

THE FIELD  
IS  
THE WORLD

## Missionary Department

THE SEED  
IS  
THE WORD

"Pray, Study, Give."

### Missionary Meeting for January

BY THE EDITOR.

TOPIC: *The Psychological Moment in China.*

LESSON: Isaiah 49, 8-13.

STUDY: Chapter one of "Our Share in China."

SUGGESTED HYMNS: "Epworth Praises," 26, 43, 66, 104, 119, 142, 170, 180.

We commence this month a series of studies in "Our Share in China," a book recently written by Rev. G. J. Pond, B.A., on our Missionary work in the Great Western Chinese Province of Szechwan. The author has made an extended visitation of the field and writes with the exact knowledge that comes from personal investigation of the various Mission stations. The book has been noticed several times in these columns; but now we start our more serious study of its chapters. Orders for the book should be sent to Dr. P. C. Stephenson, Secretary Young People's Forward Movement for Missions, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, Ont. In paper covers the price is 35 cents; in cloth, 50 cents.

At the very outset we should get clearly fixed in mind the fact of the great obligation our church has assumed, as emphasized by the author in the closing paragraph of his introduction, when he says:—"The Canadian Methodist Church has accepted responsibility for evangelizing fourteen millions of the unevangelized inhabitants of the world," who are living in West China.

The purpose of the book is to unfold that responsibility, telling what is involved in it, and how it can best be fulfilled.

The aim of the opening chapter is to show why the present is the opportune time to perform the task allotted to us.

The message which our study of the chapter is to convey to us is: Now is the most favorable time for pushing our work in China, and we should without hesitation or delay, make the most of the opportunity which in the very nature of things will soon be gone.

The chapter contains some important statements about the Chinese Empire. We should know at least the following:

1. It is the oldest and most populous empire in the world. Its civilization and history reach back 4,000 years. Its population is given as 437,000,000.

2. The Chinese people are "the most scholarly, most ethical, and most conservative of all Oriental" races. This means that they are as a people, studious, moral, and least given to change in habits of thought and life.

3. This great Empire is everywhere open to the Missionary. The country everywhere is within access to the Christian preachers, doctors, or teachers, who choose to go among the people. No insurmountable hindrance exists anywhere in China to prevent the spread of the Gospel.

4. Great changes are taking place in China in these days. The Empire is waking and "moving mightily."

(a) This is especially shown in the attitude of the nation towards modern educational methods. Schools, based on Western models are being established throughout the Empire. Thousands of young men are going abroad for advanced training in the arts and sciences. The

teaching of western learning by missionaries on the ground is eagerly welcomed.

(b) China has accepted the principle of Constitutional government, and is planning to have by 1917, a national Parliament and Provincial assemblies established.

(c) The Chinese are equipping a modern navy, and organizing and drilling an army according to modern methods.

(d) Internal improvements are numerous, such as efficient postal and telephone systems, an extensive line of railroads, increasing printing presses, and modern newspapers.

(e) But most suggestive of an awakening Empire, are the prohibitive measures taken against the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of opium, and the edict against "the dreadful practice of foot-binding."

(f) The growth in the circulation of the Bible, other Christian literature, and the adoption of the Christian Sunday as the weekly rest-day for Government schools and colleges throughout the Empire, are also striking evidences of a changed attitude towards the Christian religion.

Napoleon said "When China moves she will move the world." Our author says that China is moving, and points out that her awakening and activity constitute a challenge to the Church to see that she moves in the right way. Only so, can "The Yellow Peril" of which much has been written and said, be averted. With-out the Gospel, China will present a real danger and menace. But "let the Churches of the West do their full duty by China and by Christ, and no Yellow Peril need ever rise as a portent to alarm the world."

Here is a task worthy of the Church of Jesus Christ," are the closing words of this informing chapter.

### Illustrative Paragraphs

In a recent letter, Rev. H. D. Robertson, of our West China Mission, says of the native evangelists whose labors are so valuable an aid to the work of the foreign missionaries: "These men are not all orators, but some of them are; they are not all men gifted above others, but some of them are; all are not men capable of leading and instructing their fellow students, but some of them are; all are not men whose presence and natural gifts are sure to move great audiences in the future, but some of them are; and we believe every man of the Holy Spirit will be used greatly of God in building up His Church in this land of far West China."

Rev. M. A. Brillinger, writing from Chengtu, says: "Brightening days are coming. The Christ-Love Kingdom will be the great tree of the future. Still shaded by ruins in many lands, its branches will one day, shade them. Some conception of Jesus is spreading itself in this great sea of minds, and as at the beginning, the face of the waters will be changed when God moves upon it."

At work with my teacher at language one day something in the lesson suggested this thought. I said that Jesus was not America's Jesus or England's Jesus. He caught up the thought and said in his own idiom "Is all-under-Heaven's" Jesus. Friends, I believe the Jesus of that day will be better even than our best Cana-

dian concept of Him. "The Kingdom of Kind Hearts" is His."

From a personal letter recently received from Bishop Wilson S. Lewis, of the M. E. Church resident in Poochow, China, we quote the following paragraphs which add emphasis to our Monthly Missionary study."

"China has entered upon an intellectual period which promises more for the well or worse of civilization than any other period of any nation in the world's history. Her Renaissance is born, and four hundred odd millions of people are beginning to feel the thrill which comes from a new era of learning.

For untold ages this people has worshipped at the throne of learning. Scholarship has never been regarded by them as the most noble vocation. Patriotism and power were held as lesser virtues while scholarship was adored. All doors, all hearts were opened to the scholar. They constituted a privileged class which only the few were destined to enjoy; but for whose attainment millions have thirsted, who died without even having had the privilege of touching the edge of the healing waters. But scholarship in China was simply the memorizing of dull formulas which embowered the doubtful wisdom of the ancient sages. The methods in its acquisition stunned rather than inspired the intellect. It, like their gods, was voiceless, sightless, dead.

This people has been suddenly awakened by the tremendous power of the nations possessing a different system of learning to their own. It is as if a blind man were suddenly thrust into the noonday's glare, and the glory of the day bewilders, staggers him. They are thrusting out their hands in a desperate clutch after the most striking, physical effects of the new learning, and so are in great danger of missing all. If they should find the weapons forged by civilization and fail to reach those deep fountains of spiritual life in whose healing depths the principles of God are realized in the human soul, this new intellectual awakening will result in the most tremendous scourge that the world has ever known. Four hundred millions of people trained in the arts and reinforced by the powers of a materialistic education, will constitute a menace to the Gospel of Peace all out of proportion to that of the Northern barbarians who descended upon the church 1,500 years ago. We must bring the Gospel and it must constitute the very foundation of all of our teaching to this people or a harvest will be reaped not of grace, and mercy, and love; but of hatred, cruelty, and slaughter."

### If I Were Leader

I would induce as many as possible to read the chapter.

I would arrange with at least two persons to tell in their own language the contents of the chapter read.

I would prepare a number of questions based on my own study of the chapter, give them out to different persons a fortnight ahead, to be answered in the meeting.

I would have the Illustrative paragraphs read by young members, in the meeting.

I would arrange beforehand for suitable missionary music.

I would divide the meeting into equal sides, and the questions turn about as sides, and the whole. At least twenty test questions may easily be framed on the foregoing article.

I would try to get each person to learn twenty facts on the subject before the meeting closed, and if twenty persons taught the twenty facts, all the better, for I would not do it all!

"Make another chapter to the Acts of the Apostles by being an Apostle yourself."