

# 'Flying Monk' Awaits Plane

By Helen Huyck  
A Member of The Star's Staff

A Trappist monk who spent 10 years at the monastery in Ava, Mo., has coupled his love of flying with his interest in missions to carve a new career for himself in the remote and arid regions of Northeastern Brazil.

The Rev. Marc Tilla, known as "the flying priest," said because of primitive roads some of the remote areas have had no visit from a priest in 14 to 20 years. Many are impassable much of the year because of rains and floods. The main city in the Sento Se parish, Juazeiro, is on the San Francisco river which is more than a half-mile wide, normally.

He returned to the Mid-West in November seeking help to purchase a new Cessna 182 airplane to replace his 1941 model Interstate Cadet.

Father Tilla had planned to fly the new plane to his headquarters in Sento-Se, a town of 3,000 up-river from Juazeiro, this month, but learned Thursday the Cessna plant in Wichita cannot be purchased until February.

Three-fourths of the needed \$22,000 has been pledged, largely through "Wings of Hope," a non-denominational humanitarian group of dedicated St. Louis businessmen. The organization works in the cause of brotherhood, largely in aviation, in Africa, South America, New Guinea and Central America.

Father Tilla will become a member of the Catholic archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, while continuing his work in Brazil.

He had known the Most Rev. Ignatius J. Strecker in 1962 while he was serving as bishop of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau diocese in Missouri and the priest was at the monastery.

When Father Tilla decided to seek financial help in the Mid-West, he told his superior, Bishop William Murphy, that he wished to belong to a diocese in the states. Bishop Murphy suggested he contact Archbishop Strecker. The plans for his affiliation were formulated.

"He will be a natural mem-

ber of our archdiocese as soon as the official steps are made to transfer him from the Trappist order," the archbishop explained. "Then he officially becomes one of our priests but continues his missionary work. The archdiocese will be responsible for his salary."

Father Tilla said it takes three days for a jeep to cross the 150-mile parish when the roads are at their best. "Other areas have visits from a priest only every year or two, and there are always a dozen or more marriages to perform and usually 50 baptisms."

Since going to Brazil in the fall of 1969 he has supported himself through monthly letters which he says "brings in a few hundred dollars a month."

From this source of income, a church has been constructed. "It is a pretty good looking church too," he said. "It was built by the people, is made of brick, has a tile roof and holds 200 people."

Contributions from the letters also provide insurance, parts and gas for the airplane, Bibles, emergency money for the sick and personal support.

In a July letter he told of visiting a town where he had never been. No one knew he was arriving, but within minutes a growing group of people made the rounds of each of the approximately 60 homes, to shout, "The Padre is here. It's been over a year! Everybody come to confession! Everybody come to mass! Bring the babies to be baptized!"

Father Tilla visited numerous schools and churches in the archdiocese while here to tell of his work and needs.

The 39-year old priest said, "I've been interested in airplanes since I was a kid. I learned to fly in 1966 in Arizona and hoped to be able to do mission work in Mexico."

Recalling the circumstances which sent him to Brazil instead, Father Tilla said he met the Rev. Bernard Van Hoomissen, his partner in Brazil, when he was in the states for hospital treatment.

"He was recovering from hepatitis, pneumonia and a broken arm, and he was going to try to get a Cessna 185 through 'Wings of Hope' and fly it to Brazil. I figured he would kill himself, so I offered to fly him down in my 1941 model I bought a half share in for \$500. He took me up on it!"

In Brazil there are 40,000 parishioners in 120 towns and villages where he and his co-workers are located. The total diocese has 220,000 Catholics with 15 priests to care for the total needs.

While spiritual needs are paramount in the missionary effort, attempts to improve living conditions in any way possible are also highly important, in the viewpoint of the priests.

"The average worker makes only 35 cents a day when he can find work and about the only kind available is on the ranches or vegetable farms," he explained.

He said he and his co-workers are at the literacy stage now. "Many are just learning to read so they can understand the Bible. Only when you can read and write can you vote, and only those who vote, as is true all over the world, can expect help from the government."

The priest described the region around Juazeiro like the desert areas of Arizona and California. "There is great potential if we could get water and fertilizer to the area. There is no boundary beyond which they could not go if we could just get those two, and when people have a chance to earn their living they won't drift to the city and the slums where they become ripe for revolt and communism."

He described the industrial centers in Brazil as "having all of the advantages of civilization... traffic jams, pollution, crime, violence and corruption!"

"We are trying to bring Christian ideals to them without imposing our own ideas on the people," he added.

"There are some strikingly beautiful results from the general population of the region



The Rev. Marc Tilla

composed of Indian blood, a good bit of Negro color and features, European names, and the Portuguese language as the means of communication," Father Tilla said.

He holds a master's degree in philosophy from the Angelicum University in Rome.

He will return to St. Louis to pick up the new Cessna, Archbishop Strecker said. Contacts can be made through Wings of Hope, Inc., 2319 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, Mo., or the Buck-for-a-Monk-Club, 5101 N. 39th Drive, Phoenix, Ariz.



THE REV. ANDREW YOUNG THE REV. EUGENE CARSON BLAKE AL HUBBARD

## Ecumenical Witness

# Clergy to Consider Morality of War

Some of the top national and international religious leaders will be attending an interfaith conference on the Indo-China war Thursday through Jan. 16 at the Hotel Muehlebach.

"An Ecumenical Witness," as the conference is called, is being sponsored by 132 Jewish, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Protestant religious leaders. About 500 persons are expected to attend.

Dr. Edler Hawkins of Princeton, who serves as chairman of the planning committee, said the consultation is a first-time effort for members of the various faiths to explore together the moral crises arising from the Indo-China war.

The Rev. Robert S. Bilheimer, executive director of the National Council of Churches' Department of International Affairs, is co-ordinator for the conference and for whatever follow-up procedures are suggested.

Small group discussions will form the backbone and heart of the conference, Dr. Bilheimer said. Among topics will be the question, "What has prevented the communities of church and synagogue, in spite of prophetic voices, from rising to the moral and spiritual challenge presented by the Vietnam war?" Also to be dealt with is what needs to be done locally in church, synagogue and community to meet this challenge effectively.

Dr. Bilheimer said conferences will be given factual information on the damage to Vietnam and the continuing air war. They also will entertain suggestions as to what new action may be taken by persons in churches and synagogues.

A closed-circuit television system will enable discussion groups to hear resource speakers on the extent and scope of damage to Indo-Chi-

na; the damage to the spirit, social processes and priorities of the United States; racism and American policy and practice in Indo-China. The response of the world ecumenical church to United States policy in Indo-China will be brought by overseas church leaders.

Those bringing daily Bible studies will be the Rev. Albert van den Heuvel, of Geneva, Switzerland, director of the World Council of Churches Department of Communications; Rabbi Morris B. Margolies of Beth Shalom, Kansas City, and Roman Catholic Bishop John J. Dougherty, Auxiliary of Newark and chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Commission for International Affairs.

Featured speakers will include the Rev. Andrew Young, chairman, Human Relations Commission, Atlanta; Al Hubbard, executive secretary, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman; Fred Branfman, Project Air War, Washington; Don Luce, former World Council of Churches correspondent in Vietnam; Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife, Brazil; the Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland; Bishop Coadjutor Paul Moore, Jr., of the New York Episcopal Diocese; Professor Andre Dumas of Paris, who is currently the Harry Emerson Fosdick visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and Dean Kristler Stendall of the Harvard Divinity School.

Overseas church leaders expected to attend include Mrs. Renuka Somasekar, president, Women's Christian College, Madras, India; Bishop Per Lonning of Norway; Hans Philipp Meyer, vice-president, Church of Hamburg, Germany; Nguyen-Tang Canh of South Vietnam and staff member of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Andrew Luce, CIMADE (French Protestant Relief Agency), Paris; Chantone Kounthanya of the Evangelical Church of Laos; the Anglican archbishop, John Sepeku, of Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania; the Rev. Andre Pieters, Brussels, president of the new Protestant Church of Belgium; Mrs. Mercy Oduoye, of Nigeria, All-Africa Conference of Churches; the Rev. Carlos A. Sintado of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina; and Jurgen Hilke of the German Christian Students Movement.

## Greek Archbishop To Speak Next Week

Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, will make several appearances in the Kansas City area while attending "An Ecumenical Witness" conference here next week.

He will conduct the vesper services at 7:30 p.m. next Saturday at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Dionysios, Kansas City, Kansas. A reception in his honor will follow.

Archbishop Iakovos will conduct the divine liturgy at 10 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Greek Orthodox Church of Annunciation, which will be followed by his participation in a prayer service in connection with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He also will be honored at a banquet at Annunciation.

The two Greek Orthodox congregations will be meeting jointly for these special appearances of the Archbishop.

The Orthodox primate has served eight years as co-president of the World Council of Churches and is chairman of the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas. Last year he was named clergyman of the year by Religious Heritage of America.



ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

# Ecumenical Shot in Arm

By Edward B. Fiske  
© 1972, New York Times News Service

New York—The announcement that Anglicans and Roman Catholics have reached agreement on the "essential" teachings about the sacrament of Holy Communion constitutes a boost for the ecumenical movement at a time when most church leaders acknowledge it has lost a good deal of momentum.

The 1,500-word "agreed statement on eucharistic doctrine" was worked out by the 24 bishops and theologians who make up the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission and released with the approval of Pope Paul VI and Dr. Arthur Michael Ramsey, the archbishop of Canterbury.

As the Vatican pointed out in a statement recently released, the document removes only one of the major stumbling blocks to the full reunion of the two branches of Christianity after four centuries of

### Religion Viewpoint

separation. Other serious obstacles remain to be tackled. Nevertheless the statement of doctrinal consensus is an indication of how far the ecumenical movement has progressed on the levels of theology and liturgy.

With the exception of groups such as the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which maintains a hard line on traditional Lutheran orthodoxy, most mainline churches in this country have come to view theology as an ecumenical rather than a sectarian enterprise. Protestant, Catholic and Eastern Orthodox scholars work in each other's seminaries and colleges as colleagues rather than antagonists. Catholics are now full members of the theological arm of the World Council of Churches, which is Protestant and Orthodox.

The informality of living room liturgies, the spontaneity and common purpose of the religious peace movement and other factors have led to widespread disregard of official rules against Protestants and Catholics sharing Holy Communion. Several weeks ago a Lutheran pastor went forward to receive communion at the ordination of some Jesuits as deacons, and no one seemed to think twice about it.

When one moves beyond the

level of doctrine and liturgy to changes in religious institutions, though, the ecumenical movement appears to have lost a good deal of the vitality that it showed in the years during and after the second Vatican Council of 1962 to 1965.

The Consultation on Church Union, which has been working for a decade to merge nine major Protestant churches into one denomination, has provoked little enthusiasm for its plan at the grass roots level. Councils of Churches in the major metropolitan areas are floundering and in some cases, including St. Louis and Miami, have gone out of business. Many clergy and laity are now bored with projects such as the Week of Christian Unity, the annual January effort to get Protestants and Catholics to worship in each other's churches.

Last month the American Catholic bishops refused to modify a ban on Protestant guest preachers in their pulpits. Vatican officials have been pulling back on their cooperative efforts with the World Council of Churches.

Explanations for the general loss of ecumenical enthusiasm at the institutional level since the late 1960s vary widely. Some see it simply as institutional conservatism. It is one thing to agree on the meaning of Holy Communion, they argue; it is quite another to share authority in deciding who is entitled to ordain the

## Dr. King Honor

Employees of the General Motors Division Fairfax Plant will hold a memorial service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King at 2 p.m. next Saturday at Central Christian Church.

The date is the anniversary of Dr. King's birth. The Rev. James Blair, pastor, will speak. Various civic and religious leaders are expected to attend.

## Ecumenism To Be Topic At Loretto

Sister Ann Patrick Ware, a staff member of the National Council of Churches, New York, will meet with Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Loretto in Kansas City.

Her talk will deal with, "How do we seek religious unity? and How do we give a broad base to our religious education, without losing the richness of each individual confession?" The public is invited to the meeting, which will include an open discussion.

In a position paper on ecumenism, distributed at the General Assembly of Sisters of Loretto, August 1971, Sister Ann Patrick said she is convinced there is no future for Christian education unless it be ecumenical.

"Denominational education—that is, Catholic, Lutheran, etc.—only perpetuates division. The future of the church, and therefore of Christian education, depends upon the richness and value of each tradition being preserved, not, however, in separation, but in unity," she wrote.

## Rhodesia Meeting

Dr. James Edward Doty, president of Baker University, is a guest speaker at the Rhodesia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, meeting through Monday.

While in Rhodesia Dr. Doty is organizing a regional World Methodist Family Life Conference to be held in 1974 for English-speaking Southern Africa, which includes Botswana, Zambia, Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. Dr. Doty serves as treasurer of the World Methodist Family Life Conference.

He then will go to Nairobi, Kenya, to organize an East African regional meeting of the conference and to speak to British Methodists. This is his fifth visit to Africa and his fourth to Rhodesia.

## In the Field of RELIGION

MR. AND MRS. JACK M. BARNELL, missionaries to Malawi in Central Africa, will give a presentation of their work at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Overland Park Church of the Nazarene. They have served as principals of the Nazarene Bible College at Limbe.

DR. MAYNARD P. TURNER, pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., will be the guest speaker for the morning worship service tomorrow at the Paseo Baptist Church. Dr. Turner is director of publications for the National Baptist Sunday School Board and dean of the National Baptist Sunday School and Training Union Congress, U.S.A., Inc. He is former president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Nashville, and former president of the Western Baptist Bible College.

GILES FOWLER, motion picture editor and dramatic critic of The Star, will speak at the Temple B'nai Jehudah Forum at 10 a.m. tomorrow. The program has been announced as "A Free-For-All With Giles Fowler."

CATHOLIC WOMAN'S Club will hold its monthly board meeting at 10 a.m. Monday, followed by mass at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. The Rev. Thomas Reardon will speak.



THE REV. C. C. BURNETT, president of Bethany Bible College, Santa Cruz, Calif., and camp-meeting evangelist, will be the guest speaker tomorrow at the Evangel Temple. He is the former vice-president of Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Mo., and assumed his present post in 1959. He also has been active in several interdenominational endeavors and has been included in the 33rd publication of "Who's Who in America."

MISS ANN KIEMEL, director of youth at First Church of the Nazarene, Long Beach, Calif., will speak at 7:30 tonight and at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. tomorrow at Summit View Church of the Nazarene. A graduate of the Nazarene Theological Seminary here, she will begin a new assignment next Saturday as dean of students in charge of women at Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, Mass.

RABBI A. JAMES RUDIN, New York, assistant director of the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, will give the sermon at the Sabbath services at 8:20 p.m. Friday at Temple B'nai Jehudah. His subject will be "For These Two Myths We Give No Thanks." Rabbi Rudin was assistant to Dr. William B. Silverman at B'nai Jehudah from 1962 to 1964.

TEMPOS CHOIR of Central Bible College, Springfield, Mo., will present a concert of sacred music at 10:45 a.m. tomorrow at Central Assembly of God Church, Raytown. They have conducted concerts across the country. The theme for this year is "Crossroads of Life."



DR. CARL BANGS, professor of historical theology at Saint Paul School of Theology Methodist, has been elected president of the American Society of Church History. He served as vice-president last year. Dr. Bangs is the author of a recently published book, "Arminius: A Study in the Dutch Reformation." The society is a 1,300-member body comprised mainly of professors in universities, seminaries and colleges.

WALTER L. SPRATT, president of Central Christian College, Moberly, Mo., has announced he will leave in July upon termination of his contract to become minister of the New Testament Christian Church, Raytown.

THE SINGING DEWEYS', national quartet singing family from Nashville, Tenn., will conduct services at 9:45 a.m., 10:50 a.m. and 7 p.m. tomorrow and at 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Friendly Assembly of God Church.

CLIFFORD H. NOWLIN HALL open house will be from 2 to 5 p.m. tomorrow at the hall, 1905 Hardesty. Nowlin Hall is a retirement home and senior citizen facility, sponsored by College Heights United Methodist, Van Brunt Presbyterian and St. Michael's Roman Catholic churches.

CHRIST LUTHERAN Church in Platte Woods will dedicate a new organ at 10:45 a.m. tomorrow. The organ is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Traugott in memory of Mrs. Henry Traugott and in honor of Mrs. E. L. Junge.

THE REV. PAUL METRICK, missionary to South Africa, will speak at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Independence First Church of the Nazarene. He has served as a missionary since 1945.

LUTHERAN MISSION AUXILIARY of Kansas City, Kansas, and vicinity will meet at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Hope Lutheran Church, Chaplain George Munding, Protestant chaplain at the University of Kansas Medical Center, will speak on his trip to Germany under the auspices of the Department of the Air Force to conduct career development institutes.

## Other World a Well for Sermons

Charles Winn leads a dual life. Five days a week he is an employee in the newsprint department of The Star, where he has worked 15 years. Daily he is the pastor of a small storefront church, where he conducts services and Bible study.

His life resembles that of many pastors of small congregations, who hold regular full or part-time jobs. For many this is a financial necessity. The 40-year-old pastor points out he is married with five children to support. But also, he said, he enjoys his contacts with the "outside world."

"It makes your work a little harder," he explained, "but I meet a lot more people this way. And I would say I get half of my sermons from something I see each and ev-



In the Plant

... Charles Winn holds a full-time job in the newsprint department of The Star.



In the Pulpit

... he performs usual duties as pastor of a small church.

church has about 60 members. His wife, Mrs. Lenora Winn, helps in maintaining the building.

He has noticed storefront churches "popping up" in the community, but feels "you cannot have too many churches. Just look at the number of beer taverns."

Winn describes his ministry as "basic and fundamental, established solidly on the Word of God. The main thing in life, I believe, is to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and to help others through love and kindness."

He said most of his associates at work know he is a minister and respect him but he tells them to be themselves. He also tells them about Christ.

Winn, whose father is a