

# Canadian Missionary Link

XLVI

WHITBY, SEPTEMBER, 1923

No. 1

## Be Not Anxious--But Pray

Anxiety ought to be avoided because it is never constructive. Like a cancer it eats its way and dissipates energy. It unfit us for effective service. A free translation of St. Paul's words in Philippians 4: 6, gives the following: "**In nothing be anxious, but in everything pray and give thanks.**" This great man gives us the positive feature of our guidance as well as the negative for a danger signal. Who could more appropriately say "in everything pray?" With Paul it was not simply precept, but faithful and never-tiring example.

Have we in our missionary programme set the same unflinching example of this divinely ordered method? If Speer is correct when he says, "Every element in the missionary problem depends for its solution upon prayer," we cannot afford to leave any feature of our task out of the range of its direct influence. Much prayer has been used in opening doors all over the world. Prayer cycles have been published and used by thousands of people on behalf of volunteers for the work. The crisis we are facing to-day, and we are not alone in this experience, is of a financial character. Has God's method of prayer been used in the past regarding money, or is the crisis a call to change the emphasis? Has there not been a tendency to separate the subject of finance from our prayer life in the affairs of family, Church and state? If unprecedented success should attend our financial campaign, would the tendency be to give credit to our splendid organizing ability? Whereas if more emphasis had been given to prayer the glory connected with any success would naturally be accorded to God. If we have slighted our great Leader, we ought not to be slow in asking forgiveness. One thing is certain, we are passing through a time of trial and the

Divine promise is "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me."

We need the organization and we must work harder than ever, but it is always right to put God first; and prayer is the method He has provided. The principle underlying the following story, which is related by Mr. W. E. Doughty, ought to be applied to all our work.

"An emergency arose in a field in China. A gift of one thousand dollars was imperatively needed to meet the emergency. A cablegram was sent by the leader in China to the mission board concerned, with the statement that prayer was being made that the money might be found at once and the need met. The cablegram was on the secretary's desk when he went to his office in the morning. He gave himself to prayer over the cablegram, that God might put it in the mind of some steward of his to give the money. He then went about his work with a quietness in his heart, expecting that the money would be found.

"In the afternoon a plainly-clad old man entered the office and asked for the secretary. His appearance at first made the clerk who received him suspicious, but after consultation with the secretary the man was admitted. He asked if there were any special emergency on any of the fields that some money would meet. For answer the cablegram was put in his hands. As he read it his eyes filled with tears. Controlling his emotion with difficulty he said that he and his wife had been deeply moved while engaged in family prayers that morning, and the conviction had come that they ought to do something more generous for the Lord's work than hitherto. That conviction had led the man to call at the mission board office. Putting his hand into the outside