

Margaret Mathewson McCarty



A modern clipper ship of the sky and a crude African surf boat manned by ten men—both means of travel were used by the McCartys in their trip to Africa in 1945. It was an eventful trip all the way. Disappointment met them at the clipper base on the coast of South America where they were forced to wait at Natal many weeks for a ship to take them across the South Atlantic to Africa. Plane after plane came and went. They knew the strange land which they longed to see was but a few hours away. Still the word,

“Sorry, but no room.” Waiting during those anxious days Mrs. McCarty wrote, “We have thought countless times of the work we could be doing in Africa—of the missionaries over there with their heavy burden that we ought to be sharing. Surely God would have us on our way it seemed, but each day has brought the realization that we were here and not in Africa.

“To our Heavenly Father we have turned in earnest prayer. Not for a moment could we doubt that He had heard our petitions, and as days have slipped by our sense of His presence has increased, and we have become willing to wait in quietness and confidence knowing God has heard, and that He will get us all out of here when it is the right time, and just in the right way. His grace is sufficient for these days of seeming delay. Who knows what God is accomplishing in our hearts and for His great cause?”

Speaking later of the crude boat which carried the party twenty-five miles up the coast Mrs. McCarty wrote, “We were not prepared for the crude boat which was to take us out on the ocean and up the coast of Africa about twenty-five miles. . . . It was a native made affair about

the size of a large lifeboat manned by ten strong men, an extra man helped row when it was especially hard, and a captain who told us he steered his boat by his brain. But this was no time to hesitate, so we piled all our bags, a few provisions in the back of the boat and we were off for a night of adventure. Miss Driscall and I liked to perch on the small logs where the men braced their feet as they rowed."

One would have to say that this new missionary was taking the disappointments and hardships of missionary life in stride. And good reason why. Her father, Rev. W. T. Mathewson wrote, in the WESLEYAN MISSIONARY, "To those who know her best it comes with but little surprise that Mrs. Margaret McCarty should be on her way to the mission field. Her inclination began when she was but a babe in arms as her parents sailed for Japan as the pioneer missionaries of the Free Methodist Church in that land. "Born in Ohio, she received the greater part of her early education in the seminary at Seattle, Washington, graduating from that institution when it became a college. Her master's degree was received from the University of Washington. Following this she devoted herself to Christian education, giving eleven years thereto to her church school at Spring Arbor, Michigan.

"Thus her training and work have well prepared her to answer a call which has been cherished since her early Christian experience. She was

converted in childhood and has thus far been an excellent example of one having known the scriptures from a child. Her clear discerning mind, her well-balanced natural disposition, well seasoned as they are with grace, will surely make for the best results in the mission field."

A college classmate and life-long friend writes further of her fitness for her new task. "I don't believe anyone had more friends than Margaret. She dearly loved people and always had a host of friends around her. She has a very keen sense of humor, which has aided her through many trying circumstances and I am sure she will find it a tonic in her missionary activities.

"She has a very tender spirit and is easily moved by another's misfortune. Along with this is a strong love for children, and not only a love for them but a devotion to them which has resulted in helping some who did not have many privileges.

"Margaret has firm convictions to which she holds steadily when others sometimes waver. It is not a surprise to us to have her on the mission field. She has always been vitally interested in missions and was a student volunteer while in college. I know of no one who has more native ability to make an ideal missionary."

Rev. and Mrs. McCarty entered immediately into their work at the Bible School upon their arrival at Bendembu and are busy and happy today in their teaching ministry with the largest group of boys to train in the history of the school.

Who Will Go?

Biographical Sketches of the Present Missionaries
of the Wesleyan Methodist Church

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Missionary Workers' Band



Published 1945 by

**The Young Missionary Workers' Band of the
Wesleyan Methodist Church**

Headquarters

Houghton, New York