"Your Brothers and Sisters"

The Present Truth – February 9, 1893

E. J. Waggoner

Here are a few of the little brothers and sisters you would see if you should cross the wide, wide waters of the seas.

"Not my brothers and sisters," you say, "for my brothers and sisters have fair skins, and do not look and dress like these, at all! Besides, these do not live in our house, and my father never saw them."

There, there, not too fast; even that may be true, and yet they may be your brothers and sisters. If your brother should go far off to "Greenlands icy mountains" and have to dress in furs, or if your sister should go and live 'neath India's burning sun, until her face were brown, would that cause you to love her any less? Would they not still be your own dear brother and sister?

And when you say that your father never saw this dear little baby from far-off China, this pretty brown girl from India, and these boys in fur from Greenland, have you not forgotten about your Heavenly Father? The Bible says that "He looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heavens" every little boy and girl that lives. It matters not what the colour of their skin, or the style of their dress, or the language they speak. It matters not whether they live in houses of ice or huts of bamboo, whether they are in the tents of the desert or in the costly mansions of the city, God sees and loves and cares for them all, and calls Himself their Father. He has made them all of one blood, so that they are all brothers and sisters. He looks not on the outward appearance, for He is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that loves and obeys Him, is accepted with Him. He has given His only Son to die for the little brown girl, as well as for the little white girl, and for the boy with a cue, as well as for the boy without one.

So do you not see that whether white or black, red or brown, all the boys and girls on this great round earth are your own brothers and sisters? And if they are your brothers and sisters, have you any right to neglect them, and treat them as strangers?

If your brother and sister were starving and fainting for bread and water, would you not gladly give them some of your good things? Would you not go without sweets and costly toys, that you might save more pennies with which to send them food?

Many of these little brothers and sisters in the far-off lands of the earth, are hungering and thirsting and perishing without the Bread and Water of Life, without Jesus and His Holy Spirit. Many of them have never heard His precious name, or known of His love and power to help and save them. And yet hundreds and thousands are dying every day!

Do you know Jesus? Have you tasted of His forgiving love, and felt His sweet Spirit in your heart causing you to speak kind words and to do gentle acts? Have you looked forward with joy to the time when Jesus will come and take you to live with Him in His heavenly home? Oh, if you have, do not forget the thousands and thousands of your brothers and sisters in this

land and in other lands, who know Him not, and who are reaching out their little helpless hands and cry, "Send us help, send us help, before we die; tell us about Jesus, that we too may be saved."

Can you think of any way in which you can help to send them the good news of a Saviour's love?

"Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to Me shall never hunger." (John 6:35.)

"What if your own were starving, Fainting with famine pain, And you should know Where golden grow Rich fruit and ripened grain; Would you hear their wail As a thrice told tale, And turn to your feast again?"

"Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." "Whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall give Him shall never thirst." (John 7:37; 4:14.)

"What if your own were thirsting, And never a drop could gain, And you could tell Where a sparkling well Poured forth melodious rain; Would you turn aside While they gasped and died, And leave them to their pain?"

"Then Jesus spake again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12.)

"What if your own were darkened Without the one cheering day, And you alone Could show where alont The pure, sweet light of day; Would you leave them there In their dark despair, And sing on your sunlit way?"

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way. . . . No man cometh unto the Father but by Me." (John 14:6.)

"What if your own were wandering Far in a trackless maze, And you could show Them where to go Along your pleasant ways; Would your heart be light Till the pathway right Was plain before their gaze?"

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free and deed." (John 8:32, 36.)

"What if your own were prisoned, Far in a hostile land, And the only boy To set them free Was held in your command; Would you breathe free air While they stifled there, And wait, and hold your hand?

"Yet what else are we doing, Dear ones, by Christ made free, If we will not tell What we know so well To those across the sea, Who have never heard One tender word Of the 'Lamb of Calvary?'"