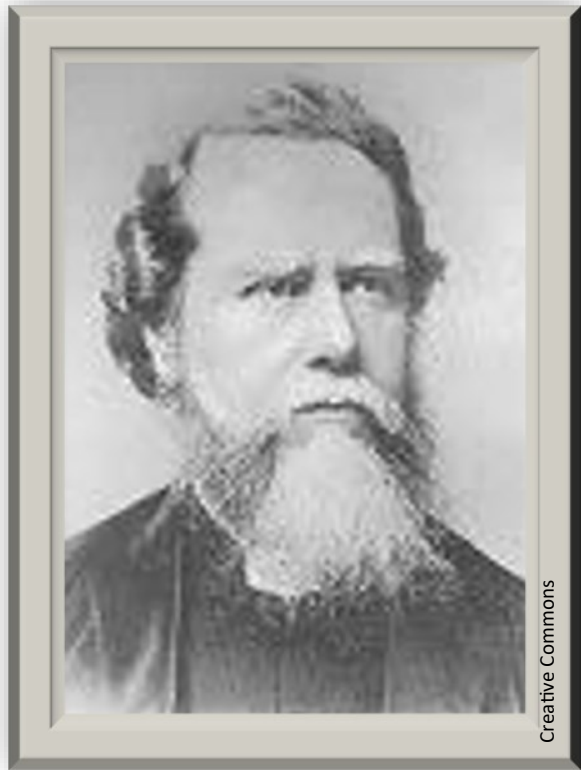


First Biographies

Hudson Taylor

(1832 - 1905)



Retold by Christina Eastwood

Hudson Taylor

On the 21st May 1832, Hudson Taylor was born in Barnsley in Yorkshire. His father was a chemist, selling medicines and both his father and his mother were Christians. Sadly, although his parents had taught him about God in heaven, Hudson did not want to be a Christian himself. He grew up and tried to forget all that he had been taught.

Then, one day when he was in the library, he found a booklet. He picked it up and started to read it. It was about 'The finished work of Christ.' Hudson wondered, 'What had been finished?' Well, he knew the answer: his parents had taught him when he was young.

Jesus Christ had finished the work he came to earth to do. Our sins had been paid for when Jesus died on the cross. As he thought about these things, Hudson realised that if Jesus had finished his work, then

there was nothing left for him to do but to fall down on his knees and ask the Lord Jesus to be his Saviour for ever more.

All this time his mother had been praying that Hudson would be saved.

Hudson knew that God was calling him to go to China to tell the people there about the Lord Jesus Christ. He worked hard to become a doctor and to learn the Chinese language and then in 1853 he sailed to China, aged only 21.

China was a very troubled place: in fact, there was a war going on at that time. Hudson worked hard in very dangerous circumstances to give medicine to the Chinese people.

In 1856 he met another missionary from Scotland called William Burns. Together they set out on a long journey to a city called Swatow. It was very hot and dirty in

Swatow. Hudson and William struggled as they tried to help the people there. Then their supply of medicines began to run out. Hudson travelled back to Shanghai to get some more, but while he was there, the mission he belonged to wrote to tell him that they had no more money to pay him. Hudson was very glad that he wore Chinese clothes as they were cheaper to buy. Then to make things worse, Burns was arrested and put into prison.

A man called George Muller wrote to Hudson to encourage him to keep working and to trust that God would provide for him.

He joined with his friend, William Parker, in Ningbo, another 134 miles away from Shanghai, and there met his wife to be, Maria Dyer.

Together they continued to work very hard in China, until Hudson became unwell. He

and Maria returned to England where Hudson started the China Inland Mission. Every missionary who wanted to work with the mission had to agree to wear Chinese clothes and have Chinese hair styles and to trust God to provide for them, as Hudson had done when he was in China. Sixteen missionaries agreed to work with the new mission and they, with Hudson and his wife and family returned to China.

They moved to Yangchow and while they were there a terrible event took place. The compound where they lived was attacked and the Taylors and the other missionaries only just escaped safely. Once more the family had to move, but this time, the four children were sent home to England with their governess. Hudson and his wife stayed in China to continue their work.

Maria, his wife became ill and died and

soon after Hudson himself became ill again and had to come home to England. Once again, he went back as soon as he could.

By the time Hudson died, there were over 800 missionaries working for the Inland China Mission.

Something to learn to do

Hudson Taylor tried to live like a Chinese person in order to win the Chinese for Christ. Here is an experiment you can do to get an understanding of how that feels. Chinese and Japanese people traditionally use chopsticks to eat, not a knife and fork.

See if you can learn to use chop sticks!