

What Seventy-two Methodist Ministers Say on Seventy-two Post-Cards.

THE principles of the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions is "like unto heaven." The one object is to generate a disposition among our young people to overcome all difficulties in developing a triumphant missionary spirit. We recognize that this cannot be done by *additions*, any more than a tree can be made to bear fruit by cementing or tying the fruit desired to the branches. But a tree, when properly cultivated and pruned by a skilled gardener, must bring forth fruit or be cut down. We have appealed to our pastors for information and suggestions with the double purpose of securing help for our committee members and allowing our pastors to study what our pastors have to say. Lack of space will not permit the publishing of all the information gathered. We publish only the first seventy-two replies. We have not changed a word or the order of any card. We have not even given the Ph.D.'s, LL.D.'s, or D.D.'s first place. There are cards in this lot from men of nearly all degrees, ages and Conferences found in the Methodist Church.

Although there are many other suggestions on the cards which we cannot publish for lack of space, yet the main difficulty mentioned is lack of missionary information. If you wish to gain the help which reading the other cards would render just read these over about five times. Study them. They will help the youngest and most inexperienced. But the wisest and most careful students of the Church and times will deduct the strongest arguments and clearest reasons for our "Young People's Forward Movement for Missions."

We have arranged the answers to the two questions in parallel columns so that the suggestions of each pastor may be read in conjunction with the difficulties which he names.

DIFFICULTIES.

What do you consider to be the greatest difficulty to be overcome in developing the "Pray, Study, Give" Plan in your Young People's Societies?

1. Lack of interest and knowledge, with difficulties of home work.
2. Lack of interest and systematic method.
3. Concentration and leadership.
4. Lack of earnest definite prayer in general. General ignorance, with little desire for study of any kind, and no particular system or method among the older members.
5. Lack of knowledge.
6. STINGINESS.
7. Need of one lay young person—godly—enthusiastic—in each place.
8. To get them to "pray;" that accomplished, the other two follow naturally.
9. Indifference arising from lack of knowledge.
10. Indifference.
11. Indifference and lack of information.
12. Lack of money.
13. Lack of courage and fidelity on the part of the Missionary Committee.
14. Faithfulness in collections; lack of study and intelligent zeal.
15. Proper organization.
16. Lack of systematizing time.
17. I trust we shall be able to develop it.
18. Indifference.
19. The indifference and sometimes *opposition* of the older people in the Church.
20. The only difficulty is to get them to take time to study. Each active member is giving systematically, and I believe praying earnestly and thinking and studying, but not as systematically as I would like.

SUGGESTIONS.

What suggestions would you offer?

1. Difficult to offer advice. League is small and it is hard to get many together. Perhaps if we got more missionary reading among them it would help.
2. The pastor can do a deal by frequent illustration, etc., along missionary lines and the introduction of the missionary biography, etc.
3. Work away on your present lines. You have done well—do all you can as heretofore.
- 4—(1). Introduce the Plan, even though it be with only a very few. It will be like leaven. (2) Have some very interesting books, such as "John G. Paton" given into the hands of some who will likely become leaders in missions when interested.
6. PEG AWAY.
7. A revival on the basis of *obedience*. "He hath given the Holy Spirit to those who obey."
9. Induce, if possible, young people to read more missionary literature.
10. Missionary literature and rousing missionary meetings.
11. Get them interested through our literature and form a class for study and prayer.
13. "Be not weary in well doing." A greater effort should be made to stir up the hearts of the elders of the Church. They have little intelligent sympathy with the "Young People's Movement."
14. More careful supervision by visit and correspondence of District officers. Each League should feel it is a part of a whole.
15. I think with our improved Church accommodation and organization something will be done.
- 16—(1). A deeper prayer life. (2) Systematize time as well as money. In short (3), a closer walk with God, which leads to information getting.
17. Patience, tact and inspiration rather than coercion. Light also on giving as a positive luxury.
19. I know of no better way than to "keep at it," working up interest, spreading information, and leading our young people forward in this great movement.
20. Suggest taking an evening occasionally in the regular course of meetings in which a section of "First One Hundred Years of Modern Missions" be discussed and read.