

Obstacles to Band Work.—Many Bands during the winter, have to be discontinued almost entirely, because the church cannot be heated at a convenient hour. This is very discouraging, yet even then, the indefatigable leader will see that the interest does not die out. A few bright cheery words with the young people after church or Sunday school; a few inquiries as to their contribution to the mission barrels, a little talk about the concert which you intend to have in the spring, or the picnic on somebody's lawn, will keep the work in their minds, and secure their eager interest.

In one of our small country churches, there is a farmer's wife, who has a large cheery kitchen, to which she invites the Band occasionally. Why could not many others do the same? Yes, and at the close of the meeting treat their young visitors to a plate of apples, or a taffy pull? One young lady thinks the greatest obstacle to our work is in the home. Mother, is that true of your home? Do you value so little the privileges that your children enjoy in the Band, that you are careless about their attending the meetings? Have you so little sympathy with God's great purpose in sending His Son to our world, that you will not lend your influence to help on the work. Put yourself in the place of the Band Leader, and you will soon find many ways to help and encourage her.

The day school teacher depends upon the mother to see that the "home work" is not neglected, and she has five days in the week; the Band Leader has one hour, and her lessons too, are important. Mother, will you not assist her by seeing that your little girl goes regularly to the meeting, with well prepared recitations or thoughtfully written paper? Teach her that though she may not have many pennies to spare for the mite box, or collection plate, Jesus will be equally pleased if she faithfully does the work that is in her reach, and will say of her, "She hath done what she could."

Such training will have an indelible impression upon the child's mind. Children are so quick to catch the spirit, and follow the example of their parents, and no amount of training in the Band, can be half so efficient, as that of the devoted Christian parent. Yes, home is the true place for the fostering and development of the missionary spirit. It is told, that Dr. Hooper, a saintly man, feeling the bitterness of the separation, said to his daughter, who was about to be married to Mr. Capron and go with him to India. "How came you ever to think of going abroad as a Foreign Missionary?" "Why, father," she replied, "I do not count it strange, I have heard you pray for missions all my life, and now I am going to answer your prayers."

How many parents would be willing to have their prayers answered in a similar way?

What our Bands need, and what I would crave for them, is the co-operation of pastors, Sunday school workers, and parents, with the Band Leaders. Then should we see souls saved, lives consecrated, work accomplished and Christ's kingdom come.

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