

## **SCRIPTURE STUDIES COLPORTEUR FUND REPORT DEC. 1, 1963 TO DEC. 1, 1964**

The time has come for the Committee entrusted with the administration of the "Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund" to make its annual report to the Lord's people.

We feel that we are obligated to report, and we do it willingly and gladly, happy to share the blessings the fund has brought to others, with those who were the real source of blessedness.

To many of the Lord's people in 1964 the idea of colportering seems a novel one. The reason is that there are so few of the Brethren still with us who were in "The Way" during the ministry of that wise and faithful servant of God, Pastor Charles Taze Russell.

In his day, colportering was considered one of the chief means of the Harvest work. We emphasize the chief, but not the only means. Those who are fortunate enough to have the Reprints in their possession can readily verify this by consulting the index on "Colportering." It may surprise some to know that Brother Russell urged, yes encouraged those who were new in the Truth, and who, seeing its beauty and grandeur, were asking, "What can I do to further it?" to enter the colporteur service. The enthusiasm of the convert was thus harnessed to the yoke of Christ. And they had faith to believe that God was able to fulfill His word that He would put His words in their mouths. Besides, one fresh out of churchianity could still speak their language and discuss the problems his former sectarian Brothers were troubled with, and on their terms. We hope that not one of us will ever attempt to quench the spirit in another. Of course, this was not the only branch of the service any more than at present. Others are engaged in other tasks and we can only say, "God Speed!"

There was the Pilgrim Service designed to feed, cultivate, water and nurture the wheat gathered into Ecclesias. Where there were 1,000 Colporteurs, there were 100 Pilgrims, and many of the Colporteurs, in time, graduated into the Pilgrim Service.

There was also Pastoral work, tracting, chart talks, etc. All these were the work of the Ecclesias. The colporteur would locate interest and perhaps place a set of "Studies in the Scriptures" in a home. The class workers then undertook to visit such and hold discussions which often turned into Chart talks and Bible studies. Thus, the whole ecclesia body had a part in the work of Harvesting. It was a glorious epoch in the annals of the Church and a revival and repetition of the first 50 years of Christianity.

No, colportering is no innovation, but the Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund is one. It is a method of meeting a need, developed when we realized that in our days it is impossible to sell enough books to make a livelihood. Besides, we do not believe the Lord wants us to develop into salesmen and saleswomen. We are to be Ambassadors for Christ, handling the Word of reconciliation.

One of our thrills of the year came as one of our young sisters, while working in the Wilmington Delaware area this summer came in contact with a lady who had purchased a copy of "The Divine Plan" the year before from a young Brother working in Seaford. She told our sisters that she was glad to see them as she wanted to own the rest of the set. She told them that on the Brother's first back call on her, she told him she would take the others, but when she admitted she had read very little as yet, he urged her to read that one first. She now has the first three and is in touch with the Wilmington Ecclesia. The fact that the Brother refused to sell just convinced her of his sincere wish for her to read, not just possess the books. We wish we had 500 such. We believe that the Lord would provide for their sustenance. He has always done so in the past.

One of the great blessings of the year was a letter from Br. John Meggison, who entered the Colporteur Service upon his consecration to the Lord. He later served as a Pilgrim and in our time was an inspiration to all who heard him at the various Conventions. His knowledge of God's Word, his unwavering consistent elucidation of Present Truth, his wisdom in his relationships with the children of God, have been exemplary traits that we want to emulate. His letter follows:

Galena, Kansas, January 17, 1964

Dear Brother:

Greetings in the Name of our Redeemer.

Your very interesting letter about the Colporteur work was very thankfully received. It was very good news. Also, we think that the idea of a committee with funds to provide the needed expenses, more than what is returned by the sale of the books, is a very much needed and wise provision. It removes worry and care from the minds of the colporteurs. It is not a money-making work, as all who have been in it can testify. But with a fully consecrated heart and burning zeal within, wonders have been performed. All who have had a part in the colporteur work count it as one of their best experiences in the Christian life. It is worthy of our earnest prayers.

We have had some correspondence with some of the young sisters, and realize that they appreciate their privileges, and have triumphed over the difficulties, and we remember them at the Throne of Grace, as our God may give them comfort and encouragement, and a sense of His presence with them.

So thank you very much for your letter. We hope to meet you in some of the eastern Conventions this year, and we remember you also at the Throne of Grace.

In Christian love, your fellow servants,  
John and Glades Meggison

This letter was received upon receipt of our Report for 1963. The old Colporteur was glad that the work was revived and that help was to be provided by the Fund. He felt the need when he was in the work. The committee is grateful to the Lord who inspired Brother Meggison to write this letter, and it will be cherished as long as there is a fund. Brother Meggison wrote just before the illness that was the means of his change from human to Divine, from caring for the Colporteurs, to those comprising the "Five cities" that he will no doubt care for. He rests from his labors, but his works follow him.

The effectiveness of the service will be noted in the following report, but it should only be a beginning. The success of our common endeavors in the Harvest work does not end with the sale of a book, or even a set of them. The object is to instruct Christian people in the restored doctrines that for so many centuries lay abandoned and ignored, and to gather those who are awake enough to respond into the existing Ecclesias or to new Ecclesias where that is feasible.

It devolves upon the Host Ecclesia to follow-up the work after the seed in the form of a book is placed. These opportunities to the classes and especially to the Elders are the added extension of the work. Meetings could be arranged for the follow-up calls and the organization of studies or Chart talks to be continued until the Truths presented are either accepted and the grain of wheat garnered, or rejected when we would go to someone else as the Lord instructed us.

Those thus occupied have thrilled by the experience. Others who entertained the Colporteurs as they labored in their neighborhoods have been rewarded for thus having some part in the work. We are indeed grateful to the Lord for those who either provided for or shared their homes for our colporteurs Brethren. We can only repeat the Apostle's benediction, *"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward His Name, in that you ministered to the saints and do minister."*

There has been one colporteur working in **Texas**, dividing his time between colporteurs and serving small and isolated classes, who has found some interest and follows-up on his own work. During 1964 he has placed 764 Volumes of the Divine Plan as of October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Another young brother gave part of the season to the work, joining in the Chicago united effort and after that working in **Toledo, Ohio**, where 76 copies of Volume One were placed. He and other colporteurs helped at the Louisville Fair also, which results are under class supervision.

Our four young Sisters engaged in the work all year, but in various parts of the country. Beginning with **Phoenix**, altogether in the early winter and spring. Their Hosts report their great good to the class spiritually, even down to the youngest child of teachable age. "Their loving and zealous spirit opened new concepts of the Truth movement to several of the Brethren and encouraged many new in the Truth. We hope they will come back."

Many interesting experiences marked their stay. One Christian Science lady, faced with a severe operation, found the tenets of her faith of little help. Encouraged to seek medical aid, she came through her ordeal and several times remarked that she found her set of Studies in the Scriptures good and Pastor Russell a perceptive man.

Another elderly couple, who had heard of Br. Russell and some Truth doctrines, discussed the need of the Ransom through several studies and came to a few class meetings. They had studied with the Megiddo Mission.

Added to regular work they tracted cars during Jehovah's Witnesses meetings with "Who are the Witnesses of Jehovah?" tract. Ads in several newspapers brought responses for the booklets, "The Grace of Jehovah" and "When Pastor Russell Died."

So the varied experiences ended April 30<sup>th</sup> with a total of 275 Divine Plan Volumes and 3 sets of Scripture Studies.

Dividing forces, two Sisters came east and after working at the **Dawn** for a week, moved down to **Wilmington, Delaware**. This Ecclesia, too, appreciated the fellowship and cheer of having colporteurs another summer. One surprising experience was a series of calls by a Philosophy student, met first in Phoenix as a follow-up call. Several long discussions ensued in which faith in the Bible and the long drawn out possibilities of man's own efforts were compared. He still hoped to continue his studies at the University of Delaware, but conceded we had something he lacked.

One outcome in Wilmington was a series of studies in the Fifth Volume with a lady who had received a Divine Plan in 1963. During the three months stay, 349 Volume Ones were placed and 4 Volume Fives and several other books and booklets.

Meantime, after journeying up the West Coast, the other two Sisters went to **Bremerton, Washington**. While there, they assisted with a very interesting Young Peoples Convention, which proved a great blessing to many. An unusual opportunity enabled them to place a Set of Scripture Studies in the ship library of the USS Reeves with 1,500 crewmen.

Another experience involved contacts with the up-and-coming "Glossolalia" movement. They strongly believed that without the manifestation of gifts, the colporteurs were completely without the Holy Spirit.

70 Volumes were placed in and around Bremerton.

One of the colporteur sisters was joined by a young sister of **Staten Island** to work in various parts of the island. While predominantly Catholic and very difficult, the little sister testifies, "Although initially discouraged at the cold response, I rejoiced that He had permitted me to have a part in His harvest work. When we changed to a more receptive neighborhood, I was thrilled beyond words with the least sign of interest! It was a joy to spend the entire day in His service, and I left the month's work reluctantly."

One interesting experience was a man who had a cousin who worked with the PhotoDrama years ago. He still holds to the tenets of the Truth. While the work was going on, an ad was placed in the local papers: "Attention—Divine Plan of the Ages representatives in your area—Watch for them."

During this month, 34 Volumes were placed.

At the invitation of the **Chicago** Ecclesia, four colporteurs spent a month in that area and were joined by 17 part-time Ecclesia members. Much work was done at the same time by many others in a big public effort but in colporteur combined effort, 334 Divine Plans were placed and 1 Set of Scripture Studies. Also, 12,000 tracts. The colporteurs reported many blessings of fellowship with the Ecclesia and working with others new to this way of serving.

Next, two of our Sisters answered an invitation to **Groton, Connecticut**, and found the communities of Groton, Mystic, and Noank to be most friendly and receptive. Here about 130 Volumes were placed.

Several of the stimulating experiences included one unusual agnostic who was fascinated by the colporteurs' knowledge of basic truth and discussed integrating Truth with practical life. Her only hope of immortality lay in her children and her painting and in the "goodness of mankind," which she admitted was questionable.

After a full day's work, one of Jehovah's Witnesses was called upon. After a lively discussion, the JW contended that she, too, held on to the tenets of Brother Russell even while accepting the current concepts of the Watch Tower.

This visit was also blessed with the fellowship of the Groton Convention.

The last few months of the year were spent by the Sisters in and around the **New Brunswick** area in cooperation with that Ecclesia. Encountering many Catholics and few hearing ears, they moved to Milltown and finally Franklin County. They were much blessed by visiting farming areas. Percentage-wise, the farmers were friendlier and much more interested, and they thoroughly enjoyed the country atmosphere and the nearness to God's handiwork.

One old gentleman said they had eased his fear of death, which no preacher had been able to do. Another case was the reaping of seed sown by someone years ago. A gentleman had a Volume One and was glad to get a Volume Three that he might study the Pyramid. As in most areas of late, they found interest in Faith Healing and were able to tell of the real healing promised to all the world in due time. During this period, 155 Volumes were placed.

We end with their testimonies as a team. One is working at the **Dawn** for the winter months, and the others have gone back to their regular work for the duration of the cold weather.

"The past two years of my consecrated life I have spent in the Colporteur Service. I have gained many rich lessons that helped to develop me greatly as a New Creature in Christ."

"I thank my Father with all my heart for the privilege of serving under the Chief Reaper, particularly as directly and fully as in the last few years. It is my prayer that my own spiritual growth, as well as the influence that the Truth gives, will bring glory to God Almighty."

"I've enjoyed colporteur as one way of serving the Lord. It has brought much character development in meeting the public, as well as meeting the various friends throughout the country."

"Colporteur I have found to be a personally rewarding Phase of the Harvest work. Appreciated were the enthusiasm and encouragement of the Brethren all over the country."

"It is truly a great privilege and blessing to engage in the Colporteur work. May it prosper, by His Grace, and particularly our individual parts and privileges in it."

We would like to emphasize again that our Committee has no jurisdiction over the colporteurs in any way. Our function is to provide financial aid. Where they work, where they are housed, and how they carry on their activities are decisions made by them. We are happy to be used as a clearing house for information of any wishing colporteur service.

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

1. 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 those who could house colporteurs, but would find it difficult financially to board them, we stand ready to offer help. In all this we trust the Brethren involved to take us into their confidence as we are confident of them.

The monetary report follows. You may or may not be interested in it, but the many blessings of this year we have tried to give you a glimpse. We ask your prayers that 1965 may be blessed with His goodness.

Your Brethren by His Grace,  
 Scripture Studies Colporteur Committee

**Scripture Studies Colporteur Fund**

Balance from last report as of December 1 1963	\$1,370.25
Received January 7, 1964	101.00
January 17, 1964	26.00
January 28, 1964	40.00
February 24, 1964	108.00
March 9, 1964	110.00
March 16, 1964	36.00
April 20, 1964	138.00
May 11, 1964	105.00
June 9, 1964	175.00
June 29, 1964	10.00
July 7, 1964	15.00
July 21, 1964	8.00
August 4, 1964	106.00
August 10, 1964	115.00
September 8, 1964	55.00
September 15, 1964	103.50
October 13, 1964	114.00
October 27, 1964	8.00
November 2, 1964	100.00
November 10, 1964	104.00
November 22, 1964	10.00
<b>Totaling</b>	<b>\$2,957.75</b>

Late in August the Committee received a car for Colporteur use from a Brother in Chicago which has been put to good use in the New Jersey and Staten Island work.

### Fund paid out in 1964.

December 23	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 10 Vol. 1 paper	\$33.60
February 3	Colporteur Team in Phoenix	100.00
February 8	Dawn 95 Vol. 1 cloth, 8 Vol. 1 paper	29.94
February 22	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 25 Vol. 1 paper	34.50
March 19	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 25 Vol. 1 paper	34.50
March 30	Colporteur traveling expenses	100.00
April 29	Colporteur Team in West Coast	50.00
April 29	Colporteur Team in New Brunswick area	50.00
June 4	Colporteur Team in Bremerton area	50.00
June 4	Colporteur Team in Wilmington area	50.00
July 2	Colporteur Team in Bremerton area	50.00
July 2	Colporteur Team in Wilmington area	50.00
July 3	Colporteur Expenses at Drew Univ. Convention	23.50
July 28	Colporteur Team in Wilmington area	50.00
July 28	Colporteur Team in Chicago area	75.00
July 31	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 25 Vol. 1 paper	34.50
August 12	Car repairs	33.50
August 31	Delaware License for donated car	18.00
August 31	Insurance for car	30.00
September 1	Colporteur Team in Chicago area	100.00
September 1	Colporteur Team in Staten Island area	25.00
September 8	Car repairs and transportation	70.00
September 12	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 50 Vol. 1 paper	39.00
October 3	Colporteur Team in Groton, Conn. Area	50.00
October 3	Colporteur Team in New Brunswick area	50.00
October 3	Car expenses	5.00
October 6	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 50 Vol. 1 paper	39.00
October 12	Car Repairs	18.00
November 2	Colporteur Team in Groton area	50.00
November 2	Colporteur Team in New Brunswick area	50.00
November 2	Running expenses for car	13.00
November 10	Chicago for books borrowed for Groton	27.20
November 13	Dawn 100 Vol. 1 cloth, 15 Vol. 1 paper, 2 Sets, 2 Vol. 4	44.91
	Hostess help for the Year	55.00
	<b>Totaling</b>	\$1,533.15
	<b>Balance on Hand as of December 1, 1964</b>	\$1,424.60

The Scripture Studies Colporteur Committee representing four participating Ecclesias:

Peter Kolliman	—Wilmington, Delaware Ecclesia
Kenneth Rawson	—New Brunswick, N.J. Ecclesia
Theodore Smith	—Bellingham, Washington Ecclesia
John Trzyna	—Chicago, Illinois Ecclesia