

World of Missions.

The Present Missionary Opportunity.

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It is always dangerous to pray for opportunities. We have already more than we are improving, and God's answers are sure to be in excess of our expectation. Ten years ago the Church was crying for more open doors. God gave them. All doors are open now save one, and because that one remains closed the Church stands aghast before all the others until that one opens the door of her own heart to receive the pity of God for the world and the power of God for its service. There is no need of praying for any other door to unclose. The whole world is open for whatever messengers will come. Look at the missionary opportunities it offers us.

First of all, because most shunned, is the Mohammedan world. Two hundred millions of people follow the prophet of Medina-Mecca. Sixty millions of them live under a Christian queen in India; seven million live under the shah of Persia; thirty-three million are ruled by the sultan of Turkey. The faith of these people has taught them the unity and reality of God, and made them the fierce soldiers of His sovereignty. Their prophet has taught them a bigotry and fanaticism not to be matched by the intolerance of any other faith. From the days of Raymond Lull persecution or martyrdom has been the lot of Mohammedan converts, and of those who strove to win them. The way Islam has held the reins of civil as well as religious power in Moslem lands has made it possible for it to bar the advance of Christianity, and to deny all religious liberty. Now the rule of the Moslem in Turkey is disintegrating. The sixty millions of Indian Moslems are as open as the population of America, and in Persia a Christian has been as much tolerated as a Moslem of the Orthodox sect, while Kitchener is opening the Sudan. It is time to reach these followers of the false prophet. Heroes are needed who will hold life of light account but who will have a passion for Moslem souls. There is an opportunity for such to carry the cross to two hundred million followers of Islam, in Turkey, Persia, Arabia, India, and Africa. There never was such an opportunity before.

Mohammed arose six centuries after Christ. Six centuries before Christ another great religious teacher taught who called himself only a man, but whom hundreds of millions have made a god. His statues fill eastern Asia. In stone or bronze or marble or mud or wood they look down from the hilltops of Korea, from the temples of Japan and China, from the shrines and pagodas of Burma and Siam. Buddhism has left its devotees feeble and needy as Islam has left its devotees needy and fierce. The whole Buddhist world has been opened up. The Gospel is preached even in Tibet. From far northern Laos, Mr. and Mrs. Dodd write:

"We have never known any people so cordial and friendly. They are so delighted to find foreigners who can speak their language. How we wish we could stay right here and water the seed which there is only time to sow! Sometimes we realize that we have penetrated to the centre of a wide field of darkness. The nearest point of light on the south is Chung-Hai; on the west at Mone, about fifteen days from here, is the Baptist mission; to the north, even farther away in China, is the Inland Mission, while on the east, weeks away, are the French Catholics, of many of whom it may be said, we fear, that the light that is in them is darkness."

Years ago Buddhism lost what hold it had upon Korea; and the 12,000,000 of its people, fearing spirits and bowing down to devils, turn an open mind to the free teaching and an open heart to the loving spirit of the Gospel. Korea is waiting to be won for Christ or lured into a godless wilderness.

And when have China and Japan presented such opportunities? On the 17th of July the revised

treaties introduced Japan to an equality with the West, and removed the sense of inferiority which under the old treaties had made Japan fretful and nervous. Free residence anywhere, and a sort of government license of evangelists and churches, of teachers and schools, capable of abuse, but still promising good, it may be hoped, make this "seem like a second opening of the country."

The greatest of all Buddhist lands, which is scarcely Buddhist, because its spirit has been so absolutely shaped by its own great agnostic teacher, Confucius, nearly fell like an avalanche into the ways of the West, and an eager study of the religion of the West as the result of the reform movement of Kang Yu Wei last year. Though that movement collapsed, these 50,000,000 homes are open to us if we will go to them. If immediate steps are taken, we may expect to see speedy and marvelous results in the turning of the millions of China to Jesus, and this crisis in China made an immediate blessing to the rest of the human race; whereas, if we neglect to take adequate measures, God may take our opportunity away.

In India two hundred and eighty-six million people are living under the British flag, and civilization is eating away their inherited notions and crumbling the pedestals of their idols. Christianity is free to do just what its disciples wish or attempt. It is a matter, not of making opportunities, but of accepting them. These are recent appeals:

From Hyderabad a missionary working among the hill tribes writes, "In a population of 50,000 my wife and I are the only missionaries.

"Chanda, with an area of 10,749 square miles, with 2,700 villages and a population of over 890,000, has twenty missionaries.

"Ballia is entirely unoccupied. The population is 924,768."

As for Africa, the railroads are creeping in regardless of the lives that are spent, laid almost like ties under the gleaming rails. The military expeditions move up and down, to and fro, heedless of ruin and agony and national fame. Shall a conti-

nent be open to the trader and the trooper, and be shut to the messenger of the God who owns all lands and all souls?

And the countries from which the stifling hand of the Church of Rome, cold and throttling as the hand of Islam when left to work its inevitable result, has withheld life and progress and liberty, have one by one opened to light and freedom. The century has witnessed the political domination of the pope clipping off our hemisphere and off the islands of the seas. Forty million people in South America alone, or touched as yet with the message of a buoyant and delivering Gospel, contribute an opportunity lying like Lazarus at our door.

These are our opportunities. God has done His part and given them to us. As Dr. A. J. Gordon said: "I have long since ceased to pray, 'Lord Jesus have compassion on a lost world!' I remember the day and the hour when I seemed to hear the Lord rebuking me for making such a prayer. He seemed to say to me, 'I have had compassion upon a lost world, and now it is for you to have compassion . . . I have given my heart; give your hearts.'"

Prayer for Missions.

"Before 'Give,' before 'Go,' comes 'Pray.' This is the Divine order, and any attempt to altar it will end in disaster. Prayer is to missionary work what air is to the body—the air in which we live."

—Rev. George H. C. Macgregor, M.A.

Fearst sometimes that Thy Father

Hath forgot?

Though the clouds around thee gather,

Don't Him not.

Always hath the daylight broken;

Always hath He comfort spoken;

Better hath He been for years

Than thy fears.

—From "The Shadow of the Rock."

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Do not try experiments with your health. If you are not well use only a medicine known to cure. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are not an experiment. They have cured thousands of people, who have tried common medicines and failed to find health. Some of the cured are in your own neighborhood.

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Do not take anything that does not bear the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." It is an experiment and a hazardous one to use a substitute. Sold by all dealers or post paid at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville.

