

## Heartsease.

### THE MINISTRY OF CHILDREN.

"Children are God's apostles, day by day  
Sent forth to preach of love, and hope and peace."

—Lowell.

You have quite lately had the word missionary explained to you. Your childish voices have repeated the definition, "A missionary is one who is sent to tell the Gospel Story."

The Gospel Story began on Christmas Day, and the Babe of Bethlehem was the first great missionary. He was sent from Heaven by God the Father; sent from His home of light and love; from the adoration and service of the angels, to our poor sin-stained earth, where men had lost fellowship with God, and were wandering in darkness and ignorance. To them Jesus, the Word of God, was sent to tell of the Father's love. All His life as Man was spent in manifesting that love to all men.

The earliest missionaries after our Lord Himself were the shepherds. They saw a wondrous sight and heard a wondrous song. They came and found the infant Saviour, and straightway they went and told all that they had seen and heard to the Jews, their countrymen.

After the shepherds came the wise men, travelling afar to find the Christ, and when they had worshipped Him, they returned to their own country, to the cities of the Gentiles, telling what they knew of the wonderful Gospel Story. It was very little they knew, but what they knew they told to others.

So Christmas Day, the day on which God sent His Son into the world, and Epiphany, the day on which the Magi found our Lord, are two great missionary days of the Christian year.

The next missionaries were "The Seventy," whom our Lord sent "two by two into every city and place whither He Himself would come." And he said to them: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His Harvest."

The message He told them to carry was this: "The Kingdom of Heaven is come nigh unto you."

The chief of all missionaries were the twelve Apostles. Apostle means one who is sent. God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord sent His Apostles. The Apostles sent others; so all through the centuries the officers of the Church to-day can trace back their commission to the Apostles.

Of these St. Andrew was the first to be called, and immediately he went and found his brother, and said: "I have found the Christ." At once he fulfilled the duty of the missionary, telling out the "good news." For this reason St. Andrew's Day is honored by being regarded in the Church as the special day for missions.