

**A CHURCH ON WHEELS;
OR, TEN YEARS ON A
CHAPEL CAR**

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A Church on Wheels; Or, Ten Years on a Chapel Car by Charles Herbert Rust

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CHARLES HERBERT RUST

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REV. C. H. RUST

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OR

Ten Years on a Chapel Car

By

CHARLES HERBERT RUST



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To my Mother

WHOSE LOVE FOR AND DEVOTION TO HER GOD AND
HER FAMILY HAVE GIVEN TO ME SOME OF THE SWEET-
EST AND LOFTIEST INSPIRATIONS OF MY LIFE AND

To my Sister

WHOSE SPIRIT OF PATIENCE AND TRUST DURING THESE
YEARS OF HER SUFFERING HAS HELPED ME TO BEAR
ALL THINGS AND ENDURE ALL THINGS AS I HAVE SOUGHT
TO LABOR FOR MY MASTER I AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATE THIS STORY OF TEN YEARS
OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

87X 661
199 X 28

PREFACE

IN response to a request which has come from some of my friends, I write of God's leadings during ten years of service on "Glad Tidings." Of necessity the personal pronoun will be often used in this story, but in all humility. Both Mrs. Rust and myself ascribe all the glory for what has been accomplished to our blessed Lord, as he through his Holy Spirit has used us to help many needy souls in the great Northwest. As we have thought of our own weaknesses and failings we have stood amazed before God as he has so evidently blessed the truth when sung and spoken by us.

After Paul's first missionary journey he returned to Antioch to the church there and rehearsed all the things that God had done (Acts 14 : 27), so in this volume I shall endeavor to do the same, and I trust the reader will constantly remember that this is a story of what God has done through his appointed agents. It is his work.

We want the Christian public, and particularly the Baptist denomination, to know more about the chapel cars. While I am enthusiastic over the possibilities of this form of Christian work, I would not unwisely attempt to place it on too high a plane, but rather ask the reader to calmly consider the

facts regarding it. This is surely one of the successful forms of evangelistic service of the twentieth century.

These pages have been written during a few weeks of a very busy season, when I have been holding from forty to fifty meetings a month, therefore I trust the reader will not be too harsh in his criticism of the literary merit of this book. I have endeavored to tell the experiences of our ten years of service in simple language for the purpose of enlightening those who read, regarding the chapel-car movement, and with the sincere prayer that the story of these years may encourage many a heart, and help more than one life onward toward God and righteousness.

C. H. R.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., May 31, 1905.

INTRODUCTION

THE chapel car service is a unique method in modern evangelization. The cars have not only awakened the curiosity and interest of the people, but for fourteen years have been great engines for good. They have had the universal approval of the Christian public. Their story is a simple one. The inceptive idea grew in the mind and heart of Dr. Wayland Hoyt through a visit in the West with his railroad brother, Colgate Hoyt, Esq. Boston W. Smith, known as "Uncle Boston," with energy and wisdom brought the idea to an issue in the first car, "Evangel." From the inception in 1890 until now Uncle Boston has been the manager of the chapel cars, and to him the American Baptist Publication Society and the denomination are greatly indebted for the success of this branch of service. But God has given the Society rare men and women as missionaries who have done the most heroic work in the spirit of the Master. There are six cars like this one, "Glad Tidings," and the band of workers on these cars feel that they are a family; they call themselves "the Chapel-car Family." They have had frequent meetings together for consultation and service, and the influences of these meetings are a perpetual benediction in each heart. God has put

his seal upon the labors of these his servants. Over fourteen thousand persons have professed conversion in the car meetings since 1891. Dotting the Southern and Western plains stand nearly one hundred and fifty meeting-houses which have grown out of the chapel-car service. Whole communities have been transformed by their evangelistic meetings. The railroads have been most generous in their gifts of transportation and many other things which have made the work successful; the cars have been of great service to railroad men in the shops and elsewhere.

Rev. C. H. Rust and wife have been ten years in the service of the Society on the car "Glad Tidings." Their labors have been preeminently successful, and their names are fragrant in the West because of their good deeds in the Master's name. We are glad to give a God-speed and a blessing to this little book which records the experiences of ten years, and pray that its reading may stimulate many hearts, not only to help this work and to aid the Society substantially to carry it forward, but to consecrated service to Him whose kingdom we seek to extend.

ROBERT G. SEYMOUR,
Missionary and Bible Secretary.