

Facts That Tell.

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There are now about one hundred thousand converts every year in heathen lands, or 274 every day, or 11 every hour in the day.

At the beginning of this century the Bible could be studied by only one-fifth of the earth's population; now it is translated into languages that make it accessible to nine-tenths of the world's inhabitants.

Micronesia saw her first conversions to Christianity but a little more than a quarter of a century ago. Now there are forty-seven self-supporting churches.

Pomare, the South Sea Island king, died at the age of 70 years. At his birth the first missionaries were just landing. At his death *three hundred of the South Sea Islanders had become Christianized.*

Japan had but ten Christians in 1872. Now there are 40,000. Buddhist priests have dwindled from 244,000 to 50,000—a most significant fact.

In Burmah seventy years ago there was not a single Christian. Now there are not far from 100,000. The Baptists alone have 500 churches and nearly 30,000 communicants.

Dr. Paton says of the New Hebrides: "Since I entered the field, thirty-four years ago, by God's blessing on the united labors of our missionaries, He has given us about 14,000 converts, and about 200 of them are engaged as native teachers."

In 1812 all Christian teaching was prohibited in India. Now the government, in appreciation of missions, gives large sums and valuable lands for the erection of hospitals, educational buildings and for the support of medical missionaries.

The Fiji Islands sixty years ago had never seen a missionary, and were peopled by ferocious cannibals. In 1879 there were 102,000 regular worshippers out of a population of about 120,000. At that time there were 800 churches, all well built and completed. In every family there was morning and evening worship.

These facts impress their own lesson. The success of Foreign Missions is incomparable.

Preaching three times a day in India, in three different villages, it would take a missionary a year to proclaim the gospel to the villages of a single state.

The March Offering.

Time: First Lord's Day in March.

Object: To preach the gospel to a hundred million souls who have it not.

We hope to see every Church make an offering.

The Churches should take a little commendable pride in raising their full apportionment.

We should be pleased to see the Churches raise \$50,000 in one day—first Sunday in March.

Let each one do his part to increase the number of contributing Churches to Foreign Missions.

Watch-word: *An offering from every Church, a gift from every member.*

The offering can be made a great success if every member is asked for a gift.

Special pains should be made to raise the standard of giving in the Churches. Last year 1,402 Churches gave less than \$10 each.

The number of Churches that gave to this work last year was 2,403. An effort is being made to reach 3,000 this year. It can be done by a united effort.

Dwarf Foreign Missions and Home Missions will be retarded. The light that shines farthest shines brightest nearest home.

There are about 100,000 converts annually on the foreign field. We have cheering reports from our own missions.

Last year 340 Churches raised as much or more than their full apportionment for Foreign Missions. We can easily double the number this year.

Missouri leads in the number of contributing Churches, the number being 288. But Ohio still leads in the amount given, \$12,514.92.

The number of contributing Churches has almost doubled in the past two years, and there has been an increase in the receipts of \$26,169.02. Last year the receipts were \$83,514.03. We are yet \$16,485.97 short of the \$100,000 we have so long been trying to raise.

Enlarge the Foreign Missionary stream to a mighty flood and it will flow back to every tributary that ministered to its rise, enriching the soil over which it passes, and making glad every barren field in the reflex benefit it confers.

The Foreign Missionary spirit is the elixir vitae of the Church of Jesus Christ, a tonic that produces spiritual health and activity. Without it no service can be helpful and inspiring. Without it there will sooner or later come decay and death.

Nothing can take the place of obedience to the Divine command to disciple all nations, and nothing will avail in the judgment of the great day except that the work has been done. He who trifles with this last command of Christ does it at his peril.

The greatest study of the age is Foreign Missions; the greatest miracle, what it has accomplished; and the greatest and weightiest obligation that rests upon the individual Christian and upon the Church—the fulfillment of the last command of the Son of God.

To evangelize the world is the duty of the Church, its supreme duty. Of all the commands that Jesus gave, this is the last but most important. It towers high above all others; it includes all others. He who shirks this duty can afford to shirk all duties. If he is unfaithful and disobedient here, his devotion elsewhere is like "sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

The most prosperous, influential and successful Churches in all the land are those which are thoroughly missionary in spirit, and give largely to the conversion of the world. The missionary spirit feeds and vitalizes the prayer meeting, increases the attendance and interest in the Sunday-school, and makes the services of the Lord's Day an earnest of the sweet rest that remains for the people of God. Whatever it touches it blesses. Its reflex influence is seen and felt everywhere.

The World's Need of the Gospel.

One thousand millions of our race are wandering in darkness and the shadow of death, without hope, without God in the world.

About twelve thousand women die every day in China, without hope, without God.

At a Sunday-school celebration at Hilo, a woman was seen weeping and wringing her hands. When asked the cause of her sorrow, she said: "With my own hands I destroyed eight of my children. To-day not one of my descendants is alive. Oh, why did not the missionaries come sooner!"

Numbers of babies are murdered in China every year to get them out of the

way. Do not their death wails cry "Haste"?

In Korea there are thirty-two ordained missionaries to 12,000,000 heathen.

In India there is one missionary worker to 135,000 heathen.

They are dying so fast in India! Twenty thousand a day, eight hundred an hour, fifteen a minute, one every four seconds!

Mothers often kill their baby girls in India to save them from the sorrows they have suffered.

India has three times the population to-day it had in the time of Carey.

It has been estimated that, if the whole heathen population of the world was divided between all the Christians in the world, each Christian's share would be thirty-three heathen.

Unoccupied mission territory to the extent of 4,000,000 square miles still exists in Central Africa, an area larger than the whole of Europe, says the Rev. Geo. Greenfell, of the Baptist Congo Mission.

It is estimated that one hundred thousand of our race die every twenty-four hours, without hope, because without Christ. Many of them can say as they pass out into the darkness, "No man has cared for my soul." Can we say, "My skirts are clear"?

In some parts of Africa when a chief is buried, a number of slaves are bought, and taken to the grave-side, where their heads are struck off, and, with the bodies, thrown in, until they form a layer, on which the corpse of the chief is placed, for it must not touch the earth. Other bodies of slaves are arrayed all around and over the top, and so the dead chief rests imbedded in the ghastly remains of his murdered victims.

You Don't Have to Swear Off

Says the St. Louis *Journal of Agriculture* in an editorial about No-To-Bac, the famous tobacco habit cure. "We know of many cases cured by No-To-Bac. One, a prominent St. Louis architect, smoked and chewed for twenty years. Two boxes cured him so that even the smell of tobacco makes him sick." No-To-Bac sold and guaranteed; no cure, no pay. Book free. Sterling Remedy Co., 374 St. Paul St., Montreal.

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