

Canadian Missionary Link

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A CALL TO A WEEK OF PRAYER

Those who have read the little book, entitled "Canadian Baptists in Bolivia," which is the Report written by the General Secretary of the C. B. F. M. Board of his trip to that country, will have been greatly interested in the story of the Chapel in La Paz, and of the hindrances placed in the way of its completion. Just by way of refreshing the memory, let us quote a portion of that Report:—

"The Chapel and its Story:—About two years ago, a chapel site was purchased from the municipality with Forward Movement funds, and, later, plans for the building were prepared and permission to build given by the municipal engineer. With money contributed by the Missionary Educational Union of Toronto Baptist Sunday Schools, the building proceeded until a bigoted and influential Catholic, who became mayor a year ago, began to make trouble. First came an injunction from the court forbidding the building of the rear wall on the ground that it encroached on the foundation of a large Catholic Cathedral whose rear-end wall it abuts,—an entirely false charge. Later when the building was nearly two-thirds completed, an old ruling which had been in abeyance for years was resurrected, and the building stopped on the technical charge that the municipality had not approved the plans. At present it would appear that the real obstacle to settlement is the reluctance of the Catholic opposition to the granting of a site,—their pride making it difficult for them to make such a concession to this Christian body which up to now they have considered so insignificant."

The above was written in the early part of 1922,—and though there was then

hope of a favorable settlement in time, the trouble has been going on all these months, while our work has been retarded,—and the end does not appear yet. Is it not time that we as Baptist women take this matter upon our hearts, and, with the faith which our Master taught was the faith which received answers, go boldly to the Throne of God, asking His help in this great difficulty which has befallen our work in La Paz? We believe it will be to the glory of His Name to have a Baptist Chapel in that great city on a good site. Can He not give it? Let us ask Him.

The members of the Board of the W.B. F.M.S., West, at their meeting in Peterboro the day after Convention, last November, felt impressed that a special, definite time should be set apart for this intercession, and it was decided that the first seven days of February should be appointed for this purpose. The Baptist women, from the extreme East to the extreme West of Canada are being asked to co-operate in keeping this week in mind. In the February Link there will be further information,—this is, as it were, an advance notice.

And, indeed, we do not need to wait until that first week in February to pray for that chapel and our work in La Paz. Even now let us give the subject a place in our earnest prayers. The Municipal elections in that city will be held just about this time. If it could be brought about that a new set of men might be elected on the Municipal Board, the present Mayor, who is so unfavorable to our work, would find his influence greatly lessened,—his power offset.

Remember this week of prayer, and watch for fuller particulars in the February Link—and pray in the meantime.