

came to one of that faithful band, "Can we not praise God for lives spared ; for mercies which have come to us in the midst of trial; and for the tidings which reach us of the scores and hundreds of conversions in other parts of the world ?" That thought took root, and soon sprang up, to blossom into a blessed fruition.

Plans were carefully matured, and the day set for the praise meeting. And what a meeting it was ! Some who were present cannot speak of it now without emotion. The attendance was a surprise ; the ingathering of thank-offerings a marvel ; the spiritual outpouring a revelation.

And now a few words about the method of conducting Praise meetings.

It may be said at once that the mere conclusion to have such a meeting, and announcement from the pulpit, are not enough. There should be much *careful preparation* for some time previous. Invitations should be written—or printed when the number to be reached is large—and sent to each lady in the church and congregation. Let each invitation include a little envelope marked "Thank-offering," or "Praise Meeting." Invite everybody accessible. There is special point in this, for, by the free use of these invitations, those who have never shown any previous interest in missionary meetings will often attend, and become permanent workers in the cause. Many have received their first missionary impetus at the Praise meeting.

The following is a suggestive form of invitation :

Dear Mrs.——.

You are most cordially invited to attend the annual Praise Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society, to be held in the—Church, at 3 o'clock p. m. Tuesday afternoon. A program of unusual interest may be expected. The presence of every lady connected with the church and congregation is desired, and you are requested to extend this invitation to your friends. Please place your thank-offering for the mercies which have come to you from the Father's hand, in the enclosed envelope ; seal and bring with you to the meeting.

In addition to these invitations, a full notice should be given from the pulpit, urging all to attend.

A carefully prepared programme should be arranged.

Short papers on such topics as "Praise for Temporal Blessings," "Praise for Spiritual Blessings," "How May We Praise God Most Acceptably?" etc., may be prepared and read, and will help to deepen the interest. Other topics will naturally suggest themselves. A review of the year's work is also excellent.

At the close of the regular exercises, the treasurer brings forward the gathered offerings, and announces the sum total. A prayer of consecration is then offered, asking God to use this free will gift in the spread of His kingdom.

The influence of a thoroughly good praise meeting permeates the whole year's work of a missionary society. Has your Society never held such a meeting? Try one.