

Canadian Missionary Link

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The Faith of the Pioneers

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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.

By faith Americus V. Timpany, alone with God, while sitting on a log in his father's woods gave himself wholly and unreservedly to the Saviour.

By faith, in the autumn of 1860, he entered the Canadian Literary Institute at Woodstock to prepare for the Gospel ministry.

By faith the Canadian Auxiliary at its first annual meeting—October 17th, 1867—set apart Mr. Timpany for missionary service as the representative of Canadian Baptists among the Telugus.

By faith the people on this occasion began to give, and did not go home till after midnight, for they "would not go away until they had given of their substance to the Lord."

By faith Mr. and Mrs. Timpany sailed from New York in October 1867, and reached Madras in April 1868 after an unusually long voyage around the Cape.

By faith Mr. Timpany began the study of the Telugu language before he reached the land toward which he journeyed. By faith the two Telugu women who taught him on the voyage were afterwards baptized. By faith he opened the Ramapatam Theological Seminary and became its first Principal.

By faith Rev. John McLaurin, while he was pastor of the Stratford Baptist Church, offered himself for the foreign field.

By faith Rev. John and Mrs. McLaurin sailed from New York on December 22nd, 1870, and, after an unusually quick voyage, landed in Madras the latter part of February.

By faith, these pioneers, when they were grown up, refused to be called to alluring pastorates at home, choosing rather to risk discomforts among the Telugus, than to enjoy the comforts of Canada for a season; accounting the salvation of the heathen a greater work than the best of tasks at home.

By faith when the staff of the A. B. M. U. was deplorably small, "Timpany and McLaurin" bearing the burden of the whole mission, labored nobly and were abundantly blessed. Nellore—so long a trial of faith—yielded seventy-seven souls in one year at this time.

By faith Mrs. John Bates, when her daughters were still babes, dedicated them to the service of God in foreign fields.

By faith these girls, when they had grown up, sailed with their husbands across vast wintry seas to far away India.

By faith they forsook home and loved ones, not fearing the hardships and perils which awaited them; for they endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

By faith the "Regular Baptist Foreign Mission Society of Canada" was formed at the Convention which met in October 1870.

By faith Dr. Fyfe, at four o'clock on Tuesday, October 28th, 1873, sent a cablegram to Mr. McLaurin to "go to Cocanada"; and the Canadian Baptist Telugu Mission was born.

By faith Mr. and Mrs. McLaurin went up to Cocanada, not knowing whither they went, and took possession of the new field, on the 12th of March, 1874.

By faith the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces sent forth their "first seven"