

The Woman's Missionary Society

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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OPPORTUNITY IN FOREIGN MISSIONS

Rev. R. R. Kerman writes in the *Morning Star* of opportunities to serve in foreign missions. He says:

The open doors of opportunity for the missionaries are legion. Not a country in the world today but is open to the preaching of the Gospel. And not only may preachers go there; but in every land are hearts that themselves are open doors for the Gospel message and the Christ. The cry from every quarter of the globe is for more workers to enter these open doors, to bring the glad news to these waiting and longing hearts. From hundreds of villages in our own India comes up the cry for teachers and missionaries.

When Bishop Hannington fell a martyr to missions on the road to Uganda in Africa, he told his executioners: "Go tell Moonga that I die for Baganda; and that I have purchased the road to Uganda with my life."

In that little district in India, which Free Baptists are trying to occupy, lies buried the sacred dust of missionaries who gave their lives to set wide the door of India's hearts to the Christian's Gospel; and in our own fair land are others, living, and the dust of others, dead, whose lives have been given for the same great purpose. I think I hear them saying: "Go tell our brethren that we sacrificed our lives for India, and have purchased these open doors with our lives."

That they have done so, is literally true, and the great reason today why those doors of opportunity are not entered and Christ brought home to this waiting people, is not lack of missionaries, but the means to send them.

Before the church at home is the open door of opportunity in furnishing the money with which to support native teachers and missionaries, as they enter these open doors in India. It is an opportunity that angels might long to take; an opportunity, to men and women, living still in a land of privilege and comfort, to have part in the work for the salvation of those for whom Christ died in heathen lands.

Probably any missionary on the foreign field sacrifices more of money itself for the foreign work than his brother at home, besides all the other blessings of home and civilization that he gives up for his chosen work.

With most people at home, I think the difficulty is in realizing that the door of opportunity for giving is open to them. They feel as if there are so many calls for money that they really are unable to give any, or but a little, to the foreign mission cause.

The trouble resolves itself not into a question of inability, but choice. When some one says, "I have no time to study the Bible," he means, "I think my time is needed more in other things." It is a matter of choice. He who says, "I have no money to spend for tobacco,"

means that he can find better uses for the money he does have. The trouble with Christians is not lack of money, but the choice of objects for which it shall be spent, and if foreign missions get little or nothing, it is because the spender considers that object least important. She who says, "I would love to give but I really cannot spare the money," if she told the truth, would probably say instead, "I would love to give if I did not love something else more."

A wealthy man, asked for contributions to a worthy cause, replied that he could not afford it. The solicitor at last called on him in his home, which he found to be a magnificent palace, sumptuously furnished with every luxury. As the wealthy host entered the room where the solicitor waited, the latter rose to go, saying: "I came to once more present the claims of Christ as represented in this special benevolence, but I really cannot do it. I see that you have told the truth, and I do not wonder that, with money spent for such manifold luxuries as you have here, you cannot afford contributions to the cause of Christ; I must bid you good evening." It was a matter of choice and not inability, as the wealthy man at once discerned, and he profited by the timely rebuke.

But it is not the rich alone who thus mistake; the same lesson needs to be learned by the poor as well, who spend dollars, oftentimes, for candy to cents for Christ.

I know of no better way to bring the facts home to individuals than by some illustrations from life. They may not represent your case, dear reader, but they may have their parallels in your life:

SOME PRACTICAL CHOICES.

Two working girls in Providence, R. I., chose to walk one way between their homes and the factory, and give the ten cents a day thus saved to the support of a native preacher at \$30 a year.

John G. Paton chose to give the \$70,000 profit on his autobiography to the missionary society instead of keeping it for himself.

A New York business man, with his wife and daughter, chose to continue living in a modest six-room cottage, and to give the yearly profits of his large business to the supporting of forty home and foreign missionaries instead of spending those profits on useless luxuries for themselves.

Two servant girls chose to give ten dollars to foreign missions, with the remark to a critical friend, "O yes, we can; we can go without something."

A young girl stirred by a missionary address, chose to sell her loved goldfish, invested the money in two setting hens and in the course of five months gave the profits on her investment, \$14, to missions.

A good woman in Missouri recently chose to sell her handsome diamonds and give the proceeds to Christ.

A child chose between candy and Christ, and gave a penny. With that cent a tract was bought and put into a missionary box. It was given to a Burman chief and led him to Christ. He told his people the story. Results, a church was built, and 1,500 converts won from heathenism.

And you, dear reader, you are making choices almost daily. The pressure of the day's desires, of the pleasures of the moment, the fashions of the crowd, is intense; but the pressure of the love of Christ constraining you should be more. Will you choose as one of Christ's followers to enter the open door of opportunity in the support of his work on the foreign field? Never

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GERMAN BAPTISTS IN AMERICA.

Twenty years ago there was not one German Baptist church in Dakota, one on the Pacific Coast and one in Oklahoma and Western Canada. Now in the same territory there are 68 churches, 17 of these in Western Canada.

In 1874 there were in the United States about 100 German Baptist churches with a membership of 6,000, now the churches number 266 with a membership of 25,000. But these figures do not tell the whole story, some 20,000 members of the German churches have united with English speaking churches, and a number of German churches have graduated into English speaking ones. But this is not all that can be said, the financial transfer is far greater than that of members. Many of these are the well-to-do, thus the German churches are doing pioneer work for the English speaking portion of the Baptist denomination. Notwithstanding these losses, the yearly net increase of members has been 700 and the increase of money for God's cause has been in a much larger portion. The average amount given per member for church and other mission work is \$13, that is significant. It is to be remembered, that there are but few men of wealth among them. The men who represent a financial value of more than from \$10,000 to \$50,000 can be easily counted. They do represent, however, a great amount of liberality. Almost \$135,000 was expended since the last Conference for various mission works at home and abroad, for in addition to Home Missions the Conference carries on work in Brazil and Cameroo (West Africa), helps the Baptist churches in Germany, Austria and Russia, and assists the Missionary Union in Burma, India and China. This is a most excellent showing. We wish our German brethren on this continent great success.

MISSED IT.—One who stopped the INTELLIGENCER writes:

"I have missed the INTELLIGENCER much since it was discontinued. I want it again."

Thank you. It is good when one has made a mistake to rectify it as soon as possible.

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CONSUMPTIVES.

The report from the Muskoka Free Hospital for consumptives is highly satisfactory. Evidently the campaign against consumption is meeting with marked success, and the Muskoka institution is bearing a valuable part in the good fight. Since it was opened in 1902 nearly 400 patients have been treated. Deaths from consumption have fallen about 40 per cent. in three years. This looks as if the "White Plague" would be extinguished in a few years! The Muskoka Hospital admits free all who are unable to pay. \$50,000 are asked this winter to enable the Hospital to do the maximum of good. Contributions are received by Sir William R. Meredith, 4 Lamport Avenue, Toronto, and by W. J. Gage, Esq., 54 Front street, West, Toronto. It is well that preventive measures should receive greater and still greater attention: Fresh air, good food well cooked, regular habits, plenty of exercises, absolute cleanliness; a good conscience and a cheerful mind!

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