

Are not these statistics full of meaning? It is true that there may be a good work of seed sowing and character building done for a twelve month and no visible results appear in the way of souls saved. At the same time, are not the figures—123 churches, with a membership of 6,369, without a single soul saved—full of startling meaning, especially when we superadd to this the statement that there are 63 churches more, with a membership of 3640, that have only had 92 additions to crown the preaching of the gospel and the work of this host of believers for a whole year, or only about one to each 40? Ought not these facts to lead to great searchings of heart and deep humiliation before God, as well as earnest seeking for the power of God's Spirit? Two other facts are also significant. The largest proportion of increase, with a few notable exceptions, has been in the churches which number less than 100. The additions by baptism to the Home Mission churches are more than half of all the increase by baptism for the year. Does not this emphasize the warning to the stronger churches of the danger of failure to utilize the working power of the membership, when the necessity for general activity for the sake of self-existence is removed, and thus of losing that aggressiveness which is a condition of all enlarged success?

Your Committee also call attention to the fact that during the year there have been 116 churches that have dropped from their roll 1,013 members, while there have only been 48 that have excluded members, and the total exclusions for the year have been but 138, or only about one-eighth of the number of erasures. Significant along the same line is the fact that our churches report about 3,500 non-resident members. Do not these facts indicate that too many of our churches are failing to exercise a proper watch care over their members, and are also seeking to relieve themselves of that solemn duty of discipline unto seclusion which makes church membership so full of meaning and the assuming of its vows so serious a matter?

In seeking to discover the inner life of our churches, your Committee sent a list of questions to all our pastors. Replies have come from over one hundred of these, and we believe they give a correct idea of the general life of our people, as far as these questions can elicit it.

The average attendance at the prayer meetings of our churches varies from one-fifth to three-quarters of the membership. In about half of the churches, the average attendance is about one-third. In