

pure and untarnished word of God. This is an intelligent and practical age. The spirit of investigation is in the air, and a strong desire to know the truth wherever it may be and whatever it may cost. Dr. Storrs said in his address, delivered upon the occasion of the close of his ten years service as president of the American Missionary Board, at the 97th anniversary of New Haven: "There is no other power now known to history or conceivable to man that can take the place of this old gospel which the earliest disciples heard, received and preached. * * * The power to transform the world is in the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ian Maclaren expresses the same idea in his late sayings, *i. e.* "It is hoped that every branch of the Christian church will soon exact no other pledge of her teaching than a declaration of faith in Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world; and a promise to keep His commandments." These sayings, with many others we could produce from all denominations, show that the trend of the times is along the line of one Book, one Creed—the sonship of Christ, in whom is the word of life. We rejoice to know that the world has come to the beginning of the end of the fog and mist of ecclesiasticism. When party names, "the cheese that baits the theological trap," are rejected, and only the name of Christ accepted, then we will see the universal triumph of the word of life.

The work enjoined upon us to-day is the holding forth this word of life. Not holding on simply, but holding it up, so others can see and hear, and feel its power. We must not hold it as the miser holds his money, but as the merchant holds his goods. We must hold forth the truth wisely. We must be careful to so hold it forth that its power will not be lost on the minds and hearts of others. Tact is better than talent. We must draw rather than drive. We must hold it forth constantly. "Instant, in season and out of season." Always at it. Indolence is heresy of the worst type. To be sound in doctrine and sound asleep is horribly sound. Let us not waste any of our precious time over the way or plan, the man is more than the plan. A good, earnest, live man, with a poor plan, will do more than a constitutionally tired man will do with a good plan. The best way or plan to bring the truth before the people is left to common sense. Moses commanded that a serpent of brass should be lifted up upon a pole so that all could look and live. We have no account of what kind or style of pole it was, whether rough or smooth, white or black, crooked or straight, large or small. Common sense taught them that the pole that would successfully present the serpent to the view of the people was best. What word could we use to express the depravity of the hearts of those who would see their friends dying all around them while they refused to lift the serpent because they could not agree on the kind or size of the pole on which the serpent was to be lifted? Would we to-day be any better or wiser than they, if we lost any time over plans and methods as to how the word of life is to be carried or presented to a dying, perishing world? Whosoever we see seeking to hold forth the word of life, forbid him not because he followeth not with us, but encourage him, "For he that is not against us is for us."

The new watch word of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society is, "\$100,000 for foreign missions, by collections only." Let every church aid in raising this amount. Let every member of every church give something. Give as the Lord has prospered you.

PREPARE FOR THE MARCH OFFERING.

Preparation is the *great* word. Without preparation little or nothing will be accomplished. With it a great offering can be secured.

Missions do not belong to the realm of experiment or doubtful expediency or logical inference. The Scripture teaching on this subject is clear and positive, and the obligation is imperative. It is clearly the will of Christ that his church evangelize the whole world. If the churches can be made to understand this great truth, it will be a long step in the preparation. *Missions are not a side issue.* They are the very heart of the gospel. Preaching the gospel to the lost is the churches' first duty.

Prepare for the March offering as follows:

1. By announcing it well.
2. By stirring sermons.
3. By distributing the *Missionary Voice*. Place one in each family.
4. By distributing the *March Offering Envelopes*. Place one in the hands of each member of the church.
5. By making a thorough canvas of the congregation for an offering from each member.
6. By using the February *Prayer-meeting Topics*.
7. By observing the *Foreign Missionary Rally* Sunday evening, Feb. 27th.

The *Missionary Voice* and *March Offering Envelopes* will be furnished, upon request, *free of charge*.

Every Christian should make an offering every year to preach the gospel to every creature.

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LITTLE ITEMS OF GREAT INTEREST.

From Here and There.

We see a remarkable instance of giving in the example of a girl who recently sent \$11 to the treasury of a mission society, and said: "I earned it by sewing at night after my day's work was done."

A traveller, who did not believe in missions, visited Fifi, and counselled a Christian chief to give up his faith in the Bible, which, he said, was no longer believed in by the cultured intellect of Europe. The chief pointed the visitor to a huge stone, and then to a large oven on the hill-side, and told him that on the one they were accustomed to murder their captives, and in the other to bake them "for eating;" "and that," he added, "is what we would have done with you if the Bible had not come here."

Mrs. Joseph Cook has said: "A true zeal for missions will lead anyone to do something or do without something for Jesus' sake." Christian people spend for pleasure and luxuries, that they would be better without, enough in one year to support thousands of missionaries in every heathen country under the sun. Suppose we do without something this year, and give what we thus save to the work of the Lord?

An old Hindu worshipped many idols, and washed in many streams, drinking even the water in which he had first washed a Brahman's dirty feet, hoping he would thus find peace. But no peace came. "I at last," he said, "heard of the water of salvation furnished by Jesus Christ, and I went to that and found that it was a well of water springing up unto everlasting life."

There are 1,000,000,000 heathen in the world. There are 10,000 missionaries to the heathen. Evenly divided each missionary would have the care of 100,000 souls. Forty million of heathen people die every year, without God and without hope. This is at the rate of about 100,000 each day.

The gospel is triumphing in islands once cannibal. News comes from Paton, the venerable missionary to the New Hebrides, of an ingathering of more than 1,000 souls during the past year.

It is a significant fact that the Anglo-Saxons hold the leadership of the missionary world. Out of 139 missionary societies in the world, 121 are organized and supported by Anglo-Saxons. Out of \$12,500,000 given for missions, over \$10,000,000 is raised annually by the societies of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Missionaries toiled in New Zealand for eleven years without obtaining a single convert. Their work, however, was so thoroughly done that now 95,000 of the island's native population are Christians.

Giving is doing. A poor man's missionary dollar stands for one day's work in preaching the gospel. Surely everyone should give at least the price of one day's work each year to carry out Christ's great commission.

There are 400 Christian Chinese in San Francisco who pay \$6,000 a year for foreign missions. This is \$15 a year for each. Their incomes are not large, but their hearts are. They believe that the Lord meant what He said when He gave the Great Commission.

At the funeral services of Dr. A. J. Gordon a Chinaman sent a sum of money with the following note: "Goon Woy gives the inclosed for missions instead of flowers, as he thinks Dr. Gordon would have desired."

A few years ago the *Missionary Herald* told of a Scotch woman who gave regularly a penny a day to missions, living, meanwhile, on porridge. A friend, out of pity, gave her a sixpence to buy meat. She reasoned: "I have done very well on porridge, and will give the sixpence to God." The story was told to a missionary secretary, who told it at a missionary breakfast. The host and his guests were so impressed by it that they subscribed immediately \$11,000, the host giving \$2,500 of this, saying he had never denied himself a chop for the Kingdom of God.

The Friendly Islands, fifty years ago, had not a native Christian. Now there are more than 30,000 church members, who give annually from their scanty store \$15,000 for religious purposes.

An English soldier estimated that a proclamation from the Queen put in the hands of the army and navy of Britain could be carried to every person on the globe within eighteen months. For eighteen hundred years the church has had a proclamation from the King of Kings to be delivered to the whole world, but so far only about one-third of the 1,500,000,000 on the globe have heard the name of Jesus.

When Judson had spent ten years in Burmah and could show but eighteen converts, he was asked, "What of the prospect?" His heroic answer was: "Bright as the promises of God."