

Profiles of
PENTECOSTAL
MISSIONARIES



Compiled by Mary H. Wallace

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THE STORY OF

Margaret Calhoun

by JoAnn Yonts

In 1932 America was desperately trying to pull itself out of the morass and deep poverty of the depression. Declaring “a new deal” for “the forgotten man,” Franklin Delano Roosevelt was nominated the new standard bearer of the Democratic Party.

At the same time, the creator was also molding a new life that would one day reach out for the spiritually “forgotten man” of Brazil, for on December 6, 1932, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Calhoun had a baby girl and named her Margaret Sue. How proud they were of her! Life was full and happy for Margaret and her younger brother Jim. Little did anyone realize that into the life of this carefree little girl would some day come a call from God that would change the eternal destinies of many. Only God could

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know the paths these tiny feet would walk and the labor of love these small hands would perform.

As Margaret matured, preparations were made for her to have the best education possible, so that her life would be enriched with knowledge, refinement and opportunity.

After graduating from high school, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education at Indiana University. In 1956 she entered Butler University and received her Master's degree in Education and Psychology. Later she studied at the University of Wisconsin.

Adventure seemed to be in the heart of this quiet, refined young lady, who was not content to teach only in the United States, but who also taught in Venezuela, Japan and Libya. These years were filled with family, friends and exciting travels; but hidden somewhere in the inner room of the heart there was a deep, undiscovered longing for "something, somewhere or someone." Someday she would discover exactly what her life was meant to be. It was finally God's divine love that enabled Margaret to make this ultimate discovery.

In the fall of 1964, Margaret moved to Madison, Wisconsin, to accept a teaching position at Phillip Falk Elementary School. She was a first grade teacher and also worked with children who had accelerated reading skills. Having settled in a rented room, she was now ready to find a church home.

The church in Madison, under the leadership of Pastor J. A. Yonts, had earnestly been seeking God for new ways to reach the people of the city with the true gospel message. We had gathered at the church this September night to have a "rather unusual" service.

Instead of preaching, we had come to hear a soulwinning tape by Sister Vesta Mangun, and so we viewed with interest and concern the visit of a stranger in our midst. This was the North, where “drop-ins” to a service were rare.

Margaret had not been looking for a Pentecostal church. She was looking for a church her friend had told her about, but it had closed its doors. Seeing the lights on and cars parked in the church parking lot of “Calvary Gospel Church” she decided to come in for service.

As Sister Mangun spoke of baptism in Jesus’ name and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the sweet presence of the Lord filled the room. Oh, yes! He was there—and Margaret knew it! After visiting a little while with the people, Margaret confessed to Pastor Yonts, “I’ve never been baptized in Jesus’ name.”

The year before, while teaching in Libya, a friend had witnessed to Margaret about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Although brought up in a denominational church, she had begun to have many doubts as to whether there really was a God. However, as she watched her friend’s faith; she, too, began her search to know God. One day while praying alone, God’s presence came very near and she heard herself saying, “Abba Father.” She did not know that this was part of a Scripture verse and thought perhaps she had received the Holy Ghost baptism. That day Margaret fell in love with this wonderful “Father” and recognized His loving ownership of her life.

On Sunday morning she attended the church again and after the service told Pastor Yonts that she “was searching” and would possibly come back. In the boldness of truth that sometimes causes a man of God to say something startling, he said, “Margaret, if you are honest,