

SOAR Curricular Material #4

Help Wanted (April 1915---Helping Asia, Africa, South America --Abridged Version)

July 27, 1914, shall long be a memorable date, not only in the history of Europe, but also in that of the whole world. For a long time an expectant world had been awaiting developments in the southeastern corner of Europe. Austria and Serbia had been chosen as the pawns in the game of war. Failing in her demands for satisfaction for the murder of her *crown-prince*¹, the *dual monarchy*² declared war on Serbia on this memorable 27th of July. If matters would have remained as they were at the time of the declaration of war there would have been no reason for our present discourse. But matters were not destined to remain at issue between two nations. Following a well arranged program, Russia became active and involved Germany. France, England and the Netherlands were soon drawn into the maelstrom of world conflict. In the course of a comparatively few days the grandest dreams of the modern era were converted into the vain delirium of despair. Europe, the cradle of culture and of progress, is now the scene of devastation and carnage. Overnight, therefore, a new responsibility has been laid upon us in America. That responsibility is the support and extension, for the time being at least, of the kingdom of God in the world of man. Especially is this true in the Moravian Church. Ours is peculiarly a Missionary Church. Our work abroad far excels that of the home base and we have been carrying on this work to what we have considered our utmost ability. How, then, this world turmoil affects our missionary enterprise, is immediately evident to all. The German province is at a standstill, the Brethren in England are crippled. America must bear the burden alone. We must even advance! The providence of God has led us into a new world of opportunity, of danger and of duty. But today there comes a call for greater sacrifice. It is not only a call for dollars and cents. That necessary adjunct must also be found. But today the call is for men, more men, more consecrated men. “*Help wanted*” is the slogan in the advertising column of our large daily papers. Thousands of advertisements appear daily in these great organs of communication. But the greater call of “help wanted” comes to us, not in the form of a newspaper advertisement. It comes to us, daily, in the cry of despair that is raised by countless millions who are still sitting in heathen darkness. It comes, at once from *Asia, Africa, South America*³ and the islands of the sea. It comes to us in the inquiring plea of those who have “already been awakened from the slumber of indifference and released from the yoke, of bondage.” And it comes to us from the overburdened missionaries who are valiantly carrying on the unequal task. There are chiefly three recruiting agencies through which we must seek to respond to this call for help. The church, the school and the home are mediums through which we must meet this crisis. Facing this world crisis, we must act. Delay is dangerous. The open door of today will be the impregnable wall of tomorrow. We have no time to question the resources. Ours is a work of faith. Comenius, an exile, fell upon his knees on the snow-clad mountain top of his native land and devoutly, fervently prayed that the Almighty God would not let the seed of the ancient faith entirely disappear. That spirit could not be denied! We boast the heritage of the ancient Brethren, but we must also exercise their spirit. They could see the uttermost parts of the world. Today we must take up their task, we must shout into the entire world, “Faith of our fathers, holy faith. We will be true to thee till death.”

~August Wucherer ‘15

¹ “Crown prince” refers to the heir of the Austro-Hungarian throne Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who, along with his wife, was assassinated by Gavrilo Princip, an ethnic Serb, in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. One month following his assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

² “Dual Monarchy” refers to the then-nation of Austria-Hungary.

³ Specifically Japan, Liberia, Montenegro, Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, who sided with the allies in WWI beginning in 1914

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Putting the Source Into Context

- 1) What does the title of this piece, *Help Wanted*, refer to?
- 2) What is the significance of the date mentioned in the beginning of the article (e.g. July 27, 1914)? How does this date help us contextualize this article? **Hint: Consider what other events were taking place at the time this article was written.
- 3) How does this article reflect the interests/beliefs of the Moravian Church? How does the author use the Church's interests to support the main idea of his article and influence his readers to "act"?
- 4) What do we know, or can infer, about the author of this piece? How can this information help us explain why he wrote this article? In other words, how does the creator of this source fit into the historical context of the article?
- 5) Militarism, imperialism, nationalism, and a complex web of alliances are said to be the main causes of WWI. How is each of these causes present in the article? For which of these causes does the article provide the strongest argument for?