

Students and Modern Missionary Crusade: Addresses Delivered Before the Fifth International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (New York: SVM, 1906), 411-413.

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KOREAN OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS

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The opportunities and needs of Korea are great. First, let me mention the opportunities.

1. The people number twelve millions, scattered over a territory about the size of Pennsylvania and New York and evenly distributed over the land, not in large centers, but in small villages. The people are therefore very easy to reach, and we are not confronted with great municipal difficulties. Again, I want you to notice the Koreans are but one people speaking one language from north to south, from east to west. A preacher can speak in the same tongue, be understood, and do effective work in any part of the land.

2. In the second place, there is entire freedom in religious matters throughout Korea, with no official interdiction.

3. In the third place, unlike Japan we have no infidel literature. Not a page of such literature has yet been scattered in Korea, while there has been a great amount of Christian literature supplied. Twenty years ago there was no such literature; now there are 120 books and tracts and the New Testament has been translated.

4. In the next place, we notice that the religions of Korea are dead. Confucianism, ancestor worship, Buddhism, worship of spirits, and other great religions are dead. Sometimes when we recall the words—

"In the Cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime,"

We think that the "wrecks" are the wrecks of nations which have crumbled before the eternal cross; but I like to think of them as the wrecks of the great religions of antiquity which have been unable to withstand the power of the cross. All over Korea are these wrecks; wrecks of Buddhism are scattered in the valleys, and temples are crumbling into dust. I entered one of these temples and inquired its history, and they told me that at one time 10,000 monks worshiped Buddha before its shrines; now there are less than a hundred, and all about in that territory Christian churches are springing up, and the people have the love of Christ Jesus shining in their souls. Confucianism and ancestor worship from China are foreign to that people. They are weak and unable to satisfy the hearts of these people. An old man came to me and said: "For many years I have sought light. For twenty years I have journeyed. I went into Buddhist temples and cried, 'O Buddha, give me light and rest,' and there was no answer. I went down before my ancestors' graves and cried, 'O great departed spirits, give me light and peace,' and there was no answer. I cried to the great

spirits in water and air, in land, in the trees and mountains, and there was no answer, and now you have come and you have preached to me Christ Jesus and now I have light and peace, and all is at rest. Soon you will go to your native land, and I will go to the Heavenly Kingdom." Surely the cross of Christ is being influential in the lives of these people. Spirit worship is falling before Christianity, like rotten trees before a great storm.

Korea without religion waits for the Christian religion, calls for Christ Jesus, and is receiving Christ Jesus; but how insufficient is the force we have in the field to win this land for Christ Jesus! The call to you is seen in the opportunity, in the openmindedness of the people. They are ready to receive the Gospel; they listen so gladly to the story and tell it over and over again, and it spreads from mouth to mouth and from village to village all over that great nation. The work is growing so rapidly that one society has had to tell its men: "Do not go into that region; we cannot follow you up fast enough." If there is any one thing which hurts it is to have to abandon work which we have opened up. In one district where we had 500 converts, we were unable to remain, and they were left with nobody to bring them on into the light. One man who worked in that section three years had 1,500 converts. Seven years ago we went out there, and within seven years had enrolled 5,000 converts and organized over a hundred churches. That land is waiting for the Gospel; there is no difficulty in winning converts by the thousands.

I want you to remember another fact, namely, that we are founding missions out there which are self-supporting. Some 70,000 people have accepted the Gospel out of twelve millions. Eleven millions more have not heard the Gospel of Christ; and if you consider this, you will see how powerful the self-supporting Church will become. In our own denomination last year, by our 14,000 converts, more than 7,000 yen were given in support of the work. If the American Church of twenty millions would give in the same proportion, we would have \$60,000,000. This is the type of Christian Church that is being planted in Korea; and we are building chapels which support the helpers and teachers and pay for their supplies of tracts and books. In one place where they built a chapel there was a debt of \$50, and they did not know what to do. They prayed about it and finally one man said, "I will pay that," and he did so. The missionary went to that man's home, and what do you suppose he found? The most valuable thing in the Korean man's work is his ox. He plows his little piece of land with this ox and so gets his living. When the missionary went over to see that man, he found the father and himself and his brother plowing the land; only where the ox should have been were the two brothers, and the father held the handles of the plow; they were plowing up the field, laboring for Christ Jesus. Friends, it seems to me that beside these two men there was another One there who once said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Christ Jesus was a yoke-fellow with them. These people have given themselves to the Lord. May God help us to reach that place where we can give everything, including ourselves, for the salvation of these people.