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PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES ABROAD.

“Brethren pray for us,” writes the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thes. v. 25,) and in his second epistle to the same church, as well as that to the Hebrews, (2 Thes. iii. 1, Heb. xiii. 18) he repeats the same request.—Paul was a missionary, and in that character he was exposed to the malice of wicked men, in danger of injury or death, engaged in a constant struggle against the powers of this world and of hell. He believed firmly in the efficacy of prayer to help him in all these difficulties and dangers. He says to the Thessalonians, “Pray for us that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men.” In the beginning of his second epistle to the Corinthians, he says—that when trouble came upon him in Asia, inasmuch that he despaired even of life, the prayers of the Church in Corinth were instrumental in his deliverance. “Ye also helping together by prayer for us”; and when he was about to go up to Jerusalem, he asks the Church in Rome to strive together with him in prayer to God, for his deliverance from the unbelieving Jews. These churches might know little or nothing at the time when their prayers were uttered, of the struggles and dangers of the distant apostle; but he knew that nevertheless their supplications availed much in his deliverance.

Do we sufficiently realize these truths in reference to our own Missionaries? They need our prayers at least as much

as Paul did those of the primitive churches. They have been planted in a far distant land, where Satan has hitherto reigned with undisputed dominion, and whence intelligence can reach us only at rare intervals and long after the events to which it relates. In no case can we know, at any moment, what they may be doing or suffering. They may like Paul be “fighting with wild beasts”, they may be beset by heathens or unbelievers, even despairing of life, and we may be ignorant of it, and too distant to afford them any succour by the arm of flesh. But prayer is the electric telegraph which brings our desires or longings for their safety, across all the wastes of waters which lie between, instantaneously to their aid. By Prayer we have direct access to the presence of our Heavenly Father, and can meet them there, where, at the right hand of God, our elder Brother sits watching over the interests of all his people on earth. It is true that no messenger returns from the eternal throne to tell us of the safety of our brethren; but by faith we know that, through our great Intercessor, our prayers can be, on the instant of their utterance, reflected down in blessings on the heads of our absent friends.

We know that from many churches and prayer and missionary meetings and families and closets, prayer is wont to ascend in behalf of our missionaries, and of all heralds of the gospel in every land; yet the call from these soldiers of the cross struggling in distant regions—“Brethren pray for us”, may find some that need to be stirred up to “watch