

**WOMEN AND MISSIONS  
IN THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH, SOUTH**

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Women and missions in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South by Sara Estelle Haskin

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**SARA ESTELLE HASKIN**

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IN THE

*Methodist Episcopal  
Church, South*

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WRITTEN AND  
COMPILED BY

**Sara Estelle Haskin**

*Educational Secretary, Woman's Missionary  
Council, M. E. Church, South*

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Dallas, Tex.; Richmond, Va.  
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To

The Missionaries and Deaconesses who have stood in the  
front of the battle line this book is lovingly  
and gratefully dedicated





## FOREWORD.

IN the following pages the author has set forth merely the outstanding facts in the history of the organized woman's missionary work in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The great underlying purpose, however, has been to state these facts in such a way that they themselves will tell the story of God's marvelous leading through the years.

The vision of service came first to a small group of women without means, without experience, and with no authorized channel through which to work; but in less than fifty years their prayers and their small efforts had resulted in the enlistment of over two hundred thousand women and children in the auxiliaries of the Woman's Missionary Society. The appeal of one small school in China and the cry of distress sent out in behalf of the poorly paid preachers on the frontier resulted in an organization which in 1920 was conducting well-equipped schools and social-evangelistic centers in the homeland and in seven foreign mission fields.

The work in the homeland and that in the foreign fields began through separate organizations, but as the years passed the vision broadened until the world became one great mission field for which every auxiliary member was personally responsible. The result was the merging of the two societies and a united effort in prayer and giving.

It is the earnest hope of the author that this story may fill the heart of every woman who reads it with gratitude to God for the great pioneer women who have made it possible for us of the present day to enter into our wonderful heritage of world-wide service.

The story of the work as told in these pages has been gathered from the following sources: The Annual Reports of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society; the Annual Reports of the Woman's Home Mission Society; the Annual Reports of the Woman's Missionary Council; the "History of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society," by Mrs. F. A. Butler; the "Life of Miss Lucinda B. Helm," by Mrs. Gross Alexander; and "A Decade of Mission Life," by Miss Nannie E. Holding; also pamphlets entitled "The Story of the Years," by Mrs. R. W. MacDonell, Mrs. F. H. E. Ross,

Mrs. J. B. Cobb, Miss Maria Layng Gibson, and Miss Maude Bonnell. From these last, entire sections have been occasionally embodied.

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to my friends Miss Belle H. Bennett, Miss Maria Layng Gibson, and Mrs. R. W. MacDonell, who, from the knowledge gained by their years of experience, have rendered most valuable assistance. Thanks are also due to those of my associate workers who have read the manuscript and rendered helpful and sympathetic criticism.

S. E. H.