

A NEGLECTED MISSION FIELD- *The Kentucky Mountains*

BY LOIS ANDERSON

Epson, Kentucky

THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS AFFORD innumerable opportunities for missionary work, but laborers are few in this neglected field of evangelism.

Natural mountain barriers and often impassable roads make propagation of the gospel difficult here. Also, Satan is never idle. False doctrines and teachings abound. Another hindrance to ef-

dren are found everywhere. As people have left the hills to seek better jobs, they have become faithful members in churches of other districts. Others who were saved in mountain churches are serving as pastors and evangelists throughout the country; and Bible school students are part of the mountain missions harvest.

Early soldiers of God laid the foundation by prayer and tears and sacrifice, but *where are the hands which will build upon these well-laid stones?* An abundant harvest is now possible; but *who will reap? Was the sowing in vain?*

Some new recruits in the army of the Lord have answered the challenge. Viola Quarndstrom, veteran mountain missionary, has reopened the Five-Mile Church on Frozen Creek, which closed for lack of workers. Burkhart, which was closed for lack of laborers and funds, has recently been reopened. Pastor Benjamin Frye and his family of six live there in a four-room cabin.

God has blessed at Jeffersonville, Stanton, and West Prestonburg. Now



Workers at Panbowl, Ky., (left to right) Virginia Schneider, Louise Heidorn and Nancy Oberdorff

fective ministry is the difficulty outsiders experience in understanding these wonderful folk and their distinct backgrounds and unique customs.

Isolation of the mountain people makes the missionary task more difficult, but therein lies Christ's challenge to those who will consecrate themselves to serve. With Paul we say, "A great door and effectual is opened ...and there are many adversaries."

Sacrifices of workers, amid persecutions and opposition, have brought forth fruit, although it is not always evident in the mountains themselves. In places of early struggle no buildings may remain as memorials, but spiritual chil-



Viola Quarndstrom, pastor of Frozen Creek Mission at Five Mile, Ky.