

**GOWDY, BISHOP JOHN AND
MRS. GOWDY (ELIZABETH
THOMPSON)**



BISHOP JOHN GOWDY

Dr. John Gowdy, of West Pitts-
ton, Pa., a missionary of the Meth-
odist Episcopal Church in China
since 1902, was elected a bishop
of the Church by the Central Con-
ference of Eastern Asia, meeting
in Nanking, China on February 28.
He was formerly president of the
Anglo-Chinese College, Foochow,
and of Fukien Christian University,
Foochow. Bishop Gowdy is a native
of Scotland.

From W. W. Reid

Board of Foreign Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York

Mrs. John Gowdy
... 90, widow of Bishop Gowdy, died
May 7 in Winter Park, Fla. Her late
husband was a Central Conference
Bishop who served in China until his
retirement in 1941. He died in 1963.

Woods
C. J. ...

Bishop John Gowdy

1869

John Gowdy was born in the year 1898 in Glasgow, Scotland, but does not want his birthday known because enthusiastic Chinese friends would insist upon celebrating it with gifts and ceremonies in such ways as only the Chinese know how.

At the age of 15 when he had already lost both his father and mother he went to the States, landing at Boston in 1884, and has been "on his own" ever since. In Scotland he received a good grammar school education and after working in the States for some time, he went to Tilton Academy in New Hampshire where he was graduated in 1893. Thence to Wesleyan where he received

his B. A. in 1897. So he now becomes another of that line of famous sons of Wesleyan. He went back to Tilton to teach for two years, after which he went to drew in 1899 where he received his B.D. degree in 1902. On July 1, 1902 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Thompson also a graduate of Wesleyan in 1898, and like himself a member of the honored Phi Beta Kappa Society. In 1902 they came to China and arrived in Shanghai on September 12th. He was appointed teacher in the Anglo-Chinese College in 1902. In 1904 he was elected President of this important institution and continued as its head until 1923 when he was elected President of Fukien Christian Uni-

versity twenty-eight years at Yenching University in Peking, China.

They will be responsible for music programming in Chinese for the 50,000-watt short-wave station of the Christian churches of Southeast Asia. Financial assistance for the station comes from cooperating churches in Canada and the United States through the Radio, Visual Education and Mass Communication Committee of the National Council of Churches.

Their work, said Dr. Wiant, will take from one or two years. They will collect materials, seek out and train musicians, make recordings, and direct music broadcasts. At the same time, they will be educating Chinese to take over the work.

It is expected that the Wiant's son, Leighton, and wife and family who are agricultural missionaries in Sarawak, Borneo, will be able to receive broadcasts from the station.

"Never before has a church-related experiment in mass communication of this scope been attempted in Southeast Asia," said Dr. Wiant.

BISHOP GOWDY DEAD AT 93

Retired Methodist Bishop John Gowdy died Sept. 9 in a hospital in Winter Park, Fla. He was nearly ninety-one.

Bishop Gowdy was elected a bishop in Nanking, China, in 1930 and retired in 1940. He went to China in 1902 and was a

Methodist Episcopal Church missionary there nearly forty years.

He served as president of two educational institutions in Foochow, China, Anglo-Chinese College, 1904-1923, and Fukien University, 1923-26.

Bishop Gowdy was born in Scotland and came to the United States as a youth. He was a graduate of Wesleyan University and Drew Seminary and had a master's degree from Columbia University. Wesleyan and Baker University awarded him doctor of divinity degrees.

Before going to China, he taught at the New Hampshire Conference Seminary and was a pastor in Winchester, N. H.

Funeral services were held at First Methodist Church, Winter Park.

SPONSORS 77 IN STUDY PROGRAM

The Methodist Church will sponsor the study of seventy-seven students from twenty countries in American colleges and universities during the 1963-64 academic year through its International Crusade Scholar-ship program.

The program which enters its eighth consecutive year this September, has trained about 1,400 persons from almost sixty countries around the world for top-level leadership in the church, business, the professions, the arts and other fields. Many of the Crusade Scholars have returned to their homelands to become leaders in the

April, 1930

THE CHINA CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

5

versity The political troubles of 1927 made it necessary for him to resign. During 1927-28 he was in the States raising money for the University. In 1928 he returned to the Anglo-Chinese College.

Dr. Gowdy has been repeatedly honored. In 1910 as an outstanding missionary educator he received a D. D. degree from Baker University. A similar degree was granted to him by Wesleyan in 1914. He also took an A. M. degree in Modern Educational History at Columbia in 1915. His life has been marked by a strong sense of duty and an earnest desire for service.

In October, 1887 he was converted at special meetings in the Birdwell Methodist Church, now known as St. Mark's in Lawrence, Mass. After the first five years in China he had a nervous breakdown but later fully recovered and has ever since been in fine health. He has been a tremendous worker but occasionally enjoys a game of golf. He is loved by his fellow missionaries and by the Chinese and is highly respected also by business people and stands at the head of his community. After graduation from college attractive business opportunities were opened to him but he refused these because of his interest in education and

Christian service. However, the business ability which he inherited from his father has been of great service to him in his administration of educational institutions, and he has raised over a million dollars for the institution at Foochow. During the past year he raised among the students and alumni of the University in China and the Straits Settlements more than \$40,000.

He commands respect wherever he goes and is welcomed by Chinese and foreigners alike to the high office to which he has been called. He has a deep sense of God's abiding providence and can tell personal stories of God's wonderful grace and favor. Once when a poor student he did not have the money to buy a required book in his Latin course and did not know what to do. But a five-dollar bill came to him from an unknown source. It was mailed to him by some one on a train and he never knew his benefactor. God had provided for him in the hour of his need. After vigorously discharging his duty he leaves the results with God. Though he desired the election of two Chinese bishops he did not resist when it became manifest that it was the will of the Conference that he should become one of the China bishops.

made, progress received, and that great possibilities for good might result with glory to God from the election of these men to such a high and holy office which in the nature of the case in any generation can come to only a few men. High feelings also prevailed at the ordination service on Sunday.

It was a dramatic moment in the Conference when Dr. Heckelman of Japan rose during the voting for Bishops and told of the experience of the Japanese church when they elected their first bishop and fully assumed his support and of the hearty response of the Japanese Church and their remarkable increase in self-support. It will be glorious indeed if the Chinese Church will make good in the same measure that the Japanese Church has done during the last two decades. Dr. Heckelman also brought hearty greeting from the Japanese Church and assured the struggling church here that the prayerful interest and love of

flocks not like a hireling but like the good shepherd who would even lay down his life for the sheep. One could not help feeling that here is a man who is indeed leading China towards a new and better day. His manner and message and spirit were such as the leaders in Israel may well imitate. It was a joy also to see General Chang and his wife bring their two children, Mary and Samuel, to the altar on Sunday morning for baptism. Likewise his entertainment of the Conference to a meal at his headquarters and the manifest earnestness and ability there manifested to promote the health and spirit and morals of the Chinese people were impressive. A few such men can do much to transform China.

Other high hours were during the Bishop's Address on the first day, when Bishop Birney again revealed himself as a prophet of God. Parts

After the Election

(Necessarily Anonymous)

This morning while thinking of our episcopal elections, the thought came to me that there was also an election in A.D. 30. This year is the beginning of a new era in China, India, and Latin America. Foundations are being laid for the future, and our choice of leaders is important. That was also true in A.D. 30. Two things characterized that year (beside the Cross and Easter) one was an election, the other was Pentecost.

What Was His Name?

We may have to look it up to see who was elected in A.D. 30, but none of us can forget the tongues of fire, the Spirit's utterance, the cry, "What shall we do?" the many converts, and their steadfast continuance. For time has a way of putting first things first in the minds of men. This is being written before we know the results of the elections of 1930, so nothing personal is intended when we say that what is most important is not who is elected, but what follows that election. And probably 1900 years from now it will be necessary to look it up to see who was elected this year

get it, and then we would see Jesus as He is, and each other in the gracious light of brotherly love, as they did. (Yes they did; read it and see).

They Got It

They got it. The new bishop got it. His new sense of importance did not prevent his seeking, and his new sense of responsibility only made him feel his need the more. The man who presided at the election got it; his past failures did not rule him out, and his long association with Jesus only increased his desire to be like him. The pure mother of Christ got it. They all got it. "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost." God grant we may be too, soon after this election. They really got it, and they knew it, and the whole world was different thereafter, because they didn't just talk about it and commemorate the promise and the past, but prayed, and united in seeking, and expected it soon. I truly believe we will too.

What They Got

We do not need to divide on this. Jesus had

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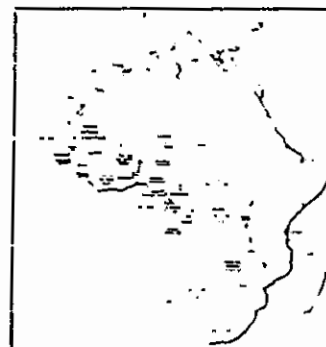
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STORY-O-GRAPHS

P. O. Box 145M, Dept. 65, Pasadena, Calif.



A Methodist Layman wishes to compile a roster of other METHODIST LAYMEN interested in Methodist MISSIONS IN AFRICA. If your missionary interests qualify you for your inclusion would you forward your name and address on a postcard to

DR. MARVIN G. PURSINGER

Chmn. of the Dept. of History • Dakota Wesleyan University, Post Office Box 927 • Mitchell, South Dakota

350 Susquehanna Av
Pittston, Pa.

Aug. 4, 1902.

My dear Dr. Carroll:-

My wife's home
address is at the top of this letter
and I should like you to keep it
on hand, with her father's name,
George B. Thompson, so that you
might notify him at any time if
any special news should come

about us, any cable despatch
which you think he would
be interested. Likewise notify
similarly Mrs. Sarah P. Osborne,
Tilton, N. H.

With all good wishes
John Gorby.

P.S. By this mail I send a
photograph of my wife that you
may have it on file. Mr. Vickrey
has one of me in his office which
you may have when he is through
with it. I think he contemplates
using it for the Epworth Herald

J. G.

GOWDY, John
 Present Address
 Wife or Husband
 Elizabeth Thompson, 1 July 02

TEACHER
 British Scotch
 From
 Tilton, N. H.

Birth
 7 Dec 69

Appointed
 Jan 02
 14 Sept 02

Withdrawn
 CUTS W W M

Death
 G. A. L.

No
 House

Degrees
 U. B. Wesleyan Univ. '97
 B. D. New Theol. Sem. '02
 D. D. Baker University '09
 History
 Furloughs
 14 May '07 - 14 Oct '08
 Aug '8 - 19; Feb '22 - Feb '23;

Conference Relations
 New Hamp, '02; Foochow '02;

FIELDS OF LABOR	BIOGRAPHICAL	AUTHOR OF
Foochow Sept '02 - Anglo-Chi. College, Sept '02 - Prof. Pres. " " Oct '04 - May '07 Foochow " " 1908 - 1913 Pres. Anglo-Chinese Coll. 1114 - Furlough 1915 Pres. Anglo-Chinese College 1917 " " " " 1918 Furlough 1919 - Pres. " " " " Foochow Pres. Fujian Christian Univ. Nov. 1923 -	- signed declaration card of student Vol. Movt '00 - sailed for China, 16 Aug '02 - converted in autumn 1887 - joined M. E. Church, 1888 - licensed to preach, 1898 - Tonghai in New H. - pres. Foochow two years, 1897-1899 Student New Theol. Sem 1877-1882. Teacher - " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "	Supply pastor, M. E. Ch. at Winchester, N. H., summer 1877 Conference OBITUARY Personal interview, 27 June '07

Gowdy, Elizabeth Thompson
Present Address

Wife or Husband
John Gowdy, 1 July '02

Conference Relations

FIELDS OF LABOR

Zoochow
Anglo-Chinese College, Sept '02 -
Furlough - May '07
Foochow - Anglo-Chinese Coll. 1908-1915
1914 - Furlough
1915-1919 - Teacher in Anglo-Chinese Coll.
1918 - Furlough
1919 - Teacher " " " "

BIOGRAPHICAL

Signed declaration card of
student Vol. Movt., 1902.
Sailed for China, 16 Aug '02
Editor of paper for Chinese
women and children, year 1906.
Joined M. E. Chs 1886

Birth	Appointed	Withdrawn	Death	No
15 May '74	arrived 14 Sept '02			
Birthplace	Pittston, Pa.	CUTS WWM	G A L	House
Degrees	U. B. Wesleyan Univ. 1908.			
	Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pa. 1893			
	W. Pittston High Sch. 1891			
Furloughs	14 May '07 - 14 '08; 14 - 24 '15			
	Aug '18 - 09; Oct '22 - 23			

AUTHOR OF

"A Gateway into English
for Chinese Students"

OBITUARY

MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CABLE ADDRESS: MISSIONS, NEW YORK

150 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, JANUARY 10, 1906

DEAR BROTHER:

The Secretaries have constant need of the information asked for in this circular. It was sent to all our foreign missionaries in 1896 and 1901, and the replies are on file. But new missionaries go to the field, and additional information is needed from those who kindly made response five years ago.

Will you fill out the blank for yourself and family and return to this office promptly?

Yours sincerely,

THE MISSIONARY SECRETARIES.

(Please answer these questions AS CORRECTLY AS POSSIBLE with the data at hand)

1. Place and date of answer..... *New York, Sept 24, 1907*
2. Full name of missionary and date of birth..... *John Gordy, Dec. 7, 1869*
3. Nationality..... *Scotch*
4. Date of appointment to our work..... *January 1902*
5. Bishop appointing..... *October 1902*
6. Date of departure from home to engage in our work..... *August 5, 1902*
7. Date of arrival on the mission field..... *Sept 17, 1902*
8. Has service under this Society been continuous since your first appointment? If not, when, why, and how long was it interrupted?..... *Yes.*
9. Fields of labor and dates (month and year)..... *Fochon China 1902-1907.*
10. Present residence..... *350 Susquehanna Ave., West Pittston, Pa.*

11. Employment at the present time *On furlough*
12. Date of marriage *July 1, 1902*
13. Wife's full name *Elizabeth Thompson Goody*
14. Date of wife's birth *May 15, 1874*
15. Children's full names and date of birth respectively (and date of death, if any have died) *No children*

RETURN HOME

16. Names of persons returning, dates, and reasons of return (if more than one return state these particulars in each case)

*John Goody, E. J. Goody both returned home on account
of John Goody's health. Reached America June 6, 1917.*

17. Dates of leaving to return to the field, and names of persons returning

18. Names and addresses of persons who are your representatives in the United States in family or business matters

(1) Family *Geo. B. Thompson, 350 Susquehanna Ave. West Pittston, Pa.*

(2) Business *Fredric W. Frost Esq. 60 Wall Street, New York City.*

19. Code names to indicate said representatives in cable messages (1) Family *Thompson*

(2) Business *Frost*

Rev. John Gowdy, D.D., was born Dec. 7, 1869, Glasgow,
Scotland. Converted in 1887. New Hampshire Seminary, 1893.
A.B. Wesleyan University, 1897. B.D. Drew Theological
Seminary 1902; D.D., Baker University 1909, *D.D. Wesleyan Univ. 1914*
Appointed from Tilton, N.H. New Hampshire Conference
to Foochow Cent. 1902. Anglo-Chinese College. President
of College 1904.

M.A. Columbia Univ. 1915.

Board of Foreign Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York City

released upon receipt

Bishop John Cowdy, who has been a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Foochow, China, since 1902 will be the guest speaker at

on

He was elected a bishop of the Church by the Central Conference of Eastern Asia, meeting in Nanking, China, on February 28, 1930. At the time of his election he was serving as teacher and adviser in the Anglo-Chinese College, Foochow. He had served as President of the Anglo-Chinese College and as President of Fukien Christian University both located in Foochow.

Bishop Cowdy was born in Scotland. He came to the United States as a youth and was educated in the New Hampshire Seminary, Tilton, New Hampshire; Wesleyan University, Drew Theological Seminary and Columbia University. He has been given the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Wesleyan University and by Baker University. He taught in the New Hampshire Conference Seminary and was pastor in Winchester, New Hampshire, before sailing for China in 1902.

For two years Bishop Cowdy was a professor of history in the Anglo-Chinese College and was elected its president in 1904. He remained in this position until 1907 when he became president of Fukien Christian University. Owing to the political situation in China he resigned from the presidency in 1926 and was succeeded by Prof. J. C. Lin, a young Chinese educator. In 1928 after a furlough in the United States, Dr. Cowdy returned to Foochow to become a teacher and educational adviser in the Anglo-Chinese College.

* * * *

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