

The Bible-woman is better listened to than the missionary, because it is something new for a Roman Catholic to have a woman talk on religious subjects, and even if it is out of curiosity she will be heard.

When a woman is ill it is impossible for a man to take care of her, but it is a good opportunity for the Bible-woman to gain access to the home, care for the sick one, render all the services she can, and speak of the Saviour at the same time. In times of trouble everyone is ready to hear something on the subject of religion, and especially of the Saviour. She can also visit poor families, help them through others, work for them, clothe them, set the house in order, and, in general, do what a man cannot do under such circumstances. Thus she has in her power the means of doing much good, and, if not winning souls to God, at least awake them to the sense of their religious duties.

Nobody will contest the advantages that a woman has over a man in this kind of missionary work. Her services are also invaluable to the Protestant pastor in the discharge of his duties to Protestant families. In his absence she replaces him with great advantage to the Church. It is a fact, that those who have been converted and are persecuted wait with anxiety for the visit of the pastor or the Bible-woman at least once a week. By praying with them and exhorting them, they take courage and feel that they are not alone to fight the good fight. They then become more zealous and more eager in the discharge of their religious duties. They attend more regularly the services on Sunday and during the week. Therefore, I consider these weekly visits among our Protestant converted families of the utmost importance to our work."