

and stimulating its activities. *This is her relation to the church.*

By this we do not mean that she is to be the president of every woman's society in the church, any more than her husband is to be senior deacon or president of the trustees and chairman of every committee. This is often an uncalled-for tax on her strength. In every church there should be women who can and will fill these offices faithfully, and carry on their hearts the details of the work. But still, the pastor's wife is a potent factor in the spiritual life of the church. Naturally, the women of the church look to her, and very often are found to live on her level of Christian life, be it high or low. Great indeed are her possibilities for good, if she have rightly apprehended her relation to the church. While she seeks the same ends as her husband, her methods are different. She touches another side of the church and touches it as he cannot. More than half the members of the church are women, and this means much. She can go where he has no entrance and give womanly sympathy and help. Springs of action respond to her touch which are hidden away from him. It is hers to study how the social life and the home life and wifely love and the mother's instincts can be brought into the service of Him who gave Himself for us. It is hers to gather up the threads, often stray threads, of human interest, and twine them into a strong bond, to bind her sisters and the church to Christ.

Do you remember this in God's Word? "It is not good that the man should be alone: I will make an helpmeet for him." And is not this God's arithmetic? "One shall chase a thousand, and two shall put ten thousand to flight." When the minister's wife has apprehended her relation to her husband and to the church she has already determined

*Her relation to foreign missions.* It is because we have not rightly learned our God-given work that the interest in missions in too many churches is but a feeble spark, or even no spark at all.

We, as Baptists, pride ourselves upon our obedience to God's word, but some seem to think when they have obeyed in baptism, their obedience is complete. This is not so. Just as emphatic is the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and it is our duty to be in the fore ranks in obedience to the latter, as much as to the former.

So much of the missionary interest now is spasmodic—an offering once a year, given perhaps heartily, perhaps grudgingly; perhaps understanding the needs, and graded accordingly, perhaps, as in one known instance, following a set rule for benevolence—a dollar to every special collection taken in the church, no matter what the object may be; perhaps nothing at all, because of

regularly recurring illness on missionary collection day.

The pastor has had hard work with an occasional sermon to change this habit. It cannot be accomplished by one effort, nor even by a year of effort perhaps. It must be by pull after pull, over and over again, until the old habit is overcome and new purposes are formed. It is in this steady educational work in missions that the pastor's wife can, if she will, supplement his efforts most effectively.

But suppose the minister himself is not interested in missions. Such cases are rare, but they are nevertheless real. Shall his wife stand beside him, alike indifferent? Indeed no! She is to be his helpmeet. If he be in this condition he needs her help more than ever. If he had typhoid fever, she would toil night and day to nurse him out of it. If he had fatal apathy, she must nurse him out of that too. If, heart and soul, she try to obey her Lord in this world-wide work for others, her husband will soon stand by her side.

Let this educational spirit be broad and generous. "All the world" means our church, our state, our country, and all the lands beyond the seas. If we would fulfil the command, we must remember the meaning of "all." We must recognize that the Missionary Union is the foreign missionary society of the whole church, and as members of the church, we are responsible for our share in the work of that society. To this we must add the distinct work undertaken by our Woman's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. What I must we give double offerings to foreign missions? Aye. Are we not as women ready to give double times double as a thank-offering to the Lord for what His gospel has done for us?

The woman's department of this foreign mission work has developed very complete plans for organizations. First, the Woman's Circle. Then, because women had missions at heart, the children were trained to care for the work, and there sprung up everywhere the Children's Bands. To these were then added a third, the young women's circles, adopting recently the name "Farther Lights." But experience proves that these organizations will be but short-lived, if they are left to take care of themselves—bare meetings to which the sisters are invited to come and pray for the conversion of the heathen, or to which the children come but find nothing to make them want to come again. Here are open doors, which the pastor's wife might enter, and by exerting her influence, help greatly in training the whole church with regard to mission spirit.

To do this she must keep in the front ranks of intelligence; must know which missionaries are in which fields; who are just starting out; who are coming home, wearied and broken-down; where the gospel is being gladly received, and where the native Christians