

J. J. SIMS, Los Angeles.

J. J. SIMS, preacher and teacher of international repute, passed into the presence of the Lord, whom he had served so long and well, on Jan. 17th, 1933, at Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Sims was born in 1852, in the Telephone city, Bradford, Canada. He was a personal friend of Alexander Graham Bell. Entering the teaching profession, he became Principal of the Brantford High School, and later joined his father in the practice of law.

He was a man of unbounded energy from youth to old age. After his conversion to God it was said he could do the work of two men and preach more sermons than any minister within one hundred miles. These early efforts were much blessed of the Lord.

Whilst a young man Mr. Sims came into contact with able Bible Teachers, among whom was J. N. Darby, who encouraged him greatly and commended him to Christians in Canada, the States, and Britain.

Full of love for souls, he was untiring in his efforts to preach the Gospel to the perishing. Finding his time and strength were all needed in the highest of labour, the ministry of the Gospel, he resigned his splendid material prospects and went forth, in simple dependence upon the Lord. His field of service was soon greatly enlarged, saints and sinners were blessed.

Meeting Mr. D. L. Moody, he was induced to lecture to the students at the Bible Institute, Chicago. Mr. Moody also urged him to accompany him, to teach the Word, throughout the British Isles. Later, with the Lord's approval and blessing, he was enabled to fulfil that ministry.

For many years Mr. Sims was well known in the British Isles, commanding large audiences in most of the large cities. He had times of considerable blessing in Glasgow. During the Exhibition in 1901, crowds listened to his lectures on Coming Events in the City Halls. Several of these addresses were published and widely circulated, and brought blessing to many. In Merrion Hall, Dublin, God gave him to see much spiritual fruit from time to time. In 1930, with Mrs. Sims, he made his last visit to Britain, visiting in Somerset and Devon. Though well advanced in years he was untiring in service during that brief season.

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During the Great War, Mr. Sims was enabled to carry the Gospel to many thousands, and to distribute large numbers of copies of Gospel literature. He was encouraged in this great and good work by the Chaplain General, Bishop Taylor Smith.

Mr. Sims had a commanding personality, possessed a splendid voice, and with ready command of simple English never wanted for an audience. He had strong convictions regarding worship and service, and sought to distinguish these as he believed to be the clear teaching of the Word. His service in ministry he regarded as to the Church, the proclamation of the Gospel to the world. He believed that "all the Word of God is for all the people of God," and the Gospel is for all men, regardless of colour, cast, or cult. With true catholicity of spirit he pursued this pathway to the end, ever an example, in zeal for the Lord, to all younger men.

Though a real evangelist, his addresses on the Coming of the Lord and kindred themes brought light to many. This was a theme he delighted to declare. Able in the defence of the Faith, ministers and others through him were established in the truth of Inspiration. He opened the Christmas Conference, at Pasadena, with a message on Prayer, a subject he repeatedly stressed, believing great things were done through prayer.

The last ten years of his life he resided in Los Angeles, enjoying the happy fellowship of saints with the Assembly, in Pasadena, where his presence and words of help and cheer will be missed.

A funeral service was held at the Church of the Bible Institute, Los Angeles, where he delivered his last address. Several hundreds reverently listened to the ministry of the Word, and suitable reference concerning the life and ministry of God's departed servant. Devout men carried him to the last resting place, in Pasadena, Calif, where the precious dust awaits the shout of triumph. Then Master and servant will meet for reward and glory. He rests from his labours and his works do follow him.

In these closing days of grace may many young men be led to consecrate their lives, as did J. J. Sims, and thus secure the greatest joy now and a sure reward in the Coming Day.

GEO. T. PINCHES.