



ROBERT KALLEY & WILLIAM HEWITSON

MISSIONARIES TO MADEIRA

Christian Biographies

Richard D. Phillips

Second Presbyterian Church

WILLIAM HEPURN HEWITSON

- Born near Maybole, Scotland, Nov. 16, 1812
- The son of a teacher, he was a gifted student
- Afflicted with extreme poor health.
- Star student at Univ. of Edinburg in language and writing.
- His life ambition was to be a minister, *except he was not converted to Christ!* He responded with legal resolutions against “pride, vanity, revenge, and worldly-mindedness.”
- In Spring, 1840, he understood the cross of Christ and surrendered himself to the grace of Jesus.
- Seeking to be a missionary, he was hindered by his poor health, which kept him largely confined.
- Advised to apply as a missionary to Madeira because of its climate and need.





ROBERT REID KALLEY

- Born Sept. 8, 1809 to a wealthy merchant.
- Lost his father at age 1 and his mother at 6. Raised by his stepfather, who 'was a true father' in life and in faith.
- Became an atheist at university and entered the medical practice.
- Was evangelized by a dying patient, who explained her peace in death with the words, "Read the Book! It's all in the Book!"
- By reading the Bible, he discovered Jesus and was converted to faith in the love of God through his Son.



KALLEY'S ROAD TO MINISTRY

- After conversion, started a Bible class for boys, but was opposed by the clergy because of his lack of credentials.
- Learning of a need for a medical missionary in China, he applied to the London Missionary Society, was accepted, and began preparing.
- Became engaged to Margareth Crawford, unknowingly breaking an LMS rule by not seeking permission first. Was expelled from the society.
- Margareth was discovered to suffer from tuberculosis, so Kalley took her to Madeira due to its clement weather.
- Madeira was ruled by the Portuguese government in Lisbon but dominated by English merchants. The people were poor, uneducated, and dominated by Roman Catholicism
- Started a clinic, praying with each patient and providing each with a Bible verse.
- Began Sunday services but was opposed by the Church of England.



KALLEY'S MINISTRY ON MADEIRA, 1839-45

- Went to London to be ordained; to Lisbon to receive a Portuguese medical license.
- Started (at his own expense) literacy schools, with a Portuguese grammar and Bible as his texts. 2500 Madeirans attended over 5 years.
- The Madeirans responded with great enthusiasm to God's Word, which they never had heard.
- Kalley began open-air preaching to crowds as large as 2000 (1/3 of the island's population).
- The native population was widely converted to Christ:

“The general topics of every-day conversation, in walking along the roads, or resting a little from labour in the fields, were the Word of God— the one sacrifice for sin — free salvation — the security of God's promises — the love of the Lord Jesus Christ — the peace of God — the hope of glory — the folly of image worship — the worthlessness of penance.”



KALLEY ON HIS MINISTRY

“In 1842, especially in the summer and autumn, people came in large numbers to hear the Scriptures read and explained. Many walked ten or twelve hours, in coming and returning to their homes. The meetings were solemn – the hearers listened with unwearied attention – a hand was observed stealing up to remove a tear – and sometimes there was a general audible expression of wonder. This was especially the case when the subject of remark was the love of God in not sparing His own Son but giving Him up to die for the sins of the whole world, or the love of Christ in voluntarily taking upon Himself the wrath and curse which we deserved.”

PERSECUTION!

In 1841, a directive came from Lisbon to stop Kalley's ministry. He was protected by the bishop, to whom he had given a Bible. A new bishop was installed who spread pamphlets against "the wolf from Scotland." Imprisonment and fines were threatened against any who attended his services.

Starting in 1843, Christians were imprisoned for reading and teaching the Bible. Many went into hiding. Kalley appealed to the local judge, who ruled in his favor but was replaced.

After a Portuguese nobleman was converted, Kalley was imprisoned. The law provided that he could receive up to 3 prisoners, so families lined up to receive his Bible teaching.

In 1844, the British government intervened and Kalley was released. Maria Alves was put on trial. Asked, "Do you believe the consecrated host to be the real body and blood of Christ?" Answer: "I do not believe it." Condemned to death.



KALLEY & HEWITSON

- Warned about assassination lots, Kalley continued open-air preaching in the country to hundreds.
- Violence escalated against the Madeiran Christians: beaten, stoned, homes burned, soldiers quartered in homes.
- Seeking to lessen the violence, Kalley and his wife departed for Lisbon in 1845.
- In Lisbon, Kalley met Hewitson, who was preparing for his intended missionary work on Madeira.
- The two struck up a friendship, and Kalley asked Hewitson to take his place on Madeira (the authorities not knowing him).
- Arriving in Madeira, Hewitson was coolly received by the Christians who were devoted to Kalley, until he began preaching in their language.
- Gathering the people in secret places, he preached throughout the island.





HEWITSON & THE MEDEIRAN CHURCH

- While it was impossible to organize publicly as a church, Hewitson held Lord's Supper services in the outlying areas. To be admitted, people had to apply and give public profession of faith.
- The authorities discovered Hewitson and sent mobs to break up gatherings with violence. Realizing he could not stay long, he began training local elders and deacons to carry on the work.
- Fifteen months after his arrival, Hewitson was driven from Madeira, never to return, but left behind an organized gospel church.



SPREAD OF THE MADEIRAN CHURCH THROUGH PERSECUTION

- After Hewitson departed, the Portuguese so increased persecution that the Christians resolved to depart.
- On Aug.22, 1846, 200 Madeiran Christians boarded a ship for Trinidad. More followed until a church of 800 was established in Trinidad. In all, 2000 Madeirans fled for religious freedom, planting churches in the West Indies and the United States.
- Hewitson joined his people to pastor the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad. He died at age 37.
- Halley followed his experience on Madeira by launching a missionary effort to Brazil in 1855. He recruited 3 Maderian elders to join him as co-preachers and laid the groundwork for today's large Presbyterian Church in Brazil.



THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

“The willingness of those who became Christians to suffer; the joyfulness of their words to others; their brotherly love; the tenderness of their feelings towards their persecutors – all these things were the consequence of the truths on which they fed.” Iain Murray.

The preacher must believe in God's power through the Word: “A well-tuned violin is not more necessary to the musical performer, than a heart in unison with the heart of God is to the preacher of the gospel.” Hewitson.



THE NECESSITY OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The loving joyfulness of Madeiran believers was known for converting their persecutors. Their jailors began giving the leave to attend worship services, even some of the persecuting priests had to be replaced for reading their Bibles.

Antonia da Corea so overflowed with love and led so many to Christ that she was accused of using an “enchanted cup,” so that any who drank became “Calvinistas.”

THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST

Hewitson believed the barrier to faith was wrong views about God, especially a failure to realize his love. “It was the commending of God’s love that brought awakening in Madeira, as it had in apostolic times and at the Reformation in Europe. . . . To people long bred in the idea that God demands some satisfaction from us by way of works came the truth that salvation is a free gift, bestowed on the guilty wholly on account of divine love” (Murray).

Hewitson: “Our salvation depends not on the question – What are my sins and my back-sliding? But on the question – What are Christ’s merits, and the Father’s promises?”

“Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice” (Jn.10:16).

