

His Request Went Round the World

SAIGON, Vietnam—Alfred J. (Ski) Maruszewski was baptized at 2:30 p.m., Vietnam time, on Dec. 24, 1966. The only unusual aspect of his baptism was that his request traveled around the world before it was fulfilled.

Wayne Briggs, missionary in Saigon, told the story of how he received a letter from Jack Hoover of the church of Christ in Dearborn, Mich., asking that someone look up Maruszewski. The army soldier had written home to his wife stating that he wanted to become a Christian, but had not been able to locate any Christians to baptize him. Hoover's letter gave only the Army post office, called APO

number, but didn't give his base address.

Briggs found, after checking with the Army, that Maruszewski's unit was located northwest of Saigon within driving distance. Using the church's Volkswagen, Briggs was directed to the Army unit by a badly informed Military Policeman and wound up 40 miles northeast of Saigon. Later that afternoon he located the unit he was searching for, but Maruszewski was in combat in a tank recovery vehicle.

Thursday, Briggs returned and finally located Maruszewski. When he told the soldier, "I received a letter from Jack

Hoover and he mentioned that perhaps you would like to contact a member of the church," Maruszewski replied, "Yes, I'm glad to see you, I want to be baptized."

On Friday Briggs returned with Captain Eugene Scott, a Christian who is also an Army chaplain. Scott knew the location of a military swimming pool several miles away in Bien Hoa. He also could arrange for Maruszewski's leave from duty to be baptized. At 2:30 p.m. that afternoon, Maruszewski was baptized into Christ.

His wife, Barbara, and their children live at 8205 Asbury Park in Detroit.