

Go and Do Likewise

A YOUNG man stood on the platform of Tremont Temple facing the large audience which had gathered on the occasion of the Judson Centennial. Beside him stood his wife, a bride of but a few days. Both were children of missionaries. She had been born in Assam and he in China, and they had met for the first time in one of the homes for missionaries' children. Filled with the same sacrificial spirit which had inspired the heroic service of their parents, and obedient to the heavenly vision, these two young people had offered themselves for appointment as missionaries. They had experienced the heartbreaking disappointment of having their application declined because the condition of the treasury and the debt of the Society did not allow the sending of new recruits beyond the limited number already chosen.

Standing before that audience of representative Baptists from all over the land the young man made the plea of his life. He appealed to that great denomination with its power and its wealth to send him to China so that he might do the work nearest to his heart and in this way continue the service begun by his father. In the audience sat Rev. F. O. Belden, D.D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, N. Y., with several delegates from his church. They heard the plea of this young man on the platform, and at once decided that their church ought to make it possible for these two young people to fulfil their ambition. Accordingly consultation was held with the officers of the Society. One of them visited the church and explained what would be involved in their decision, and in addition the young man and his wife spent a week in Mount Vernon in order to get acquainted.

This is the result. The church increased its missionary contributions sufficiently to warrant the Society in sending these young people to their chosen field of labor, and less than seven weeks after his appeal from the platform, Archie Adams and his wife sailed for China. They are now the foreign field representatives of the church which made their sailing possible.

There are multitudes of Baptist churches today, strong and financially able to undertake great enterprises for the Kingdom of God. In many the missionary interest is stagnant and the enthusiasm for the world extension of Christianity has suffered sad decline. To all of these the example of the church in Mount Vernon brings the summons, "Go and do likewise."

Another young man had offered himself to the Society for service in Burma. He also had been recently married. The young man had received the finest education the land could furnish. He was well equipped, well trained, well fitted for missionary service. Besides careful training and noble purpose, he had the inspiration which comes from splendid ancestry, for in his veins there flowed the blood of Adoniram Judson. And the highest ambition of the young man was to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious grandfather and devote his life to the Christianizing of Burma. But he also had received the distressing information that he could not be sent until another year because of lack of funds. Accordingly he accepted the pastorate of a church and prepared to remain at home.

In the meantime a layman of the First Baptist Church of Gloversville, N. Y., Mr. Charles King, had heard of the grandson of Judson and the impossibility of sending him to Burma because of the condition of the Society's treasury. Mr. King is active in church work and influential in community life. Although giving liberally to all forms of Christian work through his church, he nevertheless felt that here was an opportunity where he could be more personally identified with the advance of the Kingdom. Accordingly he wrote to the Mission Rooms in Boston stating that he and his two sons, John V. King and Anson P. King,

would become personally responsible for the support of Judson's grandson for the next five years. Correspondence was at once begun with the young man; his church released him, and today Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Hanna are beginning their missionary career, made possible through the generosity of men who believe in foreign missions.

There are hosts of men in the Baptist denomination who are blessed with prosperity in business, enjoying all the comforts and privileges of life. But many of them take no interest in missions. They fail to realize that to support the foreign mission enterprise is a man's job. If the Christian men of America would feel their responsibility and their need of a more personal identification with the religion which they profess the Kingdom would come with astounding rapidity. And to these men the example of the men in the church at Gloversville comes like a summons, "Go and do likewise."

A third young man and his bride had been compelled to seek opportunity for service at home because the Society could not send them abroad. He accepted a pastorate in Northern Canada, prepared to wait until the treasury could make possible a missionary career in India. At the same time some friends in New England, including Rev. Alfred Williams Anthony, D.D., and Rev. G. H. Hamlen, D.D., were realizing the painful need of reinforcements on the mission field of Bengal-Orissa. The mission was seriously undermanned. Because of health, furlough, and other circumstances several missionary families had been obliged to leave, depleting the ranks to such a degree as to impair the efficiency and future progress of the work. The New England friends heard of the young man and his wife. They saw the need on the field and they understood the condition of the treasury making it impossible to satisfy that need. Accordingly they subscribed the amount necessary to send out another missionary family, and today Rev. and Mrs. Z. D. Browne are on their way to Bengal-Orissa to begin their missionary service.

There are many other friends who by subscribing small

amounts and large could satisfy some urgent need in other fields where the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society carries on its work. There are many young men and young women, well trained and equipped, preparing for service on the foreign field, but compelled to remain at home because the treasury of the Society warrants the sending of only a small number of new missionaries each year. And the need abroad, the waiting recruits at home, together with the example of the friends in New England say to all these other friends, "Go and do likewise."

These three episodes have recently come to the attention of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Like the countless other gifts from numerous friends in the past, these also have been of great encouragement and mighty inspiration to all connected with the work of the Society. Surely there are other churches which, without detriment to their regular benevolent interests, could do what the Mount Vernon church has done. Surely there are many friends in all parts of the land who, like the friends in New England, could "underwrite" the support of another missionary family and thus satisfy some urgent, crying need for reenforcements. Surely there are many men in the Baptist churches of the United States who could follow the example of these friends in the church at Gloversville and thus become personally represented on the foreign mission field.

In this age of war the need of the hour is the universal reign of the Prince of Peace. In this world buried in sin the one eternal cure is the religion of Jesus Christ. And to satisfy that need and to make Christianity and its principles supreme throughout the world means that more churches and more men must follow the example of those here indicated and "Go and do likewise."

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