

"Oh Lord open Thou our lips,
And our mouth shall show forth Thy
praise."

We might add one word to those who go away for the summer. It is on the subject of the offertory. Those who are envelope-takers make up as a matter of course for the Sundays during which they are absent. But do not let us leave this matter of the offertory during the summer entirely to the envelope-takers and those who remain in town. If you are not an envelope-taker (though why should you not be?) pray remember the summer services while you are absent, and be prepared to make up on your return something towards the support of the church while you have been away. The expenses of the church are a certain sum per Sunday, averaged through summer and winter alike, and if you do not contribute for the Sundays during which you are absent in the summer you are really omitting to contribute your share of the expenses during the Sundays in which you are present at other seasons of the year.

B.

SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

After trial of many methods to secure liberal giving for missions, we are thoroughly convinced that the one indispensable, if not the only, thing to induce those who have the love of God in their hearts to give generously as God has prospered them for the conversion of the heathen, is to make them intelligent on the whole subject of modern missions. And it is the business of every pastor as much as in him lies to make them so. How is he to do it?

Let him have some plan by which he shall regularly and frequently and systematically set before his people the facts respecting missionary operations, especially those of his own denomination, though not exclusively, facts respecting the origin and history of the various missions, interesting bits of biography of missionaries, the fresh intelligence from the various fields, both home and foreign, with special reference to the methods by which the work is carried on and success

achieved. While not concealing the facts that the work requires patience under discouragements and the enduring of hardness as good soldiers, and even peril of life and health, let him, as the missionaries would have him dwell chiefly on the success which always has in due time resulted from faithful and patient seed sowing and the ever-enlarging work and the unflinching and increasing annual increase of converts. Every year's report from the broad mission field shows conclusively that the missionary enterprise is above everything else a growing success, an investment that pays according to the Scripture rule: "Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over."—*Assembly Herald*.

THE STORY OF "ONE-TENTH."

A young lady had formed the purpose of giving one-tenth of a small income earned during the year by herself to the cause of Christian benevolence. Faithfully, month after month, she had put down her occasional charities with her other expenditures, and when it came for the time of closing up the account and arranging the balance she discovered that the sum of five dollars was due the benevolent column.

Now this person was young in years, and especially in Christian experience and benevolence, and she had never in all her life given so large a sum at one time as five dollars for anything except for purposes of self-gratification. It happened to be a severe lesson for her to learn in the school of benevolence, and she at once entered upon a fierce struggle with her love of self, her sense of duty, and a natural desire to keep her word and promise good. "Perhaps you have made a mistake," whispered self-love. "You had better go all over that account once more, and be sure you do it very carefully this time."

At this suggestion the young girl brightens up a bit and bends again to her task, knitting her brows very severely and comparing carefully the two columns with the cash in her open pocketbook. But it is all to no purpose. Figures do not lie,

and the stern fact of figures still declares that the five dollars is wanted at the end of the same column. Self-love then gives a long sigh of disappointment, but still whispers, "Five dollars is a large sum for a girl like you. Other girls do not give as much as that, and why should you? Then think of what that money would buy. What a lot of things you want, and really ought to have, like the other girls! There are some things you ought to have this very moment for the sake of respectability," etc. But the next moment the girl's better nature and the tender uprising of real Christian love in her heart bids her be true and faithful to the vow she had made, and whispers that she will be happier in denying the enticements of self-love than in the indulgence of self-gratification. A long while our brave young heroine endures this hard conflict with self-love, but finally a five-dollar bill is enclosed in an envelope and directed to the treasurer of the benevolent societies of her church, and she arises from her little writing-desk a happier girl than when she sat down, and one much better fitted to enter upon the many other battles in life which may be before her.

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In a distant city the treasurer of a benevolent society sits poring wearily over his missionary accounts. For several years he has been bending every energy to the task of paying a long-standing debt on the permanent fund which had accumulated by too frequent borrowing to pay the annual deficiencies in the benevolent income. The year was drawing near its close, and a few hundred dollars yet remained of the old debt unprovided for. It was an anxious and prayerful hour for the good secretary. He had for many months been sending out appeals to the friends of the mission cause, and many had responded with generous gifts; but still there was a deficiency, and the secretary's heart was set on the payment of that entire indebtedness.

The secretary's deep "brown study" was interrupted at length by the postman's ring and the arrival of the noon mail. Eagerly he turned from his desk to open the