

Generosity

Pastor Hsi was a Chinese church leader in the early days of the gospel in China. He died February 19, 1898 (about 115 years ago). He was led to Christ as a Confucian scholar by a missionary. Pastor Hsi was addicted to opium as were many others. He trusted God for his deliverance from this terrible all-consuming drug and God used him to open **Opium Refuge** and **Gospel Centers** throughout his district of a million people with thousands being delivered from the effects of the drug with many hundreds trusting Christ and many churches established.

On one occasion Pastor Hsi and other leaders were praying about taking the gospel and establishing an Opium Refuge Center in a very needy area of China called Hochow.

For months Hsi had wished to open a Refuge in this city, but his hands were full of other work and his funds taxed to the utmost.

Still he prayed for Hochow. Every morning at family worship he remembered the city, definitely asking that God would send workers there.

At length Mrs. Hsi full of sympathy, came to him and said: "We have prayed a long while for Hochow. Is it not time to do something? Why not send men and open a Refuge there as at other places?"

"Gladly would I," replied her husband. "But such work is costly, and we have no money in hand."

"How much would be needed?" inquired the little lady.

Thirty thousand was the answer. "Thirty thousand cash? That is indeed a large sum." And she went her way.

But Mrs. Hsi could not forget the needs of Hochow, and all day long she kept wondering if there were not something she could do to send the glad tidings to that city. But thirty thousand cash! At one time she might have managed it. But now she had so little of any value remaining. And yet she did long that those people might hear of Jesus.

Next morning Pastor Hsi prayed again for Hochow, pleading its needs before the Lord, and asking that soon it might be possible to open a Refuge there. The little service

ended, Mrs. Hsi instead of leaving the room as usual, walked up to the table, and laying a little package before her husband, said quietly:

“I think perhaps the Lord has answered our prayers.” Wondering what she could mean, Pastor Hsi lifted the parcel. It was heavy, and folded in several wrappings. At length, inside a colored handkerchief, he found to his surprise a complete set of all the jewelry a Chinese woman values most—the gold and silver rings and bracelets, the handsome hairpins, ear-rings, and other ornaments that form her husband’s wedding-gift.

With tear-dimmed eyes he looked at his wife, understanding now the change in her appearance. The adornments (the jewelry) of a married woman in her position were all gone. No rings were on her fingers, no silver hairpins showed below the dark braids of her hair, which was simply tied with cord and fastened with a strip of bamboo.

”It is all right,” she said gladly, “*I can do without these. **Let Hochow have the Gospel.***”

Hsi took the gift that meant so much, and with it a Refuge was opened that soon became a centre of light and blessing in the city. Numbers of patients were successfully treated, and before long a work was established that grew into a church which continues to this day.