

Lesson 11

4. Hudson Taylor

When he first arrived in China in March 1854, he was forlorn, miserable and homesick. His eyes were inflamed, he suffered headaches, and was simply cold in the climate. He wrote long letters home to parents and sister. At one point, he was exhausted and depressed and later confessed that only his wife's love stood between him and _____.

Taylor had to return to England because of ill health and was semi-retired in Switzerland as a result. He was brought to the doors of death by the terrible news of the Boxer Rebellion and the resulting disruption of the work and murder of hundreds of missionaries along with the native Christians. It was May 1900, and as the telegrams came telling of riots and massacres, he gasped, "I cannot read, I cannot pray, I can scarcely think...but I can trust." Although the anguish of heart nearly _____, the stories coming out of the holocaust actually inspired great interest in missions everywhere and gave new life to the CIM.

4. Margaret Stringer

She tells in her book *Jesus Led Me All the Way* of a time when she was living in a house with no glass in the window. One night the rain was blowing in and she was cold and wet and complaining to God, accusing Him of not even knowing where she was. Then something blew off the wall and hit her on the head. She turned on her flashlight and found it was a plaque with the verse, "I will _____, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). She and the Lord had a good laugh!

5. Twice the Goforths lost nearly everything they, once in a fire and then a flood.

6. James O. Fraser

His ministry for the first six years in China was marked by struggle, with no fruit. He battled intensely with depression, even to the point of considering _____. The Lisu were bound by ancestor worship and engaged in many demonic practices. Fraser found himself in the middle of a spiritual battle that he was not prepared for. *'I know enough about Satan to realize that he will have all his weapons ready for determined opposition. He would be a missionary simpleton who expected plain sailing in any work of God. The aim of Satanic power is to cut off communication with God. To accomplish this aim he deludes the soul with a sense of defeat, covers him with a thick cloud of darkness, depresses and oppresses the spirit, which in turn hinders prayer and leads to unbelief – thus destroying all power.'*

N. Great missionaries learn to trust God.

1. Hudson Taylor

During the days of his medical training, Hudson Taylor ministered to people in the slums. One time he was approached by a Roman Catholic man who asked him to pray for his dying wife. The priest refused to pray for her because the family did not have any money to pay him. Taylor saw the family in deep poverty and hunger and wanted to help them. However,

he had only one silver coin to his name. He had only two servings of porridge at home, and he needed the money to buy more food. Had he had two coins; he would have gladly shared one with the family. He tried to tell the dying woman to trust God, but the Holy Spirit told him that he was a _____ for not trusting Him. He gave the family his one silver coin. He was reminded of Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor _____ unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again." The next day a package arrived for Taylor in the mail. It contained a pair of kid gloves, and in the gloves were ten gold coins. He never knew who sent them.

2. Jonathan Goforth

During his years in college and slum work, Jonathan Goforth was often down to the last penny. But God proved faithful in every test. Like George Müller and Hudson Taylor, he learned to trust God utterly for all his needs. He also learned to trust the Spirit's guidance in all circumstances. On one occasion when scheduled to speak at a certain place on Sunday, he found he had only sufficient money to buy a ticket one station short of where he was to speak. After praying for divine guidance, he bought the ticket and rode to that station, then began to walk the remaining _____. When he had covered approximately eight miles, he came upon a group of men repairing the road. He engaged them in friendly conversation, pointed them to the only "name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," and invited them to the service the following day. To his great joy several of them turned up and at least one of them was saved. In referring to this later he would say, "I would gladly walk ten miles any day to bring one lost soul to Christ." He was indeed a missionary long before he reached China. It was said of him, "When he found his own soul needed Jesus Christ, it became a passion with him to take Jesus Christ to every soul." He did not hesitate to enter saloons and brothels and in these places, he won for Christ a number of broken, disreputable persons. One night as he was coming out of a street that had a particularly evil reputation, a policeman met him and said, "How have you the courage to go into those places? We policeman never go there except in twos or threes." "I never walk alone, either" replied Goforth. "There is always _____ with me."

O. Great missionaries learn new languages and cultures:

1. The Moravians were excellent in learning new languages. When they learned the language, they translated the Bible and hymns into it.
2. John Thomas, who preceded Carey to India, learned Bengali so well in three years that he could hold the attention of crowds and reason with their _____.
3. William Carey was a language learner. He learned _____ languages well, but he said of Joshua Marshman, "Marshman is a prodigy of diligence and prudence. Learning the language is mere play to him. He has acquired in four months as much as I did in eight."

When Felix Carey went to Burma, his father gave him this advice: "*Let the Burmese language occupy your most precious time, and your most anxious solicitude. Do not be content with its superficial acquiring. Make it yours, root and branch. Listen with prying*

curiosity to the forms of speech, the construction and accent of the people. All your imitative powers will be wanted, and unless you frequently use what you acquire, it will profit you little. As soon as you feel your feet, compose a grammar, and some simple Christian instructions. Begin your translation with the Gospel of Mark. Be very careful that your construction and idiom are _____, not _____.”

Carey’s son William spoke Bengali as a native. The people listened to him with a pleasure approaching ecstasy as they heard a minister speaking their language with fluency and force.

Concerning language learning, Carey wrote, “*Traders learn the language: so can we. A year, or at the most two, should enable us ‘even with no very extraordinary talents to communicate with the foreign people.’*”

4. Adoniram and Ann Judson

While a prisoner in the hold of a French ship, a French doctor would visit the prisoners daily. Judson could not speak French and was unable to plead with the doctor to be released. But then Judson and the doctor began communicating in _____, and the doctor secured his release from the hold of the ship.

Ann and Adoniram studied Burmese language and culture _____ hours a day. When Judson was imprisoned in Rangoon, Burma, Ann was able to make friends with the wife of the viceroy and often went before the governors and other leaders to beg help for her husband. Communication was never a problem for either of the Judsons. Adoniram’s other two wives also learned the language. Judson knew the language and culture so well that he was able to deal with the Buddhist mindset. He knew when a person was really ready to be saved or when he was simply inquiring. He did not allow any easy, empty profession.

Ann Judson began schools for Burmese girls. She could not have done this without speaking the language well.

In her spare time, Ann Judson learned Siamese and translated the catechism, Adoniram’s Gospel of Matthew, and a gospel tract into Siamese. Just for _____, she translated a Siamese book into English.

Besides the Burmese Bible translation, Judson also produced a Burmese/English dictionary. A man does not do this without knowing the language well.

Toward the end of the war, the Burmese government needed someone who could translate a letter from the British. None of the British could speak Burmese and no Burmese could speak English. Judson and three other prisoners were placed in separate rooms and required to translate the letter independently so there would be no collusion. Then Judson and Dr. Price were used many times to help the two parties in negotiations. Judson gave the Burmese _____ on how to negotiate.

Judson noted that most of the new missionaries coming to Burma stayed with the group in Moulmein, safely under _____ control, and that they were very _____ at learning the language. [Note: If you want to be a successful missionary, you probably need to get away

from other missionaries and get with the people you claim to desire to reach.] Some of the new missionaries only wanted to stay for a few years. This is what Judson said about these short-termers in a complaint to the Corresponding Secretary in the States: *"I much fear that this will occasion a breach in our mission. How can we, who are devoted for life, cordially take into our hearts one who is a mere hireling? . . . I have seen the beginning, middle, and end of several limited term missionaries. They are all good for nothing. Though brilliant in an English pulpit, they are incompetent to any real missionary work. They come out for a few years, with the view of acquiring a stock of credit on which they may vegetate the rest of their days, in the congenial climate of their native land . . . The motto of every missionary, whether preacher, printer, or schoolmaster, ought to be Devoted for life."*

Sarah Boardman Judson already knew Burmese and Karen and then began learning Taling. Even with a baby and two small boys, Emily, Judson's third wife, learned Burmese, finished writing a book about Sarah, Judson's second wife, and conducted a women's prayer meeting.

5. Mary Slessor commenced the study of Efik, the language of the Calabar people, and in time mastered it so that the natives admitted that she could use their tongue better than they themselves could.

6. Hudson Taylor

He was able to preach in several languages, including Mandarin, Chaozhou, and the Wu dialects of Shanghai and Ningbo. The last of these he knew well enough to help prepare a colloquial edition of the New Testament written in it. The Taylors were involved in the translating and revision of the Ningpo New Testament (a five-year project).

Soon after his conversion, Hudson Taylor obtained a copy of Luke's Gospel in the Mandarin dialect and he studied the Chinese language. He borrowed a book on China from a Congregational minister and began the study of Greek, Hebrew, and Latin.

7. Lottie Moon learned Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, and Italian. Later, she would become an expert at Chinese.

8. Jonathan Goforth

In college in Toronto, he was weak in languages and in China he made little progress in the use of the language, although he applied himself to the task with great diligence. Repeatedly, when he was trying to preach to a group of people, the Chinese would say to another missionary, who had reached China a year after he did, and say, "You speak. We don't understand him." This was mortifying, but Goforth refused to be _____. "The Lord called me to China, he said, "and I expect His Spirit to perform a miracle and to enable me to master the language." He picked up his Chinese Bible and went to the chapel. As he began to preach, the miracle happened; He spoke with a fluency and power that amazed the people and thence forth his mastery of the Chinese language was recognized everywhere. Two months later, he received a letter from Knox College telling of a prayer meeting in which the students prayed "just for Goforth" and the presence of God was manifestly among them.

Looking into his diary, he found that the prayer meeting was at the very time his tongue gained such sudden mastery over the Chinese language.