walked to the cemetery and there sprinkled lime on the body and nailed the top on the casket and lowered it into the grave and filled the grave with dirt.

But this was not the end of the story, for Blas had entered into a greater life to live for evermore. The last message of this 14-year-old boy was, "Be faithful until death," and this he was.

Don Martiniano had to make the long trip to the country to tell Blas's parents the sad story.

A Call for Help by a Little Boy

The other day a little boy came into my classroom saying, "I want to see Misia Gladys." I asked him what he wanted. He said that his mother wanted me to come to her house at once. I hesitated because his mother had been quite unfriendly and I did not know what to anticipate. However, I went to her house and found that her mother was very ill. She wanted me to talk with her mother and prepare her for dying. I was pleased to know that she trusted in the Christ that we knew and proclaimed.

When I left, her mother, with tears in her eyes, said, "Recommend me to your God." I assured her that God in his love would receive her. And she responded, "Yes, I know. I die trusting God to receive me."

When I returned to my classroom, there was a man standing at the door. He asked me for money so that he could go to Buga and be healed by the miraculous Christ, a wooden image hanging from a cross.

The great need of the Colombian people is to have a personal knowledge of the Christ who died upon the cross and is alive today to give them victory and peace.

A Visit of the Priest

Today we had our usual visit of the priest with about fifty children. They have been coming for the last three Sunday afternoons gathering in front of our house. Chanting and screaming, "Down with the Protestants—they take communion with corn bread!" Suddenly the shouting stops, and in unison they ask for more candy. The priest passes out the sweets, and once again the Protestant demonstration is under way.

Some Strange Requests

Yesterday Alicia came by and brought her one-year-old baby. We were supposed to tie a rope around its ankles and hang it upside down for one minute. This was a ritual that they observed when the baby was one year old.

There was a knock at the door, and a man had come to get me to baptize his baby. He heard that I would do it for fifty cents, and the priest wanted to charge him one peso.

Two ladies came to our door and said that they wanted to speak with a Protestant. I told them that I was one. "Well," she said, "I have an evil spirit in me. It bites and stings, and I want you to heal me." I told her that I did not have power to do this. She was disappointed because she had been told that the Protestants had power to cast out evil spirits. I think her problem was that she had a rash that would break out and cause the biting and stinging sensation. But she felt sure that her problem was caused by an evil spirit that had entered into her.

A Full Day — Sunday, September 8

Last night three believers came in from the country and spent the night with us. Sunday morning had breakfast with our guests. Sunday School was at 9:00 and worship service at 10:30, after which we had lunch with our visitors. We had a good meeting with the women at 2:00 p.m., followed by a meeting with the children at 3:00 with a large group present.

Then I went out to La Popa to visit Misia Emilia, who was ill. I walked back home, which took about 40 minutes. I had no time to eat dinner, since it was 6:30 and time for the Christian Endeavor meeting. At 7:30 the worship service was conducted, then I had a bite to eat and went to bed.

Thank God for a Friend in the Time of Need

What a blessing the Galloways have been to us! When the days seemed lonely and difficult, they ministered to us in such loving and thoughtful ways. Indeed we are thankful for those who made our burdens lighter.

Dr. Galloway was indeed a friend in the time of need. He cared for us when we were ill with typhoid fever, pneumonia, and malaria or when we needed an operation. All of his services to us were without charge. When we needed medical advice he always came to our assistance. He was not ashamed of the faith he professed. He would come and take communion with us when it was not the popular thing to do. He helped us in many ways.

I remember on one occasion the horse we used in our missionary work got tangled up in a barbed wire fence and was badly cut. The only thing I knew to do was to call on Dr. Galloway. Without hesitation he said, "Let us go and see what we can do." It took a lot of energy to get the horse down on the ground and tie its feet securely. Then Dr. Gallo-

way could sew up the deep, bleeding cuts. He worked most of the afternoon under a hot tropical sun treating the wounds of the horse.

I tried to express my gratitude to him for the work he had done. He replied, "You know that horse also does the work of a missionary. He had wounds that had to be attended to, and that we have done."

Dr. Galloway was a friend to all the missionaries, and he was always ready to lend a helping hand. He gave his support to our missionary work in many ways. In his life the spirit of Christ was evident.

A Word of Thanks

Don Miguel⁶ came to visit us today, and he wanted me to give this message to his Christian friends in the States:

"I want to tell you how grateful I am that you loved the people in Colombia enough to send missionaries to bring us the good news of the Gospel. And how thankful I am that I had the privilege of hearing the Gospel message! When I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior, He saved me from a life of misery to a life of freedom, joy, and peace,

"My life without Christ was filled with darkness. I would go to the market to buy food for my family, but, instead of buying food, I would spend all my money for liquor. I would return home drunk and without food. My children would run and hide among the coffee trees when they saw me coming. They were afraid because I would often beat them without any cause, but how different it is now since I found new life in Christ! Now when I go to the market, I come home with a full sack of food. And when my children see me coming, they run to meet me with open arms and laughter. Now instead of looking for my children to beat them, I call my family together to read the Bible and have family prayers. How grateful I am that I heard the message of Jesus' love and how He died for me so that I might live for Him!"

Today I Had a Talk with Don Juan and He Told Me of His Search for Peace and Salvation

"In my search for peace, I went to several priests and asked them what I must do to be saved and find peace for my soul. They told me to say the "Ave Maria" and the Lord's Prayer many times a day and to keep the feast days and support the church and attend mass as often as I could. All this I

⁶ Don is the Spanish word for Mr., so it's Mr. Miguel

faithfully did, but I did not find the peace for which I was searching.

“Each time that I would go to confession, the Padre would tell me to do penance, but this did not bring peace. One priest suggested that I go to Buga and kneel before the miraculous Christ hanging from a wooden cross and ask for His peace. I worked hard to save money to make the journey to Buga. I knelt before the miraculous image of Christ and earnestly made my pleas for peace. But I returned home with all my sins unforgiven and to take up the same old pattern of living and without hope of finding peace and salvation.

“One day I was in Pereira and passed by the mission. I stopped to listen to the singing, and then I heard these words read from a book: “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” This was a message that I had longed to hear. At the end of the service, I talked to the person in charge. He explained to me the Gospel message and gave me a Bible. I took it home with me, and I spent the whole night reading the scriptures by the light of a small candle. When I read John 3:16, a new hope came into my life. I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior, and I found peace and salvation. A whole new way of life opened up before me.”

Don Juan was very anxious to tell his neighbors about the new life he found in Christ. And in his home a preaching point was established.

Furlough Time—November 1935

We have only two Sundays before we leave for the States on our first furlough. It is with mixed emotions that we approach the time of our departure from Colombia. We hate to leave our friends in Pereira, and yet, on the other hand, it will be wonderful to be with our loved ones and friends in the U.S.A.

Today we leave for the States, and we are ready to go to the railroad station. To our surprise the whole congregation has come to go with us to the station to see us off and bid us farewell.

NOTE: When we returned to Pereira in 1936 at the end of our furlough, the congregation was at the station to meet us and welcome us back. Indeed, we are happy to be back and to continue our service in this congregation.

Colossians 3:11

In this new life in Christ, one's nationality or race or education or social position is unimportant; such things mean nothing. Whether a person has Christ is what matters, and He is equally available to all.

Cumberland Presbyterian (CP)

Places and Dates of service

Rev. Davis and Gladys Bryson

- I served at the Ebenezer CP Church near Memphis and the Fourth CP Church of Memphis from 1929 to 1931.
- We served in Cali & Pereira, Colombia, from December 1931 to October 1934.
- We served in Pereira & Cali, Colombia, from December 1936 to April 1941
- I served as pastor of Shiloh CP Church, Ovilla, Texas, in 1941 and the Rose City CP Church, near North Little Rock, Arkansas from 1942-44.
- We returned to Colombia June 10, 1944, and served in Cali until Nov. 5, 1947.
- I served as pastor of the Yorkville, Tennessee, CP Church from November 20, 1946, to October 39, 1947.
- We served in San Francisco at the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church from November 11, 1947, to December 30, 1971, at which time I retired.
- I moved to Sunnyvale in December 1971 and assisted several churches as a volunteer minister to senior citizens.

Then and Now

In June 1974 I had the privilege of going to Colombia after I had been away for 38 years. Tremendous changes had taken place. When we first went to Colombia, there were open sewers running in the streets. High-rise buildings have taken the place of the adobe structures. The population of Cali has increased more than 900,000 over the years. The new growth has created new problems, and the needs of the people have multiplied.

One afternoon I went to Vilachi, the building that was used by our mission. As I stood in front of the door through which Gladys and I entered on December 22, 1931, my mind was flooded by memories of the past. I recalled the first "Semana de Juventud" and its small beginning in our little chapel. The memories of the past confronted me with the realities of the present. In the beautiful sanctuary of the Cali Cumberland Presbyterian Church, about 500 young people from the different churches in the Cauca Valley Presbytery had assembled for a youth conference. Dr. José Fajardo, the first baptized member of the Cali church, was speaking to the group.

I remembered that when we first went to Colombia, when the nuns saw us coming, they would place a handkerchief over their nose and cross over to the other side of the street. Seemingly, they were afraid that if they met us face to face they might get Protestantism.

The last Sunday I was in Cali, we had communion, and two nuns came forward, knelt at the

altar, and received communion served by a Protestant minister. It was also encouraging to hear that the missionaries and priest would come together for prayer and Bible study.

It was a thrill for me to stand in front of the beautiful church in Pereira with its pastor, Rev. Gabriel Velez, and his family. His wife had been a student in our school.

Across the way I could see the old building where the Cumberland Presbyterian mission had its beginning. I thought of the sacrifices that had been made and the dreams of the Pereira congregation to have a church building adequate for their needs. I recalled how faithful the members were to bring their little red hearts with their offering for the building fund.

I thought of the day that Don Baudillo received baptism and promised to be faithful to his Lord, how he was shot in the back by his enemies while he was praying by his bedside.

As I stood with Gabriel and his family, I remembered the day that he came to Cartago and expressed his desire to prepare himself for the gospel ministry. It was a joy to tell him that a scholarship was available and that he could go to Cali and enter the Colegio Americano. It was my privilege to have been his teacher when we served in Cali.

News Reports:

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DEDICATORY SERVICE OF REV. AND DAVIS O. BRYSON

BY MRS. S. O. PAYNE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

There have been numerous consecration services in which hearts were touched and tendered; many missionaries have been commissioned by various peoples to go out into heathendom in the name of the Christ to win the lost, but we earnestly believe that history has

never recorded a sweeter and more precious service than that held in the beautifully-appointed Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Milan, Tenn., on December 6, 1931, when Rev. and Mrs. Davis O. Bryson were set apart for definite service in Cali, Colombia—our own South American field.

Boston ferns in bronze urns, placed about the altar seemed to hallow the spot, and truly, we felt that we were treading on "holy ground." Long before the hour for service had arrived, the citizens of Milan, in company with hosts from distant towns and a delegation from the student body of Beth-



REV. AND MRS. D. O. BRYSON

el College, thronged into the auditorium. The very atmosphere was so permeated with the spirit of praise and thanksgiving that the entire congregation joined heartily in singing the Doxology. The invocation was offered by Rev. J. W. Dishman of McKenzie, Tenn. Following this, Rev. H. C. Walton of Jackson, Tenn., read Scripture from the third chapter of I Corinthians and the tenth chapter of Romans.

The Milan quartet sang very expressively, "Thine for Service," after which Rev. E. R. Ramer delivered a most appropriate consecration address. How we wished that the church, as a whole, could hear the stirring appeal to be true to the workers as they are true to Christ and the Church! In presenting the candidates, Rev. Ramer, who for many years has been very intimately acquainted with the parents of both Rev. and Mrs. Bry-

son, told many interesting details of their lives. Perhaps these facts made the service more appealing—certainly they made it an informal hour.

Portions of Scripture, arranged on the programs, were read responsively by the congregation, Rev. and Mrs. Bryson, and, indeed, these were significant in creating a worshipful atmosphere. In just such spirit of consecration, Mrs. Johnie Massey Clay, in her gracious, inimitable manner, presented the charge and delivered the commissions. To witness her grave sincerity, to see the radiant joy on the faces of the young couple, yes, just to be a part of that service is a memory that will remain throughout eternity! Surely, heaven itself rang forth with a glorious melody as the consecrating prayer was offered and every heart must

have been lifted to the Father asking Him to protect those who go in our behalf as well as to keep us mindful of and true to our task.

As this impressive service drew to a close, the congregation extended hands of service and hearts of loyalty to these—our new missionaries—as together, they sang “God Be With You Till We Meet Again.”

The citizenship of Milan felt that it was an honor for their little city to be host on this occasion; churches of all denominations were delighted to have a definite part in such a great program; those who attended the service were drawn very near unto heaven, and as you read this brief review, won't you remember that the Brysons go in your behalf to assist Misses Brintle and Barnett in leading those in the darkness of South America to know Christ Jesus?

REV. AND MRS. BRYSON'S STATEMENTS ON “MY CALL TO SOUTH AMERICA”

I had not been deeply interested in the South American work until I received the news that Rev. and Mrs. Conyers had been forced to return to the States on account of the illness of their son. This message in some way placed a burden on my heart for the work in South America. I had often heard the statement that South America was crying out for Christ and this still made the burden much heavier. I, too, realized that I could go to South America if I would only surrender myself wholly unto the Lord and give up my hopes and ambitions in the home land. When we

are working for the Lord we cannot have our own way. For Jesus said unto his disciples, “If any man come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” We truly feel that it is our duty and privilege to bear the cross for Christ in South America.

Indeed we had much to give up—our friends, loved ones and home. We have some dear friends at Ebenezer and Fifth Church, and it grieves our hearts to bid them farewell. We had planned so much for our work in the future at these places, and while reflecting on these things this message came to

me, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." When I was talking to Mrs. Clay about the work she told me the things that I would be expected to do. She asked me if I could do it? I was forced to say, no, but the words of Paul came to me, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We are going to this field not trusting in our own strength, but trusting in Jesus the Christ to strengthen, keep and guide us in this new field. Jesus has promised his followers that He would never forsake or leave them and that He will go with them even unto the end of the world. We are not going to South America alone, for Jesus is going with us. As we leave for our new field of labor we sincerely covet the prayers of the church that God will lead and keep us in His Holy Name.

Prayerfully,

D. O. Bryson

* * *

For sometime I have felt that there was a great work in South America and that God could use us there. Yet I felt that I was answering God's call by giving my entire time to His work here at home. We had such a wonderful place to serve, so pleasant, and with such a future, that I felt we were serving God to the best of our ability. Yet at times I would feel that there were thousands who could take our place here and so few to go to those who had not even heard of the Christ. When South America was mentioned by Mrs. Slaton last Summer we would not even consider it, for we were so happy in our work here and had

to know the Christ. And as we go we do not have any feeling of regret because we count it a privilege to witness for Him even unto the utmost parts of the world for "Lo,

such dear people with whom to work. My husband had such plans for the future and it seemed at last that we could have a home we had so much wanted. We bought our furniture and felt that we were stationed for a period of several years. Yet, often the thought of South America would come to my mind, and I felt that I did not have exactly the peace of mind that I should have. Then one day as we were preparing for our W. B. M. Day program my husband said, "Who knows, we might be in South America some day." This thrilled my heart because I realized then that I would love to serve my Lord there. But I turned it off because we were so happily settled, and I was selfish enough to want to remain where we were when God was calling us to a greater service.

I didn't mention it to Mr. Bryson because I didn't want to influence him. I knew if God was calling him he would realize it. We did not discuss the matter any more until we noticed in the paper that Rev. and Mrs. Conyers had been forced to return. Then it dawned upon us that God could use us there. Yet we were not ready to go; we felt we had our plans made to stay in Memphis. After synod it seemed that we would know no peace unless we surrendered our lives to Him. We prayed earnestly and our excuses seemed as trifles when we took them to the Lord. Then one day together we surrendered our lives and said, "Lord, we'll give up all and follow thee." We realized that we were unworthy to follow Him if we did not take up His cross and deny ourselves and follow Him.

Pray that we may be used of Him and that we may bring many

He is with us." He has promised us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We are happy indeed to go and we covet your prayers.

Gladys Holt Bryson.

DOCTOR INMAN CONCERNING OUR WORK IN CALI

Dr. Inman is the Executive Secretary of the Committee on Co-Operation in Latin America, which committee is made up of picked men, chosen without regard to denomination, but for their experience and information as an advisory group to Mission Boards of all denominations in the United States and Canada doing missionary work in South America, which is regarded as a difficult field. This committee sends its executive secretary on frequent tours of South America to study and make detailed report of all mission fields. He visited our missions last summer, met our missionaries, and the following is an excerpt from a recent letter from Dr. Inman:

"You have a remarkable field in the city of Cali and the delightful valley surrounding it. It is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful valleys in the world, nature itself being in tune with the heavenly Father in spreading the spirit of love in the heart of man. Cali is a town which is coming out from its former isolation and has commercial and economic prospects, and you could not have found a finer field in all of South America. I can truthfully say that I have not seen in all of my recent trips to South America a more promising work than you have in Cali. We cannot expect too much of our

workers when we send them down into a lonely place like Cali, where they have no fellowship with their people and where they have not had considerable training on the life, literature and culture of the people where they are going. It is difficult for North Americans to understand the need of such preparation. Ordinarily it is thought that this preparation would be secured on the field, but I am more and more convinced this cannot be done, at least under twenty or twenty-five years of residence.

The field seems to be open to the type of work that your missionaries are especially fitted to do. While there is an independent missionary group located there they are not prepared to do any educational work. As a matter of fact, while they have been there for many years there seems to be little indication, from my inquiries in the city, that people were aware of their presence. Certainly your field is clear for doing an outstanding piece of educational work, especially the training of teachers. Your missionaries, who are graduates of the Peabody Normal School, have a clear idea of the best kind of service that could be rendered to this part of Colombia, where there is practically no training for teachers. We understand from our history in this country, as well as mis-

FIRST WORD FROM REV. AND MRS. BRYSON- WRITE OF OUR SOUTH AMERICAN WORK

Dear Coworkers: We arrived in Buenaventura Monday, December 21. Misses Brintle and Barnett were there to meet us, and we were certainly glad to see them. We had heard so much Spanish on the ship that it made us long to see someone that could speak English. It would have been very difficult for us to have checked and arranged for the shipping of our baggage to Cali without their aid, as we did

not know the language nor about the various details that we had to go through with in order to get our baggage delivered at our door in Cali. But with their aid, we did not have a bit of trouble, and did not even have to pay duty on our baggage. We are certainly grateful to them for the service rendered us. It would have been a very difficult task for us to have made the

trip from Buenaventura to Cali without their aid.

As the trip from Buenaventura to Cali was my first trip through the mountains, it was naturally very interesting to me. The scenery was just wonderful; every turn had something new for one to see. Certainly the Lord has blessed Colombia with beautiful scenery. One can fully appreciate the handiwork of the Lord when they see the masterpieces of nature. Cali is a city of about one hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants situated at the foot of the mountains in a beautiful valley.

We found a mission that the church should indeed be proud of, well organized in every department. The school is one of the most important cogs of the mission. In many cases we are able to reach the parent through the child. Our Sunday school is made up principally of those that are interested in the school. We found two wonderful missionaries, Misses Barnett and Brintle, who are certainly to be complimented for their courageous spirit and their willingness to work. There is a marvelous spirit existing in the mission. Ethel and Bernice are having a rehearsal this afternoon for their Christmas program which is to be given tonight. This was our first opportunity to see the pupils of the school, and they are certainly a very promising group.

The natives have already won our hearts. Oh, how much we desire to help them. They seem so eager to learn and are willing to do anything to help carry the work on. Indeed the Lord has called us into a great field. The harvest is white, but the laborers are few. I think the Cali field offers us a great

opportunity to spread the gospel, as Cali is the industrial center of Colombia, and we have already our school and church well established here. We feel sure that the Lord is going to bless us in our labor in the Cali field, which needs laborers so much. Pray to the Lord that we may have more laborers. The natives are worthy of every opportunity that we might be able to give them. We long for the time to come when we can talk with them, and know them, for they already seem so dear to us. We are thankful that God has called us into this work, and that we have answered God's call. We are also grateful for having the privilege of working with Misses Barnett and Brintle. They certainly have a wonderful missionary spirit and we feel sure that God is going to bless our efforts. We are as one missionary family, all working for the advancement of God's kingdom. May we all have a greater missionary spirit.

Sincerely,

D. O. Bryson.

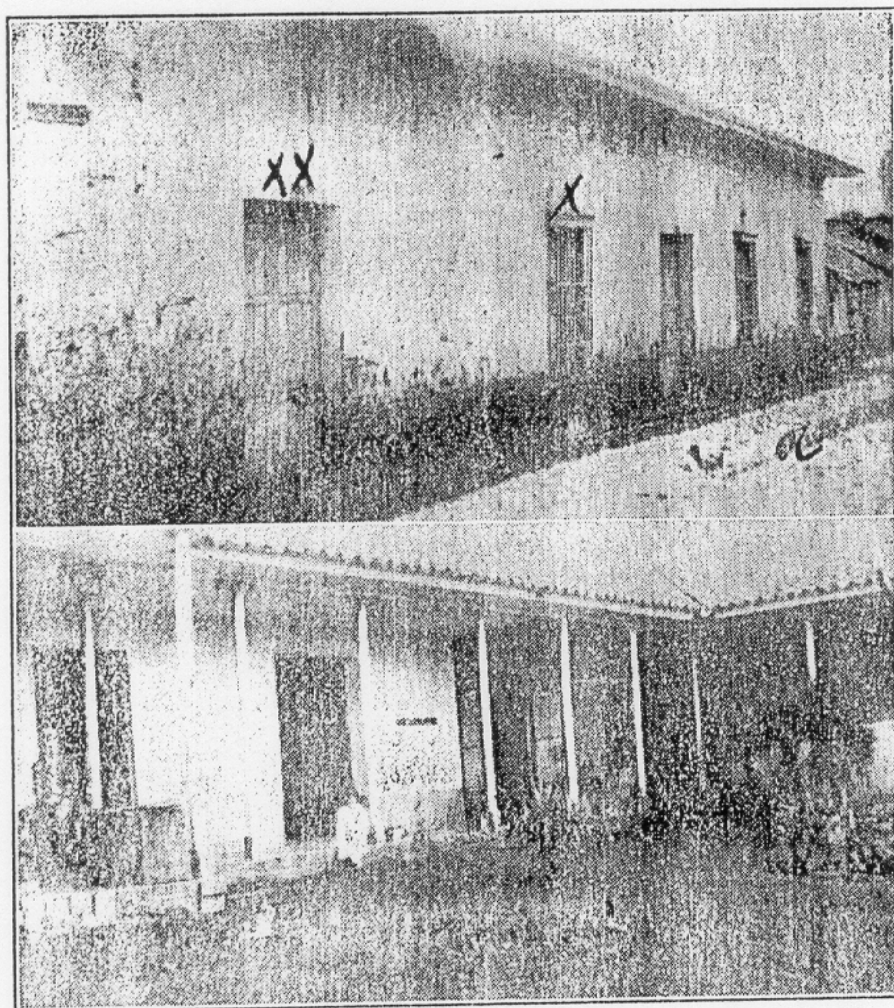
* * *

Dear Coworkers: We have been so busy seeing and looking since we arrived that it seems the time has slipped by so quickly. Misses Brintle and Barnett met us at Buenaventura and you can imagine how delighted we were to see them. We had a very interesting trip over, especially through the Panama Canal. Tuesday morning as we came on the train from Buenaventura to Cali I think I have never seen more beautiful scenery. It is only about fifty miles directly across the Andes, but the railroad winds in and out among the mountains in order to cross them, and it

takes about seven hours to make the trip. Often we could look down below us and see the railroad far below winding down the slope. As the sun came up over the mountains, and the clouds gradually faded away, it was beautiful. At last we reached "LaCumbre," (the summit) an elevation of 6,000 feet, and we could look out over the Cauca Valley far below and see again the Central Andes far in the distance. The valley is about 25 miles wide

and about 100 miles long. It looks as level as the plains, and winding in and out is the Cauca River, which looks perfectly clear. The trees and grass are fresh and green and you can imagine the beauty as one looks down from the summit of the mountains.

Of course we were eager to see what Cali was going to look like, as we had only seen little thatched roofed houses since we left Buenaventura. At last we were told to



Top View: The South American Mission. (xx) The door to the chapel.
(x) The school room.

Bottom View: The rear view of the mission.

THE MISSIONARY MESSENGER

look quickly and for a few seconds the city was in sight far below. Several hours later we came into full view of the city, but not until after we had reached the foot of the mountains. Cali is located in the edge of the valley and our mission is out directly in the foothills. When we first arrived in Cali the streets looked like long narrow canals, because the houses are all built opening into the street. When the girls told the driver to stop, I could hardly realize we were there, for I thought it would be a house out by itself, with a large playground. In the long continuous white wall this was just another opening. The door is a large double door, and it opens into a patio. The interior is very attractive and cozy. Our missionaries have worked hard with their flowers and they are beautiful. The most striking thing at first to me was the general appearance of the classrooms. They are arranged very much as our school rooms at home. Their equipment is very good and their methods are the best. One cannot truly appreciate this until you realize the difficulty and trials they must have had in securing these things where everything is so extremely high and hard to get. The school, I am sure, would be recognized as a very, very good one in any country. We have not yet had the opportunity to meet all the pupils, but we were here for the Christmas program Thursday night, and, although we could not understand a word, we were amazed at the program. It was very good, indeed, and showed that the pupils were so willing to do. The parents were beaming over the success the pupils had made.

We are delighted with Don Mar-

tiniano and his family. They indeed seem to be a consecrated family. How many times we have wished we could talk with them. We have started our study of the language, but realize it will be a long, difficult study. I do wish they would start Spanish at Bethel. It would make it so much easier for the missionaries. I do hope Betty Smith can come in February because then we could all go right on together; she could help us, as she has studied Spanish and we could help her by that time. Then we can all be ready to start teaching probably by the fall opening of school. They need more help so badly. Davis is going to take the older boys in woodworking, and I am going to take the older girls in Home Economics, and although we do not know the language, this will help us learn it, and, in a small way, relieve Miss Brintle and Miss Barnett. I will be so glad when we learn the language well enough to take over our share of the work. They have worked so hard, and are so interested in the work that they are not willing to let it suffer for lack of workers, and we feel that they do need to be lightened of their duties. It just swells our heart when we see so much to be done. Surely this is a great field, for this is the only Protestant school in Cali, and they are so eager to learn.

We had a very pleasant Christmas day. Early in the morning Don Martiniano's family came down and we opened our gifts. We also had the gifts for them sent out by Jose and Rev. and Mrs. Conyers. It was very difficult for them to keep back the tears as they opened the gifts from those loved ones so far away. But in spite of it all, it

was a very jolly occasion, and we enjoyed it. Various ones came in to bring gifts to Miss Brintle and Miss Barnett and they always remembered us with a card. You can't realize how much we appreciated their kindness toward us. The natives are such lovable people, and our hearts are touched by their devotion to our workers here.

Late in the afternoon after our guests had all gone, we went out for a walk. The scenery was beautiful, and as we walked up on the mountain slope toward Don Martiniano's, we just had to look in at the windows as we passed so close to see their mangers. The natives do not have Christmas trees, but have improvised mangers with a beautiful star of tinsel hanging over it. They have the manger built up on tables, making it gradually slope down to the floor. They put green grass all around and have all sorts of little toy animals around. On one side of the manger is Joseph and on the other is Mary. Angels are hovering all around. They make little churches and houses which are very attractive and place them all around. In the manger is the little Christ Child. The gifts are placed under the child's pillow and after he sees them on Christmas they place them in the manger. It is certainly a beautiful scene. However, Don Martiniano has abandoned this custom in his home, and had a very pretty Christmas tree instead. We walked on up the mountain side with Don Martiniano and his family and enjoyed it very much.

Today is a very busy one for us as it is Saturday and, besides the regular duties, we must make a

trip down town. It is striking that some things are so modern, as electric lights and trains, yet they do not have many of the simplest conveniences, as plows, axes, rakes and a thousand other simple implements. The foreigners have brought in all the manufactured goods, as there are no factories here. Everything is very high. Flour is \$2.50 for 25 pounds. Sugar is about 15 cents per pound and a box of salt is 40 cents. It is very hard for us to adjust ourselves to such enormous prices. If we had only known we could have brought so many things with us, as we didn't have to pay any extra duty. We gave away so much dried fruit which down here is 80 cents per pound. It is going to take so much for us to start keeping house, as we will have so many little necessities to buy at first. There is a great abundance of fresh vegetables for which I am truly thankful, but of course they are not cultivated as ours are at home. They never plant anything in rows. They have delicious fresh fruits, and we are enjoying them so much.

It is almost time for lunch and I have not finished my housecleaning, so I must say good-bye. Oh, I know we will just love the work because already these people have won our hearts. Dorris was so delighted over her little dress and it looked so sweet on her. The fruit cake was delicious.

Write us often and excuse this jumble as we are busy and our minds are not exactly clear yet after seeing so much. We will write again the first of the week and try to give a clearer interpretation of what we have seen. They told us to write on every inch of

space in order not to have to pay so much at home, and feel that we
 double, so that accounts for the ap- have known them always.
 pearance of this letter. The girls Prayerfully yours,
 have been darling to us; we feel Gladys H. Bryson.

SHIPS THAT SAIL THE SEA

To Our Dear Friends, Davis and Gladys, on Their Departure for
 South America, December 12, 1931

I have heard of battleships that dye the seas with blood
 And I've heard of wicked pirate ships that prey upon the good,
 And I have heard of slave ships with the sad, sad load they bore
 Of people snatched for servitude upon a foreign shore.
 And then there are the merchants' ships, whose cargoes will be sold
 They are worth so much—no more—of silver and of gold.
 And still I know another ship to my mind for the best,
 It's mission's higher, its cargo dearer than any of the rest.
 It is not a battleship, no bloody war it makes,
 And it is not a pirate ship, it gives instead of takes,
 And it is not a slave ship, the King's family it bears;
 And it is not a merchant ship, you could not buy its wares.
 No, it's a missionary ship, and it goes across the foam
 To feed the hungry, heal the sick, and call the wanderer home.
 This ship will take the Brysons, who have heard the Father's call
 And, who, to spread His Kingdom have given Him their all.
 Now, I have here another kind, we'll call it—our love ship,
 And it's all packed and ready for a South American trip.
 It's cargo's for the Brysons, to them our ship will bear,
 Small tokens of our loving thoughts, our gratitude and prayers,
 Since we can't travel with them, we still can do our part
 And we promise them our full support, with hand and purse and heart.

(The above lines were written and delivered by a member of the mis-
 sionary society of Milan, Tenn., at a shower given Rev. and Mrs.
 Bryson just prior to their leaving for South America.)

THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

The wise men ask, "What language did Christ speak?"
 They cavil, argue, search, and little prove,
 O Sages, leave your Syriac and your Greek!
 Christ spoke the universal language—LOVE.
 —Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

EARLY HISTORY OF COLEGIO BOLIVAR 1944 - 1947

The American School for English speaking students was opened in July 1944 by Dr. and Mrs. D. O. Bryson. Prior to the school opening, english speaking students had a difficult decision to make regarding their education. Many children remained in the United States or England during the school year. Others went to boarding schools in Quito or Bogota. Those that lived in Cali all year round studied from the "Calvert" correspondence course or attended spanish speaking schools.

Mrs. Bryson started by teaching her son Jimmy and a friend Frankie Carder. By August a third pupil Mary Ellen Libby had started attending the school. By the end of the first semester, there were 10 students in regular attendance. An official Board of Directors was elected. They were Dr. Bryson, Director of the Colegio Americano, Mr. Frank C. Carder, Container Corporation of America, and Mr. Joe Libby, a representative of an American coffee company. Mr. Carder was sent to Colombia to purchase land and start construction of a new box factory. That factory is now called Carton de Colombia.

The Colegio Americano provided a classroom in which grades 1 through 8 were taught. The State of Tennessee public school curriculum was used as a guide in organizing the course of study. The text books were ordered from book publishers in the States.

By the end of the second semester there were 30 students, representing the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland, Argentina and Canada. The school was growing rapidly and the board decided to bring a full time teacher from the United States. Miss Peggy Dunn, of Milwaukee, started teaching in the school in July 1945. As the school continued to grow, the Colegio Americano lent assistance by providing teachers for Spanish, Art and Music. Mrs. Ibanez, a Cali resident, was added as a full time teacher before the end of the 1945 year. The school remained in the Colegio Americano on Calle de Colombia through 1947. The english school soon outgrew the facilities available at the old Colegio Americano building so the board voted to move the school to the San Fernando district.

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ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE WILL RECEIVE DEGREES AT BETHEL COLLEGE'S 115TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

TWO EVERY HOME PLANS

Walnut Grove church, Walnut Grove, Mississippi with 11 subscribers. Rev. Walter L. Mayo is pastor.

Sharon church, Sharon, Tennessee, with 34 subscribers. Rev. Roy E. Blakeburn is pastor.

Group subscriptions include the following: Mrs. Luther Richards, White, Georgia, 6; Mrs. C. O. Ising, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 7; Z. V. McClung, Muskogee, Oklahoma, 5.

Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee, will graduate one of its largest classes when degrees are conferred on 145 at commencement exercises June 6. Delivering the address will be Dr. Turner N. Clinard, pastor of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greeneville, Tennessee. The service will be held in the John W. Dishman Gymnasium at 10 a.m.

Also at the commencement honorary degrees will be conferred on two ministers of the denomination, Rev. E. R. Ramer, pastor of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Mo., and Rev. Davis O. Bryson, director of youth in the First Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. On these two will be conferred the Doctor of Divinity degrees "for outstanding contributions to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church."

Rev. Mr. Bryson will deliver the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class on Sunday evening, June 2, in the John W. Dishman Gymnasium.

Commencement Speaker

Dr. Clinard is a graduate of Bethel
(Continued on page 14)

SEMINARY GRADUATION — The Commencement service of the Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary, McKenzie, Tenn., will be held Wednesday evening at seven thirty o'clock June 5, 1957, in the local Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The sermon will be delivered by Dr. George E. Coleman, pastor of the Park Avenue Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Memphis. The degrees will be awarded by Dr. Thomas H. Campbell, President of the Seminary.

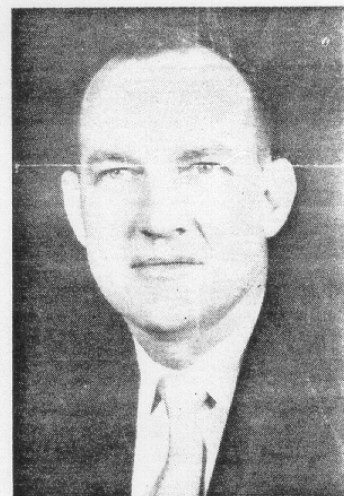
The following are scheduled to receive the Bachelor of Divinity Degree at that time. Frank Thomas Blain, Short Creek, Kentucky; Herbert William Carlock, Jr., Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Tolbert B. Dill, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Harry Horace Estes, Kevil, Kentucky; James David Hester, Waverly, Tennessee; John Franklin Kennedy, Springfield, Missouri; Hillman Moore, Jackson, Tennessee; Melvin Sidney Rowland, Longview, Texas; Morris Henson Springer, North Little Rock, Arkansas; Paul Ray Troutt, Sturgis, Kentucky; and John W. Wright, Jr., Marshall, Texas.



Rev. Davis O. Bryson
Baccalaureate sermon & honorary degree



Rev. E. R. Ramer
Doctor of Divinity



Dr. Turner N. Clinard
Commencement speaker

Cumberland Ministers To Receive Degrees

Bethel College will confer the Doctor of Divinity degree on The Rev. E. R. Ramer of Kansas City, Missouri, and The Rev. D. O. Bryson of San Francisco, California, at the college commencement, June 6. These degrees are conferred in recognition of both men's outstanding contributions to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



REV. D. O. BRYSON

The Rev. D. O. Bryson was educated at North Texas A & M and at Bethel College. He has done his graduate work at Southern Methodist University and the Cumberland Theological Seminary. After various pastorates in Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas, he served as missionary to Columbia, South America, from 1931 to 1946. Mr. Bryson has, since 1947, served as director of the San Francisco Cumberland Presbyterian Mission. He is married to the former Gladys Holt, daughter of Mrs. Myrtle Holt of Milen. They have one son, James D. Bryson, of San Francisco.

May 28, 1957

News Call Bulletin

San Francisco's Evening Newspaper

860 Howard St., Telephone EX 7-5700

☆☆R

Monday, August 24, 1964

Page 20

JACK ROSENBAUM

LOST AND FOUND . . . Nelly Lauw, a missionary flying from Belgium to Indonesia, is mighty grateful her path crossed briefly in San Francisco with a fellow missionary, even though they still haven't met. Miss Lauw, sightseeing on the GG Bridge, suddenly discovered her purse missing. It contained her passport, airline ticket and expense money. Agitated, she hurried to the Bridge office — and there was her purse, intact. By happy fate, a long-time missionary, **Rev. David Bryson**, now minister of the Cumberland

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, was strolling on the bridge with his wife and found the purse.

'COMEBACK' IS SOUGHT

Bethel Speaker Cites Need For Faith In God

M'KENZIE, Tenn., June 2. — The Rev. D. O. Bryson of San Francisco, speaking here Sunday night to Bethel College graduates, challenged them to show what man can do in co-operation with God.

Delivering the baccalaureate sermon at the college gymnasium, he said, "The challenge before you is this: The communistic and atheistic world is trying to demonstrate what man can do without God.

"You are living in a time when it is difficult to have faith, but faith in the eternal kingdom is the only way out. Without faith there is no power for the present," he added.

The Rev. Mr. Bryson is in charge of the Cumberland Presbyterian Mission for Chinese at San Francisco and is a former South American missionary.

"Our moral deficiency has caught up with us and now we are in a desperate struggle to make a comeback before the world blows up on our face. This is a part of your heritage," the speaker said in conclusion.

May 28, 1957

A TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. DAVIS O. BRYSON
CUMBERLAND HERALD - probably about 1969

It is not how long the Brysons stayed here. It is what made the Brysons stay here long that we celebrate their 20th anniversary of service among us.

I am happy to have this opportunity to congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Bryson who have so dedicated themselves in bringing up a large group of young people to be the pillars of our church.

These young people have been sharing the loads of our ministerial responsibility by serving in different functions of our church, such as the choir, the church school, as committee chairmen, on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders.

Dr. Bryson has been serving as ex-officio adviser to the Session and to the various committees.

In 1957 when the Building Committee decided to raise funds to build this beautiful church, Dr. Bryson helped to draw up the master plan which made the campaign so successful that we raised more than \$100,000.

Dr. Bryson is a skillful carpenter. At different times when the church needed material improvement, he put panels on the walls in different areas, put up shelves, closets, classroom partitions, etc; thus showing his willingness to serve with his hands as well as with his spirit.

In 1959 when we renovated the old sanctuary into a chapel, two classrooms and one office, Dr. Bryson helped a group of young men and accomplished the job.

Mrs. Bryson was no less a moving force in molding lives into christian living. Many gatherings in her home, the personal contacts with each individual and the retreats for Bible study reflect a spirit who walks closely with Christ.

In conclusion, I say that Dr. and Mrs. Bryson have so devoted themselves to their call and have given us such extraordinary service that I really don't know how to say thank you. I sincerely hope that they will continue long in their service here.

- Ted Farn Chan -

Obituaries

SF CHRONICAL
10/24/71

Gladys Bryson, 62, Missionary in S.F.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Mrs. Gladys Bryson, a missionary in San Francisco and abroad for 40 years, who died yesterday at the age of 62.

Mrs. Bryson was born in Milan, Tenn., and studied at Bethel College in Tennessee and Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

She then went to Colombia where she did much pioneering missionary work. She concentrated on helping international students.

Ill health forced her to leave her work in Colombia after 15 years and she moved to San Francisco. For the last 25 years she worked with the Cumberland Presbyteri-

an Chinese Church here and also taught in the adult education program since 1956, again working extensively with international students.

Mrs. Bryson is survived by her husband, Dr. Davis O. Bryson, of San Francisco; son James of Sunnyvale and two grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at Cumberland Presbyterian Chinese church, 365 Jackson St. Dr. Fred Bryson, her nephew, a dean at Southern Methodist University, will officiate.

The family has requested memorial contributions to the Bryson Scholarship fund, P.O. Box 4149, Memphis, Tenn., 38104.

\$23,000 was contributed to this fund.



Funerals



BRYSON, Gladys H.

FALCONE, Barbara J.

HONOR, Daniel N.

KEALY, Anita C.

MAYNARD, Glenn W.

MORO, Stephen C.

NATA, Lucy

O'DONNELL, Edith M.

SCHUMACHER, Dominic (Jim) Nicholas

SPIVEY, Harvey L.

NATA, Lucy—In this city, October 22, 1971, Lucy Nata, beloved wife of the late Desiderio Nata, loving mother of Mrs. Nina A. Rataelli, Mrs. Josephine E. Farrar, and the late William R. Nata, loving grandmother of five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; a native of Tirano, Italy.

Friends may call after 5 p.m., Sunday. Funeral services will take place Tuesday, October 23, 8:30 a.m., from the Memorial Chapel of CAREW & ENGLISH, Masonic at Golden Gate Ave., thence to St. Dominic's Church, Steiner & Bush Sts., where a Requiem Mass will be offered at 9 a.m. Rosary 8 p.m., Monday, Interment Holy Cross Cemetery.

O'DONNELL, Edith M. — In Oakland, October 21, 1971, Edith M. O'Donnell, loving sister of Alice and Mary O'Donnell; a native of Nebraska; a member of St. Jarlath's Sodality Society and Legion of Mary.

Friends are respectfully invited to attend funeral services Monday, October 25, at 9 a.m., at COOPER'S CHAPEL, 1550 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, thence to St. Jarlath's Church, Fruitvale and Pleasant Sts., Oakland, where the Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated for the repose of her soul commencing at 9:30 a.m. Recitation of the Rosary Sunday, 7:30 p.m. The remains of Miss O'Donnell will be forwarded to Sioux City, Iowa, for services and interment at St. John's Cemetery, Jackson, Nebraska. (For further information, please phone 532-1144.) Parking area adjacent to chapel.

CLARENCE N. COOPER

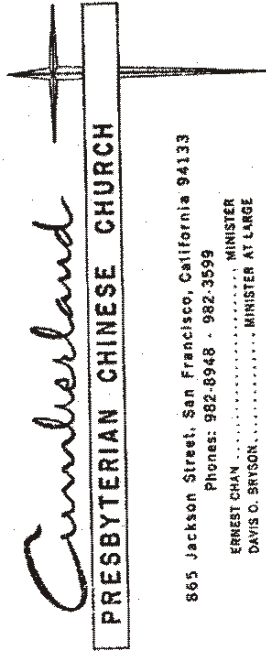
BRYSON, Gladys H. — October 22, 1971, Gladys H. Bryson, beloved wife of Dr. Davis O. Bryson, loving mother of James D. Bryson, grandmother of Elizabeth and James Bryson Jr.

Services Sunday, October 24, at 2:30 p.m., at the Cumberland Presbyterian Chinese Church, 365 Jackson St. Visitation Saturday evening, 6 to 7 o'clock, at MARTIN & BROWN, 1801 Van Ness Ave., at Clay. Interment Olivet Cemetery. Memorials to the Bryson Scholarship Fund, in care of Board of Missions, P.O. Box 4149, Memphis, Tennessee, preferred. ADJACENT PARKING



For several years before her death, Gladys Bryson taught classes in "English as a Second Language", ESL, in the San Francisco Adult Public School System. These classes started in the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church as a volunteer service. The city saw the great value in these classes and agreed to fund them and pay the teachers. The classes were then moved to one of the public adult schools and the enrollment was opened to people from any nation. Gladys found this to be a new mission field teaching men and women from all over the world. Her experience in Colombia and in San Francisco made her an ideal person to teach in the adult school.

She always went the extra mile and helped students deal with the Immigration Service, obtain passports, interpret at medical appointments, and many other areas of need. She was a great teacher of English since English grammar was one of her specialties. The group in this picture is one of her classes of ESL. Gladys is the fifth person from the left.



**CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN CHINESE CHURCH**

865 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California 94133
 Phones: 982-8948 • 982-3599

ERNEST CHAN MINISTER
 DAVIS O. BRYSON MINISTER AT LARGE

October 24, 1971

**MEMORIAL SERVICE
OF**

MRS. GLADYS HOLT BRYSON (1909-1971)

ORDER OF SERVICE

- Précude
- Call To Worship John 11: 25, 26. Minister
- Constitutional Hymn - "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" No 225
- Reading from the Old Testament The Rev. Ernest Chan
Psalm 121
- The Gloria Patri *Psalm 23*
- Constitutional Hymn - "Faith Is The Victory" No. 497
- Scripture from the New Testament Dr. Carl Ramsey
Psalm 51: 1-16
- Prayer Dr. Carl Ramsey
- Special Music "Great is thy Faithfulness" *Winged Kim*
Prayer *Walter Kim*
- Serenade - The Shining Light Dr. Fred. W. Bryson
- The Lord's Prayer Congregation
- The Credo
- The Benediction
- Postlude

The Minister

Service of Worship in Memorial to Gladys H. Bryson.

Friends, join in an expression of Thanksgiving unto God for her life, who used her life and talents to the glory of God.

Rev. Ernest Chan - Psalms: 121 and 23. After the Chinese message he mentioned in English Billy Graham's - ONE WAY.

Dr. Ramsey:

FAITH is the Victory that overcomes. We are here to celebrate what God did in Christ. He loved us with an everlasting love. He triumphed over death. Gladys was truly real - not a fake. She dwelled among us, taught us, gave her life. Bestowed love without demand. She smiled and went her way and made an everlasting impression. Gladys was with the Board of Missions of Cumberland Presbyterian Church 40 years. As a team, she and Davis O. Bryson answered the call of God to go into all the world and preach the gospel. They were never separated in their home life, church life, and community life. Thank God for her life and what she has done will leave an everlasting impression on us. Matthew 5: 1-16 sums up her life.

Dr. Bryson:

We are here to honor the life of Gladys H. Bryson. Not here to honor death of a person. Christians gather because of the person of Jesus Christ. Gladys was a devout Christian. She practiced His call, "Let your Light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

We are here to glorify God's name - the Light of His life has brightened ours. To appreciate this meaning we look to the teaching of Christ - this is what she lived for.

In her life -

1. The shining light of Faith. She was confident God would care for her and all His people. Her life was a witness to God's story, "His Story," that differences which separate us would fall away. She had faith in God and self that she was doing His will. She had faith in her family, she invested herself, her time and talents for others. She had faith in the future.
2. The Shining Light of Hopes. Even through grief, sorrow, tears, we come hopefully, that all is well and Gladys is with her Lord. We have a building not made with hands. Her faith and good works will continue to bless us in the future.
3. The Light of Christian Love. For life, that she might serve and do what God called her to do. 1. Corinthians 13. No one witnessed better to Christian love. A great symphony came from her life - the warmth of a smile, the clasp of her hand. Her life has bound us together in so many ways.

Woffett: Love is always eager to believe the best. Christian redemption comes through love. She believed the best, practiced the art of believing in people. She led many away from despair and failure into warmth of friendship and to God. The Christian does not keep score of wrongs. This was the essence of her life and love for people.

The Light has shown brighter because of her life. We are better persons because of these Christian attributes we experienced through Gladys.

Let us take up the mantle of hope and the rich heritage she has left and join in serving Him.

October 24, 1971



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 92^d CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 117

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1971

No. 183

House of Representatives

TRIBUTE TO MRS. GLADYS BRYSON

HON. ED JONES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 29, 1971

Mr. JONES of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on October 22, one of the outstanding missionaries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Gladys Bryson, passed away in San Francisco. Mrs. Bryson, who was a native of Gibson County, Tenn., was a personal friend of mine and had been for many years the object of my admiration. She and her husband, Dr. Davis Bryson, once spent a year in my home community of Yorkville, Tenn., while he was pastor of my home church.

Last week, the Milan Mirror ran Mrs. Bryson's obituary which I include at this point in the Record:

FORMER MILAN CITIZEN, MISSIONARY DIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Funeral services were held Sunday, October 24 for Mrs. Gladys Bryson, a missionary in San Francisco and abroad for 49 years. She died October 22 at the age of 82. Mrs. Bryson was born in Milan and studied at Bethel College and Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

She then went to Columbia where she did much pioneering missionary work. She concentrated on helping international students.

Ill health forced her to leave her work in Columbia after 18 years and she moved to San Francisco. For the last 25 years she worked with the Cumberland Presbyterian Chinese Church and also taught in the adult education program since 1956, and again working extensively with international students.

Mrs. Bryson is survived by her husband, Dr. David O. Bryson of San Francisco; son James of Sunnyvale and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Dr. Fred Bryson, her nephew, a dean at Southern Methodist University and Dr. Carl Ramsey officiated.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be sent to the Bryson Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 4149, Memphis, Tenn. 38104.

The news of the death of Gladys Bryson brought into focus the realization of the broad dimension of a life splendid in every area of work, in the activities of Christian living dedicated to the service of her church and her Lord. The spirit of good will and service had been evident in the early years of her life. A native of Milan, the daughter of the late Lonnie M. Holt and Myrtle Hassell Holt, Gladys Holt had received her elementary and high school education in the Milan City Schools. She was an active honor student in the graduating class of 1927. She entered Bethel College the following year and graduated again with recognition in 1931. She was married to David Bryson, a ministerial student of Midlothian, Texas in 1929.

Following graduation, the Byrsons accepted work at Rice City Church, Little Rock, Ark. Having continued their education in graduate work at Southern Methodist University, they volunteered for a foreign missionary assignment from the Board of Foreign Missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They were then sent to Cali, Colombia, South America, where they worked in building and expanding the church in the entire area for fifteen years. For a year following their return to the states, Davis Bryson served as pastor of the Yorkville Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Gladys was a teacher in the Yorkville Elementary School.

The need for trained missionary personnel in the San Francisco area was apparent and the Byrsons were called by the Board of

National (Home) Missions, for this challenge to work with international and especially oriental students. As pastor and education director the Byrsons had been the leaders in the entire area. For twenty-five years the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church had been fortunate in the growth and spiritual inspiration given to all members and friends of the church because their dedication was founded on the lasting values of Christian living and sacrificial love. The twenty-five years of this service was emblazoned on the hearts of the people with who they labored. Because of a serious heart condition of Davis Bryson the resignation of the Byrsons from the Cumberland Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church was given special attention at the 1971 General Assembly at Jackson, Tenn., when the Assembly, through the Board of Missions presented to Davis and Gladys Bryson, a memorial plaque engraved with a notation of very special honor for the forty years of dedicated service to the church and to their great missionary cause. The life and contribution for building better lives in places of sorrow and want, in places of the greatest need have been given with sacrifice and love by Gladys Holt Bryson. This evaluation can be made only by the omnipotent power of the Master of all men for the eternal ages.

The survivors of Gladys Holt Bryson in this vicinity are one brother, Ralph Holt, and to sister Mrs. Mildred Alexander, Kqmboldt, and Miss Edith Holt, Milan.

Gladys Holt Bryson
**TRIBUTE TO A
GREAT LADY**

by Mrs. T. C. Stockton

Gladys Holt of Milan, Tennessee, was first introduced to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church as a missionary candidate at the Missionary Convention in Princeton, Kentucky in 1929. She was one of six missionary candidates, graduates of Bethel College, who told the Convention of her call and willingness to go wherever the Master might lead. The dedication and ardent devotion of this young life so impressed those who first came to know her in Princeton, that her sincerity of purpose and the consecration of her life to the task of missions have never been questioned.

Gladys married a young min-

isterial student at Bethel, Davis O. Bryson of Midlothian, Texas, who came to share her feeling of urgency and commitment to Christian missions, under the direction of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

"Just when the work was pulsing with rich opportunities in South America," and just when the need of additional missionaries seemed greatest, the Woman's Board of Missions, as it was then named, was "made to rejoice in the offered lives of the Rev. and Mrs. Davis O. Bryson for service in that field. From the time of their arrival in Colombia, their seeming fitness for the task," their un-

daunted courage, and unflinching steadfastness became the characterization of their work.

The Brysons arrived in Colombia Monday, December 21, 1931. The first letter that Gladys wrote from the field stated, "Oh, I know we will just love the work because already these people have won our hearts. . . . It just swells our hearts when we see so much to be done." Later she wrote, "We did not try to change people to our ideas and ways because their wisdom and grace so far exceeded ours. We did try to introduce them to Christ and led them to see that it was possible for them to receive power from him." Such was the spirit of Gladys Holt Bryson throughout her life as a missionary.

In April of 1934 came the letter from Mrs. Bryson telling that, "Little James Davis and I are both doing fine. He is a fine little boy—has gained 18 ounces in three weeks . . . I'm so grateful to God that all's well."

From 1931 to 1946, with the exception of furlough periods in the United States, Gladys took her place with her husband, doing



whatever she could to make mission work effective in Cauca Valley Presbytery, Colombia, South America. She wrote, "There is so much to be done, so many little things to be said, so many little acts of kindness; there is never a minute hardly that we cannot do some little something. I think it must be this that makes the work such a happy work."

Whether her task was teaching, planning and supervising meals at a camp, nursing, or ministering in apparently the smallest way, she spoke of her experiences as "the mountain-top experience of his love," "God is so good! How he does bless our weakest efforts! . . . The power of God is certainly great."

In 1946 the Brysons had to leave because of her health. They were told they could never live there again because of the altitude. They returned to the States and tried to be happy in the pastorate for a few months. Evidently God had a need for them in a different field of service among people of a different culture and race on the west coast.

For several years a group of eight dedicated, young Chinese had been writing the Board of Foreign Missions and pleading for an American couple to be sent to work with the young people of the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. They had prayed and interceded in various ways for help.

The Brysons heard of the need. Her health had seemingly been recovered. Their hearts were in mission work. They offered themselves for the service. It was agreed upon by the Board of Foreign Missions, Rev. and Mrs. Bryson, and the Session of the Chinese Church that they would go for a trial period of four months. They worked successfully, understandingly, and faithfully among these people of an entirely different background to those of Colombia. The trial pe-

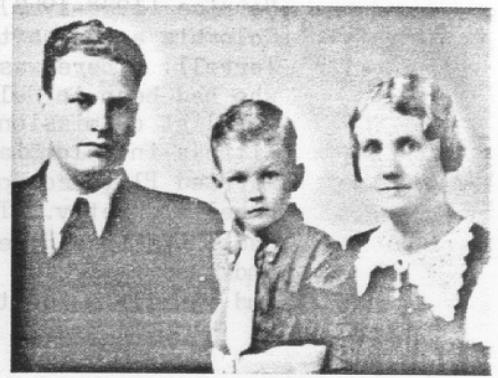
riod was the beginning of a long period of rich and fruitful service.

The same faith, zeal, and vibrant spirit that had been so dominant in her previous work, enabled her to help make the work of her Church in Chinatown, San Francisco great. Her helpfulness gave new life, new hope, and new power to youth who were persevering for the Kingdom's sake when those of lesser faith would have given up. She was able to communicate with every age group, with Chinese people in every strata of society, and with those of differing abilities. Recently she spoke of Mrs. Samuel King (Mamie) Gam as "a dear person whom I love like a sister."

In the midst of her work in San Francisco, she has said, "We walk each day with only his strength to lead us and how sweet the day grows with him!"

Mrs. Bryson died October 22, 1971 in a hospital in San Francisco at the age of 62 years. Memorial services were conducted in the First Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, San Francisco, by Dr. Fred Bryson, her nephew, a dean of Southern Methodist University, who was assisted by the Rev. Ernest Chan, minister of the Chinese Church, and Dr. Carl Ramsey, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions. Interment was in Olivet Cemetery near San Francisco.

She is survived by her husband, the son, his wife and two grand-



children who live at Sunnyvale, California. The Brysons were scheduled to retire at the end of this year. They were to live in a complex for retired people near their son. The family requested that memorial contributions be given to the Bryson Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 4149, Memphis, Tennessee 38104.

Though the Brysons attended General Assembly last June in Jackson, Tennessee, and she appeared on a program, she was not well. They later spent a month in Memphis renewing friendships and visiting relatives and friends.

As she reminisced about forty years of service with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, with the same gleam and animation of her more youthful years, she voiced her hope, faith, and gratitude for the opportunities for service which her Church had offered. Often she said, "God has been so good!"



January 1972

THROUGH THE YEARS WITH Davis O. Bryson

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO A SPLENDID CHURCHMAN

BY BILLIE ONG, San Francisco

I WAS fortunate enough to have been here welcoming the Bryson Family 25 years ago. Happiness was having a new minister, a new leader, a new teacher, a new friend, and we soon found much more than that for our church in San Francisco.

We came to know that Dr. Bryson was a man of many talents, a man of action. Our church soon had a physical transformation. Every spare moment found Dr. Bryson with his saw, paint brush, hammer, screw driver, etc., doing some remodeling of our church. A dingy cement four walled basement was soon transformed into the now knotty pine old social hall—into a cozy pleasant functioning all-purpose room almost immediately. The ping pong tables he added have added many hours of lively fun for many. Through the years his spare time projects have included wall paneling, tiling floors, kitchen remodeling, classroom partitioning upstairs and downstairs, plumbing repairs, and numerous continuous repairing projects. The code word around here became "Call Bryson, Call Bryson" in every emergency, and he always took care of it. His handyman talents certainly were a bonus for our church.

We found that transformation soon took place in our lives. Regularly weekly Bible studies, prayer meetings, Sunday evening services and fellowships, junior church services were started in addition to our regular Sunday school program. Through his dedicated leadership we came to know, to love, and to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

Many of us found Christ during the summer conferences held at Mt. Hermon. In 1948 seven of our Cumberland Presbyterian young people went to Mt. Hermon. In 1949 thirty went and in 1950 one hundred young people made decisions at the conference and our year round Christian growth were the direct result of dedicated personal effort by Dr. Bryson.

To raise money for sending more young people to these conferences and then later raising money for this present main church building, those early



years were filled with all types of productions, from talent shows, fashion shows, musicals and plays. Many can recall the shows "Anchors Aweigh," "Beyond the Sunset," "King and I" and "Rendezvous with Cindy Lou." We never did convince Dr. Bryson to sing a solo but he was always the all important man working with us behind the scenes.

This has always been a big role for him—working behind the scenes. One of the biggest highlights of our church's history was the Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly held here in 1964. We were at the time looking for a Chinese-speaking minister so the whole burden of the church was on his shoulders. He coordinated every detail of this memorable session with his leadership into one of the most successful General Assemblies ever.

We remember his roles in the scene as well as behind the scenes. Whether you were three or sixty you enjoyed Dr. Bryson's message of the day clearly illustrated with his many magician tricks. The colored water that instantly cleared up when another liquid was added (How our lives were changed when Jesus came into our lives), the different candles—one wouldn't burn, one fizzled out, one snap crackled and popped and one burned brightly (The different types of Christians). We remember the puppet shows, the Bible story films, the cartoons, the missionary talks and discussions.

We remember him not only on the pulpit speaking to us, we remember him side by side with us playing football, baseball, barbecuing hot dogs and

oking to the top of Mt. Tantalpais. He was the all important person with the food supply at all these picnics. He was our annual Easter rabbit in charge of the Easter egg hunt at Golden Gate park. I think he had as much fun as the ones looking for the eggs.

The Bryson home holds memories near and dear. Beginning with the first Christmas Eve they were here there was an annual open house after the traditional church Christmas Eve pageant. The famous Bryson Christmas tree hung with goodies for the little ones, the joyous Christmas caroling, the smell of fresh baked cakes and cookies, the hot chocolate, the famous Bryson punch, the love and warmth of Christian fellowship that we found there will always be cherished in our memories. The Bryson home was open not only at Christmas time but throughout the year for our meetings, luncheons, and dinners. We recall the picnics, hikes, baseball games and feeding ducks with 881-43rd Avenue as home base. Again we were always treated with the same Christian hospitality.

The Brysons have guided us step by step through the trials and tribulations of growing up—our teens, college years, careers, marriage and family life through their teachings, the group discussions, personal discussions, but most of all by being a living example for us to follow. They have graciously carried our burdens. The Brysons have seen our joys and shared many of our sorrows, the baptisms, graduations, weddings, successful careers and unsuccessful careers, funerals.

He has worked side by side with eight Cumberland Presbyterian ministers here, beginning with Rev. Tom Jung who was here when he arrived. He helped to welcome Samuel King Gam, Paul Wu, Stephen Lui, Paul Hom, Gordon Lew, Ernest Chan and Chanson Lan and with them he ably served.

I cannot tell all about the twenty five years with Dr. Bryson for most of you would also have your own stories to tell of how you found an understanding listener and a friend who was able to help. Maybe there were questions we needed answers to. It might have been a specific problem we were coping with. Maybe you felt like you were at the end of the road. Whatever it was, when you needed him he made it a point to be helpful.

The following is a partial quote from the Congressional Record of the United States of America on Monday, Nov. 29, 1971, a tribute paid to Mrs. Ghelys Bryson by Representative Ed Jones of Tennessee, a personal friend of the Brysons.

"It has been brought into focus the realization of the broad dimension of a life splendid in every area of work in the activities of Christian living dedicated to the service of the church and to our Lord."

"The need for trained missionary personnel in

the San Francisco area was apparent and the Brysons were called by the Board of National Missions for this challenge to work with international and especially oriental students. As pastor and education director the Brysons have been the leaders in this entire area. For twenty five years the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church has been fortunate in the growth and spiritual inspiration given to all members and friends of the church because their dedication was founded on the lasting values of Christian living and sacrificial love.

The retirement of Dr. D. O. Bryson was given special attention at the 1971 General Assembly at Jackson, Tennessee when the Assembly, through the Board of Missions presented to Dr. and Mrs. Bryson a memorial plaque engraved with a notation of very special honor for their 40 years of dedicated service to the church and their great missionary cause. The life and contribution for building better lives in places of sorrow and want, in places of the greatest need have been given with sacrifice and love. This evaluation can be made only by the omnipotent power of the Master of all men for the eternal ages.

The loyalty theme the stewardship committee used in our church this year sum it up—"Give generously . . . and touch someone's life for Christ." Dr. Bryson, for twenty five years you have given to us so generously, you have touched our lives for Christ . . . and for this we are grateful. —□

The greatest danger to the life of the church is the tendency to accept a diluted form of Christianity that makes the individual immune to the demands of a committed Christianity. This brand of Christianity exerts pressure to make the church conform to the standards of the culture in which it exists. It has no missionary zeal and questions the right of the church to send its missionaries to a people who already have a religion and are "happy in it." This viewpoint is based upon false assumptions. Christian missionaries do not go to other lands to get people to change their religion. They go with the message of Christ and that message has power to change lives. Far from the truth is the idea that because a man has a religion he is happy with it. The great need of mankind is not a religion but a Savior, not a philosophy but a new life . . . we need a commitment that goes beyond just having a good church where we can go on Sunday morning and worship in comfort and peace with our family. Christian worship should send us into the community to meet people at their point of need.

—From Dr. Bryson's sermon to the General Assembly, CPW Convention, Jackson, Tennessee 1971.



Our Tribute to the Brysons

Francis Joe
San Francisco

The Cumberland Presbyterian church of San Francisco has been greatly blessed during all seventy-two years of its existence. However, two very, very special blessings were Dr. and Mrs. Davis O. Bryson who worked in our church for over twenty years. Needless to say, they were greatly used by God. Their dedication to Christ was inspiring; their love for him contagious.

Following is from an oration given by Mrs. Billie Ong at Dr. Bryson's testimonial service in December, 1971. Though many have a lot to say in honor of the Brysons, Mrs. Ong's oration captivates best the impact the Brysons had on our church.

Through the Years with the Brysons

I was fortunate enough to have been here welcoming the Bryson family 25 years ago. Happiness was having a new minister, a new leader, a new teacher, a new friend, and we soon found much more than that.

We came to know that Dr. Bryson was a man of many talents, a man of action. Our church soon had a physical transformation. Every spare moment found Dr. Bryson with his faithful saw, paint brush, hammer, and screw driver in his hand doing some remodeling of our church, and numerous continuous repairing projects. The code word around here became "Call Bryson, Call Bryson!" In every emergency he always responded.

We soon found that transformation took place in our lives. Regular weekly Bible studies, prayer meetings, Sunday evening services and fellowships, junior church services were started in addition to our regular Sunday school program. Through the Brysons' dedicated leadership we soon came to know, to love, and to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

Many of us found Christ during the summer conferences held at Mt. Hermon. Our year-round Christian growth were the direct results of dedicated personal effort by the Brysons.

To raise money for sending more young people to these conferences and then later raising money for this present main church building, those early years were filled with all types of productions: talent shows, fashion shows, musicals and plays.

One of the biggest highlights of our church's history was the Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly held here in 1964. We were at the time looking for a Chinese-speaking minister so the burden of the church was solely on his shoulders. Single handedly he coordinated every detail of this memorable session with leadership into one of the most successful General Assemblies ever.

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The Davis Brysons

hind the scenes. Whether you were three or sixty-three you enjoyed Dr. Bryson's message of the day clearly illustrated with his many magician tricks.

We remember him not only in the pulpit speaking to us, we remember him side by side with us playing football, baseball, barbecuing hot dogs and hiking to the top of Mt. Tamalpais. He was the all-important person with the food supply at all these picnics. He was our annual Easter rabbit in charge of the Easter egg hunt. I think he had as much fun as the ones looking for the eggs.

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See TRIBUTE TO BRYSONS, p. 12

TRIBUTE TO BRYSONS, from p. 6

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The Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian church would like to thank and praise God for giving to us the Brysons.



Testimonial Banquet — Dec. 26, 1971

At the time of the retirement of Dr. Davis O. Bryson from the full-time gospel ministry, the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church held a special honorary banquet. The recognized Dr. Bryson for about 25 years of service by he and his wife, Gladys, to the church and its members. The presented him with a beautiful wall hanging that was over seven feet long and other gifts.

One of the members of the church, using Chinese calligraphy, reproduced the 23rd. Psalm in Chinese perfect characters. This framed piece also included a tribute to the Rev. and Mrs. Bryson and indicated their years of service. Davis is shown holding this wonderful gift. The man on the far right, is Harry Leong. He and his wife Lucille were very close friends of the Brysons and they enjoyed each others company.

THE Cumberland PRESBYTERIAN

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Central CP Church, Cali, Colombia, SA



Colegio Americano, Cali, Colombia

Pereira CP Church



Palmira CP Church



OCTOBER 1, 1975

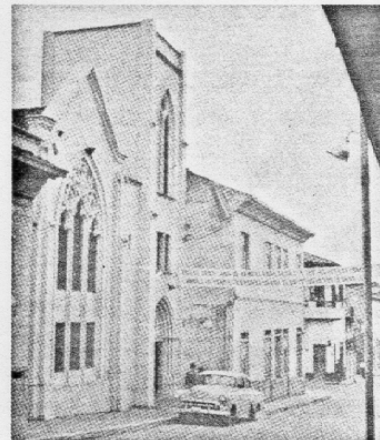
50 Years Cumberland Presbyterian Witness In Colombia

1925-1975

Special Report by David Brown

See pages 3 and 8.

Armenia CP Church



Fifty Years of Christian Witness in Colombia



David Brown
Director of
World Missions

The year 1975 marks the 50th year of Christian witness in Colombia, South America. Why have the efforts and sacrifices been made to open and continue Christian missions there? To what end and purpose have Cumberland Presbyterians joined hands across the five decades of our Lord's work in that distant land?

Answering these questions in part, the *Missions Manual* observes: "The

supreme and controlling aim of the Christian mission in the world is to make Jesus Christ known to all persons as their Lord and Saviour . . ." to the end that they "shall be brought to Christian discipleship." In a word, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is in Colombia for the very same reasons it exists anywhere—to meet the spiritual and physical needs of those whom God loves and for whom Christ died.

Additionally, it might be said we are

there as evangelical Christians to offer a viable alternative to a Roman Catholicism, a more restrictive, legalistic form of the Christian faith. It is to enable a people of God to express freely and openly their response to his redemptive grace through Jesus Christ.

Fifty years is a long time. How did it all begin? The first mission station in South America was named "the John A. Deaver Mission" in memory of Rev. John A. Deaver who lost his life in World War I, but who previously had expressed his feelings that God was calling him to go there as a missionary. A native of Alabama, Rev. Deaver was pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Tennessee, at the time of his death. West Tennessee Synod petitioned the Missionary Convention (as it was known at that time) that the proposed mission in South America be named in honor of him, pledging itself to make a contribution of \$2,000 to build a mission there.

In 1925 Rev. W. L. Swartz went to South America as the first missionary from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Locating in Cali, he and Mrs. Swartz, who had joined him there later, began the John A. Deaver Mission.

From that inauspicious beginning, steady progress can be noted. On September 12, 1927, the first day school was opened and on February 4, 1929, the first congregation came into being with a membership of sixteen. Six years later, in 1935, Cauca Valley Presbytery was formed. By this time, other missionaries had arrived. Missionaries who had come to Colombia by the time Cauca Valley Presbytery was created were: Mrs. Plutarco Roa, Mrs. Moises Gonzalez, Rev. and Mrs.

FLASHBACK

FECHAS SOBRESALIENTES

- 1925 Rev. W. L. Swartz arrives in Colombia.
El Rev. Walter L. Swartz llega a Colombia.
- 1928 The Colegio Americano is opened.
El Colegio Americano se funda.
- 1929 Cali Central Church is organized with 8 members.
La Iglesia Central de Cali se organiza con 8 miembros.
- 1930 Cumberland Presbyterian work in Pereira began.
Se Principia la obra Presbiteriana Cumb. en Pereira.
- 1932 The work in Quindio began on a farm in Helvecia.
Principia la obra en Quindio en una finca de la Helvecia.
- 1934 Cauca Valley Presbytery was formed.
Se organiza el Presbiterio del Valle del Cauca.
- 1937 The Colegio Americano building is built.
Se construye el edificio del Colegio Americano.
- 1940 Cartago church is organized.
Se organiza la iglesia de Cartago.
- 1948 Years of Violence.
- 1957 Años de la Violencia.
- 1953 San Marcos congregation began.
Se principia la congregacion de San Marcos.
- 1961 The "El Coro" camp site is bought.
Se compra la propiedad de "El Coro."
- 1973 Work is started among Siona Indians.
Se principia obra en la Tribu Siona.
- 1975 Presbyterial Missionary Charrasquiel is sent to Medellin.
El Misionero Presbiterial Charrasquiel es enviado a Medellin.
Fifty year celebration held.

Elbert Conyers, Rev. and Mrs. Davis O. Bryson, and Mrs. Leon Terrell.

Cali, a large, modern city in the southern part of Colombia, is the center of our missions in South America. In Cali there are five churches, ranging in size from 35 to 275, Central Church being the largest. More about the schools will be written later, but it should be noted that in Cali there are three schools, with the Colegio Americano being the largest and "mother" institution of the others.

Moving from Cali to the north, CP churches are found in Palmira, Cerreto, Guacari, Buenaventura, Armenia, Cartago, Pereira, Manizales. The most northern point of the presbytery is Medellin, the second largest city in Colombia.

All churches and mission points are under the capable leadership of national pastors, most of whom received their training in Cumberland Presbyterian schools.

The work of the Colombian mission today includes thirteen churches with an active membership of 1,369. The churches of Cauca Valley Presbytery last year reported 229 additions by baptism and transfer of membership.

Merous preaching points are conducted on a regular basis by the missionaries and national pastors.

Plans are continuing to relocate the Colegio Americano from the downtown location. Construction has not yet begun, but some legal problems have been worked out and building plans have been approved by the city ming officials.

The Colegio is an institution founded forty-seven years ago, beginning only as a small elementary school. Today the Colegio has grown and consists of the Central elementary and high school with 750 students and the night school of 250. The Central School also provides financial and academic help to our elementary schools at San Marcos and Samaria. These schools have 130 and 200 students respectively. The principal of the Colegio is the Rev. Luciano Jaramillo, a graduate of Memphis State University, who also directs the entire educational system of the presbytery.

Who are the missionaries serving in Colombia at the present time? There are three persons employed by the

Board: Rev. William Wood, Chaplain of the Colegio; Rev. Boyce Wallace, who serves as the executive secretary for the presbytery and the seminary program overseas; and Dr. Jose Fajardo, who will direct the relocation of the Colegio. Serving the church along with these are their wives, each of whom is heavily involved in the continuing ministry of Colombia.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Watkins are enrolled in language school in San Jose, Costa Rica, preparing to go to Colombia in 1976.

There is a very active presbyterial CPW, El Coro, the presbyterial camp at which a new chapel is under construction, the very capable and active organizations of presbytery, and the far-reaching work that is being done among a Colombia Indian tribe. But it is all there, and it is part of the Colombian story.

It is to this that 59 Cumberland Presbyterians from the United States will fly to join their brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate the past amid hope and great expectations for the future. The tour group will leave the States on October 13 to become a part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of work in Colombia. The celebration itself is expected to involve three days of activities, held in the Central Church, following which will be opportunity to visit several of the other churches and preaching missions. There exists the possibility of visiting a coffee farm, shopping at a silver factory, and seeing a sugar refinery, providing an opportunity to get a feel of the South American culture and industry.

Upon arrival in Cali, the members of the tour will be under supervision

PAST AND PRESENT

MISSIONARIES IN COLOMBIA

Rev. and Mrs. Walter L. Swartz, 1925-1930
 Rev. and Mrs. Plutarco Roa, 1928-1944
 Mrs. Bernice Burnett Gonzales, 1928-1942
 Rev. and Mrs. Elbert Conyers, 1929-1938
 Rev. and Mrs. Davis Bryson, 1932-1946
 Mrs. Betty Smith Terrell, 1933-1936
 Mrs. Olie Mae Preston Roberts, 1935-1936
 Dr. Fred W. Bryson, 1935-1947
 Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Mathias, 1952-1953
 Miss Cassandra Stockburger, 1947-1950
 Rev. and Mrs. Paul F. Brown, 1949-1945
 Rev. and Mrs. Archie Mallock, 1947-1944
 Rev. and Mrs. Emory Newman, 1942-1954
 Rev. and Mrs. Vance Shultz, 1944-1960
 Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Clyne, 1944-1974
 Rev. and Mrs. James Kelso, 1945-1956
 Rev. and Mrs. John Lovelace, 1959-1968
 Mr. and Mrs. David Pierce, 1963-1969
 Rev. and Mrs. Larry Acton, 1968-1974
 Rev. and Mrs. Boyce Wallace, 1963-
 Rev. and Mrs. William D. Wood, 1956-
 Rev. and Mrs. Jow Fairde, 1934-.....

of a special committee of Cauca Valley Presbytery. The missionaries and national ministers and laypersons have worked exceptionally hard in making plans to host the tour group from the States, to celebrate and to give thanks.

As Christians and Cumberland Presbyterians, let us join hands and celebrate God's outreach and work these past 50 years. Let us renew our commitment to Christ's mission in the world. Let it be more than words on our lips when we pray, "the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a missionary church."

COLOMBIAN CHURCH STATISTICS

Organized churches	13
Missions and preaching points	53
Baptized members	1,387
Church attendance	21,611
Attendance preaching points	1,500
Ordained ministers	16
Candidates and workers	11



SCHOLARSHIP FUND—Dr. Davis O. Bryson of Sunnyvale, CA has announced a \$20,000 scholarship fund he has established for Bethel College and Memphis Theological Seminary.

The announcement was made in Dallas during the meeting of Texas Synod.

In the left photo Dr. Bryson, left, is seen presenting a check to Dr. Fred W. Bryson, who is president of the Board of Trustees of Bethel; in the right photo he is at right, with Dr. William T. Ingram, president of the seminary. See story page 3.

Bryson Gives to Bethel/MTS Fund

See photos page 2.

Dr. William Odom and Dr. W. T. Ingram, Jr., presidents respectively of Bethel College and Memphis Theological Seminary, announce that a special scholarship fund of \$20,000 has been established. The donor is Dr. D. O. Bryson, retired minister and long time missionary in Colombia and San Francisco. These funds will be used to assist students studying at these institutions for full-time Christian service. The two schools will share equally in these funds.

"This gift will assist us in recruiting more ministerial students and others planning full-time Christian work. It is also a great inspiration for all Cumberland Presbyterians to actively support both undergraduate and graduate students," stated Dr. Odom.

Dr. Ingram commented: "Davis Bryson has been an outstanding Christian leader. It is typical of him that, after a long and distinguished ministry, he should make such a substantial and sacrificial gift."

This gift follows a previous gift to the Board of Missions of \$20,000 by Dr. Davis Bryson to support seminary training for Colombian Cumberland Presbyterian ministerial students there. This earlier gift was a memorial to the late Gladys Holt Bryson, who was wife and co-worker with Dr. Bryson until her death in 1972.

The formal announcement of the gift was made at the recent meeting of Texas Synod to Dr. Ingram and Dr. Fred Bryson, nephew of the donor and Chairman of the Trustees of Bethel College.

"Both Dr. Ingram and Dr. Odom expressed appreciation for the gift and are encouraged by the growing spirit of giving among Cumberland Presbyterians to support our institutions," said Fred Bryson. "They see such gifts as an investment in the future leaders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church."

DECEMBER 1, 1976

Saw your address on a book order & thought
you might like to see our recent piece on your parent
D.C.

For Davis O. Bryson: A Year of Jubilee!

Here is how *The Missionary Messenger* reported their going to South America fifty years ago.

Dudley Condron

There have been numerous consecration services in which hearts were touched and tendered; many missionaries have been commissioned by various peoples to go out in the name of the Christ to win the lost, but we earnestly believe that history has never recorded a sweeter and more precious service than that held in the beautifully-appointed Cumberland Presbyterian church of Milan, Tenn., on December 6, 1931, when Rev. and Mrs. Davis O. Bryson were set apart for definite service in Cali, Colombia—our own South American field.

Boston ferns in bronze urns, placed under the altar seemed to hallow the spot, and truly, we felt that we were treading on "holy ground." Long before the hour for service had arrived, the citizens of Milan, in company with hosts from distant towns and a delegation from the student body of Bethel College, thronged into the auditorium.

The very atmosphere was so permeated with the spirit of praise and thanksgiving that the entire congregation joined heartily in singing the Doxology. The invocation was offered by Rev. J. W. Dishman of McKenzie, Tenn. Following this, Rev. H. C. Walton of Jackson, Tenn., read Scripture from the third chapter of I Corinthians and the tenth chapter of Romans.

The Milan quartet sang very ex-

pressively, "Thine for Service," after which Rev. E. R. Ramer delivered a most appropriate consecration address. How we wished that the church, as a whole, could hear the stirring appeal to be true to the workers as they are true to Christ and the Church! In presenting the candidates, Rev. Ramer, who for many years has been very intimately acquainted with the parents of both Rev. and Mrs. Bryson, told many interesting details of their lives. Perhaps these facts made the service more appealing—certainly they made it an informal hour.

Portions of Scripture, arranged on the programs, were read responsively by the congregation, Rev. and Mrs. Bryson, and, indeed, these were significant in creating a worshipful atmosphere. In just such spirit of consecration, Mrs. Johnie Massey Clay, in her gracious, inimitable manner, presented the charge and delivered the commissions. To witness her grave sincerity, to see the radiant joy on the faces of the young couple, yes, just to be a part of that service is a memory that will remain throughout eternity! Surely, heaven itself rang forth with a glorious melody as the consecrating prayer was offered and every heart must have been lifted to the Father asking Him to protect those who go in our behalf

as well as to keep us mindful of and true to our task.

As this impressive service drew to a close, the congregation extended hands of service and hearts of loyalty to these—our new missionaries—as together, they sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

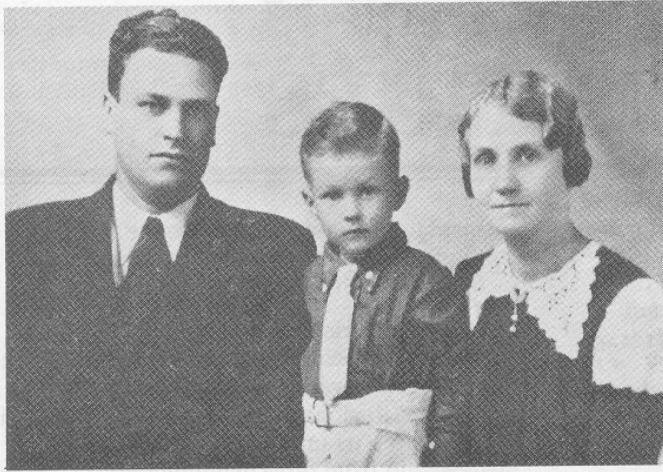
The citizenship of Milan felt that it was an honor for their little city to be host on this occasion; churches of all denominations were delighted to have a definite part in such a great program; those who attended the service were drawn very near unto heaven, and as you read this brief review, won't you remember that the Brysons go in your behalf to assist Misses Brintle and Barnett in leading those in the darkness of South America to know Christ Jesus?

* From the January, 1932 *Missionary Messenger*

Bryson describes his call to mission work

I had not been deeply interested in the South American work until I received the news that Rev. and Mrs. Conyers had been forced to return to the States on account of the illness of their son. This message in some way placed a burden on my heart for the work in South America. I had often heard the statement that South America was crying out for Christ and this still made the burden much heavier. I, too, realized that I could go to South America if I would only surrender myself wholly unto the Lord and give up my hopes and ambitions in the home land. When we are working for the Lord we cannot have our own way. For Jesus said unto his disciples, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." We truly feel that it is our duty and privilege to bear the cross for Christ in South America.

Indeed we had much to give up—our friends, loved ones and home. We have some dear friends at Ebenezer and Fifth Church, and it grieves our hearts to bid them



Davis O. Bryson, 1932-1942

farewell. We had planned so much for our work in the future at these places, and while reflecting on these things this message came to me, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." When I was talking to Mrs. Clay about the work she told me the things that I would be expected to do. She asked me if I could do it? I was forced to say, no, but the words of Paul came to me, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me." We are going to this field not trusting in our own strength, but trusting in Jesus the Christ to strengthen, keep and guide us in this new field. Jesus has promised his followers that He would never forsake or leave them even unto the end of the world. We are not going to South America alone, for Jesus is going with us. As we leave for our new field of labor we sincerely covet the prayers of the church that God will lead and keep us in His Holy Name.

Prayerfully,
D. O. Bryson*

** In the January 1932 Missionary Messenger*

First correspondance from the Brysons in Colombia

Dear Coworkers: We arrived in Buenaventura Monday, December 21. Misses Brintle and Barnett were

there to meet us, and we were certainly glad to see them. We had heard so much Spanish on the ship that it made us long to see someone that could speak English. It would have been very difficult for us to have checked and arranged for the shipping of our baggage to Cali without their aid, as we did not know the language nor about the various details that we had to go through with in order to get our baggage delivered at our door in Cali. But with their aid, we did not have a bit of trouble, and did not even have to pay duty on our baggage. We are certainly grateful to them for the service rendered us. It would have been a very difficult task for us to have made the trip from Buenaventura to Cali without their aid.

As the trip from Buenaventura to Cali was my first trip through the mountains, it was naturally very interesting to me. The scenery was just wonderful; every turn had something new for one to see. Certainly the Lord has blessed Colombia with beautiful scenery. One can fully appreciate the handiwork of the Lord when they see the masterpieces of nature. Cali is a city of about one hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants situated at the foot of the mountains in a beautiful valley.

We found a mission that the church should indeed be proud of, well organized in every department.

The school is one of the most important cogs of the mission. In many cases we are able to reach the parent through the child. Our Sunday school is made up principally of those that are interested in the school. We found two wonderful missionaries, Misses Barnett and Brintle, who are certainly to be complimented for their courageous spirit and their willingness to work. There is a marvelous spirit existing in the mission. Ethel and Bernice are having a rehearsal this afternoon for their Christmas program which is to be given tonight. This was our first opportunity to see the pupils of the school, and they are certainly a very promising group.

The natives have already won our hearts. Oh, how much we desire to help them. They seem so eager to learn and are willing to do anything to help carry the work on. Indeed the Lord has called us into a great field. The harvest is white, but the laborers are few. I think the Cali field offers us a great opportunity to spread the gospel, as Cali is the industrial center of Colombia, and we have already our school and church well established here. We feel sure that the Lord is going to bless us in our labor in the Cali field, which needs laborers so much. Pray to the Lord that we may have more laborers. The natives are worthy of every opportunity that we might be able to give them. We long for the time to come when we can talk with them, and know them, for they already seem so dear to us. We are thankful that God has called us into this work, and that we have answered God's call. We are also grateful for having the privilege of working with Misses Barnett and Brintle. They certainly have a wonderful missionary spirit and we feel sure that God is going to bless our efforts. We are as one missionary family, all working for the advancement of God's kingdom. May we all have a greater missionary spirit.

Sincerely,
D. O. Bryson.*

** From the March, 1932 issue of The Missionary Messenger.* □

My First Missionary Journey

BY DAVIS O. BRYSON

My wife Gladys and I arrived in Cali Colombia, South America, December 22, 1931. Soon after our arrival we made our first missionary journey. Plutarco Roa, an elder in the Cali church, Ethel Brintle, a missionary in Cali, and Don Pazminio, a worker in the Pereira Pazminio church, made the trip with us.

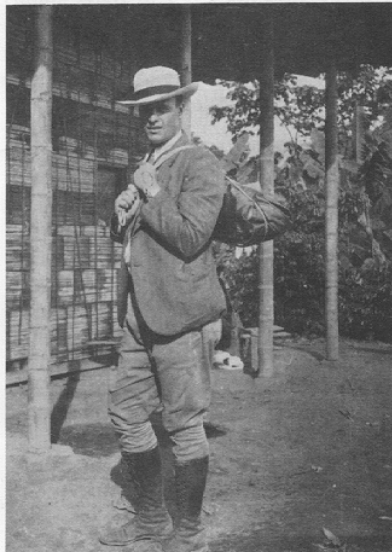
We went to conduct services for two days in the home of a believer who lived on a farm. It was a long walk from the railroad station to his house. Soon after our arrival the people began to assemble for the service. We were amazed at the desire of the people to hear the gospel message. The service lasted from sunset to midnight.

The lady who had been preparing our meals wanted to know if we had a remedy for the sores on her hand. We asked her what kind of sores did she have? She replied, "I have a touch of leprosy." We started a search for a new food supply. We found a ripe stock of bananas and we all went on a banana diet.

On our return trip to Cali Don Pazminio was given a horse to ride to the train station. When we approached the town square we saw the priest mounted on a horse surrounded by a crowd that he had assembled to confront us. Don Pazminio and the priest met face to face and a heated discussion followed. The priest became angry and struck Don Pazminio across the face with his whip and cut a gash in his cheek. Don Paz-

minio held up a Bible in one hand and a hymn book in the other and said to the crowd, "These are our weapons, we do not fight with whips and knives." After this incident the crowd began to disperse and no more trouble resulted.

We visited several other places on this trip and we saw the need and deep desire



Davis Bryson on his "first missionary journey" in Colombia, SA in 1931.

of the people to hear the good news of the gospel. This was the beginning of a missionary journey that lasted for fifteen years in Colombia. During this time we saw the transforming power of Christ at work in the lives of the people.

Just before we came to the States on our furlough Don Miquel, a member of the Pereira church, asked me to give a message to his Christian friends in America.

"I want you to tell them how grateful I am that they loved the people in Colombia enough to send missionaries to bring us the good news of the Gospel; and how thankful I am that I had the privilege of hearing the message. When I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour

See JOURNEY, p. 17

JOURNEY, from p. 16

he saved me from a life of misery to a life of freedom, joy and peace."

"My life without Christ was filled with darkness. I would go to the market place to buy food for my family but instead of buying food I would spend all my money for liquor. I would return home drunk and without food. My children would run and hide among the coffee trees when they saw me coming. They were afraid because I would often beat them without any cause."

"How different it is now since I found a new life in Christ. Now when I go to the market I come home with a full sack of food. And when my children see me coming they run to meet me with open arms and laughter. Now instead of looking for my children to read the Bible and have family prayers. How grateful I am that I heard the message of Jesus's love and how He died for me so that I might live for Him."

PAGE SEVENTEEN



Davis Bryson, who lives in Sunnyvale, CA.

PAGE SIXTEEN

THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Davis O. Bryson, 83, South American missionary

Services will be held this afternoon in Sunnyvale for the Rev. Davis O. Bryson, a missionary who worked in South America and San Francisco during four decades as a Presbyterian minister.

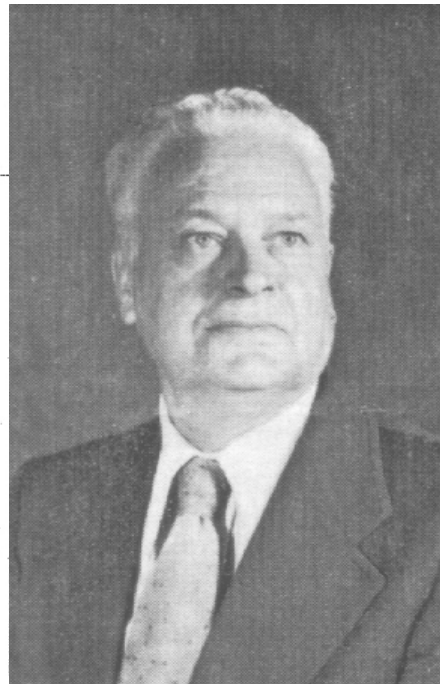
Mr. Bryson died Tuesday in a Sunnyvale nursing home of complications from heart bypass surgery. He was 83.

A native of Texas, Mr. Bryson retired from the ministry and moved to Sunnyvale in 1971. He assisted the ministerial staff at the United Methodist Church in Sunnyvale and was active in senior activities in the city.

Mr. Bryson graduated from Bethel College, McKenzie, Tenn., in 1931, when he was called by the Cumberland Presbyterians, along with his wife, Gladys, to undertake missionary work in Cali, Colombia. The couple ministered together in Colombia until 1947. Mrs. Bryson died in 1971.

In Colombia, Mr. Bryson organized mission churches and schools, including a high school and the Colegio Americano in Cali. He also established the country's first Boy Scout troop in 1932.

He was asked in 1947 to try out as youth director of the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco's Chinatown. By the time he retired 26 years later, he had established youth clubs, Bible study classes and other youth



The Rev. Davis O. Bryson
... *Four decades as minister*

activities. Church participation among young Chinatown residents increased from seven to more than 200.

Survivors include a son, James Bryson of Cupertino; a sister, Vera Springer of Texas; and a granddaughter and grandson.

A service is scheduled for 1 p.m. today at Lima Family Sunnyvale Mortuary. A memorial service is being planned at the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

DAVIS O. BRYSON PASTOR'S STUDY

This room is dedicated by the people of the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church in memory of Davis O. Bryson, a native son of Shiloh. He served as a pioneer missionary, counsellor and minister. He was a true pastor all his life.



The Rev. Davis O. Bryson, BA, DD
July 15, 1906 - January 16, 1990

- 1906 - 1926 Growing up in Ovilla and Midlothian, Texas
- 1927 - 1930 Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee - BA Degree
- 1927 - 1971 Married to Gladys Holt Bryson of Milan, Tennessee
- 1930 - 1931 Pastor, Fifth Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Memphis
- 1931 - 1941 Missionary and teacher, Colombia, South America
- 1942 - 1944 Pastor, Rose City Cumberland Church, Arkansas
- 1944 - 1946 Missionary and teacher, Colombia, South America
- 1946 - 1947 Pastor, Yorkville Cumberland Presbyterian Church, TN
- 1947 - 1971 Cumberland Missionary, Chinatown San Francisco
- 1957 Doctor of Divinity, honorary degree, Bethel College
- 1972 - 1990 Ministry to Seniors, Sunnyvale, California



First Missionary Journey
Colombia, S.A. - 1931

"Go ye into all the World and preach the gospel." Mark 16:15

Memorial services will be held for Rev. Davis O. Bryson



A memorial service for the Rev. Doctor Davis O. Bryson, a native of the Ovilla community, will be held at the Shiloh Presbyterian Church Sunday, February 11, at 3 p.m. Dr. Bryson and his wife, who died in 1971, were pioneer missionaries to Columbia, South America. They organized churches and schools in Cali and in surrounding towns in the

1930's and 1940's. They also served a special ministry to the youth of Chinatown, San Francisco from 1947 until 1971. Since 1971, Dr. Bryson had a special ministry to senior citizens in Sunnyvale, California. He died January 16, at Sunnyvale, at the age of 83.

He graduated from Midlothian High School, studies his first year in college at Arlington and received his

B.A. degree from Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee. He did graduate work at SMU in Dallas. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Bethel College for "Outstanding Contributions to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church".

In addition to more than four decades of missionary work, he was pastor of churches in Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee, including his home church, Shiloh. Where members of his family have attended since before the Civil War. Four generations of his ancestors have been elders and clerks of the Shiloh Church, including his only sister,

Vera Springer who is currently an elder in the Shiloh Church.

While in Columbia, he established the first boy scout troop in 1932. His ministry to young people in Columbia and in Chinatown was outstanding. He developed programs and activities that met the particular needs of the youth in each locality. He helped organize the Colegio Americano in Cali, Columbia, which continues to be one of the outstanding high schools in that city.

Survivors include a son, James Bryson of Sunnyvale, California, two grandchildren and a sister, Vera Springer of the Ovilla community in Ellis County.

The memorial service will include the designation of the pastor's study in the Shiloh Church in memory of Dr. Bryson. Special tributes will be given by Dr. Jose Fajardo, a long time co-worker with Dr. Bryson, and by the Rev. Joe Matlock, Memphis, Tennessee, Executive Director of the Board of Missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Dr. Bryson's granddaughter, Beth Bryson of Palo Alto, California will attend the service. A nephew, Dr. Fred W. Bryson of Dallas and interim pastor at Shiloh, will preside.



Davis and Gladys Bryson are interred near San Francisco in the Mount Olivet Memorial Cemetery in Colma, California. The memorial stone above was placed in the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery in Ovilla, Texas, the home church of Davis and his ancestors going back to 1852. There are at least six generations of Brysons in this cemetery including all of the siblings of Davis Ozell Bryson. Shiloh has held a very special place in the lives of the Bryson family for many years. It was only fitting for the family of Davis and Gladys to place a stone in the Shiloh Cemetery among the other Brysons and relatives.

Memorial service on Sunday at Shiloh Church for long-time missionary

A Memorial Service for the Rev. Doctor Davis O. Bryson, a native of Ovilla, will be held at the Shiloh Presbyterian Church Sunday, February 11, at 3 p.m.

Dr. Bryson and his wife, who died in 1971, were pioneer missionaries to Colombia, South America. They organized churches and schools in Cali and in surrounding towns in the 1930's and 1940's.

They also served a special ministry to the youth of Chinatown in San Francisco from 1947 until 1971. Since 1971, Dr. Bryson had a special ministry to senior citizens in Sunnyvale, California. He died January 16, 1990, in Sunnyvale at the age of 83.

He graduated from Midlinton High School, studied music ministers, missionaries and leaders in America and abroad.

Truth's recording and videos have won much acclaim, including Grammy and Dove nominations, and an Angel award. Truth also released the only direct-to-disc album ever recorded in Christian music.

Trinity Church at 1231 E. Pleasant Run Rd. in Cedar Hill presents special services on Sunday, February 11. Pastor David Smith will continue his sermon series, "The Lifestyle of Worship," at both morning services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Then, at 6:00 p.m. Trinity presents the group "Truth" in

his first year in college at Arlington, and received his B.A. Degree from Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee. He did graduate work at SMU in Dallas.

His was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Bethel College for "Outstanding Contributions to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church." In addition to more than four decades of missionary work, he was pastor of churches in Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee, including his home church, Shiloh, where members of his family have attended since before the Civil War.

Four generations of his

ancestors have been elders and clerks of the Shiloh Church, including his only sister, Vera Springer, who is currently an elder in the Shiloh Church.

While in Colombia, he established the first Boy Scout Troop in 1932. His ministry to young people in Colombia and in Chinatown was outstanding. He helped organize the Colegio Americano in Cali, Colombia, which continues to be one of the outstanding high schools in that city.

Survivors include a son, James Bryson of Sunnyvale, California, two grandchildren and a sister, Vera Springer of Ovilla.

The memorial service will include the designation of the Pastor's Study in the Shiloh Church in memory of Dr. Bryson. Special tributes will be given by Dr. Jose Fejardo, a long-time co-worker with Dr. Bryson, and by the Rev. Joe Matlock from Memphis, Tennessee, Executive Director of the Board of Missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Bryson's granddaughter, Beth Bryson of Palo Alto, California, will attend the service. A nephew, Dr. Fred W. Bryson of Dallas, interim pastor at Shiloh, will preside. Mr. Van McElroy, Clerk of the church session, will present the Memorial Plaque.

Trinity to host Christian band

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Memorial set for Bryson Sunday

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and clerks of the Shiloh church, including his only sister, Vera Springer, who is currently an elder in the Shiloh church.

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Survivors include: a son, James Bryson of Sunnyvale; two grandchildren; and a sister, Mrs. Springer of Ovilla.

The memorial service will include the designation of the pastor's study in the Shiloh church in memory of Dr. Bryson. Special tributes will be given by Dr. Jose Fajardo, a longtime co-worker with Dr. Bryson; and the Rev. Jack Matlock of Memphis, Tennessee, executive director of the Board of Missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Bryson's granddaughter, Beth Bryson of Palo Alto, California, will attend the service. A nephew, Dr. Fred W. Bryson of Dallas, interim pastor of Shiloh, will preside. Van McElroy, clerk of the church session, will present the memorial plaque.



Dr. Bryson (above, left); some of those who shared in the memorial service in San Francisco (above, right).

From across the denomination

A TRIBUTE TO DAVIS O. BRYSON

On a sunny, cold, and windy afternoon on Denomination Sunday, February 4, 1990, a memorial service was held to honor the memory of one of the denomination's great missionaries, Mr. Davis O. Bryson. The service was held at the chapel of the First Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco where Dr. Bryson had served from 1947 to 1971. There, he and Mrs. Bryson had influenced a generation of Chinese Americans, about one hundred of whom came from all over the Bay Area to honor his life and ministry among them. Some of those who participated in the memorial service were products of the ministry of the Brysons. They spoke of his Christlikeness in service, his faithfulness to God, and the foundation he laid for other pastors to follow. Rev. Stephen Lui preached on "Faith is the Victory," which was based on Romans 8, Matthew 5, and Acts 1, some of Dr. Bryson's favorite scriptures. A choir made up of this group sang a medley of Dr. Bryson's favorite hymns. Others who shared in the service were elders Alan Wong, Bill Yuen, Jack Yuen, the Reverend Stephen Lui and Reverend Paul Hom. Dr. Lawrence Fung, Reverend Roy Low, and Carolyn Tucker (representing the Board of Missions).

*Paul Hom, reporting
San Francisco, CA*

A commitment to missions was, for Davis Bryson, neither a casual decision nor a temporary involvement. It was a life work, a commitment and involvement for a lifetime, which was shared by his wife Gladys. In 1971 the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church honored the Brysons for their lifetime of service on the mission fields, recognizing that they had served under the Board of Missions as missionaries for forty years.

There are few of us who will ever be challenged by or have the opportunity to minister in a cross-cultural environment where new languages have to be learned and different customs understood and appreciated. Even fewer of us will have more than one such opportunity. Davis can be numbered among

those exceptional people who have been called and who responded to such opportunities.

His call and response was first to the people of Colombia, South America, where he served for many years. When the health of Gladys forced a return to the United States in 1946, he very soon thereafter accepted the call to serve as a missionary among the Chinese in San Francisco, California. He continued his service with the Chinese church until his retirement in 1971.

Of all the people that I have known, Davis came nearer to actually living out his commitment to Christ on a day-by-day basis than anyone. His entire ministry was spent in exemplifying the spirit of Christ before those to whom he was sent. Perhaps that is why he was able to communicate so well across cultural barriers. People saw in him the spirit of Christ, which won their trust and love.

Davis preached the consecration message at the Convention in 1949, using as his subject "How Far with Christ?" In the sermon he raised the question, "How far are you willing to go with Christ in making our world a Christian world?" One of his statements in that sermon revealed his own commitment to making the world a Christian world and underlined a truth we all might ponder. He said, "Great Christian living results not from feeling an emotional appeal to become Christlike, but from actually giving what we have and are to God in Christ's spirit for the sake of His children around the world." Davis lived out that truth.

Davis was both a personal and family friend all of my life. He was a family friend whose friendship more than one generation of Matlocks cherished. It was my privilege to work closely with him during the years I pastored in California. His home in San Francisco was always open to my family, and we accepted the Bryson hospitality on several occasions. He baptized my youngest daughter in the Chinese church, fulfilling in that way, as well as several others, a pastoral role for us. My admiration and respect for this humble man of God has had few equals.

Davis has left this life and existence, but he has not gone alone!

*Joe Matlock, Executive Director
Board of Missions, Cumberland Presbyterian Church*

... On February 4, 1990, a memorial service was held for Dr. Davis O. Bryson at the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, California. Dr. Bryson and his wife Gladys served as missionaries in Colombia, South America, for many years. After their return to the United States, the Brysons accepted the call to minister among the Chinese in San Francisco.

His love for the people there, and theirs for him, was evidenced by the personal reflections of Alan Wong, Jack Yuen, and Bill Yuen, all of whom were teenagers when the Brysons first went to San Francisco. Other participants in the service were ministers Stephen Lui, Roy Low, Paul Hom, and Lawrence Fung, and Carolyn Tucker, representative from the General Assembly Board of Missions. Dr. Bryson's son James, his grandchildren and his sister attended the service.

A fitting tribute to the life and ministry of Davis O. Bryson may be found in the Scripture that was printed on the service's bulletin cover: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles." (Luke 2:29-32)

*Carolyn Tucker
Office Executive and Treasurer
Board of Missions*

... Davis' outstanding characteristic was his perfect relationship with individuals, groups, boards, and congregations. His speech was firm, his opinions positive, and his decisions based on spiritual values were unwavering. His attitude was friendly and his disposition was amicable. He was a man of conviction. His decisions were not made hastily, especially as they pertained to spiritual matters. Having made decisions he stood firmly but peaceably on them.

*Mrs. T. C. Stockton
Editor of The Missionary Messenger
1950-1965*

... I remember Davis Bryson with great affection and appreciation. I first met him on the campus of Bethel College. We played football together. I came to like his quiet sense of humor, his pleasant and gentle nature, and his lack of pretension.

As the years passed, Ruth and I enjoyed a warm friendship with Gladys and Davis. Our respect and admiration for them grew as we observed them and heard from them as missionaries in Colombia, and when they were in the States on furlough. They visited in our house and we in theirs. We cherished some days and nights in their home in San Francisco.

Davis had a way with people. He elicited response from them in relaxed and caring ways. His personality inspired them to get involved in life and service and in the church. Those who knew him well came to like and love him. He never seemed to be trying to prove anything. He just "was." He has made a major contribution to the life and mission of our church and beyond. He deserves our respect, recognition and honor.

*Morris Pepper
Scottsboro, Alabama*

... Davis, his wife Gladys, and son, Jim came to the Rose City congregation, North Little Rock, in 1942. In July, 1944 they felt God calling them to return to the mission field. I served as an elder during Davis' pastorate. Our congregation was blessed by his solid judgement, effective leadership and his love. Nearly fifty years have passed since his ministry here but our community still remembers him and the good works he did.

*D. E. McSpadden
North Little Rock, Arkansas*

... The Rev. Bryson and his family came to Yorkville, Tennessee in 1946 and he was our minister there. He and Gladys had been in the mission field in South America and they shared many wonderful things with us. During his time here, as pastor and neighbor, he contributed much to our church and community, making many friends and leaving fond memories that have not faded. When he left Yorkville, he moved to California to continue his mission work among the Chinese of San Francisco.

*Ed Jones
Former U.S. Congressman
Yorkville, TN*

... All of us begin life with an extremely limited view of the world. We see little further than the end of our nose. We perceive the scope of human existence primarily in terms of those who serve our immediate needs. Self existence and self needs and wants comprise the extent of our living.

It is only as we begin to see the world through the eyes of others—parents, neighbors, friends, teachers, pastors, brothers and sisters—that our vision of the world moves out beyond the limits of the little place and time in which we began to be. These persons help us to know ourselves as members of the whole human race, as citizens of the world, as children of the Creator of the universe.

Davis Bryson did those kinds of things for me. My earliest strong awareness of him came about by hearing my family talk about his going to a far-off place named Tennessee to attend a college called Bethel to become a minister. Later, I heard about his going to an even more unknown place named Colombia to be a missionary . . . then he was part of the Chinese church community in San Francisco. "Davis and Gladys Bryson" became for me a household phrase in the family of the Christian faith—a model of commitment to the Lordship of Christ . . . I continue to say with pride: "I grew up in the Shiloh church, the church which produced Davis Bryson."

*L. C. Waddle
Professor, Bethel College
McKenzie, TN*

... It is with love and gratitude that we pay this tribute to Rev. D. O. Bryson, who served the Rose City congregation as pastor. He served the church during the Second World War and we had many defense workers attending our services. There was always a spirit of love evident in every activity of our church. He was a friend to old and young alike. He organized a Boy Scout troop in the church, taught us the meaning of abundant life and helped us enjoy God's blessings. Parties were never a sin at the Brysons', even on Sundays. Love enlarged our spiritual horizons. Each Fifth Sunday Rally or presbytery meeting was translated by Brother Bryson as a missionary journey and we felt we were spreading the gospel with Brother Bryson at the helm.



McKenzie, Tennessee 38201
901/352-1000
FAX 901/352-1008

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 2, 1992

Mr. Jim Bryson
19837 Beekman Place
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Jim:

I am pleased to inform you that your parents, Davis and Gladys Bryson, have been selected as posthumous recipients of the Bethel College "Medalist for Distinguished Alumni Service" as part of the college's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Only 150 of these medals will ever be awarded — one for each year of Bethel's service and ministry — and we are honored to name them among this prestigious group.

Hard work, service to humankind and successful careers often provide their own rewards, but because of their distinguished careers, they represented the very best of Bethel College alumni. Bethel plants the seeds of hope for a bright future through education, instills a lifelong love for learning, and promotes a strong work ethic based on Christian principles. These are the dreams Bethel holds for each student, and these are the principles they adopted, and for which they are being honored this year!

"Medals For Distinguished Service" will be awarded during Homecoming festivities on Saturday, November 14, at 12:30 p.m. in the Bouldin Auditorium of the Dickey Fine Arts Building. We hope that you will be present to accept the medal for your parents. You may wish to take part in the entire weekend, so we've enclosed a full schedule and reservation forms for your use.

Enclosed also is a form to be returned to Virginia Claire Edwards, our Alumni Director, indicating the possibility of your being here. If you cannot attend, please choose someone who will.

Sincerely,

Bill J. Elkins
President

THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE



The Gladys and Davis Fellowship Hall **Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church**

In 2008 the Cumberland Presbyterian Chinese Church in San Francisco heard from a couple, who were former members, that they wanted to make a donation to the church. The gift was to be very substantial. When two of the elders of the church went to talk about the donation, they were told the gift was to be anonymous. The donors explained that they had been members about 40 years before and that the Church and its ministers had a significant influence on their lives. The donation was to be in memory of former pastors, Reverend Davis and Gladys Bryson and also in the memory of Rev. Samuel King and Mamie Gam. The church decided to remodel two fellowship halls in honor of these two former pastors and their wives. The plaque below is in one of the remodeled fellowship halls.



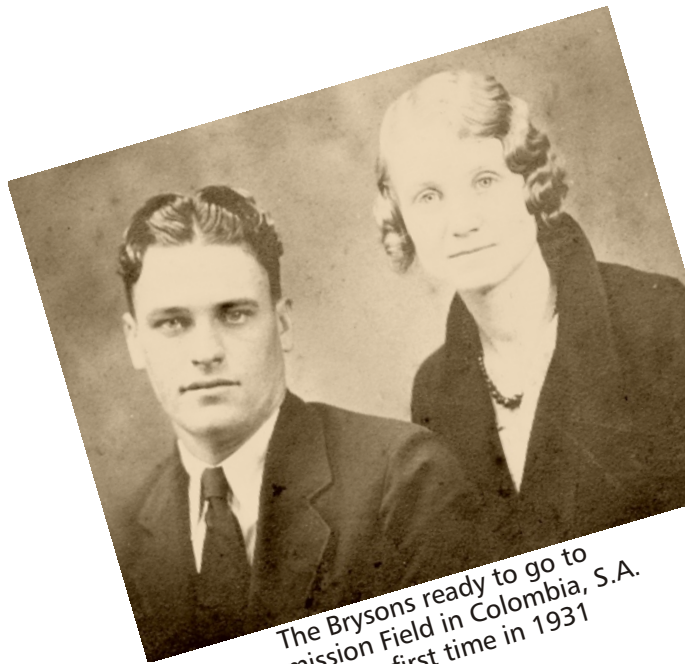
In Memory of

The Reverend Dr. Davis O. Bryson
and Mrs. Gladys Bryson

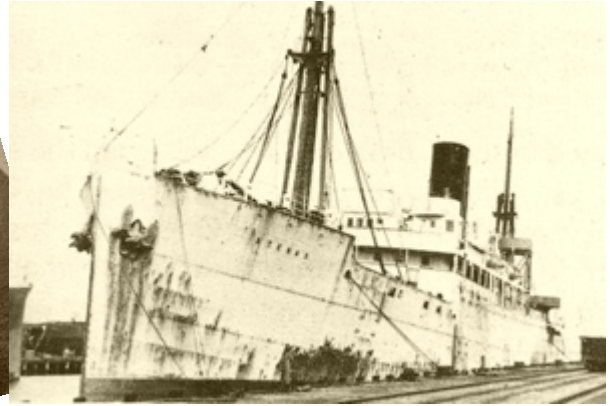
They touched and changed many lives
through their devoted discipleship
and love of the Lord

Ministers to our English-speaking Congregation

1947 - 1971



The Brysons ready to go to the mission field in Colombia, S.A. for the first time in 1931



Steamship SS Athenas, United Fruit Co. The ship that the Brysons took to Colombia in 1931



Davis & Gladys



Gladys & Davis Bryson, Bernice Barnett, Plutarco & Ethel (Brintle) Roa Early Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries in Colombia



Horses hauling a load of coffee beans from a local plantation. The mission building is on the right. Streets were cobblestone and cars were rare. Farmers would take their cows from house to house where they would milk the cow on the spot using the customer's container.



Women's Missionary Society in Pereira. Early 1930s
 Gladys Bryson in far right, back row



A paseo in the country and a refreshing dip in the river.
 Isabel and Gladys on bank in upper right with dog



Gladys & Davis relaxing on a hot day!



Gladys Bryson ready for the trip to Restrepo
The message of salvation was carried to remote areas,
sometimes several hours by horseback.



On the back of this picture, Gladys Bryson wrote: Just ready to leave
La Cumbre — a little railroad town where they meet us with the
horses. All set for a six hour ride to Restrepo — 40 miles from RR.



Jimmy at 15 days with Davis —



Jimmy's basket & bathtub.
In spite of mosquito netting, Jimmy
contracted malaria.



Time to do the laundry. Jimmy in a "canoe" carved from wood.
Gladys is on right. Jimmy is up a creek without a paddle.

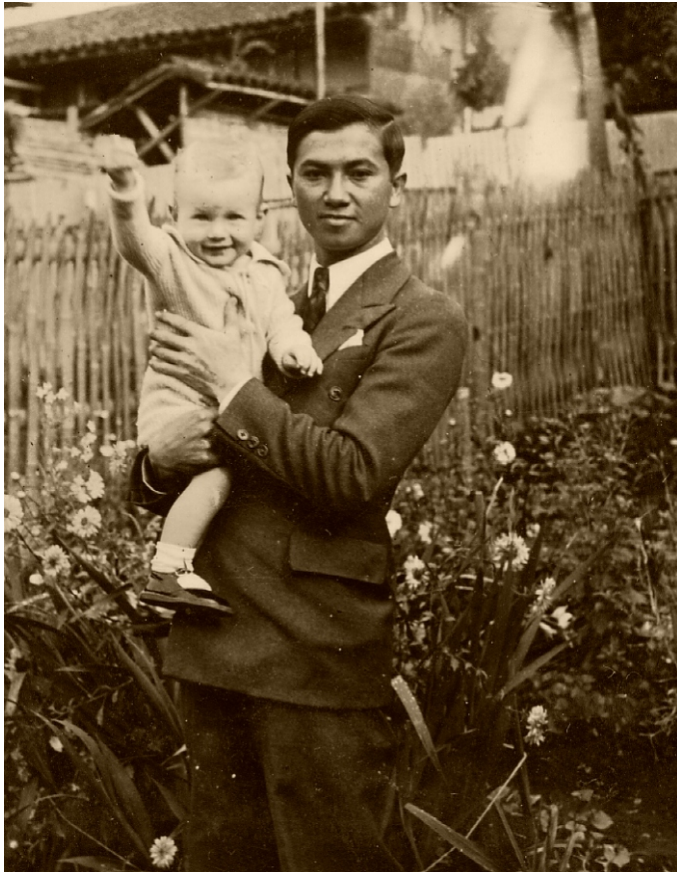


José Fajardo visited San Francisco in 2004. He is shown holding a picture taken seventy years before holding little Jimmy Bryson in Pereira. The man on the right is little Jimmy. They had a great time of recalling the "good old days" and catching up on old friends.

José has a fantastic life story of service to the Lord. He was born high in the mountains of Colombia to a poor family. When the Conyers left Colombia, they took José, 16, with them to the States where he finished high school in two years. He quickly went through Bethel and then seminary and was ordained as a Cumberland minister. The picture of José and baby Jimmy was taken shortly after José's graduation and return to Colombia in 1934.

José served in the mission field in Colombia preaching and directing the Colegio Americano. José was a dynamic preacher which led him to lead large revival meetings all over South America. When Billy Graham planned his first campaign in Latin America, he asked José to be his interpreter.

For six weeks, José stood next to Billy Graham delivering Billy's message in Spanish in many Latin American countries. It was a very successful campaign. José, now in his nineties (2010) is still a powerful dynamic preacher. His life story, *From the Heights of the Andes to the Heights of Evangelism*, has recently been published and is available from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8207 Traditional Place, Cordova (Memphis), Tennessee 38016-7414 (901) 276-4572.



José Fajardo holding Jimmy Bryson — Pereira, 1934
Jose was called Tío (Uncle) José by Jimmy



Little Jimmy & Tío José Fajardo
70 years later in 2004



L-R Davis, Jimmy, Gladys, Doris, Omar, Dolores, Abida, Nellie, Martiniano

The Brysons and Fajardos on an outing near Pereira. Martiniano was the Colombian pastor and lived next door to the Brysons. Martiniano, the older brother of José, worked closely with Davis in Pereira, preaching and teaching. The families were very close friends. Jimmy Bryson spent almost as much time with the Fajardos as he did in his own home. When Jimmy was two or three, someone asked him his name, he quickly replied — Jaime Fajardo, after all he thought the Fajardo kids were his brothers and sisters. They practically were!



Back yard in Pereira. Davis started the first Boy Scout Troop in Colombia. Gladys made the uniforms and while she was at it, she made one for her son. From then on, Jimmy could not wait to be old enough to be a Scout. In later years he became an Eagle Scout and also the president of a Volunteer Fire Department. Childhood dreams fulfilled!



Back row - Omar & Doris
Front row - Abida & Nellie

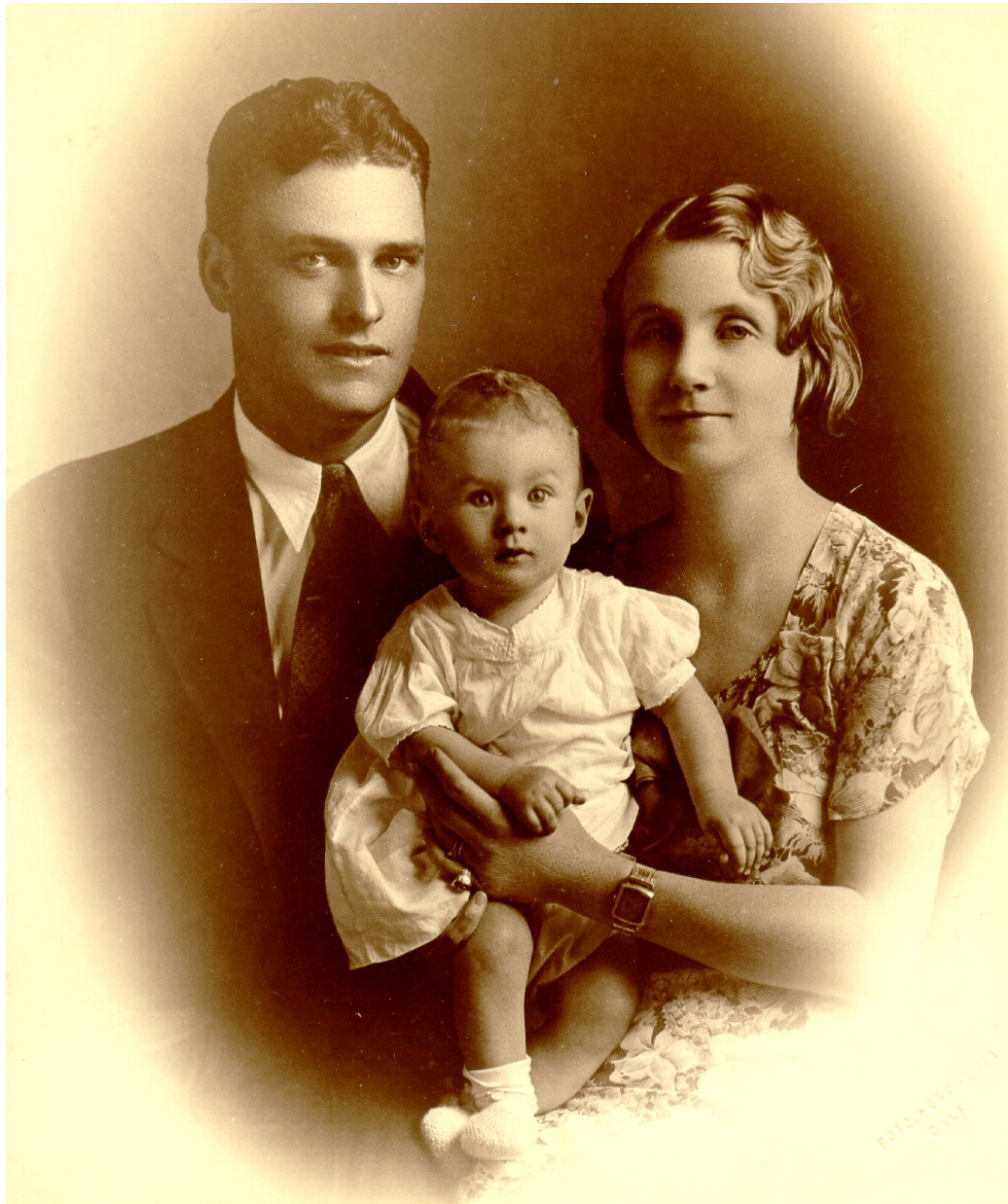


The school in Pereira — Gladys & Davis on far right
Jimmy is third from left in front row.

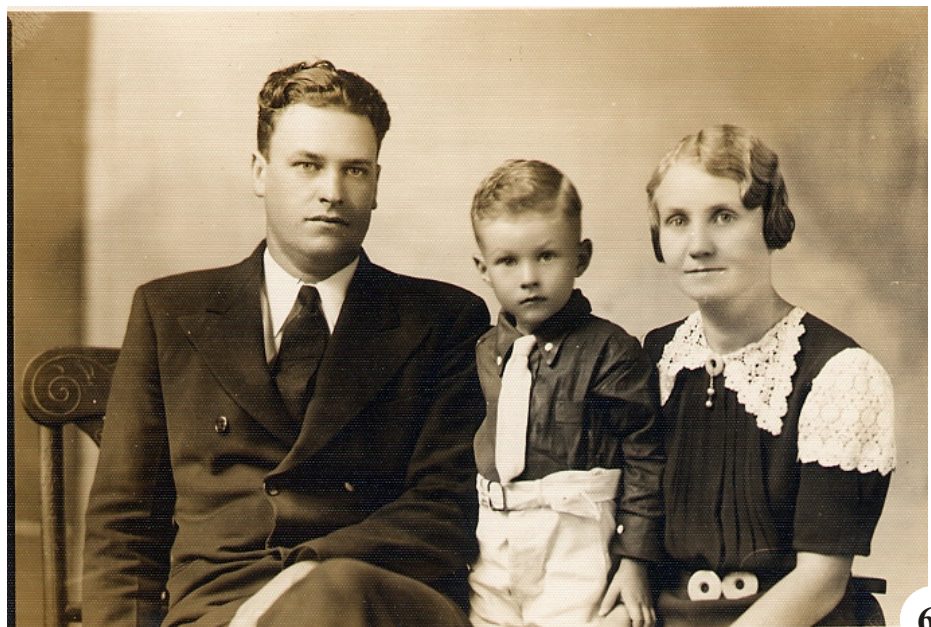


The Sunday School class in Pereira was very cosmopolitan.
It included German, Japanese, Colombian Indian,
Colombian, Spaniard, and American students — 1939

1934
The Bryson
Family



1939
The Bryson
Family

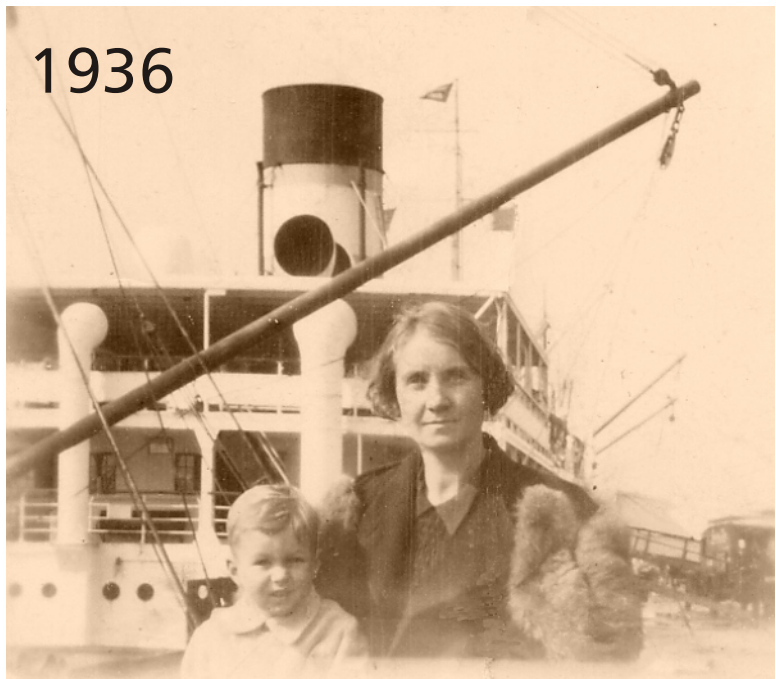


Early trips to and from Colombia by steamship

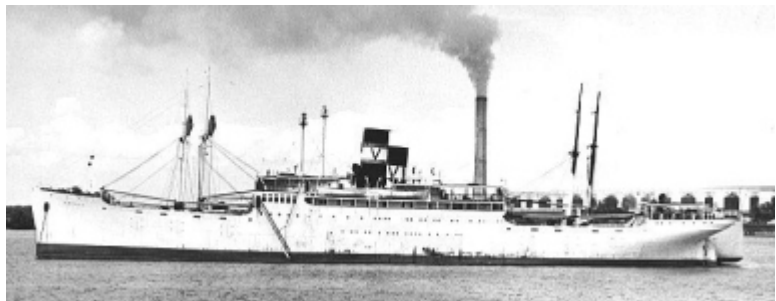
The Brysons made four trips between New Orleans and Colombia on United Fruit steam ships we called "Banana Boats." The first trip to Colombia was in December 1931 on the SS Athenas. In November 1935 they returned to the States, for a year of furlough, on the SS Contessa, and this time they had Jimmy who was almost two. In November 1936 the Brysons boarded the United Fruit "Banana Boat," the SS Cefalu, in New Orleans for a return to the mission field. The picture on the right was taken at the dock just before departing for the return trip to Colombia after a year of furlough.

After four years in Colombia, Gladys had to return to the States because of health reasons.

In November 1940, Gladys and Jimmy boarded the steamship SS Amapala for the return trip to New Orleans. The official passenger list is shown below. The Banana Boats were small compared to today's standards, less than 5,000 tons. This made for a very rough journey and the passengers were seasick most of the time. Davis stayed in Colombia for an additional six months and returned to the States in early 1941.



Jimmy and Gladys ready to board the SS Cefalu in New Orleans



SS Amapala — United Fruit "Banana" Boat

Record on this blank United States citizens and citizens of insular possessions of the United States arriving at a port of arrival from a foreign port or a port of the insular possessions of the United States, and such citizens arriving at a port of arrival from a port of continental United States, or a port of another insular possession.

LIST OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

(FOR THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES)

S. S. "AMAPALA" sailing from CRISTOBAL, C Z, NOVEMBER 13., 1940,

No. on List	NAME IN FULL		AGE		Sex	MARRIAGE or STATUS	IF NATIVE OF UNITED STATES INSULAR POSSESSION OR IF NATIVE OF UNITED STATES, GIVE DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY OR TOWN AND STATE)	IF NATURAL WHICH
	FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME	Yrs.	Mos.				
CRISTOBAL TO NEW ORLEANS								
1	REDDING	FRANK	36		M	M	Sept. 28, 1904. New Orleans, La.	<i>Aug PPE wife</i>
2	BRYSON	GLADYS	31		F	M	March 3, 1909 Milan, Tenn.	
3	BRYSON	JAMES D.	6		M	S	Jan. 10, 1934. Cali, Columbia	
4	WARD	JESSE LOUISE	39		F	M	August 19, 1901. Chicago, Ill.	
5	WARD	HELEN LOUISE	18		F	S	October 29, 1922. Damon, Texas.	
6	MCCALL	CLARICE M.	18		F	M	July 14, 1922. Rocky Mount, N. C.	
7	MARABELLA	KELLY A.	32		M	M	Dec. 6, 1907. Galveston, Texas.	
8	MARABELLA	VIOLET M.	30		F	M	April 10, 1910. Galveston, Texas.	
9	MARABELLA	MARION K.	4	8	F	S	Feb. 11, 1936. Galveston, Texas.	
10	SUTHERLAND	EARL MATHEW	44		M	M	Sept. 1, 1896. Algiers, La.	
11	<i>nos 1 to 10 Examined & Passed</i>							
12	<i>Lines 11 to 30 NOT used.</i>							
13	<i>Nov. 20-1940</i>							



The Colegio Americano in Cali — 1935

The street in front of the school was developed into one of the prettiest boulevards (Avenida Colombia) in Cali. It ran along the bank of the Cali River and had a nice railing with flowers and trees along the side. You can see the posts for the railing in the picture. Colombia was a country of contrasts as this picture shows. Women are washing clothes in the river right in front of the new modern mission building.



Colegio Americano, Cali, Colombia



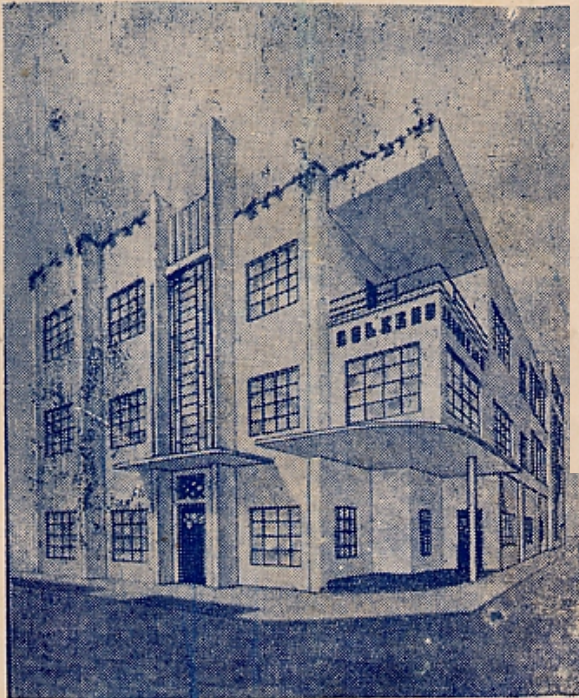
Our bus to and from town was called a Victoria

Bernice Barnett Gonzales, who helped design and supervise the construction, describes in her book the difficulty of getting such a modern building built in 1935 in Cali. She also describes that the three story building had: "ten classrooms, a chapel with a stage large enough for choirs, pageants, and plays; an office with a waiting room; a suite of rooms for a day care clinic; two two-bedroom apartments as living quarters for missionaries; separate dormitory areas for boys and girls of the boarding school, along with a kitchen and dining room for meal service; a large social room for parties and fiestas, living quarters for servants, and a partial basement for storage." Fannie Vinasco, Jose Fajardo's future wife, was the secretary to Davis Bryson, the school director. Gladys Bryson was one of the teachers and Rev. Fred W. Bryson, nephew of Davis, was another one of the teachers.

In the Valley of the Cauca, Bernice Gonzalez, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1981, pp 182-183

COLEGIO AMERICANO

Ave. COLOMBIA - No. 9 10
Teléfono 13-65
- CALI -



AVENIDA COLOMBIA, N° 9-10.— TELEFONO N° 13-65.— CALI.

Las matrículas se abrirán el 17 de septiembre. Se reciben niños y niñas de seis años en adelante. Las tareas escolares empezarán el 7 de octubre.

PROSPECTO PARA EL AÑO LECTIVO DE 1945-1946
— DAVID BRYSON.- Director. —

EL PROFESORADO

DAVID BRYSON. Director.— B. A. Bethel College. McKenzie, Tennessee, E. U. A.

JOSE D. FAJARDO A.— B. A. George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, E. U. A.

FRED BRYSON.— M. A. Scarritt University, Nashville, Tennessee, E. U. A.

GLADYS DE BRYSON.—B. A. Bethel College. McKenzie, Tennessee, E. U. A.

MERCEDES VARGAS.—Bethel College McKenzie, Tenn, E. U. A.

JORGE JIMENEZ.— Bachiller Colegio Americano para varones, Bogotá.

ALBERTO MORENO.— Colegio Americano, Cali.

CLARA SEPULVEDA.— Colegio Americano, Cali.

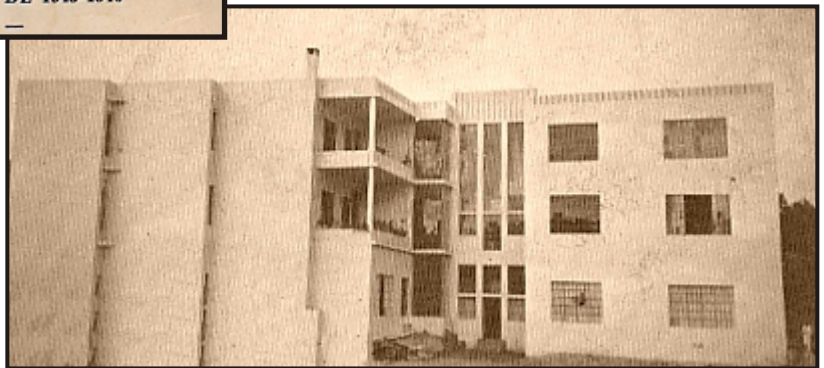
BLANCA DE GRISALES.— Instituto de Costa Rica.- (San José.)

MARCEL VALDEZ.—Colegio Oficial para varones.- Pereira.

This is part of a six-page brochure for the 1945-1946 school year describing the curriculum, fee structure, teachers and staff, regulations such as uniforms and conduct, and location. The back page states the philosophy of the school and clearly states that it is a Christian School. It concludes with a statement that one of the goals is to prepare each student to contribute to society, God, and the country.

Davis Bryson was the Director, Gladys Bryson, Fred Bryson (Nephew of Davis), and José Fajardo were some of the faculty listed.

The east side of the Colegio Americano looking from the playground. The wing to the left housed the dormitory with the girls on the second floor and the boys on the third floor.



1944 — The students and faculty of the Colegio Americano

Anglo-American school started in the Brysons' home and grew to become Colegio Bolivar, Cali



Frankie Carder — the second student



Jim Bryson and Gladys Bryson — student & teacher

Typically missionaries with school-aged kids sent their children to a boarding school in Quito, Ecuador, about 300 miles away, while some subscribed to the Calvert mail order correspondence course. With the Calvert course, it could take weeks for the lessons to make the roundtrip. A few families left their children in the states with relatives during the school year. None of these options appealed to Gladys Bryson.

She volunteered to teach Jim's friend, Frankie Carder, so there would be at least two students. A classroom was set up in a spare bedroom in the Brysons' home. Soon other expatriates were asking Gladys to teach their children. The school, that was then called the Anglo-American school, grew too large for the home and a room was made available for the Anglo-American school at the Colombian mission school, the Colegio Americano.

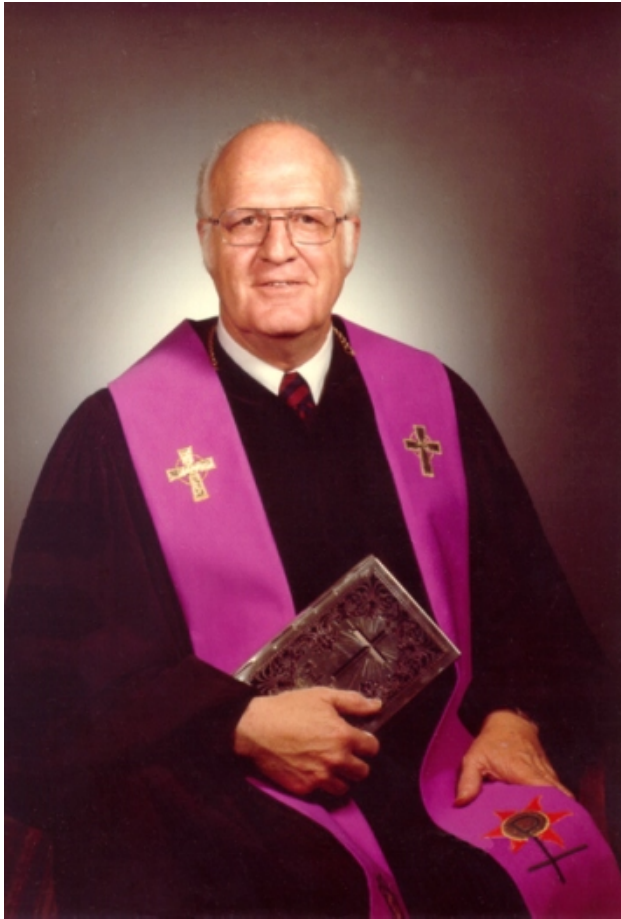
The school continued to grow and a few years after the Brysons left Colombia, the school's board of directors and parents raised money to buy several acres of prime property on the outskirts of Cali. A beautiful campus was built and the school name was changed to Colegio Bolivar. The school has grown to over 1200 students from many countries. For more information go to their website, www.colegiobolivar.edu.

The Colegio Bolivar website describes its history as follows:

"60 years ago, in a small house in Cali, Colombia, Colegio Bolivar was founded by Mrs. Gladys Holt Bryson as a bilingual school for North Americans and Colombians. The school grew rapidly, and by the end of the 1950's, it was clearly time to move from the school's small birthplace in San Fernando (a small neighborhood in Cali) to a more spacious setting. Today, Colegio Bolivar lies at the feet of the Andes, spread out over a large acreage of lush, fertile land. Looking out over the city of Cali, the school is nestled in its own tropical paradise. We now have over 1,200 students."

<http://www.colegiobolivar.edu.co/about/history.htm>





In 1944 Rev Fred W. Bryson, 22, joined his Uncle Davis in the mission work in Cali. Davis and Fred had both grown up in the Ovilla, Texas community and the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Fred was always called Buddy by the Bryson family in Texas, and the name fit his personality. Davis and Buddy had a relationship that was more like close brothers than uncle and nephew. Davis and Gladys' son, Jim, enjoyed having Buddy living in Colombia. Buddy was more like an uncle than a first cousin.

After service in Colombia, Dr. Fred W. Bryson had a distinguished career. He became a Dean at Southern Methodist University, long time pastor of Shiloh, his home church, and a leader in the denomination. In 1977, he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

When Bethel College was facing a major crisis, Fred was asked to take a leave from SMU and become the president of Bethel. He successfully led the recovery and continued serving as president of the Bethel Board of Trustees. Fred W. Bryson (Buddy) and the Davis Bryson family remained very close until Fred's death in 1991.

Cali is situated in a beautiful valley between two Andes mountain ranges. The street on the near side of the bridge is Avenida Colombia that runs along the Cali River and also in front of the mission building — The Colegio Americano. The mission was about three blocks to the left of the bridge as you look at this picture. In the 1930s and 40s, the main way to go to and from town was the horse drawn "Victoria" pictured here.



Bryson ministries in the United States



Rose City Cumberland Presbyterian Church
near North Little Rock, Arkansas



Yorkville Cumberland Presbyterian Church
West Tennessee

Summary of ministries in US.

Upon graduating from Bethel College, Davis Bryson took a pastorate serving two churches in and near Memphis: the Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Fourth Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Memphis. He served these churches from 1929 to 1931, when he left for the mission field.

After the Brysons' second term in Colombia in 1941, Davis was the pastor of his home church, Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Ovilla, Texas. A year later he became the pastor of the Rose City, Arkansas, Cumberland Presbyterian Church from 1942 to 1944. While he was pastor, Doyle K. Richardson, a Jewel Tea salesman, came to Davis and expressed his calling to become a minister. Shortly after that meeting, Richardson was drafted into the army. After WWII, Richardson went to Bethel and became a CP minister. Another minister to be in the Junior High group was Bill Woods, who later became an influential missionary in Colombia. Upon the death of Davis in 1990, D.E. McSpadden wrote: "I served as an elder during Davis' pastorate. Our congregation was blessed by his solid judgment, effective leadership, and his love. Nearly fifty years have passed since his ministry here but our community still remembers him and the good works he did."

After the third term in Colombia, Davis served as pastor of the Yorkville, Tennessee church. An elder of that church and former U.S. Congressman, Ed Jones wrote: "During his time here, as pastor and neighbor, he contributed much to our church and community, making many friends and leaving fond memories that have not faded."

In 1947, when the need for missionaries in San Francisco Chinatown arose, the Brysons answered the call and served working with the English speaking Chinese-American youth. Several individuals who grew up in this church have entered full-time Christian service. There are several tributes and articles about their work in San Francisco in previous pages. They served in San Francisco for 24 years.



Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Ovilla, Texas



Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church
855 Jackson St., San Francisco



L-R Warren Lowe, Alan Wong, Ray Ong, Maxine Wong, Bill Yuen, Andy Jue, Jeannette Chew, Sam Ow, Paul Hom Mrs. T. C. Stockton, long time President of the Mission Board, wrote: "For several years a group of eight dedicated young Chinese had been writing the Board of Foreign Missions for an American couple to be sent to work with the young people of the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church in San Francisco." The Brysons answered the call. Most of those eight young people are in the picture above.

The Missionary Messenger, Tribute to a great Lady, January 1972



Davis Bryson in front the apartment building in which they lived.



Gladys Bryson all dressed up to go to downtown Market Street in San Francisco. The Brysons really enjoyed living in "The City."

The Bryson Home in San Francisco

Gladys and Davis had been planning to buy their own home in 1931 when they received the call to go to the mission field in South America. They gave up that dream until almost twenty years later. After living in a small apartment in San Francisco, they started exploring the housing market. They believed that having a home would be a big benefit for their ministry. After a lot of praying and looking, they found the perfect home. The only problem was that the owner wanted \$14,200 and Davis felt by stretching he might be able to pay \$10,000. They met with the seller, Mr. Tate, and found out he was from Trenton, Tennessee, less than 15 miles from Gladys' hometown of Milan. His family had owned a furniture store in Trenton and he had either been a Cumberland Presbyterian or his family had close ties to the Cumberland Church. More praying and close examination of the finances. If they cashed in all their "War Bonds," sold the life insurance policies, and the seller agreed to carry a second for \$2,400, they might be able to buy their dream. Guess what? Mr. Tate understood their situation and agreed to \$12,400 price and would carry a second mortgage of \$2,400.



The Brysons dedicated the home to the Lord's work and used it for meeting with the young people. Dozens of Cumberland Presbyterian leaders, relatives, and friends from across the country have stayed at 881 43rd Avenue as guest of the Brysons. Mrs. Billie Ching Ong speaking at Davis' retirement testimonial said: *"The Bryson home holds memories near and dear. Beginning with the first Christmas Eve they were here, there was an annual open house after the traditional church Christmas Eve pageant...the love and warmth of Christian fellowship that we found there will always be cherished in our memories. The Bryson home was open not only at Christmas time but throughout the years of our meetings, luncheons, and dinners."* *The Cumberland Presbyterian, April 25, 1972, pp. 6-7*
881 43rd. Ave. San Francisco was truly used for the Lord's work. In addition to meeting, party's and social functions, they also from time to time took in a youngster that was going through a tough time. It was a place to heal.



The Chinese young people's choir about 1951



Easter Sunday Celebration, 1959



Some of the young people at the Sunday night service — about 1955
Davis Bryson is in the very back



The select choir — You should hear them sing “It is well with my soul!”
They sang the most inspiratinal rendition I have ever heard.
It sends chills up my back to recall the experience. JDB



Some of the young people at the Sunday night service — about 1960
Gladys Bryson is to the far right

One of many productions put on at Cumberland to raise money for young people to go to the Christian summer camp.

Note the knotty pine paneling



When the Brysons arrived in San Francisco in 1947, there was a thriving Chinese speaking congregation at Cumberland. The Rev. Tom Jung had been the Chinese pastor for about 40 years and was very effective. On the other hand the English speaking young people had little leadership. In order to not interfere with the ongoing congregation, Davis found a large basement and a small room in the corner that was being used for storage and junk. Davis asked Rev. Jung for permission to use that space for the ministry to youth. The members of the church were surprised when Davis physically cleared out the area and proceeded to give it a new look by paneling the walls with knotty pine (see picture above). Billie Ching Ong describes that time very well when she wrote:

"We came to know that Dr. Bryson was a man of many talents, a man of action. Our church soon had a physical transformation. Every spare moment found Dr. Bryson with his faithful saw, paint brush, hammer, and screw driver in his hand doing some remodeling of our church, and numerous continuous repair projects. The code word around here became "Call Bryson, Call Bryson!" In every emergency he always responded.

"We soon found that transformation took place in our lives. Regular weekly Bible studies, prayer meetings, Sunday evening services and fellowships, junior church services in addition to our regular Sunday school program. Through the Brysons' dedicated leadership we soon came to know, to love, and to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior."

The Cumberland Presbyterian, April 25, 1972, pp. 6-7

Return Visits to Cumberland in San Francisco



Davis greets old friends
at Cumberland in San Francisco



Davis preaching at Cumberland
in San Francisco

In 1982, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church had a denomination-wide capital equipment drive. The San Francisco church pledged a substantial amount for the campaign. Dr. Davis O. Bryson was invited back to Cumberland to give a presentation and then be honored at a special banquet. The program was a success and the money was raised.

Davis felt very honored to be asked back after more than ten years since retirement. It was wonderful seeing so many friends. They were all almost like family.

Editors note:

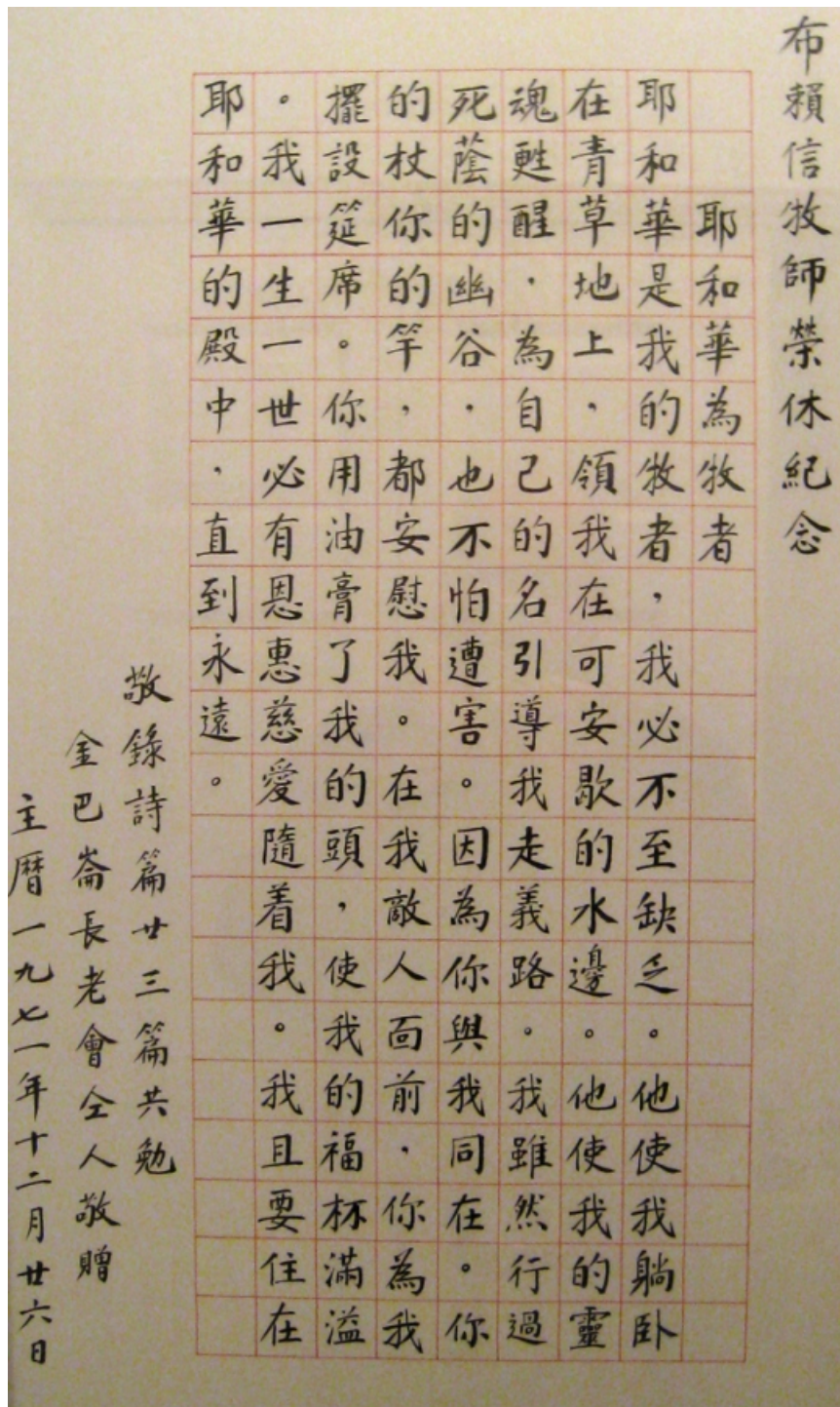
Although the original young people of the church are now in their 70s and 80s, I still refer to them as "the young people." They in turn, although I am now 76, warmly greeted me as Jimmy.

James Davis Bryson (2010)



Beth, Jim, Jr., Jim, and Davis Bryson
In front of Cumberland. The far window at street level
was the office remodeled by Davis in 1947.

1971 Retirement Testimonial Banquet



At the 1971 General Assembly in Jackson, Tennessee, Gladys and Davis Bryson were recognized for their more than 50 years of service to the Cumberland church. They planned to retire at the end of the year and move to the San Jose area to be near their son and grandchildren. In October 1971, Gladys Holt Bryson died. Davis then retired at the end of the year as previously planned. The Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church had a banquet honoring the service of the Brysons. Davis was presented with several meaningful gifts: a large colorful wall hanging and a large framed document written in Chinese characters. This document had beautifully hand drawn calligraphy. The lower left states appreciation for his years of service, 1947 - 1971. The central part in individual squares is the 23rd Psalm in Chinese. The upper right indicates that it is being presented to the Rev. Davis Bryson.

Some of the statements made at that banquet were: "The Brysons have guided us, step by step through the trials and tribulations of growing up—our teens, our college years, careers, marriage and family life through their teachings, the group discussions, personal discussions, but most of all by being a living example for us to follow.

They have graciously carried our burdens. The Brysons have seen our joys and shared many of our sorrows, the baptisms, graduations, weddings, successful careers and unsuccessful careers, funerals, etc.

Dr. Bryson worked side by side with eight Cumberland Presbyterian Ministers here beginning with Rev. Tom Jung, Rev. Samuel King Gam, Rev. Paul Wu, Rev. Stephen Lui, Rev. Paul Hom, Rev. Gordon Lew, Rev. Ernest Chan and Rev. Chanson Lau."

Ministry in retirement, 1971 - 1990

After retiring from Cumberland in San Francisco, Davis Bryson moved to Sunnyvale, California to be near his son, Jim and his family. He may have been retired, but he soon took on responsibilities as a volunteer minister to seniors at the nearby Methodist Church. He held services at retirement communities and mobile home parks. He performed weddings when the paid pastors were booked up. He performed funerals including many for his close senior citizen friends. At the Methodist church, he quietly helped wherever he was needed and could make the job of the pastors easier. I was told by members of the Sunnyvale church that he never brought up or discussed his previous ministries.

Gladys and Davis Bryson
Dedicated missionaries for 40 years



Emma Gladys Holt Bryson
1909 — 1971



Davis Ozell Bryson
1906 — 1990

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (King James Version)

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

Matthew 6:20 (New American Standard Bible)

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2 (King James Version)

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

Genesis 12:10 (NIV Bible)

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Mark 16:15 (NIV Bible)

When Gladys and Davis were a young couple, they were led by the Holy Spirit to go to the mission field. They answered the call, they gave up their dreams of owning a home, they left their families and friends, and they gave up a comfortable life to serve in the mission field. In hindsight, they gave up those things, but look at the incredibly rich life they led. Look how the Lord, through them, changed scores of lives. They gave up security and comfort — they gained untold riches!










I miss you Mom and Dad! Thank you for your patience and guidance. You always found time to love me, to have fun with me, to teach me to appreciate beauty, to teach me to find adventure in everything, and most of all to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

James Davis Bryson — 2010

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved."

NIV Mark 16:15-16

Major moves and places of service of Gladys and Davis O. Bryson

	December 1931	New Orleans to Colombia	SS Athenas	United Fruit Steamer
	November 1935	Colombia to New Orleans	SS Contessa	United Fruit Steamer
	November 1936	New Orleans to Colombia	SS Cefalu	United Fruit Steamer
	November 1940	Colombia to New Orleans	SS Amapala	United Fruit Steamer
	May 1944	Texas to Mexico City	Trains	American & Mexican
	June 1944	Mexico City to Colombia	DC-3 Airplane	Pan American Airways
	November 1946	Colombia to Miami	DC-3 Airplane	Pan American Airways
	November 1946	Miami to Tennessee	Train	---
	October 1947	Tennessee to San Francisco	Family car	1942 Plymouth

