

M. F. Church

The Foreigner in Our Midst

“Beginning at Jerusalem”



“The stranger that dwelleth with
you shall be unto you as one born
among you, and thou shalt love
him as thyself.”—*Lev. xix, 34.*

Published by The Board of Home Missions and Church
Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1026 Arch
Street, Philadelphia, Pa. :: :: :: ::

The Foreigner in Our Midst.

“Beginning at Jerusalem.”

The Command. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.”
ACTS I: 8.

The First Service. The first Methodist service was held on this continent in 1766.

Founders. It was Missionary work when Philip Embury, Robert Strawbridge, Captain Webb and others proclaimed the doctrines of Methodism on these shores. Mr. Wesley sent Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor as MISSIONARIES to the New World.

John Stewart. Before the organization of the Missionary Society, John Stewart, a Negro, began preaching among the Indians in Ohio. This is a significant fact—the representative of an enslaved people, a self-appointed Missionary, under Providence, to the “*original inhabitants.*”

Missionary Society. The Missionary Society was organized in 1819.

First Appropriation. The first appropriation was for work among the French in New Orleans. Thus *Home Missions began among Foreign-speaking people.*

January, 1907. HOME MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION were united and placed under the care of the "Board of Home Missions and Church Extension," January 1, 1907.

English Speaking. Home Mission and Church Extension appropriations for English-speaking work among White people are \$472,831; and for Negroes, \$56,978; making a total of \$529,809.* This is more than four-fifths of the entire amount appropriated.

The Gospel to Foreigners. If the Church seems to have been slow in *sending the Gospel to Foreign lands* it should be remembered that the young Church was of necessity engaged in the work of organization and Church building. Its success was a triumphal march, and thus a foundation was laid as a source of revenue for ALL missionary and other benevolent enterprises.

Foreigners to the Gospel. The Lord is now *sending Foreigners to the Gospel*. Immigration is not by accident, but in the order of Providence. To evangelize the foreign-speaking peoples in America is our *duty*. The *obligation* is a *privilege*. Our *duty* is a *delight*.

The Call. This is a call to PATRIOTISM and CHRISTIANITY.

*The appropriations named in this leaflet are for 1913, and include both Home Missions and Church Extension.

A Great Number. There are nearly 35,000,000 people of foreign birth and native born children of foreign and mixed parentage. Here is our magnificent opportunity to "TEACH ALL NATIONS." They are at our doors.

German. The Germans number nearly 10,000,000. Work among them is thoroughly organized. We have ten German Conferences, with 727 ministers and 62,877 members. The appropriations amount to \$52,950.

Norwegian and Danish. There are nearly 2,500,000 Norwegian and Danish people in the United States, with two Conferences, 133 ministers and over 8,000 members. The appropriations are \$23,600.

Swedes. It is estimated that there are about 1,500,000 Swedes, among whom we have five Conferences and one Mission, with 210 ministers and nearly 20,000 members. Appropriations are \$36,235.

The Best Type. Work among the Germans and Scandinavians is well established. They represent the best type of Methodism. They are integral parts of the Church and are reckoned among its vital forces.

Slavs. The Slavs number about 8,000,000, including Polish, Bohemian, Moravian, Ruthenian, Slovak, Russian, Bulgarian, Servian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, Croatian, Slovenian, Dalmatian, Bosnian and Herzegovinian. The work is in its infancy. We have only 18 ministers among these people, but a brighter day is dawning.

Italians. There are about 3,000,000 Italians. Ministers within the territory east of the Mississippi (the Italian Mission) number about 45. Members and probationers, about 4,000. Appropriations are \$50,500. (There are several Italian congregations west of the "Father of Waters.")

Spanish. The Spanish-speaking people in the *United States* and *Porto Rico* number about 2,500,000. The appropriations are \$50,070. The membership numbers between 8,000 and 9,000. There are 30 ministers on the Continent and 10 in the Porto Rico Mission Conference. In addition, the latter Conference employs 36 Local Preachers and Exhorters.

Japanese. The Japanese in the United States are estimated at 75,000. They are principally located on the Pacific Coast and in Hawaii. Appropriations for Japanese and Koreans amount to \$30,400.

Chinese. The Chinese are about 75,000 in number and are scattered among the larger cities throughout the United States. The appropriations are \$20,110.

Welsh. There are but two Welsh congregations in this country, one in Utica, New York, the other in Bangor, Pennsylvania. It is estimated that there are about 300,000 of these people in the United States.

Finns. The Finns number about 250,000. The work of the church among them is principally in northern Minnesota and northern Michigan.

French. There are in this country about 1,250,000 French. The French Canadians are to be found mostly in New England, while those from France are principally located in New York and Chicago. We appropriated for work among these people, \$4,785.

Other Peoples. The Board is doing Missionary work in a limited way among Portuguese, Greek, Syrian and Armenian people. There are estimated to be 110,000 Greeks and 120,000 Portuguese in this country. The appropriations for work among these four nationalities are a little over \$4,000.

Foreign Missions at Home. It will be seen from the foregoing that the Board is carrying on a FOREIGN MISSIONARY campaign in the HOMELAND.

Appropriations. The General Committee makes appropriations to aid in the evangelization of Foreigners as their needs are made to appear and as the contributions of the Church make possible.

Dr. Buckley's Strong Statement. Dr. James M. Buckley, when President of the Board of Foreign Missions and Editor of the Christian Advocate, published an editorial, January, 28, 1909, in which the following occurs :

“DO YOU KNOW that for many years after we established Missions, missionary money from the Society was appropriated to every annual Conference in the Church ?

“DO YOU KNOW that the Missionary Society solicited many of the Annual Conferences to relinquish their appropriations, and that this was done that the Missionary Society might free itself from debt and aid the growing Foreign Missions ?

“ARE YOU AWARE that the relinquishing of appropriations was asked by the Missionary Society and granted by the Annual Conferences with the expressed understanding that it was a TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT, and that appropriations to all the Conferences which made the sacrifice would be resumed as soon as possible ?”

Increase Needed. Certainly the time has come when, in view of the legitimate claims of the RURAL CHURCH and the absolute needs of the congested portions of the GREAT CITIES, this “expressed understanding” should be fully met. This can be done by a marked increase in the *contributions*.

Co-operation. The Board co-operates with *City Societies* and the *Woman's Home Missionary Society* in the work of evangelizing Foreign-speaking peoples.

Education. There is a pressing call for American young men to study one or more foreign languages that they may successfully prosecute Missionary work among these foreign-speaking people. Facilities for such study are furnished by the Baldwin University and the German Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, and in a few other schools.

Foreigners It is estimated that about 250,000
Returning. foreigners return to their native
land every year. If each may
carry with him correct ideas of civilization and
Christianity gained during his residence in America,
he becomes to that extent a MISSIONARY. Thus
the work of *Home Missions* among *Foreigners* is
indirectly a contribution towards *Foreign Missions*.

Foreign and English-speaking churches are
English materially strengthened by re-
Speaking. ceiving young people from the
churches using a foreign lan-
guage. Appropriations made to aid in the support
of churches using an alien tongue thus indirectly
aid the English-speaking churches.

The young people should not be enticed away
from the mother church, but associations generally
lead to a desire on their part for a change of mem-
bership.

The tide of immigration from foreign lands will
determine the need of appropriations to churches
using a foreign tongue. While immigration con-
tinues, the gospel should be preached to the new
comer in the language which he used in his native
land. Where the people understand the English
language, as is sometimes the case, the services
should be conducted in English. In one German
church in New Orleans, Louisiana, within the
bounds of the Southern German Conference, all
the services are conducted in English. In another
church in the same city, German is used in the
morning service and English in the evening.

Thanking God for past success, we rejoice in
present prospects and are confident of a glorious
future.

ROBERT FORBES.