



Shall they be in the Philippines?



THIS WAY TO THE HEART
OF MINDANAO

Mindanao is the most unusual field in all the mission world. Three of the most remarkable missionary opportunities are there awaiting the Congregationalists of the United States, and these under the stars and stripes.

WHAT IS MINDANAO?

It is an island about the size of Indiana, the second largest of the Philippine group, and includes one third of their total area. It is a land of beautiful mountains, rich in forests of ebony and mahogany. Its highest peak is Mt. Apo, 10,312 feet in elevation. It is a land of most fertile soil, rich in natural resources. Rice, corn, sugar-cane, coconuts, hemp, sweet potatoes, etc., are ready products of the soil, growing in abundance.

WHERE IS MINDANAO?

It is one of 3,141 islands, small and great, in the Pacific Ocean, lying about 600 miles south from Japan, and 6,200 miles from San Francisco. Mindanao is about 500 miles south of Manila, the chief city of this group of islands, and is reached by inter-island boat service.

WHO ARE ITS INHABITANTS?

There is not far from a million of them. Three main types are found, and this fact constitutes the remarkable element of the field.

THE FILIPINOS

Go along the northern and northeastern shores and you will find one group, **the Filipinos**. There are about 350,000 of them and they are civilized. Many have come from the northern islands. They are industrious and alert to every commercial opportunity. They are making much of the natural opportunities afforded them on the islands. They are unusually fine material for potential Americans of the best sort.

For three centuries and more they have been under the sway of Romanism. Many are weary of it now. Tired of its shams and forms. The men now are largely without any religious affiliation. The two

things they do plead for are teachers and preachers. Our government is making progress in supplying the former need. The latter need it is our privilege and duty to furnish. They want a living and not a dead Christ. They want the Word of Life.

THE MOROS

Traverse, by motor boat or by road and trail, the western shores of the Island, and mid-way from the north and south follow up the Cotabato Valley and around Lake Lanao, and there you will find 300,000 people, another challenging opportunity. Here are the Moros, Moslems in faith but not in practice, fanatical, quarrelsome. General Pershing had a large part in taming them. Now they are awake and cordial to the approaches of our government in the education of their children.

Here, then, are 300,000 Moros waiting for the United States? No, for the United States has come. They await something our Congregational Churches of America must furnish. **Twenty years have gone by and we have not sent in a single school, dispensary, chapel or worker.**

THE HILL TRIBES

Now, move across the Island by still more primitive trails to the southeastern side of the Island, to the region around the Gulf of Davao. Here, in a territory about the size of New Jersey, are 200,000 people. Perhaps a half of them may be called semi-Christians. Five to six thousand of Japanese and hundreds of Chinese. On the water you will find Moros, living in small dug-out canoes or *vintas*. You will find Filipinos. Most significant in that section, as you go back into the hills, you will find the **Hill Tribe Men**. In this province alone are twenty known tribes, and there is still unexplored territory. Each tribe has its own dialect. Among them you might have seen, only a few years ago, head-hunters, slave-holders, human sacrificers, and, possibly, in a few cases, cannibals.

Under the American administration the best of friendship has been established between America and these wild men. Stable forms of government have been established. Road-making and agriculture have been brought in.

Still there is the problem of the children. Careful estimates show that here at least 30,000 of school age, in pagan homes, under our Star Spangled Banner, are without any school privileges. The Philippine Government will not be able, though desiring to do so, to supply schools for more than one-fourth of this number in the present generation. A few mission schools, already planned for, will hardly reach more than another five per cent. **Shall America leave in darkness and continual neglect these wild men of Mindanao?**

WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR THEM?

HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS

Our main work, and the oldest, is in the Davao District. In 1902 a missionary preacher and his wife arrived. Six years later a doctor and his wife and a nurse joined them. Later a mission hospital was established and five dispensaries opened. This medical work now reaches one thousand in-patients and covers fifteen thousand treatments yearly. Here are distributed, not simply medicines, but the Gospel in six or more languages and dialects. The doctor spends most of his time at the hospital, but the coming of a new doctor means that the outside needs will receive much larger attention.

There is now only one family in educational and evangelistic work. They are assisted by eight Filipino evangelists and teachers. A church there numbers 150 members. Services are held in English and Visayan. English is prevailingly used; in the Christian Endeavor Society entirely. You will find there duly registered troops of Boy and Girl Scouts. Owing to the many dialects used by these people there have to be many translations of the Bible and hymn books. How would you enjoy singing where Spanish, English, Visayan, and Tagalog, and one or two other dialects, all join in the song at the same time? Mrs. St. Clair conducts a successful Sunday kindergarten.

Among the hill tribes, back about twenty-five miles, are the Bagobo villages, with schools numbering from forty to one hundred students. Young Christian



Filipinos are the teachers. At least a dozen new mission schools ought to be started soon. Mr. Augur is now planning to open an intermediate school to train selected boys and girls from the government schools, in more advanced study, especially of the Bible, and in industrial training. This will be a start towards supplying native leaders for the tribes.

AN S. O. S. FOR EVANGELISTS

Among the northern peoples, the Filipinos, our main work is carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Woodward. The need here is for evangelists. The harvest is "overripe and falling off," and no one is there to gather it. A few scattered groups have their churches, but they have no regular preachers. Twenty-five congregations, numbering over two thousand, have already been started. Fully five thousand of these Filipinos are ready to come into the church, and there is no one there to prepare them for it, or to welcome them in. An immediate in-gathering of souls, hardly less sizable than that of northern China, is waiting on our response to that appeal.

At Cagayan, under Dr. Laubach, a beginning in the training of native evangelists was made. A big house was bought, and in it accommodations are possible for fifty high school boys. Some twenty-one are now studying the Bible there, under the direction of Mr. Woodward.

In Silliman Institute, across a little space of water at Dumaguete, a joint work is maintained by the Presbyterians and Congregationalists to train young Filipinos as native pastors to go back into this harvest field and gather some of the fruit. Here we have placed Mr. and Mrs. Channon to help in the training of eight hundred students. Dr. Laubach is now located at the Union Theological School at Manila, where he will train up native leaders for the work, especially in the Visayan field.

Recently Dr. and Mrs. Floyd O. Smith have returned to the Island, and started a greatly needed medical work at Cagayan. At present he has no hospital, Davao lending some of its equipment.

MINDANAO'S NEED IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY

It is our "job." Other denominations "gave" us this island, which is the best portion of the Philippines. They had confidence in us. Have we justified that confidence? Have we done the "square thing" by them? By the million waiting souls of the Island? By ourselves, as Christians and fellow Americans? There is talk in the air of withdrawing the Stars and Stripes from those islands. If that day comes soon America will withdraw, having something to her great credit for the years she has been there. Can as much be said of our Congregational Churches? "Nearly a million Mohammedan and pagan people under our own flag, put directly under the care of the Congregational Churches of America, have never yet heard a Christian prayer, seen a Christian church, or a Christian missionary."

The Philippines — shall they be American or pagan or Christian? As far as the Island of Mindanao is concerned, if it is to be the latter, it depends upon our Congregational Churches.

BUYING UP YOUR OPPORTUNITY

The American Board is offering a new plan of support of its mission work. It is called **Kingdom Investments**. We are offering to churches and schools and individuals a block of \$10,000 in the Island of Mindanao, representing various phases of the work in this field. For evangelistic work, at Cagayan and among the Filipino people of the northern and northeastern coast, we are putting down \$3,000; for Davao, among the Visayans and the hill tribes, \$1,000 for evangelistic work, \$1,500 for educational work, and \$1,000 for medical work; for Union work at Silliman Institute \$1,000. \$7,500 is available for those who would seek investments of missionary gifts in the work on this wonderful island.

We are also including **parts of the salaries** of the following missionaries: Rev. and Mrs. Irving M. Channon, doing such splendid work in the Silliman Institute; Rev. and Mrs. Julius S. Augur, capable and enthusiastic leaders in social, educational and evangelistic work at Davao; Dr. and Mrs. Roy E. St. Clair, in their blessed work of healing at the hospital at Davao; Dr. and Mrs. Floyd O. Smith, in the new medical work which they are opening up in that section, where there is a thousand miles of seacoast without a doctor; and also Rev. and Mrs. Frank J. Woodward of Cagayan, missionaries on tour among the thousands of eager Filipinos of the north and eastern coasts.

All told, then, here are \$10,000 to be offered to our churches in shares under **Kingdom Investments**. This means four hundred shares at \$25 each. How many shares will you take? There is not a church in the denomination that cannot afford to take one share. The majority could take three or four. Some individuals may desire shares. Holders of shares will receive a certificate, and also three letters a year, giving the latest inspiring news from the field, in which their investment is made. Good, "live stuff" it will be.

For more detail regarding the securing of shares, see our general circular of information, entitled, **Kingdom Investments under the American Board**. Under this plan each purchaser of a share is given the privilege of sharing in every item of the budget. Hence, it should be kept in mind that we cannot assign any one item to one person or group. Here we all share together in the glorious work for Christ.



ON THE TRAIL TO COTABATO. MR. WOODWARD, SECOND IN LINE



REV.
F. C. LAUBACH



MISS ANNA FOX



REV. J. S. AUGUR



BAGOBO STOREHOUSES



REV.
F. J. WOODWARD



DR. F. O. SMITH



OUR HOSPITAL AT DAVAO



DR. R. E. ST. CLAIR