

MISSIONARY PAGE

To the Unconverted Everywhere

Dr. O. G. Wilson

A missionary, writing from Manchuria, told of seeing displayed by the Standard Oil Company the ambitious slogan: "Get the light to every dark corner of the world."

This is a challenge to the church of Jesus Christ, and is according to the command of our Incomparable Lord.

According to Robert Hall Glover, in *World-Wide Missions*, "The Christian missions is the proclamation of the Gospel to the unconverted everywhere according to the command of Christ."

The proclamation of the Gospel to men everywhere rests upon the command and commission of Christ for its authority. His final command is most inclusive, pressingly urgent, and it is binding upon His followers to all generations.

Says Egbert W. Smith in *The Desire of All Nations*: "Is it not the irresistible logic of the Christian conscience that what we have which we know to be universally good we are bound to share; . . . and since Christ is infinitely the best we have we are more bound than by any other obligation in the world to share Him?"

Christianity, selfishly kept, spoils. It is like manna in the wilderness—disobediently kept, it spoiled. The very soul of Christianity is sharing our best with others. When sharing ceases, self occupies the center of attention; then the great fundamental certainties become vague. Faith somehow becomes bound up with meaningless formulas and with the observance of endless traditions.

As I sat on convention and camp-meeting platforms during the year I was plagued with the thought, Are these people consumed with a desire to make Christ known, or are they concerned chiefly with Christ helping and blessing them? Again and again the thought occurred, How many of these camp-meeting goers are willing to suffer for Christ, willing to give up all for Him in order that others might know of His redeeming love?

Our forefathers believed that men everywhere without Christ were in immediate danger of facing the wrath of God. Our modern world has largely lost this urgent note in the message of the Gospel. This attitude has cut the nerve of missionary obligation and enthusiasm.

As I read the Book of the Acts I am convinced that Christianity is a war of startling Assurance against blind uncertainty. It is little wonder that those early men swept everything before them. They were certain of their beliefs. They went out to tell what took place at Calvary, at Joseph's new tomb. They affirmed, declared, announced. In their affirmations they condemned all other religions as false lights. "There is none other name" was the hard core of their preaching.

All auxiliaries of their witnessing were projects of kindness through which the Christian compassion for suffering humanity was seen. The beauty and grandeur of the service rendered without partiality to the needy of all classes and of all races made it easy to believe that the Gospel was of divine origin. Social service and humanitarian projects are not ends

in themselves but are means to the end of making Christ known.

Recently I came across a little article which attempts to answer the question, Who are missionaries? The author's name was not given so I pass it on as the work of an Unknown Writer. I think it was published in the little folder "Men and Missions":

A Doctor is not a missionary simply because he functions at a mission hospital unless in his ministry to the physical need of the patient, he likewise imparts spiritual benefit.

An Agriculturist is not a missionary simply because he teaches a nationalist how to produce more food. He becomes a missionary when he also dispenses the Bread of Life.

An Educator is not a missionary because he teaches to read and write and provides for an intellectual development. He is a missionary when he introduces men to the Gospel and to the Teacher who taught as never man taught.

The Architect, the Industrialists, the Technicians are not missionaries unless they use their ability to administer to the spiritual needs of man as well as the economic development of the country.

There rests upon the Church of our day a demand extraordinary. Every talent, every resource needs to be requisitioned for the stupendous task of evangelizing the world in this generation. The forces available to the Church through all ages are at our disposal. Our strength is not in machinery nor in organization but in the power of the Holy Spirit. With two-thirds of the world still pagan, and with a militant godless communism threatening every country, we must harness the unused resources, employ every available means, and engage every opportunity to make Christ known to the unconverted everywhere.

—Wesleyan Methodist.

THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE

A missionary spirit is identical with a passion for souls; there is no difference. Yearning over the lost is a God-given urge implanted in the hearts of His children by the Holy Spirit. They who do not have such concern may well ask God to search their hearts, for soul-pas-sion is a family trait in God's family.

Evangelism at home and foreign missions abroad stem from the same root, draw their life and support from the same ground, bear the same fruit, equally glorify God. We separate them and commit their care to different church boards only to promote the success of both by specialized attention.

In any work of God, at home or abroad, the same consecration is demanded, the same self-denial, the same cross bearing. There is no such thing as a two-standard sort of consecration demanded for foreign missionaries and home Christians. We all are in a hostile world; we all are "at home" in Father's vineyard. "The field is the world." And for obedience the Master will bestow the same reward. W. R. W.

Thomas S. Kepler in his recent book, "A Spiritual Journey with Paul," states that while Protestant Christians the world over were putting \$30,000,000 into their world missionary envelopes during a twelve-month period, 625,000 people in 24 days laid down \$57,760,942 on the horses at Belmont, Long Island, race track.

NOT A SACRIFICE, BUT A JOY

A rich business man and a prominent attorney were travelling around the world. They saw many impressive sights, but agreed that something they saw in Korea was most impressive of all.

One morning as they walked along a country road in Korea, they saw a boy pulling a plow which was steered by an old man. It amused the attorney so much that he insisted on taking a picture of the scene with his little pocket camera. Later he showed the picture to a missionary in the next village, remarking about the peculiar spectacle.

"Yes," said the missionary, "it seems a very strange way to plow a field, but I happen to know the boy and the old man well. They are very poor. However, when the little church was built here in the village, they wanted to contribute something. They had no money. They had not grain to spare and winter was coming on, so they sold their ox and gave the money to the church building fund, and now, minus the valuable animal, they have to pull the plow themselves."

The men looked at each other for a moment, then the attorney said: "But what a stupendous sacrifice! Why did you allow it?"

"They did not feel that way about it, they regarded it as a great joy that they had an ox to give to the Lord's work."—The S. S. Friend.

REPEAT IT AND SEE

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Great Commission. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Apostles' Creed. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Lord's Prayer. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Doxology in long meter. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe that verse, so often quoted, John 3:16. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions believes that two-thirds of earth's population should perish without hope.

How many more millions must die before the church of God moves forward? "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."—Temple Evangelist.

WHEN THE CLOCK STOPS

A missionary in India writes: "At a village, a dear old woman noticed my wrist watch; so I put it on her. You should have seen her face! She called to the other woman, and said: 'Come, come! Here is a machine that keeps saying, "Quick, quick, quick." I was then able to tell her that we keep a watch to remind us how very quickly time is passing; that one day the watch would stop, and so would her heart, and then she would have to meet God. What would she do? It was a solemn time, and she said, with big tears in her eyes, 'I will worship Jesus, so that when the clock stops, I will need not fear.'"

—Sunday School Chronicle.

The King's Highway