

## THE TASK OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN OUR DAY

The task of foreign missions in our day, simply stated, is to carry out Christ's commission just as fully as is possible, relying upon divine power, for He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore." With 700,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 people in this world knowing nothing of God's appointed Saviour, the whole Church and every individual Christian is under the highest and most direct responsibility, in obedience and in trust of God, to reduce that appalling number, to take and send the witness to Christ to just as many as possible. In the face of this human need all excuses fall flat; and it is a task of such magnitude and such eternal possibilities as to merit every waking hour of all God's people until it is accomplished.

This seemingly simple, though enormous, task has been beset always by the greatest of difficulties. Rarely have these difficulties been more aptly summarized than by Coillard of the Zambesi who wrote,

"The evangelization of the heathen world is a desperate struggle with the Prince of Darkness, and with everything his rage can stir up in the shape of obstacles, vexations, oppositions, and hatred, whether by circumstances or by the hand of men."

That desperate struggle is still to be faced in our day. Any one who has seen or studied the Mission fields of our times or of previous centuries knows full well that this is so. In addition, however, to these Satanic difficulties which have always been present, true missionaries of our day are confronted with one that Coillard did not list, and which, until comparatively recently, no missionary expected ever to meet. Yet it must be taken into account. It stares every faithful Board and almost every missionary in the face!

One shrinks from letting the words fall from his lips or flow from his pen, but truth and honesty compel one to state that something has gone wrong, tragically wrong, with much present day mission work.

Modernism, unbelief, rationalism, even apostasy, have captured whole Boards, Missions and many missionaries. Churches upon the Mission field, founded on the truth, have succumbed to this new, yet ever old, snare of Satan, so that again in our day as in Jeremiah's *Waddo* *W*