

The Work of an Associational Missionary, 1938
(From a report by Courts Redford done in Missouri)

Based on a mere 350 day year, Moderators in 66 Missouri associations thought the missionary should spend the following number of days in these task areas—

- 42 Revival Meetings
- 37 Assisting Churches find pastors
- 33 Assisting Churches improve their finances
- 32 Organizing Assn. Meetings/Stimulating church efforts
- 31 Teaching in Training schools
- 30 Personal visiting and conferences
- 26 Organizing new churches and new church organizations
- 22 Supply and serve churches which lack a pastor
- 20 Study and self-improvement
- 16 VBS work
- 16 Office work
- 14 Attending denominational meetings

Top 10 needs of associational work as ranked by these 66 moderators

- 1. Better financial support
- 2. More evangelistic preaching
- 3. More missionary preaching
- 4. Better church organization
- 5. More loyalty to associational missions work
- 6. Better pastors
- 7. More contacts with denominational interests
- 8. More doctrinal preaching
- 9. More pastors for the churches
- 10. Better church houses.

Redford also noted—

- 1. In most assn. the WMU was the best organized.
- 2. Having missionaries in place gave the Baptist movement an advantage over other groups.
- 3. Need for leaders to attend to the work of the association the year around.
- 4. Seem to be asking missionaries to do things that others ought to do.
- 5. Many of the associations were weak and needed some other form. Options:
 - *unite with a stronger assn.
 - *cooperate with another assn.
 - *employ a part-time missionary
 - *moderator/volunteer led
 - *give up district missions work.

(Recall that Redford played an important role at HMB in the new work strategy of deploying associational missionaries. He was the initiator of the Rural Church Program there. In 1938 about half of the Missouri churches were quarter-time. About one-quarter were full time.)

