



# Remember, Rejoice, Renew

Celebrating 150 years of God's faithfulness

OMF celebrates 150 years of God's faithfulness this year. Seeking to glorify neither OMF nor its founder, Hudson Taylor, the mission's goal is to put the focus on God's faithfulness. The organization looks forward to seeing God raise up a new generation of missionary workers in its midst.

It is a special time to remember what God has accomplished through His servants in reaching East Asian people, a time to rejoice in seeing God raise up men and women through whom He has touched millions of lives for eternity, and a time to renew commitment to Him and His mission in East Asia.

Thank you for partnering with us over the years. We look forward to working with you to see what God will do in the future.

- **Wayne Matthews**, *Director of Public Ministries, OMF Canada* -

## Remember

### Hudson Taylor History

Originally known as China Inland Mission, OMF International is blessed with a rich and inspiring history. For 150 years OMF International fieldworkers have worked in East Asia.

A well-known missionary in China, OMF (formerly China Inland Mission) founder Hudson Taylor served there for 51 years, establishing 20 mission stations. He was also instrumental in bringing 849 missionaries to the field (968 by 1911), training some 700 Chinese

workers, raising \$4 million by faith, and developing a Chinese church of 125,000 people. It has been said at least 35,000 people were Taylor's own converts and that he baptized an estimated 50,000. Taylor's gift for inspiring people to give themselves and their possessions to Christ was amazing.

James Hudson Taylor was born on May 21, 1832 into a family that often prayed that other countries would come to hear the Word of God.

Yet, at the age of 17, Taylor chose

not to follow the God his family knew, turned off by the inconsistencies of Christians who claimed to believe in the Bible yet were content to live as they pleased.

However, Taylor's sister prayed for him daily. In 1849 Taylor read a tract that would change his heart. The power of prayer became a core value for Taylor, knowing that "the promises were very real, and that prayer was in sober matter-of-fact transacting business with God, whether on one's own behalf or on behalf of those whom one sought his blessing."

In the following years Taylor overcame poor health and financial troubles to complete his medical studies, only to become a missionary to China with the Chinese Evangelization Society (CES). He immediately set out to learn the language after arriving in 1853, but was shocked to see many missionaries at the time had adopted an affluent lifestyle, and few ever travelled further inland to the rural and poorer areas. Taylor instead chose to wear the clothes of Chinese commoners. While at first he was ridiculed, soon people no longer saw him and the message he preached as foreign.

In 1857, Taylor resigned from the CES to reach the Chinese in rural and inland areas, and was convinced a new mission was needed. While shouldering such a burden deeply troubled him in the beginning, it wasn't until realizing the responsibility had always been God's and not his, that he took up the challenge.

In 1865, Taylor founded China Inland Mission (CIM), and prayed for workers, knowing millions of people needed to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

In 1866 the first 18 missionaries joined Taylor in China, and another 18 in 1870. In 1886 he issued another call for 100 workers to join them, and 102 joined by the end of 1887. In 1888 the first North American party was sent.

The legacy of Hudson Taylor continues; he was known as a man of prayer right until the end. Taylor would say he as "only a servant of a faithful God." Taylor died in 1905 and was buried in Changsha, Hunan. CIM became known as Overseas Missionary Fellowship, and eventually OMF International, established and supported through Taylor's example of service and prayer.

TIMELINE

- 1866:** Taylor, family and 16 missionaries sail for China.
- 1870-1880:** 10 new workers arrive in 1875, 8 in 1876, residing in nine new provinces.
- 1881-1884:** 73 new workers arrive including the famous Cambridge Seven. CIM key principles are established.
- 1886:** 102 new workers arrive.
- 1888:** Hudson Taylor speaks in Canada and the U.S. The resulting outpouring of funds results in 14 new missionaries.
- 1900:** The Boxers, a rebel group, execute hundreds of missionaries and Chinese Christians, including CIM missionaries and their children. CIM missionary force increases to 933.
- 1905:** Hudson Taylor dies after 50 years of service. D.E. Hoste is appointed as mission director.
- 1927:** Christians everywhere are persecuted, tortured and killed. CIM recruits 203 additional missionaries by 1931.
- 1939:** More than 1,300 CIM missionaries are in China. Almost 200,000 Chinese and minority people are baptized. During and after the Second World War there are more opportunities among students and professionals.
- 1948:** Many missions leave China due to the political upheaval and animosity towards Christians.
- 1950:** CIM's presence provokes the harassment of Chinese believers and CIM is forced to withdraw.
- 1953:** CIM missionaries now in Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.
- 1964:** The name Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) is adopted. OMF home councils form in several countries. More than 30 per cent of OMF's membership is still in Asia.
- 1975:** OMF and Borneo Evangelical Mission integrate their work.
- 1980:** Christians with professional skills are now able to work in countries closed to traditional missionary work.
- 2006:** Patrick Fung becomes OMF's first Asian General Director.
- 2014:** More than 1,400 workers serve with OMF International.
- 2015:** OMF celebrates 150 years of ministry to East Asians.

# Rejoice

## Stories of OMF Missionaries

### THIS IS TRUTH

Report from one of OMF's schools:

"Thank you for praying for the new teachers at our school and our new term. We have the largest enrollment we have ever had: 183 enrolled and 181 of them have already paid! Please pray for many opportunities to share the Good News.

"Last night the leaders of the Lao Phuan house church came to visit. They told us: 'We are having opportunities to pray with people to receive Christ every week and some weeks almost every day. One day we prayed with two different people in the same day. We are not secretive

about sharing the gospel. We tell people, 'This is not religion, this is truth!'"

### FERTILE SOIL

Report from one of OMF's schools:

"One of our colleagues is working in a nearby country in an area where drug addiction is an enormous problem. She recently shared the response of a father to an informal youth camp she and her team had put on: 'What you are doing is like drug rehabilitation, but better. You will take care of our boys and give them things to do. And you have this Jesus. I'm quite interested

in Him.'"

Thank God for the team's willingness to be used by God in rough circumstances and that they are open to His leading in how to minister to these people. Pray that hearts would be like prepared soil that can receive the precious news of Jesus and that He would bear beautiful fruit in their lives.

Elsewhere, we have heard that five young people accepted Jesus over the summer, and others reaffirmed earlier decisions. The older teen boys have been studying a Bible-based program with the team. Please pray that these seeds will keep growing!



# Renew

## Call to Action

God has been faithful for 150 years as OMF ministers to East Asians. However, the task is not finished. Here are six ways to get involved in with God's work among the nations. Think about how you can serve God now and in the future.

**PRAY:** Commit to praying for a specific missionary, ministry, or people group (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

**SEND:** Missionaries do not just go overseas; God's people send them. Intentionally send missionaries through encouragement, logistical support, and financial giving (Romans 10:15).

**WELCOME:** Canada has more "newcomers" per capita than any other country in the world. You can help your church to reach out to your community. You can cross the street to welcome your neighbour.

**GO:** God doesn't call super-Christians to be missionaries; He calls you to live for Him in another place. For some, this is just for a few weeks on a short-term trip. He gives others the opportunity for deep impact and strong relationships through many years of life in another country. Give God freedom to place you overseas for as long as He chooses (Luke 4:43).

**MOBILIZE:** Mobilization is drawing others into the work of building God's Church. Share the vision God has given you with people you know (Luke 10:2).

**LEARN:** Explore and study what God has stirred up in your heart. There are excellent resources available in every area of mission involvement. Take a class or read a book to strengthen your ministry.

### Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Events

#### Special Guests

**Dr. Patrick Fung:** OMF International General Director, with his wife, Jennie.

**Jamie Taylor:** great-great grandson of Hudson Taylor and a senior field leader of OMF International.

**Hudson Taylor Legacy Series:** seminars studying a contemporary missiological issue, from both Taylor's perspective and today's world of mission.

For a schedule of Celebration Events taking place in Ontario and BC please visit our website at [www.omf.ca](http://www.omf.ca)

#### God's Faithfulness

We celebrate 150 years of God's faithfulness in year 2015. This book is a unique anthology of 40 CIM and OMF missionary stories that testify powerfully to the faithfulness of God.

Purchase for \$17

For specific ways you can get involved with OMF visit [www.omf.org/ca/resources](http://www.omf.org/ca/resources)