

FIELD STUDY FOR JUNE.

MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SHIPS.

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.—Mark 16: 15.

I.e., I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.—Matt. 28: 20.

These were among the last words of Jesus, as He parted from His weeping disciples and was taken up into Heaven. Strange, indeed, that since they were uttered nearly nineteen hundred years ago, the Christian Church has been so slow in obeying the call, that to-day there are still 1,000,000,000 who have never heard the blessed story of redeeming grace!

During the last hundred years, however, there has been a wonderful Missionary Crusade against the powers of heathendom, and the gospel light is slowly dispelling the darkness of superstition and cruelty. William Carey, a noble young man, living in England, in 1792, after much discouragement, succeeded in organizing the First British Foreign Missionary Society, and in the following year he, himself, landed in India, as the first foreign missionary. Soon after missionaries were sent to Africa, China, Fiji, Burmah, Japan and Corea, until now it is estimated that there are 10,000 missionaries and 25,000 native teachers. This seems a large number, but still there is only one missionary for every 100,000 of the heathen. Surely we should pray our Heavenly Father to send more laborers into His vineyard. He has answered this prayer so far, that to-day many consecrated young men and women are waiting to go, but there is no money to send them. True, \$10,000,000 annually are contributed for foreign missions, but this is only one-cent a year for each of the heathen.

Our prayers this month are that God would abundantly bless those consecrated men and women who have left friends and native land and all the comforts of home, to spend their lives telling the message of salvation to these perishing millions.

When the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada was organized in 1824, two or three men were already striving to evangelize the Indians. Now our church has a noble band of missionaries numbering 1200. Our Woman's Missionary Society has thirty-seven noble women, who are laboring with never failing zeal to bring precious souls to a personal knowledge of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. These missionaries are now in Japan, China, British Columbia and Quebec, sowing precious seed, often amid discouragement, yet trusting in Him who said: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." They are indeed "ready for every good work," being teacher, friend, nurse in time of sickness, spiritual guide, indeed everything to those placed under their care. How often they must droop from sheer exhaustion, and long for a glimpse of home and dear ones. These are the times when the remembrance that in "the dear

Home Land, little bands of women and of boys and girls are praying for them, give them renewed strength and courage with which to take up the burden again. Do not let us fail, dear boys and girls, but let us daily remember our dear missionaries who are doing such a noble and Christ-like work.

We are also to pray this month for missionary ships, all ships carrying missionaries, that they may escape the perils of the deep and be brought safely to the desired haven. In all ages the gospel has been greatly indebted to ships. Jesus took ship and went unto the other side, and when the multitude came unto Him He brake unto them the Bread of Life. Paul, in his missionary journeys, to obey the commands of the Holy Spirit, was obliged to "take ship" and sail wherever he was commanded to go. And how God cared for him, in mighty storms and perils, and though three times shipwrecked, still God preserved his life!

God has wonderfully cared for all missionary ships in the past, and although some voyages have been from fifteen to eighteen thousand miles in length, very seldom have our missionaries suffered shipwreck or lost their lives. In going to Japan and China there is a long voyage by water; the missionaries on their way to China having an especially long and tedious journey up the Yang-tse River, sometimes lasting two or three months. The house-boats, as they are called, are flat-bottomed boats, 85 feet long to 12 wide. At each side of a front deck, 35 feet long, is a large car, used in crossing rocky or dangerous parts of the river. But usually the boat is propelled by "tracking," that is about thirty-five men pull the boat along from the shore by means of bamboo ropes. Back of the deck are the living rooms, very crowded and small. Often the boat strikes against a rock and springs a leak, and then the baggage is sure to be water-soaked, and the clothing and books damaged.

On the Pacific Coast the Methodist Church has a missionary boat, "Glad Tidings," under the charge of Rev. T. Crosby, which sails up and down the coast, carrying "Glad Tidings of Salvation" to many a poor benighted Indian, who could never hear of the Gospel in any other way. Let us pray also that God may bless this little vessel and preserve it for many years to be the bearer of good news to those who know Him

A. C. W.

QUESTIONS FOR JUNE.

- What were the last words of Jesus, and when were they heeded?
- Will you tell what you know of William Carey?
- How many missionaries now, and what proportion to the heathen?
- What is the want now when many are willing to go?
- How many missionaries of our Church now? Of our W. M. S.?
- Where?
- What good Work do they do? Do they ever get tired?
- What is pleasant for them to remember? What must we do?
- Who made use of ships to carry the Gospel?
- Do our missionaries go in ships now? Describe the house boat?
- What little missionary ship on the Pacific Coast?