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Mary C. Newlove

THE

MISSIONARY SURVEY



HOME MISSIONS

FOREIGN MISSIONS

JANUARY, 1923



A country day school at Hangchow.

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
AND
MINISTERIAL
RELIEF

PUBLICATION
AND
SABBATH
SCHOOL
WORK

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AT HOME AND ABROAD

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EDITORIAL

"SUNRISE IN AZTEC LAND"

R. A. LAPSLEY, D. D.

THIS is the appropriate title which Rev. Wm. A. Ross, has given to his most excellent book on Mexico. This is to be the Foreign Mission text book for mission study classes during the year 1923, and is just off the press, issued by the Presbyterian Committee of Publication. It is a worthy successor to the preceding volumes of this series of mission study books which have won high place in the estimation of the whole Church, such as "Day In and Day Out in Korea," "Triumphs of the Gospel in the Belgian Congo." Mr. Ross does for Mexico what Mr. Bedinger and Mrs. Nisbet have done for our Congo mission and for the mission work in Korea.

We believe our readers will agree with us in the very high estimate which we place upon "Sunrise in Aztec Land," because—

1. It is packed full of information. It describes vividly the climate, the resources, the geography, the antiquities, the past history, the present conditions—all you want to know about Aztec Land. The book contains a fine set of maps, particularly two fine new maps which show the allocation of all Mexico to the different Church Mission Boards, and which give a sectional map of the territory which we now occupy. There are also photos of pioneer workers in our former field, and striking views of the section of Mexico where our new work is located.

It contains not merely historical information and other material of interest to the general reader, but it is specially full of missionary facts set-

ting forth the past, present and future of the missionary enterprise in our Southern Neighbor. And it contains not merely information, but abounds in incident. All through it are little pen pictures of the patriotic men and women who have rescued Mexico from Spanish oppression, brief biographical sketches of pioneer mission workers, heart stories of the fruits of mission work in those who have been raised from sin and ignorance and superstition to be shining trophies of the grace of God.

We have for example pen pictures of such Mexican patriots as Hidalgo, Josefa Ortiz, Morelos and Guerrero; such trophies of gospel grace among the women as Celestina Victoria or Dona Carmen; such men as Don Bernabe, who "in his early days was systematically, openly and cheerfully bad, who gambled, stole, lied, drank, and above all dearly loved a cock fight; yet in whom the Lord Jesus wrought a miracle seen in his very face as he sat at his shoemaker's bench, his countenance shining with the grace of God."

2. This mass of information is well arranged. After the Preface and the Introduction the book is divided into three parts: The Darkness, The Dawn, The Day. In Part One the writer traces the early history of Mexico under the title of "Pagan Darkness," and the Spanish invasion and so-called christianization of the country under the head of "Papal Darkness." In Part Two the history of Mexican missions is traced from its first beginning until the present day; and in

Part Three there is a glance into the future based upon present conditions, and the hopes which are kindled by the sure promises of God.

3. The book is well written. The style is simple, yet vivid, and the author's pen flows easily with much literary charm. This is very evident in the first pages—the Introduction, in which Mexico is pictured as “The land of contrast and contradictions.” For example—as to the history of the country: “On the one hand stands romance, statesmanship, adventure, chivalry, idealism; on the other hand we find oppression, selfishness, lack of spiritual ideas, cruelty, sordid ambition, impracticability, slavery.” Again, as to the economic condition of the land—“There is careless, boundless wealth beside hopeless penury. There is a small class that lives in luxury, but the masses of the people live in extreme poverty. In this land of fabulous wealth millions do not have enough to eat, and live in houses hardly suitable for animals.”

4. The book is not only informing and attractive, but it is inspiring. Here we have a moving picture of a great country and a great people with a pathetic history. They have been crushed by one of the most bloody conquests in the annals of time, and exploited by greedy and remorseless foreign masters; they have suffered especially from the blight of Roman-

ism. “In Mexico Christianity instead of fulfilling its mission of enlightening, converting and sanctifying the natives, was itself converted. Paganism was baptized. Christianity was paganized.” On this point, with a great deal of tact, Mr. Ross calls to witness Roman Catholic writers who have passed judgment upon the Roman Catholic church in Mexico. Not only is the call to missions that of the desperate need of a pure gospel in a land of dense superstition, and sin, and sorrow, but the call is enforced by the triumphs of missionary work already accomplished. Mr. Ross tells an inspiring story of missionary progress in which our own Church has had no small part, and yet the fringes of the country only have been touched, and the great masses of the people are still unreached by the pure gospel of Christ.

To our readers therefore, we say, get this book as soon as you can; send in advance orders and you will be well repaid for the investment. Once you take the book up, you will not want to put it down. Also we congratulate Mission Study Classes on their textbook for the next year, which will be not only instructive and helpful but most interesting and inspiring.

Order from Presbyterian Committee of Publication. Price 50c, paper; 75c cloth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF “SUNRISE IN AZTEC LAND”

Rev. William A. Ross, the author of “Sunrise In Aztec Land,” our Foreign Mission Study book for this year, is now in point of service one of the senior workers in the Mexican Field. He went to this mission in 1906 soon after his graduation from Union Theological Seminary at Richmond. Very quickly he acquired the Spanish language and for sixteen years he has been tireless in his devotion to this great mission field.

The re-adjustment of territory in

Mexico added very greatly to the difficulties of a situation already acute on account of the revolutions in this distracted country. Mr. Ross was sent to the Panama Conference in 1916 and to other conferences to aid in settling the delicate questions arising out of the new allocation of territory, transfer of property, etc., where his thorough acquaintance with Mexican conditions was invaluable to our Church. He was appointed as our representative on the faculty of the Union The-

ological Seminary, the joint educational institution of the Protestant churches working in Mexico, and he is rendering a great service here in training a generation of young Mexicans for work

among their own people. This extra burden is carried in addition to his work at the important station of Toluca.

NEAR EAST RELIEF

Our Assembly and a number of the Presbyteries gave the matter of relief for the desperately needy and sorely oppressed Armenians special attention at their meetings in 1922 and an appeal to our Churches, Sunday Schools and Societies was approved for January, 1923.

Words cannot picture what the Christian populations in Turkey have suffered at the hands of the Turkish soldiers and the tragedy is that the persecutions continue with no immediate prospect of relief.

January 19th is the Armenian Christmas, and several American

churches use the Sunday nearest this date as an appropriate time for making an offering for these heroic sufferers.

Over 100,000 orphans are now under the control of the American Near East Relief Committee and if they are kept alive and trained for self-support and Christian citizenship it must be through the generosity of Christian America.

We cordially commend this meritorious cause to all our people and we trust the offering on January 19th will be as large as the cause is worthy.

DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION

A new instance of denominational co-operation is given through the publication of Sunday School Quarterlies in different languages, which are used by practically all of the major denominations. Lessons in the Life of Christ have been put into the following languages, and are published by the denominations named, for the use of all denominations:—

Lessons in Italian are published by the Baptists, under the name of the United Religious Press, 1701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

In Polish by the United Presbyterians, under the name of the United Religious Press, 703 Publication building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

In Spanish, by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, under the name of the United Religious Press, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tenn.

In Russian by Southern Baptists, un-

der the name of United Religious Press, 161 Eighth Avenue, N., Nashville, Tenn.

In the Magyar, by the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., under the name of the United Religious Press, Wither-spoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa. And by the Reformed Church in the U. S., under the name of the United Religious Press, 15th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the Czech and the Bohemian, by the Methodist Episcopal Church, under the name of the United Religious Press, at their various publication houses, known as the Methodist Book Concern, one of which is 150 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Here is an instance of the United Religious Press serving all denominations with its headquarters in the separate publication offices of seven denominations.