

YOUNG PEOPLE'S Forward Movement for Missions

In charge of F. G. STEPHENSON, M.D., C.M.,
Corresponding member of the Students' Mission-
ary Campaign, 51 Car Street, Toronto.

Methodist Young People's Summer School of Bible Study and Missions.

The following items were written by a score or more of those attending the Summer School of Missions in an intermission of five minutes, and reflect in a unique manner the impressions made upon the minds of the writers. The object of this proposal was not literary, but inspirational, to the thousands who had not the privilege of attending. Too much cannot be said in praise of the efforts and tact of the promoters of the school, and with a smoothness not often experienced, each session was carried through, and all were more than pleased. This is the first of such summer gatherings, but we feel sure it is but the beginning of a movement which will grow to grand proportions under the blessing of God.

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The Summer School? No Epworth Leaguer who is interested in the mission work of the Church, home or foreign, should ever be absent from this institution. It has been a source of great blessing to those working on distant fields to feel the earnest throbs of consecrated young Methodism.—Geo. E. Hartwell.

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This gathering has marked an epoch in the history of Methodist missionary work in this land. Devotional services, profound Bible study, inspiring and instructive addresses, all to the point, the geographical and statistical information, together with the social pleasures and sight-seeing, combined to make the school a blessing never to be forgotten.

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This morning, in response to a question of the writer to the janitor—General Robert—as to whether he was not nearly worked to death during these days, he replied, "It has not yet entered into the heart of man to know what he can do. Why one man could do the work of ten on fire, if he was determined to do it." That is the impression given to the writer by this convention. Pastors, it hath not yet entered into our hearts to conceive of the power that there is latent in our young people, and which we may set free, if we are determined to accomplish the work.

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We came 250 miles to attend this convention. Now it is nearly over we feel we would be willing to go twice that distance to attend another such school. Our sympathies have been broadened by seeing the needs, and we now go back to do our best, to obey the Saviour's last and greatest command.

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It has taught us to see greater depth and beauty in the Bible, through the excellent Bible studies, and has given us clearer views as to the need of missionary work.

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"All power is given unto me." "Ask, and ye shall receive." If we obey this injunction, we shall have our eight men for China, our extra men and dormitories for Japan, our twenty men for the Northwest, and reinforcements for Northern Ontario.

No more glancing over China or Japan in one hour, but a thorough study of each field, its people, its missionaries, and its needs, if it takes all winter.

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From its opening session to its close, the spirit of devotional zeal was manifest. We believe that the delegates will go from this Scriptural and educational conference, to be centres of wider influence because of the wider knowledge gained.

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The Summer School has proven a success beyond all expectation. It has given an enlarged view of our work, a greater inspiration, and has led to a determination to pray, to study, and to do more for missions in all possible ways. We have wished that scores and hundreds from the Conferences and Districts and Leagues could have been present to share the blessings of this school.

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As a Bible school it is excellent. As a means of acquiring information about the work, it cannot be surpassed.

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The Holy Spirit has been with us in these days of blessing. We have been learning not to be dissatisfied because we cannot do something great. Every act done for Christ becomes great. God has given us a work to do. Let us be missionaries every moment.

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Ideas have been broadened, and clearer views of the needs of missions have been impressed. Those who attended will pray and give, and endeavor when they come back to their local Missionary Societies to be leaders in sacrificing for missionary work.

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Every member of the League attending the Summer School for Bible Study and Missions will undoubtedly have his spiritual life deepened, and his interest in missions intensified.

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From a social standpoint, the Summer School has been of the greatest benefit, and if the missionary question is not a social question, what is it? The more our social natures are developed along to the line of missionary enterprise, the more we know about the work, the better we are able to be of help to others.

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The Bible studies and addresses were specially helpful to the ministers present. It is to be hoped that all the pastors will spend their holidays next year in attendance at this school. There is inspiration in it for the year's work.

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We are especially impressed with the importance of the pastors and the officials of the Church Boards identifying themselves with all associations of young people.

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Dr. Carman's judicious, discreet, and sympathetic questions and recommendations throughout the sessions were specially appreciated.

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The Summer School has been an inspiration to greater study and work in the great interests of Christ's work in the world. The impartation of fact, the thrilling illustrations, the most interesting descriptions, have interested and greatly impressed all present.

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Our hearts have been stirred and our sympathies aroused more than ever before by hearing of the great need of missionaries on the different mission fields. How we wish that every convener of our missionary committees could have been here, so as to have carried back to their Leagues some of the enthusiasm of this Summer School!

The systematic studies of the Word, so ably conducted by Prof. McLaughlin at the early morning sessions, constituted one of the most interesting features of the school. A wide and complete, yet concise, survey was given of the whole sweep of the divine plan as revealed in God's Word, in relation to the kingdom of God as the realization of his plans and purposes among men, and to the Church as the working power of the kingdom.

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Dear leaguers who stayed at home. You missed it. Sessions—so helpful, hopeful, and workful. Such an inspiration to us who were a little weary in well-doing. If the chance comes again, don't miss it!

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We want consecrated men and women filled with the grace of God, ready to answer to the call, "Go ye" to China to work for the little ones.

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"And Jesus said unto them"—"does he not say it unto us?"—"Go, disciple all nations." He spoke then to a handful, now to a mighty Church, then to poverty, now to the world's wealth. Breathe from the heavens, O Spirit of God, that all these forces may move forward for the conquest of the world.

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I have only been able to be present at this one session, but feel that I have been amply repaid. The enthusiasm created by the remarks of Bro. Hartwell and Dr. Hart was felt by the entire audience. The latter speaker gave a most encouraging report of the outlook in China, and also made a touching appeal for workers. The aged veteran moved the audience to tears as he told of the vast work yet to be done, and claimed that Christ's blood would not be shed in vain.

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Some things needed: 1. Power of faith and prayer. 2. Personal work in our Christian Endeavor. 3. More self-denial on the part of C. E. members. 4. More study on mission work. 5. Maps to make our meetings in C. E. more interesting. 6. A stronger desire to make our young people feel that without the missionary spirit in our C. E. we cannot succeed in our work.

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One cannot help being impressed with the fact that the call from all the missionary fields, both home and foreign, is for men. Yet the great majority of those who attended the school were women. So it devolves upon the women to carry home the clarion note to the men.

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I am eighty-nine to-day, and have attended the church ever since I was twenty-four. This has been the most interesting missionary meeting I ever attended.—Joseph Stephenson.

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The second edition of the programme for the Summer School is very valuable. I shall keep mine, not only that it may help me to remember the many subjects so ably presented, but the information, statistics, and addresses of our missionaries make it of permanent value to me. I wish a copy could be put in the hands of every leaguer, minister, and member of League officer and committee member.

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I would suggest that a similar Summer School for the study of the Bible and missions be held next year, and that every delegate attending this school begin immediately to invite and induce ministers, Quarterly Board officials, Epworth League officers, and members to attend.