

I DARE YOU!

Young Preacher, Pastor, Layman, Young Candidate

By R. Bryant Mitchell

I dare you, young preacher, to have an all-consuming love for missions. In fact, I dare you to become a missionary. If you have had a successful pastorate, are physically sound, and have a gift for common sense and faith, you could become a good missionary. You are now preaching to a hundred, and have to place a spread-page ad in the paper to double your crowd. How would you like to preach to five hundred?

Your salary would be much less, but I can guarantee you greater riches in heaven. You will probably not get that new car; rather, you will walk many weary miles and ride a mule or a bicycle. You will never have to worry about sleepless nights because you will leave the innersprings at home and fall into tired slumber on a rude cot or mat. How would you like to stare a hundred Mohammedans in the face and tell them that Jesus was the Son of God? How would you like to feel the hot sun on your back as you labored on a new mission building? Would you like the thrill of seeing idol worshipers and murderers leave their sins because of your preaching? Would you like to baptize a Hindu or give communion to a Hottentot? If you are willing to pay the price, you can become a missionary.

I dare you, pastor, to make your church a missionary church. I dare you to pray, to give until some young person from your church goes to the foreign field. I dare you to open the doors of heaven by faith and support a missionary from your church on the foreign field.

I dare you to organize an intercessory prayer band whose prayers will shake the foundation of heathenism around the world. Do the missionaries abroad know that you have not forgotten them? How many times have you wept over their burdens? How many times have you soiled your hands cleaning out barrels for the missionaries? How often have you taken time to wrap packages and endured "red tape" to send supplies to the missionaries? Do you ever put your own offering second in order that there may be a generous missionary offering in your church? Are you patient and kind to the third missionary who is doing his best to talk to an American audience? Do you appreciate how he has suffered and sacrificed? Are you willing to be a missionary pastor?

I dare you, layman, to become a missionary supporter. I dare you to support a worker or build a mission station. I dare you to support a young missionary candidate through Bible school and help him get to the field. I dare you to buy fewer clothes, invest less money in your own death by reducing your large insurance policies, and put your money into the lives of those who have never heard the gospel. Will you pray as earnestly for the salvation of some poor Indian lad as you pray for the success of your son? Will you spend as much time poring over the map of Africa in behalf of missions as you spend in studying the road map for your summer vacation? I dare you to lay up treasure in heaven by being a missionary layman.

I dare you, young missionary candidate, to pay the price of preparation for a missionary life. Yes, you have answered a half-dozen calls for missionaries, but what have you done about it? I dare you to train yourself for the hardest

job on earth. I dare you to finish Bible school, to become a preacher having the patience of Job, the faith of Abraham and the zeal of Paul. I dare you to study night and day in order to master a foreign language. I dare you to learn to build a house, to be a nurse, to pull teeth, to ride a horse, to dig a well, to face danger courageously. If you are really concerned about becoming a missionary, you should do something about it. How many books have you read on missions? What sacrifices have you made? To how many missionaries are you writing? What plans are you making to prepare your life for the mission field? I dare you to pay the price of missionary preparation.

—Message of the Open Bible.

THEY KEPT THE FAITH

When the Italians were driven from Abyssinia by the British forces, the action was followed by a reopening of the area to the Protestant missionaries. One missionary reports in the Christian Union Herald that the native Christians did very well in conserving their faith during the period of hierarchical domination. Men dependent on missionaries promptly assumed the responsibilities of leadership when circumstances compelled them to do so. The impression of a non-Christian fellow countryman is described as:

"Others, who had formerly resisted the appeal of the gospel, considering it an impertinent intrusion of the foreigners, saw these men and women continuing to proclaim the gospel even after the money left by foreigners had been exhausted. They saw them stand up to trials and persecutions without flinching, depending on their Master for strength and courage. And the more thoughtful ones began to think that there must be something to this gospel which the foreigners had preached, and they began to attend services and some of the literate ones purchased Scriptures and read them, searching for the truth of God."

—Brethren Evangelist.

THEY COULDN'T SLEEP

Two missionaries went to a village in Korea in which the gospel had never been preached. It was noised abroad that they had come, and practically the whole population gathered. The interest of the people was so great that the meeting continued until a late hour.

Finally the missionaries closed the meeting and were shown into an adjoining room for the night. But the people did not go away, and the murmuring of their voices kept the missionaries from sleeping.

About two o'clock, one of them went back and said to the people, "Why don't you go home and go to sleep? It is very late, and we are tired."

The head man of the village answered, in substance, "How can we sleep? You have told us that the Supreme Power is not an evil spirit trying to injure us, but a loving God who gave His only begotten Son for our salvation; and that if we will turn away from our sins and trust Him, we may have deliverance from fear, guidance in our perplexities, comfort in our sorrows. How can we sleep, after receiving a message such as this?"

How could they, indeed? The missionaries, forgetting their weariness, sat down with those poor people and communed with them until the morning dawned.—Selected.

MISSIONARY UNBELIEF

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Great Commission. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Apostles' Creed. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Lord's Prayer. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the "Doxology" in long meter. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions does not believe that verse so often quoted, John 3:16. Repeat it and see.

The Christian who does not believe in foreign missions believes that two-thirds of the earth's population should perish without hope.

—Call to Prayer.

A PRAYER

Oh, grant us love like Thine,
That hears the cry of sorrow
From heathendom ascending to the throne of
God;
That spurns the call of ease and home
While Christ's lost sheep in darkness roam!

Oh, grant us hearts like Thine,
Wide, tender, faithful, childlike,
That seek no more, but live to do Thy will!
The hearts that seek Thy Kingdom first,
Nor linger while the peoples thirst.

Oh, grant us minds like Thine,
That compassed all the nations,
That swept o'er land and sea and loved the
least of all;
Great things attempting for the Lord,
Expecting mighty things from God.

—Selected.

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING"

Is it hypocritical to pray when we don't feel like it?

Perhaps there is no more subtle hindrance to prayer than that of our moods. Nearly everybody has to meet that difficulty at times. Even God's prophets were not wholly free from it. Habakkuk felt as if he were facing a blank wall for a long time. What shall we do when moods like this come to us? Wait until we do feel like praying? It is easy to persuade ourselves that it is hypocrisy to pray when we don't feel like it; but we don't argue that way about other things in life. If you were in a room that had been tightly closed for some time, you would sooner or later, begin to feel very miserable—so miserable, perhaps, that open the windows, especially if they were difficult to open. But your weakness and listlessness would be proof that you were beginning to need fresh air very desperately—that you would soon be ill without it. So when we are listless about prayer is the very time when we need the most to pray. The only way that we ever can overcome listlessness in anything is to put more of ourselves, no less, into the task. To pray when you don't feel like praying is not hypocrisy—it is faithfulness to the greatest duty of life. Just tell the Father that you don't feel like it—ask Him to show you what is making you listless. He will help us to overcome our moods and give us courage to persevere in spite of them.

"When you cannot pray as you would, pray as you can."

—God's Revivalist.