

# C O N T E N T S

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## F O R E W O R D

“DO WE NEED ANOTHER ONE?” I ASKED MYSELF LAST YEAR WHEN I heard that someone was writing a new Judson biography. When it was explained to me that the someone was Dr. Rosalie Hall Hunt, author of the very popular *Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy* (Judson Press, 2005), and that she was writing about Ann Hasseltine Judson, the first wife of Adoniram and the first female missionary of American Baptists, I immediately exclaimed, “Yes! *That* is a story we need to hear anew!”

I am grateful that Rosalie has invested the past few years researching, writing, and reminding the public of Ann Judson’s contribution to history and missiology. She has provided the most intimate account of Ann Judson I have read. This retelling of Ann’s heroics as she kept her husband, Adoniram, alive while he was imprisoned describes not only the facts of those twenty-one months of persecution but also the personal anguish of a young mother torn between nursing a new baby and taking food to her husband who is starving while incarcerated. The personal side of Ann’s exploits is a riveting addition to the details of her incredible life.

Dr. Hunt reminds us of Ann Hasseltine Judson’s work with women and children. In particular, education for girls and women were high priorities for Ann, almost two centuries before Malala Yousafzai brought the cause to the attention of the Nobel Peace Prize committee. Ann Judson’s regular writings in missionary periodicals and her captivating *Account of the American Baptist Mission to the Burman Empire* (1827) would inspire the next two generations of missionaries.

With this new biography, we get to laugh with Ann Hasseltine Judson and we get to cry with her in the struggles of missionary life. *The Extraordinary Story* describes the emotional side of this “missionary heroine” (as one nineteenth-century biographer hailed her),<sup>1</sup> adding a perspective on her humanity that is as compelling as the standard picture of her brilliant mind and stubborn tenacity. The

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empathy that Dr. Hunt adds to the story greatly enhances the saga of this great hero in the faith, and the hero becomes a friend. The facts are enriched with feelings, the exploits enhanced by emotions.

Born in China to missionary parents, author Rosalie Hall Hunt has lived the life of a missionary in eight nations. She understands not only the facts of missionary experience but also the emotional highs and lows, and the emotional power of pioneer missionary Ann Judson comes to life in these pages. Rosalie's previous work on the Judsons, *Bless God and Take Courage*, as well as *Her Way: The Remarkable Story of Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend*, have proven her sagacity in both research and writing. The reading public, especially those interested in missions and women in leadership, will be inspired by the model of Ann Hasseltine Judson and be grateful to Rosalie Hall Hunt for retelling her important saga, combining the facts of the story with the human feelings of a compassionate woman.

In the true missionary spirit of Ann and Rosalie, royalties from the sale of this book will not go into any private purse but will be reinvested in missionary work around the world. Get ready for a great story, and keep a tissue handy.

Jerry B. Cain, Chancellor  
Judson University

### Note

1. "The Missionary Heroine," in *Queenly Women, Crowned and Uncrowned*, S. W. Williams, ed. (Cincinnati: Cranston and Stowe, 1885).