CENTRAL ASIAN MISSION.
SARDINIA HOUSE, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON, W.C.

OBJECT.

CENTRAL ASIA includes the independent tribes beyond the North-West Frontier of India, the whole of Afghanistan, including Kafiristan, with six to eight millions of Mohammedans without any Christian missionary; the vast territory of Tibet, and the States of Nepal, Bhutan, and Sikkim that lie between Tibet and India; both Russian and Chinese Turkestan, and the country that lies between the latter and India, such as Chitral and Kohistan; Ladakh and Baltistan; Hunza and Yasin; Roshan and Shighnan, etc. The CENTRAL ASIAN MISSION seeks to obey Christ's command to evangelize these peoples, as the way opens up for missionary endeavour amongst them.

CHARACTER.

It is evangelical and undenominational. It is supported entirely by the free-will offerings of God's people, solicitations for money not being authorised by the Constitution. No more is expended than is received, and going into debt is not permitted.

WAYS OF HELPING.

Acquaint yourself with the work; make it known to others; refer to it in correspondence and conversation.

Prayer circles can be formed, and become centres of vital prayer-activity, awakening interest and radiating information in your Church and Community.

Meetings at which the Secretaries will speak of the work can be arranged. Literature can be freely distributed. This will be sent on application to the Hon. Secretary. Missionary boxes for offerings are issued by the Central Asian Mission, and will be sent to friends upon application to the Hon. Secretary.

A Meeting for Prayer for Central Asia is held at the Office, Sardinia House, 52, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., every Tuesday (D.V.), from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

Central Asian Mission Committee:
Colonel G. WINGATE, C.I.E. (Chairman), Godalming, Surrey.
Colonel H. BIDDULPH, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., Wimbledon.
Lt.-Colonel R. W. FALCON, Peshawar.
Dr. A. SMEATON GRANT, M.R.C.S., London, N.W.
Brig.-General C. DE WINTON, C.M.G., Dess, Aberdeenshire.

Hon. Secretary:
(all communications should be addressed—Hon. Secretary).

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Hon. Treasurer:
Col. H. BIDDULPH, R.E.


GIFTS in money or in kind should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Central Asian Mission, Sardinia House, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C. Cheques, money orders and postal orders should be made payable to the Central Asian Mission. Remittances may also be paid direct into Barclays Bank, 132/134, Fleet Street, London, E.C., or to any of its Branches.

The Subscription for this Monthly Magazine is 1/6 per annum, post free (2 copies 2/6, 3 copies 4/0, post free). All Orders and Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Hon. Editorial Secretary, Central Asian Mission, Sardinia House, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.
Our King in Rejection.

By MISS ORDE-BROWNE.

"Everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them."—1 Sam. 22: 2.

DAVID had been chosen by God and anointed by Samuel as King of Israel, but it was a long weary time before he was outwardly acknowledged as king over the entire kingdom of Israel. Like his greater Son he had no place to lay his head and was driven for shelter to caves and dens by a remorseless enemy. While at the cave of Adullam we read that a number of worthless people attached themselves to him. Doubtless their first thought in doing this was that as their present condition was so bad it might be bettered by alloying themselves to him and his cause. It was a poor unworthy reason for so doing, but can we all give a better one for having attached ourselves to our King David? Having come to David in their distress and great need, they must have found that although, as Saul taunted them, the son of Jesse could not give them fields and vineyards, yet he could give them what was of far greater value: protection from outraged justice and from the pursuer, as well as rest of heart with one who welcomed them and who so drew out their love that they learnt to perform mighty deeds by the force of his love and example. So great was his inspiration that they learnt to love any hardships and danger for his dear sake; but above all they learnt what it was to rest by faith on the mighty arm of the God of David, without whom no deed of valour had been possible.

What a mighty transformation! A company of desperate outlaws made, through faith and love, into a magnificent body of highly trained warriors whose nearest resemblance in modern days is found in Napoleon’s “Old Guard” and their undying devotion to him. They received no lands nor material advantage by attaching themselves to David. What did their allegiance involve? The wilderness, alienation from home, hardship, penury, poor and little food and pursuit by the rival king, but they recognised David as the anointed king of their hearts and lives, and they waited with patience for that day when he should be crowned by all Israel. They considered not their own gains, for it was sufficient, and even glory, for them to be where he was and as he was, in rejection. He might call himself a “dead dog,” a “partridge,” a “flea;” to them he was their uncrowned king, and they gloried in facing all odds for his sake.

Our King is now rejected by the world. He is anointed and crowned in the hearts of His people who look forward with deep longing to the day when He will be crowned and acknowledged as King of kings. He is despised and rejected to-day as He was 1,900 years ago. We were in distress, debt and trouble on coming to Him, but the wilderness in which He dwelt was made glad and the desert rejoiced and blossomed like a rose with His Presence. He cured every ill and His mighty salvation preserved from every dread of pursuer. His love drew us to join ourselves to Him “for better for worse,” “through good and through evil, in the face of this present world.” Many, like Nabal’s shepherds, might in the day of David’s rejection speak well of him without joining themselves to him and to his cause, but what a happy thing if we are found ready to give up all for our King and to dwell in the wilderness with Him if that is His abode.

Should the time of testing come to us, may we be enabled to say with truth the words of one who was suffering for an earthly king who was in rejection:

“When once my Prince affliction hath:
Prosperity doth treason seem;
And for to smooth so rough a path,
I can learn patience, certes, from him;
Now not to suffer shows no loyal heart;
When kings want ease, subjects must bear a part.”

Many afterwards flocked to David’s standard, but his heart must have gone out in deepest love to those who stood by him in the days of his rejection in the cave of Adullam, and to whom he taught so much. Although he had a welcome for those others who loved him, and came to make him king in Hebron (2 Sam. v. 1 and 2) they did not know him as these did, who, like our Lord’s inner ring of disciples, “continued” with Him in His temptations.
Field Report for the Year 1920.

From among the sea of unbelievers round us, it seems such a little atom of His work which the Saviour has let us see in the past year. What work remains! Of the baptisms, some were of Risalpur, some in Abbottabad, twelve in Mardan, ten in Swat; all these were in the service of the garrisons in these places and were a part of the mass movement towards Christianity of the lowest classes. Of the others brought to spiritual birth in 1920, one was a Pathan, a young man of a very highly regarded family in the Mahammedan religion of the neighbourhood. Please pray for him to grow in grace and knowledge: his people are trying to draw him back by the bait of the world: may they rather be drawn by him to the Saviour. Five were Kashmiris, two Dards, one Balti, and one of Poonch; two were villagers of Hazara district, converted through two lady missionaries, our neighbours fifty miles east, at Haripur; one a Gurkha of Nepal, enlisted years ago as a nominal Christian in a regiment stationed now at Malakand; and one, a Magistrate in the Punjab, who, after two years' acquaintance with a blind itinerant colporteur working with the Mission (himself a converted Mahammedan Mulvi and Hafiz, one who had learnt the Qoran by heart), was baptized by him.

Will readers join in prayer that these may be taught by the Spirit and fed by the Word?

Let us consider also and pray for the little Churches or groups of Christians to whom this Mission has the privilege of ministering: at Mardan about 130 souls, mostly servants of the garrison, but including a few Pathans; at Risalpur (a much larger cantonment) about 150 souls; in Swat, in the forts of Malakand, Chakdara, and Dargai, about 70 souls in Shabkadr (a garrison on the border), at Abazai, Tangi, and Narai, some 50 souls; and elsewhere in villages of the Mardan district five or six Pathan Christians. Also the scattered families, or individuals, “treasures out of darkness,” found in pioneer work in North Kashmir; in Kashmir valley proper some 20 souls, in six families in five places, ten or twenty miles from one another; in Poonch some twelve souls; in Gurez thee; and in far Baltistan, five souls. Let us pray earnestly for these.

Let us consider and pray for the workers actively engaged in evangelisation. At Mardan the Pastor gave place during the year to a self-supporting Evangelist raised up, in answer to prayer, from among the local Church. Hitherto their ministers, with one previous happy exception (Veru, a very lovable, lowly character, called 14 years ago out of the darkness of heathenism), have been from elsewhere. During 1920 it became evident that the Pastor, though well known to them, was not acceptable and useful to the flock. Prayer was made here, and asked for in England, that the flock might be blessed and troubles remedied. In the autumn there was a rallying of the church, and the appointment in place of the Pastor of one of the Elders, in whom growth of grace was shown.

Will readers pray for more money to maintain little schools in each Church, to enable the beloved children of these newly-born brethren to read the Heavenly Father’s messages given for them? Pray also for wealth of the Spirit, that His words be understood.

The congregation is one of extreme poverty. Poverty which may be gauged by this, that the flour alone (their staple food) for a family of man, wife and three small children, costs more than half the wages which husband and wife, both working, earn; while also firewood, and even water, must be paid for; the last taking one shilling out of their twenty-eight a month. With flour alone, at the present extreme prices, taking fifteen of these shillings; and firewood, eked out with dried cow-dung by those who can get it, taking five or four; can the reader imagine, when some meat, some vegetables, some spices, some milk, some sugar, have been bought, how clothes are to be got, or what outward bareness must be the surroundings of such a Christian family? Their homes (happily as a rule rent free), built of bare walls, sometimes earthen, sometimes brick, covered with bare timber, undressed, carrying brushwood supporting layers of earth surfaced with mud plaster, are but a single room, 12ft. by 10ft. and 8ft. high; or perhaps two such rooms, or with a verandah which serves instead of a roof. The floor is the bare earth, hardened by mud plaster and renewed constantly; the fire, made of sticks and cow-dung, laid between some bricks or hardened mud, supporting the simple iron pan, on to which the thin rolled, or rather hand-beaten, dough
is flopped, watched and turned; this fire placed on the floor in any convenient corner, without hearthstone, fire-place, or chimney. The sole furniture two or three bedsteads, of thin rope webbed across rough wooden frames. Occasionally a tiny table, and occasionally a bent-wood cane chair may be found. (What heavenly furniture, of holiness and grace, did not our Redeemer leave to dwell among us here?) A small array of simple cooking pots, generally earthen among these poor, and vessels of iron, tin, brass, and, in recent days, aluminium. The little stools, wooden-framed, string-webbed or boarded, on which the elders of the family or the women sit by the fire, about six inches high and a foot square, are a picture of a humble life. A wooden or iron box holds the scanty clothes, and on a rope across the corner hangs bedding.

But that the whole-grain flour, made into flat, thin, round cakes freshly at each meal, gives greater sustenance than the sorted white flour of Europe; and but for the sun, powerful even in the winter, when the direction of the wind, blowing unvaryingly over hot plains and deserts in the summer, changes, to come for five months from over great snowy mountains, some of which look through gaps in the near low hills on the north; and but for the entirely open-air life which it makes possible; and but for children, so inevitably drawing love in every race and place and climate—a wonderful mark of God the Father's power and wisdom; and but for the simple, direct faith looking to Him, of Whom they have now heard and believed through Christ, for all help; one might wish for them another lot, or wonder in what particular lay the secret of the astonishing content and kindness, patience and hopefulness, of these our brethren.

But being newly called out from how many generations of unredeemed sinners, and from a sea of surrounding contemporary evil, there are among these Christian brethren roots of old evil; bitterness of word; habitue of untruth; easy readiness to borrow beyond means of repayment; aptness to forget a loan received; tendency to waste time in cards; little privacy of home life; little instructing or ordering children; little sanctity of the marriage tie, which generally has been solemnized by Mahommedan rite before they were Christians, and by the harmful habit of Mahommedanism has been from the beginning considered breakable, though among them, on the whole, wonderfully seldom broken.

Helpful one to another, counting themselves quite our servants: with readiness to share their little; readiness to do without; readiness to wait. May the Savion, the Son and their great elder Brother, bless them more and more with His grace, with the joy of His presence, the well springing up within the heart unto eternal life. One can feel, in imagination, a little of the tenderness which shall presently flood over them and comfort them, "as a mother comforts her child."

H. C. Robertson.
Extracts from our Missionaries' Letters.

Mardan, March 3rd, 1921.

Your letter to hand yesterday, and many thanks for the same. A year ago to-night I arrived in Mardan—the past year to me has been full of joy and happiness. I trust, too, it has brought blessing to some souls in this district. I was very glad to see Kumbhla and Milepa mentioned in the prayer list, also Sarup. With the two former I have been in close contact for a year, and I cannot speak too highly of them. They are true and faithful Christians and quite a credit to the little Indian church.

At the Zenana hospital there are on an average about 30 out-patients, to which Mrs. Moti Dass is able to speak. The nursing part is becoming increasingly heavy on Miss Steenstrup, as they have not yet been successful in getting Indian nurses, and that is the part in which I am helping. Miss Rasmussen is at present devoting most of her time to language study.

Yes! We are contemplating going to Poonch again, if the way is clear. Mr. Robertson has had the offer of funds. I am looking forward to it, for I love Poonch very much.

The hospital work keeps every one of us very busy. Just at present I have the charge of the night work, and then comes my language lesson in the morning. Last night I had fourteen patients, some really very ill, and others not so ill.

Suffice it to say that we are all happy in, and love, our work. I should like to ask prayer for our only probationer nurse—she was born into the Christian life only last January, brought in through the hands of our friends at Haripur. She is very useful in the work of the wards. A. E. Evans.

At the Throne of Grace.

Let Us Thank God—

That in the Audited Accounts for the past year we find a great deal to be thankful for; no debt on the Mission; all bills due paid within the year; the money carefully spent and made to go a surprisingly long way; the Accounts accurately kept and every penny received duly accounted for; and the balances in hand on the 31st December sufficient to start out in hope and trust in the New Year. Mr. Robertson writes: "The income in the General Fund has been little during the first two months of 1921, and the good closing balance of Rs. 488 of 1920 has been absorbed."

Let Us Pray—

Let us pray again this month for Tibet. Permission has been given by the Dalai Lama at Lhasa to the Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society to climb Mount Everest, in Tibet. It will take place this year and next and will cost more than £10,000. Grave risks will have to be run and severe hardships endured: risks from icy slopes and overwhelming avalanches, and hardships from intense cold and blinding snowstorms. If the ascent of Mount Everest arouses such enthusiasm, will not the young believer in Christ take heart, who has heard God's call to push on into Tibet with the Gospel? Are not the praying people of God sufficient backing for such adventure to save souls? A perfect Buddha the Tibetans think they have, but a perfect Saviour they know nothing of.
Donations received in London during March, 1921.

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TOTALS.
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FORM OF LEGACY OR BEQUEST

I give and bequeath unto the Treasurer for the time being of "The Central Asian Mission," for the purposes of the Mission, the sum of pounds sterling, free from duty, to be paid within twelve calendar months after my decease, and I direct the receipt of such Treasurer shall be a sufficient discharge for the said Legacy.
The Weekly Prayer Meeting.

EVERY TUESDAY, 12.30 to 1.30 P.M.

For some years past the spiritual needs of Central Asian peoples have been spread before the Lord at the weekly prayer meeting of the Central Asian Mission, held at the office in London, and many are the memories of blessing which has come upon the work of the Mission, whose objective is the carrying of the Gospel to these lands of darkness.

The Mission Office—SARDINIA HOUSE, 52, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON, W.C.—is most central, being only three minutes from Holborn or British Museum (Tube) Stations, and is practically situated in Kingsway.

This prayer meeting is held every Tuesday, and proceeds from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

C.A.M. POSTCARDS.

Through the generosity of a friend of the work, we are able to offer packets of 12 Pictorial Postcards (assorted), illustrating phases of life and geographical features of the lands for which we daily work and pray. These have involved no expense to the Mission, and proceeds of sales are to be placed, at the request of the donor, to Office expenses. The opportunity thus afforded of inviting attention to the appalling problem and need presented by these Christless lands is obvious. The price, 6d. per dozen (7d. post free), brings them within the reach of everyone who sees here the possibility of rendering a double ministry. Orders (accompanied by stamps) should be sent to the Hon. Secretary as above.