

WESTMOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH MISSION CIRCLE

Some 35 years ago the Home and Foreign Mission Circle of this Church was organized with 12 members, who met in the homes of the members. Some five years later Grace Baptist Church was erected, and became the home of the Circle.

Mrs. Macdonell was the first President, and the first meeting was spent in prayer for Foreign Missions.

At once the voluntary system of giving was adopted, gifts being placed in envelopes and dropped into a box prepared for the purpose. The first offering amounted to \$6.40.

On Nov. 4th, 1890, it was decided to provide a Bible Woman for work amongst the French, and a member offered her services to work one day a week for the munificent sum of \$1, she to report to the church at the Friday evening Prayer Meeting.

In planning for the year's work, a weekly meeting for prayer was agreed upon, in addition to the monthly business meeting, where, also, sewing was done for the needy, while a member read to the workers.

The canny care of the funds was exhibited when the pastor stated his need for \$15 to assist a young, converted priest in Italy, the Circle promised \$5 if the pastor would raise the remainder, and later, when he produced his share, they handed over their \$5.

On one occasion a letter from Mr. Craig of India was read, in which he referred to the 19 missionaries in the field, of whom but two remain, Miss Hatch and Miss Backerville, both well known to our Circles.

Much splendid work, and much loving self-sacrifice were manifested in the endeavor to promote the work on our Home and Foreign Fields.

One lady, Mrs. Currie, was in the habit of laying aside all the money from the sale of eggs from certain hens which she kept and giving it for mission work. This good lady, on her death, left sufficient to furnish a room at Feller Institute, still known as the Currie Room. At one time talent money was distributed, 25c to each, and many and varied were the means used to increase the talent. One member made broom bags, another did

mending; two small boys, Willie and Gordon Walford, made tea biscuits, selling them to the neighbors, thus increasing their talent to some \$12 within the given time.

The work of supplying clothing for the Indians in St. Peter's Reserve was taken up, large bales being sent out by Government aid, which was later withdrawn, for good reasons.

Always the Home Mission Christmas Box was prepared, at that time being much more welcome than even at present. The Circle had special pleasure on one occasion when the box was sent to a family of 13, including a baby in arms and a much-loved grandmother. Such delightful gifts went into that box, accompanied by many a loving thought. On another occasion it was clothing for families who had suffered in great bush fires near Maxville, Ont., when large bales of clothing, etc., were prepared by busy fingers.

The Circle was always considered an integral part of the Church, not a distinct society. Reports were given regularly to the Church, and the elected officers were ratified in their office by the Church.

Life memberships date back to this early period.

The Mission Band was organized immediately on the coming of Mrs. W. T. Graham to the Church. Its firm foundation is shown in its continued prosperity as a Band.

The idea of increased membership and increasing offerings has ever been kept in the forefront. In the early days an offering of \$50 was considered very good, but not satisfying. Each year there has been increase, sometimes small, until some four years ago, when the envelope system was introduced, proving a most successful method. More and more members, new and old, find this plan easy and convenient. Last year the offerings for the Home and Foreign work amounted to over \$1,000, but greater things, we hope, are yet to come.

One of our older members, Mrs. E. P. Roe, passed away Home recently. When the Prince of Wales visited Canada, Mrs. Roe was presented to him as the oldest person in that locality (in B. C.), and one who had the