

Men's Christian Magazine

OCTOBER
1969
25¢

TEAM

A black and white portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The word "TEAM" is overlaid in large, bold, orange letters across the top left of his face.

LARRY E. TEDDER
North Little Rock, Arkansas

I HAD SPENT 14 MONTHS in the hospital—flat on my back. Finally I said, 'Lord, get me out of here and I will serve you forever.' The Lord answered my prayer, and I am now joyfully serving Him."

This is how Bob Thompson, Royal Rangers aide-de-camp for the South Texas District, tells of a remarkable answer to prayer in his life.

Bob sells hospital supplies and equipment for the Cenco Medical Health Supply Company. Because he calls on many people in a week's time, his work offers him many opportunities to witness for the Lord, and also to tell people about the good work of Royal Rangers.

Bob was with the U. S. Navy for 16 years. Twelve of these years were spent in active duty

Bob Thompson believes laymen must be involved in the church

2

The CHURCH Needs More Programs for MEN



Bob Thompson, of Houston, Texas, takes an active role in Royal Rangers as aide-de-camp for the South Texas District.

and four years were spent on the retired list. Ten out of his active duty years were spent in sea duty, mainly in the action of World War II.

Although he has eight ribbons and six battle stars to show for his service to his country, Bob is sorry that he was not a Christian at the time of his military service.

An active member of the Gulfgate Assembly of God in Houston, Texas, Bob serves as a member of the trustee board, and also as a Sunday school teacher. He occasionally leads

song services, and is a member of MOVE (Ministry of Visitation Evangelism) for the church.

A fervent believer in laymen involvement in the church, Bob says: "By working in the church, not only the church benefits, but so does the community, the people, and the world. Therefore, the church needs more programs which men can sponsor."

Bob thinks three things are important in the Christian life. They are: living the Christian life; serving others; and being concerned for the lost.

they merged and formed the Berger Transfer and Storage Company. Later, after his conversion, brother Ed joined the company, which has now grown to include a nationwide moving service as an agent of North American Van Lines, a "ready-mix cement" business, excavation work, and a local freight delivery service.

The three brothers give credit to God for the success of their businesses and believe that because they have tithed each week on the companies' earnings, God has blessed them for it.

Ed was the last of the three to find Christ. He credits three things with opening his heart to the gospel: First, his mother's prayers for him over the years; second, the Christian influence of his wife, Natalie, who was saved earlier; and third, the tragic burning to death of a four-year-old niece.

When Evangelist Vernon Cardiff came to the Worthington Assembly in 1939, Ed surrendered his life to Christ and was transformed into a child of God.

The years have slipped by and now a total of 54 members of the three brothers' families (including wives, children, and grandchildren) attend the Worthington Assembly of God. In addition, Ralph has a daughter and son-in-law, Deanna and Leonard Salvig, who serves the Assembly of God in Alliance, Ohio, as pastor.

Through the years the brothers and their wives have filled numerous places of responsibility and service in the local church. These positions include deacon, Sunday school officers, teachers, Christ's Ambassadors president, WMC officers, and many others.

The lives of these three brothers are a demonstration that "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

On that day when the redeemed stand before Christ, the Lord Himself, I am sure, will be pleased to say, "I know the Berger boys."



Waves of intercessory prayer swept over the men at the Men's Prayer Breakfast as they were led in prayer by General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman (above). D. L. "Sam" Jordan challenged the men to give their very lives to win souls for Christ (below left).

MF Active at General Council



GENERAL COUNCIL AT Dallas, Texas, brought together people from throughout the nation for a series of wonderful meetings. Preceding the sessions, Men's Fellowship held several important gatherings for leaders.

On Wednesday, August 20, the Royal Rangers district commanders, aides de camp, and sectional commanders met with the national staff in a dinner



Glen B. Bonds, national secretary of the Men's Fellowship Department, served as master of ceremonies for the Men's Prayer Breakfast at General Council.

meeting. New ideas for stimulating interest and participation in Royal Rangers were presented by Ronald Halvorson and Wesley Kilcrease, of Southern California, and Alan Gell, of South Texas. Floyd Horst, MF coordinator for the North Texas District, was the inspirational speaker, and Johnnie Barnes, national Royal Rangers commander, served as master of ceremonies.

The District MF Directors' Seminar convened Thursday, August 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Condensed into this brief time were the new developments

of the MF program. Growth in ministry and participation characterized the reports of each division—Action Crusades, Light-for-the-Lost and Royal Rangers.

Two new film stories were previewed—"The Valley Park Story," and "Let George Do It." Plans were discussed as to how to use these in the churches. The films are now ready for use in our churches. Contact your sectional or district MF director for more information.

Information concerning the raising of funds for Evangelism Literature for America was given. The MF Department has been given the responsibility to raise the money for the literature to be used in future special evangelistic outreach projects undertaken cooperatively by districts and areas.

Royal Rangers awards were presented district commanders for outstanding achievements. Ronald Halvorson, of Southern California, received the top award—the Silver Eagle award.

At noon the annual LFTL

banquet was held. Everett James, secretary for LFTL, was the speaker. District pledging toward the 1970 goal for LFTL reached nearly \$400,000, the highest mark ever set by the men.

Three booths were maintained by the national staff and the district MF directors. Promotion for the Men's Prayer Breakfast was carried on here, and the booths also served as a source for new information and ideas for MF leaders.

Highlight of the General Council for the men was the Men's Prayer Breakfast held Saturday morning in the Baker Hotel. More than 700 men were in attendance.

Music for the breakfast was furnished by the McDuff brothers. General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman led the men in praying for the divisional prayer requests. A mighty wave of intercessory prayer swept over the men and God moved deeply in our hearts.

Light-for-the-Lost awards

were presented by Everett James. The national award for highest total giving by a church went to the First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona. Second place award went to the Assembly of God, Covina, California. The first place award for highest district giving on LFTL Day went to the Northern California-Nevada District. Second place went to the Eastern District.

Special emphasis for this Council's Men's Prayer Breakfast was Action Crusades—witnessing person-to-person in our world. Speaker for this emphasis was D. L. "Sam" Jordan, president of the National Action Crusades Council. A great feeling of *mission* pervaded the meeting, and Mr. Jordan's message found a ready response in the hearts of the men.

Challenged to lay down their lives for the winning of souls, the men made a commitment to witness to and win at least one soul this next year. The meeting concluded with an extended time of prayer.