

And can we close any address on missions without a reference to prayer? Is not this the source of all our power? The Church is not enough upon its knees. It is a deplorable weakness that our Prayer Book has so few definite missionary prayers. The reason is not hard to find. It was drawn up in one of the most un-missionary ages of the Church. But we shall fail utterly if we do not give heed to prayer. Just as the smallest stream, running like a silver thread down the hillside, and the wide, sweeping river, bearing navies on its bosom, draw their power from above, so all the streams and rivers of influence that run through the nations must draw their supply from above. The stories of success in the mission field are ever associated with prayer.

The year 1858 which has been called the *Annus Mirabilis* of missions, was the year when the week of prayer was first inaugurated. And do we not remember the China Inland Mission and its prayer for seventy missionaries in three years? Before the time expired there were seventy sent out. And there is the still more remarkable incident of the society in England, praying for 100 Missionaries. Whilst they were on their knees, a request came for the secretary to go to Oxford and Cambridge in order to use the marvellous spiritual opportunity that was presenting itself there. Before sunset, 100 students had enrolled themselves for the foreign field. "And it shall come to pass, before they call I will answer, and while they are speaking I will hear." These illustrations of the power of prayer might be multiplied indefinitely. But who seriously doubts the efficacy of prayer? Only we need to be more definite and persevering. To choose one particular field or work and make it a matter of earnest prayer for a whole week or month—that has always been a wise and effective plan. I am glad to know that the Woman's Auxiliary, through its Leaflet, is emphasizing definite and persistent prayer.

May you all be Marys in this particular! Pray without ceasing. Keep on your heart and mind all the needs of your local branch, and tell God about them. Plead with Him at all times for your smallest wants. No need is small with Him. Don't think of having a meeting without carefully telling all the members what you are going to pray for. Let the habit of saying prayers be forever dropped; we need to pray. There are so many addresses on the need of missionaries, the lack of money, the requirements of particular fields—but not often do we hear an address on Prayer for missions.