

THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS



There Came a Leper to Him --accounts in picture and story of the Church's leper missions in Liberia, China, and Japan

JANUARY, 1939



OUR FATHER'S HOUSE AT WILSON-ALTAMONT, MARYLAND

Faith and Fifty Dollars

By the Rev. David C. Trimble

FIFTY DOLLARS represents the cost of a man's moderately priced clothing outfit, including hat and shoes, but fifty dollars plus the grace of God has far reaching, even infinite, purchasing power. At least this has come to pass in the Diocese of Maryland where just six summers ago this combination of the spiritual and material paved the way for the establishment of an advance mission post on the summit of the Allegheny Mountains.

The story, briefly, is this. In the spring of 1932, the Woman's Auxiliary of Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, mailed to the Rev. David Churchman Trimble, rector of St. Matthew's Parish, Oakland, Maryland, a check for fifty dollars to be

used at his discretion. Had it been for five or fifteen dollars the money might have been spent quickly for shoes for barefooted Willie Brown or for roofing a parishioner's leaking home, or for those necessary repairs to one of the parish churches which had not been covered in the year's budget. But fifty dollars! How could it best be spent to the permanent advantage of the Kingdom of God? That was the question.

The result was a conference with Bishop Helfenstein. He promised to add another fifty dollars, the total sum required to support a theological student who might develop new work in the parish under the rector's guidance the following summer. The venture would be clearly

an experiment. Accordingly Samuel S. Johnston, then a candidate for Holy Orders (now rector of All Saints', Reisterstown) was appointed. For two months he labored at Wilson and Altamont, settlements located at the summit of the seventeen-mile grade of the B. and O. Railroad. The field was distinctly rural, comprising farming and railroad groups, excellent country folk, but, like so many others in rural sections, lacking adequate Church ministrations. The local one-room schoolhouse afforded temporary shelter for the newly organized Church school and simplified Church services. The response of the people was immediate and genuine. A small but promising start had been made.

The following summer, services were held in the same place. Some summer residents, Presbyterians, who owned a large tract of land offered the growing congregation a lot for a church and sufficient chestnut timber for a building if the members desired to build a chapel of their own. Without hesitation the offer was accepted. Before long an architect had donated the plans; friends volunteered their labor; roofing, nails, windows, doors, a Bible and an altar cross were promised. On August 15, 1933, the cornerstone was laid by Mrs. George Stewart Brown who with her husband, Judge Brown, had given the land. Three hundred people attended the ceremonies which were followed by a picnic.

One year later the structure, completely free of debt, was consecrated by the Bishop of Maryland. At the same time a large confirmation class was presented. Though given the name, Our Father's House, suggested by the name of the chapel at Ethete, Wyoming, the

building is generally known in Western Maryland as The Log Church, built as it is completely of logs, stone and cement in the pioneer style. The church stands in a spacious setting surrounded by oak, locust, and evergreen trees. It fronts strategically upon the concrete highway at a point "where two ways meet."

For five years the Church's services have been held here winter and summer. Others have been appointed to assist in the parish, the Rev. George F. Packard, Charles W. Carnan, and Stephen C. Walke, and to them much of the credit is due for the chapel's success to date. The Church school of Our Father's House numbers forty members; the church itself has twenty-four communicants; the congregations average from twenty-five to forty. Financially, the church pays its way. Besides caring for its insurance and upkeep the members subscribe annually forty dollars to the missionary quota of St. Matthew's parish.

This loyal group of Christian people now familiar with the customs and teachings of the Church is training young people in Christian nurture so that they may take their places in the home, on the farm, in business and professional life, and bears concrete testimony to what faith can accomplish. By faith Abraham went out not knowing whither he went to found a great people; by faith God's work grows from the grain of mustard seed when planted in fertile soil. The completed Log Church with its consecrated band of communicants is just another episode in the story of how faith can work. We will entitle this chapter, Faith and Fifty Dollars. Additional lines must be written by those who go out from thence and by faith live for God in His world.



Meetings of National Council during 1939 are scheduled for February 14-16, April 25-27, October 10-12, and December 12-14. Churchmen everywhere may take a very real part in these gatherings by including the Council, members and officers and staff, in their prayers and intercessions at these times particularly.

Hymns of Praise

☞ The congregation can join confidently and fully in the singing of hymns only when the musical score is in hand. In the interest of wholehearted congregational singing, General Convention has urged all churches to place the musical edition of the Hymnal in the pews. No gift of an individual or group within a parish is more fruitful than a supply of the musical Hymnal.

HYMNALS

Standard Musical Edition at \$1.20 per copy (or \$1.00 per copy in lots of 100 or more).

Special Choir Edition, heavily reinforced, at \$1.50 per copy (or \$1.30 per copy in lots of 100 or more).

Word Edition in red or blue cloth at 40 cents per copy.

PRAYER BOOKS

Small Pew Edition, 3½ x 5½, in various colors, at 35 cents per copy.

Large Pew Edition, 5 x 7½, in various colors, and with larger type, at 50 cents per copy.

Carriage charges are additional

CIRCULARS SENT ON REQUEST

THE CHURCH HYMNAL CORPORATION

Subsidiary of The Church Pension Fund

20 Exchange Place, New York

NOW READY

THE 1939 LIVING CHURCH ANNUAL

Laymen, educational workers, officers of Church organizations, Vestrymen, Wardens—in fact, all Churchmen interested in their Church will want a copy of the 1939 Annual, giving complete information on the Episcopal Church.

Within its pages will be found the Church's vital statistics for the year 1938, Diocese by Diocese; The Church Kalendar; names and addresses of all Bishops and other clergy in the Church; a short history of the chief Church events of last year; a record of all Church institutions; names of officers of national organizations, and a mine of other information too numerous to mention here.

The Annual is a "must" item with every clergyman. You will always find the "red book" on his desk. Your parish library should have a copy for the convenience of parishioners. Every active Churchman will benefit by studying it.

Price, cloth bound, \$2.25

Postage additional

MOREHOUSE-GORHAM CO.

14 East 41st Street

New York City