

the earth. Sometimes the hardest field of all is right at home. Many a man who could witness courageously in strange surroundings finds it hard to speak clearly to those who have known him all his life. Our Lord told the disciples to witness to Him in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. The field of missionary endeavor did not begin nor end with the uttermost part of the earth. The field is the world, not merely the distant parts of the world. Probably no where is real Christian testimony more needed to-day than in the United States. Paganism presses in upon us from every hand. The entire intellectual atmosphere is filled with secularism and with opposition to Christianity. Newspapers, magazines, books are permeated with it. No where more is a true and clear witness needed.

I often deplore the tendency to think that there are two types of Christian work: the work of carrying the gospel where it has not previously been preached, of doing real missionary work in the uttermost parts of the earth, and on the other hand the feeling of a designated position with a prescribed task and stated hours of witnessing in this country. The spirit of sowing beside all waters, of trying to present Christ at every opportunity, of seeking means of making Him known wherever possible is just as much needed in our own country as in the far corners of the world. Like the man in our story often the truest witness of all can be the one who is witnessing in his own land and among his own people.

Missionaries tell us that one of the greatest obstacles to their work is the influence of the returned student. Hundreds of young men of the highest caliber return to their own countries after years of training in America, and tell their friends and associates that the picture which they have heard from missionaries of Christian lands is entirely false. They go back often with their minds poisoned against Christianity. Many of them see only the worst sides of civilization in our country. Many of them have their training in classes and in surroundings where the thought of Christianity is entirely foreign. They return to their own country hardened against Christianity.