

THE STORY OF THE FIFTY

One morning, just a year ago, I found an envelope on my desk. For some weeks previously we had been waiting on God together in our Prayer Room to find out just one fact. What number of new missionaries would He promise us for the coming year? The answer had come the day before -- 50. And we well knew that 50 meant £5,000 to send them out! And so I opened the envelope. I don't think I expected it to contain the £5,000 -- and it didn't! But it did contain something perhaps of great value, a gift and a promise. The gift was 20/2, -- every penny that person had, and the promise was that the Lord had told her to give all she had for the 50 as a token that He would send the rest.

But now to go back a bit before we tell the remainder of the story. It was four years ago that the Lord revealed to us a simple truth from the Bible which has meant nothing less than the bursting forth of a new thing in our midst whilst we have looked on in amazement. And we now know that in it is the key for Worldwide Evangelization in this generation. It was the simple fact that all through the Bible most ordinary men did most extraordinary exploits by one method alone, "*by faith*."

The revelation came to us at the most critical moment in our history. On 16th July, 1931, the news reached us from the Heart of Africa, that our Founder and Leader, C.T. Studd, had finished his good fight, and gone to be with the Lord. At that very moment also the Mission had been passing through the worst internal crisis of its history, so severe that many wondered whether it could carry on at all; its total number of workers was only thirty-five in the Heart of Africa, and two at Home. On the top of all this, it was the period when the pound broke and the country entered the greatest financial crisis ever known. It was then that the challenge came to us. "Why did we not test out the Bible principle of faith?" We knew the commission that God had given to C.T. Studd was "to evangelize the remaining unevangelized parts of the earth" and that that commission had now become our responsibility. Could there ever be a more perfect opportunity of proving the possibilities of faith than now, when we were at our weakest?

MONEY LIKE MANNA

And so we started. Our first realization was that if faith and not organization was the secret, then the reading of God's Word and plenty of time to allow us to hear his voice must be absolutely first in the life at Headquarters. So each day, at 9 a.m., we began to wait on God without any time limit, until 11 a.m. or even mid-day, all things else taking a second place—a method which we have continued ever since. Soon God spoke and told us that the first thing He would do for us would be to send us ten new workers for the Heart of Africa, and all the money for them before the first anniversary of Mr. Studd's death, 16th, July, 1932, without a single appeal to man, on the simple condition that we believed it. A few weeks later the Lord showed us one more thing from

the Scriptures, the only other thing besides believing that we did all those months to obtain The Ten; that all men of faith in the Bible committed themselves by declaring beforehand what God was going to do, and that we were to do the same. And so we did, both by writing to the Field telling them to prepare for the workers in the summer, and by publishing the fact in the Magazine.

The wonderful story of their coming cannot be told in detail here, beyond the fact that the tenth came forward six days before the appointed date, and two days later the last cheque to complete the needed £1,200 to send them out. All sailed for the Heart of Africa, the last being given the African name of Kumi (Ted) to commemorate the victory, like Joshua's heap of stones!

We had begun to prove that "faith is the victory." So once more we went back to God to ask Him what next He would do towards the fulfilment of this great commission. This time He said, "Fifteen new workers before the second anniversary, July 16th, 1933." This time we were tested. Six months passed with only a few odd pounds, and very few candidates. "The Fifteen" looked hopeless. So we asked God for a special sign. We were to publish a statement that this number were coming, but we told Him that we could not do so unless He sent £100 as a seal. The Magazine proofs had to go in by 11 a.m. on a certain date. At the exact hour as the clock was striking and the proofs going into the envelope without the paragraph about the Fifteen, the Treasurer walked in with a £100 cheque from Scotland. Once again we cannot give the wonderful details, especially of how the last £500 came, but can only record that the completed Fifteen and £2,000 were in, three weeks before the date: with these a new step forward in the worldwide vision was taken, for not only was the Heart of Africa reinforced, but four new lands entered, Colombia (South America), Little Tibet (Central Asia), Spanish Guinea (West Africa), and the Arabian Desert.

The third year the same method was adopted. This time the Lord promised us Twenty-five new workers by the third anniversary, 16th July, 1934. This meant £3,250. At this point we really began to laugh at the absurdity of the idea of such a set of nobodies as ourselves handling £1,000 cheques! Often as we sat in the Prayer Room, we used to look at each other and say, "How in the world are we people, hidden away in this room, going to receive thousands of pounds in a few months? But we are going to!" And we did, praise God. Before six months had passed we had in our hands two cheques of £1,000 each, a promise of the third, and a cheque of £250, all from different sources scattered throughout the country. And so the Twenty-five came well before the appointed date, and have all sailed to various unreached lands, another untouched region being entered, in the Ivory Coast (French West Africa).

WHAT ONE ENVELOPE CONTAINED

And now we arrive at the time of the incident related at the beginning. The Lord had told us that the next number before the fourth anniversary, July 16th, 1935, was to be 50, that is as much as the three previous years put together, and the money needed for them, £5,000. So in publishing the leaflet last year, "The Story of the Twenty-five" we added at the end, "New Year—50 new missionaries." As already told, we received the first gift of 20/2, but if £3,000 seemed like a dream, what about £5,000? We had believed and did believe, but we never dreamt of what the Lord was going to do. It was a perfect example of the way the Holy Spirit, without man lifting a finger, can bring together a need and a servant of His who can supply that need. We were having a special meeting privately in the house on the anniversary of Mr. Studd's death, talking over what God had done through him and since, when a stranger walked into our midst (known only to one of us), who had come on quite another errand, and had not been expected so early. That was the very one whom God had prepared to send out the 50. We never gave another thought to his visit until ten days later we received a letter in an ordinary envelope in a writing that we did not know, and in it was a cheque for £5,000 for the 50 ! (Actually the Lord led the donor at the last minute to give more than this sum, but the extra money was used for another purpose). You can imagine that we ate no breakfast that morning, and the helpers who were washing up, downstairs, wondered if we had a burden, as we were fasting! When we told them all in the Prayer Room—like Thomas, they could hardly believe until they handled the cheque for themselves—the first time any of us had handled £5,000. It took us days to grasp that *all* the money for the Fifty was in, eleven months before the appointed date, and instead of a fight of faith, we had a holiday from faith. We had to take back what we were always saying, that the fight was not to get candidates but finance, for here we were with the finance, but needing the candidates. In the succeeding months the Lord sent us £190 12s. 6d. The year has now passed and the date of the fourth anniversary, 16th July, is upon us, and we can record to the glory of God's faithfulness that the Fifty are completed; no less than twenty-five of these being from the Bible College of Wales, Swansea. The numbers are fairly equally divided among the existing fields, and once again new lands are to be opened. In a most marked way God is leading us to India, starting with a large unevangelized area in the N.E., along the Nepal border. Three workers will be going there. Three also are for a totally untouched land in West Africa, Portuguese Guinea.

THE STORY OF THE DAILY BREAD

We started by saying that what God had done these past four years has been nothing short of miraculous, and surely it is so. In great weakness and hopelessness, both in ourselves and in world conditions, He has increased us from 37 to 150 in numbers, and from 1 unevangelized land to 6 (8 when we enter these two new ones). What hath God wrought! These figures include what has been one of His greatest blessing to us, the gift of a Home Staff, who now total twelve, all of whom God has called to join this work without taking a single penny of Mission money. All live together, "having all things in common," looking to the Lord daily and unitedly for daily bread, and praying in privately their individual needs of clothing, etc.; these experience together the same unity and joy as in the days of the early Church. Not only does the Lord give the daily bread without fail, but much, very much more besides. Not for one meal have we been short. Besides numberless gifts of money, there have been sacks of potatoes, oatmeal, lentils, rice, money to buy 3,000 eggs, a gift to buy a special cooker which makes an enormous economy in fuel, another gift of an electric-washer; one kind friend arrived with a Ford car, and left without it; and as for Christmas, we decided that we would not have a Christmas dinner, so as to have fellowship with those on the Fields, and so we refused the kind offer of a turkey and plum pudding; but what was the use? For without "by your leave," two turkeys, two hams, a Christmas cake, two hampers of all sorts of foodstuffs arrived by post or on the doorstep! So we can only say that there is truth in the promise, "Trust in the Lord ... and *verily* thou shalt be fed." Psalm 37:3! ! The Home Staff share the various tasks with equal joy as given them by the Lord, some house-work, cooking, and washing, some deputation work, gardening, office work, etc. One of the greatest things the Lord has done for us is to send one who has established a complete equipment depot for all Fields, getting the best stuff at the lowest prices, doing the packing and dispatching so thoroughly that what used to cost from £80-£100 per person, now costs only £35-40. One more thing for which we especially praise God is that as the work has increased, silently and unnoticeably the regular funds have increased. Many have said "It is all very well to send new workers out; but what about their support?" Although all Crusaders go out dependent upon God alone and ready to go on with Him alone, even if no support comes through Mission sources, yet, as a matter of fact, God has abundantly supplied year by year, and this year we can say to His Glory that there has not been a single need at Home or on the Fields for which we have lacked money.

TO MOUNTAIN, FOREST AND DESERT

As to the Fields, we can only give a most rapid glance. When we think of what was called the Dark Continent a generation ago, and of the condition in which Livingstone found it, how we praise God today that in the geographical heart of Africa, in the great Ituri forest, an area has been evangelized as large as the British Isles and peopled by some fifteen primitive tribes. In the past four years, the workers have increased from 30 to 55, and six new tribes have been entered. The highest peak was reached at Christmas, 1933, when 10,000 natives gathered for a four-days Conference, many from hundreds of miles distance, the largest Christian gathering ever held in the Heart of Africa, at the spot where Mr. Studd's earthly remains await the Resurrection morning. The chief advance of this year has been the building of a Central Evangelist's School, with fifty native houses, each to hold a couple. Selected natives are being sent there with the two-fold objective of turning them out men and women filled with the Holy Ghost, and strong in the Word. It was opened in April with fifty couples.

To Colombia, the most backward of the South American Republics, with a population of eleven million, the Lord has enabled us to send eleven workers in the past two years. How impossible it seemed when the Lord first laid it upon our hearts that we ought to penetrate the interior of this little known land. But God sent a man of faith to be the first pioneer. Others have followed, and now five areas have been occupied where no Gospel light had previously penetrated, each consisting of a central town and numbers of surrounding villages. The Crusaders have met with fierce persecution, stonings, beatings, their houses plastered with dung, and threats of death. In one city where one woman pioneer went alone, she was warned to flee for her life but refused to do so, and for five days remained in hiding on a bed behind a curtain. The Lord has greatly vindicated her stand, and now some of her most fanatical opponents welcome her in their houses, and the first three souls have confessed Christ. Hearts are turning to the Lord in all places and we have no doubt that there is going to be a great harvest of souls.

In Central Asia, there has been a wonderful victory. All Christians know that none is so hard to win to Christ as a Moslem. Eight Crusaders are on the northern frontiers of India, four of them across the Himalayas, in one of the world's remotest lands, Little Tibet. For fifteen years on and off there have been Missionaries in the land, but the only response had been one or two converts. This year there has been a move of the Spirit and some fifteen have confessed Christ. Strong opposition has been aroused, especially because the group of believers ate meat on Christmas Day, which had been killed by Christian (defiled) hands; this has made one or two waver, but the others stand firm. (Most recent news of all is 28 converts from Islam from our other station this side of the Himalayas, at Haripur).

In Spanish Guinea (West Africa), the Lord has given wonderful guidance. The first two Crusaders entered the land eighteen months ago. Their number is now increased to four. Arriving there as total strangers they trekked inland to a place where they received the loan of a leaky little bamboo hut from a friendly trader. Here they received a remarkable piece of guidance when praying to be led to the right spot in which to start work. The Lord assured them that He would give them what appeared an impossibility and an absurdity—a ready-made Mission station, where there was no such thing. They were tested, but remained true to the revelation. Several invitations were given them by

native headmen to come and build in their villages but they refused them. Meanwhile, during their three months in the hut many a night they had to shift their beds to escape the rain. They came to within a fortnight of the time when the loan of the hut ceased. There remained one more centre to the south unvisited. On calling there they found a trader with a splendid house, shop, out-houses for natives, garden ready planted, fresh water spring, healthy position, etc. He had just been summoned home to Spain through his daughter's illness, and was offering the place at a ridiculous price. The whole place passed into our hands for £18, and is now the W.E.C. Headquarters—the shop being the first Meeting-house. Recently, letters tell of the 50th native to accept Christ.

Equally wonderful is the seal the Lord gave to the first W.E.C. pioneers to the **Ivory Coast (West Africa)**, who sailed last autumn. Shortly before sailing, they were impressed with the need of a car, for the roads are good and numerous out there. On 27th September the Lord distinctly said to Mr. Staniford, "I will give you a car tomorrow" and he told Mrs. Staniford. But September 28th came and no sign of a car!—Unknown to Mr. Staniford, there was a lady who was present at the Annual Meeting a few days previously who had not been in touch with the work for years. She was struck by Mr. Staniford's testimony, and on 28th September wrote to Headquarters about him, saying that she would like to help. As it happened the letter was unanswered for a few days, but Mr. Staniford, ignorant of this, remained puzzled, but certain that God had Spoken. When it was answered, however, she wrote again saying that she would like to help him by giving him a car! It was only later discovered that her first letter had been written on the very date given by the Lord. They have already travelled some 2,000 miles in the country, and are now expecting daily to get permission to open their first station in an unevangelized tribe in the north-west. In a few weeks time they will be four in number.

On the borders of Arabia, the going is slow owing to the time it takes to learn the difficult Arabic language. The Lord has given us a Headquarters in a desert city, ideally situated for expeditions on camel-back to the Bedouin. It is cause for praise that we are permitted there at all, as the Government usually forbid it. More wonderful still is the fact that in that fanatical land we are in touch with a tribe of Bedouin, called the Solieb, scattered right across North Arabia, from Iraq to Transjordan, who give our workers a welcome and are asking for teachers. We hope to start regular work among them next year.

IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS ?

One thing more to be said and that is the most vital of all. While we thankfully receive candidates for the field from many training schools, God has specially brought us into close co-operation with the Bible College of Wales, Swansea, whose Founder is the Rev. Rees Howells, and this owing to the fact that God called him ten years ago to build a Bible College of faith, with the very same object in view as that for which HE called Mr. Studd to start the W.E.C.—“the evangelization of the remaining unevangelized parts of the earth in the shortest possible time.” The way the Lord has led him and supplied his need in the purchase of houses and property for the Bible College, a school for missionaries’ children and a Missionary Rest Home, is one of the greatest exploits of faith in our generation. Last year we received ten new workers from there, this year twenty-five, and next year they promise us fifty.

The Lord has recently renewed his commission more definitely to them and to us and told us that it is His Will and plan that “every creature,” who has not had a chance to hear the Gospel should have one in the next thirty years—that is, in our generation. Although we fully realize the tremendousness of the task and the number of workers that must be sent out, we believe the Lord will do it in exactly the same way as He has already supplied.

With this in view we expect to enter every country, or portion of a country, which is still without a Gospel witness, whether in some cases it will need only one or two workers to occupy an area, or in others a large number. Indeed, we shall be glad to be given information of any such areas from any of the reads of this leaflet, and to receive volunteers for them. Besides those already entered or being entered, we have before us as needing evangelization in whole or in part : Africa, Senegal, French Guinea, Liberia, Gold Coast, Dahomey, Northern Sudan : other areas of India, Dutch East Indies: Spain : and amongst the Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Canary, Azores, Guadeloupe and Martinique.

In spite of the apparent greatness of the number we believe the Lord is going to give us in this coming year, before the 5th Anniversary of Mr. Studd’s home call, July 16th, 1936,

75 NEW MISSIONARIES

Join us in faith and prayer.

**The Hon. Secretary,
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