

Because We Believe

Dr. Oswald Goulter was a missionary who – after years of service in China – was put under house arrest by the Communists.

He was finally released on the condition he would take the next available ship out of the country, which happened to be a steamer going to Madras, India.

Once there, Dr. Goulter wired his mission board for travel money to complete his journey home. While waiting, he heard there were Jews who had been denied entrance to every country except India, and they were sleeping in the locals' barn lofts.

It was Christmas, so Dr. Goulter decided to visit those barn lofts and wish these displaced people a Merry Christmas.

When he did, they said, "We're Jews."

Dr. Goulter responded, "I know, but it is Christmas."

They exclaimed, "We don't observe Christmas. We are not followers of Jesus."

The old missionary reacted, "I know, but what would you like for Christmas?"



They argued with him, and he posed this question: "If somebody gave you something for Christmas, what would you like?"

To get rid of him, they answered, "Some good German pastries."

Dr. Goulter finally found a pastry shop with German pastries, and he cashed in his passage ticket and took baskets of German pastries to those Jews. Then he wired his mission board for money for another ticket.

When Dr. Goulter told that story in a seminary classroom, a young seminarian sitting in the front row was absolutely incensed. He said to Dr. Goulter, "Why did you do that? They don't even believe in Jesus!"

Dr. Goulter replied, "But I do. I do."

Why we do what we do is extremely important. The proper motivation is central to Christian love.

Because we believe in the person of Jesus, we are moved to care about others. Because Jesus matters, everyone else does, too!

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8 NKJV).