

MISSIONS IN THE LIFE OF OUR BOYS, GIRLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Church is seeking to provide adequate religious instruction and training for all her youth. Her aim is the development of true Christian character for right living and efficient serving. But the missionary spirit and outlook are essential to the growth of Christian character. Missionary education is, therefore, of the very essence of religious education.

Moreover, childhood is the strategic missionary age. The stories of loyalty and heroism, the stirring adventures and noble sacrifices of the heroes of the missionary enterprise if told then will never be forgotten and will leave an indelible impression. Whether, therefore, the Church of tomorrow will rise to the missionary opportunity before her will depend on what we do to-day in inspiring our young people with a live missionary zeal, and in giving them true ideals of Christian service.

Missions, therefore, must have a normal and necessary place in the Church's program of religious education:

- (1) "Primarily for the sake of the boys and girls themselves, that they may come to their largest spiritual development."
- (2) Because the missionaries who must man the Church's mission fields at home and abroad to-morrow are the boys and girls in the Church's care to-day and must be recruited from them.
- (3) Because the wealth of the Christian world of to-morrow will be largely in the hands of those who are the youth of the Church to-day.
- (4) Because the textbook of religious education, the Bible, is missionary throughout, both in spirit and in content.
- (5) Because this is fundamental to the coming of the Kingdom of God in the world.

—The United Church Record
and Missionary Review.

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