

MISSION TO THE WORLD

Essays to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of George Raymond Beasley-Murray to the Christian ministry

FOREWORD

As I have reflected on my father's past fifty years of ministry, no theme seemed to be more appropriate for a collection of essays in his honour than 'Mission to the World'. It was no accident that on 29 April 196, in his Baptist Union Presidential Address, he chose to speak on the subject *Renewed for Mission*, for down through the years my father has been passionately concerned to see the lost won for Christ. Even in his retirement, along with his writing, he is still seeking to befriend those who know not the Saviour. As he declared on that Presidential evening, 'There is a Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved, *and that Name must be heard*. To make Him known is to give men and women the possibility of life from the dead in the here and now; to withhold the News of Him is to withhold this life from them.'

It is this theme of mission that we have chosen to treat and examine from a variety of scholarly standpoints. All the essays have been written by men who were previously students under my father at Spurgeon's College: John Colwell (Pastor, King's Church, Catford, London), Athol Gill (Tutor at Whitley College, Victoria, Australia), Colin Marchant (President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, 1988), Bruce Milne (Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Vancouver, Canada), Mike Nicholls (Vice-Principal of Spurgeon's College), Derek Winter (now retired after a distinguished missionary career), and Nigel Wright (Tutor, Spurgeon's College). A member of my father's college batch, Jack Brown (President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, 1972) kindly wrote the personal appreciation. The one non-Spurgeonic contribution was made by Larry Kreitzer, a former student of my father's from the years spent at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

It has been a great delight and joy to me to edit this collection of essays. I am most grateful to all the contributors for their willingness to take part in this enterprise. Likewise special words of gratitude must be expressed to Roger Hayden, the Secretary of the Baptist Historical Society, who has given most generously of his time in helping me with the editorial task; to Audrey Jones and Caroline Lovejoy, two of the Spurgeon's College secretaries who have transferred the manuscripts to computer disc; to Faith Bowers of the Baptist Historical Society who has overseen the production process; and finally to Sir Cyril Black, a former member of the Spurgeon's College Council, who has made a generous subsidy to the publication of this volume.

PAUL BEASLEY-MURRAY