



Morgan Fritz Photo

- *Mr. Buffington in the workshop on the campus of Paine College where the books are uncrated and readied for distribution.*

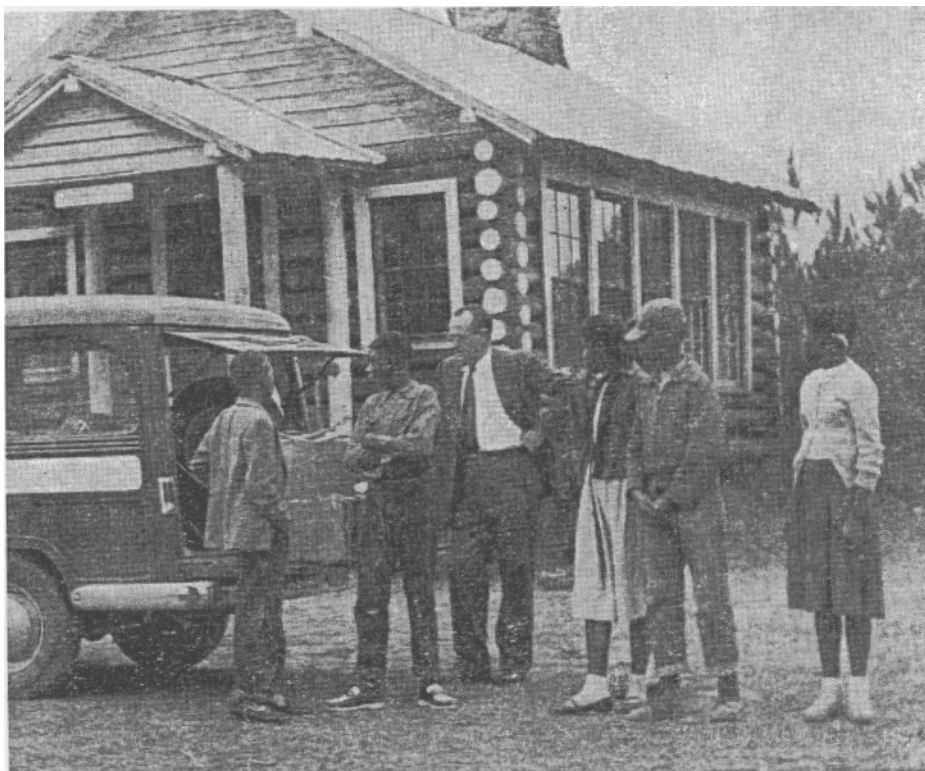
The Ministry of BOOKS

the Faith Cabin Library of Paine College has provided books or Negro communities in Georgia and South Carolina for over twenty years. The Rev. Mr. Buffington is director of the library.

"THERE IS NO ADEQUATE MEASURE TO determine the value of our library to our school and community," the principal of a school said in introducing the commencement preacher. The school was the W. A. Fountain High School, Forest Park, Georgia. The principal was Mr. M. D. Roberts, and the

By W. L. BUFFINGTON

The Fountain High School, named for a native son of Forest Park, who became a bishop in his church, serves all the Negro youth of high school age in Clayton County. It is a spacious and modern building, but funds for library books were limited. The library referred to is the collection of books granted the school and community by Faith Cabin Library, an extension of Paine College, Augusta, Georgia. The principal was correct in his evaluation. Who would like to be dogmatic about the results of a library among so many growing youth? Not only the principal and his faculty were grateful for the Faith Cabin Library collection of books. You could see it in the beaming faces of the entire student-body and their parents. This was the first class to graduate from the new high school. Other groups will graduate each year, and with an adequate library, they should be better prepared for college or for life.



• Books are distributed by jeep to the various units. This is the oldest Faith Cabin Library, located in Saluda County, South Carolina.

WHAT IS THE FAITH CABIN LIBRARY?

Faith Cabin Library was the name given to the first log cabin library erected in my rural community in Saluda County, South Carolina. Mr. E. W. Simpkins, principal of the Negro school near my home, had led a community-wide campaign to erect a new Rosenwald school. He invited me to be one of the guests at the dedication of the new school. I discovered that day that my Negro neighbors and their children did not have a library in their school. The school I had attended as a youth had more than 100 well-selected volumes. While I did not have money to purchase books, and there were no public funds available, I felt that here was a need that I could help meet. I invested a dime in five two-cent stamps and wrote five people whom I felt reasonably sure could "share" books for such a purpose. In my letter I described the experience at the dedication of a new public school, and what I had discovered. I requested that they consider collecting and sending suitable books.

sand books. So many books presented Mr. Simpkins with a problem of another nature. It was no longer how to get books, but where to house them. They erected on the school grounds, with a minimum of actual cash, a rustic little log cabin and called it

Faith Cabin Library. For more than 20 years now this little cabin has served the youth and adults of this community. It has been one of the forces for better living and better citizenship in that community, and its influence has spread as youth have grown up and

• Story Hour in a Faith Cabin Library. Mr. Buffington brings a new assortment of books to Mrs. M. S. Dye, librarian at Elberton, Georgia.



Four never made any reply. One did! He interested his entire congregation and they were able to send over a thou



** Interior of the Faith Cabin Library at Ocilla, Georgia. These books were all contributed by individuals and church school classes.*

migrated to other areas of the United States to live and work and make their contribution.

From such a humble beginning, backed by faith, hard work, and the interest and concern and support of thousands of individuals and groups across America, Faith Cabin Library now touches 74 communities and the people who reside in them.

The library at Forest Park is one of them. It is one of the latest additions to the chain of libraries that afford information, inspiration, wholesome recreation and goodwill. Each library has a story all its own. The books at Forest Park came from individuals who read a brief notice carried in the *Wh^y Don't We?* department in *Guideposts*. The brief article made an appeal for books and proposed that if enough books were sent in they would be used in establishing a new library. They came in and Forest Park was the school and community chosen to be the re-

ipient of so much goodwill and valuable library material.

Guideposts carried the article in March of 1953, and the library at Forest Park was a reality before Commencement time, 1954. *Guidepost* readers have made an investment that will yield large dividends in improved minds, stronger character, Christian citizenship and unselfish service. It is one of the ways we implement our loyalty and love for the Christ who is the hope of our world.

ANOTHER FAITH CABIN LIBRARY

Another recent addition to the chain of libraries is the Faith Cabin Library located in the Negro school in Ocilla, Georgia. Hundreds of youth and many adults use the library every day.

The books for the library at Ocilla came from individuals and Sunday school classes across the United States. In the church school material for October, 1952, published by David C.

Cook Publishing Company, an article was carried that resulted in a flood of books. They arrived at the workshop room on the Paine College campus by parcel post, express and freight. A few people on their way for a vacation in Florida stopped to deliver their share in the new library in person. Many who are interested in the library at Ocilla can be assured that they have made a wise investment in the improvement and conservation of our most precious and valuable asset-our human resources!

SO IT GOES

Sixteen of the libraries have been made possible by the interest, concern and cooperation and support of the Woman's Society of Christian Service in our church. In some cases, it has been a conference project, with each local society urged to collect and send books for their particular unit of Faith Cabin Library. In a few cases, it has

been a project of a given district within a conference. The donors of books have benefited from the sharing, and those who use the books will long testify to larger opportunities that have been afforded them. Their lives have been enriched because someone cared enough to share a good book.

All of those associated with Faith Cabin Library know how effective this service is in meeting a tremendous need in the communities surrounding Paine College. Faith Cabin Library units are scattered across South Carolina and Georgia. We also welcome the opportunities afforded us in these contacts to bear testimony to the oneness of the human family, and to become the agents of goodwill in the name of the Christ of the Church. It is a source of great consolation to know that so many Christian people are supporting a mission of such magnitude and significance.

A FORWARD LOOK

Since the recent pronouncement of the United States Supreme Court regarding segregation in the public schools in seventeen states and the District of Columbia, several have indicated that the service rendered people in the area served by Faith Cabin Library will no longer be needed. We shall have to await further word from the Court before we shall know the full

• A budding minister, doctor, teacher or scientist? Books will help him prepare.



And this bequest of wings was but a book."

import of the changes that will be necessary. Approximately 35% of all pupils in the public schools of Georgia are Negro. Approximately 43% of all pupils in South Carolina public schools are Negro. The percentages indicate something of the problems facing educational administrators when the Court indicates its program for desegregation. Until the changes are made, there will be a need for the books supplied by Faith Cabin Library, and a need for the spirit of goodwill in which all things are attempted. Should drastic changes become necessary immediately, there will still be a need for the service. We look to the future with a desire to serve. We see the need and we appeal to all who believe in Kingdom building in the homeland and abroad, to continue to share with us their good used books. They deserve better treatment than merely serving as dust-catchers. In the service of one of the Faith Cabin Library units now serving others in seventy-four communities they will bear constant testimony to your concern for those who do not

have good books, and your books will be the means of life-enrichment to hundreds, maybe thousands of youth and adults.

"Tell me, sir, aren't the books never going to stop coming?" was the question a freight deliveryman asked as he mopped his brow. My immediate reply was, "They mustn't stop, until the need is met."

The youth are here, and funds are not always available for books. Until every school and community has access to good reading material, we shall need the support of those who have good used books to share.

Because someone believed, and enough friends of Christian education cared, there are seventy-four libraries serving youth and adults by the thousands. A generation of youngsters are growing up to be better citizens through the knowledge they gain through books. They will take up the challenge and inspiration of those great men of the ages and carry the torch of knowledge and wisdom to others, both by precept and example.

