

## SYLVIA M. WILSON FACT SHEET

- Sylvia Marie was one of three children born to Edith and William Abeene on June 3, 1900 at Coles Valley, Oregon (near Roseburg).
- She made a profession of faith and was baptized at an early age.
- She married Burt G. Thompson. When Sylvia was left alone after 10 years of marriage, she moved to Portland with her two small daughters, Doris and Lois. She made her home with her parents who lived just up the street from Antioch Baptist Church (now Lincoln Street Baptist Church).
- In 1932, Sylvia married William Henry Wilson. At the outbreak of World War II, William enlisted in the Navy. While in the service he suffered a heart attack. He came home disabled and died in 1944.
- Sylvia joined Antioch Baptist Church, now Lincoln Street Baptist Church. Sylvia served as Woman's Missionary Union Director, Superintendent of the Junior Department, Adult Sunday School teacher, Prayer Chairman, Youth Director, and WMU Director of Interstate Baptist Association. Sylvia willingly and faithfully gave of her services to help lead conferences. You could also find her cooking and washing dishes at youth retreats.
- Sylvia's home was always open to missionaries, young people and all who needed a place to stay. She gave generously of herself, her time and her means. Sylvia was cheerful and enthusiastic, always giving encouragement to others.
- The Baptist Convention of Oregon-Washington (now Northwest Baptist Convention) was formed in 1948. A few months later Sylvia Wilson was elected the first president of the convention's Woman's Missionary Union. She served faithfully for 16 years. During this time, Sylvia went up and down the Northwest encouraging, inspiring and training churches in mission education and mission involvement.
- Sylvia chose Christ above all and served him freely and completely for the rest of her life. She was a member of Lincoln Street Baptist church for 48 years.
- The night before her death, she was very sensitive to the feelings and needs of others, as she attempted to calm their fears. She said, "Please do not be sad. If it is to be good night here, it will be good morning in glory." On May 30, Sylvia Marie Wilson went to be with the Lord.
- Since 1948, more than \$3,830,000 has been given through the mission offering. Through the years the offering has been used for many different ministries in the Northwest including Language Missions, Collegiate Ministries, Church Planting, Leadership Development, Senior Adult Ministries, Evangelism, Youth Ministries, and Gateway Seminary of the SBC.
- After her death in 1977, the annual offering for Northwest Missions was named for her. "In the truest sense of the word, Sylvia Wilson devoted her life to knowing and doing what her Master commanded. She was probably closest to her Master's wishes when she was teaching and supporting missions."