

God Answers Prayer

A real incident from the life of Jonathan Goforth, a Canadian missionary to China.

Bibliography: 'Goforth of China' by Rosalind Goforth.
The stories are retold by Sis Ruth Low.
Illustrations are done by Sis Mabel Lim.

Jonathan Goforth began a new mission station in Changte, China.

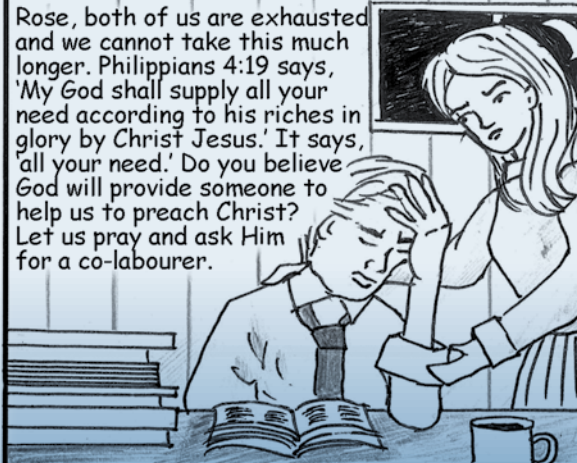


He had to constantly oversee the development of the new building. He and his wife also had to preach God's Word everyday to the thousands of men, women and children who came to listen. The Goforths were very busy.



After about three weeks of hard work, they became very tired.

Rose, both of us are exhausted and we cannot take this much longer. Philippians 4:19 says, 'My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' It says, 'all your need.' Do you believe God will provide someone to help us to preach Christ? Let us pray and ask Him for a co-labourer.



We don't have any converts and we have promised not to ask for help from the other mission stations. How and from where is God going to send someone? It is like praying for rain from a clear sky!



But God heard and answered Jonathan's prayer. The next day, a converted gambler and opium slave called Wang Fulin appeared at the mission station. After he had become a Christian, he was no longer allowed to work as a public story-teller. His family became very poor to the point of having to eat leaves off the trees.



Quickly, Goforth made sure this poor man was fed and dressed properly. Goforth also decided to test him for a few days.



From the beginning, it was clear that Wang was a man sent in answer to prayer. His experience as a public story-teller helped develop his gift of speaking. This was of great use at the mission station. Men came to know Christ through his preaching.



More and more people came to listen to Wang and Goforth. Finally, after 3 years, the Lord took him home. Wang was fondly remembered as the "Spirit-filled preacher".



More labourers are needed even today. So Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38).



Children, just like the way God answered Jonathan Goforth's prayer for an evangelist, God can also answer your prayers if you pray according to His will. One of the greatest needs of our time is faithful and fervent preachers. Will you not pray that God will raise more men to preach?

