

MILESTONES
IN
MISSIONARY EDUCATION

BY
J. WHITSED DOVEY

AUSTRALIAN MISSION STUDY COUNCIL

Sydney—
F. W. WHITE General Printer, 344 Kent Street.
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The Development of the Modern Movement for Missionary Education.

Raymond Lull.—This 13th century missionary to the Moslems, who has been described as a missionary statesman born out of time, in his efforts to arouse the Christian Church to undertake the evangelisation of Moslem lands, planned a series of Missionary Colleges, to include as part of their curriculum a thorough training in the Geography of Missions. As he expressed it, writing in 13th century style:—"Knowledge of the regions of the world is strongly necessary for the republic of believers and the conversion of unbelievers, and for the withstanding of infidels and anti-Christis. The man unacquainted with geography is ignorant where he walks or whither he leads. Whether he attempts the conversion of infidels or works for other interests of the Church, it is indispensable that he should know the religion and environment of all nations." We can take our stand on this to-day as an apologetic for Mission Study. Yet Raymond Lull was a "lone star" in the missionary firmament: he passed, and night settled down again.

Alexander Duff, in the year 1824, gathered a group of students together at St. Andrew's University (Scotland), with the "avowed object of studying foreign missions, so as to satisfy themselves of the necessities of the world outside of Christendom."

The Modern Missionary Movement, steadily gathering momentum during the 19th century, has now in our generation fallen behind its opportunities. The Church was not prepared to carry on the work on the scale demanded. The Church did not know what was involved in the missionary enterprise; it was not awake to the need for evangelising the world in this generation, or, indeed, in any generation. Required—"Some new and more adequate method of instruction, which shall produce throughout the Church an intelligent interest in the missionary cause, deep enough to prepare men for sacrifice, in order that the work may be done." (Dr. Mott.)

The Mission Study Movement has arisen to meet this need. It trains the young people of the Christian Church during the formative period of life, during the time of

imagination, of ideals, and enthusiasm, to see the world as Jesus Christ sees it, and feel for it as He feels. It trains young Christians to be active workers. It appeals to the intelligent in all classes, rich and poor, college and church, city or village.

It stands for a Co-operative Spirit of Unity. Its text books look at the world as a whole, and present a big problem for the whole Church to tackle.

D. M. Thornton, one of the travelling secretaries of the British Student Movement, became seized with the idea in 1896 that the Student Volunteer Watchword, "The evangelisation of the world in this generation," would not be adopted, much less realised, by the Christian Church, till a flood of light was cast on missionary facts, and knowledge took the place of ignorance.

Thornton saw that this meant effort—planned, deliberate, and organised. He was instrumental in initiating a scheme of missionary study for College Christian Unions, and wrote a text book, "Africa Waiting," which has passed through four editions, and is still in some ways a model book of its kind. How sound this missionary study idea was is proved by its history ever since in the Student Christian Movement, and now in the Churches.

This text book was the beginning of mission study in Great Britain, but the idea was at once taken up by the Student Volunteer Movement, and a whole series of text books were issued, amongst others—

"Africa Waiting" (1896).

"India, its History, Darkness and Dawn" (1901).

"Protestant Missions in South America."

"Outline Studies in Mohammedanism."

"Japan and its Regeneration" (1908).

"The Jews and their Evangelisation" (1907).

Development in America.

The Student Volunteer Movement in America, from the year 1894 onwards, began to develop the mission study idea. A beginning was made in that year by the issue of a number of outline studies, and it was not long before full-sized text books appeared. Since then, 29 text

books have been issued by this branch of the Student Movement, with an average of about ten chapters in each book. Amongst others, the following might be mentioned:—

"The Evangelisation of the World in This Generation"; Mott; 1900.

"Introduction to the Study of Missions"; Lawrence; 1901.

"The Healing of the Nations" (Medical Missions); 1899.

"Islam, a Challenge to Faith"; Zwemer; 1906.

"Religions of Mission Fields, as Viewed by Protestant Missionaries" (9 studies); 1905.

"The New Era in the Philippines"; Brown; 1903.

"India and Christian Opportunity"; Beach; 1908.

"The Unfinished Task"; Barton; (a review of the meaning, obligation, extent, obstacles, and success of Christian Missions); 1908.

The Mission Study Movement extended rapidly in American Colleges between the years 1902 and 1909. Membership of Circles increased from 6774 to 25,208. In 1914 there were 2815 circles, enrolling 43,000 members.

These College Study Circles have not been confined merely to student volunteers, who were preparing for definite foreign missionary service, but others who could not volunteer have been brought increasingly into an intelligent sympathy and advocacy by this means, and many of the missionary leaders of the Home Church received their first inspiration in these Circles.

"The Colleges will supply the men," but the Church has an equally definite obligation to supply the means. "Know, and you will feel." From the year 1896, the S.V.M. text books began to be used outside the Colleges. The Methodist Church in Canada, and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, first took it up, and in 1898 the latter appointed a special secretary to devote his whole time to promoting Study Circle work. Now there are 41 paid secretaries giving whole or part time to this work under the auspices of the various American Boards and Societies.

At the Ecumenical Missionary Conference, held in New York (1900), representatives of the Women's Boards of the various Societies met, and decided to make a definite advance in the missionary education of their constituency. A representative committee was appointed to prepare text books and push the matter strongly, organising Circles amongst the women of the American Churches.

This committee, known as the United Study of Missions Committee, issued its first text book in 1901. Six others followed, and a new series was started in 1908.

Nearly 500,000 of these text books were sold in seven years. The first ones to be published were:—

"Via Christi," a study of Missions before Carey.

"Lux Christi," a study of Missions in India.

"Rex Christi," a study of Missions in China.

"Dux Christi," a study of Missions in Japan.

"Christus Liberator," a study of Missions in Africa.

"Gloria Christi," a study of Missions and Social Progress.

"Christus Redemptor," a study of Missions in the Pacific.

These books aim at historical completeness and at giving a bird's-eye view of the mission field, rather than leaving a definite and distinct impression. They are very useful for reference. In 1906 this committee began issuing special text books for juniors.

Young People's Missionary Movement.

The success attending Study Circle work in the Colleges raised the question, "Why not enlist the same interest on the part of the mass of young people in the Christian Church?"

In the summer of 1901, a few who were impressed with the need and the opportunity for such work, met and arranged for a general conference in the winter. As a result, early in 1902, the Young People's Missionary Movement was organised. At first it devoted its efforts to developing interest within the various young people's organisations by the formation of Mission Study Classes, and by training leaders in conferences, and then gradu-

ally the work has broadened, till now it works among Sunday Schools, Young Men's and Young Women's Clubs, and similar organisations in the Church. In 1907 it amalgamated with a similar organisation in Canada, to form the Young People's Missionary Movement of the United States and Canada. It worked under the direction of the various Missionary Boards and Societies, and its whole task was to supply them with such helps to the promotion of mission study as could best be produced on an inter-denominational basis, and to train leaders by holding Conferences and Institutes. It had secretaries of its own, and was controlled by a committee representing 43 of the leading Missionary Societies.

Its publishing department issued each year for adults at least one text book on Foreign Missions, and one on Home Missions, with reference libraries and pamphlet helps, and published graded text books, paying special attention to Sunday Schools.

During July, 1911, the name of the Young People's Missionary Movement was changed to "Missionary Education Movement of United States and Canada," in order to define its methods, purpose and constituency better. A large number of agents and secretaries are regularly employed. Nearly 200,000 text books were sold in 1910-11 (not including from 125,000 to 150,000 sold by allied agencies), such as Student Movement and United Women's Boards. Altogether, 1,500,000 text books, covering Home and Foreign Mission work, have been sold by this Movement in twelve years; also reference libraries, outline maps, charts, mottoes, pamphlets, and special material for Sunday School work.

During 1912-13, the most striking feature of the work related to the effort to secure co-ordination and unity between the Boards in the plans of missionary education in the local Churches. A special campaign for the study of immigration problems was conducted in 1913, balanced in 1914 by a campaign whose primary theme was "The New Era in Foreign Missions."

The next programme in which Foreign and Home and Women's Missionary Boards were united had as its object "The Social Force of Christian Missions." (The period

to be covered by the plan being from September 1, 1914, to June 1, 1915.) A further advanced plan for united action was proposed for 1915-16.

Fifty denominational and interdenominational conferences are held annually, at which Mission Study is done, the special feature of interdenominational conferences being the attendance of the leaders and teaching staff of denominational conferences for advanced training, also subjects of a specialised character are dealt with to meet the needs of special groups of workers.

The Movement arranges missionary exhibits, stereopticon lectures and pictures, and publishes a quarterly magazine for children, entitled, "Every Land." The Movement also acts as the agent of the Missionary Boards in the promotion of Missionary intelligence in the secular press. Wide circulation is thus given to important news items and articles.

Amongst others, the following books have been issued, some of which are obtainable in Australia:—

"The Price of Africa" (Biographical); S. Earl Taylor.

"Princely Men in the Heavenly Kingdom" (Japan); Biographical).

"Sunrise in the Sunrise Kingdom" (Japan).

"Daybreak in the Dark Continent" (Africa).

"The Challenge of the City" (Home Missions. A text book on the Social Work of the Churches to meet the needs of great cities).

"The Moslem World"; Zwemer.

"The Why and How of Foreign Missions" (for Study Classes of Laymen. Relation of the Home Church to the Missionary enterprise).

"Aliens or Americans" (a Study of Immigration).

"Korea in Transition" (the best text book on Korea); J. S. Gale.

Over 500,000 volumes were sold in the first seven years, together with 35,000 Reference Libraries and all necessary Leaders' Helps and Outline Programmes.

Development in Great Britain.

The Young Christians' Missionary Union (London), founded in 1895, had a Mission Study Committee as one of its branches of work. This body worked exclusively among the young people of the English Free Churches.

The Church Missionary Society began about the year 1901 to take up Mission Study Circle work, and issued several text books, e.g., "Notes on India," "Notes on Africa," etc., and deputed a special secretary to organise this work.

The United Free Church of Scotland had also made a definite move by appointing an organising secretary for Study Circle work.

In December, 1906, a Special Conference was called of representatives from the above bodies, to meet a deputation from the American Young People's Missionary Movement. As a result, a publishing committee was formed, to be known as the "UNITED CONFERENCE ON MISSIONARY EDUCATION," composed of the Mission Study secretaries of the various societies. The first text book issued was "The Uplift of China," published in 1907, and the series which followed has been widely used throughout the British Empire. Later the central body became known as "The United Council for Missionary Education," and it now includes on its Board of Management members of the Anglican and Scottish Churches, in addition to Free Church representatives. It has issued text books for adult study to upwards of 245,000, and various junior books to 102,000. There is every likelihood that operations in the field of literature will, in the future, not be limited to the Study Circle type of books, but an effort is being made to meet the needs of the large class of people of all ages for whom the Study Circle is not a suitable method of study.

Since amalgamation with the Young People's Missionary Movement in 1913, definite thought has been given to the missionary education of children. Two special travelling secretaries have been appointed for organising this work, and graded missionary lessons for Sunday Schools are prepared.

Ten denominational Summer Schools are held, at which Mission Study is done, and the United Council holds an Annual Conference at Swanwick. In future, this Annual Summer Conference will be a centre for training, arranged conjointly with the Boards, whose schools do not provide for training in leadership. A special section for training of Sunday School teachers and others for missionary work among children will also be included. A special section is now included for intermediate circle leaders.

Student campaigns to enlist recruits for Leaders' Training Circles are conducted in the Churches by students from Oxford and Cambridge, and the London Colleges. Other features of work in Great Britain are a movement amongst men in connection with the Scottish Episcopal Church, which is leading to definite financial support; also specialised work in Sunday Schools and secondary schools in connection with the United Free Church of Scotland.

In the future, it is proposed to pay special attention to the training of Sunday School teachers and Junior Circle leaders, wherever senior training is done, and also to establish District Committees for the local promotion of the movement.

Text Books: Bible Study and Missions.

A number of text books have been published, combining Bible Study and Missionary Study, and thus bringing out the missionary spirit and principles latent in the Bible.

- "New Testament Studies in Missions" (Beach).
- "The Gospel in the Psalms" (Manley).
- "Missions and the Minor Prophets" (Warman).
- "St. Paul and his Converts" (Lees).
- "Missionary Ideals" (Acts of the Apostles) (Walker).
- "The Missionary Message of the Bible" (Lawton).

Graded Work.—Both in Great Britain and America, special text books are prepared for ages 13 to 16. In Great Britain for ages under 12, special books, "Talks on India," etc., being missionary lessons with accessory materials, are prepared; also kindergarten missionary

story books, providing for expression work. In America a few books containing missionary stories have been prepared for junior grade, also sets of missionary object lessons for primary grade.

International Development.

Holland.—In 1909 the Mission Study Council of the Netherlands was formed independent of the Churches or Societies. The movement edits and prepares text books, particularly bearing upon Dutch mission fields, and also general missionary periodicals. It also seeks to introduce Mission Study to Sunday Schools and religious day schools. Recently special attention has been paid to closer relations with the Missionary Societies, who now join to support two salaried officers in connection with the Mission Study Council.

Germany.—The German Missionary Student Movement organised since the Lunteren International Conference in 1911, publishes a correspondence sheet, dealing with world movements and conducting of Mission Study Circles. It also organises Summer Schools and work in Universities and day schools. It recently raised a fund of £1250 for extension work.

Denmark.—A strong movement is established, in connection with whose work Summer Schools and courses of training for leaders are important features. Special text books on Danish Missions in China and India have been prepared, and translations of "The Decisive Hour" and "The Uplift of China" have been published, the former of which is running to six editions, and the latter to three editions.

In **Norway** and **Sweden** Summer Schools are the main feature of the work of the Mission Study Council.

In **France** an increasing number of Circles are held, though no united Council has been formed. The "Reproach of Islam" has been translated.

In **Switzerland** systematic Mission Study is done, though the work is more of a general missionary educational character, particularly reaching well-to-do people.

In **British India** every important institution, as regards religious work, is represented on the Mission Study Council, which works in close touch with the National Missionary Council. Recently work in India has been handicapped for lack of a secretary to give whole time to the work. An Information Bureau sends out large quantities of specially-prepared literature, and special editions of British text books have been published for use amongst English-speaking people, while other text books have been translated for use in connection with the Native Church. In addition to this work, the Student Movement has about 100 students in Mission Study Circles annually.

In **South Africa** organised Mission Study is done in connection with the Students' Christian Association. Some 600 members have been in Study Circles. British and Dutch text books are used.

The First International Mission Study Conference was held at Lunteren, in Holland, in September, 1911, and an International Council has been formed, which issues a half-yearly Bulletin.

The International Mission Study Council, consisting of representatives of each national movement, acts as an exchange for ideas and methods. Each movement has special features, as will be noted from the facts given above, and the International Council provides a medium for reciprocal influences. For instance, while we in Australia owe a very great deal to the influence of the British movement, and also in a lesser degree to the American movement, in the establishment of work in Australia, the International Council have intimated that they regard Australia as having a distinctive contribution to make to the universal problem of the training of leaders for Mission Study work.

Development in Australia.

The chief factor in promoting Mission Study in Australia has been the influence of the World's Student Christian Federation, working through the Australasian Student Christian Movement. Men and women who attended Mission Study Circles at their Universities and

Colleges, sought to propagate this work in the Churches; and they found that the field was ripe, and full of promise.

Other efforts at Mission Study have arisen as a result of descriptive magazine articles and other imported literature, without any previous contact with Study Circle work; while another important factor has been the direct influence from Great Britain, working through local organisations, such as the Church Missionary Association and the London Missionary Society Auxiliaries, which are in close touch with the Home Societies.

The Victorian Council was formed in 1910, followed in 1911 by a similar step in New South Wales. As the work developed, it became evident that a National Missionary Study Organisation was needed to handle proposals which were beyond the scope of any single State, and to foster the widespread development of the work throughout Australia. Hence the Australian Council was formed in 1912, and is now representative of every State except Western Australia.

The Australian Council is represented on the International Council by two members, one representing Sydney, and one Melbourne. Leaders' Helps, etc., are published by the Australian Council for use with the current text books. It is hoped to have a text book on Australian Home Missions ready for use in 1916.

The distinctive features of the work in Australia are the holding of Bible and Mission Study Schools in connection with the movement in Victoria, and the curriculum for training of leaders established by the New South Wales Council.

Relation to General Missionary Education of the Church.

There is a world-wide conviction that the Study Circle method is the best available for imparting a knowledge of missionary facts and developing missionary leadership. Yet it is believed that it is capable of adaptation to the widest possible field. The American movement covers all branches of missionary education, co-ordinating the work of the various Missionary Boards.

There is a recognised need to apply educational principles to many methods now employed to provide missionary knowledge. Whereas it is valuable to concentrate at first on one particular branch, yet it is recognised that the Mission Study Movement must expand later. It is becoming increasingly manifest that more than missionary knowledge is required in a leader in missionary education, and to produce such trained leaders for all departments is the ultimate work of the Missionary Education Movement.

Results of Mission Study.

It creates in individuals a living missionary interest, and aims at influencing all the young people of the Christian Church to regard missions as the "primary work of the Church." Among practical results, we find a large increase in the number of volunteers for missionary service, and increased giving, even to the point of sacrifice, from those who have heard the Call, but who are unable to offer themselves.

The Mission Study Circle reveals to its members a world waiting for its Saviour, a Kingdom to be won for Jesus Christ. India, for example, is no longer a red patch on the map, but a living problem; three hundred millions of human beings groping for the Light they but dimly see. It opens up a vision of world-conquest; it leads to deepened faith; it compels a new dedication of life. Our hope is that this inspiration may come to the whole Christian Church.

"To the finer Christian consciousness of our times, Missions, both at home and abroad, are becoming more and more the real thing in the religious history and prospects of the world."

Selected Bibliography of Text Books Not Previously Mentioned.

ADULT TEXT BOOKS.

British.

The Desire of India	<i>Datta</i>
The Decisive Hour of Christian Missions	<i>Mott</i>
The Reproach of Islam	<i>Gairdner</i>
The Future of Africa	<i>Fraser</i>
The Renaissance in India	<i>Andrews</i>
The Outcastes' Hope	<i>Phillip</i>
The Kingdom in the Pacific	<i>Paton</i>
The Spirit of Japan	<i>Moule</i>
The Regeneration of New China	<i>Bitton</i>
The New Life in China	<i>Wallace</i>
The Uplift of China (revised edition)	<i>Smith</i>
Uganda, a Chosen Vessel	<i>Weatherhead</i>
The Missionary Motive	<i>Paton</i>

American.

The New Era in Asia	<i>Eddy</i>
India Awakening	<i>Eddy</i>
The Emergency in China	<i>Pott</i>
The Call of the World	<i>Doughty</i>
The Social Aspect of Christian Missions ..	<i>Faunce</i>
The Individual and the Social Gospel	<i>Mathews</i>
The American Indian on the New Trail	<i>Moffett</i>
Mexico To-day	<i>Winton</i>
South America	<i>Neely</i>
The Gospel in Latin Lands	<i>Clark</i>
The Nearer and Farther East	<i>Zwemer & Brown</i>
Daybreak in Turkey	<i>Barton</i>
Educational Missions	<i>Barton</i>

ADOLESCENT TEXT BOOKS.

British.

God's Image in Ebony	<i>Darlow</i>
Livingstone, the Pathfinder	<i>Mathews</i>
The Story of Islam	<i>Lunt</i>
Greatheart of Papua	<i>Nairne</i>

The Daybreak Call	<i>Costain</i>
White Heroines of Africa	<i>Padwick</i>
Heroines of Healing	<i>Padwick</i>
Yarns on Heroes of China	<i>Nairne</i>
Yarns on South Sea Pioneers	<i>Mathews</i>
Yarns on Heroes of India	<i>Wood</i>
The Secret of the Raj	<i>Mathews</i>

American.

Uganda's White Man of Work	<i>Fahs</i>
Servants of the King	<i>Speer</i>

JUNIOR TEXT BOOKS.

British.

Talks on Japan (with accessories).	
Talks on India's Boys and Girls (with accessories),	
Talks on Changing China (with accessories).	
Talks on David Livingstone (with accessories).	
Talks on China.	
Talks on India.	
Talks on Egypt.	
Talks on Races to be Won.	
Talks on Africa.	
Talks on Victories of Love.	
The Call of China.	
Friends of India.	

PRIMARY.

British.

Book of Little Black Brother	<i>Huntley</i>
The Great Big World	<i>Batty</i>
The Book of Babies	<i>Entwistle</i>
Taro (a little boy of Japan)	<i>Entwistle</i>
The Book of Island Babies	<i>Entwistle</i>

