

9 Dec. 1946

"BON VOYAGE"
Extracts from a letter by
Charles Moffett
San Francisco, Dec. 9, 1946

"...We are definitely scheduled to sail on Saturday, December 21st, stopping at Hong Kong, Singapore, Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. The trip to Bombay is expected to take thirty-three days. I just learned that the Marine Adder, a sister ship has been substituted for the Falcon with no explanation given. So now we are going on the Adder.

There is one thing I must tell you about as best I can because it was simply tremendous. It was so thrilling to be a part of it that I wish I could adequately describe it for you, but I will try to give some impression of it so that you can make use of its great possibilities.

First of all, I am inclosing a copy of the newspaper article of December 2nd telling about the great Bon Voyage missionary rally which was held yesterday. It was the greatest gathering of missionaries leaving for foreign fields in the history of missions, and the greatest send-off with tremendous significance from the standpoint of the Ecumenical Church. The Presbyterians were in preponderance as to number of missionaries, representation in the choir and participants in the program. I don't know when I have attended a more impressive service. I don't see how any of the missionaries could have possibly come away from the meeting without a renewed dedication, a deeper consecration and humility, a greater determination to preach Christ in His fulness, and a richer purpose, full of joy in going for Christ and His Kingdom.

The large Oakland auditorium was well nigh filled with over 6000 Christians from all over the Bay area. As the doors swung open in the rear, from the platform came the full and clear notes of a trumpet call. Then led by two flag bearers the missionary procession came in, four abreast, as the audience rose. The trumpeter was excellent, the choir superb with over 350 in the combined choir, rivalling the General Assembly choir, the message tremendously challenging and inspirational, and the whole program left one tingling. There is so much of detail of the remarks that I would like to pass on to you, but I think you can pretty well duplicate the trend of thoughts. It was powerful, inspiring to us as we go forth and challenging to the Christians here to double and redouble their prayers and support in this day of opportunity. A few gems from the newspaper article in today's paper (Dec. 9).

Over 6000 people crowded into the Oakland auditorium to pay tribute to 900 missionaries who soon leave "to spread the Gospel" in the Far East. Dr. J. Oscar Johnson, Baptist minister from St. Louis, termed this era "the greatest missionary opportunity of all time", and "what becomes of this opportunity will depend upon what you (pointing to the congregation) and the Protestant congregations of America make of it". Those sailing are "the shock troops of other missionaries to come, and are going forth to form a battle line of the Cross". We are not sending forth these missionaries over any country but on missions into the countries. "Would that all 900 of you were Baptists. I say that only because, instead of you 900 representing 58 denominations, I would that each denomination were represented by 900." Then we would be somewhat more adequately accepting the challenge and opportunity offered to the church of Christ in the open door of missions today.

Even though you were not privileged to be at this most impressive service I hope I have been able to portray something of it to you so that you can make use of it and its significance in church circles.

(Signed) Charles

In signing this letter with you, I feel it is most appropriate because of the time of year. It was at the Candlelight Service here in Sausalito two years ago that my brother worshipped with us for the first time on his return from India. His letter shows that the various denominations can rise to the occasion and do the right thing at the right time. It is great music to the soul - like the music of the Christmas angels - "Peace on earth among men of good will".

Sincerely yours,

James M. Moffett

Emphasis on YOUTH



Accent on Evangelism

IT MAY COME AS SOMEWHAT OF A SURPRISE to many to learn that this year Presbyterian young people have taken upon themselves the delicate but urgent responsibility of evangelism.

If you think of evangelism in terms of strident religious extroversion, this is not it. The evangelism which has caught the enthusiasm of our young people grows inevitably out of the very character of our faith. It is an integral part of our Christian heritage. If we love Jesus Christ and believe that salvation is in him alone, we cannot help but seek to win others into the fellowship of his redeeming love.

It was the second annual meeting of the National Council of Westminster Fellowship, held at Park College, Missouri, in July, which gave impetus to this new enthusiasm for more direct Christian outreach. There, Dr. George Sweazey of the Board of National Missions hammered home a challenge to the delegates in a series of daily inspirational addresses on the theme, "How to Know Christ and Win Friends for Him."

The Christian Outreach Commission promptly took up the challenge. It set for itself the task of outlining a complete youth program of evangelism. "We must be evangelists—living epistles—of Christ," it wrote in the Commission report, and stressed the need of personal preparation. "We can win others only to what we care about deeply ourselves. . . . We must have convictions we clearly and wholeheartedly believe."

Good advice was given. "Avoid controversy. . . . Say only what you sincerely believe in fresh, appealing language. . . . Remember that Christ will work through you and do not be discouraged if you see no immediate results."

To those who ask, "What do you mean, evangelism? What do you do? What do you say?" the Commission's answer was, "Look at the mission field." Careful study of missionary methods and program was recommended.

The report might well have added that one

of the best definitions of evangelism ever written is that contained in The Foreign Board's statement of purpose, "The supreme and controlling aim of foreign missions is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all men as their Divine Saviour and to persuade them to become his disciples; to gather these disciples into Christian churches . . ."

Note well that this accent on evangelism is more than a mere paper proposition. It already has its roots in real life. The San Antonio (Texas) Westminster Fellowship of Presbytery, for instance, has launched a quiet campaign "to win friends for Christ." Others are mobilizing to do likewise.

Providentially, a magnificent training technique for evangelism is already in our hands—the caravan. This summer eleven caravans of Presbyterian young people (49 caravaners) went out for five weeks of intensive itineration through the churches. They were first prepared in three training conferences where for a week of concentrated study they learned to lead worship services, missionary meetings, youth rallies, and game nights. Some have backed out in tears when, for the first time, they faced the terrifying prospect of Christian leadership, of speaking to others about Jesus Christ. But those who pressed on have come back rejoicing—full of the wonderful thrill of actual accomplishment in Christian service and witness.

What does this have to do with missions? Well, in one of the check-up conferences, about thirteen young caravaners were gathered together after the summer's work. They were bubbling over with joy and enthusiasm.

Four of those thirteen have written in since then telling of decisions to enter full-time Christian service. Three of them want to be foreign missionaries.

You can see for yourself now that Presbyterian young people have a new interest in evangelism. Of course they are afraid of it. But some of them are overcoming that fear by doing it.

—SAMUEL H. MOFFETT.

Y, MARCH 14, 1946

Rev. Moffett to Address
Presbyterian Lenten Group



The Rev. Samuel Hugh Moffett, director of the Youth Division of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., will be the guest speaker at the Lenten family night supper of the Presbyterian Church next Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 p. m. Dr. Moffett is a personal friend of the pastor of the local church, having been for several years assistant pastor to the Rev. Alexander Allison, Jr., father of the Rev. V. S. Allison in Bridgeport, Conn. He is a young man interested in young people and brings a message concerning the work of youth today in the life of the Christian church.

Dr. Moffett is now a missionary appointee-in-waiting expecting in the near future to go out as a "voluntary" missionary to China next to the land of his birth. He is the son of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Moffett, pioneer missionaries in Korea, and was born and spent his early youth in that famous land. His father was founder of the Union Theological Seminary in Pyongyang, and President of Union Christian College.

Thus Dr. Moffett comes honestly by his desire to go out to serve those with whom he spent his early years. At eighteen years of age he came to this country for his education, graduating from Wheaton College, in Illinois, Princeton Theological Seminary, and obtaining his Ph. D. of Yale University in Church History. He is spending this period between the completion of his studies and his going out to the Orient, getting acquainted with the youth of America through her churches, and enlisting their interest in the cause that has laid claim to his life.

The Lenten family supper is one of a series of Wednesday evening get-togethers for the members of the Presbyterian Church and their families during the Lenten season. Previous suppers have been very well attended with full houses each night, and the expectation is that they will continue so for the rest of the period. At the service Wednesday evening, a motion picture, "Ngoni and Her People" was shown depicting the life of a young African Girl and her contact with the mission work under the Presbyterian Church. The communicant's class for instruction in church membership and the Christian Life is held each Wednesday evening at 5:30 p. m., preceding the suppers under the leadership of the pastor and is well attended by the young people and adults.