



The 1,023 Mission hospitals in underdeveloped countries care for millions of patients who, weakened by malnutrition, are easy prey to disease. Our mission contributions help keep these hospitals, and mobile medical units, in operation.



The Mission Sunday collection Oct. 24 will provide the means also of treating and comforting leprosy victims like these, photographed at a center in Ghana.

Someone's Knocking At the Door

A knock came on the door of an outpost medical dispensary in West Africa.

"Come right in," called the Sister, pausing in her work of sorting pills for the many-needs of her patients.

The person knocked again, not impatiently, not persistently, just — again.

"Come!" Sister called, anxious not to miscount the precious pills.

As the knock came once more, Sister understood. She crossed the room, pulled open the door and took the little woman in her arms, the woman whose hands were so deformed by leprosy that turning a doorknob was a task beyond her means.

The crippled woman smiled at the Sister and hugged her in return, sure of the love and trust that existed between them, sure all along that the door would open.

The message is clear. And it comes from many places besides West Africa. Following are some actual letters from missionaries working for you around the world.

From Diamantino, Brazil

"My Prelature is 136,000 square miles, has a population of 150,000 'civilized' and some 5,000 natives. The 'civilized' sector is increasing by leaps and bounds, growing yearly by an estimated 15,000 to 20,000. I think the number will be even greater this year, because in one area alone, 15,000 people have sought to come in. The great federal highways crossing our Prelature promote this tremendous penetration. Four are already under construction or ready and one more is about to be opened. These highways cross the forests of the Amazon. Agriculture already exists here. There are large cattle ranches and small farmers. Mechanized farming on the plateaus with the use of fertilizer is under study. It could attract many more people into the region.

"In the missionary sector, transportation is mostly by water or on foot. To reach the farthest missionary outpost, still takes me six or seven days of traveling. Transportation and the maintenance or attainment of good health is not easy with such distances. We use the airplane for certain types of work, but cost of flying has gone from 500 to 600 cruzeiros per hour."

From Taipei, Taiwan

"It has been 14 years since the restoration of the Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. Through your generosity this subsidy will enable us to construct a new building and enlarge the graduate school. During this time the College of Liberal Arts, administered by diocesan clergy, has made much progress. Now there are seven departments (Chinese Literature, Philosophy, History, Library Science, Mass Communication, Educational Psychology, and Physical Education) plus three graduate schools (Philosophy, Chinese Literature, and History).

