

3214 He strengthens with power.—Eph. 3:16.
 3215 He is the source of power and fruitfulness.—John 7:38, 39.
 3216
 3217 Some of the victorious results in our life, as Christ has His way in us, are
 3218 shown in:
 3219
 3220 Romans 8:32, 27.
 3221 Romans 15:13.
 3222 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11.
 3223 2 Corinthians 2:14.
 3224 Ephesians 1:19.
 3225 Ephesians 3:16, 20.
 3226 Philippians 4:7, 13, 19.
 3227 Colossians 1:11.
 3228 1 Peter 1:5.
 3229 2 Timothy 3:17.
 3230 Jude 24.
 3231 John 15:7.
 3232
 3233 To the seeker for further Scripture help the writer would suggest a plan that
 3234 has proved a great blessing to herself.
 3235
 3236 Read the Psalms through, making careful record of all the statements of what
 3237 the Lord was to the writers of the Psalms. The list will surprise you. Then on
 3238 your knees go over them one by one, with the prayer that Christ may be to
 3239 you what he was to David and the others.
 3240
 3241 Take a Cruden's, or better still a Young's, concordance and look up the texts
 3242 under such headings as Love, Fulness, Power, Riches, Grace, etc., grouping
 3243 them into usable Bible studies. As a sample, taking this last word, "grace";
 3244 the more one studies it the more wonderful does it become. Here are some of
 3245 these headings:
 3246
 3247 Grace for grace.—John 1:16.
 3248 Sufficient grace.—2 Cor. 12:9.
 3249 More Grace.—James 4:6.
 3250 All Grace.—2 Cor. 9:8.
 3251 Abundant grace.—Rom. 5:17.
 3252 Exceeding abundant grace.—1 Tim. 1:14.
 3253 Exceeding riches of His grace.—Eph. 2:17.
 3254
 3255 But let us remember that to simply know of riches will never materially
 3256 benefit us. We must make them our own. All fulness dwells in Christ. It is
 3257 only as we "apprehend" (which means take hold or take in) Christ through
 3258 the Holy Spirit can it be possible for these spiritual riches to become ours.
 3259 The slogan of this glorious life in Christ is just "Let go and let God."

How I Know God Answers Prayer

The Personal Testimony
of One Life-Time

By
ROSALIND GOFORTH

(Mrs. Jonathan Goforth)
Missionary in China since 1888

"They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness."—Psalm 145:7.

"Go . . . and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee."—Mark 5:19.

HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK AND LONDON

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Harper & Brothers

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOREWORD

1 IT seems fitting that this little book of personal testimonies to answered
2 prayer should have a brief introductory word as to how they came to be
3 written. The question has been asked by some who read many of these
4 testimonies as they appeared in the pages of The Sunday School Times:
5 “How could you write such personal and sacred incidents in your life?” I
6 could not have written them but for a very clear, God-given leading.
7
8 The story is as follows: When in Canada on our first furloughs I was
9 frequently amazed at the incredulity expressed when definite testimony was
10 given to an answer to prayer. Sometimes this was shown by an expressive
11 shrug of the shoulders, sometimes by a sudden silence or turning of the topic
12 of conversation, and sometimes more openly by the query: “How do you
13 know that it might not have happened so, anyway?”
14
15 Gradually the impression deepened: “If they will not believe one, two, or a
16 dozen testimonies, will they believe the combined testimonies of one whole
17 life?”
18
19 The more I thought of what it would mean to record the sacred incidents
20 connected with answers to prayer the more I shrank from the publicity, and
21 from undertaking the task. There were dozens of answers far too sacred for
22 the public eye, which were known only to a few, others known only to God.
23 But if the record were to carry weight with those who did not believe in the
24 supernatural element in prayer, many personal and scarcely less sacred
25 incidents must of necessity be made public.
26
27 Again and again I laid the matter aside as impossible. But I know now that
28 the thing was of God. As months, even years, passed, the impelling sense
29 that the record of answers to prayer must be written gave me no rest.
30
31 It was at the close of the 1908-10 furlough—during which, as a family, we
32 had been blessed with many and, to our weak faith, wonderful answers to
33 prayer—that my oldest son urged me to put down in some definite form the
34 answers to prayer of my life, and extracted from me a solemn promise that I
35 would do so.
36
37 But months passed after returning to China, and the record had not been
38 touched. Then came a sudden and serious illness which threatened my life,
39 when the doctor told me I must not delay in getting my affairs in order.
40
41 It was then that an overwhelming sense of regret took possession of me that I
42 had not set down the prayer testimonies, and solemnly I covenanted with the
43 Lord that if he would raise me up they should be written.
44
45 There was no more question of what others might think; the one thought was
46 to obey. The Lord raised me up; and although he had to deal with me very

3164
3165
3166 =God’s Purpose=
3167
3168 As Victory is the result of Christ’s Life lived out in the believer, it is
3169 important that we see clearly that Victory, and not defeat, is God’s
3170 Purpose for his Children. The Scriptures are very decided upon this truth.
3171
3172 Luke 1:74, 75.
3173 Romans 5:2.
3174 [A]Romans, chaps. 6 and 8.
3175 1 Corinthians 15:57.
3176 2 Corinthians 2:14.
3177 2 Corinthians 10:5.
3178 Ephesians 1:3, 4.
3179 Colossians 4:12.
3180 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
3181 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (R.V.).
3182 2 Timothy 2:19.
3183 Titus 2:12.
3184 Hebrews 7:25.
3185 1 Peter 1:15.
3186 2 Peter 3:14.
3187 1 John 2:1.
3188 1 John 3:6, 9.
3189 And many other passages.
3190
3191 That Christ came as the Saviour from the power as well as the penalty
3192 of sin we see in Matthew 1:21, with John 8:34, 36, and Titus 2:14.
3193
3194
3195 =God’s Provision=
3196
3197 God knew the frailty of man, that his heart was “desperately wicked,” that
3198 even his righteousness was “as filthy rags,” that man’s only hope for victory
3199 over sin must come from the God-ward side. He, therefore, made kingly
3200 provision so rich, so sufficient, so exceeding abundant, that as we study it,
3201 we feel we have tapped a mine of wealth, too deep to fathom. Just a few
3202 suggestions of its riches:
3203
3204 God’s greatest provision is the gift of a part of His Own Being in the
3205 person of the Holy Spirit. The following are but some of the many things the
3206 Holy Spirit does for us, as recorded in the Word:
3207
3208 He begets us into the family of God.—John 3:6. He seals or marks us as
3209 God’s.—Eph. 1:13. He dwells in us.—1 Cor. 3:16.
3210 He unites us to Christ.—1 Cor. 12:13, 27. He changes us into the likeness of
3211 Christ.—2 Cor. 3:18. He helps in prayer.—Rom. 8:26.
3212 He comforts.—John 14:16.
3213 He guides.—Rom. 8:14.

3114 What's the mother to the child,
3115 What the guide in pathless wild,
3116 What is oil to troubled wave,
3117 What is ransom to a slave,
3118 What is flower to the bee,
3119 That is Jesus Christ to me.”
3120
3121 The special Bible-study which I made at that time was embodied in a leaflet.
3122 Proving helpful to others, it is added below.[3]
3123
3124
3125 =God's Presence=
3126
3127 The secret of Victory is simply Christ himself in the heart of the believer.
3128 This truth, of Christ's indwelling, is, and always has been, a _mystery_.
3129
3130 Romans 16:25.
3131 Ephesians 3:9 with Colossians 1:26, 27.
3132 Ephesians 5:30, 32 (R. V.).
3133 Colossians 4:3.
3134
3135 Christ himself taught this truth.
3136
3137 John 14:20, 23; 15:1-7; 17:21-23.
3138 Matthew 28:20.
3139 Revelation 3:20. (See also Mark 16:20).
3140
3141 It was a vital reality to the Apostle Paul.
3142
3143 Romans 8:10.
3144 1 Corinthians 6:15.
3145 1 Corinthians 12:27 (R. V.).
3146 2 Corinthians 5:17.
3147 2 Corinthians 13:5.
3148 Galatians 2:20.
3149 Galatians 3:27.
3150 Galatians 4:19.
3151 Ephesians 3:17.
3152 Philippians 1:21
3153 1 Thessalonians 5:10.
3154 Hebrews 3:6.
3155
3156 The words “in Christ,” which recur in many other passages, will have a new
3157 literalness when read in the light of the above.
3158
3159 The Apostle John had a like conception of Christ's indwelling presence.
3160
3161 1 John 2:28 to 3:6, 24.
3162 1 John 4:4, 12, 13, 16.
3163 1 John 5:20.

47 sternly once more before I really set myself to the task, the testimonies that
48 are given here were written at last—most of them in odd moments of time
49 during strenuous missionary journeys among the heathen.
50
51 Thus it will be seen that these incidents of answered prayer are not given as
52 being more wonderful, or more worthy of record, than multitudes the world
53 over could testify to; but they are written and sent out simply and only
54 because _I had to write them or disobey God_.
55
56 ROSALIND GOFORTH.
57
58
59
60
61

62	
63	
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92	God.” Prayer and medical work. Converts from the first. Wang Feng-ao, the
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110	(1900)
111	

3064	he had made! Later, during the days that followed, clearer light came. I did
3065	what I was asked to do—I quietly but definitely accepted Christ as my
3066	Saviour from the _power_ of sin as I had so long before accepted him as my
3067	Saviour from the _penalty_ of sin. And on this I rested.
3068	
3069	I left Niagara, realizing, however, there was still something I had not got. I
3070	felt much as the blind man must have felt when he said, “I see men as trees,
3071	walking” (A. V.). I had begun to see light, but dimly.
3072	
3073	The day after reaching home I picked up a little booklet, “The Life That
3074	Wins,”[2] which I had not read before, and going to my son’s bedside I told
3075	him it was the personal testimony of one whom God had used to bring great
3076	blessing into my life. I then read it aloud till I came to the words, “At last I
3077	realized that Jesus Christ was actually and literally within me.” I stopped
3078	amazed. The sun seemed suddenly to come from under a cloud and flood my
3079	whole soul with light. How blind I’d been! I saw at last the secret of
3080	victory—it was simply Jesus Christ himself—his own life lived out in the
3081	believer. But the thought of victory was for the moment lost sight of in the
3082	inexpressible joy of realizing CHRIST’S INDWELLING PRESENCE! Like
3083	a tired, worn-out wanderer finding home at last I just _rested_ in him. Rested
3084	in his love—in himself. And, oh, the peace and joy that came flooding my
3085	life! A restfulness and quietness of spirit I never thought could be mine took
3086	possession of me so naturally. Literally a new life began for me, or rather
3087	_in_ me. It was just “the Life that is Christ.”
3088	
3089	The first step I took in this new life was to get standing on God’s own Word,
3090	and not merely on man’s teaching or even on a personal experience. And as I
3091	studied especially the truth of Christ’s indwelling, victory over sin, and
3092	God’s bountiful provision, the Word was fairly illumined with new light.
3093	
3094	The years that have passed have been years of blessed fellowship with Christ
3095	and of joy in his service. A friend asked me not long ago if I could give in a
3096	sentence the after result in my life of what I said had come to me in 1916,
3097	and I replied, “Yes, it can be all summed up in one word, ‘Resting.’”
3098	
3099	Some have asked, “But have you never sinned?” Yes, I grieve to say I have.
3100	Sin is the one thing I abhor—for it is the one thing that can, if unrepented of,
3101	separate us, not from Christ, but from the consciousness of his presence. But
3102	I have learned that there is instantaneous forgiveness and restoration to be
3103	had _always_. That there need be no times of despair.
3104	
3105	One of the blessed results of this life is not only the consciousness of Christ’s
3106	presence, but the _reality_ of his presence as manifested in definite results
3107	when, in the daily details of life, matters are left with him and he has
3108	undertaken.
3109	
3110	My own thought of him is beautifully expressed in Spurgeon’s words:
3111	
3112	“What the hand is to the lute,
3113	What the breath is to the flute,

3014 learned then what “paying the price” meant. Those were times of wonderful
3015 mountain-top experiences, and I came to honor the Holy Spirit and seek his
3016 power for the overcoming of sin in a new way. But Christ still remained, as
3017 before, distant, afar off, and I longed increasingly to know—to find him.
3018 Although I had much more power over besetting sins, yet there were times of
3019 great darkness and defeat.

3020
3021 It was during one of these latter times that we were forced to return to
3022 Canada, in June of 1916. My husband’s health prevented him from public
3023 speaking, and it seemed that this duty for us both was to fall on me. But I
3024 dreaded facing the Home Church without some spiritual uplift,—a fresh
3025 vision for myself. The Lord saw this heart-hunger, and in his own glorious
3026 way he fulfilled literally the promise, “He satisfieth the longing soul, and
3027 fillet the hungry soul with goodness” (Psa. 107:9, A. V.).

3028
3029 A spiritual conference was to be held the latter part of June at Niagara-on-
3030 the-Lake, Ontario, and to this I was led. One day I went to the meeting rather
3031 against my inclination, for it was so lovely under the trees by the beautiful
3032 lake. The speaker was a stranger to me, but from almost the first his message
3033 gripped me. Victory over Sin! Why, this was what I had fought for, had
3034 hungered for, all my life! Was it possible?

3035
3036 The speaker went on to describe very simply an ordinary Christian life
3037 experience—sometimes on the mountain-top, with visions of God; then again
3038 would come the sagging, and dimming of vision, coldness, discouragement,
3039 and perhaps definite disobedience and a time of down-grade experience.
3040 Then perhaps a sorrow, or even some special mercy, would bring the
3041 wanderer back to his Lord.

3042
3043 The speaker asked for all those who felt this to be a picture of their
3044 experience to raise the hand. I was sitting in the front seat, and shame only
3045 kept me from raising my hand at once. But I did so want to get all God had
3046 for me, and I determined to be true; and after a struggle I raised my hand.
3047 Wondering if others were like myself, I ventured to glance back and saw
3048 many hands were raised, though the audience was composed almost entirely
3049 of Christian workers, ministers, and missionaries.

3050
3051 The leader then went on to say that life which he had described was not
3052 the life God planned or wished for His children. He described the higher life
3053 of peace, rest in the Lord, of power and freedom from struggle, worry, care.
3054 As I listened I could scarcely believe it could be true, yet my whole soul was
3055 moved so that it was with the greatest difficulty I could control my emotion. I
3056 saw then, though dimly, that I was nearing the goal for which I had been
3057 aiming all my life.

3058
3059 Early the next morning, soon after daybreak, I went over on my knees
3060 carefully and prayerfully all the passages on the Victorious Life that were
3061 given in a little yellow leaflet that the speaker had distributed.[1] What a
3062 comfort and strength it was to see how clear God’s Word was that victory,
3063 not defeat, was his will for his children, and to see what wonderful provision

112 A clear answer to prayers in the home church. Led on through dangers and
113 trials. Safely brought through 43

114

115

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118

119 God must come first. A hard proposition. In the furnace. Made willing in the
120 day of God’s power. Testimony to God’s abundant faithfulness. A Bible-
121 woman of exceptional power given. God meeting the Home message—
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123 wireless.” A case of “While they are yet speaking I will hear.” The life made
124 easier. A child’s fever restrained. Blessing in the work, converts given. A
125 God-suggested remedy. Chinese prevailing prayer for Mr. Goforth. Women
126 sent to us. Doors for preaching opened. Workers supplied abundantly. Kept
127 from smallpox. We may trust Him wholly. 69

128

129

130 VII

131 THE STORY OF ONE FURLOUGH

132 (1908-1910)

133

134 Meeting a condition of petition—obedience. Six difficult doors opened.
135 Trusting for everything. Apples sent in abundance. Fruit, the best, in
136 abundance. A telephone supplied. A fur coat. God’s wonderful keeping
137 power, a blessed experience. Help for the children’s sewing. Another case of
138 “God’s wireless.” A timely offer. A daughter’s guardian provided. A case of
139 the Lord’s loving kindness—a red cloth ulster! Too many to record 89

140

141

142 VIII

143 OUR GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

144

145 A blessed incident from Keswick. A verse of a hymn given. A governess
146 provided. Rain withheld in answer to prayer. Five pounds sent. Sewing and
147 prayer. A gracious leading, and a great need supplied. An incident in
148 Tientsin. More help with the sewing. A sewing machine supplied. A case of
149 tuberculosis healed. Two incidents of prayer and revival. Fifty dollars sent
150 for friends in need. Another case of spiritual “wireless.” Led to a lost key 105

151

152

153 IX

154 TO HIS PRAISE!

155

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160

161

162 X
163 VICTORY FOUND
164
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166 in early years in China. Pride and bad temper. Secretly criticized by Chinese
167 women. How to live Christ as well as preach him. Heights and depths of
168 spiritual experience. Lifelong prayer for the fulness of the Spirit. The
169 conference at Niagara-on-the-Lake, June, 1916. A speaker's message and
170 leaflet on "The Victorious Life." Christ accepted as Saviour from the power
171 of sin as well as from its penalty. The joy of realizing his Indwelling
172 Presence. All summed up in one word, "Resting." Bible-study on "The Life
173 of Victory in Christ" 131
174
175
176
177
178

2964
2965 With the longing to know Christ, literally to "find" him, came a passionate
2966 desire to serve him. But, oh, what a terrible nature I had! Passionate,
2967 proud, self-willed, indeed just full was I of those things that I knew were
2968 unlike Christ.
2969
2970 The following years of half-hearted conflict with sinful self must be passed
2971 over till about the fifth year of our missionary work in China. I grieve to say
2972 that the new life in a foreign land with its trying climate, provoking servants,
2973 and altogether irritating conditions, seemed to have developed rather than
2974 subdued my natural disposition.
2975
2976 One day (I can never forget it), as I sat inside the house by a paper window at
2977 dusk, two Chinese Christian women sat down on the other side. They began
2978 talking about me, and (wrongly, no doubt) I listened. One said, "Yes, she is a
2979 hard worker, a zealous preacher, and—yes, she nearly loves us; but, oh, what
2980 a temper she has! If she would only live more as she preaches!"
2981
2982 Then followed a full and true delineation of my life and character. So true,
2983 indeed, was it, as to crush out all sense of annoyance and leave me humbled
2984 to the dust. I saw then how useless, how worse than useless, was it for me to
2985 come to China to preach Christ and not live Christ. But how could I live
2986 Christ? I knew some (including my dear husband) who had a peace and a
2987 power,—yes, and a something I could not define, that I had not; and often I
2988 longed to know the secret.
2989
2990 Was it possible, with such a nature as mine, ever to become patient and
2991 gentle?
2992
2993 Was it possible that I could ever really stop worrying?
2994
2995 Could I, in a word, ever hope to be able to live Christ as well as preach him?
2996
2997 I knew I loved Christ; and again and again I had proved my willingness to
2998 give up all for his sake. But I knew, too, that one hot flash of temper with the
2999 Chinese, or with the children before the Chinese, would largely undo weeks,
3000 perhaps months, of self-sacrificing service.
3001
3002 The years that followed led often through the furnace. The Lord knew that
3003 nothing but fire could destroy the dross and subdue my stubborn will. Those
3004 years may be summed up in one line: "Fighting (not finding), following,
3005 keeping, struggling." Yes, and failing! Sometimes in the depths of despair
3006 over these failures; then going on determined to do my best,—and what a
3007 poor best it was!
3008
3009 In the year 1905, and later, as I witnessed the wonderful way the Lord was
3010 leading my husband, and saw the Holy Spirit's power in his life and
3011 message, I came to seek very definitely for the fulness of the Holy Spirit. It
3012 was a time of deep heart-searching. The heinousness of sin was revealed as
3013 never before. Many, many things had to be set right toward man and God. I

2914 6. Importunity.—Mark 7:24-30; Luke 11:5-10.
2915
2916 7. Must ask in accordance with God’s will.—1 John 5:14.
2917
2918 8. In Christ’s Name.—John 14:13, 14, and many other passages.
2919
2920 9. Must be willing to make amends for wrongs to others.—Matt. 5:23, 24.
2921
2922
2923 Causes of Failure in Prayer
2924
2925 1. Sin in the heart and life.—Psa. 66:18; Isa. 59:1, 2.
2926
2927 2. Persistent refusal to obey God.—Prov. 1:24-28; Zech. 7:11, 13.
2928
2929 3. Formalism and hypocrisy.—Isa. 1:2-15.
2930
2931 4. Unwillingness to forgive others.—Mark 11:25, 26.
2932
2933 5. Wrong motives.—James 4:2, 3.
2934
2935 6. Despising God’s law.—Amos 2:4.
2936
2937 7. Lack of love and mercy.—Prov. 21:13.
2938
2939
2940
2941
2942 X
2943
2944 VICTORY FOUND
2945
2946
2947 AT THE close of this little volume it seems fitting to recount again a
2948 wonderful personal experience, narrated in The Sunday School Times of
2949 December 7, 1918.
2950
2951 I do not remember the time when I did not have in some degree a love for the
2952 Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. When not quite twelve years of age, at a
2953 revival meeting, I publicly accepted and confessed Christ as my Lord and
2954 Master.
2955
2956 From that time there grew up in my heart a deep yearning to know Christ in a
2957 more real way, for he seemed so unreal, so far away and visionary. One night
2958 when still quite young I remember going out under the trees in my parents’
2959 garden and, looking up into the starlit heavens, I longed with intense longing
2960 to feel Christ near me. As I knelt down there on the grass, alone with God,
2961 Job’s cry became mine, “Oh, that I knew where I might find him!” Could I
2962 have borne it had I known then that almost forty years would pass before that
2963 yearning would be satisfied?

179
180
181 I
182
183 “GETTING THINGS FROM GOD”
184
185 “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is
186 forgotten before God? . . . Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many
187 sparrows.”—_The Lord Jesus Christ._
188
189
190 THE pages of this little book deal almost wholly with just one phase of
191 prayer—petition. The record is almost entirely a personal testimony of what
192 petition to my Heavenly Father has meant in meeting the everyday crises of
193 my life.
194
195 A prominent Christian worker, who read some of these testimonies in The
196 Sunday School Times, said to the writer: “To emphasize getting things from
197 God, as you do, is to make prayer too material.”
198
199 To me this seems far from true. God is my Father, I am his child. As truly as
200 I delight to be sought for by my child when he is cold or hungry, ill, or in
201 need of protection, so is it with my Heavenly Father.
202
203 Prayer has been hedged about with too many man-made rules. I am
204 convinced that God has intended prayer to be as simple and natural, and as
205 constant a part of our spiritual life, as the intercourse between a child and his
206 parent in the home. And as a large part of that intercourse between child and
207 parent is simply asking and receiving, just so is it with us and our Heavenly
208 Parent.
209
210 Perhaps, however, the most blessed element in this asking and getting from
211 God lies in the strengthening of faith which comes when a definite request
212 has been granted. What more helpful and inspiring than a ringing testimony
213 of _what God has done_?
214
215 As I have recalled the past in writing these incidents, one of the most
216 precious memories is that of an evening when a number of friends had
217 gathered in our home. The conversation turned on answered prayer. For more
218 than two hours we vied with one another in recounting personal incidents of
219 God’s wonderful work; and the inspiration of that evening still abides.
220
221 A Christian minister once said to me: “Is it possible that the great God of the
222 universe, the Maker and Ruler of mankind, could or would, as you would
223 make out, take interest in such a trifle as the trimming of a hat! To me it is
224 preposterous!”
225
226 Yet did not our Lord Jesus Christ say: “The very hairs of your head are all
227 numbered”; and “not one sparrow is forgotten before God”; and again, “Your
228 heavenly Father knoweth what ye have need of _before_ ye ask him”?

229
230 It is true that “There is nothing too great for God’s power”; and it is just as
231 true that “There is nothing too small for his love!”
232
233 If we believe God’s Word we must believe, as Dan Crawford has tersely and
234 beautifully expressed it, that “The God of the infinite is the God of the
235 infinitesimal.” Yes, he
236
237 “Who clears the grounding berg
238 And guides the grinding floe,
239 He hears the cry of the little kit fox
240 And the lemming of the snow!”
241
242 No more wonderful testimony, perhaps, has ever been given of God’s
243 willingness to help in every emergency of life, than that which Mary Slessor
244 gave, when asked to tell what prayer had meant to her. “My life,” she wrote,
245 “is one long daily, hourly record of answered prayer. For physical health, for
246 mental overstrain, for guidance given marvelously, for errors and dangers
247 everted, for enmity to the Gospel subdued, for food provided at the exact
248 hour needed, for everything that goes to make up life and my poor service. I
249 can testify, with a full and often wonder-stricken awe, that I believe God
250 answers prayer. _I know God answers prayer!_”
251
252 I have been asked the question: “Has God _always_ given you just what you
253 have asked for?”
254
255 Oh, no! For him to have done so would have been great unkindness. For
256 instance: when I was a young woman I prayed for three years that God would
257 grant me a certain petition. Sometimes I pleaded for this as for life itself, so
258 intensely did I want it. Then God showed me very clearly that I was praying
259 against his will. I resigned my will to his in the matter, and a few months
260 later God gave what was infinitely better. I have often praised him for
261 denying my prayer; for had he granted it I could never have come to China.
262
263 Then, too, we must remember that many of our prayers, though always
264 heard, are not granted because of some sin harbored in the life, or because of
265 unbelief, or of failure to meet some other Bible-recorded condition governing
266 prevailing prayer. (See Bible Study on pages 129, 130.)
267
268 The following incidents of answered prayer are by no means a complete
269 record. How could they be, when no record of prayer has been kept all these
270 fifty years? Had there been, I doubt not that volumes could have been written
271 to the glory of God’s grace and power in answering prayer. But even from
272 what is recorded here I, too, can say from a full heart, _I know God answers
273 prayer_.
274
275 “He answered prayer: so sweetly that I stand Amid the blessing of his
276 wondrous hand
277 And marvel at the miracle I see,

2864 When my husband resigned the regular field work of Changte, Honan, it
2865 became necessary for us to find a home elsewhere. The only suitable place,
2866 meeting all our requirements, was on the hills at Kikungshan, South Honan.
2867 On going there to get a site for our home, though we looked for more than a
2868 week, we could find no place. As we started down the hill, one morning soon
2869 after midnight, I was feeling our failure very keenly, for we had given up our
2870 old home. When my husband saw how bad I felt, as he told me later, he
2871 began to cry earnestly to the Lord to give us a site. And before we reached
2872 the station the assurance had come that we would get a place. A friend on the
2873 train, traveling third class, saw us getting on the second class, and came in
2874 for a few words before getting off the train. When he heard we had failed to
2875 get a site, he said:
2876
2877 “I know of a beautiful site which our Mission is reserving for a future
2878 missionary. I’ll ask them to give it to you.”
2879
2880 A few days later the treasurer of this Mission wrote us that they had
2881 unanimously and gladly voted to give us the site.
2882
2883 I am now writing these closing words in our God-given home, built on this
2884 beautiful site, one of the most lovely spots to be found in China. So from this
2885 quiet mountain retreat, a monument of what God can give in answer to
2886 prayer, this little book of Prayer Testimonies is sent forth.
2887
2888 As the past has been reviewed, and God’s wonderful faithfulness recalled,
2889 there has come a great sense of regret that I have not trusted God more, and
2890 asked more of him, both for my family and the Chinese. Yes, it is truly
2891 wonderful! But the wonder is not that God _can_ answer prayer, _but_ that he
2892 does, when we so imperfectly meet the conditions clearly laid down in his
2893 Word.
2894
2895 In recent years I have often tested myself by these conditions, when weeks,
2896 and perhaps months, have passed without some answer to prayer, and there
2897 has come a conscious spiritual sagging. As the discerning soul can plainly
2898 see, all the conditions mentioned in the list below may be included in the one
2899 word “Abide.”
2900
2901
2902 Conditions of Prevailing Prayer
2903
2904 1. Contrite humility before God and forsaking of sin.—2 Chron. 7:14.
2905
2906 2. Seeking God with the whole heart.—Jer. 29:12, 13.
2907
2908 3. Faith in God.—Mark 11:23, 24.
2909
2910 4. Obedience.—1 John 3:22.
2911
2912 5. Dependence on the Holy Spirit.—Rom. 8:26.
2913

2814 It was on this same furlough that I came to have an enlarged vision of my
2815 Heavenly Father's willingness to undertake in what some might term the
2816 minor details of everyday life. Missionaries, especially we missionary
2817 women, know only too well how we are criticized in the matter of dress,
2818 when in the homeland and when traveling. I have had, through the years, not
2819 only many amusing but trying experiences in this connection, and I resolved
2820 to make the question of dress a definite matter of prayer. And I rejoice to
2821 testify that the result of this decision became a constant source of wonder and
2822 praise. Yes, I found the Lord could guide me even in trimming my hat to his
2823 glory! That is, so that I could stand up before an audience and not bring
2824 discredit to my Master. Praise his name!

2825
2826 "There is nothing too great for his power, And nothing too small for his
2827 love!"

2828
2829 At the time of the Great War a son had gone to England with the first
2830 Canadian contingent. When this news reached us in China, I began to pray
2831 definitely that the Lord would use my son's gifts in the best way for his
2832 country's good, but would keep him back from the trenches and from actual
2833 warfare. My boy did not know of this prayer.

2834
2835 Some weeks after reaching England he was looking forward to leaving for
2836 the trenches in France, when orders came that he was needed in the Orderly
2837 Room, and his unit left without him. Months later a call came for volunteers,
2838 to fill the great gaps made at the time of the first use of gas. My boy resigned
2839 his position, and joined the company of volunteers to be sent to France. Just
2840 before they were to leave he was again sent for from Headquarters, and told
2841 he was to go to the Canadian Base in France as adjutant. His duties in this
2842 capacity kept him at the Forwarding Base. A year later he again planned to
2843 resign, in order to get to the trenches. He had begun making arrangements for
2844 this step, when he had a fall from his horse, which caused him to be
2845 invalided home to Canada, where he was kept till the close of the war.

2846
2847 It would indeed be difficult to persuade his mother that all this happened by
2848 chance; for one day, when in great distress, expecting any day a cable to say
2849 he had left for the trenches, I received a most clear assurance from the Lord
2850 that he had the boy in his keeping.

2851 * * * * *

2852
2853 After our return to China, when in great trouble, I prayed the Lord to grant
2854 me a clear sign of his favor by giving me a certain petition, which affected a
2855 child in the homeland. The request was a complicated one, including several
2856 definite details. A little more than a month later, a letter reached me from the
2857 one for whom I had asked the Lord's favor. She wrote joyously, telling that
2858 she had received just what I had asked for, and in every detail as I had
2859 prayed.

2860
2861 * * * * *

2862
2863

278 The favours that his love hath wrought for me. Pray on for the impossible,
279 and dare
280 Upon thy banner this brave motto bear,
281 'My Father answers prayer.'"

282

283

284

285

286 II

287

288 EARLY LESSONS IN THE LIFE OF FAITH

289

290 "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications."—
291 _Psalm 116:1._

292

293

294 WHEN a very little child, so young I can remember nothing earlier, a severe
295 thunderstorm passed over our home. Terrified, I ran to my mother, who
296 placed my hands together, and pointing upward repeated over and over again
297 the one word "Jesus."

298

299 More than fifty years have passed since that day, but the impression left upon
300 my child-mind, of a Being invisible but able to hear and help, has never been
301 effaced.

302

303 * * * * *

304

305 The most precious recollections of early childhood are associated with stories
306 told us by our mother, many of which illustrated the power of prayer.

307

308 One that made a specially deep impression upon me was about our
309 grandfather, who as a little boy went to visit cousins in the south of England,
310 their home being situated close to a dense forest. One day the children, lured
311 by the beautiful wild flowers, became hopelessly lost in the woods. After
312 trying in vain to find a way out, the eldest, a young girl, called the frightened,
313 crying little ones around her and said: "When mother died she told us to
314 always tell Jesus if we were in any trouble. Let us kneel down, and ask him
315 to take us home."

316

317 They knelt, and as she prayed one of the little ones opened his eyes, to find a
318 bird so close to his hand that he reached out for it. The bird hopped away, but
319 kept so close to the child as to lead him on. Soon all were joining in the chase
320 after the bird, which flew or hopped in front or just above, and sometimes on
321 the ground almost within reach. Then suddenly it flew into the air and away.
322 The children looked up to find themselves on the edge of the woods and in
323 sight of home.

324

325 With such influences bearing upon one at an impressionable age, it is not
326 surprising that I came even as a very little child to just "tell Jesus" when in
327 trouble.

328
329 * * * * *
330
331 Through the mists of memory one incident comes out clearly, which
332 occurred when I was six or seven years of age. While playing one day in the
333 garden, I was seized with what we then called “jumping” toothache. I ran to
334 my mother for comfort, but nothing she could do seemed to ease the pain.
335
336 The nerve must have become exposed, for the pain was acute. Suddenly I
337 thought, “Jesus can help me,” and just as I was, with my face pressed against
338 my mother’s breast, I said in my heart:
339
340 “Lord Jesus, if you will take away this toothache right now, now, I will be
341 your little girl for three years.”
342
343 Before the prayer was well uttered the pain was entirely gone. I believed that
344 Jesus had taken it away; and the result was that for years, when tempted to be
345 naughty, I was afraid to do what I knew was wrong lest, if I broke my side of
346 what I felt to be a compact, the toothache would return. This little incident
347 had a real influence over my early life, gave me a constant sense of the
348 reality of a divine presence, and so helped to prepare me for the public
349 confession of Christ as my Saviour a few years later, at the age of eleven.
350
351 * * * * *
352
353 About a year after my confession of Christ an incident occurred which
354 greatly strengthened my faith, and led me to look to God as a Father in a new
355 way.
356
357 When Easter Sunday morning came it was so warm only spring clothes could
358 be worn. My sister and I decided at breakfast that we would not go to church,
359 as we had only our old winter dresses. Going to my room, I turned to my
360 Bible to study it, when it opened at the sixth chapter of Matthew, and my eye
361 rested on these words: “Why take ye thought for raiment . . . seek ye first the
362 kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.”
363
364 It was as if God spoke the words directly to me. I determined to go to church,
365 even if I had to humiliate myself by going in my old winter dress. The Lord
366 was true to his promise; I can still feel the power the resurrection messages
367 had upon my heart that day so long ago. And further, on the following day a
368 box came from a distant aunt, containing not only new dresses but much else
369 that might well be included in the “all these things.”
370
371 * * * * *
372
373 An unforgettable proof of God’s loving care came to us as a family about this
374 time, when my parents were face to face with a serious financial crisis. Isaiah
375 65:24 was literally fulfilled: “Before they call, I will answer; and while they
376 are yet speaking, I will hear.”
377

2764 there was the key. So near did the Lord seem at that moment that I could
2765 almost feel his bodily presence. It was not that I remembered putting the key
2766 there, but he led me there.
2767
2768 Yes, I know God answers prayer.
2769
2770
2771
2772
2773 IX
2774
2775 TO HIS PRAISE!
2776
2777 “They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness.”
2778
2779
2780 THIS chapter is written more than seven years later than the foregoing, in
2781 further testimony and praise.
2782
2783 Returning to Canada at the time of the Great War, we came face to face with
2784 a serious financial crisis. Only two ways seemed open to us. One was to lay
2785 our affairs frankly before the Board, showing that our salary was quite
2786 insufficient, with war conditions and prices, to meet our requirements. The
2787 other course was to just go forward, get a suitable home and whatever we
2788 required, and trust our Father to supply what was needed above our income.
2789 We decided on the latter course.
2790
2791 A dear daughter felt indignant that we should have a salary insufficient for
2792 our needs; but we assured her that to trust God for what was lacking was not
2793 begging. The day came when this child and myself took possession of our
2794 new home. As we entered the dining-room we found a large mail from China
2795 on the table.
2796
2797 One letter was forwarded from the lady in Australia whose gifts, in the past,
2798 seemed always to have met some felt need. Her letter enclosed fifty pounds,
2799 with the expressed wish that thirty pounds should be used for work in China,
2800 but twenty pounds was to be used to meet some personal need. I handed the
2801 letter to my daughter, saying: “Shall we not believe that God will undertake
2802 for us? It seems to me as if our Father were beside us saying, ‘My child, take
2803 this hundred dollars as an earnest of what I am going to do for you.’”
2804
2805 Tears stood in her eyes as my daughter gave the letter back, saying: “Mother,
2806 we don’t trust God half enough!”
2807
2808 Were I to attempt to write the history of the months that followed, a long
2809 chapter would be required; but my testimony along this line is surely
2810 sufficient.
2811
2812 * * * * *
2813

2714 On one occasion, while we were temporarily stationed at Wei Hwei, Honan,
2715 I was called to nurse a fellow missionary who had contracted black smallpox.
2716 This missionary died; and it was while shut away from every one during the
2717 time of quarantine that I had the following experience:
2718
2719 I awoke suddenly one night feeling greatly troubled for one in Canada. So
2720 strong was the impression that this friend needed my prayers, that I felt
2721 compelled to rise and spend a long time wrestling with God on this one's
2722 behalf; then peace came, and I again slept.
2723
2724 As soon as I was out of quarantine I wrote to my friend and told of this
2725 experience, giving the date. In time the answer came, which said that—
2726 though no date could be given, as no note had been made of it—as far as
2727 could be judged, it was about the same time that I had had the burden of
2728 prayer that my friend was passing through a time of such temptation as
2729 seemed almost overwhelming. But the letter said: "I was brought through
2730 victoriously; I know that it was your prayers that helped me."
2731
2732 * * * * *
2733
2734 The following incident may seem trifling to some; but to me no answer in my
2735 life ever brought more intense relief. For this reason I have reserved it, as the
2736 final testimony of the original prayer record.
2737
2738 My husband had gone to hold revival meetings in a distant province, and
2739 while he was away I went with my Bible-woman to a certain out-station at
2740 the urgent request of the Christians, to preach at a four-days' "theatrical,"
2741 which brought great crowds. The four days there were enough to wear out
2742 the strongest; for many hours daily we had to face unruly crowds coming and
2743 going; and at the end of our stay I turned my face homeward utterly worn
2744 out. My one thought was to get to Wei Hwei, our next station, for a few
2745 days' rest with my youngest children, who were attending school there. A
2746 sight of them, I knew, would recover my energies better than anything else.
2747
2748 But in getting home I in some way lost the key of the money-drawer. It was
2749 Friday, and the train for Wei Hwei left on Saturday at ten o'clock. Different
2750 persons came for money, but I had to put them off with some excuse. There
2751 was too much money in the drawer for me to leave with the key lying around
2752 somewhere; besides, I myself could not go without money.
2753
2754 As soon as I had my supper I started searching everywhere. Drawers,
2755 pigeonholes, shelves, were all searched in vain. After hunting for two hours,
2756 until I was too exhausted to hunt any more, I suddenly thought, "I have never
2757 prayed about it." Stopping still just where I stood by the dining-table, I lifted
2758 my heart to the Lord. "O Lord, you know how much I need a rest; you know
2759 how much I long to see the children; pity me, and lead me to the key."
2760
2761 Then, without wasting a step, I walked through the dining-room, hall, and
2762 women's guest room into Mr. Goforth's study, to the book-case (which
2763 covers one side of the room), opened the door, slipped two books aside, and

378 At that time, it is necessary to state, we depended on a quarterly income,
379 which came through my mother's lawyer in England. Unusual circumstances
380 had so drained our resources that we found ourselves, in the middle of the
381 quarter, with barely sufficient to meet a week's needs. My dear mother
382 assured us that the Lord would provide; that he would not forsake those who
383 put their trust in him. That very day a letter came from the lawyer in
384 England, enclosing a draft for a sum ample to meet our needs till the regular
385 remittance should arrive. This unexpected and timely draft proved to be a
386 bonus, which did not occur again.
387
388 * * * * *
389
390 Some years later, having moved to a strange city, a great longing came to do
391 some definite service for my Master. One day there came to the Bible class I
392 attended a call for teachers, to aid in a Sunday-school near by. When I
393 presented myself before the superintendent of this Sunday-school the
394 following Sunday, and offered my services, it is not much wonder I received
395 a rebuff, for I was young and quite unknown. I was told that if I wished a
396 class, it would be well for me to find my own scholars. I can remember how
397 a lump seemed choking me all the way home that day.
398
399 At last, determining not to be baffled, I prayed the Lord to help me get some
400 scholars. I went forth praying every step of the way, the following Saturday
401 afternoon; and canvassing just one short street near our home, I received the
402 promise of nineteen children for Sunday-school. The next day a rather
403 victorious young woman walked up to the Sunday-school superintendent
404 with seventeen children following. Needless to say I was given a class.
405
406 In the autumn of 1885 the Toronto Mission Union, a faith mission, decided
407 to establish a branch mission in the East End slums of that city. Three others
408 with myself were deputed to open this work. Everything connected with it
409 was entirely new to me; but most helpful and inspiring I found it. For in face
410 of tremendous difficulties, that seemed to my inexperienced eyes
411 insurmountable, I learned that prayer was the secret which overcame every
412 obstacle, the key that unlocked every closed door.
413
414 I felt like a child learning a new and wonderful lesson—as I saw benches,
415 tables, chairs, stove, fuel, lamps, oil, even an organ, coming in answer to
416 definite prayer for these things. But best sight of all was when men and
417 women, deep in sin, were converted and changed into workers for God, in
418 answer to prayer. Praise God for the lessons then learned, which were
419 invaluable later when facing the heathen.
420
421 * * * * *
422
423 The time came when two diverse paths lay before me—one to England, as an
424 artist; one to China, as a missionary. Circumstances made a definite decision
425 most difficult. I thought I had tried every means to find out God's will for
426 me, and no light had come.
427

428 But in a day of great trouble, when my precious mother's very life seemed to
429 hang in the balance, I shut myself up with God's Word, praying definitely for
430 him to guide me to some passage by which I might know his will for my life.
431 My Bible opening at the fifteenth chapter of John's Gospel, the sixteenth
432 verse seemed to come as a message to me: "Ye have not chosen me, but I
433 have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit."
434 Going to my dear mother and telling her of the message God had given me,
435 she said: "I dare not fight against God."
436
437 From that time the last hindrance from going to China was removed. Surely
438 the wonderful way God has kept his child for more than thirty years in China
439 is proof that this "call" was not a mistaken one. "In all thy ways
440 acknowledge him, and he will make plain thy paths" (Prov. 3: 6, marg.).
441
442 During the summer of 1887 a book written by Dr. Hudson Taylor came into
443 my hands. In "China's Spiritual Needs and Claims" the writer told many
444 instances of God's gracious provision in answer to prayer. The incidents
445 related impressed me deeply. A little later, a few weeks before my marriage,
446 when I found I was short fifty dollars of what I would need to be married free
447 of debt, I resolved not to let others know of my need, but to just trust God to
448 send it to me. The thought came—if you cannot trust God for this, when
449 Hudson Taylor could trust for so much more, are you worthy to be a
450 missionary?
451
452 It was my first experience of trusting quite alone for money. I was sorely
453 tempted to give others just a hint of my need. But I was kept back from doing
454 so; and though I had a week or more of severe testing, peace of mind and the
455 assurance that God would supply my need, came at length. The answer,
456 however, did not come till the very last night before the wedding.
457
458 That evening a number of my fellow-workers from the East End Mission
459 called, and presented me with a beautifully illuminated address and a purse.
460 After these friends had left I returned to my home circle assembled in the
461 back parlor, and showed them the address and the purse unopened! Not for a
462 moment did I think there was anything in the purse till my brother said: "You
463 foolish girl, why don't you open it?" I opened the purse, and found it
464 contained a check for fifty dollars!
465
466 This incident has ever remained peculiarly precious; for it seemed to us a
467 seal of God upon the new life opening before us.
468
469
470
471
472 III
473
474 "GO FORWARD ON YOUR KNEES"
475
476 1887-1894
477

2665 year later I met Dr. Fan, and upon inquiring about the lad, the doctor told me
2666 he was perfectly well, and was in business in Wei Hwei City.
2667
2668 * * * * *
2669
2670 The power of intercession is shown in the following two incidents:
2671
2672 In the winter of 1905 a call came for my husband to hold special meetings in
2673 Manchuria. On reaching Liao Yang for these meetings, one of the
2674 missionaries showed him a letter from Mr. Moffat, of Korea, which said: "I
2675 have a thousand Christians here who have promised to pray for Mr. Goforth,
2676 and I know their prayers will prevail with God." Can we doubt that their
2677 prayers had something to do with the marvelous revival movement which
2678 followed?
2679
2680 When in England, in 1909, my husband was the guest of a lady in London
2681 who was noted for her power in intercession. He was telling her of the great
2682 revival movements he had been through, which took place in different
2683 provinces of China; and she asked him to look at her diary, in which were
2684 notes of times when she had been led out in special intercession for Mr.
2685 Goforth. These dates exactly corresponded to the times of greatest revival
2686 power.
2687
2688 * * * * *
2689
2690 A few months after we returned to China from a furlough, I invited a certain
2691 missionary and his wife and children to pay us a visit. Peculiarly touching
2692 circumstances had led me to give this invitation. Both husband and wife were
2693 in ill health, and greatly needed a change. They resided in a far inland
2694 station, quite cut off from other missionaries. They were not connected with
2695 any Society, and were looking only to the Lord for their support. Just as these
2696 friends had started toward us, on their five-days' journey, smallpox broke out
2697 at our station, and one of the missionaries died. A telegram was sent, hoping
2698 to catch them before they left, but it did not reach them until they were a
2699 short distance from our station. Then the whole family had to turn around,
2700 and once more take the long, trying journey, homeward. As the weather was
2701 very cold at the time, one could imagine what a terrible trial to faith the
2702 whole experience meant to them. I felt so deeply for them that I planned to
2703 send sufficient to cover at least the expense of the journey. But, on getting
2704 out of quarantine, I found I could not draw on our treasurer for the fifty
2705 dollars needed, as Mr. Goforth was not at home. However, the Lord had seen
2706 the need long before I felt it, and had the exact amount ready. Three days
2707 after I got out of quarantine I received a letter from Mr. Horace Goven, of the
2708 Faith Mission, Glasgow, enclosing a draft for five pounds which, at the rate
2709 of exchange at that time, came to fifty dollars Mexican. The gift came from
2710 the workers of the mission, and he stated that they wished me to accept it as a
2711 personal gift. Needless to say, the draft was sent off that same day to the
2712 needy friends in the far-off station.
2713

2616 laid my need before my Father, confident that he knew it was a real need, and
2617 that according to his promise he could and would supply it.
2618
2619 I was so sure that somehow the money would come, that I went down town
2620 especially to choose a suitable machine. I found it would cost thirty-six
2621 dollars. A few days later I received a letter from a band of ladies in Mount
2622 Forest, Ontario, enclosing twenty-three dollars and some odd cents, and
2623 saying: "Please accept the enclosed to buy something you have lost as our
2624 substitute in China." Only a day or two later another letter came, from quite
2625 another part of Ontario, enclosing twelve dollars and some cents. The two
2626 amounts came to exactly the sum I needed to purchase the machine.
2627
2628 The second letter stated that the money was sent to help me buy a sewing
2629 machine. It has always been a puzzle to me how they came to send the
2630 money in that way, for I had not spoken to any one but my husband about
2631 wanting a machine. When Mr. Goforth returned I was able to show him what
2632 the Lord could give me, though he could not.
2633
2634 * * * * *
2635
2636 I had been holding a class for women at an out-station, staying in the home
2637 of the elder, Dr. Fan. The day before I was to return home, Mrs. Fan asked
2638 me to go with her to visit a very sick boy whom the missionary doctor had
2639 sent home from the boys' school, Wei Hwei, because of his having
2640 tuberculosis of the lungs. Mrs. Fan told me the mother was in great distress,
2641 and begged me to come and pray with her. I found the lad in a truly pitiable
2642 condition. His mouth was swollen, his face a ghastly hue, and every moment
2643 a cough racked his frame. He seemed to me quite beyond hope, and looked
2644 as if he could not live long.
2645
2646 On our way home to Mrs. Fan's, the message of James 5:14, 15, kept coming
2647 persistently to me, as if spoken by a voice: "Is any sick among you? let him
2648 call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, . . . and the
2649 prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up."
2650
2651 I simply could not get away from those words. On reaching Dr. Fan's home,
2652 I sent for him, and asked if he and the other elders would be willing to pray
2653 with me over the lad. He consented, though at first he seemed rather dubious.
2654 There were quite a number of Christians gathered around as we placed the
2655 boy in our midst. All knelt down, and I read the words from James. I told
2656 them plainly that I could not say that it was indeed the Lord's will to heal the
2657 boy; all that was clear to me was that we must obey as far as we had light,
2658 and leave the rest in God's hands for life or death. Several prayed, and we
2659 then dispersed.
2660
2661 Early the following morning I left for home. Circumstances prevented my
2662 return to that place, and in time we moved to another field. More than two
2663 years later, while visiting Wei Hwei, I met Mrs. Fan, who told me that the
2664 lad had completely recovered and was then working with his father. Still a

478 "I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in
479 pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron" (Isa. 45:2).
480
481
482 IN ATTEMPTING to record what prayer meant in our early pioneer days,
483 other than purely personal testimonies must be given; for we were, as a little
484 band of missionaries, bound together in our common needs and dangers by a
485 very close bond.
486
487 * * * * *
488
489 In October, 1887, my husband was appointed by the Canadian Presbyterian
490 Church to open a new field, in the northern section of the Province of Honan,
491 China. We left Canada the following January, reaching China in March,
492 1888. Not till then did we realize the tremendous difficulties of the task
493 before us.
494
495 Dr. Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, writing to us at this time,
496 said: "We understand North Honan is to be your field; we, as a mission, have
497 tried for ten years to enter that province from the south, and have only just
498 succeeded. It is one of the most anti-foreign provinces in China. . . . Brother,
499 if you would enter that province, _you must go forward on your knees_"
500
501 These words gave the key-note to our early pioneer years. Would that a
502 faithful record had been kept of God's faithfulness in answering prayer! Our
503 strength as a mission and as individuals, during those years so fraught with
504 dangers and difficulties, lay in the fact that we did realize the hopelessness of
505 our task apart from divine aid.
506
507 * * * * *
508
509 The following incident occurred while we were still outside Honan, studying
510 the language at a sister mission. It illustrates the importance of prayer from
511 the home base for those on the field.
512
513 My husband was finding great difficulty in acquiring the language; he studied
514 faithfully many hours daily, but made painfully slow progress. He and his
515 colleague went regularly together to the street chapel, to practise preaching in
516 Chinese to the people; but, though Mr. Goforth had come to China almost a
517 year before the other missionary, the people would ask the latter to speak
518 instead of Mr. Goforth, saying they understood him better.
519
520 One day, just before starting as usual for the chapel, my husband said: "If the
521 Lord does not give me very special help in this language I fear I shall be a
522 failure as a missionary."
523
524 Some hours later he returned, his face beaming with joy. He told me that he
525 realized most unusual help when his turn came to speak; sentences came to
526 his mind as never before; and not only had he made himself understood, but
527 some had appeared much moved, coming up afterward to have further

528 conversation with him. So delighted and encouraged was he with this
529 experience that he made a careful note of it in his diary.
530
531 Some two months and a half later a letter came from a student in Knox
532 College, saying that on a certain evening a number of students had met
533 specially to pray for Mr. Goforth. The power of prayer was such, and the
534 presence of God so manifestly felt, that they decided to write and ask Mr.
535 Goforth if any special help had come to him at that time. Looking in his
536 diary, he found that the time of their meeting corresponded with that time of
537 special help in the language.
538
539 "I cannot tell why there should come to me A thought of some one miles and
540 years away, In swift insistence on the memory,
541 Unless there is a need that I should pray. We are too busy to spare thought
542 For days together of some friends away;
543 Perhaps God does it for us—and we ought
544 To read his signal as a sign to pray.
545 Perhaps just then my friend has fiercer fight, A more appalling weakness, a
546 decay
547 Of courage, darkness, some lost sense of right; And so, in case he needs my
548 prayers—I pray."
549
550 At last the joyful news reached us women, waiting outside of Honan, that our
551 brethren had secured property in two centers. It would be difficult for those
552 in the homeland to understand what the years of waiting had meant to some
553 of us. The danger to those dear to us, touring in Honan, was very great. For
554 years they never left us to go on a tour without our being filled with dread
555 lest they should never return; yet the Lord, in his mercy, heard our prayers
556 for them; and though often in grave danger, none received serious injury.
557 This is not a history of the mission, but I cannot forbear giving here one
558 incident illustrating how they were kept during those early days.
559
560 * * * * *
561
562 Two of our brethren, after renting property at a town just within the boundary
563 of Honan, and near the Wei River, moved in, intending to spend the winter
564 there; but a sudden and bitter persecution arose, just as they had become
565 settled. The mission premises were attacked by a mob, and everything was
566 looted. The two men were roughly handled, one being dragged about the
567 courtyard. They found themselves at last left alone, their lives spared, but
568 everything gone.
569
570 Their position was serious in the extreme—several days' journey away from
571 friends, with no money, no bedding, and no clothes but those upon them, and
572 the cold winter begun.
573
574 In their extremity, they knelt down and committed themselves to the Lord.
575 And according to his promise he delivered them out of their distresses; for
576 even while they prayed a brother missionary from a distant station was at
577 hand. He arrived unexpectedly, without knowing what had occurred, a few

2566
2567 That night I was puzzled. Why should the Lord lead this woman to me—the
2568 only one, so far as we knew, who could do the machine work—and then
2569 permit her to leave? I could only lay the whole matter before the Lord, and
2570 trust him to undertake. And again he answered. That night a fierce storm
2571 came on, lasting several days and making the roads quite impassable. Mrs.
2572 Lu, finding herself storm-tied, gladly gave all her time to me. The roads
2573 remained impassable for a whole month, during which time I did not once
2574 need to sit down at the machine.
2575
2576 * * * * *
2577
2578 While in Tientsin with my children during the revolution in 1912, I had
2579 occasion to go into the Chinese city with my servant. We visited three stores.
2580 On our way home by the tramway I discovered I had lost a five-dollar bill
2581 and one of my gloves. I had foolishly put the bill inside the glove. Ashamed
2582 to let the Chinese servant know of my carelessness, I sent him home when
2583 we reached the end of the tram line. As soon as he was out of sight I took the
2584 tram back to the city. On the way I confessed to the Lord my carelessness,
2585 and asked him to keep the glove and money, and lead me to where they were.
2586 I retraced my steps back to two of the stores where we had been. As I entered
2587 the second, which was a shoe store, a number of men were in the shop; but
2588 there, right in sight of all, on the floor lay my glove, and I knew of course
2589 with the five dollars inside. It was with a heart full of gratitude to my loving
2590 Heavenly Father, and an enlarged vision of his love, that I picked up the
2591 glove and returned home that day.
2592
2593 * * * * *
2594
2595 On one occasion when on furlough with several little children, and my
2596 husband in China, I had no settled home. When the time came to do the
2597 sewing for the long journey back to China, I had simply no way to get it
2598 done. I just had to look to the Lord; and, as so often before, he was again
2599 faithful, and opened the way. When shopping down town, one day, I met a
2600 minister's wife from a distant country charge, who said: "I want you to come
2601 with all your children, and get your sewing done with me. A number of the
2602 ladies of our congregation sew well, and will be delighted to help you."
2603
2604 I gratefully accepted her invitation, and while staying with her a sewing-bee
2605 was held in the church. In one week the sewing was finished, which would
2606 have taken me many weeks of hard, constant labor to accomplish alone.
2607
2608 * * * * *
2609
2610 The winter of our return from China, after the Boxer tragedies, I felt keenly
2611 the need of a good sewing machine, as I could not possibly do the children's
2612 sewing by hand and still get time for meetings. One day, as my husband was
2613 leaving on a deputation tour, I asked him for money for a machine. He
2614 assured me it was impossible; that we had only sufficient for bare necessities.
2615 I knew well he would gladly give me money for the machine if he had it. So I

2516
2517 “I do not know you, nor have I met you, but the Lord seems to have laid it on
2518 my heart to send you this five-pound note as a farewell gift, to do what you
2519 think best with.”
2520
2521 It was with a joyful heart I sent off the gifts to the five Christian workers in
2522 Britain. Had the giver said it was “for work in China,” as was usually the
2523 case, I could not have used it for any other purpose.
2524
2525 How to get the sewing done for my family and yet meet the pressing calls
2526 made upon me as the wife of a pioneer missionary, for almost thirty years
2527 has been perhaps the most difficult and constant problem of my missionary
2528 life. In connection with the solving of this problem, I have seen some of the
2529 most precious evidences of God’s willingness to undertake in the daily
2530 details of life.
2531
2532 The following story must be given in detail to be really understood, as one of
2533 the striking instances of how God, in his own wonderful way, can work out
2534 the seemingly impossible.
2535
2536 Returning home to our station from an unusually strenuous autumn’s touring,
2537 I planned as usual to give the month of December to the children’s sewing,
2538 so as to leave January largely free for a Bible-women’s training class. But
2539 my health broke down, and I could make scarcely any headway with the
2540 thirty-five or forty garments which had to be made or fixed over, before the
2541 children returned to their school in Chefoo. By the eighteenth of December
2542 we decided to cancel the class on account of my ill-health; and to all the
2543 women, except one whom I entirely forgot, I sent word not to come.
2544
2545 As the days passed, the burden of the almost untouched sewing became very
2546 great. At last I cried to the Lord to undertake for me. And how wonderfully
2547 he did! On December twenty-eighth, when I was conducting the Chinese
2548 women’s prayer-meeting, I noticed in the audience Mrs. Lu, the very woman
2549 to whom I had forgotten to send word. She had come a long distance, with
2550 her little child, over rough mountainous roads, so I felt very sorry for my
2551 thoughtlessness. Mrs. Lu accompanied me home, and I gave her money for a
2552 barrow on which to return the next day. I then sat down to the sewing
2553 machine. The woman stood beside me for a little, and then said:
2554
2555 “You are looking very tired, Mrs. Goforth; let me run the machine for you.”
2556
2557 “You!” I exclaimed, astonished, “why, you don’t know how.”
2558
2559 “Yes, I do,” she replied.
2560
2561 She was so insistent that at last, in fear and trembling, I ventured to let her
2562 try—for I had only one needle. It took but a few moments to convince me
2563 she was a real expert at the machine. When I urged her to stay and help me,
2564 she replied that, since the class was given up, she would return home on the
2565 morrow.

578 hours after the looting had taken place. His coming at such an opportune
579 moment filled the hearts of their heathen enemies with fear. Money and
580 goods were returned, and from that time the violent opposition of the people
581 ceased.
582
583 * * * * *
584
585 A few months after the above incident several families moved into Honan,
586 and a permanent occupation was effected; but the hearts of the people
587 seemed as adamant against us. They hated and distrusted us as if we were
588 their worst enemies. The district in which we settled was known for its
589 turbulent and anti-foreign spirit, and as a band of missionaries we were
590 frequently in the gravest danger.
591
592 Many times we realized that we, as well as our fellow-workers at the other
593 stations, were kept from serious harm only by the over-ruling, protecting
594 power of God in answer to the many prayers which were going up for us all
595 at this critical juncture in the history of our mission. The following are
596 concrete examples of how God heard our prayers at this time.
597
598 We had for our station doctor a man of splendid gifts. He was a gold
599 medalist, with years of special training and hospital experience, and was
600 looked upon as one of the rising physicians in the city from which he came.
601 Imagine his disappointment, therefore, when month after month passed and
602 scarcely a good case came to the hospital. The people did not know what he
603 could do, and moreover they were afraid to trust themselves into his hands.
604 We, as a little band of missionaries, began to pray definitely that the Lord
605 would send cases to the hospital which would open the hearts of the people
606 toward us and our message.
607
608 It was not long before we saw this prayer answered beyond all expectation.
609 Several very important cases came almost together, one so serious that the
610 doctor hesitated for days before operating. When at last the operation did
611 take place the doctor’s hands were strengthened by our prayers, the patient
612 came through safely, and a few days later was going around a living wonder
613 to the people.
614
615 Very much depended upon the outcome of this and other serious operations.
616 Had the patients died under the doctor’s hands, it would have been quite
617 sufficient to have caused the destruction of the mission premises and the life
618 of every missionary. Three years later the hospital records showed that there
619 had been twenty-eight thousand treatments in one year.
620
621 Again, we kept praying that the Lord would give us converts from the very
622 beginning. We had heard of missionaries in India, China, and elsewhere, who
623 had worked for many years without gaining converts; but we did not believe
624 that this was God’s will for us. We believed that it was his pleasure and
625 purpose to save men and women through his human channels, and why not
626 from the beginning? So we kept praying and working and expecting

627 converts, and God gave them to us. The experience of thirty years has
628 confirmed this belief.
629
630 Space permits the mention of but two of these earliest converts.
631
632 The first was Wang Feng-ao, who came with us into Honan as Mr. Goforth's
633 personal teacher. He was a man of high degree, equal to the Western M. A.,
634 and was one of the proudest and most overbearing of Confucian scholars. He
635 despised the missionaries and their teaching, and so great was his opposition
636 that he would beat his wife every time she came to see us or listen to our
637 message. But Mr. Goforth kept praying for this man, and using all his
638 influence to win him for Christ.
639
640 Before many months passed a great change had come over Mr. Wang; his
641 proud, overbearing manner had changed, and he became a humble, devout
642 follower of the lowly Nazarene. God used a dream to awaken this man's
643 conscience—as is not uncommon in China. One night he dreamed he was
644 struggling in a deep, miry pit; but try as he would he could find no way of
645 escape. When about to give up in despair, he looked up and saw Mr. Goforth
646 and another missionary on the bank above him, with their hands stretched out
647 to save him. Again he sought for some other way of escape; but finding none,
648 he allowed them to draw him up.
649
650 This man, later on, became Mr. Goforth's most valued evangelist. For many
651 years his splendid gifts were used to the glory of his Master in the work
652 among the scholar class in the Changtefu district. He has long since passed to
653 his reward, dying as he had lived, trusting only in the merit of Jesus Christ
654 for salvation.
655
656 * * * * *
657
658 Another of the bright glints, in the darkness of those earliest days in Honan,
659 was the remarkable conversion of Wang Fu-Lin. For many years his business
660 had been that of a public story-teller; but when Mr. Goforth came across him
661 he was reduced to an utter wreck through opium smoking. He accepted the
662 Gospel, but for a long time seemed too weak to break off the opium habit.
663 Again and again he tried to do so, but failed hopelessly each time.
664
665 The poor fellow seemed almost past hope, when one day Mr. Goforth
666 brought him to the mission in his cart. The ten days that followed can never
667 be forgotten by those who watched Wang Fu-Lin struggle for physical and
668 spiritual life. I verily believe nothing but prayer could have brought him
669 through. At the end of the ten days the power of opium was broken, and
670 Wang Fu-Lin came out of the struggle a new man in Christ Jesus.
671
672 I shall have occasion to speak of this man again.
673
674 * * * * *
675

2466
2467 The summer holidays at Peitaiho were drawing to a close. Heavy rains had
2468 fallen, making the roads to the station, six miles distant, almost impassable.
2469 Word had come that our two children, Ruth and Wallace, must leave by the
2470 Monday morning train in order to reach the steamer at Tientsin, which was to
2471 take them to Chefoo, where they were attending the China Inland Mission
2472 schools. All day Saturday and Sunday torrents of rain continued to fall, with
2473 a fierce wind from the north.
2474
2475 I rose before daybreak Monday morning, to find the rain still pouring down
2476 in torrents. I roused the servant, and sent him off to make sure about the
2477 chair, cart, and donkeys. A little later he returned to say that the chair had
2478 been blown over, and the chair-bearers had refused to come. The carters also
2479 refused, saying the roads were impassable; and even the donkey boys said
2480 they would not go.
2481
2482 I was truly at "wit's end corner." I went alone, and did not take time even to
2483 kneel down, but just lifted up my heart to my Father to stop the rain and open
2484 a way for the children to get to the station. I felt a sudden, strong confidence
2485 that the Lord would help, and going out again I ordered the servant to run
2486 fast to the village near by and get fresh donkeys. He was unwilling, saying it
2487 was useless, no one would venture; but I said: "Go at once, I know they will
2488 come."
2489
2490 While he was gone the children had their breakfast, boxes were closed and
2491 taken out, and the children put on their wraps. Then the rain stopped! Just
2492 then the servant returned with several donkeys. Within five minutes, children
2493 and baggage were on donkeys, and started for the station. A few hours later
2494 one of the donkey boys returned with a hastily written note from Ruth,
2495 saying they had reached the station without any mishap, and quite dry; for it
2496 had not rained on the way over, but had started to pour again just after they
2497 had got on the train. The rain continued for days after.
2498
2499 * * * * *
2500
2501 At the close of our four months of meetings in Great Britain, in 1910, I felt a
2502 strong desire to send a gift of five dollars to five different objects in Britain,
2503 to show in a practical way our sympathy with the workers in these various
2504 branches of the Lord's work.
2505
2506 My husband was in the midst of his accounts when I asked him to give me
2507 five pounds for this purpose. He told me it was impossible, as we had barely
2508 enough for the journey to China. As I left him I wondered why I seemed to
2509 have these gifts so definitely laid upon me to send away, when there was no
2510 money. Reasoning that if the thing were really of the Lord he could himself
2511 give me what he wished me to send, I put the matter from my mind.
2512
2513 That evening's mail brought a letter from a stranger living some distance
2514 away, judging from the postmark; for the letter had no address, and was not
2515 signed. The letter said:

2416
2417 While addressing a gathering of Christians in Glasgow I was giving a certain
2418 incident, the point of which depended upon a verse of a certain hymn. When
2419 I came to quote the verse, it had utterly slipped my memory. In some
2420 confusion I turned to the leader, hoping that he could help me out; but he said
2421 he had no idea what the hymn was. Turning again to the people, I had to
2422 acknowledge that my memory had failed me, and, feeling embarrassed, I
2423 closed my message somewhat hurriedly.
2424

2425 Sitting down, I lifted my heart in a cry to the Lord to lead me to the verse I
2426 wanted, if it was in the hymn-book used there. I took up a hymn-book and
2427 opened it, and the very first lines my eyes fell on were those of the verse I
2428 wanted, though it was the last verse of a long hymn. Rising again, I told the
2429 people of my prayer and the answer, and gave them the verse. The solemn
2430 stillness which prevailed indicated that a deep impression had been made.
2431 Some two years after, a newly arrived missionary in China told me he had
2432 been present at that meeting, and how this little incident had been a great
2433 blessing to him.
2434

2435 “They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not
2436 confounded” (Psa. 22:5).
2437

2438 Before leaving Canada we had written to the China Inland School at Chefoo,
2439 China, hoping to get our children admitted there; but, shortly before we left
2440 England for China, word reached us that both the boys’ and girls’ schools
2441 were overflowing, with long lists of waiting applicants. This was a great
2442 blow to me, for I had been looking forward to engaging once more in the
2443 aggressive out-station work.
2444

2445 But the children could not be left, and were too old to be taken away from
2446 their studies. It seemed necessary, therefore, that a good Christian governess
2447 should be found, who would teach the children and take charge of the home
2448 in my absence. All the way across the Siberian route this matter was before
2449 us. Earnestly did I pray that the Lord would direct the right one to us; for I
2450 knew that to get a young woman, who could fill the position we wanted her
2451 for, would be very difficult in China.
2452

2453 We had planned to go direct to our station, but illness forced us to break the
2454 journey at Peitaiho, where we met a young lady, the daughter of a
2455 missionary. Many difficulties appeared in the way of her coming on with us,
2456 but one by one these were removed; and when we continued our journey this
2457 young woman was one of our party.
2458

2459 Time proved her to be truly God-given. Not only was she all and more than I
2460 could have hoped for, but the Lord answered my prayers that her young life
2461 might be consecrated to the Lord’s service in China. She later went through
2462 her training in England as a nurse, and is now in China as a missionary of the
2463 China Inland Mission.
2464

2465 * * * * *

676 In all the cases of divine healing cited in this record it will be noted that God
677 healed in answer to prayer either when the doctors had done all in their
678 power and hope had been abandoned, or when we were out of reach of
679 medical aid.
680

681 Soon after coming to China the Rev. Hunter Corbett, one of the most devoted
682 and saintly of God’s missionaries, gave a testimony which later was used of
683 God to save the writer from giving up service in China and returning home to
684 Canada.
685

686 Dr. Corbett said that for fifteen years he had been laid aside every year with
687 that terrible scourge of the East—dysentery; and the doctors at last gave a
688 definite decision that he must return at once to the homeland and forsake
689 China. But, said the grand old man: “I knew God had called me to China, and
690 I also knew that God did not change. So what could I do? I dared not go back
691 on my call; so I determined that if I could not live in China I could die there;
692 and from that time the disease lost its hold on me.”
693

694 This testimony was given over twenty-five years ago, when he had been
695 almost thirty years in China! In January, 1920, when well-nigh ninety years
696 of age, this beloved and honored saint of God passed to higher service.
697

698 For several years I had been affected just as Dr. Corbett had been, and each
699 year the terrible disease seemed to be getting a firmer hold upon me. At last,
700 one day my husband brought me the decision of the doctors, that I should
701 return home. And as I lay there ill and weak, the temptation came to yield.
702 But, as I remembered Dr. Corbett’s testimony, and my own clear call, I felt
703 that to go back would be to go against my own conscience. I therefore
704 determined to do as Dr. Corbett had done—leave myself in the Lord’s
705 hands—whether for life or for death. This happened more than twenty years
706 ago, and since then I have had very little trouble from that dread disease.
707

708 Yes, the deeper the need, and the more bitter the extremity, the greater the
709 opportunity for God to show forth his mighty power in our lives, if we but
710 give him a chance by unswerving obedience at any cost. “In the day when I
711 cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul”
712 (Psa. 138:3).
713

714 * * * * *

715
716 During our fourth year in China, when we were spending the hot season at
717 the coast, our little son, eighteen months old, was taken very ill with
718 dysentery. After several days’ fight for the child’s life came the realization,
719 one evening, that the angel of death was at hand.
720

721 My whole soul rebelled; I actually seemed to hate God; I could see nothing
722 but cruel injustice in it all; and the child seemed to be fast going. My
723 husband and I knelt down beside the little one’s bedside, and he pleaded
724 earnestly with me to yield my will and my child to God. After a long and
725 bitter struggle God gained the victory, and I told my husband I would give

726 my child to the Lord. Then my husband prayed, committing the precious soul
727 into the Lord's keeping.

728
729 While he was praying I noticed that the rapid, hard breathing of the child had
730 ceased. Thinking my darling was gone, I hastened for a light, for it was dark;
731 but on examining the child's face I found that he had sunk into a deep,
732 sound, natural sleep, which lasted most of the night. The following day he
733 was practically well of the dysentery.

734
735 To me it has always seemed that the Lord tested me to almost the last
736 moment; then, when I yielded my dearest treasure to him and put my Lord
737 first, he gave back the child.

738
739 * * * * *

740
741 While writing the above I came across an extract from the Christian of
742 March 12, 1914, in which the editor said:

743
744 "Speaking at the annual meeting of the Huntingdon County Hospital, Lord
745 Sandwich referred to the power of spiritual healing, and premising that the
746 finite mind cannot measure the power of the infinite, said he 'looked forward
747 to the day when the spiritual doctrine of healing and the physical discoveries
748 of science will blend in harmonious combination, to the glory of God and the
749 benefit of humanity.'"

750
751
752
753
754 IV

755
756 A GOD-GIVEN FIELD (1894-1900)

757
758 "Lord, there is none beside thee to help, between the mighty and him that
759 hath no strength; help us, O Lord our God; for we rely on thee, and in thy
760 name are come against this multitude" (2 Chron. 14:11).

761
762
763 THE story of the opening of Changte is so connected by a chain of prayer
764 that to give isolated instances of prayer would be to break the chain.

765
766 * * * * *

767
768 A few months after our arrival in China an old, experienced missionary
769 kindly volunteered to conduct Mr. Goforth and his colleague, who had just
770 arrived, through North Honan, that they might see the field for themselves.

771
772 Traveling southward by cart, they crossed the border into Honan early one
773 morning. As my husband walked beside the carts, that morning, he felt led to
774 pray that the Lord would give that section of Honan to him as his field. The
775 assurance came that his prayer was granted. Opening his daily textbook, he

2366
2367
2368 VIII

2369
2370 OUR GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

2371
2372 "Behold I am the Lord, . . . is there _anything_ too hard for ME?" (Jer.
2373 32:27.)

2374
2375 "Ah, Lord God! there is _nothing_ too wonderful for thee" (Jer. 32:17,
2376 margin).

2377
2378
2379 THE following illustration of the truth, "What is impossible with man is
2380 possible with God," occurred while we were attending the Keswick
2381 Convention in England, in 1910.

2382
2383 One evening my husband returned from an evening meeting, which I had not
2384 attended, and told me of a woman who had come to him in great distress. She
2385 had been an earnest Christian worker, but love for light, trashy fiction had so
2386 grown upon her as to work havoc in her Christian life. She had come to
2387 Keswick three years in succession, hoping to get victory, but had failed.

2388
2389 My whole soul went out to the poor woman; I longed to help her. But Mr.
2390 Goforth did not know her name, and the tent had been so dark he could not
2391 recognize her again; besides, there were about four thousand people
2392 attending the convention. That night I lay awake asking the Lord, if he knew
2393 I could help her, to bring us together, for I, too, had at one time been almost
2394 wrecked on the same rock.

2395
2396 Three evenings later the tent was so crowded that I found difficulty in getting
2397 a seat. Just as the meeting was about to begin, I noticed a woman change her
2398 seat twice, and then rise a third time and come to where I was, asking me to
2399 make room for her. I crowded the others in the seat and made room for her—
2400 I fear not too graciously. While Mr. F. B. Meyer was speaking I noticed she
2401 was in great distress, her tears falling fast. I laid my hand on hers, and she
2402 grasped it convulsively. At the close of the meeting I said, "Can I help you?"

2403
2404 "Oh, no," she replied, "there is no hope for me; it is those cursed novels that
2405 have been my ruin."

2406
2407 I looked at her in amazement, and almost gasped: "Are you the one who
2408 spoke to Mr. Goforth Saturday night?"

2409
2410 "Yes; but who are you?"

2411
2412 Scarcely able to speak for emotion, I told her, and also of my prayer. For the
2413 next few moments we could only weep together. Then the Lord used me to
2414 lead the poor crushed and broken soul back to himself. As we parted, a few
2415 days later, her face was beaming with the joy of the Lord.

2316 tokens of the Lord's loving care in the little things of life can scarcely
2317 understand the blessedness that such experiences bring.
2318
2319 "Whether it be so heavy that others cannot bear To know the heavy burden
2320 they cannot come and share; Whether it be so tiny that others cannot see
2321 Why it should be a burden, and seem so real to me, Either and both I lay
2322 them down at the Master's feet And find them alone with Jesus mysteriously
2323 sweet."
2324
2325 * * * * *
2326
2327 As I attempt to recall the answers to prayer on this furlough, so many come
2328 to mind it is impossible to record them all—help in keeping my
2329 appointments, courage and power for public speaking, physical strength, and
2330 guidance in facing many difficult problems.
2331
2332 It was at this time I formed a habit of getting a message for a meeting on my
2333 knees. It often seemed to me very wonderful how, as in a flash, sometimes,
2334 an outline for a talk on China would come. Never having kept notes, nor
2335 even outlines of addresses, I have frequently been placed in circumstances
2336 when I have felt utterly cast on the Lord. And I can testify that he never
2337 failed to give the needed help, and the realized divine power. Yet sad, sad is
2338 it that often at just such times, no sooner would the address be ended than the
2339 Satan-whispered thought would come, "I have done well to-day."
2340
2341 Oh, is not the goodness and forbearance of our God wonderful; wonderful
2342 that he ever again would deign to give help when asked for it?
2343
2344 * * * * *
2345
2346 A short time since I asked a dear friend whose writings have reached and
2347 inspired multitudes throughout the Christian world: "How did you do it?"
2348
2349 Softly, with deep reverence in look and tone, she replied: "It has been done
2350 all in and through prayer!"
2351
2352 With deepest gratitude and praise to our ever faithful God, I too can testify
2353 that any little service I have been able to do has been done by his grace in
2354 answer to prayer.
2355
2356 "I stood amazed and whispered, 'Can it be That he hath granted all the boon I
2357 sought, How wonderful that he for me hath wrought!'
2358
2359 * * * * *
2360
2361 Oh, faithless heart! _he said_ that he would hear, And proved his promise,
2362 wherefore didst thou fear? How wonderful if he should fail to bless
2363 Expectant prayer with good success!"
2364
2365

776 found the passage for that morning was from Isaiah 55:8-13. Like a precious
777 promise of future blessing for that field came the words: "As the rain cometh
778 down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the
779 earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower,
780 and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth:
781 it shall not return unto me void."
782
783 For six years, however, our faith was sorely tested.
784
785 Of all places, Changte seemed most determined to keep out the missionary.
786 And there were other difficulties in the way. A presbytery had been formed
787 as others joined us, and all matters had to be decided by that body. Two
788 stations that had been opened, where a foothold could first be gained,
789 required all, and more than all, the force we then had. So for six years the
790 door to Changte remained fast closed. But during all those years Mr. Goforth
791 never once lost sight of God's promise to him, nor failed to believe it.
792
793 Again and again, when Mr. Goforth and his colleague visited the city, they
794 were mobbed and threatened, the people showing the utmost hostility. But
795 the day came, at last, when the long-prayed-for permission from the
796 presbytery to open Changte was granted. The very next morning found Mr.
797 Goforth _en route_ for Changte, to secure property for a mission site. Often
798 has he told how, all the way over that day to Changte, he prayed the Lord to
799 open the hearts of the people, and make them willing to give him the
800 property most suitable for the work. Within three days of his reaching
801 Changte he had thirty-five offers of property, and was able to secure the very
802 piece of land he had earlier chosen as most ideal for the mission.
803
804 Thus the Lord did break in pieces the gates of brass which had kept us so
805 long from our promised land.
806
807 * * * * *
808
809 A year later I joined my husband there, with our three little children. It was
810 arranged that our colleague should take charge of the outside evangelism,
811 while we opened work at the main station.
812
813 To understand what it meant for us to have our need supplied, there should
814 be some knowledge of what that need was.
815
816 We decided, from the first, that no one should be turned from our doors. Mr.
817 Goforth received the men in the front guest room, while the women and
818 children came to our private quarters. During those first weeks and months
819 hundreds, nay thousands, crowded to see us. Day by day we were literally
820 besieged. Even at meal-time our windows were banked with faces.
821
822 The questions ever before us those days were—how to make the most of this
823 wonderful opportunity, which would never come again after the period of
824 curiosity was past; how to win the friendship of this people, who showed in a

825 hundred ways their hatred and distrust of us; how to reach their hearts with
826 our wonderful message of a Saviour's love?
827
828 All that was in our power was to do, day by day, what we could with the
829 strength that was given us. From early morning till dark, sometimes nine or
830 ten hours a day, the strain of receiving and preaching to these crowds was
831 kept up. My husband had numbers of workmen to oversee, material for
832 building to purchase, and to see to all the hundred and one things so
833 necessary in building up a new station. Besides all this he had to receive, and
834 preach to, the crowds that came. He had no evangelist, Mr. Wang being then
835 loaned to Mr. MacG——. I had my three little children, and no nurse or
836 Bible-woman. When too exhausted to speak longer to the courtyard of
837 women, I would send for my husband, who though tired out would speak in
838 my stead. Then we would rest ourselves, and entertain the crowd, by singing
839 a hymn.
840
841 So the days passed. But we soon realized that help must come, or we would
842 both break down.
843
844 One day Mr. Goforth came to me with his Bible open at the promise, "My
845 God shall supply all your need," and asked: "Do we believe this? If we do,
846 then God can and will supply us with some one to help preach to these
847 crowds, if we ask in faith."
848
849 He prayed very definitely for a man to preach. With my doubt-blinded heart,
850 I thought it was as if he were asking for rain from a clear sky. Yet, even
851 while he prayed, God was moving one to come to us. A day or two later there
852 appeared at the mission the converted opium fiend, Wang Fu-Lin, whose
853 conversion has been already recorded.
854
855 No one could have looked less like the answer to our prayers than he did.
856 Fearfully emaciated from long years of excessive opium smoking, racked
857 with a cough which three years later ended his life, dressed in such filthy rags
858 as only a beggar would wear, he presented a pitiable sight. Yet the Lord seeth
859 not as man seeth.
860
861 After consulting together Mr. Goforth decided to try him for a few days,
862 believing that he could at least testify to the power of God to save a man
863 from his opium. Soon he was reclothed in some of my husband's Chinese
864 garments; and within an hour or two of his entering the mission gate,
865 practically a beggar, he was seated in charge of the men's chapel, so changed
866 one could scarcely have recognized him.
867
868 From the first day of his ministry at Changte there was no doubt in the minds
869 of any who heard him that he had indeed been sent to us by our gracious
870 God, for he had in a remarkable degree the unction and power of the Holy
871 Ghost. His gifts as a speaker were all consecrated to one object—the winning
872 of souls to Jesus Christ. He seemed conscious that his days were few, and
873 always spoke as a dying man to dying men. Little wonder is it, therefore, that
874 from the very beginning of his ministry in our chapel men were won to

2267 On one occasion, when about to leave home on a ten days' trip to Montreal
2268 and other places, word came that the children's Sunday-school treat was to
2269 take place during my absence.
2270
2271 Little Mary had no "best" dress for the occasion. I had planned to make her a
2272 white woolen dress, but now there was no time; and I knew I could not make
2273 it while away, with so many meetings ahead. But, that very day, a lady from
2274 our church called and said she had wanted for a long time to help me, and
2275 asked if she could do any sewing for me. With dim eyes and a grateful heart I
2276 accepted her offer. On my return, Mary told me of her wearing a pretty white
2277 cloth dress for the Sunday-school treat.
2278
2279 * * * * *
2280
2281 Once more we planned to leave Canada for China, and a serious problem
2282 faced me. Our eldest son could be left to face the world alone, but not our
2283 daughter of sixteen. It was necessary that a suitable guardian be found for
2284 her. I called on three different ones whom I thought would feel some
2285 responsibility toward the missionary's daughter, but all three declined to
2286 accept the responsibility. I then saw that it was not for me to try to open
2287 doors, but for this also I must look to the Lord. I prayed that, if he wished me
2288 to return to China, he would send me one to whom I could commit her.
2289
2290 A short time passed; then a lady called, whose life had been devoted to the
2291 training of young women. Her beautiful Christian character made her the one
2292 above all others in whose care I could gladly leave my daughter. This lady
2293 told me that in her early years she had hoped to give her life for service in
2294 China, but the way had been closed. She now felt that the Lord had laid it
2295 upon her heart to offer to take charge of my child. Years have passed since
2296 then, and she has fulfilled my highest expectations of her. Rarely has a more
2297 definite answer come from a loving Father, nor one that brought greater relief
2298 and help; for this offer, coming as it did in answer to my prayers, seemed to
2299 be unmistakable proof that the Lord would keep my child as I gave her up.
2300
2301 * * * * *
2302
2303 The time had almost arrived for beginning the last preparations for the long
2304 journey to China, when one day Ruth came in from her play with her heavy
2305 coat almost in shreds, she having in some way torn it on a barbed wire fence.
2306 The coat was the only heavy one she had, and I had planned to make it do for
2307 the ocean voyage, intending to get a new one in England. I tried to find a new
2308 one in the stores, but the season was past and I could not; and I had no time
2309 to make another. I just took the need to the Lord and left it there, believing
2310 that in some way he would provide. A few days later a friend telephoned me
2311 that her mother had recently returned from a visit to Chicago, and wished me
2312 to come over to see a parcel she had brought for me. Oh, the relief that came
2313 when I found that the parcel contained, among other things, a handsome red
2314 cloth ulster, which fitted Ruth perfectly. This fresh evidence of the Lord's
2315 overshadowing care touched me deeply. Those who have never known such

2219 One day the following early summer, in looking over the children's clothes, I
2220 found there was so much to be done I was fairly overwhelmed. I saw it was
2221 quite impossible to do the necessary sewing and keep my appointments too.
2222 The question that weighed heavily was, "Should I cancel the meetings for
2223 which I had given my word?" My husband urged me to buy ready-made
2224 clothes, but I knew how expensive they would be, and could not bring myself
2225 to do so. I went alone and laid my burden before the Lord, praying that, if he
2226 wanted me to speak further for China, he would show his will by sending me
2227 some gift that would enable me to get ready-made clothes for the children.
2228

2229 A few days later I was speaking at a Presbyterian gathering in western
2230 Ontario. At the close of the evening meeting an old gentleman put into my
2231 hands some money. I asked him what he wished me to use it for, and he
2232 replied, "For your children. Use it in a way that will help you to be free for
2233 God's work." My heart rose in thanksgiving, and I decided to accept it as the
2234 token I had asked of the Lord. On my return to Toronto I spent this gift in
2235 buying ready-made clothes for the children, to save my time and strength for
2236 the Lord's work.
2237

2238 * * * * *

2239
2240 When busy in my home one day, the thought of two dear friends of the China
2241 Inland Mission kept coming constantly to mind, and I began to wonder if I
2242 should not send them some money. Looking into my purse, I found I had
2243 only fifty cents on hand. I put the matter out of my mind, with the thought
2244 that if the Lord wanted me to send them anything he would provide a way.
2245 That afternoon's mail brought a letter from a distant place in Ontario where,
2246 a year before, I had visited and spoken for a friend. The letter was from the
2247 treasurer of the Christian Endeavor Society for which I had spoken. He
2248 enclosed five dollars, and said the money was to have been given me at the
2249 time I spoke for them, but had been overlooked.
2250

2251 My first thought was to return it, as it would be dishonoring my friend to
2252 accept money for such a service; and then I remembered my friends for
2253 whom I wanted money, and I decided to send the five dollars to them. My
2254 husband, returning the following morning, handed me another five to put
2255 with it, and the ten dollars was sent off.
2256

2257 In due course a reply came from my friends, saying that the very morning my
2258 letter arrived they both had been given assurance that a certain sum would
2259 come, for which they had been praying. This was to meet a need which they
2260 did not wish to bring before their Board. My letter brought the ten dollars;
2261 and another letter in the afternoon's mail contained a sum which, with mine,
2262 exactly made the amount they had been asking the Lord for.
2263

2264 "Say not my soul, 'Can God relieve my care?' Remember that Omnipotence
2265 hath servants everywhere!"
2266

875 Christ. God spared him to us for the foundation laying of the church at
876 Changte, then called him higher.
877

878 * * * * *

879
880 Mr. Goforth's need was relieved by the coming of Wang Fu-Lin, but not
881 mine. The remarkable way God had sent him, however, gave me courage and
882 faith to trust God to give me a Bible-woman. Those who know anything of
883 mission work in China will agree with me that it is far more difficult to find
884 women than men who are able to preach the Gospel; or if able, who are free
885 for the work. But I was beginning to learn that God is limited only from the
886 human side; and that he is always willing to give beyond our asking, if the
887 human conditions he has so plainly laid down in his Word are fulfilled.
888

889 A short time after I had begun to ask my Heavenly Father definitely for a
890 Bible-woman, Mr. Mac G—— came in from a tour, and his first words were:
891

892 "Well, Mrs. Goforth, I believe we have a ready-made Bible-woman for you!"
893

894 Then he told me how he had come across a widow and her son in a mountain
895 village, who had heard the Gospel from a recent convert out of one of the
896 other stations. This man had been a member of the same religious sect as the
897 widow and her son. When he found Christ he at once thought of his friends,
898 and went over the mountain to tell them. Mrs. Chang received the Gospel
899 gladly. She had been a preacher in that heathen sect, and had gained the
900 fluency in speaking, and power in holding audiences, so necessary in the
901 preaching of the Gospel.
902

903 The way was soon opened for her to come to me, and she became my
904 constant companion and valuable assistant in the women's work during those
905 early years. She witnessed a good confession in 1900—being strung up by
906 her thumbs when refusing to deny her Lord. Faithfully she served the Lord as
907 a Bible-woman, until the time of her death in 1903.
908

909 During the first two or three years at Chang Te Fu we lived in unhealthy
910 Chinese houses, which were low and damp. It was therefore thought best that
911 we should have a good semi-foreign house built for us. The work at this time
912 was so encouraging—converts being added weekly, and sometimes almost
913 daily—that we feared lest the new house would hinder the work, and become
914 a separating barrier between ourselves and the people. We therefore prayed
915 that God would make the new house a means of reaching the people—a
916 blessing, and not a hindrance. The answer to this prayer, as is often the case,
917 depended largely upon ourselves. We had to be made willing to pay the price
918 that the answer demanded.
919

920 In other words, we came to see that in order that our prayer could be
921 answered we would have to keep open house every day and all day, which
922 was by no means easy. Some assured us it was wrong, because it would
923 make us cheap in the eyes of the Chinese; others said it was wrong because
924 of the danger of infection to the children. But time proved these objections to

925 be unfounded. The very highest as well as the lowest were received, and their
926 friendship won by this means. And, so far as I can remember, our children
927 never met any contagion because of this way of receiving the people into our
928 house.

929
930 The climax in numbers was reached in the spring of 1899, when eighteen
931 hundred and thirty-five men and several hundred women were received by us
932 in one day. These were first preached to in large bands, and then led through
933 the house. We have seen evidences of the good of this plan in all parts of our
934 field. It opened the hearts of the people toward us, and helped us to live down
935 suspicion and distrust as nothing else could have done.

936 * * * * *

937
938
939 In May of 1898 we started down to Tientsin by houseboat, with our children,
940 for a much-needed rest and change. Cold, wet weather soon set in. Twelve
941 days later, as we came in sight of Tientsin, with a bitter north wind blowing,
942 our eldest child went on deck without his overcoat, in disobedience to my
943 orders. Shortly after the child came in with a violent chill. That afternoon,
944 when we arrived in Tientsin, the doctors pronounced the verdict—
945 pneumonia.

946
947 The following day, shortly after noon, a second doctor, who had been called
948 in consultation, met a friend on his way from our boy's bedside and told her
949 he did not think the child could live till morning. I had taken his temperature,
950 and found it to be 106. He was extremely restless, tossing in the burning
951 fever. Sitting down beside him, with a cry to the Lord to help me, I said
952 distinctly: "P——, you disobeyed me, and have thus brought this illness
953 upon yourself. I forgive you; ask Jesus to forgive you, and give yourself to
954 him."

955
956 The child looked at me for a moment steadily, then closed his eyes. I saw his
957 lips move for a moment; then quietly he sank into a sound sleep. When he
958 awoke, about dusk, I took his temperature, and found it 101. By the time the
959 doctor returned it was normal, and did not rise again. Although he had been
960 having hemorrhage from the lungs, this ceased.

961
962 Is not Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to-day, and forever? Why should we
963 wonder, therefore, at his healing touch in this age? "According to your faith
964 be it unto you."

965 * * * * *

966
967
968 During those early pioneer years, when laying the foundation of the Changte
969 Church, my own weak faith was often rebuked when I saw the results of the
970 simple, child-like faith of our Chinese Christians. Some of those answers to
971 prayer were of such an extraordinary character that, when told in the
972 homeland, even ministers expressed doubts as to their genuineness. But,
973 praise God, I know they are true. Here are two concrete examples.

974

2170

2171 As the weather became cold I began to suffer on the long drives in the
2172 country to appointments, and was soon longing for a fur coat. I consulted our
2173 mission secretary as to whether, if sufficient money were given me, I could
2174 put it into a fur coat. The answer was a decided "Yes." There was no doubt
2175 that the coat was a necessity in the Lord's work. So I began to pray the Lord
2176 to send the money quickly, for the cold was severe. In less than two weeks I
2177 received the money needed, and of course got the coat.

2178

2179 * * * * *

2180

2181 The ladies of the Winnipeg Presbyterial had arranged a series of meetings for
2182 me in Winnipeg, Brandon, and other places in that vicinity, about ten in all.
2183 The collections from the meetings were to defray my traveling expenses,
2184 which would amount to over one hundred dollars. On my way by train from
2185 Toronto to Winnipeg I caught a severe cold, which settled in my throat and
2186 chest. I did not want the women to be disappointed, and also put to all the
2187 expense, if I failed them. Just before reaching Winnipeg I was enabled to
2188 commit myself definitely into the Lord's hands, for strength and voice for the
2189 meetings. The days that followed can never be forgotten, for the bodily
2190 weakness, fever, and throat trouble were removed only while I was giving
2191 my addresses. In each case, though so hoarse before and after speaking as to
2192 be scarcely able to make myself heard above a whisper, my voice cleared for
2193 the address.

2194

2195 For example: while at Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Gordon's home the Sunday I was
2196 to speak in Winnipeg, I was advertised to speak that night in Dr. Gordon's
2197 church. At the supper table I asked Dr. Gordon if he would be ready to speak
2198 should I fail. Just before my time came to speak I slipped up on to the
2199 platform behind Dr. Gordon, who was praying; and oh, how I cried to the
2200 Lord for help and courage! For the church was packed, and even the Sunday-
2201 school room partitions were opened to accommodate the crowd. My throat
2202 was as if in a vise, and I felt weak and ill. But, as Dr. Gordon introduced me,
2203 I stepped forward possessed by a feeling of wonderful calm and absolute
2204 confidence. It seemed I could just _feel_ One like unto the Son of man beside
2205 me, and never had I felt so completely and only a channel. For more than an
2206 hour I spoke so that every one heard distinctly; but when I sat down my
2207 throat tightened as before. Dr. Gordon told me later that he had a man sit in
2208 the most difficult place in which to hear, and that he had heard every word.

2209

2210 So it was till the end of my appointments. On the homeward journey I asked
2211 the Lord either to heal my throat, or to provide a way for me to get a needed
2212 rest from speaking, for I had many appointments awaiting me in Ontario. A
2213 few days after reaching home four of my children were taken down with
2214 measles. During the weeks I was in quarantine with them my throat received
2215 the rest it needed, and became quite restored.

2216

2217 * * * * *

2218

2120 Leave me to-morrow.””
2121
2122 In giving the following I wish to make clear that, had I been living a life of
2123 ease or self-indulgence, I could not have been justified in expecting God to
2124 undertake for me in such matters as are here recorded. It must be
2125 remembered that I had stepped out into a life which meant _trusting for
2126 everything_
2127
2128 Before leaving China for Canada my husband had said to me: “Do not stint
2129 the children with apples; give them all they want.” But when I began
2130 housekeeping I found this was not very easy to do. Apples were expensive,
2131 and the appetites of my six children for them seemed insatiable. However, I
2132 began by buying a few small baskets; and then I did not need to buy more,
2133 for apples came in a most wonderful way. First in baskets; then, as the season
2134 advanced, in barrels. These came from many different sources; and in some
2135 cases long distances, express paid to the door. On one occasion a barrel of
2136 large, hard “Greenings” came just as we had finished the last barrel. The
2137 children complained that they were too hard to eat, and begged me to buy
2138 them some “Snows”—very expensive, but delicious apples for eating. I had
2139 only purchased one small basket of “Snows” when a large supply, almost a
2140 barrelful, came from a distant friend.
2141
2142 I feel that the Lord saw that I had given up all for him, so just showed how
2143 he could provide, thus evidencing his love and care for my dear children. We
2144 had set up housekeeping at the end of the fruit season, and so I had not been
2145 able to do canning for winter use. That winter, again and again, gifts of
2146 canned fruit came, sometimes from unknown sources. Altogether, seventy
2147 jars of the finest fruit were sent to us. I will give the details of just one of
2148 these gifts.
2149
2150 Shortly before leaving home for ten days, the servant informed me that the
2151 canned fruit was finished. Accordingly, I went down and ordered enough
2152 dried fruit to last till I should return. On reaching home I was greeted at the
2153 door by a rush from the children, all trying at once to tell me that a lovely
2154 valentine had just arrived. Leading me back to the kitchen, they showed me
2155 the table covered with twenty jars of the most delicious looking fruit, and a
2156 large can of maple syrup. On a card accompanying the gift was written: “A
2157 valentine for our dear ‘substitute in China,’ from her sisters in Renfrew.”
2158
2159 * * * * *
2160
2161 Early in the winter it became evident that a telephone was a necessity, with
2162 my numerous calls and engagements. I hesitated about going into this
2163 expense, not being quite sure that it was right to use in that way the money
2164 given me. At last, I prayed that the Lord would show me his will in the
2165 matter by sending me half the amount needed for the telephone within a
2166 certain time, if it was right for me to get it. Before the time expired the
2167 money had come; so I got the telephone.
2168
2169 * * * * *

975 Li-ming, a warm-hearted, earnest evangelist, owned land some miles north of
976 Chang Te Fu. On one occasion, when visiting the place, he found the
977 neighbors all busy placing around their fields little sticks with tiny flags.
978 They believed this would keep the locusts from eating their grain. All urged
979 Li-ming to do the same, and to worship the locust god, or his grain would be
980 destroyed. Li-ming replied: “I worship the one only true God, and I will pray
981 him to keep my grain, that you may know that he only is God.”
982
983 The locusts came and ate on all sides of Li-ming’s grain, but did not touch
984 his. When Mr. Goforth heard this story he determined to get further proof, so
985 he visited the place for himself, and inquired of Li-ming’s heathen neighbors
986 what they knew of the matter. One and all testified that, when the locusts
987 came, their grain was eaten and Li-ming’s was not.
988
989 The Lord Jesus once said, after a conflict with unbelief and hypocrisy: “I
990 thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these
991 things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”
992
993 Our little Gracie became ill with a terribly fatal disease, so common in
994 malarious districts—enlarged spleen. The doctors pronounced her condition
995 quite hopeless. One day a Chinese Christian woman came in with her little
996 child, of about the same age as our Gracie, and very ill with the same disease.
997 The poor mother was in great distress, for the doctor had told her also that
998 there was no hope. She thought that if we would plead with the doctor he
999 could save her child. At last Mr. Goforth pointed to our little Gracie, saying:
1000 “Surely, if the doctor cannot save our child, neither can he save yours; your
1001 only hope and ours is in the Lord himself.”
1002
1003 The mother was a poor, hard-working, ignorant woman, but she had the
1004 simple faith of a little child. Some few weeks later she called again, and told
1005 me the following story:
1006
1007 “When the pastor told me my only hope was in the Lord, I believed him.
1008 When I reached home I called my husband, and together we had committed
1009 our child into the Lord’s hands. I felt perfectly sure the child would get well,
1010 so I did not take more care of him than of a well child. In about two weeks he
1011 seemed so perfectly well that I took him to the doctor again, and the doctor
1012 said that he could discover nothing the matter with him.”
1013
1014 That Chinese child is now a grown-up, healthy man. And _our child died_.
1015 Yet we had prayed for her as few, perhaps, have prayed for any child. Why,
1016 then, was she not spared? I do not know. But I do know that there was in my
1017 life, at that time, the sin of bitterness toward another, and an unwillingness to
1018 forgive a wrong. This was quite sufficient to hinder any prayer, and did
1019 hinder for years, until it was set right.
1020
1021 Does this case of unanswered prayer shake my faith in God’s willingness and
1022 power to answer prayer? No, no! My own child might just as reasonably
1023 decide never again to come to me with a request because I have, in my
1024 superior wisdom, denied a petition. Is it not true, in our human relationships

1025 with our children, that we see best to grant at one time what we withhold at
1026 another? “What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter.”
1027
1028 And one of the most precious experiences of God’s loving mercy came to me
1029 in connection with our little Gracie’s death. We had been warned that the end
1030 would probably come in convulsions; two of our dear children had been so
1031 taken. Only a mother who has gone through such an experience can fully
1032 understand the horror of the possibility that such might come again at any
1033 time.
1034
1035 One evening I was watching beside our little one, Miss P—— being with me,
1036 when suddenly the child said very decidedly: “Call Papa; I want to see
1037 Papa.” I hesitated to rouse her father, as it was his time to rest; so I tried to
1038 put her off with some excuse; but again she repeated her request, and so I
1039 called her father, asking him to walk up and down with her until I returned.
1040
1041 Going into the next room I cried in an agony to the Lord not to let Gracie
1042 suffer; but, if it was indeed his will to take the child, then to do so without
1043 her suffering. As I prayed a wonderful peace came over me, and the promise
1044 came so clearly it was as if spoken: “Before they call I will answer; and
1045 while they are yet speaking I will hear.” Rising, I was met at the door by
1046 Miss P——who said: “Gracie is with Jesus.” While I was on my knees our
1047 beloved child, after resting a few moments in her father’s arms, had looked
1048 into his face with one of her loveliest smiles, and then quietly closed her eyes
1049 and had ceased to breathe. No struggle, no pain, but a “falling on sleep.”
1050
1051 “Like as a father pitieth, . . . so the Lord pitieth.”
1052
1053 * * * * *
1054
1055 Ever-darkening clouds gathered about us during the months following
1056 Gracie’s death; and while the storm did not burst in all its fury till the early
1057 summer of 1900, yet the preceding winter was full of forebodings and
1058 constant alarms.
1059
1060 On one occasion thousands gathered inside and outside our mission,
1061 evidently bent on serious mischief. My husband and his colleagues moved in
1062 and out all that day among the dense crowd which filled the front courtyards;
1063 while we women remained shut within closed houses, not knowing what
1064 moment the mob would break loose and destroy us all. What kept them back
1065 that day? What but trustful prayer! And the Lord heard that day, and
1066 wonderfully restrained the violence of our enemies.
1067
1068 We did not know then, but those experiences were preparing us for the
1069 greater trials and perils awaiting us all.
1070
1071
1072
1073
1074 V

2070 lady would need to be willing to take care of the children, and act as my
2071 housekeeper in my absence from home. Sixth, sufficient money would need
2072 to be sent to meet the extra expenses incurred by my leaving home.
2073
2074 Yet, as I laid these difficulties before the Lord, I received the definite
2075 assurance that he would open the way.
2076
2077 My son was brought back to Toronto on a stretcher, the doctor not allowing
2078 him to raise his head; but on arrival he would not obey orders, declaring that
2079 he was so well he could not and would not remain still. Fearing the
2080 consequences of his disobeying orders, I telephoned for the doctor to come at
2081 once. On his arrival he gave the lad a thorough examination, and then said:
2082 “Well, I cannot make him out; all I can say is, let him do as he pleases.”
2083
2084 Within a month the boy was going back to his high school, apparently quite
2085 well. Some months later he applied for a position as forester under the
2086 government. He had to pass through the hands of the official doctor. My son
2087 told him of his recent illness, and of what the doctor had said concerning his
2088 heart; but this physician replied: “In spite of all you have told me I can
2089 discover nothing whatever the matter with you, and will therefore give you a
2090 clear bill of health.”
2091
2092 As for myself, I did not go to the hospital; for all the symptoms that had
2093 seemed to require it left me, and I became perfectly well. A servant was sent
2094 to me who did her work sympathetically, as helping me to do the Lord’s
2095 work. A married niece, living near, offered to stay in the home whenever I
2096 needed to be absent.
2097
2098 And so there remained but one condition unfulfilled—the money. But I
2099 believed this would come as I went forward; and it did. Each month that
2100 followed, as I made up my accounts, I found that my receipts exceeded my
2101 expenditures sufficiently to enable me to spend money for work in China,
2102 and to purchase things which I needed for China, including an organ. All
2103 these accounts were laid before our beloved Mission Board secretary, who
2104 approved them.
2105
2106 Under these circumstances I dared not refuse invitations to speak. Yet, so
2107 weak was my faith, for months I never left home for a few days without
2108 dreading lest something should happen to the children during my absence. I
2109 even accepted meetings with the proviso that if the children needed me I
2110 must fail to keep my appointment. But as the days and weeks and months
2111 passed, and all went well, I learned to trust.
2112
2113 “‘Be still; be strong to-day.’
2114 But, Lord, to-morrow?
2115 What of to-morrow, Lord?
2116 Shall there be rest from toil,
2117 Be truce from sorrow?
2118 ‘Did I not die for thee?
2119 Do I not live for thee?

2020 As I recall those years of touring life with our children, words fail me to tell
2021 of all the Lord's goodness to them and to me. Though there were many hard,
2022 hard places, these were but opportunities for special grace and help. Many
2023 times, when discouraged almost to the point of never going out again with
2024 the children, there would come evidence that the Lord was using our family
2025 life, lived among the people, to win them to Christ. Then I would take new
2026 courage, and go again. Oh, it is so true that

2027
2028 "We may trust him fully
2029 All for us to do;
2030 Those who trust him wholly
2031 Find him wholly true."

2032

2033

2034

2035

2036 VII

2037

2038 THE STORY OF ONE FURLOUGH (1908-1910)

2039

2040 "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify

2041 me" (Psa. 50:15).

2042

2043

2044 IN THE summer of 1908 I was obliged to return to Canada with five of our

2045 children, leaving Mr. Goforth in China for the revival work.

2046

2047 Reaching Toronto, I learned that my eldest son was at death's door from

2048 repeated attacks of rheumatic fever. He was then almost a day's journey

2049 away. On my way there, as I recalled the times in which he had been given

2050 back to us from the very gates of death, my faith was strengthened to believe

2051 for his recovery again. But, as I prayed, it became very clear that the answer

2052 to my petition depended on myself; in other words, that I must yield myself

2053 and my will to God.

2054

2055 I had been planning to take no meetings during that furlough, but to devote

2056 myself wholly to my children. I confessed the sin of planning my own life,

2057 and definitely covenanted with the Lord that if he would raise my son for his

2058 service I would take meetings, or do anything, as he opened the way for the

2059 care of the children.

2060

2061 There were six difficult doors, however, that would have to be opened—not

2062 one, but all—before I could possibly go out and speak for Christ and China,

2063 as God seemed to be asking. First, the Lord would need to restore my son to

2064 complete health, as I could never feel justified in leaving a sick child.

2065 Second, he would need to restore my own health, for I had been ordered to

2066 the hospital for an operation. Third, he would need to keep all the other

2067 children well. Fourth, a servant must be sent to take care of the house—

2068 though my income was so small that a servant seemed out of the question,

2069 and only the strictest economy was making both ends meet. Fifth, a Christian

1075

1076 OUR DELIVERANCE FROM THE BOXERS (1900)

1077

1078 "God is unto us a God of deliverances" (Psa. 68:20, R. V.).

1079

1080 "Who delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver: on whom we

1081 have set our hope that he will also still deliver" (2 Cor. 1:10, R. V.).

1082

1083

1084 MANY times we were asked in the homeland to tell the story of our escape

1085 during the Boxer uprising, and often the question was put, "If it was really

1086 God's power that saved you and others on that journey, then why did he not

1087 save those of his children who were so cruelly done to death?"

1088

1089 For a time this question troubled me. Why indeed? One day when seeking for

1090 light on the matter I was directed to the twelfth chapter of Acts. There I

1091 found the only answer that can be given. We are told in the second verse that

1092 James was put to death by the sword; then the rest of the chapter is given to

1093 the detailed record of Peter's wonderful deliverance in answer to prayer (vs.

1094 5, 12). In that day when all things shall be revealed I am convinced we shall

1095 see that _prayer_ had much to do in the working out of our deliverance.

1096 When the first cable was received in Canada informing the home church of

1097 our party starting on that perilous journey, we are told a great wave of prayer

1098 went up for us from Christians of all denominations. The Presbyterian

1099 Assembly of Canada was meeting at the time, and one session was given up

1100 entirely to prayer on behalf of the missionaries in China. Never had that body

1101 witnessed such a season of intense, united intercession.

1102

1103 Later when giving the story of our escape in the homeland, repeatedly we

1104 have had people come to us telling how, during the weeks which elapsed

1105 between the first cable informing the home church of our danger, and the

1106 second cable, which told of our safe arrival at the coast, they had never

1107 ceased to cry to God to save us. Then, too, after all is said, we must believe

1108 God was glorified and God's purposes were fulfilled in the death of some as

1109 in the saved lives of others. The blood of the martyrs is still the seed of the

1110 Church.

1111

1112 It was in the month of June, 1895, that an incident occurred which has ever

1113 been linked in my mind with the events of 1900. I was about to leave

1114 Toronto with my four children to join my husband in China, when a cable

1115 was received telling of the cruel massacre of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and

1116 others. Deep and widespread sympathy was expressed and much anxiety felt

1117 for missionaries generally in China. Many urged me to delay our return; but I

1118 felt it best to keep to our original plans, and a few days later found us bidding

1119 farewell to friends at the Union Station, Toronto.

1120

1121 Just as the train was leaving a lady stepped forward quickly to the window

1122 and said, "You do not know me, but I have prayed the Lord to give me a

1123 promise for you; it is this, take it as from Him," and handed me a slip of

1124 paper. I opened the paper and read, "No weapon that is formed against thee

1125 shall prosper” (Isa. 54:17). Then and there I raised my heart to God in prayer
 1126 that he would fulfil this promise to me and those dear to me; and as I prayed
 1127 there came the clear assurance that the Lord heard.
 1128
 1129 Never can we forget that winter of 1899-1900. The clouds had begun to
 1130 gather, and the mutterings of the coming storm were heard on all sides of us.
 1131 Repeatedly we were as a mission in gravest danger, and at such times were
 1132 literally “shut up to God.” The temper of the people was such that any little
 1133 thing angering them would have been as a spark to gunpowder.
 1134
 1135 From the time of the government crisis of the autumn of 1899, we, in
 1136 company with all other foreigners in China, realized that conditions were
 1137 becoming serious, yet never did we expect or prepare for such a cataclysm as
 1138 took place when the storm clouds suddenly burst in the early summer of
 1139 1900.
 1140
 1141 The first indication we had of coming danger was when our mail carriers
 1142 running to and from Tientsin were stopped and our mails returned. Thus, cut
 1143 off from the outside world, we had to depend solely upon the wild rumors
 1144 afloat among the Chinese for information. The country around us became
 1145 daily more disturbed; day by day we could hear the beating of drums and the
 1146 cries of the people for rain. The darkness and horror of those days, in the
 1147 midst of which sickness and death entered our home, can never be forgotten.
 1148 On the nineteenth of June our eldest daughter, Florence, after a week of
 1149 intense suffering, was released from pain. It was while her life was still
 1150 hanging in the balance that we received the first communication from the
 1151 American Consul in Chefoo urging us to flee. This message was quickly
 1152 followed by another still more urgent.
 1153
 1154 The question was, where could we flee? Our usual route was by river boat
 1155 two weeks to Tientsin, but this way was blocked, the whole region being
 1156 infested with Boxers, and Tientsin even then in a state of siege. The only
 1157 possible route left open to us was southward by cart,—fourteen days to Fan-
 1158 cheng,—then ten or more days by houseboat to Hankow. We faced such a
 1159 journey at that time of the year with fear and trembling because of the
 1160 children, the danger from heat and sun being very great. Gladly would we
 1161 have stayed, but the Chinese Christians urged us to go, saying they could
 1162 escape more easily were we not there.
 1163
 1164 We had with us our four remaining children: Paul, nine; Helen, six; Ruth,
 1165 under three; and baby Wallace, eight months. Their faithful Chinese nurse,
 1166 though weeping bitterly at parting from her old mother of almost eighty,
 1167 decided to come with us. There were altogether in the party five men, six
 1168 women, and five children, besides the servants and carters.
 1169
 1170 Many were the difficulties in the way of getting carts and other necessary
 1171 things for the journey, but one by one all things needed were provided as we
 1172 besought the Lord to open the way. There were many indications on that
 1173 journey that God’s purpose was to save us; one of the most striking of these
 1174 happened just as we were about to leave.

1971 raised up shortly after. The secret of his getting men may be seen best
 1972 through words of his own, taken from a letter to a friend in Canada about the
 1973 time of which I am now writing:
 1974
 1975 “We came to this little market town in September of last year. My wife had
 1976 two women workers. I had Mr. Tung, the old evangelist, and a young high
 1977 school graduate without experience, and the only Christian man in the
 1978 district, very ignorant but with this to recommend him, that he was converted
 1979 or quickened by the Holy Spirit in the Changte revival, and was intensely in
 1980 earnest. We were here only about twenty days when dozens began to inquire,
 1981 among whom were robbers, opium sots, and gamblers. The work went on all
 1982 day and well on till midnight. We were all tiring out. We had not enough
 1983 workers. It was like a very heavy burden that forced me to my knees. I told
 1984 the Lord that he was the Lord of the harvest, and that he must send more
 1985 harvesters. There was a time of intense looking to God, almost amounting to
 1986 agony, and then the burden lifted, and I knew that God had answered. I told
 1987 my wife that I was sure that God was going to send me workers.
 1988
 1989 “Now what is the result? Since then he has sent me two Chinese B.A.’s, both
 1990 excellent speakers. He moved an excellent elder to give up his business, and
 1991 he has been appointed an evangelist. At this center a scholar, who was an
 1992 opium user and gambler, got converted last year. His progress has been most
 1993 remarkable, and it looks as if he is going to make one of the front-rank
 1994 preachers. Also two brothers here, who were among the first converts last
 1995 year, help to preach, their father—also a convert of last year—providing their
 1996 food.”
 1997
 1998 * * * * *
 1999
 2000 Another gracious evidence of God’s over-ruling providence was seen in the
 2001 way we, especially the children, were kept from contracting contagious
 2002 diseases. The Chinese carry their children about everywhere in their arms,
 2003 even when sick with all sorts of contagious diseases.
 2004
 2005 I give the following instance to show how impossible it was to know when
 2006 one would run into danger. Going to a certain village for a day’s preaching, I
 2007 took with me little Mary, then three years of age. We were waited on by a
 2008 Christian woman who was most kind and attentive, bringing water and food
 2009 for both Mary and myself. Being much taken up with preaching to the
 2010 women, it did not occur to me to ask why she kept her baby’s face covered,
 2011 for the child was always in her arms. Just as we were leaving I asked her;
 2012 then she uncovered the baby’s face, and to my horror I found that the child
 2013 was suffering from smallpox! For weeks I watched Mary’s temperature, but
 2014 nothing developed.
 2015
 2016 Through repeated instances of this kind I came to see that Mr. Goforth was
 2017 right when he said, “The safest place for yourself and the children is in the
 2018 path of duty.”
 2019

1921 and chest, but would not give up his meetings. One noon he came from the
1922 meeting looking very ill, and lay down to rest till the afternoon meeting.
1923
1924 I determined to take the Christians into my confidence, and tell them of my
1925 anxiety for Mr. Goforth. So, some time before the afternoon meeting I
1926 slipped out and called them into the tent, telling them of my husband's
1927 condition and asking them to pray for him. Oh, what a wave of earnest,
1928 heart-overflow of prayer went up without a moment's pause! The tears came
1929 to my eyes as I thought, "Surely God will answer such prayers!"
1930
1931 Then, fearing my husband might arrive, I gave out a hymn. A few moments
1932 later he walked into the tent in his old brisk way, looking quite well. At the
1933 close of the meeting he told me that shortly after he heard me go out the pain
1934 in his head and chest ceased, the fever seemed to leave him, and when he
1935 started for the tent he felt quite well. The symptoms did not return.
1936
1937 * * * * *
1938
1939 When on a visit to a certain out-station, after being there two whole days,
1940 scarcely any women had come to see us. We were so circumstanced that I
1941 could not leave the children. The third day I became so burdened in prayer
1942 that I could only shut myself up in an empty room and cry to the Lord to
1943 send women to us, as he knew I could not leave the children. From that day
1944 we always had plenty of visitors to keep us busy, either Christian women
1945 studying or heathen women listening to the Gospel.
1946
1947 At Tzuchow, the first place we opened together, the people seemed much set
1948 against us. After the first period of curiosity was over, no one came to hear
1949 the Gospel. As we had a nice place for the children to play in with their
1950 faithful nurse,—the one who saved Ruth's life in 1900,—Mrs. Wang and I
1951 determined to go out each afternoon and try to reach the heathen women with
1952 the Gospel. Before going out we always prayed the Lord to open a door to us
1953 for preaching. And as I now recall that time, never once did we return home
1954 without being invited into some home to preach, or at least being asked to sit
1955 on a doorstep and tell of a Saviour from sin.
1956
1957 * * * * *
1958
1959 One of the most outstanding evidences of God's favor and blessing was seen,
1960 at this time, in the way he provided my husband with native helpers. To carry
1961 on the plan of work we had adopted required a good force of trusty
1962 evangelists. Time and again we looked to the Lord for men and women to
1963 help us, and the answer always came.
1964
1965 As my husband always seemed to have plenty of men to help him, he was
1966 frequently asked for evangelists by his fellow-missionaries of both our own
1967 and other missions. I was at first opposed to his giving away his best men,
1968 but he would answer, "The Lord has been good to me; should I be less
1969 generous with my brethren?" And it certainly was remarkable how,
1970 whenever he gave a really valuable evangelist, another man, even better, was

1175
1176 The day previous to our departure a message passed through the city of
1177 Chang Te Ho, the messenger riding at breakneck speed. This messenger, we
1178 learned later, was en-route for the Provincial Capital with the sealed message
1179 from the Empress Dowager commanding the death of all foreigners. We had
1180 planned first to take the direct route south, which would, as far as we can
1181 now see, have led us to our death, for this route would have taken us through
1182 the capital. Almost at the last moment, and quite unaware of the danger on
1183 the direct route, we were led to change our plans and take a route farther
1184 west, though it made a considerably longer journey.
1185
1186 We left Chang Te, June 28, 1900, at daybreak. At Wei Hwei Fu, the first
1187 large city to which we came, an attempt was made to break into our inn, but
1188 as we prayed the mob dispersed and we were left in peace. On July first we
1189 reached the north bank of the Yellow River, and there for a short time (it was
1190 Sunday afternoon) we rested under the trees. Little did we dream that even
1191 then many, very many, of our fellow-missionaries and personal friends were
1192 being done to death by the merciless Boxers. At sunset the ferry which
1193 carried us across the river reached the south bank, and here we found several
1194 missionaries and a party of engineers waiting for us. These latter were fully
1195 armed and had a fair escort. After some difficulty it was decided that we
1196 should all keep together, but in reality this party kept by themselves, except
1197 that we stayed in the same towns at night. Each day that passed seemed
1198 harder than the last, the heat was intense, and the ten or twelve hours of
1199 bumping over rough roads in springless carts made even a bed spread on the
1200 ground a welcome resting-place.
1201
1202 Once, when Mr. Goforth had jumped off our cart to get fresh water for our
1203 head cloths, a crowd gathered round him and became very threatening,
1204 raising the cry, "Kill, kill." All the other carts were ahead, and the carter
1205 would not wait for Mr. Goforth, as he was afraid. During the few moments
1206 that elapsed before my husband was allowed to join us even the carter turned
1207 pale with suspense,—and oh, how I prayed!
1208
1209 Except for a few similar passing dangers, nothing special occurred until the
1210 evening of July seventh, when we reached the small town of Hsintien. We
1211 had heard during the day that the whole country ahead of us was in a state of
1212 ferment against the Roman Catholics. Scarcely had we reached the inn when
1213 the engineers and the missionaries with them who had become increasingly
1214 alarmed at the condition of the country, informed us that they were going on
1215 to the large city of Nan Yang Fu that night, but would leave us two soldiers
1216 and two of their carts. Mr. Goforth did not wish them to go, for he felt it
1217 would greatly increase our danger.
1218
1219 Shortly after they left us the mob began to gather outside our inn. The gate
1220 was barricaded with carts. For hours stones were thrown against the gate and
1221 demand was made for our money. A messenger was at once sent after the
1222 engineers' party, asking them to return. All that night was spent in sleepless
1223 suspense.
1224

1225 Early in the morning the messenger returned with the reply that they had
1226 failed to get help from the Nan Yang Fu official and were obliged to push on.
1227 As soon as the carters heard we were thus left helpless a panic seized them,
1228 and it was with great difficulty they could be persuaded to harness their
1229 animals. All this time the crowd had been becoming more dense, as we could
1230 see through the cracks of the gate, and were ominously quiet. Hints had been
1231 given us of coming danger, but that was all; none spoke of what all felt,—
1232 that we were probably going to our death.

1233
1234 Suddenly, without the slightest warning, I was seized with an overwhelming
1235 fear of what might be awaiting us. It was not the fear of _after_ death, but of
1236 probable torture, that took such awful hold of me. I thought, “Can this be the
1237 Christian courage I have looked for?” I went by myself and prayed for
1238 victory, but no help came. Just then some one called us to a room for prayer
1239 before getting into our carts. Scarcely able to walk for trembling, and utterly
1240 ashamed that others should see my state of panic,—for such it undoubtedly
1241 was,—I managed to reach a bench beside which my husband stood. He drew
1242 from his pocket a little book, “Clarke’s Scripture Promises,” and read the
1243 verses his eye first fell upon. They were the following:

1244
1245 “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and
1246 he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.”

1247
1248 “The God of Jacob is our refuge.”

1249
1250 “Thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.”

1251
1252 “I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the
1253 right hand of my righteousness. . . . The Lord thy God will hold thy right
1254 hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.”

1255
1256 “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

1257
1258 “We may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man
1259 shall do unto me.”

1260
1261 The effect of these words at such a time was remarkable. All realized that
1262 God was speaking to us. Never was there a message more directly given to
1263 mortal man from his God than that message to us. From almost the first verse
1264 my whole soul seemed flooded with a great peace; all trace of panic
1265 vanished; and I felt God’s presence was with us. Indeed, his presence was so
1266 real it could scarcely have been more so had we seen a visible form.

1267
1268 After prayer we all got on our carts, and one by one passed out into the
1269 densely crowded street. As we approached the city gate we could see that the
1270 road was black with crowds awaiting us. I had just remarked to my husband
1271 on how well we were getting through the crowds, when our carts passed
1272 through the gates. My husband turned pale as he pointed to a group of
1273 several hundred men, fully armed, awaiting us. They waited till all the carts
1274 had passed through the gate, then hurled down upon us a shower of stones, at

1872
1873 Everywhere we met with the utmost friendliness, and before our month’s
1874 visit was ended we had the joy of seeing some of the leading people in the
1875 village and district come out boldly for Christ. One was the chief doctor;
1876 another was the head man in the market. In the store, through which we
1877 women had to pass to get to the evening meeting, there were three men and a
1878 young lad of fifteen; all of these were brought to Christ. The men were
1879 opium users, gamblers, men of evil lives. Two of them are now preachers of
1880 the Gospel, and one is the leading man in the little growing church there.

1881
1882 Had I time and space I could go on multiplying cases where the same results
1883 have followed when the cross of Christ has been the pivot of all Christian
1884 teaching, and prayer has been the source of power.

1885
1886 * * * * *

1887
1888 On one of the early visits to the city of Linchang, a woman came with a little
1889 child whose foot was terribly burned. The whole foot was badly swollen, the
1890 inflammation reaching some distance up the leg. The child was feverish, and
1891 seemed in a serious condition. It happened that on that trip I had forgotten to
1892 bring the simple remedies which I was accustomed to take out with me, so
1893 the woman was told nothing could be done. But she begged so piteously that
1894 I could not turn away; and lifting up my heart in prayer I asked the Lord to
1895 guide me, if there was anything I could do.

1896
1897 Even while I prayed the thought of a bread poultice came to mind. This
1898 remedy seemed almost absurd. I had never heard of such a thing being used
1899 before under like circumstances, but I resolved to try it. Twice a day the foot
1900 was cleansed and put in the poultice, and it was really wonderful to see how
1901 it healed. We were there ten days, and when we left the foot was almost
1902 completely well. The mother, father, the child herself, and indeed the whole
1903 family, became Christians. On a later visit I examined the foot, and found not
1904 even the sign of a scar remaining.

1905
1906 I told this incident not long ago to a medical doctor, and he said: “Why, there
1907 is no miracle in _that_! It was just up-to-date hygiene—giving nature a
1908 chance by cleanliness!”

1909
1910 I replied: “Doctor, to me the miracle lay, not in the poultice, but in God’s
1911 telling me what to use; and now it is to me all the more a miracle of prayer,
1912 since you say it was up-to-date hygienic treatment.”

1913
1914 * * * * *

1915
1916 At the same place, some years later, we were conducting special tent
1917 meetings for Christians in the day time, and for the heathen at night. Just
1918 after our meetings began the weather turned bitterly cold, with wind and
1919 sleety rain. The tent was like a drafty ice-house. My husband caught a severe
1920 cold, which became worse each day. He had fever and severe pains in head

1822
1823 * * * * *
1824
1825 There were times when my faith was severely tested, and I fear too often I
1826 did not stand the test; but oh, how patient God is with us in our human
1827 weakness. “Like as a father pitieth, . . . so the Lord pitieth.” The Chinese
1828 have often said to me, “Your children seem made for this life.” But I know it
1829 was God’s great goodness. He knew how hard the life was, and how difficult
1830 it would have been for me to continue that work had the children been
1831 peevish or hard to manage. Time and time again we had to get the little ones
1832 up before daybreak to start on a cart journey, but I do not remember that they
1833 ever even cried. They would just wake up enough to get dressed and ask
1834 sleepily, “Are we going again, Mama?” and then go off to sleep as soon as
1835 we were settled in our carts.
1836
1837 * * * * *
1838
1839 On one occasion, arriving at a certain town, we found the place in which we
1840 were to stay unfit for the children. It was simply horrible. On either side of
1841 us, almost reaching to our door, were two great pigstys—Chinese pigstys! In
1842 front of the door were eight or ten great vessels, filled with fermenting stuff
1843 which had been there all summer, and which added to the other varied and
1844 oppressive odors. I greatly feared for the children, and wanted to leave at
1845 once, but my husband seemed calmly certain of the Lord’s power to keep
1846 them from all harm.
1847
1848 On the second evening the youngest child became very feverish. Mr. Goforth
1849 was holding a meeting with the men. I was almost overwhelmed with fear
1850 lest the child had diphtheria. Kneeling down beside him, I cried to the Lord
1851 as only a mother under like circumstances could pray. At last, tired out, I fell
1852 asleep on my knees. Awakened by the entrance of my husband, I felt the
1853 child’s head again and it seemed cooler, and the child quieter. The following
1854 day he was quite well. Is it much wonder I can say I know God answers
1855 prayer?
1856
1857 * * * * *
1858
1859 Returning from our summer holiday the first of September, 1912, we hoped
1860 to find a place rented at a certain large center where we had planned to begin
1861 work; but to our disappointment learned that the evangelists had secured
1862 premises in a small market village, where there was just one Christian. There
1863 was nothing to do but to go there, though it seemed almost useless, for it was
1864 the busiest season for those farming people.
1865
1866 On our way to this place we prayed much that the Lord would prepare the
1867 people, and open their hearts to the Gospel. We had not been there many
1868 days when we became convinced that we had been led there, and that the
1869 Lord was opening the hearts of the people in a most unusual way. Crowds of
1870 men and women heard the preaching every day. Our evening Gospel
1871 meetings, with organ and hymn scroll, were crowded out on to the street.

1275 the same time rushing forward and maiming or killing some of the animals.
1276 Mr. Goforth jumped down from our cart and cried to them, “Take
1277 everything, but don’t kill.” His only answer was a blow. The confusion that
1278 followed was so great it would be impossible to describe the escape of each
1279 one in detail. Each one later had his or her own testimony of that mighty and
1280 merciful deliverance. But I must give the details of Mr. Goforth’s experience.
1281
1282 One man struck him a blow on the neck with a great sword wielded with two
1283 hands. “Somehow” the blunt edge of the sword struck his neck; the blow left
1284 a wide mark almost around his neck, but did no further harm. Had the sharp
1285 edge struck his neck he would certainly have been beheaded!
1286
1287 His thick helmet was cut almost to pieces, one blow cutting through the
1288 leather lining _just over the temple_, but without even scratching the skin!
1289
1290 Again he was felled to the ground, with a fearful sword cut, which entered
1291 the bone of the skull behind and almost cleft it in two. As he fell he seemed
1292 to hear distinctly a voice saying, “Fear not, they are praying for you.” Rising
1293 from this blow, he was again struck down by a club. As he was falling almost
1294 unconscious to the ground he saw a horse coming at full speed toward him;
1295 when he became conscious again he found the horse had tripped and fallen
1296 (on level ground) so near that its tail almost touched him. The animal,
1297 kicking furiously, had served as a barrier between him and his assailants.
1298 While dazed and not knowing what to do a man came up as if to strike, but
1299 whispered, “Leave the carts.” By that time the onlookers began to rush
1300 forward to get the loot, but the attacking party felt the things were theirs, so
1301 desisted in their attack upon us in order to secure their booty.
1302
1303 A word as to myself and the children. Several fierce men with swords
1304 jumped on my cart. One struck at the baby, but I parried the blow with a
1305 pillow, and the little fellow only received a slight scratch on the forehead.
1306 Then they dropped their swords and began tearing at our goods at the back of
1307 the cart. Heavy boxes were dragged over us, and everything was taken. Just
1308 then a dreadful looking man tried to reach us from the back of the cart with
1309 his sword, missing by an inch. I thought he would come to the front and
1310 continue his attack, but he did not. I had seen Mr. Goforth sink to the ground
1311 covered with blood twice, and had given him up for dead. Just then Paul,
1312 who had been in the last cart, jumped in, wild with delight at what he seemed
1313 to think was great fun, for he had run through the thick of the fight, dodging
1314 sword thrusts from all sides, and had succeeded in reaching me without a
1315 scratch. A moment later my husband came to the edge of the cart scarcely
1316 able to stand, saying, “Get down quickly; we must not delay in getting
1317 away.” As I was getting down one man snatched away my hat, another my
1318 shoes; but we were allowed to go.
1319
1320 Ruth was nowhere to be seen, and we hoped she was with the missionaries
1321 who had charge of her at the time of attack. I saw that Mr. Goforth’s strength
1322 was failing fast, for he could scarcely walk, and as men began to follow I
1323 urged him forward with the baby and the other two children, and turning
1324 faced the men, begging them to have mercy on my children, for they had

1325 begun to stone us. Some of us were black for days from the blows received
1326 then. They stopped and listened, then the leader said, "We've killed her
1327 husband, let her go." With this they ran back to the carts.
1328
1329 I knew Mr. Goforth could not go far. We could see a small village not far
1330 distant, and to this we hastened, praying as we went that the Lord would
1331 open the hearts of the people to receive us. Here again Paul seemed to feel no
1332 fear, but said, "Mother, what does this put you in mind of? It puts me in mind
1333 of the Henty books!"
1334
1335 As we neared the village men came out to drive us away, but I begged them
1336 to help us. By this time Mr. Goforth had sunk to the ground. Putting the baby
1337 in an old woman's arms, I knelt down beside my husband. The children were
1338 crying bitterly. Mr. Goforth looked as if he were dying. The women standing
1339 round us were weeping now. This was too much for the men, who came
1340 forward saying, "We will save you." One ran and got some stuff to put in the
1341 wounds, assuring us it would stop the flow of blood, and it did. This man
1342 helped me to bandage up the wounds with bandages made from garments
1343 taken from myself and the children. They helped my husband, and we
1344 followed them into a little hut, where they laid him on a straw bed and locked
1345 us in. Hot water for bathing our bruises, food and drink were handed us
1346 through a small window, and we could hear them planning how they would
1347 save us. We told them how anxious we were to hear of our friends and little
1348 Ruth, so they sent a man to inquire.
1349
1350 We found that these people—the whole village—were Mohammedans, and
1351 had taken no part in the attack. We felt that God had wonderfully directed
1352 our steps to that village.
1353
1354 All that day Mr. Goforth lay still, but looked at times so very white that I
1355 feared the worst. Never for one moment, I believe, during that day did I
1356 cease to pray for his life. And when Mr. ———, one of our party, arrived about
1357 four o'clock looking for us, Mr. Goforth at once got up as if perfectly well,
1358 insisting on walking to the cart. To me, knowing how he had looked that day,
1359 it seemed only a miracle. His only answer to my protest was, "Only pray; the
1360 Lord will give me strength, as long as he has work for me to do."
1361
1362 As we were leaving, the kind friends of the village gathered round insisting
1363 on my taking some old clothes to put round the children, who were almost
1364 naked, saying, "It will be chilly at night." As we went forward to join the
1365 others, Mr. ——— told us how one by one all had escaped. Dr. ——— was the
1366 only one beside Mr. Goforth seriously injured, the poor fellow having had
1367 his kneecap severed and the tendons of his right wrist badly cut, besides
1368 many other wounds.
1369
1370 All that day our friends had been waiting by the roadside, unable to proceed
1371 without carts, owing to the doctor's condition. They had joined in one
1372 petition, that God would move the carters to come. Those who know China
1373 and heathen carters will readily acknowledge that it was nothing short of a
1374 miracle—the miracle of answered prayer—that made these heathen carters

1772 circumstances in which the letter would find us, she could scarcely have
1773 written more exactly to fit our case.
1774
1775 Again, a year after this experience of God's faithfulness to meet all our
1776 needs, we began to feel the need of special funds for the work. My husband,
1777 as usual, seemed quite sure that we should keep on as we had been doing,
1778 and that the money needed would be sent. In spite of all the blessed lessons
1779 of the past, my faith seemed to fail me; and I spoke decidedly against using
1780 our salary, when we needed it all for ourselves and our children's education.
1781 We were traveling homeward by cart at the time and the matter was dropped;
1782 though I felt my husband was hurt by my lack of faith.
1783
1784 When we reached home, that evening, a letter from a lady in Canada was
1785 awaiting my husband. He read it first; and I cannot forget the look on his face
1786 as he handed it to me, with the words "I told you so."
1787
1788 As near as I can recall it the letter said: "My mother and I are strangers to
1789 you, never having seen or heard either you or your wife. But my mother, who
1790 is an invalid, has for some time been restless because of a conviction that has
1791 come over her that she should send you some money. So to quiet my mother
1792 I am sending you fifty dollars."
1793
1794 As I read the letter, I certainly did feel ashamed of my lack of faith. In
1795 writing our acknowledgment, I told how wonderfully opportune the gift had
1796 been. A couple of months or so later came a reply, telling us that the invalid
1797 mother passed away soon after my letter reached them; and that the story of
1798 how God had used her in this matter greatly strengthened her faith, blessing
1799 and helping her during the closing days of her life.
1800
1801 * * * * *
1802
1803 On one occasion, when we were traveling from Wuanhsien to Pengcheng, we
1804 reached the town of Hotsun late in the afternoon, expecting to stay over
1805 night. But on our arrival we found that the Christian whom we had sent to
1806 arrange for our accommodation had failed to get us a place, every one
1807 absolutely refusing to take us in. While the animals were feeding, and we
1808 were trying to eat our dinner of Chinese dough-strings in the midst of a
1809 curious crowd, my husband told the Christian to go out again and look for a
1810 place while we prayed.
1811
1812 We dared not close our eyes, lest the superstitious heathen crowd crushing
1813 against us on all sides would take fright, thinking we were mesmerizing
1814 them. So we just lifted up our hearts silently to our Father; and before many
1815 minutes had passed, indeed before we had finished our meal, the Christian
1816 returned greatly rejoiced, saying: "A wealthy man has offered you a fine
1817 empty place which has just been fixed over. And you can have it as long as
1818 you like, free of rent."
1819
1820 For three days we preached in that place—morning, noon, and night—to
1821 great crowds; and a work was begun which has gone on ever since.

1722 felt must be met—that of a Bible-woman. As I prayed for direction, a Mrs.
1723 Wang Hsieh-sheng came to mind as the one I should ask.
1724
1725 But when I laid my request before her, that she come with me, she burst into
1726 tears, saying: “I dare not. I have only one child left, and it would risk her life
1727 too much.”
1728
1729 Seeing how she felt, I did not urge her, but told her to go and pray about it
1730 for a day, and bring me her answer after the funeral that night. When she
1731 came that evening her face was shining through tears, as she said: “O my
1732 Shepherd Mother, I will go. If you are willing to risk your children for the
1733 sake of my sisters, how much more should I!”
1734
1735 Eighteen years have passed since that day. I would need to write a volume to
1736 record all that Mrs. Wang meant to me in those years; yes, and to the work.
1737 As the years passed she became my beloved companion, sharing in all the
1738 responsibilities and hardships of that life, and also in its joys. I realized more
1739 and more that she was indeed a God-given co-worker. Though circumstances
1740 have led me away from that life, she still remains and works for her sisters in
1741 the Changte Church.
1742
1743 * * * * *
1744
1745 One of the hardest words a missionary can get from his Home Board is the
1746 word “retrench.” My husband and I were on one of our evangelistic tours
1747 north of Changte. Every door seemed wide open before us, and the time ripe
1748 for a specially aggressive campaign of evangelism for the heathen. But, just
1749 as we were planning for this, word reached us from our station treasurer of a
1750 message received from the Home Board that funds were low, and
1751 retrenchment must be carried out along all lines.
1752
1753 To us this meant dismissing helpers, and a general curtailing of our work.
1754 We faced the question squarely. Our own tithe had been long overdrawn.
1755 How then could we support the men we had, and go on with the work which
1756 was opening so gloriously before us after years of hard pioneer preparation?
1757
1758 But we decided to go on as we had planned, and to trust God for the
1759 necessary funds; believing that, though for the time being the home church
1760 had disappointed us, God would not fail us.
1761
1762 The following Friday a home mail reached us, in which was a letter from a
1763 lady in New Zealand. The writer said she had read a letter of ours in The Life
1764 of Faith, and wished to support an evangelist under us. This relieved us of
1765 the support of one man, but there were many other needs as yet unmet.
1766
1767 The following Monday, when our next mail was forwarded to us, a letter
1768 came from a lady in Australia, enclosing a draft ample to meet every special
1769 need in the work for a year to come. She stated very plainly that she did not
1770 wish the money put into the general funds of the mission, but to be used by
1771 ourselves in any way we thought best. Indeed, had she known the special

1375 come, after all they had already gone through. For come they did, five of
1376 them, all that were needed, now that our luggage was gone. We learned too,
1377 that our faithful Chinese nurse, who had charge of Ruth, had saved the child
1378 at the risk of her own life, lying upon the child and taking many cruel blows,
1379 till greed for loot drew the men off.
1380
1381 We soon joined the rest of the party, and by six o’clock that evening we
1382 reached the large city of Nang Yang Fu. The city wall was black with people,
1383 and as we entered the gate the wild crowds crushed against our carts.
1384 Sometimes the animals staggered, and it seemed as if nothing could save the
1385 carts from being overturned. Every moment or two a brick or stone would be
1386 hurled against the carts, and that cry, “Kill, kill,” which can never be
1387 forgotten when once heard, was shouted by perhaps hundreds of voices. Yet
1388 the Lord brought us through, and “no weapon prospered.”
1389
1390 When we reached the inn a wild mob of over a thousand men filled the inn
1391 yard; and as we alighted from the cart these men literally drove us before
1392 them into one room, which in a few moments was packed to suffocation. For
1393 probably an hour the crowd kept crushing us into one corner; then those
1394 outside became impatient at not being able to get in, and demanded that we
1395 be brought out. We managed to keep some of the ladies from going out; but
1396 the rest of us—men, women, and children—stood facing that seething
1397 multitude until relief came in the darkness. Why did they not kill us then?
1398 Why, indeed? None but an Almighty God kept that crowd back.
1399
1400 As soon as we had reached the city a servant was sent to the official
1401 demanding protection. It was dark when this man returned, in a state of great
1402 agitation; his story was that as he was waiting for an answer from the official
1403 he overheard a conversation between two soldiers, and gathered from what
1404 they said that the official had sent a party of fifty soldiers along the road that
1405 we would have to take, with the order that every one of us must be put to
1406 death. The official was afraid to have us killed in the city lest he should
1407 afterward be blamed; but by this plan he could say brigands had done the
1408 deed. So sure was this servant that we were all to be massacred that he would
1409 remain with us no longer, but returned that night to Honan with the report
1410 that we were all killed.
1411
1412 A consultation was held, and the question was, should we stay in the city and
1413 again demand protection, or should we go on and trust God to open our way?
1414 The latter course was decided upon. But for a long time the carters utterly
1415 refused to go farther with us. Again prayer opened up our way, and by two
1416 o’clock in the morning all were ready to start.
1417
1418 The official had sent a few foot-soldiers to guide us to _the right road_! (to
1419 the waylaying party). The night was very dark, and as we were passing
1420 through the gate of the city we noticed what seemed to be signal lights put
1421 out and drawn in. We all felt these to be signals to the waylaying party
1422 ahead. A short distance from the city, probably about one hundred yards, our
1423 carts suddenly stopped. Some one ran up and whispered to Mr. Goforth,

1424 “Paul and Mr. —— are missing.” Search was made for them, but without
1425 success.
1426
1427 A veil must be drawn over those terrible hours of suspense; my faith seemed
1428 to fail me, and I could only cry in my agony, “If Paul is gone, can I ever trust
1429 God again?” Then I remembered how marvelously God had given me back
1430 my dear husband’s life, and I just committed Paul into his hands and waited
1431 to see what he would do.
1432
1433 When all hope was given up of finding the missing ones, a cart was left
1434 behind with a trusted servant, and we went on. Then we saw God’s
1435 wonderful plan for us. While we were waiting the soldiers had fallen asleep
1436 in the carts, and were not aware that the carters were taking a side road until
1437 we had gotten miles from the city and beyond the reach of our would-be
1438 murderers! The soldiers were infuriated at this discovery; but after some
1439 threatening they left us and returned to the city. Thus again we saw that God
1440 was indeed unto us a “God of deliverances.”
1441
1442 Again and again that day we were surrounded by mobs. Many times I held
1443 up the poor, dirty clothes which the Mohammedans had given us, and the
1444 story of how these had been given quieted the people perhaps more than
1445 anything. Once the cry was raised to drag our children’s nurse out of the cart;
1446 but as we cried to God for her the people let us alone, and we passed on. At
1447 another time a man snatched the remains of Mr. Goforth’s helmet away from
1448 us, and tore it to pieces. I had hoped to keep it as a trophy should we ever get
1449 out safely.
1450
1451 We were at this time in a pitiable condition. Most of the men had head or
1452 arms bandaged; Dr. —— was unable to raise his head. What we suffered in
1453 those carts with nothing but the boards under us cannot be told. Nine persons
1454 were packed in our cart, which under ordinary circumstances would have
1455 held four or five. At noon we reached a large city, where the animals had to
1456 rest and feed. Then again we saw an evidence of the Lord’s loving kindness
1457 over us.
1458
1459 Just as we were getting down from our carts the crowd became very
1460 threatening, and it looked now as if our hour had indeed come; but at this
1461 critical juncture two well-dressed young men of official class came through
1462 the crowd, greeting Mr. Goforth in great surprise. They had been received by
1463 him in our home at Chang Te Ho. A few words of explanation were spoken,
1464 then they turned quickly to the crowd and told them who we were and of the
1465 work at Chang Te Ho. The attitude of the people changed instantly, and they
1466 made way for us, giving us good rooms, and food was brought which was
1467 greatly needed.
1468
1469 That noon, as one after another came up to express their sympathy at Paul’s
1470 loss, I could say nothing—I was waiting to see what God would do. When
1471 Mr. Goforth told the young officials about Paul and Mr. ——, they were
1472 greatly concerned, and promised to send men at once to search for them.
1473 These friends in need sent with us a man of the district to guide and help us,

1672 The doctors, a nurse, and all the little mission circle joined in the fight for her
1673 life. Her father was sent for, but arrived just as she was losing consciousness.
1674 A few hours later, when we were kneeling round her bedside waiting for the
1675 end, my eyes seemed suddenly opened to what I had been doing—_I had
1676 dared to fight against Almighty God_.
1677
1678 In the moments that followed God revealed himself to me in such love and
1679 majesty and glory that I gave myself up to him with unspeakable joy. Then I
1680 knew that I had been making an awful mistake, and that I could indeed safely
1681 trust my children to him wherever he might lead. One thing only seemed
1682 plain, that I must follow where God should lead. I saw at last that God must
1683 come first. Before the precious body was laid away preparations for our first
1684 trip were begun.
1685
1686 Was God faithful to the vision he had given me? Or did he allow the children
1687 to suffer in the years that followed, when months each year were spent with
1688 them right out among the people? As I write this, eighteen years have passed
1689 since we started on that first trip, and none of our children have died. Never
1690 had we as little sickness as during that life. Never had we so much evidence
1691 of God’s favor and blessing in a hundred ways—as may be gathered from the
1692 definite testimonies which follow.
1693
1694 Without one exception, every place in which we stayed for a month, and
1695 opened as my husband had planned, became in time a growing church.
1696
1697 And I found, to my surprise, that I was able to give more time to the children,
1698 that I was able to guard them better when on those trips than when in the
1699 Change Station. For the mission compound was large, and often the children
1700 were out of my sight for hours at a time; whereas the outside native
1701 compounds we lived in were so small the children were always within sight
1702 and reach. Even when groups of women were listening to the Gospel, I was
1703 able to direct the children’s lessons. As I look back on that time, my heart is
1704 filled with overflowing gratitude to God for the wonderful grace and strength
1705 he gave for that life.
1706
1707 My great regret is that I did not keep a record of answers to prayer. I find it
1708 most difficult to record just what “asking and getting things from God”
1709 meant at that time, but it now seems to me to have been the very foundation
1710 of the whole life. The instances of answers to prayer, here recorded, are
1711 simply the ones connected with that life which stand out most clearly in my
1712 memory of those years.
1713
1714 * * * * *
1715
1716 The first answer came the morning after our dear Constance died, and was
1717 the one that had the greatest, most far-reaching effect on the new life and its
1718 work.
1719
1720 As I thought of facing the crowds of heathen women day by day, and what it
1721 would mean to carry on aggressive evangelism outside, there was one need I

1622 The following story has been asked for many times. Believing that it has a
1623 lesson for others, I give it, though to do so means lifting the veil from a very
1624 sacred part of my life.
1625
1626 After the Boxer experience, my husband returned to China in 1901; and, with
1627 my children, I left for China in the summer of 1902, leaving the two eldest
1628 children at the Chefoo schools, en route to Honan. Mr. Goforth met me at
1629 Tientsin, and together we traveled by river-boat inland a journey of about
1630 twenty-four days. During those long, quiet days on the river-boat my
1631 husband unfolded to me a carefully thought out plan for future mission work.
1632
1633 He reminded me that six missionaries, from a mission-station which had
1634 been destroyed by the Boxers, were now permanently stationed at Changte;
1635 and that the main station, now fully equipped, no longer needed us as before.
1636 He felt that the time had come when we should give ourselves to the
1637 evangelization of the great regions north and northeast of Changte—regions
1638 which up to that time had been scarcely touched by the Gospel, because of
1639 lack of workers. His plan was that we—husband and wife, with our
1640 children—should go and live and work among the people.
1641
1642 To make this possible a native compound would be rented in the center,
1643 where we would stay a month for our first visit, leaving behind an evangelist
1644 to carry on the work; and we would revisit this and other places so opened as
1645 many times as possible in the year.
1646
1647 What this proposition meant to me can scarcely be understood by those
1648 unfamiliar with China and Chinese life. Smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever,
1649 and other contagious diseases are chronic epidemics; and China, outside the
1650 parts ruled by foreigners, is absolutely devoid of sanitation.
1651
1652 Four of our children had died. To take the three little ones, then with me, into
1653 such conditions and danger seemed literally like stepping with them over a
1654 precipice in the dark and expecting to be kept. But, on the other hand, I had
1655 the language and experience for just such work, the need was truly appalling,
1656 and there was no other woman to do it. In my innermost soul I knew the call
1657 had come from God, but I would not pay the price. My one plea in refusing
1658 to enter that life was the risk to the children.
1659
1660 Again and again my husband urged that “the safest place” for myself and the
1661 children “was the path of duty”; that I could not keep them in our
1662 comfortable home at Changte, but “God could keep them anywhere.” Still I
1663 refused. Just before reaching our station he begged me to reconsider my
1664 decision. When I gave a final refusal, his only answer was: “I fear for the
1665 children.”
1666
1667 The very day after reaching home our dear Wallace was taken ill. For weeks
1668 we fought for his life; at last the crisis passed and he began to recover. Then
1669 my husband started off alone on his first trip! He had been gone only a day or
1670 two when our precious baby Constance, a year old, was taken down with the
1671 same disease that Wallace had. From the first there seemed little or no hope.

1474 and also wrote an urgent letter to the official of the city we were to stay in
1475 that night, asking him to give us an escort and help us in every way he could.
1476
1477 About four o'clock that afternoon a man came running after us with the
1478 joyful news that Paul and Mr. —— were safe, and would reach us that night.
1479 As I heard this news my unbelief and faithlessness in the hour of testing
1480 came over me with overwhelming force, and I could only bow my head and
1481 weep. Oh, the goodness and mercy of God! Never had the love of God
1482 seemed so wonderful as in that hour.
1483
1484 “Could we with ink the ocean fill,
1485 Were the whole sky of parchment made,
1486 Were every blade of grass a quill,
1487 And every man a scribe by trade;
1488 To write the love of God above
1489 Would drain that ocean dry,
1490 Nor could the scroll contain the whole
1491 Though stretched from sky to sky.”
1492
1493 That night we reached our destination about nine o'clock, having traveled
1494 seventeen hours over those roads, with but a short break at noon. It was
1495 marvelous how Mr. Goforth was sustained, for he was obliged to start at
1496 once for the official's residence with the note I have already referred to. On
1497 the way through the street the mob about succeeded, several times, in getting
1498 him down under their feet; but God was with him, and he reached the Yamen
1499 in safety, being courteously received by the official, who promised us
1500 protection, and sent him back to the inn under escort.
1501
1502 When Paul and Mr. —— arrived that night, they tried in vain to wake me,
1503 but nature had to have her way. I knew nothing till I awakened with a start at
1504 about two A.M. Jumping up, I started to look for Paul, and never can I forget
1505 the scene! The whole party was lying on the bare earthen floor, practically
1506 without bedding or mattresses.
1507
1508 A word concerning the experiences of Mr. —— and Paul. The two had got
1509 down from their cart and were walking behind. In some way they missed the
1510 road in the dark, and became separated from us. During that day they were
1511 repeatedly in the gravest danger.
1512
1513 On one occasion, when surrounded by a violent mob, and one man had raised
1514 a club above Paul's head to strike him down, Mr. —— felt impelled by some
1515 unseen power to shout out, “We are not Roman Catholics, but Protestants.”
1516 At this the man lowered his club, exclaiming, “Why, these are not the bad
1517 foreign devils, but the good foreign devils, like those missionaries at Chow
1518 Chia K'eo” (China Inland Mission). At this same place the hearts of the
1519 people seemed turned toward them in a wonderful way. One man gave Paul
1520 one hundred cash (five cents) to buy some food; another man carried the
1521 lad on his back for miles to give his feet a rest, they were so sore. This same
1522 man, when he could carry Paul no longer, ran ahead to try and find us. When
1523 they reached the inn where we had been so helped by the two Chinese

1524 gentlemen, they found that these friends had food prepared and a barrow
1525 waiting, also a guide ready to lead them to us!
1526
1527 Less than an hour from the time I awakened we were on the road again. The
1528 official was true to his promise, and a large mounted escort accompanied us.
1529 That day we were on the road twenty hours, reaching Fan Cheng at midnight.
1530 Here we found the engineers' party waiting for us with boats hired, but we
1531 were obliged to remain twenty-four hours in the most loathsome inn we ever
1532 had the misfortune to be in in China. It was an unspeakable relief to get into
1533 the houseboats, even though we only had bare boards to lie on, and the boat
1534 people's food to eat.
1535
1536 We were ten days going down stream to Hankow. One after the other became
1537 ill. When still a day from Hankow, a steam tug met us with provisions. Our
1538 children cried at the sight of bread and milk! We were not allowed to stop
1539 long enough at Hankow, as we had hoped, to get clothes and other
1540 necessaries, but were obliged to hasten on by the first steamer, which left the
1541 following morning. I was obliged to borrow garments for myself and the
1542 children from our fellow-passengers.
1543
1544 At Shanghai the streets were being paraded, and every preparation was being
1545 made for an attack. We learned with deep sorrow of the death of many dear
1546 friends at the hands of the Boxers. Ordered home by the first steamer,
1547 without anything left to us but the old clothes we had on at the time of the
1548 attack, how could we get ready in such a short time for the long home
1549 voyage? There was no lack of money, for our Board had cabled all we
1550 needed. The question that faced us was how could I get clothes made for six
1551 of us in such a short time, with Chinese tailors too busy to help, no machine
1552 to be had, and no ready-made clothes to be bought except for Mr. Goforth
1553 and Paul.
1554
1555 Again I found that man's extremity was but God's opportunity. He was true
1556 to his promise, "God shall supply all your need." Even as I knelt in an agony
1557 of prayer, beseeching God's help, and asking definitely that some one should
1558 be sent to me to help with the sewing, two ladies were at the door asking for
1559 me! These were perfect strangers, but had seen our names among the recent
1560 refugees, and God had moved them to come and offer their assistance! They
1561 worked for me night and day until we had to get on board the steamer. Never
1562 shall I forget their Christian fellowship and practical help at that time.
1563
1564 But in the rush to get the older children ready, baby Wallace's clothes were
1565 neglected. There was nothing for it but to take materials and make things for
1566 him on the voyage. In this connection came a most wonderful and precious
1567 evidence of God's power to answer prayer. For the first few days of the
1568 journey I worked early and late trying to make something for the little one,
1569 who had scarcely anything to wear; but as we were nearing Yokohama I
1570 realized I had almost reached the end of my strength. My needle refused to
1571 work; try as I would I could not even see where to put the needle.
1572

1573 Folding up my work I went down to the stateroom, and kneeling down I
1574 spread the work before the Lord. Too far gone to agonize in prayer, I could
1575 only quietly, almost mutely, just tell him how the poor child had no clothes.
1576 Rising with a great sense of the burden having been lifted, I put the work
1577 away, locking it in a trunk, then went up on deck and lay down almost
1578 insensible from exhaustion. How long a time passed I do not know, but it
1579 could not have been more than half an hour when some one came and
1580 touched me, saying, "We have dropped anchor in Yokohama Bay, and a
1581 large bundle has been thrown up on deck from the lighter for you."
1582
1583 "For me!" I cried. "Surely not; I know no one in Japan." Then I thought, "It
1584 is the answer come!"
1585
1586 Going down I found a letter from Mrs. O. E., of the China Inland Mission.
1587 She said that her little son, the same age as baby Wallace, had died four
1588 months before, and the Lord had pressed her to send his complete outfit to
1589 me for my child! Opening the parcel, I found not only everything the child
1590 could possibly need for a year or more, but much else. Had some one stood
1591 beside that dear sister and told her what I most needed, she could not have
1592 done differently. Yes, surely Some One did direct her loving hands, and
1593 Some One just used her as one of his channels; for she lived near to him, and
1594 was an open channel.
1595
1596 Three days later my own collapse came; but praise his great name, he was
1597 with me in the darkness and brought me through.
1598
1599
1600
1601
1602 VI
1603
1604 PROVING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS (1902-1908)
1605
1606 "The safest place . . . is the path of duty."
1607
1608
1609 ONE of the results of our gracious and merciful deliverance from the hands
1610 of the Boxers was an increased desire to make our lives tell in the service of
1611 God—to spend and be spent for him. Our Heavenly Father saw this and just
1612 took us at our word, and led us out into the path which meant absolute
1613 surrender as I had never known it before.
1614
1615 It is so true that "God will be no man's debtor." When he asks for and
1616 receives our all, he gives in return that which is above price—his own
1617 presence. The price is not great when compared with what he gives in return;
1618 it is our blindness and our unwillingness to yield that make it seem great.
1619
1620 * * * * *
1621