



THREE
OF
CHINA'S
MIGHTY MEN







THREE
OF
CHINA'S
MIGHTY MEN



Leslie Lyall



OMF

&

CHRISTIAN FOCUS





Copyright © OMF International

ISBN 1-85792-493-2

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This edition published in 2001,
reprinted in 2006

by

Christian Focus Publications,
Geanies House, Fearn, Ross-shire,
IV20 1TW, Scotland, UK
and

OMF International (UK),
Station Approach, Borough Green, Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN15 8BG, England, UK

www.christianfocus.com

Cover design by Danie Van Straaten

Printed and bound by
Norhaven A/S Paperback, Denmark

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher or a license permitting restricted copying. In the U.K. such licenses are issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.



THREE OF CHINA'S MIGHTY MEN

'... the mighty men whom David had'
(2 Sam. 23:8)

David's Mighty Men

King David drew to himself, both in his wilderness days when life was dangerous and in his years on the throne of Israel, many loyal followers - his mighty men. Three were outstanding for their magnificent courage, their single-handed victories, their reckless defiance of the national enemies and their sacrificial willingness to risk life itself to bring satisfaction to their royal master.

Like David's guerilla force in his years of exile, the Church of Jesus Christ in China has always been a small minority, struggling for its survival against enormous odds. Yet in her comparatively short history, she has produced her mighty men who have been drawn to Christ from Confucianism and Buddhism, from atheism and materialism. They have loyally and courageously served Him with a sacrificial spirit unexcelled in any period of the Church's history. These men and women were found in every branch of the Christian Church from the earliest days to the present.



THREE OF CHINA'S MIGHTY MEN

Of the less than one million Christians in all the Protestant churches in 1949 those which were the fruit of the work of the China Inland Mission (89,665) numbered second only to those associated with the Church of Christ in China (166,660), a union of fourteen churches including Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregationalist and Baptist. The True Jesus Church came third with 80,000 and the Little Flock (Assembly Hall) fifth with 70,000.¹ It is not generally recognized that Christians belonging to the three independent movements - True Jesus Church, Little Flock and Jesus Family - together with the China Inland Mission Christians totalled one-quarter of the entire Protestant church membership in China.

It would be invidious to single out three men among all the churches as chief among Christ's mighty men in China. The author is not qualified to write about the many outstanding leaders in the Church of Christ, the Episcopal churches in China and the many other smaller churches. But in the China Inland Mission and independent churches three names stand out, not for their prominence among China's Christian scholars nor their contribution in the wider affairs of society and the state, but for their unique ability to expound the truths of Holy Scripture, their profound influence on the Chinese Church in an age of revolution and their unflinching loyalty to 'great David's greater Son'. The author counts it a privilege to

1. *World Christian Handbook*, 1949. Ed. Sir Kenneth G. Grubb.





THREE OF CHINA'S MIGHTY MEN

have known each of the three as friends and two of them as co-workers in the work of evangelism and church planting. But in reporting as faithfully as possible the views they held and the attitudes they adopted towards other churches in China he does not necessarily endorse or commend them.

The following pages tell in brief the stories of Yang Shao-t'ang of Shansi, Nee Duo-sheng of Shanghai, and Wang Ming-dao of Peking - three contemporaries who made their mark in different ways on the Church in China.

