

Have You a Wide-Awake Missionary Committee?

ONE so often hears organization depreciated. "Oh, we have so many organizations!" or, "the machinery is too complex,"—some such statement greets us from numerous quarters. Look at the telegraph line, with its slender wires and gaunt, bleached poles. "What dead things," someone exclaims, but could we enter into the molecular constitution we would find each atom in those wires energized with an invisible power that would drive a message clean round the globe in an incredibly short space of time. Certainly poles and wires would be cumbersome to the ground, still less ornamental, if they did not serve a purpose. They exist for a definite end, and when properly made use of, constitute one of the wonders of our nineteenth century.

No, let us not belittle organization. Organization stands for life and power, and if a League has a Missionary Committee that is not fulfilling the end for which it exists, let it be buried or electrified. If the chain of Missionary Committees that extends across our fair Canada from ocean to ocean, composed of wide-awake young people who are endowed so well physically, mentally and spiritually, could only be charged with divinely guided zeal, the glad message of the Gospel would find ready soil in many pagan hearts who otherwise will never hear it. As a factor in God's plan for the evangelization of heathen men and women, our Methodist young people must awaken to their responsibility. "Awake thou that sleepest," may well apply. Our machinery is fixed and ready for service, may we pray perseveringly, that it may be charged by invisible wires of faith that are in touch with the batteries of the Eternal.

A good Missionary Committee must have at least five concerned members. The size, however, depends on circumstances, some Leagues requiring a larger committee for efficient service.

A *wide-awake* Missionary Committee is only so, because it follows Mr. Wesley's injunction, "All at it and always at it." Each member must have a specific work to feel responsible for.

1. There should be a Secretary to record all committee meetings, work done, to keep a record book in which to enter all reports in full to the Society, thus giving the incoming Secretary the advantage of knowing what has been done; to keep a systematic list of members who give weekly two cents or over, and a list of those who pray daily for missions, using the "Prayer Cycle" prepared by our Church.

2. A Treasurer who shall take charge of all monies collected, handing it to the Treasurer of the Society, who will forward it to the District Treasurer. Where the district is not organized, the Society Treasurer shall hand it to the pastor or send directly to Dr. Sutherland, who will fund such money till the District is strong enough financially either to support a man, or aid in so doing. In every way the Committee Treasurer should keep a businesslike, up-to-date account of all money received. Collect regularly each quarter and prevent as far as possible any arrears. A thorough systematic canvass should be kept up as long as any are not paying and praying.

3. A member to supervise meetings. It shall be his or her duty to carefully draw out programmes, seeing that only those are asked that can properly conduct a meeting (the Missionary meeting is too sacred and too important to be used for purposes of experiments with inexperienced

members). To see that the room is well lighted and cheerful, and that the music is suitable. Appoint one or more ushers. If possible, obtain maps or charts bearing on the subject. To discountenance anything of a trivial or careless kind not in keeping with the evening.

4. A Correspondent, who shall correspond with your own District representative, when you get one on the field, and enlist others to write pleasant, encouraging letters that will cheer his heart while working amid the blackness of heathenism. Also to write to other missionaries of our own denomination, with a view to reading their replies to the League.

5. A member who shall take charge of missionary literature. To canvass the league, slowly and systematically, for members to use the "Cycle of Prayer," and to occasionally inquire how it is being used. To be on the lookout for tracts and pamphlets which are given free (excepting postage) for distribution among the League members. To create a desire for a missionary library by circulating good missionary books. To see that the books and pamphlets are *circulated*. This member should feel his or her responsibility. The importance of supplying literature cannot possibly be over-estimated. Get your League to let you invest occasionally the missionary collection in suitable pamphlets, or an interested friend to present your committee with a missionary volume. Remember one of the greatest movements of the age is the outcome largely of a few students reading missionary biography and facts.

It will be necessary to have a committee meeting at least once a month. Let them be businesslike, there is an attractiveness and a winsomeness clinging to a clean, earnest committee meeting that will make itself felt as far on as the monthly open meeting. Avoid anything of a slipshod nature. Let every member pray at the opening of the business meeting. After the Secretary's minutes, let every other member report, these reports being commented on, and, if necessary, prayed over. Lay plans definitely and deeply, realizing you are working for eternity. Machinery and method will not accomplish much if there is not an earnest, prayer enthused, personality behind them. This committee stands with the Saviour's commands on one hand, and on the other a League, a divinely appointed instrument which can carry out his world-wide command. Each member must feel the responsibility of his position, that is, to show to the other League members the obligation resting upon them in respect to our Lord's last words: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

HOWARD G. BARRIE.

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THE PLEDGE FORM for "Daily Prayer," for "Missions," and "Weekly Giving to Missions," and its companion, the COLLECTOR'S BOOK, are adapted to the use of any Methodist young people's Christian society, or any Band, Circle, Auxiliary, or Sunday School Bible Class, whose members wish to *pray daily* and *give weekly* to missions, paying the amount monthly.

In a young people's Christian society it is found advisable to place these books in the hands of the Missionary Committee, the committee dividing the membership of the society among themselves, so that each committeeman

*The Blank Pledge and Blank Collector's Book are 5c. each. Order them from Dr. Sutherland, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto, Ont.