



MISSIONARY

VISION AND BLUEPRINT

Our Objectives

PIONEERING:

- Frontier fields
- Neglected peoples
- Unreached tribes

EVANGELISM

- not institutionalism.
- Regeneration
- not civilization.

THE PRINTED PAGE:

- Translation
- Publication
- Distribution

A NATIVE MINISTRY:

- Bible-trained
- Spirit-filled
- Soul-seeking

AN INDIGENOUS CHURCH:

- Born again believers
- Scripturally autonomous
- Spiritually progressive



THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY
ALLIANCE

MISSIONARY VISION AND BLUEPRINT

This is the age of the blueprint. Without blueprints our modern mechanical marvels would be impossible. They are made according to blueprint specifications. Even the machines that make them are themselves blueprint products. Actually all of them are born, not on drafting boards, but in the minds of inventors. Blueprints interpret visions.

The same principle applies in some measure to foreign missions. Blueprints are essential for their operation, but only visions give their inspiration.

Our revered Founder, Rev. A. B. Simpson, had a wonderful vision. He saw vast areas of earth where missionary feet had never trod, and lost millions plunging into eternity like an endless Niagara. And he envisioned an army of Spirit-filled Christians invading those areas and evangelizing those millions.

In prompt fulfilment of that vision, at the very start of his Society, Dr. Simpson established work in four continents and many islands. Some 65 years later we look back and marvel at his knowledge of the heathen world. Yet there were many things he did not know. The vision was perfect, but it was not a blueprint. God gave the vision, Dr. Simpson, and his colleagues had to work out the blueprints.

EXPLORATION

Africa was among his earliest fields. He planned two missions on its two great rivers, the Congo and the Niger, and two lines of mission stations spaced at intervals of fifty miles, reaching from the coast to the deep interior.

His Congo Mission was forced to settle on the river's lowest reaches, and his Soudan work was confined to Sierra Leone on the coast, while the Soudan of his dreams lay far, far distant along the upper reaches of the Niger. At one Sierra Leone Conference, bending over a map of French West Africa, a pioneer covered with his thumb the area they were then occupying, whereas the vast Soudan was not encompassed by his outstretched hand.

So in Africa the vision tarried, and our leaders worked anxiously over their blueprints. After a score of missionary deaths, they learned the secret of survival in the tropics and drew a blueprint for living. To simple evangelism at intervals they added translation, publication, native worker training and the indigenous church, thus developing their blueprints for working. Gradually they discovered that the areas they had regarded as units, were actually vast composites of tribes and nations, dialects and languages, religions and superstitions, and so they extended their blueprints of occupation.

A new Congo opened in nearby Gabon requiring a new mission for its 30 tribes. Within the great Soudan they found other Soudans: the Toma and Gberese country, the Samogo and Black Bobo country, the Baouli and Agni country. The vision did not change, but it called for ever-changing blueprints, which in turn revealed ever widening horizons and ever lengthening responsibilities.

DISCOVERY

In China Dr. Simpson's early attention was claimed by three areas closed to the gospel: Hunan, notoriously anti-foreign; Kwangsi, rugged and backward; Tibet, barred against the white man. *Our blueprints for opening those closed doors* produced many romantic chapters of our mission his-

tory. But 30 years of effort passed across our drafting boards before our blueprints discovered and included the most neglected of all China's population, the aboriginal tribes.

The early inhabitants of many parts of Asia were simple peoples who retreated into the mountains before the advance of the more aggressive races who usurped the rich lowlands. Many of these tribes were found in China's Alliance fields. In Hunan and Kweichow live the Miao, while half of Kwangsi is inhabited by 4,000,000 Chuangs, Tongs, Lolos, Miaos and Yaos.

These tribesmen, as rugged as their mountains, retain their distinct dialects, continue their characteristic customs, and persist in their patriarchal policies. Yet to the missionaries they proved friendly and receptive. Evangelism among them was most fruitful and our missions planned speedy occupation of all tribal areas. Then came Communism and our workers were forced to withdraw.

Our blueprints had included the tribes too little but not too late. The tribal churches had been founded. Although the Red despotism seeks to enslave and, if possible, to exterminate the Christian church in the more civilized parts of China, who knows but that it will be the despised aborigines in their mountain fastnesses who shall preserve, pure and uncompromised, the church of Christ in China.

DEVELOPMENT

Another of Dr. Simpson's early fields was India whose teeming millions seemed to him as numberless as the sands of Old Orchard beach. Across the years, through India's brilliant sunshine and her deepest shadows, his vision led our workers while many different blueprints marked their pathway.

Itinerant evangelism in the innumerable villages

was followed by strategically spaced stations. The great famine required orphanages which later became boarding schools for boys and girls. Bible Training Institutes then prepared national workers for extensive evangelism, which in turn won converts and produced local congregations. Then followed blueprints for the indigenous church, resulting in a well-organized Indian Christian and Missionary Alliance. To this were added short term Bible schools, young people's societies, children's D V B S, and finally adult literacy classes.

Then, under Indian independence, vast populations in native states, hitherto barred against missions, suddenly became virgin soil for evangelization, and over night our oldest mission found two pioneer areas right next door. Into these new frontiers our workers have advanced, led on by the abiding vision, and equipped with all the blueprints of experience and efficiency gained through the many years.

INSPIRATION

Long before this, another change of government had given our Society a foreign mission field. The Spanish-American War had left the Philippine Islands a colonial dependency to the United States, and a missionary responsibility to the American Christian churches. Recognizing the need of the hour, Dr. Simpson envisioned the southern Philippines as an Alliance field and sent workers to explore its possibilities.

At first the work was expensive, interrupted and restricted. Two different blueprints, one industrial, the other educational, were tried and failed to fulfill the vision. Late in its second decade the Mission began rugged pioneer evangelism among the pagans of Mindanao and the Moslems of the Sulu Archi-

pelago. Now realizing the extent of the Alliance opportunity and responsibility in the Philippines, the Home Board sent missionary reinforcements in the early 20's and later deputed that great missionary statesman, Dr. R. A. Jaffray, to study the situation on the spot and plan a new advance.

Dr. Jaffray's blueprint for our Philippine work included extensive pioneer evangelism and intensive training of the national workers needed for the aggressive advance. The application of the new policy was followed immediately by a new era of progress and blessing. Pagan and Moslem tribes, already known but hitherto unreached, were made specific objectives of evangelistic advance. Scores of earnest young people from all parts of the field, educated in government schools and speaking several languages, were trained in our Bible Institute and went into the crude hinterland to endure *hardness and suffer persecution*. Hundreds of converts were won. A well-organized indigenous church was developed. Each year new tribes are being given the gospel. Our Philippine blueprint is gloriously fulfilling the original vision.

DELAY

On one important field the lack of adequate blueprints long delayed the fulfilment of our Founder's vision. As early as 1892 he had named Borneo as one of his objectives. But nearly 40 years elapsed before Dr. R. A. Jaffray proceeded on a survey covering all the Netherlands East Indies. His vision then embraced the evangelization of an archipelago as wide as the United States. His faith dared to open a large new mission field during the great financial depression.

Dr. Jaffray was no longer young. As pioneer he had played a major role in the founding of our

South China work, and as an elder statesman had directed the development of our great Indo-China field. But the Netherlands East Indies in general, and Borneo in particular, required the strength and stamina of youth.

And youth it was that pioneered Borneo. Inspired by Dr. Jaffray's enthusiasm, the young men answered to his call, tramped Borneo's jungles, risked its turbulent streams, visited its longhouses, and baptized its head-hunting wild men by the thousands. Out of his long experience, wide knowledge and deep spirituality, Dr. Jaffray drew their Borneo blueprints. Extensive evangelism and Bible training were their fundamentals, to which, for the first time in missionary history, he added aviation. For Dr. Jaffray introduced into Borneo the first airship owned by any foreign missionary society.

REVELATION

A delay somewhat similar to that of Borneo is found in the history of another Alliance mission field. In 1887, the organization year of our movement, Dr. Simpson bracketed the names of two great closed fields, Tibet and Annam, as his objectives. In 1893, while in Singapore on his memorable world tour, his interest in Annam was greatly intensified. But he talked of Annam's 22,000,000 souls whereas the French protectorate of Annam proper has only 7,000,000. Obviously his vision of Annam included all five states of Indo-China now known to have 27,000,000 population.

In 1911 South China Alliance missionaries succeeded in opening a new mission, not in adjacent Tonkin, but in Annam, the next state beyond. The vision had tarried a quarter century, but in that time the French had pacified warring tribes, established stable government, and built excellent roads,

all of which helped speed the gospel when it came. One by one the five states were occupied by Alliance missionaries who, in the next few decades, made the progress of a normal century in what proved to be a most unique and exclusively Alliance mission field.

Our Indo-China development was largely due to its blueprints. In shaping Indo-China policies the C. and M. A. profited from lessons learned by our older missions in India and China. The experience and wise counsel of missionary statesmen from those lands helped perfect the plans for an efficient native ministry and well-organized indigenous church here. French government blueprints also contributed much to C. and M. A. Indo-China plans. The entire country had been surveyed and the major states had been completely organized. In the wild jungles they had discovered 200 primitive tribes and had learned much concerning their conditions, customs and languages.

The very existence of those tribes had been unknown in Dr. Simpson's time. To-day the vision, not satisfied with the conquest of the more civilized peoples, gives our missionaries no rest as they strive to *convert more and still more of the primitive peoples revealed in the blueprints.*

PROGRESSION

In this brief brochure we cannot follow our Founder's vision through all our foreign fields. Numberless wonderful stories of divine leading and consecrated following have come out of Argentina, Chile and Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Puerto Rico, Thailand, Israel, Syria and Jordan. All of these fields sprang from the same vision, and all of them have produced blueprints which would intrigue and inspire.

But we have time only to look at one of Dr. Simpson's blueprints of which many good Alliance people never heard. From boyhood he was much interested in South Pacific missions with a gospel ship cruising among the islands. John Williams' martyrdom on Erromango stirred him profoundly. It may be significant that in infancy our Founder was baptized by John Geddie who later succeeded Williams as "the apostle of the South Seas."

The zeal, success and methods of Williams, Geddie and Paton inspired Dr. Simpson to plan a mission among the Caroline Islands and adjacent archipelagos. In 1892 he dispatched eight missionaries to Singapore commissioned there to purchase and outfit a sailing vessel as a gospel ship for far-flung evangelization. But after long waiting, no suitable ship being available, the party scattered to other Oriental fields.

TRANSFORMATION

So for decades this vision also tarried. Meanwhile the blueprints changed from sails to gasoline. Upon the seven seas Alliance missionaries began to reach their island goals in motor-boats. And during recent years, not Dr. Simpson's white-winged schooner, but a swift white-cabined cruiser takes our evangels throughout the Sulu archipelago.

Yes, only ships can reach the islands. But Dr. Simpson did not know that in those isles live hidden tribes who never could be reached in ships that sail the sea. Only by ships that sail the sky were they to be discovered. Only in airships could those tribes be reached by strangers from the outside world bearing the message of the world to come.

Four islands of the sky are the four stone-age tribes now definite objectives of our New Guinea Mission. The Kapauku and the Moni tribes already

have two stations and 14 missionaries. Among the Uhunduni and the Dani tribes two new stations will soon be opened. To start those new stations and even to maintain our existing work in New Guinea, our new twin-motored amphibian plane is absolutely essential. Thus does the modern blueprint of the air fulfill our Founder's early blueprint of the sea.

The scope and strength of our God-given visions were strikingly seen during Dr. Jaffray's internment by the Japanese. Imprisoned with his fellow missionaries in a small house among the mountains on Celebes, day after day he studied the map of that vast sweep of islands. Like Dr. Simpson bending over his globe in intercession for his missionaries, so Dr. Jaffray bent over his map and traced his far-flung line of missions already opened or planned for future opening.

Then, with a mighty faith which penetrated the dark veil of his internment and the still darker clouds of the titanic world-wide war, he said, "This is our task, and I can hear the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, the noise of the marching feet of the mighty army of young men and women whom God is preparing for the occupation of these lands."

Yes, this is our task! The world-wide task envisioned by our Founder, and the field-wide tasks envisioned by his followers. Our spiritual responsibility for over 61,000,000 never-dying souls. These are the visions which our leaders at home and abroad have interpreted in terms of men, equipment and advance. But these visions and blueprints can be translated into action only by the prayers and gifts of God's faithful stewards in terms of faith and consecration like those of Dr. Simpson and Dr. Jaffray.



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