

SCRIPTURE STUDIES COLPORTEUR FUND REPORT DEC. 1, 1962 TO DEC. 1, 1963

With the end of the year 1963 comes our sacred obligation to report to the Lord's people of the stewardship entrusted to us, The Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund."

The year started with three young sisters engaged in this service. For economic and weather reasons, they spent the winter months of 1962-3 in and around **Miami, Florida**.

Miami Springs was the first locale of their activities there, after they were properly fingerprinted by the police!! 39 Volumes were placed there. As a result of this effort, a lady was reached whose Aunt in the long past had attended meetings in Bloomfield, NJ. Now Br. Dinwoodie is again in contact with her there.

Opa Locka was the next town visited and 15 Volumes were placed in one day. The work was interrupted by the authorities who maintained that colportering could not be carried on without the payment of a \$50 to \$75 fee for each participant.

In **Lakeland** they cooperated with the Miami-Orlando-St. Petersburg sponsored Convention in advertising the public meeting. This, too, was done under difficulties.

Miami proper was next, where their activities of colportering, follow-up and tracting brought them in contact with many interested persons. One, a Jew by birth, a Jehovah's Witness by conversion, is still corresponding with one of our sisters on doctrinal themes. Also a German immigrant member of Jehovah's Witnesses agreed on many key doctrines. A nurse, very interested in dispensing her own literature, bought a volume, and offered prayer in parting.

One of the highlights in Florida was meeting a German gentleman who had seen his German "Studies" burned by Hitler's followers and was extremely glad to have Pastor Russell's writings in his possession again.

The whole Florida effort was marked by their contacts with J.W. brethren and many were the discussions that ensued. The grand total of the volumes placed in Florida was 90, from January till the end of May.

In the summer, having received spiritual refreshment at the Drew University Convention, sponsored by the New Brunswick Ecclesia, and heartened and reinforced by the addition of another young recruit, their next chapter opens in **Trenton**, cooperating with the Ecclesia there. Necessary permits were procured with ease, and they set up their base in the home provided them which they named "Neverest Inn" in Cornwallis Heights.

Trenton proved to be a decidedly Catholic City. Nevertheless, 133 Volumes were placed there in approximately three weeks. Some follow-up work was also done and many experiences in their contacts with people of varied outlooks, were added to their young lives. Meetings with Baptist, Presbyterian and Church of Christ ministers and even Spiritualists, tends to increase their faith and the high value they place on Present Truth.

August and September found our four sisters cooperating with the New Brunswick Ecclesia with plans for **Plainfield**. It was found to be a friendly and receptive community and generally religious and 279 Volumes were placed there. Again a number of J.W.s were contacted. One of them attends the local Bible Study the New Brunswick Ecclesia provides, together with active help. Members of that congregation with the colporteurs visited homes of interested people and many profitable studies ensued.

Meantime our young sisters attended the booth at the Reading, PA, Fair and later the Trenton Fair. The booth at Trenton being sponsored by the Paterson and New Brunswick Ecclesias. 353 Volumes were sold including two sets of Studies in the Scriptures. Also now three very interested people are attending in Paterson.

Moving on to **Bloomfield** to assist in the concerted effort of the Jersey City, Paterson and New Brunswick Ecclesias, they placed 296 Volumes. Here the brethren of these Ecclesias worked with the sisters and their active encouragement added joy to all concerned. Thus ended October and November. December found them back to finish in **Plainfield** with 63 additional Volumes.

These four are ending the year in high spirits in spite of many rebuffs. When we asked them if they felt misled in this kind of activity, one answered, her face beaming, "I just love it!" They are planning to return to their several homes for the year-end holidays and then expect to go to Phoenix, Arizona, where friends are waiting to welcome for the rest of the winter. Then they expect to divide into pairs.

On April 21st of the past year, an Elder Brother, long in the Truth and a veteran in this and many other types of service, while handicapped by 82 years and an artificial limb, felt he would like to end his service to the Lord actively proclaiming the Kingdom. A few weeks later, a young Brother joined him in cooperating with the **Wilmington**, Delaware, Ecclesia.

To do this, a young couple from the New Brunswick Ecclesia supplied them with a car. To accommodate our Brother's handicap, we looked around for a territory void of steps. This led us to large housing developments built on courts with ground entrances. These are for white and colored. Over 600 Volumes were placed by the July 4th Convention time. This the Wilmington Ecclesia is following-up in various ways. In answer to the follow-up letter sent out including an answer card, several finished their sets, others are still working at it and some got Bibles and "God's Promises" for their children.

After July 4th Convention, our young Brother was joined by two others from Chicago who went with him to work in the lower part of the State, locating with a sister in Seaford, who provided them with rooms and let them cook their own meals and come and go as they pleased. One of them only had his weeks' vacation to spend, but the other two remained working in **Seaford, Blades, Laurel, Federalsburg and Millsboro** and some country sections.

These are predominantly white communities. The success matched that in Wilmington—Especially in Seaford where the DuPont Company manufactures its nylon and where an educated and sophisticated class of chemists and engineers make their homes. Those efforts were blessed with hearing ears so that those little towns are richer by 402 Volume Ones and other books and booklets. All were given tracts, of course.

Late in July our Elder Brother returned to **Wilmington**, even though it meant working alone with only the help of a sister for transportation, and through the extreme heat of the summer, managed to preach thousands of sermons and place 148 more Volumes and other books and many tracts. Our report must be saddened by the fact that he became sick, and failing an immediate appointment with a doctor here, he went home to his son's family doctor who diagnosed very high blood pressure which was followed two weeks later by a stroke, which left him speechless and partially paralyzed. Our first visit convinced us he was very near to the Great Convention, but as we went again and week followed week, and all the other colporteurs visiting him, too, we found him walking about and able to make us all understand his joy in the Lord. The girls found him able to follow the words of hymns and enjoy their loving fellowship. The New Year finds him at home with his son again, where all cards and letters will be a great blessing.

The two young Brethren went to **Springfield** to help in the efforts there at the Fair. One returned home to take up his regular occupation for the winter, but the other, not quite satisfied to let the lovely weather of the late Fall slip by, came back to Wilmington, completing the section of the city started earlier in the summer with 62 more Volumes and some follow-up work which he still continues by mail, for already a newly organized meeting in Wilmington is attended by seven newly interested and one couple are really getting a knowledge of the Truth and come each week to study and ask questions.

While we are making this report about our full-time colporteurs, we would also mention the activities of a young couple in **Texas** who have long made a habit of colporteuering at many times of the year and in many places in all their travels in visiting the isolated of the Lord's Own. This habit has brought them many blessings over the years and a placing of some 400 Volumes in the hands of people in many walks of life this year.

We are constrained to mention the activities of two sisters in the **Wilmington** area who decided give one day a week to the work. One has two children of school age, and we advised her that her first responsibility is to her family, but still she perseveres. Between them, they canvased some outlying sections of the territory very successfully. Not a day spent but brought it exceeding great rewards. They found people very much interested in the Bible. They found one Presbyterian minister more than astounded that any are still Christian enough to visit people in their homes to teach the Bible and the need for personal study. He now has a set of Scripture Studies. Another has Volume One.

Another has had a good lesson on Glossolalia (speaking with tongues), a fad now spreading in the Protestant churches. After gaining some experience, the young sister began to feel the urge to canvas her own community. The friends have arranged a public meeting because of the interest aroused. There are now 12-16 people in a community of 1,200 people. These sisters also testify valuable experience gained. They come in contact with all kinds and classes of people. They see firsthand the sorrow, degradation and disease prevalent. Thus, they recognize the state of humanity and the necessity for the Lord's Kingdom and press on that they might help with its real dissemination later on, in the meantime learning sympathy, patience and love for all people and leaving some 95 Volumes in three small communities.

We repeat here our gratitude to the Dawn Brethren who supplied the books sold, free of charge, to those who were giving their full time to the colporteur work.

There are now living old colporteurs who served in the 10s and 20s of this century. They remember how they had to break the continuity of their service in order to recoup their finances. We glory in their example. Some, we understand, were called in by Brother Russell, and their deficits made up, so they could stay in the work. Not as many books can be sold as in the old days, and we want our Brethren to work without the necessity to sell as a drive. Food and shelter are not their only needs. Shoes and clothing and transportation, a trip home or to a convention. These are essential to represent the King acceptably and to replenish zeal and augment it.

For those who might be contemplating offering their homes as quarters for colporteurs, we say that it will not be all glory—there are some sacrifices of privacy and other things. Frankness and a discussion of the problems involved in the beginning, and a joyous wish to help with the extra work of the home, as well as the need to leave the members a measure of family privacy, has made our colporteurs very welcome guests so far. The contribution of the colporteurs in scriptural discussion at the dinner table, their participation in the meetings, the narration of their daily experiences, thus opening to the host families the opportunity to get to know and call on the newly interested, will, we are confident, open new vistas of joy in the Lord. The Harvest is great. The laborers are few. Go ye also into the vineyard—one way or another!

We would like to emphasize that our Committee has no jurisdiction over the colporteurs in any way. Our sole function is to provide financial aid to the workers. Where they work, where they are housed, and how they carry on their activities are decisions made by them. When requests for colporteurs are received by the Committee, we merely forward the information to them. We are happy to be used as a clearing house for this information.

There are three ways in which we will provide financial assistance to the work.

1. We will provide direct financial help to those devoting the major portion of their time to colporteur and follow-up work.
2. We will provide the Studies in the Scriptures free to part-time colporteurs.
3. To some Brethren who could house colporteurs, but would find it financially difficult to feed them, we stand ready to offer help. In all this, we trust that the Brethren involved, whether colporteurs or hosts, to take us into their confidence as to their needs. This will be kept strictly confidential. We only ask for their confidence as we are confident of them.

While the Fund contributed no money to the efforts of the friends to have exhibits at the various Fairs of the Atlantic Seaboard, the colporteur personnel helped man the exhibits. Over a thousand First Volumes were put out at these Fairs, which is another way of direct contact with the people.

The Lord's blessing and approval seems evident in the expansion of the colporteur work, in this its second year. With this expansion, those of us who initiated the "Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund" felt the need of a wider circle of counsel. After much discussion and prayer, it was decided to have the Committee sponsored by four Ecclesias, with each electing a member to serve on the Committee. The Wilmington Ecclesia appointed Br. Peter Kolliman as their representative and they also invited three other Ecclesias to share in the sponsorship. (This was the same method used by the New York Ecclesia, a number of years ago in forming "The Bible Students National Committee for Conscientious Objectors.") The New Brunswick friends selected Br. Kenneth Rawson as their Committeeman and for the West Coast the Bellingham, Washington, Ecclesia appointed Br. Theodore Smith. As this report goes out, we are still waiting the action of the fourth Ecclesia. These are not chosen haphazardly. They are the parent Ecclesias of our colporteurs or the active sponsors of their work so far.

The monetary report follows, and you may or may not be interested in it, but of the manifold blessings of this past year, we hope we have made you catch a glimpse, and we ask your prayers for 1964 that it may be alike good.

Your Brethren by His Grace,
Peter Kolliman —Wilmington Ecclesia
Kenneth Rawson—New Brunswick Ecclesia
Theodore Smith —Bellingham Ecclesia

Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund

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| Balance from last report as of December 1962 | \$528.05 |
| Received Dec. 7, 1962 | 200.00 |
| Dec. 26, 1962 | 8.00 |
| Feb. 4, 1962 | 145.00 |
| Mar. 4, 1963 | 150.00 |
| Mar. 3, 1963 | 15.00 |
| April 2, 1963 | 186.50 |
| April 9, 1963 | 103.00 |
| April 30, 1963 | 22.00 |
| May 7, 1963 | 100.00 |
| May 28, 1963 | 28.00 |
| June 11, 1963 | 107.00 |
| June 25, 1963 | 53.00 |
| July 8, 1963 | 130.00 |
| July 16, 1963 | 30.00 |
| July 19, 1963 | 25.00 |
| July 23, 1963 | 7.00 |
| July 30, 1963 | 50.00 |
| Aug. 19, 1963 | 102.00 |
| Aug. 27, 1963 | 8.00 |
| Sept. 4, 1963 | 202.00 |
| Oct. 15, 1963 | 102.00 |
| Oct. 22, 1963 | 16.90 |
| Nov. 12, 1963 | 113.00 |
| Totaling | \$2,431.00 |

Fund paid out.

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| Feb. 4, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Florida | \$50.00 |
| Mar. 1, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Florida | 50.00 |
| Apr. 1, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Texas | 25.00 |
| Apr. 1, 1963 | Dawn for Books | 49.20 |
| Apr. 6, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Florida | 50.00 |
| May 6, 1963 | Chevrolet License in Delaware | 12.00 |
| May 6, 1963 | Chevrolet Insurance in Delaware | 31.80 |
| May 7, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Texas | 25.00 |
| May 15, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Florida | 25.00 |
| June 4, 1963 | 200 Vol. One Jackets | 8.00 |
| June 4, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Texas | 25.00 |
| July 1, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Texas | 25.00 |
| July 5, 1963 | Dawn 100 Vol. 1, 10 Sets | 52.50 |
| July 5, 1963 | Colporteur Expenses at Drew University | 66.00 |
| July 8, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Seaford, Del. | 50.00 |
| July 18, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Trenton, PA | 60.00 |
| Aug. 5, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Texas | 25.00 |
| Aug. 5, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Seaford, Del. | 50.00 |
| Aug. 20, 1963 | Car expenses in New Brunswick | 20.00 |
| Sept. 3, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Federalsburg, MD | 50.00 |
| Sept. 9, 1963 | Colporteur Team in Texas | 25.00 |
| Sept. 9, 1963 | Car expense in Plainfield | 20.00 |
| Sept. 9, 1963 | Dawn 100 Vol. One | 30.00 |
| Oct. 1, 1963 | Traveling Expenses | 50.00 |
| Oct. 10, 1963 | Insurance on Car—Delaware | 27.20 |
| Oct. 15, 1963 | Dawn Books | 34.50 |
| Nov. 7, 1963 | Car Repairs—Delaware | 25.00 |
| Nov. 28, 1963 | Traveling Expenses | 100.00 |
| | Totaling | \$1,061.20 |
| | Balance on Hand | \$1,370.25 |