

A BOY'S CURIOSITY BEGAN THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

"Evening News" Reporter

SUNSHINE glinting on a cottage window far out in the Bristol Channel attracted the attention of a small boy walking by the seashore at Clevedon, Somerset. It prompted him to ask his father how the people who lived on the little island of Flat Holm got to church.

It was just one of those questions which youngsters ask their parents, but the child's father was the Rev. Dr. John Ashley, and, instead of being content to give some vague answer, he hired a boat and went to see for himself.

Dr. Ashley found that the islanders had no clergyman. So he made his home among them, and when one day a fleet of fishing vessels became becalmed in Penarth Roads he lost no time in extending his "parish boundaries."

Steadily the Bristol Channel mission grew and prospered until 1856—21 years later—it absorbed other organisations ministering to seafarers under the title of The Missions to Seamen—the "Flying Angel" Missionary Society of the Church of England.

THANKSGIVING In The Abbey

To celebrate the centenary of this union a thanksgiving service will be held at Westminster Abbey on February 20. It will be attended by the Queen Mother, and the preacher will be the Archbishop of Canterbury.

To mark the occasion Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Music, has written a special anthem.

A centenary appeal is also being launched to raise money for the maintenance and extension of the society's work along every trade route throughout the world.

Many events are being arranged to commemorate the centenary, and a pilgrimage to Flat Holm is in the programme.

Mr. Hoop

Mr. E. J. ...
Mr. J. ...
Mr. E. ...
Mr. A. ...
Mr. A. ...
Mr. J. ...
Mr. E. ...

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All ...
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BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

26th January 1956.

To: Mr. E.J.H. Wright
Mr. J. Stagg
Mr. E. Hall
Mr. A. Smith
Mr. A Stockwell
Mr. J. Hall
Mr. E. Cohen

Mr. H. Millie
Mr. F. Hyson
Mr. L. Pryor
Mr. C. Ball.

F.A. CUP-TIE MATCHES

Please be advised that the fourth round in the F.A. Cup-tie matches will be played on Saturday, January 28th, and that the material of our coverage is to be pre-released for showing on Tuesday, January 31st, in advance of the following Thursday. We shall be covering York City v. Sunderland and Arsenal v. Aston Villa. All necessary steps will be taken to speed up the return of the film to the laboratories.

DJ.
D. Ingham,
NEWS EDITOR.

NEWS

from

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THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN CENTENARY

On February 20th, 1956, The Missions to Seamen, the "Flying Angel" missionary Society of the Church of England caring for all seafarers throughout the world, celebrates its Centenary.

For it was 100 years ago that, under the Presidency of Lord Shaftesbury, the Missions to Seamen Afloat, At Home and Abroad, was founded to unite a number of existing organisations ministering to seafarers.

At Westminster Abbey on February 20th, the Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the Vice-Patrons of the Society, will preach at a service of thanksgiving in the presence of The Missions' staff and supporters, representatives of British and foreign Governments, commercial and shipping interests - and seafarers. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend.

To mark the occasion, Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Music, has written a special anthem, an orchestra from the Portsmouth Group Band of the Royal Marines will play and trumpeters from the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal, will sound a fanfare performed at The Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, who is Patron of the Society.

CENTENARY THANKSGIVING FUND

A Centenary Appeal is also being launched to enable the Society not only to reduce the drain upon its limited resources and to enable the increasing cost of the work to be met, but to take up new challenges in various parts of the world.

No target has been set for the Centenary Thanksgiving Fund, because it is impossible to assess the limitless opportunities confronting The Missions to Seamen and its world-wide service for all seafarers, whatever their rank or race. An objective of £100,000, however, would represent a modest minimum.

The money required is primarily for man-power - to enable the 53 Chaplains and 29 Lay Readers and other workers maintained by the General Fund of the Society to be supported at 29 stations at home and 51 overseas, along the trade routes of the world. In addition there are more than 80 other workers, including fulltime Chaplains and Lay Readers, appointed and paid locally, together with Grant and Honorary Chaplains.

At these stations The Missions has 77 Institutes, nearly all with chapels, as well as other more limited accommodation. There are 18 stations where seafarers may find a bed.

On the Thames the Society's floating church and recreation vessel, the m.v. "John Ashley", serves the seafarers of its water parish from Tower Bridge round to the Medway - a stretch of more than 60 miles. During the last recorded year (1954 - 1955) the vessel gave hospitality aboard to more than 17,000 men, covering more than 6,400 miles and visiting more than 2,060 ships.

At any Missions' Station all seafarers are assured of a warm welcome, a chance to discuss any personal problem, of finding willing help, and the opportunity of passing a pleasant hour ashore in recreation. There are canteen facilities at nearly every Station. At nearly every station, too, there is a chapel, for while recognising the importance of service to the "whole man" and of physical welfare, the Society's work is primarily that of taking the Church to the seafarer and ministering to his spiritual needs.

CENTENARY PROGRAMME

To commemorate Centenary Year, from February 20th until mid-1957, a programme of special events has been arranged at home and abroad.

Highlights of the Centenary Programme are:-

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| Sunday, February 26th | Centenary services in Parish Churches throughout Wales. |
| Wednesday, April 11th | Duke of Edinburgh, the Centenary Year President of the Society, to attend a luncheon for leading ship-owners at Fishmongers' Hall. |
| Saturday-Sunday, May 12th/13th | Rally and Youth Weekend, at Exeter. |
| Wednesday, May 30th | Annual General Meeting on board the H.Q. ship "Wellington", Thames Embankment. |
| Sunday June 10th | Service in Canterbury Cathedral, preacher Canon Bickersteth, Chairman of the General Committee, Missions to Seamen. |
| Sunday June 17th | Services in Irish Cathedrals. |
| Monday, July 9th | Pilgrimage to Flat Holm island in the Bristol Channel, where the work began in 1835, led by the Archbishop of Wales. |

- Wednesday, July 18th Garden party for the Missions' supporters at Lambeth Palace.
- August 1st - 31st Exhibition in St. Martin-in-the Fields crypt.
- September 5th - 15th The Missions participates in "Home and Life" Exhibition, Leicester.
- September 13th - 22nd. Missions to Seamen exhibition at Lewis's store, Manchester.

CENTENARY EXHIBITIONS

Three Centenary Exhibitions have been created and have already been booked for nearly 300 showings throughout Britain. With the theme "Having The Everlasting Gospel", (refer Rev. 14, verse 6: "I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven, having the everlasting Gospel") the exhibitions graphically tell the story of the Society's development and the way in which it serves seafarers throughout the world. Designed for versatile display in a village hall or a cathedral, the exhibitions extend to a run of 56 feet, can be erected by one man in one hour and pack into eight cases for loading into a 10 cwt. van.

Designed by Mr. Eric Mellon, the exhibitions were produced by the Society's Films and Exhibitions Officer, Mr. Max Wood.

FILM - "SEA PARISH"

A 30-minute black and white film has been produced by Selwyn Productions for The Missions, in co-operation with Mr. Max Wood. Titled "Sea Parish", it tells the story of the Missions' world-wide work in locations ranging from London River to Hong Kong. Mr. Jack Hawkins, the actor, is the commentator, and Mr. Larry Adler, the harmonica virtuoso and composer, has written and directed the music.

The film will have its press premiere in London on February 24th, and will be shown to interested audiences throughout Britain from March onwards.

"FLYING ANGEL" BY L.A.G. STRONG

Mr. L.A.G. Strong, the author and broadcaster, has written a book (Methuen, 15/-) called "Flying Angel", to commemorate the Centenary, in which he traces the history of the Society's ministry to seafarers and the changing conditions of life at sea during the past 100 years.

THE CHURCH AND THE SEAFARER

The Rev Cyril Brown, General Superintendent of The Missions to Seamen, stated today:

"There is no finer man than the seafarer, whatever his colour or country, for he is truly a citizen of the world's largest commonwealth - the sea. The Missions to Seamen is proud to serve his needs, for in taking the Church to the seafarer, wherever he may be, we are helping to link him with home. The "Flying Angel" flag flies where the seafarer most needs the service we can offer. We are tremendously and yet humbly proud to be celebrating our first hundred years of service. We welcome the new challenges offered by the expanding trade routes of the world, and we work in faith that we may be supported by the money and the men we need".

For further information please contact Eric Williams, MAYfair
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