

Foreign Missions

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, 230 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JUNE.

Birds in the school may accept of Christ. That consecrated Bible women may be called into service. That a great blessing may rest upon all the associations and that in the Home Mission fields of our Provinces many may be won to Christ.

Notice.

Meetings of the W. B. M. U. will be held at the following Associations: N. B. Western at Centreville, Car. Co., June 23; P. E. I. at East Point July 4; N. B. Eastern at Sackville, July 16; N. S. Eastern, Canso, July 8; N. B. Southern at Belleisle Station, July 9.

Our returned missionaries will deliver addresses at these meetings and a large delegation from Societies and Bands is expected.

The Committee in charge of locating delegates to the W. B. M. U. Convention to be held in the First Baptist church, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, on Aug. 17th, 18th, wish to state that August 1st has been fixed as the latest date for receiving names.

Free and cordial entertainment will be provided for those whose names are in, on or before that time. Cards will be sent to every delegate giving the address of their hostess.

Appoint your delegates at the July meeting and forward names to Mrs. Will Freeman, Willow Park, Halifax, N. S., as soon as possible. We trust strict attention will be paid to these requests so that all things may work together for good and a pleasant time ensue. M. E. HUME.

PAPER READ BY MRS. CHAS. WEBSTER AT THE KENTVILLE W. B. M. U. AND PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

CHRISTIAN GIVING.

In the New Testament writings there is the exhortation repeatedly to abound in this grace of giving, as well as in knowledge and zeal and love, and I believe so strongly in Christian love that my heart goes out to every one especially to those in the church—and in this matter of giving love is the first motive, and Christian giving is giving to Christ himself. I wish we might realize it more, then should we give cheerfully and generously—instead of the thought, how little need we give, how much can we give. Supposing we should begin to think how much we can give instead of how much we can get. The power to give grows out of giving and the more we pass on and use, the more we shall have to use.

We like to see examples of noble doing. There is a family whom I know in a certain town, who give thousands of dollars every year, to their church, to missions, and doing good in other ways, and the beauty of it is they are not rich people, they have no long bank account, but denying themselves, live and dress most plainly, making this one great point, to give. I envy them the pleasure and satisfaction, for we know, it is more blessed to give than to receive and to think of the brighter inheritance they will have in their father's house.

There is a little sentence which I often think of "Only what we give we have." It is the rich here many of them I fear, who will have poverty in eternity. In the last book of the Old Testament we read "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it—what a wonderful promise. It may be thought that it is an appeal to Christian people to attend the services of the church, and assist more by prayer and testimony but to me it means just what it says as the preceding verses indicate, and why should not God claim a tenth of our income as he does a seventh of our time, not alone for his benefit but for our own.

Which do you think is the more attractive in a town, fine residences, or fine churches? I sometimes feel that our churches do not compare very favorably. We beautify our homes and surround ourselves with every comfort, and how little thought apparently do we give to the Lord's house. If God was first in our hearts why should we not think of his house first? and why should we not feel the debt on our church as much as if it were our own. I speak of this that we may be reminded, for we know that as the wife thinks, the husband is apt to act accordingly.

I have understood that the Roman Catholics are not allowed by their Bishop to have a church debt, the money for their churches must be paid in and on hand and the building cannot be finished till it is paid for, and we know

what beautiful churches they build. And the same with the Christian Scientists, whose success and increase in numbers have been phenomenal, have built churches, beautiful edifices in many American cities and in some cases the money that has been voluntarily paid in has had to be returned. I wonder how much of their success has been due to this generous spirit of giving?

I have a friend who was in a country once where they had to buy the water they used and in those countries and in Palestine, where the climate in general is excessively dry and hot, a cup of water is a real gift, while here it is the kind act which shall not lose its reward. But where more is needed, it is according to our ability and opportunity that is required of us. If we are equal to these how much more blessed life would be because of how much more good we should do. Do you know I have never thought of myself simply as a Nova Scotian, but my mind and heart takes in the whole vast Dominion, and the great Empire of which we form a part and in the same way, though our work is here, and our interest is here, the good done in this place may become an influence as far reaching and world wide as the Rhodes scholarships by those who go out from here bearing in themselves our influence with them. Now we who are so anxious to see souls saved, we who have given our lives to the Lord, are we doing our duty in this matter of giving; and if not our whole duty there is failure, the extent of which we do not know. Is it not the greatest hindrance to the coming of the kingdom and to the work in our own hearts? If in this matter of giving, God entered more into our thoughts and plans, would he not draw nigh unto us and give us the blessing we so much desire in personal character and saved souls. We all of us no doubt have more of this world's goods than our Master had, and the wrong about our giving is that we do not give "according to what we have" can it be in our hearts that we care more about money than we do about souls, more than we do about the cause of God, or the interests of his church. A person having quite an income has given so she told me a tenth for over twenty years and the last year gave a fifth. She does not wish to show a small appreciation of what the dear Saviour has done for her. I sometimes feel that it must grieve the heart of Jesus, the offerings of his people. There is no place where coppers have such a circulation as in the church, the meanest metal and the least value. The good treasurer has to take his little bag of coppers and get them exchanged for a few pieces of silver, he could not pay a bill with them, no one would take them, the worthy sexton would not want coppers but the Lord must accept of them. Why not "lay by us in store" the bright pieces of silver these without tarnish, and wish in our hearts they were gold that we might offer them.

Is it not a beautiful thought that by our offerings we may express our thanks to God for his unspeakable gift. And then at last when night cometh and we want the dear Saviour to be with us shall we feel that we have done or given too little or too much?

When we think of it how can it be a question at all, but rather a precious sacred duty plain to every one of us. Let us ask God that out of love to him we may have the willing heart. R. E. W.

On May 30th and 31st our Queens County Quarterly met with the church of Greenfield, a pretty little village situated on the Port Medway River. On the afternoon of the 31st, Sister Crowell the estimable wife of Pastor Crowell of Liverpool gave a very inspiring and helpful Bible reading. Reports from the 4 Aid Societies and 8 Mission Bands of the County were very encouraging although stormy weather and illness had prevented some Societies from doing as well as they might, yet love for the cause was very evident. Also a paper on "Mission Band Work" by one of our Mission Band leaders advancing some ways and means of keeping an interest in this important work was listened to with interest, and I am sure all who were present felt that it was good to be there. We are hoping that financially our figures may be larger this year than ever before, and that it may be the prayer of every Sister.

O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

LAURA E. CROOKER, Co. Sec'y.

South Brookfield, Queens County, N. S.

June 2nd, 1904.

Moneys Received by the W. B. M. U. Treasurer.

FROM MAY 23RD TO JUNE 15TH.

North Brookfield, to constitute Mrs. W. B. Bezanson a life member, F. M. \$12.50, H. M. \$12.50; Point de Bute, F. M. \$8.25, Reports 25c; Riverglade, Tidings, 25c; Middle Sackville, F. M. \$10, H. M. \$7; Brookville, F. M. \$2; Salisbury, F. M. \$7; Parrsboro, F. M. \$4; Ludlow, F. M. \$2.50,

H. M. \$2.50; Homeville, F. M. \$4.30; Fairville, Reports, 10c; Cheverie, Reports, 15c; Upper Dorchester, May Hicks, F. M. \$1, H. M. \$1; Dorchester F. M. \$7; Maccan, Tidings, 25c; Reports, 15c; Beaver Brook, F. M. \$5; Cumberland Bay, F. M. \$10, Reports, 15c; Bear River, F. M. \$11.28, to constitute Mrs. Wm E. Miller a life member, \$25; Port Maitland, to constitute Mrs. W. J. Rutledge a life member, H. M. \$25; Wolfville, Leaflets, 30c; Springfield, F. M. \$4.50, H. M. \$4.50; Truro, Prince St., F. M. \$21, H. M. \$4.07; Reports, 30c; Alberton, F. M. \$1.50, H. M. 25c; Aylesford, F. M. \$23; Bedeque, F. M. \$20; Bridgewater, F. M. \$6; West Yarmouth, F. M. \$2; Upper Sheffield, Reports, 10c; North Range, F. M. \$12, H. M. \$1, Tidings, 25c; Reports, 10c; Aylesford, balance to constitute Mrs. Samuel Bowlby a life member, H. M. \$12.50; Lawrencetown, to constitute Mrs. L. N. Morse a life member, F. M. \$12.50; H. M. \$12.50; Nictaux, F. M. \$4.13, balance to constitute Mrs. C. H. Haverstock a life member, H. M. \$12.50; Peel, New Harbor, Aylesford, Nictaux, each, Tidings, 25c.

MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.

P. O. Box 513, Amherst;

To the Pastors and Churches.

DEAR BRETHREN:—The work of the church is or should be the doing of the will of her risen Lord. Each church exists for that one purpose. It is the pastor's business to unfold to his people this divine idea.

Churches of Jesus Christ stand for missionary endeavor. They stand for what he stood. Each several church is a body of Christ. Its members are His tongue, His hands, His feet, His heart, all enjoined to carry out the will of Him who is the Head over all.

Missions involve going. Christ sends, we go, go on errands to evangelize, to baptize, to teach the all things commanded, and to do them. The marching orders of the great Captain, outlines the sphere of the activity of every church, both as to duties and extent of territory. Every church must stand for all the 'orders' or else fail in loyalty to its Divine Head.

You brethren are the heaven-appointed missionary forces. These can never be transferred to other agencies, such as Associations, Conventions, or even Boards. These do no mission work. They are simply the agents. If one hundred men give a hundred dollars each to build a meeting-house and employ three men to see that it is built, the three men do not build it. The one hundred build it, and the three are only their instruments or agents. 'The messengers of the church' spoken of in 2nd Corinthians did not relieve the Saints in Jerusalem, except as the servants of the churches contributing the funds. The real doers of the work were the churches. They were the sources, the 'brethren' were the channel thro' which they went. They were a 'board,' but Paul pressed the work in the churches, because it was pre-eminently the work of the churches. This is the model for all time. Into the churches, every one of them, then, from the greatest to the least, all of Christ's work, must be put. Here the work must be done and the pastors must lead.

The chief obstruction to the development of many churches is a few leaders who are covetous, and in the face of God's word they are tolerated. Christ will not honor a church or a pastor thus dishonoring him.

The problem of the future in our mission-work is to be solved by enlisting all in every church in the great Christ-ordained and Christ-led missionary movement. This is the work of pastors and not of outside agencies. Where this fact is wrought into the warp and woof of our church life, there will be a mighty change in all our religious work. Here is an example of what one pastor did. He had printed and distributed among his members the following card in order to help him in his foreign mission collection. The result was a great surprise to his members. The church went up from \$85.32 their contribution in 1903 to \$210.00. Others to hear from make the church fairly sure of \$250.00. This fairly illustrates what can be done when there is a definite aim, and a pastor who wants to do his best. The card was something like this.

'It takes \$600 to pay the salary of a foreign missionary. This divided into months, weeks and days is as follows:—

One year	\$600.00	Two weeks	\$25.00
Six months	\$300.00	One week	\$12.50
Three months	\$150.00	One day	\$1.78
One month	\$50.00	One hour	.17

How much of this time do you wish to pay for? How many days do you wish to work in the foreign field?

I will pay \$ _____ which employs a worker in the foreign field for _____ days _____ weeks _____ months.

Name

This plan well worked would soon fill our foreign mission treasury and enable the board to have the twelve mission families and the twelve single ladies, who are imperatively needed as a working force on our mission field in India.

Brethren lend a hand—let every member of every one of our churches lend a hand and the result will be most cheering to us all.

J. W. MANNING, Sec'y Treas. of F. M. B.