

Go Ye Into All the World and Preach the Gospel to Every Creature

THEY WAIT FOR US . . .

G. Arnold Hodgin

The return of Jesus Christ our Lord to earth is beyond question a coming event, sure and fore-fixed. This corporeal event can never be denied if we believe the Bible. It has been rightly said that more New Testament Scriptures refer directly to the second coming of our Lord than to any other important event, not excepting Pentecost. Surely, what God has referred to so often in His Book, we may profitably consider.

There is one recorded event and message which comes to our thinking at this time with distinct and dynamic impressiveness. It is that given in Acts 1:11. We think especially of the words, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." It will be remembered that the trusting and loyal disciples saw the Man whom they had known for three years and with whom they had walked and talked, both before and after His death and resurrection, now before their astonished gaze change worlds in a cloud. Forlornly they stood, bewildered, gazing at the cloud which had just received Him out of their sight. Then two white-clad men appeared, in all probability angels who said, "Why gaze into heaven? This same Jesus is coming again!"

It appears to us that the lesson the disciples were to learn from that message may be the one for us. What were they not to do? They were not to stand gazing. They were to go and tell the world about a risen Lord and a dynamic Gospel. Note if you will, the close relational affinity between the visible ascension of Jesus on the fortieth day after His resurrection, and the message of promise; and the wonderful five-fold commission, given by Christ himself. That five-fold command and authorization vouchsafed to those men, are found embodied in the words of Christ just shortly before His ascension and recorded in the four Gospels—the last chapters—and Acts, the first chapter. Note the terms used. Matthew 28:19 records, "Teach all nations." Mark 16:15 tells us that He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Literal Greek, "all creation.") Luke writes in chapter 24, verse 27, "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations." The Gospel by John, 21:15-17 gives Christ's message to Peter. It was, in essence, "Feed my lambs * * * feed my sheep." In Acts 1:8 we have the message, given just before His ascension to the apostles whom Christ had chosen. That message was,

"Ye shall receive power," and "Ye shall be witnesses unto me."

There we have the order of events. The commission of the Church was to teach, preach, preach repentance and remission of sins, feed the lambs and sheep, and bear witness all over the world.

Now what have we done? A sad, sordid picture is lifted before our eyes. The great preponderant majority of men and women bearing the name "Christian" have for nearly two thousand years done little more than gaze, while millions are left without a witness!

Now we are told that we are fast approaching the end of this Church Age—the Holy Ghost dispensation—and this writer firmly believes that the end of the age is near, and that Christ's coming is very soon) while multiplied millions wait on, in their welter of sin and superstition for men of God to preach, teach and witness to them about a Gospel that saves from all sin.

Oh, yes, we know that heroic souls have gone to the ends of the earth and preached valiantly and effectively. They have led many to Christ. Transformed lives attest all around the world, the genuineness and power of the Word preached. But who will rise up and dare to say the task is anything more than just begun?

Brethren in the ministry, can we not stir our people in a mighty way to do something about this great challenge which is presented to us anew since the fighting has ceased and the lights have gone on again all over the world? Shall we leave the work of world evangelization to be merely attempted by comparatively few? Our Lord may come and find us idle. I do not think we can afford it!

"GO YE"

Hear your commission, O Church of the Master!

Friends and disciples of Jesus, take heed. How are you doing the work of the Father?

How are you caring for hunger and need?

Useless to stay in your doorway, and beckon—
Those who most need you will never come in;

Fighting the devil with art and with culture,
How he must laugh in his stronghold of sin!

Go—to the sheep that are scattered and fainting,

Having no shepherd, and tell them to come;

Go—to the highways, and tell "every creature,"

Still the feast waiteth, and yet there is room.

Go—the time shortens, the night is approaching—

Harvests are whit'ning and reapers are few;

Somewhere, perhaps, in the darkness are dying
Souls that might enter the kingdom with
you.

Go—for the foe goeth, tireless, cunning;
Body and soul he is holding in fee.
Go—lift his gauge in the might of the Stronger,
And in that Power declare the slaves free!

Go—our Lord goeth to man's petty judgment,
Bearing His cross in the midst of His foes;
Let us go forth to Him, mocked and derided,
Bear His reproaches, and share in His woes.

Go—Church of Christ, for He goeth before you,
And all the way that ye take He doth know.
On the glad morrow He'll say, "Come ye
blessed,"

But till the dawning the message is "GO!"

—ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland Mission Station,
June 2nd, 1947.

Dear Homeland Friends:

We are having our first winter day to-day—a cold, raw wind blowing and everyone is glad to stay indoors. The change is generally so sudden that one must be careful not to catch cold. Many native babies die of pneumonia in this season. Recently I have treated several babies for pneumonia, and I expect there will be more before the week is finished. Yesterday a lovely fat baby boy was brought for me to examine. He was only between three and four months old, and was wrapped in an old jacket. I just couldn't resist giving him a pneumonia jacket to wear—could you?

Charlie left about nine a.m. for Watervaal to visit a woman who was ill. Before Sunday School was finished, a man rode up on horseback saying she had died during the night. He then asked me for a winding sheet and some thread, as he had been to the store and the man was away at church. I had nothing except a sheet, so gave him that. But he did appreciate it.

I had to try out my Zulu in the afternoon service as there was no one to interpret for me. The sermon wasn't long, and two of the congregation helped me with the words I did not know or couldn't remember. One does appreciate the help and sympathy of the people at a time like that, for the enemy would try to make one feel as small and as stupid as he