



Mobile medical and maternity units express the missionaries' love in concrete terms.

A Christian missionary's love sees the world as beautiful — 3½ billion people, alive with the pulse of different cultures, customs, heritages, religions, and life-styles; it sees people as beautiful because they have a dignity and a destiny.

It is not the "beautiful world" of travel brochures and exotic movies, but the beautiful people of God who live and die in the backyards of the poor world, where 2½ billion people are found.

Begin with Latin America. In Bogota, Lima, Santiago, or Brasilia we may feel at home among skyscrapers and traffic jams, hotels and restaurants. But beyond the paved streets and neon signs of downtown stretches the greater metropolis of filthy slums.

South America's backyards are broken-down shacks congested with families of ten sharing one room. These are the barrios which reach across the horizon for miles. Some for most of Latin America's 200 million poor.

One quarter of the babies born in Venezuela never live past four weeks. Malnutrition kills.

Abandoned children wander the streets. Bogota alone has 5,000 homeless children, while in Quito and Lima some 300,000 each are prisoners of the slum. Families of six in Guatemala earn 36 dollars a month. A hospital in Brazil has 34 beds for every 10,000 people. In Haiti, 9 out of 10 people are unable to read or write.

Statistically there is one priest for every 5,000 Catholics, but in actuality millions are without priests or religious.

Leaving Latin America with the smell, noise, and filth of its slums lingering in our minds, we reach India and come face to face with actual starvation. Men and



women wrapped in rags huddle together unconscious of their sunken faces and skeletal frames.

Throughout Asia is the aftermath of war and famine. Whole villages are destroyed. Forsaken refugees are encamped or lost. Convents and mission orphanages shelter five times their capacity. Prefabricated medical stations attend to thousands of patients with leprosy, rickets, and malaria.

Believed by many to be the Church's most promising and blossoming mission, Africa too is still steeped in the direst degrees of poverty, the backyard of Mediterranean wealth and coastal affluence.

The missionary in his white cassock and safari

