

Reynolds Tells Story of Journey in China

(Continued from page 8)

Next morning before five the cook was rattling the pots and pans,—yes, kitchen in the same room. So we were off at sunrise and a good thing too for it was a new trail we were on and it took us over 15 hours, and a bit after nine that night, dead tired we glimpsed the welcome lanterns of those who had come out to guide us on the last lap of our journey.

No; We 'Ain't Hungry

Dead tired and boy, such a hunger. Finally we were fed and our beds fixed up and we fairly fell in bed. We had to have an early breakfast and an early service and off again on the trail for we had another appointment for this day. Had to be ferried over a river too. The ferry boat is a big rough hewn scow. I think I got some pictures of the mules being made to jump into it. Off we go across the rushing yellow torrent to land far below on the other side. In the morning when we left it was hot and the sun burning but later it blew up dark and threatening but instead of rain we had a cold wind and a bitter, driving dust storm. Mr. Pye is quite tall and when he sits on his bedding above the pack saddle and boxes, he is quite "lofty." This day with the dust and wind he had his hat pulled low over his eyes and as we were passing under a low stone "pailo" or arch of memory, he nearly had his head knocked off. The arch is still all there but Mr. Pye carried a bump and a headache for the rest of the day. We got in and had service, looked over a new site the local church wishes to exchange for their present property because the new place is nearer the center of the town where the people all gather on market days. We went to bed early because next day we had to get up at four o'clock for a long day.

A Temple Area

In this particular district there are an unusual number of very attractive temples. They are all perched aloft on some fold of the mountain, their white walls decorated with bright red figures, and inside the court as well as outside some fine old cedar trees, their foliage gleaming green and beautiful. At one place where we crossed a divide, I counted seven such temples all in sight at one time. They are really quite beautiful and break the monotony of the otherwise yellow and gray

mountains. It was quite dark when we stumbled our way along the trail before dawn that day. Gradually the mountains began to loom up on either side of us, then the sky grew gray and the farther mountains came "ghostly" into view. At last light and then the sun, rather dim and weak behind a veil of clouds, but very welcome even thus. After 50 li of hard going with a rising wind, we reached a mountain market town high up close to the divide. After service and a hasty meal we were off in a howling gale with 60 li to go, all on mountain trail and colder than blitzen. This also was a new trail and we got off twice, once losing 10 li in our wanderings. These roads are just paths through the mountains, you see. So finally at dark we had to give up and with 15 li to go, asked the hospitality of a mountain village. One advantage of a strange village is that you can "shoo" out the folks and go to bed early whereas if we are at a church we have to sit around and talk to them for hours. Of course we are about the only visitors in a year so they work us hard. Next morning we went on in to our city before breakfast. The, a large market city, second in importance in Northern Shensi. We have a good big church property here with a good man in charge and 4 outstation preaching places in charge of student pastors. When Brewer Eddy visited Fenchow he came out to this place so that he might say he had been over in Shensi.

He baptized a number of folk here (in English) and got an awful kick out of it. After extensive services and between times glancing at a big mail which we found awaiting us, we went on 40 li to the next place. Next morning the sunrise on the mountains was simply gorgeous,—this little place is perched away up on the side of a mountain,—the village name indeed being "Stone Pile Mountain." Such a sweep of view over range on range of mountains, all aglow with the soft morning colors. It was a lovely day and as we were getting down near the Yellow River it was quite springlike. Church at a village and then on along the Yellow River to another place for evening service. Next morning we crossed the Yellow River back into Shansi and were getting close to home. All day long we followed along a stream which runs into the Yellow River. It runs over a rock bed and the water is clear and beautiful. The day was lovely too. Must stop now. I will tell you of our last two places and "home at last" in my next effort.

The Missionary's Work

First then, it seems to me that a

missionary is or should be an interpreter between East and West. I do not conceive of our task as a matter of bringing out a little package of "salvation" to hand to the "heathen Chinese." Rather we wish to try and interpret the best of American life and Christian idealism in order that it may help in a world understanding. And the reverse of this is that we hope also to interpret the best of Chinese life and civilization back to America. And I speak my honest conviction when I say that we of the West have as much to learn—as to teach.

Second, it seems to me that our task is to help China wake up after her long sleep. Just as Europe after the flowering of Roman and Greek civilization lay dormant during the dark ages, China after the flowering of her civilization has for a number of centuries been asleep. Now she is waking up. We feel that it must not be only the call of trade and factory and modern science which awakes her but that Christian idealism, education, and the best of Western life ought to be part of the new world into which China is rapidly coming to life.

Third, but growing out of the two above and also underlying them, we seek to give China a glimpse of the social and universal value in the teachings of Jesus. We do not wish to make the Chinese Congregationalists. Nor even do we wish to make them Christian in our western sense of the word. But we do wish to give them a chance to see certain universal values which we believe Jesus taught, in order that having learned of Him they can make their own interpretation and their own type of Christianity. It may easily prove that with their natural belief in reason and peaceful means of settling difficulties China may help lead the world on to a new state of international relationships.

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