

culturists and artisans. They toil against odds with unwieldy and unprofitable implements, and against odds with brute force to utilize the water and soil. There is an army of labor-saving machinery or implements in America and England. Would it not be a benefaction to teach the "poor Indian" how to treble his returns, whether in field or shop? Here are millions of untilled acres, unmeasured material to work up, or treasures to be dug out. But such lay service will be too secular, unless pentecostally baptized.

In this far off-land we hail the plan for churches, colleges, families, communities and individuals to have their own missionaries in the field. One hundred times the present expenditure on the outline of salaried society missionaries won't suffice to cover the land. May God thrust out at an early day 1,000 men workers, who bring their means with them, and teach Christ's salvation.

We need in India some man of God with \$100,000 to found a Christian publishing house to flood this land with pure literature and counteract the infidel and immoral publications now rolling upon us. God's stewards we want, not answerable substitutes for themselves in the form of a few thousand dollars—*men filled with the Holy Ghost and faith* who can preach Christ with sleeves rolled up or over a work-bench or counter.

The gospel can be preached to all men in India by the year 1900, if lay workers come and lead out the lay hosts of the daily increasing Christian Church in India. But if the multiplication of the *herald force* depends on the increase only warranted by funds to subsidize the workers with, such results are impossible.

We are thankful for scholarly missionaries. But we need an army of common men and women in India, made wonderfully uncommon only by the indument of the Holy Ghost, and fine colleges do not make missionaries. Missionaries made of the Holy Ghost, educated much or little, small in men's eyes, but made mighty through God, these are wanted everywhere.

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A Call to China.

LONDON, Dec. 4, 1888.

ON the east coast of China, between Shanghai and Chinkiang and on the north bank of the great Yangtsi river, there lies an immense plain. This plain is some 150 miles broad from east to west and 170 long from north to south. It is for the most part well watered, very fertile, and teeming with a population of some six and a half millions.

There are thirteen cities on this part of the plain, not counting Yangchow, a large city situated at the main entrance to this region. Besides these there are sixty towns and villages known to us, and I have reason to believe that

many others, perhaps another sixty, could be found if the place were more thoroughly explored.

The highways of the district are canals and rivers. I have traveled over portions of the plain at different times between the Grand Canal and the sea, and from the Yangtsi river on the south to the old bed of the Yellow river on the north. The usual way is to travel by boat, of which there are thousands. As the cities and towns lie alongside the canals and rivers and are easy of access by boat our plan was, on arriving at a place, to leave the boat in charge of the boatman or captain while we went along the streets offering the Scriptures to anybody we met, visiting the shops and preaching the gospel to the crowds of people at different points.

These journeys were all taken for the purpose of selling Scriptures for the American Bible Society, and with the help of the native colporteurs there were sold some 20,000 portions and New Testament Scriptures. In the city of Rukao, on a second visit, accompanied by Mr. Hogg of the China Inland Mission, we sold over a thousand portions in a day. At a small town on another occasion, single-handed, I sold 450 Scriptures during the day. They bought these books, not because they contained gospel truth, but from various reasons—some out of curiosity, some attracted by the cheapness and well-got up-style, some because they taught doctrine, and others possibly because they contained what we had been talking to them about.

The people are quiet, industrious, and well-to-do generally. On our last Bible-selling journey, Sept., 1887, through the plain the people paid great attention to the preaching of the gospel, besides purchasing a goodly number of Bible portions. Some thousands of these people must have heard the gospel on this journey, and I frequently heard the remark, *chii chii zung*, every sentence (we understand).

This, added to the attention with which they listened, was most encouraging to the preacher, and I never enjoyed a month's gospel work so much anywhere. It was the most blessed work I ever engaged in. It was a time long to be remembered with joy. To know the joy there is in preaching the gospel to crowds of willing listeners on such virgin soil one must go and engage in the work. It is a glorious work and it is a blessed privilege to be allowed to go to the ends of the earth for Christ's sake to take part in it.

As far as I could ascertain the people in these parts had never heard the gospel before and had never seen another European among them, save perhaps with one or two exceptions. There is throughout the whole of that region not a mission station nor a missionary, either foreign or native, resident or itinerant, so far as I could learn, for all that six and a half millions of heathen. I believe the people in the extreme north of this province of Kiangsu are in the same neglected condition.