

2. Who was the first Methodist martyr in Canada? Give an account of his career.

3. Tell what you know of Barbara Heck.

4. Who formed the first Methodist Circuit in Canada? When and where?

5. Describe the first Methodist Quarterly Meeting. Where and when was it held?

6. Give the extent of Nathan Bang's first circuit.

7. Write the names of six pioneer preachers who assisted in establishing Methodism in the Canadas.

SUGGESTIONS.

This topic could be more intelligently studied if a large map of Canada were before the meeting. Let the missionary vice-president endeavor to procure one. Appoint a number of members a week in advance to prepare brief biographies of some of the more interesting and striking pioneers. Material will be found in the foregoing. The "Search Questions" should, of course, be given out a week in advance. This topic is a study, not a piece of play. But work it out; it will pay abundantly.

MARCH 4.—"WHAT IS TRUE HAPPINESS? THE WORLD IDEA: THE CHRISTIAN IDEA."

Luke 6, 20-36; 1 John 2, 12-17; 2 Cor. 6, 10; Phil. 4, 4, 7.

(CONGREGATION MEETING.)

DAILY READINGS.

Mon., Feb. 26.—A glutton's standard Eccl. 8, 15-18.
Tues., Feb. 27.—A rich fool's standard. Luke 12, 16-21.
Wed., Feb. 28.—False culture. Acts 17, 18-21.
Thurs., Mar. 1.—Moses' standard. Deut. 33, 26-29.
Fri., Mar. 2.—God's standard. Rom. 14, 17-19.
Sat., Mar. 3.—Paul's standard. Rom. 5, 1-5.

PIONEER POINTS.

(Thoughts for introduction by the president, to be enlarged.)

One has said, "The great pursuit of man is happiness." Speaking generally of a large class of humanity that is true. And yet it is a false standard, and a futile pursuit. For beings made in the image of God, with Christ-like character to attain, Christian service to perform, serious responsibilities to bear, should have no such low ideal as happiness as the chief object in life. Rather should it be the doing of the will of God and the faithful discharge of duty. Happiness will be the sure accompaniment of such procedure. Happiness is not to be sought as a thing in itself; it comes with the performance of worthy activity.

TOPIC HINTS FOR EXPANSION.

(Hints for the leader to construct the topic message.)

1. In the first topic scripture (Luke 6, 20-36) Jesus contrasts the transitory happiness of the rich with the permanent blessedness of those who belong to the kingdom of heaven. The race for gold, so manifest in our times, is illusive as a means of happiness. That young man with his million seeking for happiness all over the world, in the ways of the world, having all that heart could desire, and finally in despair committing suicide, is an illustration of the utter inability of riches to bring happiness or satisfy the craving of the human soul for God.

2. In the second topic scripture (1 John 2, 12-17) we have a beautiful description of the basis of happiness as found in the spiritual gifts which God in Christ has promised to all who will in faith receive them. "Because your sins are forgiven"—what a source of joy! "Because ye have overcome the wicked one"—what an achievement! Happiness would surely come at a sight of the vanquished foe. "Because the word of God abideth in you"—another source of happiness, the truths of God's Word having away over heart and life. "The world passeth away"—this is the terrible indictment against worldly happiness—it won't last. "But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

3. In the third topic scripture (2 Cor. 6, 10) we have Paul's idea of happiness. It does not consist in what we have, but in what we are. What we have is outside of us; what we are we carry with us. And if Christ dwells in us, the hope of glory, energizing all our activities, then we may realize Paul's paradox, "Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing"; "or, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

4. In the fourth topic scripture (Phil. 4, 4-7) we have the double injunction of the apostle to "rejoice in the Lord always." We may not always be able to rejoice when we look earthward, but when we look heavenward, there is cause for unceasing joy. What does the apostle mean in another place when he says, "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father." (Col. 1, 11, 12.) He means that when called upon to endure hardship, to suffer long in life's varied experiences, we shall be "strengthened with all might according to his glorious power," to endure and to suffer in such a way, that we shall be able to rejoice, "giving thanks unto the Father." This is the groundwork of rejoicing in the Lord always.

BIBLE LIGHT.

(Have members read these texts, with the comments, adding thoughts of their own.)

1. Prov. 3, 17. Wisdom's ways, that is, the ways of true religion, are ways of pleasantness. Man's highest good, man's highest happiness, is involved in following in religion's ways. We hear it said, sometimes, "After we have suffered the will of God." A wrong idea altogether! The will of God is the supreme blessedness of man, and there is no happiness apart from it.

2. Luke 12, 16-21. Here is the account of a man who is trying to be happy by increasing his worldly possessions, while at the same time he is starving his soul—increasing his worldly goods and leading a worldly life. God says of this man, and all such men, "Thou fool!"

3. Matt. 6, 33. In this topic Christ teaches men to put things in their proper order. Seek first—first in point of time, first in point of importance, first in point of anxiety—the Kingdom of God, and all these things (all necessary things) shall be added unto you. Happiness is found along this path.

4. John 15, 11. In the verses that precede this one we have Christ's prescription for permanent happiness: (a) "Abide in me"—union with Christ; (b) "Keep my commandments"—obedience to Christ; (c) "Bear much fruit"—service for Christ. Not one, or two, but all of these ingredients must be used, and Christian joy is the result.

5. Let members write original comments on these texts at home, and read them at the meeting: Gal. 5, 22; 1 John

1, 4; Eccles. 2, 1; 2 Cor. 1, 12; 1 Peter 1, 8; Ps. 40, 4.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

(Add original comments, and expand.)

1. Happiness is like bodily health—at its best when we do not think about it.

2. The search for happiness is like the search for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, which moves ahead of us as we advance.

3. Hawthorne tells of a youth who looked all over the world for a treasure he was to dig for and find beneath a certain sign. Returning home, defeated, he saw the sign and found the treasure in his own dooryard. So with happiness.

4. A careless, reckless sinner was converted to God, and began to lead a new life. The change in his habits excited the remarks of all his neighbors. Meeting one of his old associates one day, the latter remarked, "I hear you have given up all your pleasures." "No," replied the other, calmly, "I never knew what pleasure was till now. And as I have tried the pleasures of sin, and also of religion, and you only one, I ought to be the best judge."

QUOTATIONS.

(To be memorized and quoted.)

1. Happiness is the union of ourselves with God.—Blaise Pascal.
2. Beware all joys but joys that never can expire.—Young.
3. To be happy is not the purpose of our being, but to deserve happiness.—Fichte.
4. God loves to see His creatures happy; our lawful delight is His.—Bishop Hall.
5. It is heaven upon earth to have a man's mind move in charity, rest in Providence, and turn upon the poles of truth.—Lord Bacon.
6. The foundation of content must spring up in the mind; and he who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own disposition will waste his life in fruitless efforts, and multiply the griefs which he purposes to remove.—Johnson.

SEARCH QUESTIONS.

(Write answers at home and bring to the meeting.)

1. What was Christ's idea of human happiness? (See John 15, 1-11.)
2. What was Moses' standard of true happiness? (Deut. 33, 26-29.)
3. What was Paul's conception of Christian joy? (Rom. 5, 1-5.)
4. What idea of happiness had the Rich Fool? (Luke 12, 16-21.)
5. Write out your own idea of true happiness.
6. Are you doing anything to make others happy?

MOTTO FOR THE BLACKBOARD.

(To be printed on blackboard and enlarged upon by the president.)

Christian } HAPPINESS } Lasts,
Worldly } Fails.

SUGGESTION.

Preparation for these topics should begin at least two weeks in advance. There should be ample time given for the work to be done at home. Construct your programme so as to include all the features of the exposition, and use as many as possible of the numbers in your programme. If you are prompt and alert it may all be done in an hour. Don't forget the personal application. This is a topic from which young people may learn many things.