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Mrs. Eugene Arthur Lower
November Missionary Program

The Way of Victory on the French Field

DEVOUTIONAL MESSAGE


Sacred history reveals only a glimpse of Stephen, and that during the last hour of his life. A teacher and deacon of the church, he was brought before the council where false witnesses brought accusations of blasphemy against him. Yet his persecutors "saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." His defense was a disavowal of their accusations of the persecutors of the faith, but most of all it was a testimony to his Lord.

"He looked up steadfastly into heaven," and the vision came. He saw Christ as the "Son of man." It is probable that he had never seen Christ in life, but here was revealed to him the Son of man, the embodiment of perfect manhood, giving assurance later to His followers that He was the same Jesus as in the days of His flesh. A short time before, Jesus had stood before the same court and had said: "Hereafter ye shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power." Now came Stephen, proclaiming that he was realizing a fulfillment in part.

"Righthand of God'? suggests the wielding of the might of God. Jesus had said: "This is my body, which is given for you in earth." Stephen saw Him "standing," having risen to His feet to see His servant's need and show willingness to help.

Stephen had an inward likeness to his Christ, evident in life and again as death approached. His words, uttered as a last effort while conscious, as the stones were falling about him, crushing him, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," were like to the words of Jesus on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He healed not reviling stones.

Nour did sold his heart to idle minds.

This verse is not sacrificed, and bruised with stones: But looking upward, fall of grace, He prayed, "Father, forgive them," and God's glory shone on the face. From "The Two Voices," by Tennessee.

Missionary Program

Greetings to our friends, the French Acadians, traveling with us on the King's highway?

(Note to program leader. Use the poem, "Drawn by the gentle bond of a common country bond," Evangeline, as a background for introduction. This, with a review of history of Acadian, location, discovery by French, early settlements, religion, customs. Leader continues. Quote:

"Thus dwelt together in love these simple Acadian farmers,

There the richest was poor, and the poorest lived in wealth.

Give story of exile; separation of loved ones; settling of groups among English colonies, mainly along the Atlantic; death's claim. Quote in story of exile, paragraph:

"There disorder prevailed, and the tumult and stir of embarking.

Rose no smoke from the roofs, and gleaned no lights from the windows." Evangeline tells of reunion of groups in the Attakapas region on the Teche and Vermillion bayous, southern Louisiana. Quote:

"Thus he spake to his guests, who listened, and smiled as they listened:

"Welcome once more, my friends, who long have been strangers and homeless.

Drawn by the gentle bond of a common country bond""

Thus, in Louisiana, began life anew for the French Acadians. Their faith in God reigned, though clinging to it were the superstitions and ignorance of their religion.

Assignment Material

EVARISTE HEBERT

Evariste Hebert has an interesting life story. An Acadian and a Catholic, he was educated at the convent school in Abbeville, La., also St. Joseph's College at Covington, La., where he was in training for the priesthood, feeling called to that work. It became necessary after three years to discontinue his studies and return home, but, receiving permission from the bishop, he was engaged for six years in the work of a missionary of the Catholic Church.

During a mission service in Mersamant, La., he spoke on the duty of confession to the Roman Catholic priest for the forgiveness of sins, and the consecration of the wafer, or Host, by the priest for Holy Communion. His statements were challenged by a man in the audience, member of a Methodist Church, and Mr. Hebert offered to bring proof from the Bible. Before leaving, the 'disturber' lifted his New Testament and said: "My brother, may God have mercy, and make the scales fall off your eyes." Then began a search for truth. He went to the priest who sold him for $4 a Catholic Bible, but warned him that he could not understand it. He could not find his proof here. His search took him to the bishop and ministers of various denominations. From the latter he purchased Bibles and was confused to find the thirteen Bibles he purchased from thirteen ministers were alike, though they were being taught differently.

After praying desperately for light, one day the truth was made plain. W. J. Johnson, minister of the church of Christ, holding a meeting at Iota, La., came to visit him, hearing of his need. After studying all day, Brother Hebert was baptized that evening.

Then began the great work among the French Acadians of Louisiana. Mrs. Hebert accepted Christ shortly after her husband's conversion, over twenty years ago, and has served with him, sharing his trials through the years. The prayers of many friends of the work have ascended in her behalf during her serious illness of the past two years.

Aided at first by the Louisiana Woman's Missionary Society, the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, then the United Christian Missionary Society, the work progressed. About seven years ago, following a change of policy in the work, a change to which Brother Hebert could not agree, relations were severed and the work has been supported by voluntary gifts. As an evangelist of the Christian Restoration Association, he has received aid from that source.

During the past year Brother Hebert has traveled 38,639 miles, preached 492 sermons, baptized 126 Catholics, made 469 pastoral calls, 383 visits in homes, 309 sick calls, held 219 conferences for the good of the work, gave medical and hospital help to 39 people, help with food and clothing to 129, built one new church—both building and congregation. This does not include the work of helpers. Have you had a part in the extension of the kingdom in this place? Most the work be entailed and suffering increased because of our neglect? Brother Hebert "prayed it through."

Let us "pray and give it through."

BROTHER HEBERT'S MESSAGE

This French Field is located in the southwestern part of Louisiana, and covers a territory of eighty square miles. Here is located a group of French-speaking people known as...
French Acadians, numbering five hundred thousand, according to Dudley J. LeBlanc, historian, whose book, "The True Story of the Acadians," is just off the press. You will note that the religious background of these people is not Catholic. It is one of these French Acadians, as are also my two helpers, Hollins Duhon and Bernard Fontenot.

In the history of the French people was it known that any were anything but Catholic in religion. I am the first one known to be a Sunday School teacher from the mother church, and the first convert to the simple New Testament church of Christ. The first missionary to bring these untouchables the pure gospel, I was also the first French work. If our Christian people could know what the Roman Catholic Church believes and teaches, I am sure they would appreciate this field much more, and would invest much more of their money than they do to help these people out of this pagan religion. We are anxious to see the Chinese, Japanese and Africans convert from their idol worship to the true and living Christ, and I say, "Amém" and "Amen." But without taking from these, let us include these people in their paganism, existing right at the door. True trusteeship of our means would insure enough for all. I feel sure there would be an unlimited support for this, our own people.

In spite of all oppositions, persecutions and trials, we have labored ourselves beyond our labor, using us in a fruitful way. I preached my first gospel sermon on July 18, 1916, after studying three years to become a minister, that I might tell the story of Christ to the thousands who are coming to Christ. So many of our young people did not want to go to school, or stopped at third, fourth or fifth grades, with no law to compel their attendance. Now laws demand it.

TRAINING WORKERS UNDER DIFFICULTIES

One of the greatest needs now is sufficient funds to open a school to train young men for the ministry, and others for church work. Why God hastened that day, is I do not know. Now for the two boys I have under training, I have, at my own expense, kept them in my own home, but I can not take others, as my wife is no longer physically able. Other needs are sufficient funds for support for my two helpers and myself. How wonderful it would be if some churches or missionary societies would take my boys as living liks, first meeting resulted in the conversion of eleven young people. My! I was thrilled to hear the boys rush out such a humble boy to win souls for Him!

Recently I was going to one of our little churches to hold a service, and met a man on the way and invited him to attend the service. He said, "I might go," but he looked uninterested. However, he did come, bringing his family with him. After the service he came to me and wanted to learn the law of God. But now I see differently, and I want you to pray for me that my heart may be changed." He also expressed his desire to become a Christian.

There are countless cases like this one who have been brought to Christ. By God's grace we will do our best to bring these poor unfortunate ones into the fold before it is ever lasting too late. So far this year I have preached ninety-eight sermons in different churches and have tried to do all my Master would have me do for Him in His vineyard. With such victories as were won for Christ in the past short years, we hope to win greater ones where the World of working night and day, in season and out of season, to that end. All this work of soul-winning was made possible by God through the help of the loyal friends of the French work. We want to thank all the friends and loyal brethren for their kindness and to ask them to continue in prayer for us and the work we have at heart.

EVANGELIST HOLLINS DUHON SENDS MESSAGE

I have been with Brother Hebert for the past five years, assisting him in funerals, weddings, baptismal services, revivals and regular services. I have also worked alone in the field these past years, filling appointments, visiting the sick and going from station to station, enjoying my work for Christ in which Brother and sister Hebert hazarded their lives from time to time.

My father and mother were converted from Catholicism to Christianity by Brother Hbert eighteen years ago. We are French Acadians and natives of Louisiana. We have ancestors who can not read, write or speak the English language. I could not speak a word of English before I went to public school, and I had a hard time learning the language. I am not familiar with the Word of God did for my parents. Having grown up under the influence of Christian parents, my desire was to become a minister, that I might tell the story of Christ to all people in the earth, in which Brother and sister Hebert hazarded their lives from time to time.

MY EXPERIENCE IN THE FRENCH FIELD

On July 4, 1932, I came to Brother Hbert's home and began studying the Scriptures. Sometimes later I began training in the Christian homes in Jennings, leading song services, praying and reading the Bible. Then I began to do personal work among the young people in different parts of the field, winning victories for Christ as I went. My appetite that will not be satisfied with anything short of something that breaks the de

Looking towards the World Council of Churches

Concluded from Sixth Page

The only reason for our escape, as I see it, is that God had chosen me to begin His work in this part of His vineyard, they could not teach me before my mission was ended.

YOUNG PEOPLE RESPOND

The young people respond to the presentation of the gospel and are truly Christians after being touched by the Word. You would be surprised were you to visit the French field, to see the large number of boys and girls in our churches, and the great interest in church work. In every one of our churches the choir is composed of young people from fifteen to twenty-five years of age. Our Sunday School has over eighty-five young people. Our young people of the church have forsaken the world and worldly things. They do not go to shows, theaters, movies, and other worldly places. They are churchgoers only, their \textbf{true} trustship of our means would insure enough for all. I feel sure there would be an unlimited support for this, our own people.

In the early days I had no car, but a small buggy and a little gray horse. Those stations in which we have no organized churches.

My wife and I suffered hardships at the

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