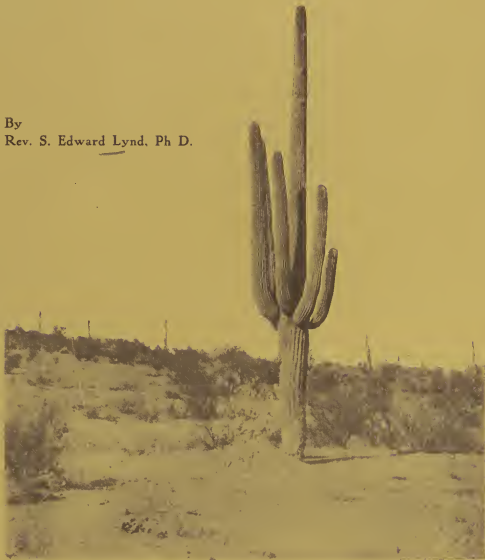


A General Missionary in a Land of Promise

By
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HOENIX, the capital city of Arizona, the youngest State in the Union, is destined to become the inland metropolis of the Great Southwest. Situated near the center of the Salt River Valley, fertilized by streams from the great Roosevelt Dam, having trees bearing all manner of fruit, it reminds one of John's vision of the New Jerusalem—lying four square to the world, being equal in length, breadth and height—for its

height is unlimited, there being scarcely a cloud to obstruct the sight of heaven at all times of the year.

There is a population of nearly 30,000 in Phoenix, a cosmopolitan people, far above the average in intelligence and in all those virtues that make for safe and sane social conditions. Our schools are among the best, all departments being under the instruction of specially trained teachers whose records class them among up-to-date educators.

The atmosphere, dry by nature, and the State, dry by law, furnish an ideal place for recovering lost health and lost fortunes, for one who can make a bare living elsewhere can here, with a little capital, push, pluck and patience, soon recline under his own vine and fig tree.

Religiously speaking, we have a difficult problem in Phoenix, for, although almost every denomination is represented, it is hard to attract people to our services, because

for about nine months of the year the climate is so delightful that we cannot interest them in the joys of heaven, and for the other three months it is so hot that they have no fears of the torments of Gehenna.

Strenuous activity is apt to characterize the work of any missionary in the Great Southwest, and since I entered upon my duties in this field some two years ago there has been no opportunity to take a vacation either on Sundays or week days. When I became General Missionary to the Congregational churches of Arizona and New Mexico there was no Congregational church in or near the city of Phoenix. Since that time, however, we have succeeded in organizing two quite promising churches. "The Neighborhood Congregational Church," in December, 1916, our first triumph, now has a membership of over fifty and a Sunday school of nearly eighty.

Perhaps a brief report of the work done by a General Missionary on a single Sunday in this section of the country will be of interest to our Congregational friends in the East and elsewhere. The following is a record of a Sunday's program in 1917, during the spring of which year I tried to serve three churches in the hope of effecting another organization which could be linked with the Neighborhood Church:

At 9:45 in the morning I taught the Bible school in Phoenix, and at 11:30 held services in the Neighborhood



The Great Roosevelt D

Church, about four miles south of the city. At 2:30 I instructed classes at the Murphy Schoolhouse, four miles to the west, held preaching services immediately afterward, and at 7:30 in the evening preached in the city. This schedule continued until June 17, 1917, when Rev. J. Craig Watt was called to the pastorate of the Neighborhood Church, where he is doing a most excellent work.



am, Salt River Valley

Upon being released from this duty I immediately directed all my efforts toward the organization of the First Congregational Church of Phoenix, and on the first of July this was accomplished, with a charter membership of thirty-nine. The next day our new church was incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona, and we took an option on a beautiful corner lot, 200 by 235 feet, entering into negotiations with the Church Building Society for aid in making

the purchase, and it was paid for on the fourth of October. A vigorous campaign for \$1,000 with which to meet the grant of the Building Society toward the erection of a parish house on the newly purchased lot was then begun. It will be readily understood that it was no easy task to raise even \$1,000 without a definite constituency and in the face of drives for war funds which are being made every week. However, my wife and family helped in conducting the services, the people were faithful in their attendance, and the Lord wonderfully blessed our efforts. Early in January we were able to turn over to the new minister



The Neighborhood Church, Phoenix

subscriptions for \$1,000 and a total charter membership of forty-three, a few of whom had left town but had not severed their connection with our church. After some discouragements and many delays, the new parish house is assuming material form, and the new minister, Rev. J. Spencer Voorhees, is pushing the work to completion, enlarging his constituency and endearing himself to a rapidly growing community.

The coming of Mr. Voorhees to this enterprise released me for labor in new pastures, and on the twentieth of January I began work with the First Congregational Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico. On the twenty-seventh the young people took the evening service, and although it was a new venture for them, they did nobly. On the third of February we conducted a most interesting "Fellowship

Drive." Our working force consisted of twelve visiting teams, and in about two and a half hours they totaled upward of 850 calls. This "drive" was followed up the next day by team work, which had for its object the lifting of a small though burdensome debt of \$1,400. Since the people had no salary to pay during this time, thanks to the Home Missionary Society, we succeeded in paying off \$400 of the debt, meeting our current expenses, and there is now nearly \$900 subscribed toward a final note of \$1,000.

In addition to entering into these canvasses I have been able to make 120 personal calls and on the eighteenth



The New Church, Tucson

of March we received into membership twenty-two new members, all of them young people.

In all my work I have enjoyed the wise and kindly fellowship of Superintendent Heald, the hearty co-operation of our National Societies, the generous responsiveness of every community visited and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



“CHUECO”

A Game of the Southwest

THE CONGREGATIONAL HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY
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