

The Call of the Dying and Destitute Armenians and Syrians to the Sunday Schools of America

In those very Bible Lands made historic and forever sacred by the lives of the Master and his great Apostle Paul, the lands which have given us our Christian religion, TODAY millions of men, women and children are dying from lack of food, clothing, and shelter. In the streets of Jerusalem, along the old Jericho road that Jesus made immortal by his parable of the Good Samaritan, and beyond the Jordan by the thousands, in Damsacus, Aleppo and the Syrian Desert and throughout the Lebanon—a million helpless survivors of the greatest tragedy in history appeal to the Sunday Schools of America for help. America is the only nation that can meet their need. Extraordinary financial prosperity, impossible but for war, abounds here. Shall this nation fatten because of Europe's demand for our goods and forget the sorrows in the war zone? The suffering cry out in their anguish. Will we hear and heed their appeal?

THE AWFUL FACTS

PERISHED from deportation, destitution, starvation
and related causes at least 1,000,000

Region	DESTITUTE SURVIVORS		
Asia Minor	500,000	Including	200,000 Orphans
Syria (including Palestine)	1,200,000	“	75,000 “
Caucasus	350,000	“	100,000 “
Persia	90,000	“	25,000 “
	2,140,000		400,000

Urgently needed for Winter of 1917-1918 . . . \$30,000,000.00

Dr. James L. Barton, Secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions says: "We are now witnessing in this twentieth century the crucifixion of the three ancient races of Christendom, all three having a large and significant part in the transmission of the word of God and of Christian tradition and the oracles of the Church down through the centuries. All three are suffering for no fault of their own, but because their lot was cast in a land where no Christian power was able to protect and because, forsooth, they would not remove the Lord Jesus Christ from their altars and put Mohammed in his place. These are the people who stretch out their hands to us for sympathy and aid."

**WE HAVE TAUGHT IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOLS
THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

WE ARE CALLED NOW TO BE GOOD SAMARITANS

A Suggested Program for the Sunday School

Note.—The Sunday-school forces of America this year are uniting in a Christmas relief offering for suffering and destitute Armenians and Syrians. The anniversary of our Savior's birth is an especially appropriate time for the Sunday schools of America to bring their gifts for the relief of suffering multitudes in Bible Lands since the offering received in America on Christmas Day will be cabled promptly to distribution centers in Palestine and Asia Minor in time for the Armenian Christmas which by the Gregorian Calendar, old style, is observed on January 19th.

In preparing for this offering two plans are suggested. One plan provides for a four-Sunday educational program culminating in the offering on Christmas Sunday. The other plan suggests a single brief study of the boys and girls of Bible Lands for use on a convenient Sunday preceding Christmas.

All material needed in carrying out these programs, also special forms, etc., will be furnished free upon request by writing to your denominational Sunday School Board or to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, One Madison Ave., New York.

In denominations where by denominational agreement certain boards have first claim on Thanksgiving or Christmas offerings, it is suggested that some other Sunday as early as practicable be used for this purpose.

1. A FOUR-SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

We recommend that wherever possible ten minutes be given on each of the first three Sundays in December and a full hour on the Sunday preceding Christmas as suggested in the following program:

First Sunday: THE LAND OF NOAH'S DESCENDANTS

Appoint some pupil, the week previous, perhaps from the Junior grades, who recently has had the study of the flood, to tell the story of Mt. Ararat and the Ark, using the regular Sunday-school map or drawing an outline upon the blackboard or paper.

Appoint some (older) boy or girl to tell about the people now inhabiting the area around Mt. Ararat, giving a picture of their life before the outbreak of the war and describing briefly the massacres and deportations, the present number and condition of these people.

Second Sunday: AN ANCIENT AND A MODERN EXILE

In a similar way, appoint one of the older (Intermediate) pupils to tell some incidents connected with the ancient empires of Babylonia and Assyria, using the map and describing deportations which took place under those empires. (See II Kings 24, 25, etc.) Follow this with the story of the people lately inhabiting Mesopotamia, their deportations, sufferings, present number, etc. (See Note.)

Again call attention to Syria, Damascus, Palestine. Stress especially the life of ancient Syria, and the meaning of Christ's life to his people. Follow this with the story of the modern Syrians, their sufferings and present numbers. Show how all these people came to be Christians, their importance in the civilization of Turkey, and the world, the strength of the racial character, the importance and reasonable hope of preserving the boys and girls to useful manhood and womanhood.

Third Sunday: MODERN HEROES OF THE CROSS

1. Have some good story teller give (a) graphic sketches of the life of boys and girls in these Bible Lands; or (b) brief accounts of the deportations, not dwelling too much upon gruesome details of physical suffering, but bringing out more especially the deeper sorrow and wretchedness, or (c) stories of heroism, self-sacrifice and generosity of natives, missionaries and others in work of relief.

2. Call attention to similar stories in Sunday-school story papers or current magazines.

3. Distribute leaflets on Armenian and Syrian Relief Work.

4. Discuss with the members of the school what ought to be done under the circumstances. Explain the need. Show how we cannot go personally, but as a substitute for our personal service we may send our gifts. Secure an expression from the school as to their wishes.

Then distribute the blank forms, envelopes or collection boxes to individuals, classes and parents. Announce the time of the service when they are to be returned.

Fourth Sunday: GOOD SAMARITANS OF TODAY

(A Dramatization of the Parable of the Good Samaritan.)

This has been worked out in the following simple scenes and will be sent free upon request:

1. { The Road to Jericho
and
The Attack of the Bandits } Biblical
2. The Passersby
Priest
Levite
Samaritan Biblical
3. "Marsovan" (A Poem)
4. The Spirit of Goodwill responds to Marsovan.
5. A Thank Offering to the Countrymen of Jesus.

At the service directly following the dramatization and as its final scene, arrange for some receptacle upon the platform and have ushers, chosen from the various departments of the school, under the direction of the Spirit of Goodwill bring forward the offerings and deposit in the receptacle. Collection boxes will be furnished by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief.

II A ONE SUNDAY PROGRAM "BOYS AND GIRLS OF BIBLE LANDS"

If schools cannot give four Sundays to this educational program, a one Sunday program has been prepared and will be sent free upon request. Another suggestion is that selected features of the Four-Sunday Program be used on a single Sunday.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

These stricken people represent the Productive and Constructive Element in the Turkish nation. They are the professional class, the artisans, the bankers, the dentists, the doctors. They have been conspicuous in the world of statesmanship, scholarship and art. Commercial ability, agricultural resourcefulness, industry and love of home have characterized them. They are a Christian people and are indispensable to the future of that country and to the moral and religious progress of that part of the world.

1. THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE LIFE

Jesus taught the world the value and sanctity of an individual life. Who can measure the contribution to Christian civilization that will come from the lives saved through America's timely aid?

2. THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE REAL THE BIBLE LANDS TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PUPILS

A larger horizon, a broader sympathy, a closer feeling of kinship must result.

3. THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP CHARACTER THROUGH SERVICE

It costs to maintain a life *17 cents a day—\$5.00 a month—\$60.00 a year*. Let each class or department adopt one or more of these children for a year. Individual members of adult classes may well assume the support of one or more orphans.

MATERIAL FOR THE CAMPAIGN

The following material will be found useful in enlisting your Sunday school in this great work. Write to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief indicating the number of each required by your school.

1. **Posters**—for bulletin boards, and for use by classes or individuals for publicity purposes.
2. **Adoption Forms**—To be used by schools, classes, or individuals assuming financial responsibility for a child. (These forms of course do not constitute a legal adoption.)
3. **Gift Boxes and Envelopes**—For schools and home use.
4. **Leaflets**—Giving in vivid form the most recent facts and figures.
5. **Christmas Blank Checks**—One for each child to carry home.
6. **Good Samaritans Today** (A Christmas Service.)
7. **Boys and Girls of Bible Lands** (A One-Sunday Program.)

OUR GOAL { A MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE
SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

"Freely ye have received—freely give."

Send all contributions to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, Sunday School War Council, One Madison Avenue, New York. Make checks payable to Cleveland H. Dodge, Treasurer.