

COOL CONNECTIONS

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Who Was Lottie Moon? Her house comes to Southwestern Seminary!

Well over 100 years ago, a single missionary named Lottie Moon, while serving in China, began writing letters challenging the American church to send and support more workers to go there. After her death on the field, her challenge was heeded 99 years ago in the formalization of an offering in her name. Even if you're not a Southern Baptist who has given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, her life is a reminder of why we must give to send and support missionaries serving among unreached peoples in unreached places.

Edmonia Moon, Lottie's sister, was appointed to Tengchow, China, in 1872. The following year, Lottie was appointed and joined her sister there. Lottie served 39 years as a missionary, mostly in China's Shantung Province. She taught in a girls' school and often made trips into China's interior to share the good news with women and girls.

Lottie Moon was passionate about people knowing Christ. She didn't hesitate to speak her mind.

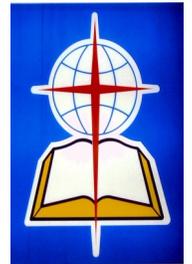
Today's China is a world of rapid change. It's home to 1.4 billion individuals—one-fifth of the world's population. Village dwellers flock to trendy megacities with exploding populations. And China holds its own in the world's economy. It's very different from the vast farmland Lottie Moon entered in the

1800s. But one thing hasn't changed: China's need for a Savior.

When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor Crawford Toy. Instead of marrying, Lottie left her job, home and family to follow God's lead. Her path wasn't typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. God had gripped her with the Chinese peoples' need for a Savior.

Moon and Toy continued to exchange letters and "the engagement which she had earlier refused" she later accepted with plans to be married when she returned home on furlough, then go with him to Japan as missionaries. However, after reading that Toy embraced unorthodox theological views regarding biblical inerrancy, she broke off the engagement over what relatives called "religious differences" and never married. Ultimately, Toy was forced to resign, relocated to teach at Harvard and became a Unitarian.

For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in Tengchow and P'ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China's language and customs. Lottie didn't just



Inside this issue:

Note from Pastor	2
Children Update	2
Viewpoint	3
Chaplain Guy	3



(Continued on page 4)

It's on my heart...

Christmas is such a wonderful season for us as Christians. We come to this season with great hope and excitement because we know that if God sent Jesus to die in our places, and if God has raised Him from the dead, then we know the rest of the salvation prophecies of the Bible will come true some day soon in the future. God is faithful and will finish that which He has begun, both in us and in the world.

It seems to me that the world is in

constant war with us on the Christmas season. They have attempted to use their money, their power, and their desire for personal gain to turn Christmas into some kind of carnal season of lust for the self. Selfishness is on display for all to see in every outlet of our media. You can't go into any store and not be bombarded by messages of appeal to purchase something to make your Christmas the envy of every other person. People get trampled and killed every year in fights at the stores over that which is of this world and will burn in eternal fire.

But one look into the eyes of Jesus, and everything will come back into focus. Do not let the lust of the world invade your celebration of the glorious Advent of our Lord and Savior in Bethlehem that glorious night so long ago. God began a great work and some day soon He will complete that work for His Glory! Keep your eyes on Jesus and enjoy the deep truths God has given us because of His love for us

I love each of you very much! Merry Christmas and may next year draw you even closer to our Lord!

Pastor Chuck

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Jesus, however, invited them: "Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
Luke 18:16 (HCSB)

The children and workers in Gospel Kids and the children's Sunday school class wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This is an especially busy and exciting time for everyone including the children, but we pray that we will help them stay focused on the true meaning of the Christmas story. Our Heavenly Father gave mankind the most awesome gift that anyone could ever imagine when He sent His only Son to us.



"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life

through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Our special mission project in Gospel Kids is Operation Christmas Child which we just completed for 2017. We are

happy to report that our church prepared 35 gift boxes that were delivered on

November 16. Thank you to everyone who helped with this mission project. Please remember to pray for the children who will be receiving the boxes.

Our last Wednesday afternoon meeting for 2017 will be on

December 20. We

will celebrate with a Christmas party that day. Our first Gospel Kids meeting of 2018 will be on Wednesday afternoon, January 10.

Jo Lynn



This is the last of our Chaplain's Corner series on how to maintain our "focus" to fulfill God's purpose in our lives and to move forward for the Kingdom of God productively for/in Him daily. It's a blessing to know that He truly wants this for us!

In review: 1. Know that you are saved. 2. Know that you are "called" by God to serve Him daily. 3. Know that God has called you to prayer/fellowship with Him daily. 4. Know that God's Word/Scripture is the "infallible Word of God" to live by and to practice and to confess daily. 5. God calls us to Worship Him and His music empowers us daily to service Him!

I mentioned last time that hymns like "It is Well With My Soul," "Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone," and many others move my soul and equips me to carry on no matter what satan (I still refuse to capitalize the s) throws at me. One song in particular by Chuck Girrard and the band Love Song is:

Little Pilgrim

"Little Pilgrim walking down the road of life, I find that in your heart, you're just a lonely one. For you see, upon that very road, my search for good and truth had its beginning. You take a little turn to the left, and you see what that path has to offer you. Then you gotta make it back to the main road anyhow. And, you have all that lost time to make up for. And it's a sad thing...to...realize that you're all alone, that you're on your own again.

Little Pilgrim, walking down the road of life, can't you see that there are many others who are just like you. I was lookin' in that same direction, but all I ever found were others who were searching just like me. And, we didn't find the way or the answers to the questions that were buried deep down in our souls. We just found that the ways of men have no answers anyhow.

Chrous: Oh, don't you wonder now what you're tryin' to do? Oh, don't you wonder now where that path is takin' you?

Little Pilgrim, walking down the road of life, I know

Viewpoint

The holidays are always special, but Thanksgiving has a way of reminding us to be thankful for the blessings we receive! Thankful for family, thankful for friends, thankful for good health, and the list goes on and on! However, we must never forget to be thankful for the wonderful grace and mercy that our Lord God gives us. How blessed we truly are!

November gave us the opportunity to reach out to our community through the Thanksgiving Dinner. Two of our youth, Logan Bohnhoff and David Molina, helped serve, and were joined by Manuel Molina, Timothy Hayes, and Michael Gibson when the youth sang during the entertainment. Also, for the month of November, David Molina, Manuel Molina, David and Sarai Mora completed their 21 Day Challenge. These youth will be treated to a movie very soon. The 21 Day Challenge encourages the youth to stay in the Bible daily. A good challenge for all of us!

We are looking forward to December! There will be singing Christmas carols at the nursing homes, singing carols on our city-wide hayride, and a fun youth Christmas party! However, we need to remember the reason for the season, and take the opportunity to worship the King of Kings during the holidays.

Deborah

that deep down in your heart that you are just like me. What you're seeking' is a better way, and you're reachin' out for temporary resting places. And you're glad to find a little peace of mind here and there, but it won't last no, no, cause you'll have to move along someday. Til you're resting in the arms of the Only One who can help you. Til you give your heart and your soul and your body and your mind and your life, to the Lord. And, it's a glad thing to realize that you're not alone no more, that you found your way back home-back home!"

The many songs of the "Jesus Movement Revival" still to this day moves my soul and helps me to totally focus on Him no matter what! I love you all! My family and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Jesus New Year!

Pray About It Think About It

Larry the Chaplain Guy

PO Box 189
Coolidge, TX 76635

Church Phone:
254-786-2232
Pastor's Email
chuck@fbccool.com

Web Address is:
www.fbccool.com



He Came, We Go

Worshipping God Together

Experiencing God

Reaching Out

Giving Generously

(Continued from page 1)

serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted her. And some accepted her Savior.

Lottie wrote letters home detailing China's hunger for truth and the struggle of so few missionaries taking the gospel to the 472 million Chinese in her day. She also shared the urgent need for more workers and for Southern Baptists to support them through prayer and giving.

She once wrote home to the Foreign Mission Board, "Please say to the [new] missionaries they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self-denial."

Disease, turmoil and lack of co-workers threatened to undo Lottie's work. But she gave herself completely to God, helping lay the foundation of what would become the modern Chinese church, one of the fastest-growing Christian movements in the world. Lottie Moon died at 72—ill and in declining health after decades ministering to her beloved Chinese. But her legacy lives on. And today, when gifts aren't growing as quickly as the number of workers God is calling to the field, her call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever.

The newly opened Mathena Hall at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary provides a way for visitors to experience Lottie's life. Some of her furniture, such as chairs and a stove, as well as shingles and bricks were used in the recreation of the home. Antiques from 19th-century P'ingtu City



help Southern Baptists understand the Chinese culture and the people to whom Moon devoted her life. Visitors can even copy her famous cookie recipe which appears in the exhibit along with a modern day equivalent.

After receiving the crate eight years ago, SWBTS President Paige Patterson said, "It is almost inconceivable to think of what it would have been like in the late 1800s for a single woman to move into an incredibly patriarchal society—patriarchal not in its good sense, but in its exponentially wicked sense—where women didn't really count."

Moon rented her house in P'ingtu—a four room structure with dirt floors and clay shingles that covered a thatched roof and bare rafters—for \$24 a year. She adapted one room as a kitchen, one as a storeroom, and another as a passageway. She lived, prayed, entertained guests and rested in the fourth room, sleeping on a Chinese kang—a traditional bed made from mud bricks and covered with a thatched, straw mat. From here she set out into the city of P'ingtu, dressed in traditional Chinese garb, to befriend her neighbors and share the love of Christ.

"Just imagine," Patterson said, "how many people have come to Christ all over the world as a result now of her witness because of the incredible millions of dollars that Southern Baptists have given for the cause of world missions."