

Jonathan Goforth

Heaven Richer by Thousands



Dr. Jonathan Goforth, famed Canadian missionary to China, is reputed to have led 13,000 Chinese to Christ, to have started hundreds of Chinese churches and conducted hundreds of meetings where genuine spiritual revival took place in Manchuria and China. At such times, meetings lasted as long as 6 hours and floors were soaked with tears of repentance for sins "small and large."

This hero of the faith grew up on the family farm near London, Ontario, where his godly mother taught him to read the Psalms by the time he was 5. When he was 15, his father put him in charge of a 2nd farm 20 miles away, only coming to check on his work and give him praise at harvest time.

At 18, Jonathan was convicted by a gospel message, received Christ, and said, "Henceforth, my life belongs to Him who gave His life for me." And so it most marvelously did!

His school teacher was an infidel, who, with other students, mercilessly mocked him until he led them all back from their infidelity. He began praying for his father's conversion, started family worship in their home, and saw His father come to Christ. He handed out tracts to everyone coming to morning church services, and started evening service in an old school building.

When he went to Knox College in Toronto to prepare for missionary service, his classmates laughed at his home made clothing, but he prayed and got busy preaching at the prison, working at rescue missions, doing home visitation, and sharing the gospel with everyone. Later, Knox College students sent him to China as their missionaries!

Once, when he didn't have money for fare to a preaching point, he went as far as his funds would take him and began walking the remaining 10 miles. Coming across some workmen, he shared Christ with them and invited them to the next morning's service. Several came, and at least one found Christ. Jonathan said, "I will gladly walk 10 miles any day to bring one lost soul to Christ."

When he had found that his own soul needed Christ, it had become a passion with him to take Christ to every lost soul. Oh, God forgive us that it is not so with all of us.

He and his wife, Rosalind, buried 5 of their 11 children in China. Finally, with their health broken and he blind, they returned to preach across North America until his Coronation Day, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord."

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