

How Shall we Get our Love to Christ Increased?

A VITAL inquiry this in connection with fresh interest and fresh effort in mission work.

The answer is near. Is it not by our seeking through earnest thought to know more fully Christ's love for us? There is no exhausting of this love, for it "passeth knowledge;" but there is a growingly fuller apprehension of it. And the contemplation of this love must not be a mere passing thing, it must arouse us to act in the line of it, it must awaken us to a living life.

Love is fed by looking; it is also fed by living. We stir up the fire and make it burn, and then the divine fuel glows more brightly. Personal godliness fans the flames of love to Christ, and personal effort to make known Christ's love to others fans it. We get by giving; we increase by scattering; the more we stir up the fire of our love, the richer the supply of the fuel to keep it burning.

But the effective agent is not ourselves, it is the Holy Spirit. He kindled in this cold, dead, sinful heart of ours the love of Christ. That it has continued to burn there, we owe to Him; and if it is ever to burn brighter there, it must be by His grace. And so prayer must precede and accompany and follow all our efforts. There must be this continuous supplication that we may lead holier lives, that we may realize more fully our responsibilities for the advancement of the gospel, that our Christian sympathies for those in spiritual darkness may be deepened, and that we may be stimulated to attempt greater things than we have ever done for Christ. It is in this intensifying of our love for Him that we are to look for an increase of missionary zeal. "If a man love me, he will keep my words." And the great word of the risen Christ is, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

"In the story of primitive missions," says Dr. Pierson, "the whole stress is upon obedience, not consequences; not on succeeding, but on serving." And he adds, "It is one of the startling proofs of a rapid decline from a primitive piety that so few modern disciples feel the burden of personal responsibility for souls." But with increased love for Christ, this sense of personal responsibility will be quickened, and devotion to the service of the Lord promoted. When we grow in love we are certain to abound in love.

The deepening of the spiritual life of the Church developing love for Christ will, therefore, show itself in more vigorous, self-sacrificing, and sustaining effort for the conversion of the world.—*The Missionary Record*.

To the Epworth Leagues.

THE Woman's Missionary Society sends greeting:

We view with gratitude to God the growth and energy of the League organization, and rejoice in the prominence given to Missionary activities, and extend our most hearty sympathy with your every effort in this direction.

Our Woman's Missionary Society aims at the evangelization of heathen women and children, and feels the loss, in many places, of the contributions of Mission Circles and Bands which have developed into League organization and effort.

With the special object of our work in view, we earnestly desire the prayerful, practical co-operation of the young people of our Church through the district organization of our Leagues.

Our work commends itself to our young people, for the children of to-day will be the men and women of tomorrow, and the neglected, unhappy, spiritual condition of heathen women and children appeals strongly to every Epworth League member.

In Japan, *fifty dollars* a year will support a Bible-woman, whose work is house to house visitation, gathering the women together to hear the Gospel, also conducting evangelistic meetings. During the past year, through the agency of this department of our work, eight thousand visits were made and over five hundred persons heard the Gospel for the first time.

Fifty dollars per annum will support a girl in any of our three schools; who, after completing her course of study, gives two years to evangelistic work under the direction of our missionaries.

Twenty-five dollars per annum will support a child in the Orphanage in Tokyo, where there are at present fourteen inmates, or in Kanazawa, where there are sixteen inmates.

In West China, *twenty-five dollars* per annum will support a pupil in the school.

Twenty-five dollars per annum will support a girl in the Indian Homes at Port Simpson or Chilliwack, B.C.

Fifty dollars will support a girl in the Chinese Rescue Home Victoria, B.C., or in the French Institute, Montreal.

Any further information regarding these special objects of support may be had by addressing the Home Secretary, Mrs. G. P. McKay, Alliston, Ont.

A change in our constitution provides that "Any Epworth League numbering forty or over and contributing twenty-five dollars to the W.M.S. is entitled to send one delegate to the Branch annual meeting."

(Signed) S. K. GOODERHAM, *President*,
S. D. MCKAY, *Home Cor. Sec.*

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As our Epworth League is organized for "CHRIST AND THE CHURCH," our members should have broad ideas of the work of our Church, and our duty toward every branch or department should be justly considered.

"CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH," therefore, the work which Christ began, in establishing His kingdom on earth, is the work of the Church to-day. The progress and needs of the Lord's kingdom demand oneness of purpose, united effort, the realization that we are all members one of another, and One is our master, even Christ; and that we are working that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE IS THE YOUNGEST DEPARTMENT—so young that it is not yet fully acquainted with its relations. One fact should be fully understood by every member of the Epworth League, and that is, that the Epworth League is a connectional Society, it is not only closely connected with the whole work of the Methodist Church, but every local Epworth League is closely connected with every other Epworth League in the district of which it is a part.

Leaguers will please think about this—remember the fact that you have, or should have, an Annual District Epworth League Convention, at which the work for the past year is reviewed, and the best plans for carrying on old and arranging for new work in the coming year discussed and adopted. District officers to supervise each department are appointed. It is quite clear to all that great advantage will be gained in having the missionary work of a district, for the