

# Dial

Montreat College

November 26, 1957

## MISSION OFFERS CHANCE FOR SERVICE

--Mary Sullivan

The wind almost blow me off my feet as I came out of the Plaza Theatre and started down Biltmore Avenue--taking a shortcut to the bus station. I had ten minutes before the bus left Asheville for Black Mountain. A few blocks from the theatre I passed a little mission. For just a moment Beverly Shea's voice sounded above the noise of traffic. A Bob Jones University student standing on the corner handed me a tract as I rushed past--down a wrong street.

Five minutes later I came back up the same street. This time I walked across the street and into the little mission chapel. The presence of God was unforgettable as I worshiped Him with about 14 other strangers from the streets in that little 10' by 15' chapel. This was my first visit to the New Life Mission in Asheville.

Now, a year later, I and several other students have the opportunity of working in that same mission. Tom Arena, the Assistant Director, can find much work for us.

Before I get to that, let me tell briefly about some of the work of the mission. It is supported by free-will offerings and has been operating for about ten years, and is now under the direction of Rev. Harold Bronwell. Students from Bob Jones help with the work on the same basis as the Montreat students. It is unsponsored, volunteer work.

Services are held every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights in the mission chapel to reach the people on the streets. Saturday is the busy day--passing out tracts in the street, bars, and poolrooms--holding services in the Old Folks' Home--preaching in a colored barber shop--and teaching child evangelism classes.

Teaching the classes is the part of work which concerns us. At the present we have seven active Bible classes for children in the Negro neighborhood. Let me describe one of these classes for you . . . . We go into the neighborhood and get the children together by ringing a cowbell. What a joy it is to see them come running--so eager to hear the Bible stories and to see them presented on the flannel graph board! They love to sing; and when you get them warmed up, they can really make a "joyful noise". There are no discipline problems. These children come because they are interested, and they challenge us to tell them about Jesus. The girls who have been going to the mission to teach these classes are Noal Morse, Martha Manning, Jean Mash, Mary Lou Kiser, Marjene Cox, and I.

The mission does not look like much from the outside; but when one gets inside its doors, he can feel and see the results of Christian love.