

For the same reason mention must be made of the foremost place given to prayer. The Sabbath evening union of prayer in which every member is expected to join is at the same hour with sister societies in the United States, from five to six o'clock on Sabbath evening. Very early in the history of the Society members were enjoined to bear this in mind. Subjects for prayer were first sent out to Auxiliaries in 1879, and the Prayer Card, a copy of which every member is entitled to have, was first printed in 1882. A day of special prayer was first observed in January, 1892.

No part of the work has given more encouragement and at the same time more concern than the Mission Bands. While we rejoice in having to record at the present date 315 of these nurseries of our Society, it would not be right to shut our eyes to the fact that the number of Bands relatively to the number of Auxiliaries, is far short of what it ought to be at the end of twenty-five years. The latest returns show the Auxiliaries to be more than twice as many in number and their membership almost twice as many as the Bands. Are the children being neglected? Here is a question which it will be necessary to face resolutely, for if this link in the chain be not strengthened we know full well what will be the fatal result. Indeed, it must be confessed that the keeping up of this part of the work has been more or less of a problem ever since the beginning, and the solution is not yet reached. It would seem that almost everything depends under the divine blessing upon suitable leaders. Good results have been obtained where the meetings have been conducted on lines similar to Sabbath-schools. Following this plan with an efficient leader and a good staff of assistants the children have been thoroughly trained in missionary knowledge, and at the same time directed in useful handiwork for schools, hospitals or other proper objects.

Miss Ferrier, of Caledonia, did much by way of interesting and instructing the Bands in her series of Mission Studies on our own Church's fields which were published in the *Letter Leaflet* from 1890 to 1894.

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During the meeting of the World's Council of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches in Toronto, September, 1892, a Woman's Missionary Conference was held, the outcome of which was the forming of the International Union of Women's Foreign Missionary Societies. The Canadian W.F.M.S. forms a part of this Alliance and was represented by delegates at the meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1896, and in Washington in 1899.