

**China Roots** (South China Boat Mission)

Miss Florence Drew, a Canadian by birth, arrived in Hong Kong in 1909 with \$40 in her pocket and no promised support. She was a typist in Chicago and carried her heavy typewriter with her to supplement her meager income. Her passion was to reach the very



Florence Drew

least-reached peoples who were too poor to own land and who lived on boats in Hong Kong, Canton and the Pearl River Valley. She founded the South China Boat Mission, and over the years, 40 boat churches were planted, thousands of people heard the good news of Christ, a leprosarium was established, schools were founded and boat children were educated. When the communists took over, ministries expanded to numerous boat people in Japan and Bangkok and to Chinese in Mauritius. The South China Boat Mission changed its name to the Oriental Boat Mission in 1953. In 1967 it merged with Christar (known then as International Missions).



Boat Church—1942

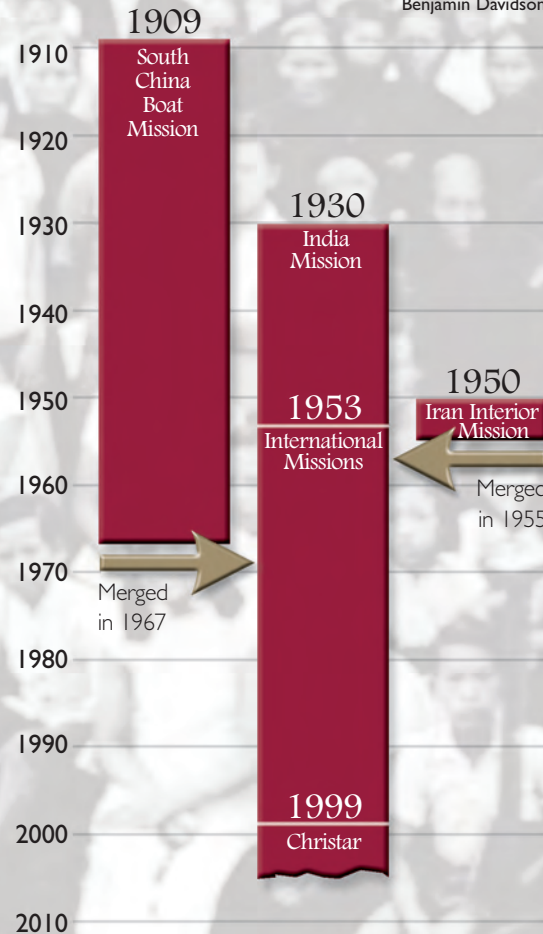
Today Christar is reaching Chinese people and Buddhists in four East Asian countries. Thousands of Buddhists have heard the gospel through the Christar family. Hundreds have turned from idol worship, ancestor worship and atheism and have come to faith in Christ.

**India Roots** (India Mission)

Benjamin Davidson of Scotland, working as a cloth merchant in India, had a love for sharing Christ with the people he met. His vision grew, and in 1930, at the age of 69, he began the India Mission. Davidson's driving passion was for prayer and the salvation of souls. The work grew to over 250 churches. Many of these were planted by Indians from



Benjamin Davidson



Hindu backgrounds. After India and Pakistan divided and the new field of Pakistan was opened, the India Mission changed its name to International Missions in 1953.

In order to further clarify its vision, International Missions changed its name to Christar in 1999. Christar currently works among upper, lower and outcaste Hindus. We have also planted churches among Hindus in Kenya, Suriname, the Philippines and North America and now in Holland and England. Through our Christar family of missionaries and nationals, thousands of Hindus have turned from worshipping countless man-made idols to Christ.

**Iran Roots** (Iran Interior Mission)

After World War I, thousands of refugees and orphans poured into western Iran from surrounding countries. In 1921 Francis Stead took seven orphans and established the Faraman Orphanage and Industrial School near Kermanshah, Iran. His goal was to raise the orphans in a Christian environment, plant a church and help farmers to farm more productively.



Allen McAnlis

During World War II, Allen McAnlis, who was a chaplain's assistant in Iran, visited Faraman and caught a vision



In our early years, missionaries traveled to areas of ministry by way of ox-drawn cart.

for the orphanage. After military service he began the Iran Interior Mission and returned in 1950. The Iran Interior Mission merged with Christar (then

International Missions) in 1955. Today we are working with numerous Muslim people groups in more than 20 countries and are planning on beginning ministry among other people groups and countries.

**Partnerships**

Today Christar missionaries come from at least 20 countries of birth. In addition to Canada, we are working together with believers in Hong Kong, Korea, Spain, Latin America and the Middle East to send national missionaries to the least-reached. It is exciting to partner with believers in new sending countries who before only received missionaries.

**Training**

Because of our passion to reach the least-reached, our training programs have prepared hundreds of students since 1980. We provide summer training in Muslim evangelism in North America, Hindu evangelism in India and Europe, and Chinese evangelism in China. Possibly more people in North America have been trained in our Muslim evangelism program, for both Christar and many other missions, than through any other training program.

**Least-Reached**

From the very beginning, our passion has been for least-reached people. Therefore, creative-access and tentmaking skills have been useful for both visas into countries and visas into the hearts of hurting people. We have helped nationals through orphanages, seminaries, Bible colleges, trade schools, clinics and leprosariums; through teaching English as a second language and using skills in geology,



business, engineering and medicine. Fellowships have been planted, languages learned, cultures and people groups loved. Relief from earthquakes and war have been provided; bodies have been healed. English has been taught and schools and clinics have been started. Churches have been planted within the largest least-reached religious blocs: the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and other Asian communities. Within these large blocs we are working to plant bodies of believers in more than 60 least-reached people groups. As God has brought each Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim or Asian from unbelief in Christ to Himself, a miracle of new birth has occurred.

## Challenges

Some of the Christar family have lived on meager incomes and in difficult environments. One of our missionaries in the South China Boat Mission lived 18 years on a boat and reported that she was content the whole time except when the typhoons hit. For the sake of Christ, the Christar family has endured wars, revolutions, kidnappings, expulsions, betrayals and illnesses.

Yesu Dasu (Servant of Jesus) graduated from our Peddapalli Mission School in South India and worked at Bethesda Leprosy Clinic. He was the pastor of a Hindu-convert fellowship and had recently baptized several Hindus when, on September 11, 2000, two men on a motorcycle asked him to come help them with a problem. After family devotions were finished he got on their motorcycle, but they headed in the opposite direction from the problem. He did not return that night. The next day Yesu Dasu was found brutally murdered in a neighboring village. Christ gave him a martyr's crown. Persecution, suffering and martyrdom are part of the costs our family has experienced to bring the light of Christ to the least-reached.



Bible School on a boat in Canton, China

## Resources

God has answered the prayers of His people and He has provided countless resources to get the job done. We serve a prayer-answering, resource-providing, seed-multiplying God. Florence Drew, Benjamin Davidson and Allen McAnlis had no idea how the seeds they scattered would germinate all over the world in succeeding generations.

God's people have prayed, given and sent missionaries. These missionaries prayed and went to tell the wonderful news of Christ to people who did not know Him and to plant fellowships of believers. God has faithfully answered the prayers of our family since 1909. Our missionaries are required to have 100 people who pray for them daily before they are allowed to go. The miracles that our Christar family has seen testify to a prayer-answering God who sends us, goes with us and calls us to make disciples of every people group. Since 1909 the Holy Spirit has guided hundreds of our forefathers and present-day missionaries.

God's passion is not just for countries but for every people, tongue, tribe and nation (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). This sparks our passion to reach people groups, both in the 10/40 Window and from the 10/40 Window, in their home country and as immigrant minorities. From our beginning we have identified with Paul's deeply set goal, recorded in Romans 15:20, "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known." From the beginning, the ambition to plant churches among least-reached people groups has run deep within the Christar family.

A bright future grows out of these roots and the promises of God. Join with us to bring the light of Christ to the least-reached.



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# OUR HISTORY



The  
Roots of  
Christar

