

SEE THE GLORY

by

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CHAPTER SEVEN

DISTANT VISIONS

IN JUNE OF 1937, after staying at the Arnold's home, Adelaide wrote in their guest book, "To the regions beyond I must go, I must go." She was then twenty-three years old.

Her thoughts of becoming a foreign missionary were more and more impelling, for she later recorded:

Outside of Epworth church, the other major influence on my life has been the China Inland Mission. My interest began with the reading of *Something Happened* (by Mildred Cable and Francesca French) . . . While still at the University, I also read *Hudson Taylor in Early Years* and *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*. During my graduate year I made a small contribution to the mission and began receiving the magazine, *China's Millions*.

Personal association with members of the mission soon followed.

At the end of that year I met Dr. Robert Hall Glover and Dr. Ford Canfield when they came to the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley for a meeting. From this contact I later visited the China Inland Mission Home in Los Angeles when I went to teach at Upland, and the Canfields became my most valued friends and counselors. I visited often in their home and borrowed many books from the mission. They let me know when missionaries were coming to town, and I heard as many of them as I possibly could. They also put me in touch with the Prayer Union of the Mission, through which I became the prayer partner of Mrs. Theodore Fischbacher (then Miss Olive Huston), Miss Winifred Rand, and Mrs. Arthur Mathews (then Miss Wilda Miller). Through correspondence with these missionaries, I began to get a firsthand vision of the mission field.

During my two years of teaching, impressed by the lives of Moody and Livingstone, I decided to get up an hour earlier every morning for Bible study and prayer. My chief helps were a book on Romans and Dr. R. A. Torrey's volume, *What the Bible Teaches*. From the chapter on 'faith' in the latter, one verse stood out, and I chose it for a life text—

John 11:40: "**Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?**" I have not always understood what "**the glory of God**" means in my life, but I still hold to this verse.

It was in Southern California at Upland Junior High School, a branch of Chaffey Union High, that Adelaide started teaching the ninth grade. That was in September, 1936. Her classes that year were English, Civics and Dramatics. Besides directing some of the school plays, she also sang in the Faculty Women's Trio. At first her students regarded her as "just another school teacher," although to quote one of them, "an exceptionally nice one." Another said, "She didn't wear makeup, and she was always neat. She was so appreciative and never too busy to see anyone."

As her work continued, however, and they saw her start teaching the high school girls' Sunday school class in a local church, attending every service at the church, and especially when she let it be known that some day she hoped to be a missionary to China, naturally enough, the students concluded that here was a different sort of individual!

At least one of her Sunday school class, Helen L____ was soon won to the Lord through Adelaide's influence. Helen came to the conclusion that "It was Christ in Adelaide that kept her sweet even when the problem children acted up in class." When there was no midweek service in their own church, Adelaide took her girls to another service where she was sure they would hear the truth preached. After the meetings as they walked together or waited for a bus, Adelaide with patience and understanding, answered the younger girls' many questions.

That the Lord made her an inspiration to her high school class is apparent as another one of their number speaks for the group: "To put it in the language of the students, 'She's perfect and we've never had a better teacher.'" This pupil, Leona M____, then explained that Adelaide not only upheld Christian ideals in class but that she was not prudish about it; rather she was one who proved that a real Christian may be human, fun-loving, friendly, and socially well adjusted. "In other words, that old theory that Christians can't have any fun or don't know what it means to live, was proved wrong by Adelaide—not by her talking about it as such, but by her own living example."

Adelaide prayed for each of her pupils by name, rising early to add this to her full days. She wanted to do this, she said, lest some might have no one else to pray for them. Later when she had left Upland for further training in Los Angeles, she continued her interest, answering their letters containing questions about the Bible, false cults, boy and girl problems, and similar matters.

To one of these who had written to her, she responded:

Thank you for your prayers . . . and your letters make me feel very happy. This will be the last year in high school for so many of you in whom I'm interested. Perhaps I'll be able to come to Upland just once before I go to China next fall and see all of you in the junior college group. I'm praying that you may have a really good teacher and counselor and that many of the others may be saved.

Then, mentioning a religion that has many adherents, she said:

It is very cold and unsatisfying as a religion, I'm afraid, and the worst of it is that it can't save anybody. Many people think it is a form of Christianity; but it really isn't, for it isn't at all in conformity with Christ's teachings. He said, "**I and my Father are one**" (John 10:30) and "**I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture**" (John 10:9). "**Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life**" (John 8:12). "**Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live**" (John 11:25). These and a score of other verses show His claims, so that any teaching which denies His deity really isn't Christian.

Two of Adelaide's junior high boys, having learned of her desire to be a missionary, were discussing the matter in her presence. The one boy asked her why she would ever want to be a missionary "way over in China."

Before Adelaide responded, the other, Owen, spoke up, "Oh, you just don't understand!" And how many more just did not understand a girl who shared God's desire for those who have never heard a word of His love for them!

If Adelaide had wanted to go to China to marry a businessman or for the government or for some lucrative career, there would have been smiling approval. Only those with some heavenly sense of values, however, could understand why one of her personal charm, talents, and mental acumen wanted to lose herself in China. "Lose herself"—that was the point! She was prepared to follow the One who said, "**Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.**"

In a countless number of ways Adelaide gave every evidence of having the heart of a true missionary. No wonder the district secretary of the China Inland Mission thought he had never seen a finer prospective candidate for China!

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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