

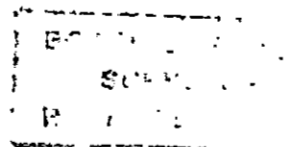
ALDIS, STEADMAN

FORM OF RECEIPT.

Place Basim Berar India

Received this 8th day of December 1922
the Certificate of my appointment as a Missionary of the Board of
Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, duly counter-
signed on behalf of the Foreign Missions Conference of North Ameri-
ca.

(Signed) Stachman Alolis





COMMISSION ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND

Methodist Information

ARTHUR WEST
GENERAL SECRETARY AND DIRECTOR
777 UN PLAZA--ROOM 7D
NEW YORK N Y 10017
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THE GENERAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

From

NEW YORK OFFICE
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NEW YORK -- Four persons intimately related to United Methodist mission work at home and overseas died within recent weeks. One was a former Board of Missions staff executive, and three were veteran missionaries. They were:

The Rev. Dr. A. H. Rapking, 82, for several years a director of the Department of Town and Country Work in the Board's National Division, died June 8 in Lost Creek, W. Va.

✓ The Rev. Steadman Aldis, 88, a missionary to India for 37 years, died June 22 in Fort Scott, Kansas. He retired in 1948.

The Rev. Wesley M. Smith, 85, a missionary to China for 43 years, died June 28 in Marionville, Mo. He retired in 1953.

The Rev. Dr. Marion Boyd Stokes, 85, a missionary to Korea and Cuba for 41 years, died July 4 in Misenheimer, N. C. He retired in 1948.

Information about the four persons follows:

Dr. Rapking, identified with rural church life in America for many years, served in the Board's Department of Town and Country for several years. His professional career also included being head of the Department of Rural Leadership at West Virginia Wesleyan College at Buckhannon; rural extension sociologist for West Virginia University at Morgantown; professor in the rural life department at Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.; executive secretary of the West Virginia Methodist Conference Board of Education, and pastor of churches in Ohio and Illinois. He was instrumental in organizing the West Virginia Council of Churches, and for more than 25 years he wrote a weekly column, "Religion and Life in the Countryside," which was syndicated among 125 newspapers in

West Virginia. He was named among the "Rural Ministers of the Year" for 1960 by Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and The Progressive Farmer magazine.

Dr. Rapking was educated at Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio; Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill.; West Virginia University and Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. He received the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Salem College, Salem, W. Va. The funeral for Dr. Rapking was June 11 at the New Bethel Methodist Church in Lost Creek.

Mr. Aldis, a native of Canterbury, England, began missionary service in India in 1911. He served as district superintendent and pastor in and around Hingoli, Basim, Puntamba and Nagpur, and was manager of the Basim Boys' School. Later he was pastor of the noted Robinson Memorial and Taylor Memorial Methodist Churches in Bombay. He also served as mission treasurer. Before going to India, he was pastor of Methodist churches in Atlanta, Winfield and Arlington, Kansas. Mr. Aldis received the bachelor of arts degree from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, and the bachelor of divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill. He is survived by Mrs. Aldis, of the home in Fort Scott.

Mr. Smith began missionary service in China in 1910 and served there until July, 1951, when he and Mrs. Smith arrived in Hong Kong. They were among the last Methodist missionaries to leave Mainland China after the Communist takeover. His career included service in evangelism, ministerial training, Christian education and relief work. He taught for a year at the Anglo-Chinese College in Shanghai, and for six years was professor of Bible at Soochow University. Later he was chaplain and business manager of Stephenson Memorial Hospital in Changchow, and for 20 years was principal of the Tung Wu Primary School. He was pastor of Methodist churches in Soochow, Changchow, Changshu and Hong Kong. Born in Marshall, Mo., Mr. Smith received the bachelor of arts degree from Missouri Valley College, Marshall, and the bachelor of divinity degree from the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, Tenn. For several years after retirement in 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were active in missionary education work in the Missouri West Conference, and attended several summer Workshops for Chairmen of the Commissions on Missions at Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Ark. He is survived by Mrs. Smith, of Methodist Manor in Marionville.

Dr. Stokes, member of a distinguished Methodist family in North and South Carolina, served as an evangelistic and educational missionary to Korea from 1907 until 1940, and then to Cuba from 1941 to 1948. In Korea he was general secretary of the Korea Sunday School Association, founder and superintendent of the Seoul City Mission, director of a national revival program in 1928, and a pastor and district superintendent. In Cuba, he served as evangelist and pastor on the Isle of Pines. After retirement, he returned to the ministry he had left to become a missionary, circuit preacher in North and South Carolina. Son of a Methodist minister, Dr. Stokes was born in Columbia, S. C., and was educated at Wofford College, a Methodist school at Spartanburg, S. C. He held the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky. He was a pastor in the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference, as well as in South Carolina, before going to Korea. A son of the Methodist parsonage, Dr. Stokes was the father of four Methodist ministers, all of whom survive. They are the Rev. Dr. Lem Stokes II, president of Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, N. C.; the Rev. Dr. Mack Stokes, professor at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.; the Rev. Dr. James Stokes, editor of the North Carolina Methodist Advocate, Greensboro, N. C., and the Rev. Dr. Charles Stokes, Methodist missionary to Korea. Also surviving is his wife, Mrs. Stokes, of the home in Misenheimer. The funeral for Dr. Stokes was in the Pfeiffer College Chapel July 6.

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(July 18, 1968)

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA
For the Recording Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions
150 Fifth Ave., New York

Name Steadman W. Aldis

Address Nagpur, C. P. India

1. Work (since 1934):

Place	Kind of Work	Date
Nagpur, C. P.	Mission Treas. and Corresponding Sec. Non-Tinon is Chaplain, Baptist English Congregation, Trust for Provident Fund. Correspondent and Treasurer for District, and other sundry jobs	Sept. 16/34

2. Children (names only)

John
Henry
Williar

3. Nearest relatives and friends to be notified in any emergencies.

Name (relation)	Address
Mrs. A. H. Fry (wife of Aldis)	612 Grand St. Topeka, Kansas.

4. Further information as requested:

We are looking for your list of Oct. 11 and enclosing it to you
Nov. 1934.

(Use other side of the sheet if necessary)

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA
For the Recording Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions
150 Fifth Ave., New York

Name Ethel K. Ann Aldis
Address Madras, Central Provinces
1. Work (since 1934): Hostel Supervision and District
Place Madras, C.P., India Kind of Work India Date 6/7/38

2. Children (names only) John
Henry
William

3. Nearest relatives and friends to be notified in any emergencies.

Name (relation)

Address

Mrs. A. K. Gray, 6th & 1st St.,
Emporia, Kansas.

4. Further information as requested:

(Use other side of the sheet if necessary)

Richard T. Baker
Board of Foreign Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York City

The Rev. Steadman Aldis, a native of Canterbury, England, now a naturalized American citizen and missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church to India, will speak at

Mr. Aldis is traveling in America this year during a short period of release from his regular duties at Nagpur, Central Provinces, India. Nagpur is a few miles from Shegaon, the Indian home of Mohandas K. Gandhi, Indian national leader.

Mr. Aldis came to America first in 1899 at the age of twenty. He went to Kansas and within a few years had become a Methodist minister. During the same period he was a student at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. In 1911 he was graduated from that institution and sailed immediately for India with his wife. He has also attended Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Ill.

In India, Mr. Aldis's duties take him throughout the Central Provinces as a district superintendent, touching work in churches, schools, hostels, and mission stations. He is an informed observer of present-day conditions in India, political, economic, social, and religious. He is a missionary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Steadman Aldis

Steadman Aldis was born in Canterbury, England, September 9, 1879. Converted in 1890 he then joined the Baptist Church, of which he remained a member until 1903 when he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. His early education was received in the Grammar School of Batley, England, from which he was graduated in 1894. In the Spring of 1899 he came to America, being then nearly twenty years of age. From 1905 to 1911 he filled various appointments in the Southwest Kansas Conference, of which he became a member in 1906. During the same period he was also a student at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas. It was here that he signed the Declaration Card of the Student Volunteer Movement, in 1908. He received the degree of A.B. from Southwestern in 1911, and in December of the same year he sailed for India under appointment by the Board of Foreign Missions. With him was his wife, formerly Miss Ethel R. Fry, of Latham, Kansas, whom he married in 1905.

He was assigned to the Central Provinces Conference and was placed in charge of the Basim and Mingoli Circuits, with his missionary residence at Basim. There he remained until he left the field on furlough in 1920. In the meantime the Basim District was created and he was made its superintendent, in January, 1918.

He is now at home on furlough with his family and is taking work at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois. His furlough has been extended until August, 1921.

February 10, 1921

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org