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

Dr. John Gowdy, of West Pittston, Pa., a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in China since 1902, was elected a bishop of the Church by the Central Conference 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 T. W. Reid
Board of Foreign Missions
Methodist Episcopal Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York
Mrs. John Gowdy

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.
Bishop John Gowdy

John Gowdy was born in the year 1868 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 PuiChen Christian University. 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 desiré 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.

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 Miss Communication Committee of the National Council of Churches.

Their work, said Dr. Want, 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. Want.

BISHOP GOWDY

DEAD AT 95

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 PuiChen University, 1923-25.

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 Scholarship program.

The program, which enters a twelfth year, will train about 3,000 young people from diverse countries around the world for top-level leadership in the church. Missions, the arts and other fields. Many of the Crusade Scholars have returned to their home lands to become leaders in the...
After the Election
(Necessarily Anonymous)

This morning while thinking of our episcopal election, 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 assurance, 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 election of P.O.D., so personal interest 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.

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 men 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 11th, 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
353 Sassafras Ave
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 E. 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 Goodby.

P.S. By this mail I send a
photograph of my wife that you
may have it on file. Mr. Kickrey
has one of me in his office which
you may have when he is through
with it. I think to contemplate
using it for the Upsonth Herald.
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Biographical information:

Thompson, John

Present Address:

Biographical Author:

From:

Vassar, New York

Biographical:

Historical:

Vassar, New York

Biographical Author:

From:

Vassar, New York

Biographical:

Historical:

Vassar, New York
OBITUARY

SOWDY, ELIZABETH THOMPSON

Present Address
Pittston, Pa.

Wife or Husband
John Sowdy, 1 July '02

Wife or Husband, Birth
US May 14, 1859

Wife or Husband, appointed
Rockwood

Wife or Husband, Occupation
WWM, GAL

Wife or Husband, House

Wife or Husband, Degrees

Wife or Husband, Conference Relations

Wife or Husband, Fields of Labor

Wife or Husband, Biographical

SIGNED DECLARATION

A Gateway into English, for Chinese Students

AUTHOR OF

OBITUARY
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 Gandy, 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. 14, 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) Tientsin, China, 1902-1907

10. Present residence 350 S. Wacqueham Ave., West Philadelphia
11. Employment at the present time: On furlough.

12. Date of marriage: July 1, 1902.


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.

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RETURN HOME

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

John Gordy, E. J. Gordy, both returned, came on account.

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

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

(1) Family: Geo. B. Thompson, 353 Main Street, North Pittston, Pa.

(2) Business: Frederic N. Frost, Esq., 60 Wall Street, New York City.

19. Code names to indicate said representatives in cable messages

(1) Family: Thomson

(2) Business: Frost


M.A. Columbia Univ. 1915.
Bishop John Cowdy, who has been a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Foochow, China, since 1902, will be the guest speaker at

He was elected a bishop of the Church by the Central Conference of Eastern Asia meeting in Nanking, China, on February 26, 1928. 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 Manchester, New Hampshire before sailing for China in 1903.

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 his presidency in 1926 and was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Liu, a young Chinese educator. In 1926 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