LETTERS from the MISSIONS

Each day, our mail includes hundreds of letters from foreign missions seeking help. It is impossible to print each and every one, but here is a sampling for your consideration. Through your generosity, we are able to send these servants of Christ donations of money and religious articles which help them minister to their people. The following appeals, in addition to the many others we cannot print, are worthy of your generous nature and Christian concern for those in need. If you will forward your mission support offering to me, I will see that it finds its way to these worthy missions and to others who deserve our support and prayers.

* * *

Very Reverend and Dear Father,

I am sending the snapshot of my church that we are in the process of building. The completion of roofing is my problem. As you all well know the situation in Uganda is very critical; hence, goods are costly and the cost of life is high.

Great are our works to be accomplished. I began this building project in 1971. My prayers are my return to whatever you can do, always out of sight but never out of mind.

I bring my wishes to all your community and associate members.

Do ask them to pray for my intentions chiefly to be able to finish my church for my parish.

B. Mulebwa, Pastor, Kampala, Uganda (E.A.)

Dear Rev. Father:

I am the sister superior of a small convent in the village of Isaikattur in Ramnad District, South India. Our convent belongs to the Congregation of Servites of Mary. We are working here for the uplift of these poor people.

The people here are all very poor. They are daily laborers. This is a very dry area and the Government has declared us a drought stricken area. Literacy among the people is very low. They are backward in all spheres of life. The parents in their poverty neglect their children and they are sickly. They remain uneducated. The sisters are conducting for their benefit Sacred Heart Home for Children which is attached to the Sacred Heart Middle School run by the same management. Sisters take into the orphanage deserving children and give them education, medical attention, food and clothing.

Moreover people of other faiths want to take advantage of these poor people's poverty and illiteracy and want to wean away their children under the pretext of providing for them. These ignorant folks who want their children to be fed somehow or other, stand in danger of losing their faith.

Now we have about 300 inmates in the orphanage. At present they are housed in tiled buildings which leak terribly during rains. They have no proper accommodations. Lavatories are outmoded and hard to come by. For want of proper sanitary facilities, children are forced to go out.

Hence a building to accommodate the children with sanitary facilities and water supply has become a dire necessity. We want, therefore, to put up a modest building for the orphanage with proper facilities.

The cost of materials like cement, iron, timber etc. is daily going up. The estimated cost of the building works out to Rs. 2,20,000, that is U.S. $27,500. We and the children will ever be grateful to you and to the donors and we assure you of our prayers for you all.

Sr. J.A., Ramnad Dist., India

Dear Members of the Marian Helpers,

GREETINGS FROM THE PHILIPPINES!!

We are the Dominican Sisters of the teaching Apostolate in the Diocese of Bacolod. Our school caters to the low-income families and in our desire to help the poor, the tuition fee is charged at the lowest rate. The school survives through this income received from teaching.

We ask the Marian Helpers for donations of money, or in Marian books and other reading materials for our under privileged children.

God's blessings be with you and the prayers of our children, and success for our appeal.

Sr. M. J. Veniola, O.P., Bacolod City, Philippines

CLIP AND MAIL TO:

ASSOCIATION OF MARIAN HELPERS • CONGREGATION OF MARIANS
STOCKBRIDGE, MASS. 01262

#13

Dear Fr. Joseph:

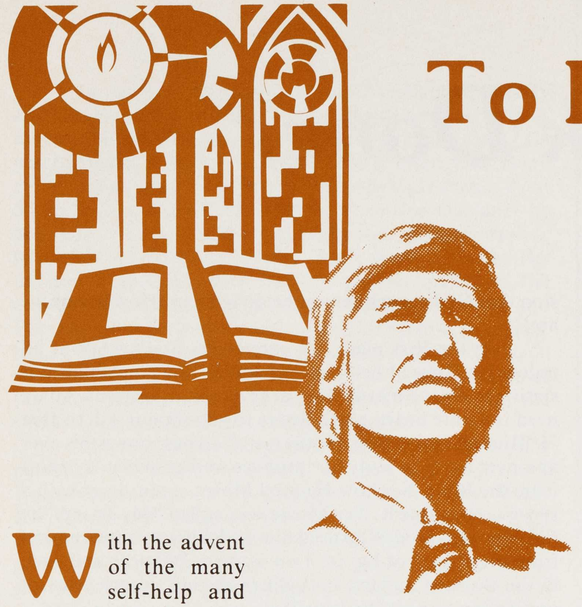
Enclosed is my donation of $ _____
to be forwarded to the following:

- ☐ B. Mulebwa, Pastor, Kampala, Uganda (E.A.)
- ☐ Sr. J.A., Ramnad Dist., India
- ☐ Sr. M.J. Veniola, O.P., Bacolod City, Philippines
- ☐ Wherever needed

Name _____

Address _____

_____



To Be Fully Alive

by MARGARET HULA MALSAM

With the advent of the many self-help and personal development classes and books, the average Christian may wonder how achieving greater human potential relates to becoming a better Christian. But there is a definite relationship.

It seems logical to assume that when God made man a little less than the angels, He most likely intended man to use his intellectual powers to the fullest, which mankind has done through the ages. Now in the 20th century, man (through his intellectual prowess) has been able to land on the moon. Can't you imagine God sitting back and smiling because He is pleased at the achievement of His creation?

The popular phrase, "God in man is man fully alive," really says a lot to explain how mankind is striving to grow more knowledgeable in all areas and is becoming more alive to Himself and His Creator as God intended.

In Genesis, God tells mankind to be fruitful and multiply. For many centuries, this has been interpreted to mean physical reproduction. Isn't it logical to assume that God also means for man to be fruitful and multiply in ways of the spirit and intellect? St. Paul tells us not to stifle the Spirit. We need to continue to develop and grow as sons and daughters of God and be ever more open to His spirit working within us. This is becoming "more fruitful" as human beings and also "multiplying" in the facets of our relationship with God.

In the past, it did not seem fitting for the truly religious man or woman to *seek* to grow intellectually or personally. The person aspiring to religious perfection was encouraged to practice self-discipline, penance and sacrifice. The value of realizing one's God-given potential was often overlooked in the quest for spiritual growth. The body was to be chastised in order for the spirit to dominate.

But in modern times, through advanced studies, we have found that the body, mind and spirit are closely linked together in harmony while we are on this earth. From a spiritual standpoint, God breathed a soul into man's body at the time of creation. Thus, isn't it logical to assume that He intended the body and soul to work together (and not be divided in purpose) for mankind's good?

Those who would argue that there is a conflict between science and religion perhaps have not really pondered the deep inter-relationship between the two. As man learns more about the complexity and immensity of God's universe, the more he really stands in awe of the Creator and Designer of it all. This was exactly the reaction of the first astronaut when he landed on the moon. As man unlocks more secrets of the universe, he becomes more and more convinced of a power beyond man that had to form, design and create it all in the beginning —God.

A wonderful example of the union of science and religion can be found in the studies of the French scientist and theologian, Pierre de Chardin. His philosophy beautifully unites all earthly creation (from plants to man) in a symphony in which God is drawing all His creation slowly but progressively through the centuries toward Himself. At the beginning of his career, Chardin was torn between studying science and religion until a superior pointed out to him that he must study *both* to the utmost of his ability. As a result, he blossomed forth with great advances in both science and religion. He developed his talents to the fullest — not limiting the potential development of his scientific mind in favor of theological studies or vice versa.

His life is a good example for us today when we are urged to become better human beings in relation to others. We have a duty to develop ourselves intellectually and personally as well as spiritually. The Bible gives us many parables as examples of man's duty to use and multiply his God-given talents. Christ was very emphatic about this on many occasions, telling us we must not bury our talents.

If man is to achieve his maximum potential, he must continue to grow in all areas. A living person is always in the process of change — either going forward or regressing. The spiritual person is encouraged to move forward and develop his/her full potential. As the Christian becomes a better person by achieving maximum potential, he/she becomes a better witness for Him. The Christian should never fear human growth and development as leading away from God but rather view it as a means of drawing closer and closer —*"God in man is man fully alive."* ☐