

“Church History: Heroes, Heretics & Holy Wars”

Sunday School Notes

Rev. David R. Dorst
Potomac Hills Presbyterian Church

CLASS 7 – Missions Through The Ages

12 Apostles:

Thomas went to India

Thaddeus went to Armenia

Andrew went to Greece

Paul’s 3 missionary journeys- Turkey, Greece, Italy

Ireland

Patrick was born in 390 in Britain. At age 16, he was captured and taken to Ireland to work as a slave. He escaped after 6 years and made his way home. He had a dream of the Irish begging him to come back, so he eventually went back in 432. He established @300 churches and baptized @120,000 people. He did teach the Trinity as a shamrock. He didn’t drive the snakes out of Ireland, but he did drive false religion out. Priests & monks became well-known for their learning and piety. He organized the churches outside of the Roman church; Ireland didn’t really become Catholic until the 12th century. Really sad that people celebrate him only by dressing green and drinking a lot of beer.

Scotland

397- Ninian evangelizes the Southern Picts of Scotland.

Columba was born in 521 in Ireland, a Christian because of Patrick’s influence. He caused a battle that claimed 3,000 lives involving different clans, so he left Ireland and took a dozen men (a la Jesus & his apostles?) for Iona in Scotland in 563. They evangelized Scotland and northern England, and he became the abbot of Iona. Iona became a center of learning, scribal copying of manuscripts, as well as sending out evangelists all over Europe.

England

As early as 167, there were missionaries in England: Fuganus and Duvianus.

596 - Augustine is sent to England by Gregory the Great, to reintroduce the Gospel. Missionaries settle in Canterbury and within a year baptize 10,000 people!

650 - The first church is established in the Netherlands; Amadeus is the missionary’s name.

Germany

Boniface was born in 680 in Wessex, England. Trained as a Benedictine monk, he yearned to spread the Gospel. His first mission trip to Germany was a failure, as the king opposed him. He went to Rome and got a missionary commission from the Pope to take the gospel deep into Germany, and returned to great success. In 724, he marched into the forest of Thor, cut down the sacred Thundering Tree with just one blow. Used the wood to build a chapel to Saint Peter. Struck down by young pagans as he was preaching in his 70s.

740 - Irish monks reach Iceland

828 – Slovakia/Czech Republic receives its first missionaries.

863 – Cyril & Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs – brothers sent to Emperor Michael III of the Great Moravian Empire, which is Bulgaria. They invented the Cyrillic alphabet (based on Greek) to translate the Bible for the Slavs. They were the only ones who were granted permission by Rome to hold worship in the common language until the 1960s! Latin did come back after the brothers died; but Slavic Christians become very important in pre and post-Reformation days (Hussites/Moravians).

1000 – Leif the Lucky introduces the Gospel in Greenland

1008 - Swedish king Olaf baptized by a missionary

1266 – Mongol leader Khan sends Marco Polo's father and uncle back to Europe with a request to the Pope for 100 missionaries, only 2 respond.

1493 – Columbus takes priests with him on his 2nd journey to the New World; Pope Alexander had commanded Spain to colonize the New World with Catholic missions. 1496 – first Christian baptisms in the New World.

The Jesuits in the late 16th century were the main instruments of evangelism for the Catholic Church- going to Japan, Brazil, Ethiopia, central Africa, India, Malaysia, and Vietnam; as opposed to the Protestants who were consolidated in Europe and getting their doctrine straight.

1761- William Carey was born in England. Ordained as a Baptist minister, wrote *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen* and formed the Baptist Missionary Society to support him in establishing missionary work in India. He would bring up the need to convert heathens, but other (hyper-Calvinist) ministers told him, "If God wants to save the heathen, he will do so without your help or mine."

He sailed for India in 1793. He not only won a huge number of souls to Christ, but helped to improve the quality of their lives. Became known as the "Father of Modern Missions," his motto was "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."

He was a missionary for 3 decades, translated the Bible into 44 languages or dialects and had started several schools by the time he died in 1834 (73 yrs. old). Affirmed indigenous churches, missions teamwork, and the help of women.

The 19th century was the great century for missions:

1750: the world was 22% Christian with Scripture in 57 languages.

1900: the world was just under 35% Christian with Scripture in 537 languages.

1812 – On their honeymoon, **Adoniram and Ann Judson go to Burma.** One of the first missionaries from America, they translated the NT into Burmese. Took them 6 yrs. for their first convert. Adoniram was captured in a Burmese war and held for 2 yrs, Ann moved nearby and visited often, and died soon after he was freed. Adoniram worked for 24 more yrs, established 63 churches.

1816 – first American single woman, **Charlotte White**, becomes a missionary (to India)

1840 – **David Livingstone** left his home in Scotland to take God's light to the "Dark Continent" of Africa; he worked more towards exploring and helping the African people economically than the

slow work of planting churches. 1857 his book *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* was a best seller in England and Livingstone was a hero like Charles Lindbergh or Mars astronauts.

1854 - Hudson Taylor arrives in Shanghai, China at age 22. He didn't know Chinese, he didn't know anyone, had no plan, and was short on funds. He made the revolutionary decision to dress and act just like the Chinese, which horrified his fellow Brits. Formed China Inland Mission in 1865, which appointed people from different nations and denominations. By the time Hudson Taylor died, there were 849 missionaries working with him and 125,000 Chinese Christians. He wasn't the first missionary in China, but the most successful because he identified so closely with the people.

1866 - Charles Spurgeon invents the Wordless Book, widely used in cross-cultural evangelism.

Two notable women from the late 19th and early 20th century:

-Mary Slessor – Scottish, inspired by Livingstone, moved to Africa (mostly Nigeria), ran her own mission as a teacher.

-Lottie Moon - a Southern Baptist educator & evangelist missionary in China. Biggest legacy was asking American churches for more money. Baptist churches give an annual offering (the Lottie Moon fund) that has raised over a billion and a half dollars.

1886 - The Student Volunteer Movement begins after one of Dwight Moody's summer conferences. 100 students committed their lives to mission work. Within a year, 2,200 college students had pledged themselves to the mission field as the spirit spread. By 1914, 5,000 missionaries had been sent by the SVM and two other missions groups had been spun off: the World's Student Christian Federation and the Laymen's Missionary Movement. Also in 1910 the Edinburgh Missionary Conference, which later led to the formation of the World Council of Churches, met.

1956 - Modern America's most famous missionary group: Jim Elliott & Nate Saint and 3 others are killed by cannibals in Ecuador; Jim's wife and Nate's son finish their work.

Jim Elliott's most famous saying sums up the impetus for mission work: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

1974 - Ten day conference in Lausanne, Switzerland called the Congress on World Evangelization, with delegates from over 150 countries. An outgrowth of Billy Graham's ministry and John Stott was a major figure. Set conservative, evangelical and evangelistic theology out. Drew up a covenant that they all signed.

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