



PRESIDENT WU YING OF SINYANG, CHINA

# The Missionary

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# The Missionary

BRINGING CHRIST TO ALL THE WORLD

## The Panorama of Missions



*We welcome to America Pastor Wu Ying, the President of the Honan-Hupeh Lutheran Synod of our Church in China. He will be with us for about a year, visiting congregations and schools, and meeting members of our churches. Pastor Wu is a small man physically, but is big intellectually and spiritually. He is out and out for Christ for all of China.*

## Pastor Wu Ying of Sinyang

By HANS M. NESSE

THE news of the coming internment of missionaries, early in 1942, was a shock to the Christian constituency in Sinyang. By that time we missionaries and Chinese Christians had spent more than three years together after the Japanese occupation of the district in the fall of 1938. During those years we had faced many seemingly inescapable hardships, but by mutual prayer and common counsel the obstacles had been overcome.

For that reason, the order of our evacuation and internment brought

consternation to the Christian community in Sinyang. To many of the Christians, the future looked dark and ominous.

It was at this time that Pastor Wu Ying and other co-workers stepped heroically into the breach. Said Pastor Wu: "Other places have had to undergo the same kind of hardships—having their missionaries forcibly removed by the Japanese. Now the turn has come to us. But, under God, we shall carry on as long as we can."

On my way to the railway station



on the day of the evacuation, the Japanese guards ushered me into the presence of the chief officer of the military headquarters. This official had ordered me to his office for the purpose of saying good-bye to me, to express his regrets at my departure, and to inquire if I had any request regarding the Christian work. I had a chance to let the officer know that Pastor Wu would assume the responsibility for the work, and to assure him that any favor or token of good will shown Pastor Wu I would reckon as shown to myself.

When arriving at the railway station, we found Pastor Wu and a large group of Christians assembled for the purpose of seeing us off. In view of the circumstances, this action on their part was a courageous move. The Japanese respected their courage and did not interfere with our hymn-singing, praying, and farewells.

### *Under the Japanese*

The Japanese did show Pastor Wu and family many kindnesses, such as issuing him passes to the country congregations, supplying a doctor and medicine during illness in his family, and entrusting to him the discipline of church members.

However, Pastor Wu and the other brave co-workers were often called upon to pass through very trying situations. Pastor Wu and family continued to live on the mission grounds, together with the Japanese troops that had moved into

most of the houses after we missionaries had been taken away.

After we were placed in the concentration camp, the Japanese questioned Pastor Wu about the source of income for the mission work. Pastor Wu and the Christians in Sinyang decided to surrender all financial help from the Mission Board, so that they could tell the Japanese that all the funds for the work were contributed by the Chinese Christians. Pastor Wu stole across the border-line into free China (a distance of about ten miles) and apprised the mission treasurer there of their decision not to receive any other funds as long as the crisis lasted. "I would rather eat two meals a day with a good conscience than to suffer from an awareness of deceit by misleading the Japanese in the matter of finance," was Pastor Wu's way of stating the issue.

On several occasions, urgent demands on the part of the military for the use of the Church buildings were made. Those demands were Pastor Wu's most severe tests. The Christians gathered in the church every morning for prayer, and were faithful in attending the Christian worship in the church every Sunday, demonstrating to the military the need for the church building for their own use. Pastor Wu, by wise counsel and resourcefulness, negotiated for the continued use of the church, with the result that during the whole crisis it was at no time taken over by the military, but used only by the congregation.

During the crisis Pastor Wu was given the privilege of visiting us missionaries several times. The last time he visited us was a couple days before Miss Marie Anderson's death. Miss Anderson was overjoyed at seeing him and Miss Tung, who had come with him from Sinyang. Both Pastor Wu and Miss Tung remained with us until after Miss Anderson's funeral, in which they both took part.

The crisis became long, and Pastor Wu sometimes felt tired and discouraged, but was determined to be "faithful until the end." He did not ask for privileges, but in one letter he mentioned the desirability of having one year off after the war for the purpose of devoting that time to the study of God's Word.

### *Early Life*

But let's turn back, and find out a little about Pastor Wu's early life. Wu Ying was born in Fancheng, Hupeh, on November 1, 1895, which tells us that he is now 51 years of age. Wu Ying attended our mission schools at Fancheng, where, at the age of 10 years, he yielded his heart and life to the Lord and was baptized in his home congregation. After graduating from Hauge Academy in the spring of 1917, Wu Ying taught school in Fancheng for one year, and then was accepted as a student at the Lutheran Seminary at Shekow. After his graduation he returned home, continuing in Christian work, teaching, and preaching,

until the fall of 1925, when he was called to be a teacher at the new Bible School in Sinyang, Honan, where he taught until the school had to close down because of communistic upheavals. In the fall of 1927 he was called to teach at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. In the fall of 1929 he was called to be an evangelistic worker in the Sinyang District, and on June 8, 1930, he was ordained to the holy ministry upon a call to serve as pastor in the Sinyang District.

### *Tragedy*

During the years of service in Sinyang, Pastor Wu passed through many severe trials, one of which came to him on July 8, 1935, when his dear wife and three children were drowned in a flood while they were visiting with friends and relatives in Fancheng. God sustained him, and he took this tragedy in a truly Christian manner. A missionary said concerning this, "This hardship is apparently hardening him for future service and sacrifices, as he clings steadfastly to his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." God has promised that "no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly," and He has given Pastor Wu another fine family.

Pastor Wu is a very small man physically, but is big intellectually and spiritually. He is now President of the Honan-Hupeh Lutheran Synod of our Church in China. He is out and out for Christ for all of China.