

Hudson Taylor

China

Foundation

James Hudson Taylor was born in Barnsley in 1832. Whilst many people in Barnsley today may never have heard of Hudson Taylor, as he was known, people from China visit the town to see where he was born and first worked.

His father was a Church minister but although he thought about God he didn't understand what it was to be a Christian and lost interest. Then, aged 17, he picked up and started to read a leaflet called "Poor Richard". As he read he was struck by the words "the finished work of Christ". He learned his need of forgiveness and to come to God and so, understanding what Jesus had accomplished He trusted in Him.

A few months later Hudson Taylor became convinced that God wanted him to go to China to tell people about Jesus. He began training as a doctor, started to learn Chinese, joined a mission society, and aged 21 set sail for China. There he was able to use his skill as a doctor to help people whilst also travelling to tell others about Jesus.

There were other British, Dutch and American missionaries in China almost all in the large coastal cities and wearing western clothes. Because of his clothes some Chinese called Hudson Taylor "the black devil". He therefore decided to wear Chinese clothes and a pigtail. He also recognised the need to go to cities away from the coast where few, if any, had heard of Jesus.

Therefore, he travelled back to England and gained support for a new society called The China Inland Mission. At the age of 32 he returned to China with other CIM missionaries. From the outset it was a "faith mission", not



asking people for money but praying to God and trusting Him to provide. He used to say "*God's work done in God's way will never lack God's provision.*" The principle is still followed by the society, now known as OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship).

Over the following 40 years CIM sent 800 people to work in China, opened 300 centres in inland China, 125 schools, and supported around 500 Chinese workers all telling people about Jesus. There were lots of setbacks, missionaries were sometimes killed and many died from diseases. Hudson Taylor died in 1905. One of his memorable early statements was "*If I had a thousand pounds China should have it - if I had a thousand lives, China should have them. No! Not China, but Christ. Can we do too much for Him? Can we do enough for such a precious Saviour?*"

Just after WWII there was a revolution in China which resulted in all missionaries being expelled. Since then the government has often tried to stop Christians from meeting but secretly small churches continued and grew dramatically. The missionaries who were thrown out went to places such as Japan, Korea and Vietnam, which is why the name was changed from CIM to OMF.



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Worship Notes

This is a suggested way of leading the worship.



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Ideas

戴德生 - James Hudson Taylor in Chinese.

Various other ideas for leading worship, hymns, other resources etc.

Explore

Suggestions for how the worship could be followed up in classes or individually.

Prayer

Some units will include a prayer which can be used in the worship.