

### THE PRESENT MISSIONARY CHALLENGE

The present challenge of missions centers largely around six vital facts:

1. The depth and breadth of the need.
2. The open-heartedness of multitudes.
3. The accessibility of the fields.
4. The waiting candidates.
5. The slowness of the home church to respond, and
6. The shortness of the time.

For persons who live in America, where the gospel light shines quite brightly, to fully comprehend the depths of dense spiritual darkness which envelope many areas of the earth, is difficult if not impossible. One authority says there are 16,000,000 Indians living in the jungles in the heart of South America. Many tribes of naked savages have never been contacted even once by a gospel messenger. Although wise in the ways of the jungles, where a white man would perish they have learned to survive, they are wholly ignorant of many things which are common to us, such as paper, writing, shoes, furniture, houses, electricity, glass, medicines, etc., not to mention the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many towns and villages in China and India and in other lands, into which not even one ray of gospel light has ever shined. Never has a preacher, gospel portion, radio broadcast, Christian magazine, sermon, Christian testimony, the name of Christ, a Christian or any other gospel influence, ever reached them. Spiritually they are in utter darkness, knowing only the worship of man-made images which can neither hear, see nor sympathize with the sufferings of those who become their devotees.

Add to this absolute darkness all that it produces in superstition, ignorance, fear, suspicion, hopelessness, sin and death and one has a little glimpse of the depth of the need.

Multiply by the number of unreached communities in the whole wide world, and you will see the breadth of the present challenge.

The unenlightened human heart reaches out for something that will satisfy. Not knowing the true God, it will accept substitutes. Idolatry, then, becomes an expression of the hunger of the darkened heart for its Creator. Until he understands that the gospel is the life-giving truth he has been longing for, a man may oppose it. But in vast areas of earth there is an increasing desire to hear the gospel, for they have heard that it is good, and many have witnessed its transforming power in the lives of some of their own countrymen.

In China today the rank and file of people are more open-hearted toward the gospel than ever before. The labor and tears of the missionaries during the past one hundred and forty years are bearing much fruit. This is the day of harvest in China. No wonder Satan is making a supreme effort to hinder.

Japan is more open to the gospel than at any time in her history, for her national Shinto religion has demonstrated its impotency.

Europe is a great mission field today because multitudes are in confusion and hopelessness. Many are responding in a very heartening manner to the evangelistic efforts of various groups working among them.

In Africa and Latin America missionaries report a deepening interest in the gospel and

India presents a tremendous challenge with the door still wide open.

Within five hundred miles of El Paso, Tex., the writer recently visited a mountainous area where about 50,000 Indians of the Tarahumara tribe have lived for several hundred years, practically untouched by civilization. Many of them live in caves in the mountains or under protruding rock ledges, while others live in crude huts made of logs. Just outside our doorstep we have let them lie helpless in the dark.

It took Adoniram Judson and Hudson Taylor many weary weeks to reach their fields. Today missionaries reach the same fields in two or three weeks of comfortable travel by boat or two or three days by air. South America may be reached now in only a matter of hours.

As the barriers of time and distance are overcome by modern inventions, our responsibility for lost souls in other lands increases. We can get to them with the only message that will meet their desperate need. Why don't we do it?

Will the evangelical forces of America rise to meet the challenge of this hour? The answer rests with you and me.

### LET'S CALL IT CHRISTMAS

"Never do I see the letter X substituted for Christ's name," says Vick Knight in *The Reader's Digest*, "in the word Christmas without flinching a little. I'd like to start a movement to bar this abbreviation from our language. X is the algebraic symbol for an unknown quantity. In my opinion Jesus Christ is very much a known quantity. \* \* \* I don't believe there is anyone in America who can't find time and space for proper reverence to the name of our Lord. Let's call it Christmas." —Alliance Weekly.

### OTHERS

"Lord, help me live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way,  
That even when I kneel to pray  
My prayer shall be for—Others.

"Help me in all the work I do  
To ever be sincere and true,  
And know that all I do for You  
Must needs be done for—Others.

"Let 'self' be crucified and slain,  
And buried deep; and all in vain  
May efforts be to rise again,  
Unless to live for—Others.

"Others, Lord, yes—Others,  
Let this my motto be:  
Help me to live for Others,  
That I may live like Thee."  
—Selected.

### REASONS FOR MISSIONS

Dr. Howell Davies

1. Missions are a transforming power. The soldiers and sailors in the South Seas report this frequently and emphatically. A boy wrote, "Well, Mom, the missionaries have done absolutely marvelous work among the natives of these islands." A service man in New Guinea wrote "As far as I am concerned every nickel ever spent on a missionary has been justified." A Navy Officer wrote his pastor: "I don't believe anybody will come back from this war without being 100% for foreign missions." A

corporal, not a church member, wrote his pastor how a handful of missionaries had risked their lives and sacrificed comforts and luxuries of home to teach Christianity to the savages of New Georgia. These natives saved numberless soldiers' lives. A corporal wrote: "As a token of my appreciation of the wonderful work these missionaries have done, I am enclosing a money order for \$100 with the request that it be used for foreign missionary work."

2. Missions are the true basis of world peace. As Congressman Walter Judd said, "Christianity is the only religion that gives an adequate ideology for co-operation between the people of the world."

3. Missions render a distinct service to the individuals reached with some 55,400 schools, 3,401 hospitals and dispensaries, over 100,000 teachers and 243,000 native and foreign workers. Through the international simplified method of "Each One, Teach One" of one missionary, Dr. Frank Laubach of the Philippines, millions of illiterates have now learned to read. Sir Arthur Mayhew, Director of Public Instruction in the Central Provinces of India, says: "The record of the life and personality of Jesus Christ has done more educationally for India than the whole of Western literature." So it is natural that the people of these other lands, rather than resenting the coming of missionaries, are begging for more of them. The sentiments of a native helped in a missionary hospital can easily be imagined.

4. Missions are succeeding. They steadily advance. Even the 168 German, Norwegian, Dutch, French, and Finnish missions orphaned by being cut off from their supporting churches by the war, were all kept operating by extra gifts from America and Canada.

5. Missions build the universal Church, which is the true Church.

6. Missions are the will of God to accomplish his eternal purpose and to meet the needs of his less privileged and unreached children.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Meductic, New Brunswick.

Dear Highway Friends:

During the month of August I had the privilege of supplying as pastor in our new church at Doaktown.

The people of Doaktown made my work very enjoyable. I appreciated the fellowship of sincere Christian friends, and the attitude of the people in general. I was also encouraged with the work of the Lord in that place. There has been a definite revival in the last two years and there is prospect of a greater work being done in the salvation of souls.

On Friday evening, August 27th, several Christian friends gathered at the home of Gerald Mitchell to hold a surprise party for me at which I was presented with a generous purse of money.

Sunday, August 29th, we were greatly assisted in our services by the Gospel Trio from Fredericton, accompanied by Vesta Dunlap.

In closing I would like to say "hello" to everyone in Doaktown and "Highway" friends everywhere.

Yours in Christian love,  
CONRAD STAIRS.