

some of the great needs which are manifest to those whose spiritual vision has been clarified and who like "the men of Issacher have understanding of the times and who know what Israel ought to do"? There are a great many needs which might be mentioned, but Dr A. T. Pierson, it seems to us, puts the needs "in a nutshell," at least most of them, when he says: "We need more information, more obligation, more consecration, more supplication."

1. *We need more information.* We are not departing from the truth when we say that the great mass of our church members know little or nothing of missionary trial and triumph either in the home-land or in the regions beyond. Here and there you find a church where home and foreign missions are kept constantly to the front, but such churches are rare. They are "like angels' visits, few and far between." And it must be obvious that there can be no interest where there is no knowledge. How can people be interested in that of which they know little or nothing? "Facts are the figures of God which furnish fuel for missionary fires." Now where does the blame lie? Who is responsible for this alarming lack of knowledge?

1. Is it the fault of our missionary societies? Do they fail to print and publish the facts and figures relating to the work? Are they doing all that we can reasonably expect them to do in keeping the churches, the pastors and the people informed as to the progress and needs of the work? In answer to this question we may say that they are. During the past two or three years especially they have been doing grandly along this line. *The Baptist Missionary Magazine*, the *Home Mission Monthly* and *The Kingdom*, are publications that we as a denomination have reason to be very proud of. And these notable publications, together with the numberless tracts and booklets which are scattered broadcast and the excellent publications which are sent forth month by month by our various women's societies, such as the *Tidings*, the *Helping Hand* and other publications, make any censure of our missionary societies utterly out of place. Apparently our societies are only too glad to provide in attractive form and distribute with a generous hand missionary literature when it will be really appreciated and judiciously used.

2. Is it the fault of the missionaries on the home or foreign field in failing to send items of interest relating to the work and workers? No, it is not. Here and there there are lazy and indifferent missionaries as there are lazy and indifferent pastors nearer home, but in the main they are only too glad to write personal letters and descriptive notes when anybody is anxious to get such contributions. We must acquit the missionaries of blame.

3. Is the fault with ourselves? Yes, it is chiefly. We do not know because we are not interested enough in the world's redemption to take the trouble to inform ourselves. Of course I am not unmindful

of the constant pressure of daily duties. In most homes and churches and stores and factories there is more than enough to do. Some of us may sit and sing ourselves away to everlasting bliss in the next world, but we have very little chance to do it in this. Indeed we should be very glad of the opportunity to try at least for a few days or weeks, once in a while. But making full allowance for the multiplicity of our daily duties and the many calls of our church's work and the limitations of our physical and mental endurance, yet the fact remains that most of us could know much more than we do know about the progress of the kingdom. Yes, we'll take the blame in part at least and say that we ourselves are chiefly culpable. But we are not *wholly* to blame for this.

4. Our ignorance is due in part at least to the failure of our pastors to bring the matter before us more frequently. Some pastors rarely preach on missions and therein they do a great wrong to themselves, their churches and their Lord. The fact that there are "cranky" people in some of our churches who are not interested in missions and would not be even though the work might be presented by the apostle Paul; should not deter the pastor in doing for others what they so much need to have done for them; namely, have their interest aroused and their minds informed concerning the progress and the promise of the work which is being done and which ought to be done for those who are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. But wherever the blame may lie, the fact is patent that we do need *more information*. But we need something more than this.

II. *We need more obligation.* It is not enough to know. Our knowledge must crystalize into action or it will condemn us at the bar of God. What right have we to say Lord, Lord, if we do not the things which he says? The old country proverb has it: "Pity without relief is like mustard without beef." To know well is good, but to do well is better. The reason why we should feel obligated to do our best for both home and foreign missions are very plain.

1. Common gratitude should prompt this. If we ourselves have really been renewed by God's spirit and adopted into God's family, then we ought to feel profoundly grateful. If the soul is infinitely valuable, as we believe it is, and if there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, except the name of Christ, and if we feel and know that we have been saved through this name and shall ultimately have an inheritance among the redeemed in heaven, then we must be ingrates indeed if we are not prompted to share with others the blessings which we enjoy.

"Shall we whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high,
Shall we to men benighted the lamp of light deny?
Salvation, O Salvation, the joyful news proclaim,
Till earth's remotest nation has learnt Messiah's name."