

I think that the National Baptist Laymen's Committee of the United States (the same men who carried to such a successful issue their million dollar drive) have reached the right conclusion when they recently took as their objective "the quickening and deepening of the spiritual life in all their membership—that is the great need of the Church to-day." Some years ago there was a great cry of "Back to Christ." Let our watchword be not "Back to Christ," but "Forward to Him." He is our leader, and a vision of life as Jesus taught and lived it is the only motive that will awaken in people the conviction that the winning of the world for Christ is the chief concern of His Church.

"Would you win all the world for Christ?

One way there is, and only one;

You must live Christ from day to day,

And see His will be done.

Only by treading in His steps,

The all-compelling ways of love,

Shall earth be won, and men made one

With that great love above."

As I look back over the year, one feature stands out particularly—*money*. We have been talking money, writing money, thinking money, and praying for money. Is there something wrong with our methods? Are we, in our eagerness to reach our objective, pushing aside the spiritual side of our work?

There are other functions of the circle which we must promote—above all, the devotional life. In a little book called "Help Those Women," F. A. Agar says that in order to have real success in our work we must increase the spirit of prayer in the lives of our women. A moment ago I referred to the indifferent women. Are we praying for them? In a certain women's society the "inner circle" gathered together for intercession for the women who did not participate in the life of the church. A list of these was made out, and the names divided up. They began then to intercede with God for those on their list. Soon these women were visiting and praying with the non-participating members. Once a month a meeting was held to exchange experiences and enroll new-comers. Things soon happened that glorified God, not only in the women's circles, but throughout the whole church.

Prayer leads to action in our lives—and when we learn to pray, giving will have quite a different aspect. Our Mission Circles were organized for the purpose of spreading missionary information, and raising "over all" offerings with which to send the Gospel to the women and children in non-Christian lands (as well as to those in our own country). Dues or subscriptions were fixed—so small a sum as two cents a week—in order that all the women might participate in the work of the Circle. This, on the other hand, has had the result of limiting the giving of many who should have paid into the cause much larger amounts. An example of the harmful results of placing too small a standard on our giving is seen in a large communion where the slogan was "One dollar per capita from every member each year for missions." They reached that standard in several years, but it took a long time and hard work to get beyond it.

The time has gone by when we must speak apologetically when we mention money in connection with Missions. The day of small things is past, and with it the begging