

Hudson Taylor and His Contribution toward Indigenization of the Chinese Church

(An abstract)

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James Hudson Taylor was a pioneering missionary to the interior of China and was the founder of the renowned China Inland Mission (CIM). Taylor first set sail for Shanghai in 1853 and in 1866, on his return trip to China, several more was with him as missionaries from his newly founded CIM. He journeyed to China for a total of eleven times during the fifty years he spent there. By the time of Taylor's death, CIM had become the largest and most important Protestant missionary agency in China. He also wrote many articles and books on Christian experiences and services.

Taylor left the Wesleyan Methodist Church when he was young and he never again attached himself to any other denominations. He did have a good rapport with the Brethren, but it is unclear as to how the Brethren influenced Taylor and the CIM. The formation of Taylor's religious and theological thinking awaits scholarly studies. Under the influence of Taylor, however, most of the CIM missionaries were evangelicals. Taylor was also famous for his commitment to cultural sensitivity. For instance, he adapted himself to the Chinese costumes even though this was rare

doing among missionaries of that time. His mission was a faith mission, as he never made any appeal for funds. It worked on the evangelization of China's inland provinces, and was an interdenominational mission that accepted members from all Protestant groups. It was not even organized from London, but was based on the mission-field. As a result of these strategies, Taylor and his associates reached more Chinese people with Christianity than other missionaries at that time.