

DEDICATION DAY
for
MISSIONARY APARTMENT

Centerville Baptist Church Chesapeake, Virginia

WELCOME TO ALL

We appreciate your presence very much on this day of dedication for our missionary apartment. Of course, there is nothing unusual about just seeing an apartment, but we feel there is a special significance about this one. It will have positive influence upon Centerville Baptist Church, surrounding churches, and the community at large. This is true because its occupants from year to year will come from many countries of our world. For instance, in the fall Butts Road School will have a student who has lived most of his life in Argentina. Surely, a contribution will be made to each--the school and Mark Steven Alexander.

THE BACKGROUND

Three years ago, a missionary family Centerville sponsors in the Philippines, was returning on furlough. After reading about a missionary apartment the Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston Salem provides, Centerville's pastor asked if our church would consider providing such quarters for the Edward Gordons. Because of illness at home the Gordons had to decline the offer that was made. Sometime later Mr. Robert Thomas made a motion in a Deacons meeting that the church be asked to write the Foreign Mission Board to see if other missionaries would be interested. The Mark Alexanders of Argentina replied favorably, and the church in turn voted to renovate and furnish the apartment. The Alexanders will be here a year. We are already seeking names of other missionaries to contact for 1969-70. The apartment is given rent free with exception of part of the utilities.

THE RENOVATION

To really appreciate the apartment one should have seen it before the renovation began. Mrs. Preston Grissom and Mrs. Wade Ewell spent many hours planning, supervising, buying, delivering, cleaning, and arranging the facilities. Others have given of their time also.

Centerville has spent approximately \$2000 for painting, carpentry work, finishing the floors, furniture, plumbing, carpet for the stairs, and complete re-wiring. More is to be done. New gutters, hand rails for the porch steps, and storm windows are to be installed. The exterior will be completely painted.

We are deeply indebted to other churches, missionary societies, and individuals who have contributed furniture, appliances, carpets, linens, and money to almost thoroughly equip the apartment. We are still looking for another window fan to install in the attic and a window air-conditioner would be useful. We are extremely proud of the antique-handmade bedroom suite which we were able to purchase at a good price.

THE PURPOSE

Any New Testament church must take the Great Commission of Jesus Christ seriously. We have an unavoidable responsibility to share Christ with the world. Centerville gives over \$8000 each year to missions at home and abroad. \$1000 of this is given through the Cooperative Program described on the cover of this bulletin. An additional \$2000 goes toward the support of the Edward Gordons in the Philippines. The apartment is merely an extra thrust in obeying His command. Our church operates with a \$40,000 yearly budget. How can we do less?

Included in this bulletin is the Litany of Dedication. It has been written to further set forth the purpose.
We welcome you to the missionary service tonight where the Alexanders will speak.

DEDICATION SERVICE
Missionary Apartment
Centerville Baptist Church
July 14, 1968

Richard T. Moore Pastor
Rev. and Mrs. Mark Alexander Missionaries

* * * * *

Introductory Statement Pastor
Statement of Appreciation
Scripture: "Our Great Commission" Reading No. 74
Litany of Dedication:

Minister: How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord
of hosts! Except the Lord build the house, they
labor in vain who build it.

Congregation: Bless the Lord, my soul, and all
that is within me, bless his holy name.

Minister: To the glory of God the Father, who has
called us by his grace; God the Son, who loved us
and gave himself for us; God the Holy Spirit, who
illuminates and strengthens us for service,

Congregation: To thee, O Lord, we dedicate this
house.

Minister: For the preaching of the redeeming
gospel at home and abroad,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the comfort and well being of our
Missionaries and their families on furlough,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the friendship and fellowship with
servants of Christ from around the world,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For closer ties of cooperation in the worldwide task of the Foreign Mission Board,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For enhancing missionary zeal and concern of our church family,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the impressions toward missionary service upon young people,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For information of missionary endeavors from various mission fields of the world,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister: For the inspiration of other churches toward similar programs,

Congregation: We dedicate this house.

Minister and Congregation: As members of the body of Christ, grateful for our heritage, and sensible of our responsibility, we now dedicate ourselves to the service of Almighty God in fulfilling the Great Commission in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presentation of the Apartment to the Missionaries

Prayer of Dedication Pastor
Dedicatory Message Dr. Floyd North

Welcome: To Dr. Floyd North of the Foreign Mission Board. We appreciate his participation in our program.