

very satisfactory results. As I listened to the answers given by the boys, and heard them express themselves so clearly regarding the atonement and the way of salvation, my soul was stirred by the thought—which am I to these boys, “a savor of life unto life” or of “death unto death?” At the judgment am I to see them condemned by what I am teaching them, or am I to have the great joy of knowing I had a part in giving them the truth that made them wise unto salvation? “A savor of life unto life” or of “death unto death.” Think of it, sisters. As I have already said, I shall devote part of my time this year to the school. An hour daily will be given to teaching the Bible. It will probably be the last year we shall have our advanced boys. They know the truth so well. The Holy Spirit, I believe, has been working in the hearts of some. I cannot bear to think of them leaving school without having given themselves to Christ. They already know enough to condemn or save them. Which will it be? Oh, sisters, how many of you will daily remember the work in the school this year, and pray, yes, plead, that not one of these boys may be lost?

I read this the other day:—“Spiritual triumphs are not looked for, and unbelief has closed the door against any signal display of God’s converting grace.” Is it true? Shall we allow it to be true this year?

“According to your faith be it unto you.”

Yours in common, happy service

IDA M. NEWCOMBE.

Bimlipatam, Feb. 4th, 1902.

MISSION STUDIES FROM VIA CHRISTI.

WHAT a rare privilege those have enjoyed who have taken the course of study outlined in *Via Christi*. The very name is an inspiration to a lover of the Lord Jesus. “The way of Christ.” We have followed the path trodden by these brave, consecrated followers of the blessed Master. Through tangled forests, over stormy seas, thro’ densely populated countries, amid hostile tribes they have faithfully forged their way, often through floods and flame, frequently unto death. Some heroically struggling through a long life, like the famous Columba, passing into glory while praying for the people for whom he labored, others cut down after a few short years, like Brainard, probably yielding more fruit by his death, than many years of patient service could have done.

These studies include geography, history, biography, literature, and poetry. They demand careful planning and hard work, but the results are a clearer idea of the essential growth of Christianity, the continuity of Christian endeavor, the overruling Providence of God, and the unity of the faith under strange and frequently marvelous conditions. To assist in the study of these lessons, a few practical suggestions are offered, with the hope that they may be of service to many in town and country who may yet embrace the opportunity of taking this year’s course of study, as a foundation and preparation for future work.

1. Do not try to use *Via Christi* alone. This will insure certain failure. Secure one or two books as helps, viz. “Earliest Missions in all Lands,” and “Two Thousand Years Before Carey.” Have access to an encyclopedia, from which can be gleaned the information needed on the different characters mentioned in the lessons.

2. Always use a map, home manufacture much preferred. Be thoroughly acquainted with the locality of the places studied, and find out all possible concerning them during these centuries.

3. Use all the pictures you can obtain, as these attract the attention and give a clearer idea of the places and persons.

4. Study the lesson with some *great person* as a central figure. There is no better way to fix a period or movement in the mind, than to connect them with the life and character of some great man or woman. These mission studies are peculiarly adapted to such treatment, for in each period there was some prophet of the faith who was its heart and soul. The names of Columba, and John Knox in Scotland; Patrick in Ireland; Ulfilar and Boniface in Germany; Cyril and Methodius in Bulgaria; Bernard, Francis Egede, and Zinzendorf, are names that ought to be as familiar as our loved missionaries of this century. Each one of these should be assigned to a member of the class to prepare a paper upon their life and work; and then tell in a few minutes the information thus gained.

5. Music should have a prominent place in the meetings. A committee of musical women who will delight to study the hymns of each century, and gather around them those who can sing. It will be a revelation to know that some of our most familiar hymns were written in the early ages, and others attributed to that period are of great merit and beauty.