

Missionary Department



THE LATE REV. GRIFFITHS LLOYD HUGHES.

July 13, 1912 An Appreciation. p. 232 A.W.

BY WILLIAM C. CADMAN, WUCHOW, SOUTH CHINA.

The ranks of the South China Alliance Mission have again been invaded by the keen sickle of that stern reaper, Death, and one of God's choicest missionaries, the Rev. Griffiths Lloyd Hughes, passed on to be with Jesus in the early morn of August 25th, 1911, at Hongkong. In the evening of the same day, the funeral, at which over forty missionaries were present, was held. The service was very impressive, and many tributes were paid to his sterling worth as a missionary.

Whilst yet in the bloom of manhood, he has been taken from us just as he was ready to enter upon a new and larger sphere of service for the Master. For some time he had been suffering from a very serious form of heart trouble, which was ultimately the cause of his death; but it seemed during the past year of preparation for that work, that the Divine Healer was giving him a new lease of life in order that his absorbing desire to enter Annam and preach the Gospel might be realized.

PREPARATION FOR SERVICE.

He was a native of Llamberis, North Wales, and no doubt the grandeur of the beautiful mountain scenery, coupled with the influence of his Christian home—he always delighted to speak of them both—combined to form an environment that did much to mould his future character and prepare him for his life's work. When a young man in the twenties he went to the United States, and after studying in the Missionary Institute at Nyack and spending a further period in evangelistic work, he came to South China in the autumn of 1905.

SPHERE OF SERVICE ON THE FIELD.

Arriving on the field he was appointed to the study of Cantonese, and it was in the Cantonese section of the province of Kwang-Si that he labored so assiduously in witnessing for Jesus. When not engaged in station work most of his time was devoted to itinerating, accounts of which trips have appeared from time to time in the ALLIANCE. Thousands have for the first time heard of the "Jesus Doctrine" from his lips and thousands more through the medium of the Christian literature he has scattered during his journeys of hundreds of miles in places where there is no one to tell the heathen of Jesus and His redeeming love. These itinerancies have entailed considerable hardship and discomfort such as only those who have travelled in inland China can

mony of God's keeping power and of Divine strength given which proved fully adequate for the work appointed him.

It has been the privilege of the writer to be in close personal touch with Mr. Hughes in the Missionary Home, Wuchow, during the last months of his life. Thus good opportunity was afforded to notice the many outstanding and noble traits of character that endeared him to our hearts and to briefly enumerate these will, we trust, prove a blessing to our readers.

HIS EARNESTNESS IN THE LORD'S WORK.

Mr. Hughes possessed that intensity of earnestness, zeal and fervor that is so characteristic of the Welsh people. In all that he undertook, whether in conducting a Gospel meeting, in conversation or writing, this trait was ever prominent. His one purpose and aim in life was to glorify God by preaching the Gospel to those who had never yet heard it and thereby hasten the coming of his Lord. He was verily on fire to win souls for Christ and loved to refer to himself as "His Ambassador." The woe for the opening of Annam was upon his heart and he expressed himself as willing to lay down his life, if necessary, for the foundation of that long-neglected work.

A LIFE OF PRAYER AND INTER- SESSION.

What was the source of all this earnestness and zeal? This question was ably answered at the Memorial Service held a few days after his homegoing, when the Rev. Philip Hinkey spoke of Mr. Hughes' life of prayer, and his great faith in the whole Bible as the Living Word of God. Truly he was essentially a man of prayer, and had well learned the secret of importunate intercession. Even amid the most pressing duties, he never allowed them to crowd out his quiet time along with God. Those who have known him have been deeply moved and impressed by his impassioned appeals and prayers, full of power, on behalf of Annam, and there can be no doubt but that God used him greatly in this ministry for the opening of that field.

PROFOUND LOVE AND DEVOTION TO JESUS.

Besides this he was a careful Bible student and his daily walk and prayer life were governed by the lessons he gathered from its rich store. Moreover, he was on intimate terms with its Author and its Subject: Jesus, whom he loved with a profound passion. A few days before he passed away he said to a visiting brother, "I have no fear as to the issue of this illness. I am but His bondsman, if He wants me here,—I shall live, if not,—I am glad to go. Again the day before he died he said, "The Invincible Christ dwells within here" (pointing to his heart) and then he repeated:

"Peace, perfect peace, the future all unknown:
Jesus I know, and He is on the throne."

GOOD INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES.

It has been well said that "A man is known by the books



he reads," and this was so with Mr. Hughes. He enjoyed reading the best books and literature obtainable, and, having a retentive memory, was able to use the knowledge so gained to great advantage. He never allowed these books, however, to usurp the place of the Bible, to which he always gave precedence as the "Book of Books." In conjunction with this he was also a man of keen mental perception. However intricate the question under discussion might be, he could usually give the pros. and cons. in a most logical and precise way.

Although he has passed away, the memories of his many admirable qualities, of which space does not permit of a fuller appreciation, will be an inspiration and blessing to us who remain to carry on the work he loved.

We, his fellow-workers, deeply mourn the loss of our dear brother, and we pray that the Divine Compassion of Him whom he so dearly loved and adored, will be richly poured upon the bereaved and aged father and mother, and brothers, and other relatives and friends. The Divine Gardener is selecting the choicest flowers for His heavenly garden, and our brother, whose life was fragrant below, has been transplanted to glorify his Lord above. We are comforted by knowing that "He doeth all things well," and that when "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible * * * then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. Death is swallowed up in victory."

1911
Aug

G. Lloyd Hughes, of South China and Annam.

Late in August word was received in New York of the passing away of our dear brother, Rev. G. Lloyd Hughes, of South China. Advices have just arrived from China concerning his last days. Mr. Hughes had been much interested in the proposition to open Annam, and only a few weeks before he passed away sent for publication a most interesting article giving an account of his visit to that country in company with Mr. Jaffray and Mr. Hostler.

Mr. Hughes had been suffering from a serious form of heart disease for some time, a disease that had followed him from childhood, but his general health apart from that had been very good. He had been able to continue right along in his work and it seemed that he might yet serve the Lord for many years to come if his life had no special strain.

After conference Mr. Hughes stayed in the Wuchow Home for a while and seemed very happy, in fact more cheerful than usual. He had planned to spend his vacation

at the Basel Mission in Hongkong, but was waiting at the Seaman's Institute for a few days, till his room was ready. Here he was taken with a trouble that in itself was not at all serious. He had previously been delivered from even more serious attacks in answer to prayer.

Mr. Jaffray invited him to join with him for rest, but he preferred to go to the hospital and thought that he could there have a rest and all the care he needed without being a burden upon fellow missionaries. At the hospital he underwent a slight operation which in itself was not at all serious except for the condition of his heart, which finally collapsed. He passed away on August 25th.

Mr. Jaffray writes: "Dear Brother Hughes lived a life very near to God, and whatever his convictions as to healing were he was at least very conscientious and felt he was in the will of God. I had a very precious season with him the day before he passed away. His mind was very clear though his body was so weak. He had no fear as to the issue and said he was 'the bond-slave of the Lord Jesus.' He repeated the verse,

'Peace, perfect peace, the future all unknown;
Jesus I know, and He is on the Throne.'

Almost his last words to Mr. Jaffray were, "Jaffray, I love Him more than I ever did." Mr. Jaffray adds, "Mr.

Hughes was a man of prayer and spent much time with the Word of God, especially during the past year his prayer life developed much and God entrusted to Him a great burden and power in prayer for Annam."

The funeral service was held the same day at the "Happy Valley" cemetery. Although so short notice could be given over forty missionaries gathered to pay their last tribute of respect. Mr. Jaffray con-

The Alliance weekly
p. 25 Oct. 14, 1911

ducted the service and
Mr. Anderson of the
Westeyan Mission, Wuchow; Dr. Hayes of the Baptist
Mission, Wuchow, and a number of our own missionaries
took part. Mr. Hughes' loss is a mysterious trial at the be-
ginning of our new work in Annam, but often God has
reaped the most fruitful harvests from missionary graves.
Who will fill the broken ranks and stand in the place of our
translated brother?
