

DOCUMENTS, PLANS AND PROPOSALS

■ One hundred years ago there was great enthusiasm and numerous plans to see the world evangelized soon—perhaps by the end of the century. Finding ourselves in a similar position today, we can look back and learn from the men and women who spoke so boldly of what could be done. Will we be able to overcome the obstacles they could not?

Quotes from 1890 on the possibility of evangelizing the world by the end of the century

"Only ten years of this century remain, and on the way in which we improve this passing opportunity depends in a large degree the progress of the world in Christian life and thought for many years to come. Think of the possibilities of the future as Dr. Pierson shows them in this grand word picture: "Never was the whole field of missions so inviting or the harvest so promising. Never was the Church of Christ furnished with facilities so ample and abundant for the speedy and successful accomplishment of her work. The next decade of years will witness not only evolutions, but revolutions that even now seem incredible within so short a time. The Church of Christ must push all the forces to the front and lay a molding hand on the plastic material of social life. The anointed tongue and consecrated pen, the printed page and the loving epistle, the church and the school, the Christian family and the Christian home, must unite their witness to the power of the Gospel, in the eyes and ears of every creature"

—Julia B. Schauffler
Woman's Work for Woman
January 1890

"The special work of the Christian Church to-day is the immediate evangelisation of the whole world. Conversion, whether of the few or the many, is the work of God Himself; but it is committed to the Church to take the Gospel message to every creature; and the time has come, in the providence of

God, when this ought to be done, not in a halting, tentative way, but by sweeping measures. Through the march of discovery, the progress of international commerce, and the translation of the Scriptures, the speedy evangelisation of the human race has come within the region of practical Christian politics."

—Dr. D McEwen
China's Millions
January 1890

"It will no longer do to act and talk as though we had countless years and even centuries before us wherein to evangelize the world. We have often said, what now we calmly and deliberately repeat with emphasis, that with one tith of the 'dash' and 'push' with which all worldly enterprises are carried forward, the thirty millions of Protestant church members now on earth would not let ten years pass without belting the globe with the missionary effort and bearing the good tidings of the gospel to every family of man! We yearn to see the church of God take up this work as though she felt that the time is short and eternity is only long; that millions of unsaved souls die every year, and a whole generation in less than forty years; as though she saw that God has given her opportunities and facilities that multiply her responsibilities a hundred fold."

—Arthur T. Pierson
Missionary Review
January 1890

"As our century draws to a close, the increase of missionary activities, among other signs of our times, indicates the near approach of that *end*

which shall be such a glorious *beginning*.

But let such activities increase still faster for the time is short! How can we make this last decade of the century *its best* in this respect?...Let us not be timid in our petitions and expectations, but aspire to great things. Let us pray that the whole heathen world may be evangelized before the century ends."

[Italics hers].

—Mrs. H. Grattan Guinness
Regions Beyond
January 1890

"You might be interested to hear another *voice from the field* in response to the standard raised pre-eminently by your *Review* for a crusade to evangelize the whole world during the present century. The idea is a grand one. Possibly, the faith of but few has reached the standard of Christianizing the whole world during the next decade. We all know it is not beyond the *divine power* to effect it" [Italics his].

—D. McGilvary
Thailand
October 1890

"Sent forth at the opening of this last decade of the century, may it prove indeed to be the Master's own Message to His Bride, and a harbinger of His own appearing. Blessed indeed if before this decade shall have closed, the feeble rushlights of our prophetic literature shall be lost in the full dawn of the Sun of Righteousness, and THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM superseded by the COMING OF THE KING."

—A. B. Simpson
The Gospel of the Kingdom
1890