



Motives For Missions

by Rev. A. D. Cann*

Recently I heard an outstanding missionary statesman state that if a church will give a maximum amount of prayer and financial support for missions, that God in turn will provide facilities for the necessary expansion of that church. The speaker was Dr. O. J. Smith and his reference was to the People's Church, Toronto.

God has wonderfully illustrated this truth by literally giving the People's Church of Toronto an absolutely new church building geared to the needs of their growing church and Sunday School.

Mr. Smith stated that for some years the church held back from a building program for fear they would have to hold back support from their many missionaries. At length the time came for them to sell their old church property and build in a new area. The exchange has been so favorable financially that they can continue their vast missionary program and at the same time enjoy a new building which is adequate to meet every need.

Motives for missions does not mean that we support missions in order to provide ourselves with new churches and growing Sunday Schools. Giving to missions is not a "magic formula" for big churches, big budgets and big success. It does mean however, that if we will obey the command of Jesus, He will go with us all the way (Matthew 28:19, 20). Someone has said, "If we will give God the first place and the last word, He will pay all expenses."

The relative importance of home missions, foreign missions and education is often debated. Each is important and we have no right to support one at the expense of the others. It is well said, "No church will send from shore to shore that does not go from door to door."

Let us face facts. This generation of unevangelized heathen cannot hear the gospel except from this generation of Christians. The generation past cannot make them hear. The generation to come cannot make them hear. Therefore it is the responsibility of this generation of Christians to give the gospel to this generation of heathen. May we each accept our share of responsibility at this point.

Our motive for supporting missions is the command of Jesus. If we give attention from any other motive than love and obedience it will result in frustration and failure. As we launch into a new year let us obey the Master's command and support His program to the limit of our God-given ability.

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CONVERSION OF CHILDREN

Childhood is the golden age of conversion. It is easier for the child to be won when young than later when the chains of character have been bound by evil anchorages. Many of the world's most famous Christians have been won as children.

Bishop William Taylor was converted when six; Richard Baxter, the famous writer and preacher, when three, Esther Carson Winans, the missionary to the Andes, when four; P. P. Bliss, the song writer, when twelve; John Fletcher, the Methodist saint, when seven; Asbury, the famous Methodist pioneer, when seven; Adoniram Judson, the Burmese missionary, when very young, Adam Clarke, the commentator, when four; Matthew Henry, the

PRAYER CALENDAR — DECEMBER 1962

1. New outpost at Emondlo, Paulpietersburg Dist., Shadrach Ndlangamandla, preacher
2. Blessing on church dedication service at Gobeni, Louwsburg Dist., first week-end in December
3. The European Sunday School at Paulpietersburg and Rev. Karl Gorman as he works in it
4. Continued prayer for possible opening of a secondary school at Bethesda Station in January 1964
5. Safety of our missionaries in these troubled days in Africa
6. Thursday evening prayer meetings for Europeans at Paulpietersburg
7. Prayer of thanks for recent service at Natalspruit when a young man was received into membership who feels called to preach the Gospel on the Reef
8. Eric Haywood—Birthday
9. Youth Camp—Hartland Mission, Paulpietersburg Dist., Rev. C. D. M. Sanders
10. Bethany Joy Emmett—Birthday
11. Continued prayer for the financial needs of Bethesda Hospital; also for the ministry among the patients
12. Our Foreign Mission Board as they plan and direct the maintenance and development of our mission work
13. Mary Sanders—Birthday
14. Our retired missionaries and former missionaries now not actively engaged in mission work
15. That funds may be soon available to complete the Hudsons' house at Bethesda
16. Big Sunday at Dolongwne, Paulpietersburg Dist. — Rev. A. Methula in charge
17. That our African Sunday Schools may be the means of salvation for many children
18. Wattville, Reef, where the former worker, Elias Nkosi, has seriously backslidden
19. Daveyton, Reef, prayer of thanks for thriving Sunday School
20. Natalspruit, Reef, and Rev. and Mrs. Malaza who are pastoring the work there
21. Kalfontein, Reef, for church that is to be built there and Timothy Nkosi, who is the preacher
22. Meadowlands, Reef, where Daniel Nkonyana is working in open-air services
23. Big Sunday at Altona Mission—Rev. A. M. Mbokazi and Rev. A. Sibiya in charge
24. Christian native teacher needed for a new school to be opened at Masuie, Rhodesia January 1963
25. For all those that carry the message of His wondrous birth, death and resurrection to every land
26. Eric and Nina Haywood as they carry the burden of the mission work to the people at home
27. Those at home in preparation for or anticipation of future mission work
28. Rhodesian Missionary Conference—December 31-Jan. 2
29. Uta Chase—Birthday
30. Rhodesian native church conference—January 2-6, conference to be attended by Supt. E. A. M. Kierstead
31. Wilma Emmett—Birthday.

commentator, when ten; Bishop Simpson, the churchman, when four; Polycap, the early martyr, when nine; Jonathan Edwards, the writer and educator, when six; Isaac Watts the song writer, when eight, and Robert Moffat, the father-in-law of Livingstone, and the African missionary when ten.

Said Spurgeon about childhood conversion, "Our converts from among children are among the very best we have. I should judge them to be more numerously genuine than any other class, more constant, and in the long run more solid."