

Missionary Educator

CHARLES ALEXANDER LONG, '05, is located in Santos, Brazil, the largest coffee port in the world, where he is pastor of the local Methodist Church, and also presiding elder of the Sao Paulo district, of which this church is a part.

"As to the reasons for being in this work," he writes, "I have always believed in God's call and guidance in men's lives. That belief has not waned, but grown stronger, in these years of decreasing spirituality and increasing materialism, not to say atheism, in this modern, scientific world. I believe, without any fanaticism, that God's direction should be asked for and that it will be given most graciously to any young man seeking his place in the world.

"When it comes to the ministry, I certainly believe in the divine call, both by experience and observation. It was thus, in a careful consideration of all aptitudes, conditions, and so on, accompanied by a calm, sane, sincere request or prayer for divine guidance, that the ministry was given as my life work, and inherently with the ministry, foreign service. As to the place, Mexico always had a tender place in my heart, but not being able to go there, Brazil came as second choice, and first acceptance.

"As to conditions leading to these lands, a careful survey of the life of the people revealed a deep need for real, vital religious experience, and for many educational, social and other improvements that they were not getting. The prevailing religion needed a serious rejuvenation. I am glad to say that in every way I have been able to see improvement in these twenty-six years in the field.

"As to interesting experiences, to us they seem like the run of the day. It has been my privilege to take part, and in some cases a leading part, in practically all the work and progress of our church in Brazil during this period.

"Outstanding among these enterprises would be the location and acquisition of the People's Central Institute in Rio de Janeiro, an institutional church with many activities. The main activity is a day school of some four hundred pupils that has revolutionized one of the most neglected sections of Rio—the dock smuggling section of the city. That section is now about as respectable as any other anywhere.

"Another enterprise was the taking over of Granbery College in a very critical stage of its history, and saving the day. Later, planning for the Greater Granbery, which now has nearly seven hundred students, was a great experience. The school now includes full literary course, theology, commerce, and the first school of education for preparation of instructors for secondary and higher education to be organ-

ized in Brazil. I had left the presidency when this was begun, my part having been preparatory. I planned for the new buildings and their financing.

"Another enterprise was the construction of the parsonage in Juiz de Flora, and also the beautiful church there, which is called the 'Methodist Cathedral' of the city. We also took part in the founding of an orphanage in Rio de Janeiro.

"But my work has not always been in cities. I have done no small amount of mule-back and foot-back travel in the interior, over such trails, mountains and mud holes as it would be almost impossible to find in the home land. Just last week I returned from a rather long horse-back trip in rough country. Interior road conditions are improving wonderfully these last fifteen or twenty years, since the model-T Ford made its first appearance on the mule and ox-cart trails, and now buses are becoming common.

"The greater part of Brazil is like our own country, with modern cities with all modern utilities and conveniences. Paris and London fashions appear here almost simultaneously with those cities. But there are some novelties. Illiteracy here is still around 75 percent although it has been reduced from 90 percent in 1890. Schools have a four or possibly a five-year course; then comes the 'gymnasio' or secondary school of five years, but usually a year's intermediate preparation is necessary to get from the one to the other. From the gymnasio students go to the 'Faculdades' or separate schools of the various professions, medicine and law being preferred in that order.

"Cultural courses, such as our A.M. and Doctorates are just now beginning to be talked about. Even the bachelor's degree does not mean the same here.

"In all these courses at every step the student is overburdened with fees, revenue stamps and documentary requirements. All teachers must be registered with the Department of Education and the exactions are severe. Public school teachers are normal school graduates and once the career is begun, are public functionaries, sent where the administration wishes, are paid the year around, and have full retirement pay at the end of period of service of thirty to thirty-five years. All diplomas must be registered, and the Diploma is the big thing, not what the person may know.

"Brazil has more unexplored territory than Africa and is rich in natural resources, but legal restrictions frequently impede development. However, a nation's wealth is not found in her wonderful natural resources, or commercial progress, but in the nobility of character of its citizens. To the creation of that real wealth we are dedicating our lives and strength."

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