

Learn If You Can Make College Grade

Madonna College will sponsor two orientation sessions on Wednesday, July 22, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. for women interested in learning about Madonna's experimental college program for prospective adult students. The experimental program offers women, regardless of past educational experiences, the opportunity to pursue college courses on a trial basis before actually matriculating at the college.

few as one course or as many as five courses during sessions this fall. Tours will be available and guests will have the opportunity to meet with currently-enrolled adult students who will be on hand to answer questions.

FOR DESCRIPTIVE brochures about the orientation program or further information about the orientation sessions, interested women may call or write the Admissions Office, Madonna College, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

WOMEN ACCEPTED into the program may pursue as

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By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Women on the Go Ex-Missionary Refuses To Retire; Keeps Active

Many churchwomen in this area know a lot about China and its problems and prospects because Helen Desjardins decided against entering a home for retired missionaries.

Miss Desjardins, who spent 33 years as a missionary in China and then 12 more years in Malaysia and Singapore, came to Plymouth eight years ago and has been busy teaching and speaking ever since. She maintains a pleasant apartment and is an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. She also travels around lower Michigan making talks to varied groups of church women.

"I wanted to retire to Michigan," said Miss Desjardins, who is the daughter of a Methodist minister and spent her early years in the thumb area. "Michigan was always the place I said I was from."

THE REV. HUGH WHITE, then pastor of the Plymouth church, offered her part-time work in religious education, so she made Plymouth her home.

Miss Desjardins was associated with girls' schools in China and in her early years in Malaysia. The last six years before retiring she changed to a different and very satisfying branch of missionary work—teaching Christian education to young theological students in a Singapore school.

In 1967 she spent three months back at the same school as a staff member and then traveled in Malaysia for

another three months looking up about 70 of her former students.

Miss Desjardins was in China about 20 months under Communist rule.

"The first year was fine for our schools," she said. "Sort of a honeymoon time, I guess. But the last eight months was during the time of the Korean war, and the pressures became too great. We were not forced to leave. At every station, the Chinese Communists would ask why we were leaving."

"OUR ANSWER was that we had no work. And this was true, because it was no longer safe for our people to have contact with us. They didn't turn away from us, but we didn't want them in danger, so we tried to keep away from them."

Regarding the Communist regime, Miss Desjardins feels people should know that many changes for which the Communists take credit had been started under Chiang Kai-shek. "As far back as 1927," she said, "we missionaries were no longer running the schools. The government said foreigners could only serve as advisors and Chinese nationals had to be in charge."

"At first it was hard to find people, and we took young women right out of college. But they made good."

SHE ALSO POINTED out that at that time signs went up



LOOKING BACK — Helen Desjardins has a reflective look as she talks about her 45 years as a missionary. (Observer photo)

in the park near the school where she worked saying that women under 30 with bound feet would not be permitted in the park.

"The custom of bound feet for women was going under Chiang," she said, "but the Communists have taken credit for it."

While pointing out that her contacts were with middle and upper class Chinese rather than with the peasants, Miss Desjardins said she had felt in China a definite move toward change from the feudal system before the Communists took over. "I know Chiang made many mistakes," she said, "but I

know he was much admired. It isn't true that he was generally hated."

GUESSING ABOUT what is going on in China today, Miss Desjardins said she believes many of the people "are not revolutionaries but are living along with what is."

She also said she would guess the government, in spite of belligerent statements, is more committed to the idea of slow world revolution than war at this time. "The Chinese are wonderful people," she concluded. "They're good-humored and tolerant. I still feel they're my folks."

Christmas Spirit Hits Red Cross

While most people are looking forward to summering the activities, the Christmas spirit is already sweeping Southwestern Michigan as Red Cross volunteers begin to make gift bags for distribution to American service personnel in Vietnam next Christmas.

The project, "Share with Vietnam 1970," will help brighten the holiday season for the men on the front lines, those in the motor pool garages, and all others in Vietnam who cannot be home with their families.

For the fifth year, community organizations, religious groups, business firms and local industries will assist the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross in making the brightly colored drawing gift bags and providing items to fill them.

Their goal this year is to provide 2,400 of the filled bags for distribution to servicemen and women.

SUGGESTED gift items include: ballpoint pens, small pen knives, windproof cigarette lighters with flints, small packets of writing paper, self-sealing envelopes, tear-resistant washcloths, nail clippers, plastic cigarette cases, compass, mailing-size voice tapes, six-volt vacuum-packed tins, 40-watt non-melting candles, small plastic snapshot holders, black shoe polish, pocket games, adhesive bandages, "wash and dries," batteries for transistor radios, white cotton socks, playing cards, small cash openers, and pre-sweetened Kool-Aid.

Interested individuals and organizations wishing to aid the Red Cross in this project by providing items to fill the gift bags should contact the Southeastern Michigan Chapter, American Red Cross, 153 E. Elizabeth St., Detroit 48222, phone 961-3900.

Co-chairmen for this year's project are Mrs. Emerson J. Luxmoore of South Rockford, and Mrs. Elmer Lombard of Trenton.

DURING the early summer, Red Cross volunteers will cut and sew the bags while the items to be sent are being collected. Later in the summer

Motor Aid Corps Recruits Volunteers

Licensed drivers over 21 are being sought by a new organization called Mightie MAC, the Motor Aid Corps.

People willing to volunteer a few hours a week for driving are needed by people who have to go to hospitals, clinics or social service agencies, but have no transportation.

Mightie MAC is hoping to bring the two together. It is a cooperative effort of two groups of church women and the Detroit Community Services of Wayne.

The women's groups are the Wayne Vicariate Service units of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, and the Wayne County units of Church Women United.

UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP of Mrs. Thomas Clarke

of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, the committee includes, from this area, Mrs. Joseph Glenn of Westland, Mrs. Julius Zink of Redford Township, Mrs. John Yori and Mrs. John Sobkowick of Garden City, and Mrs. Herschel Ping, Mrs. Peter Stevens, Mrs. Anne Verbeke and Mrs. Joseph Weinburger all of Livonia.

They have already made arrangements to assist the Red Cross, the Michigan Cancer Foundation and the Downriver Child Guidance Clinic.

The Corps will welcome calls from individuals who wish to volunteer at Mightie MAC, 291-2662, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

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