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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

TWENTY FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

Vol. 5

Amherst, N. S., August 1898

No. 55

Motto for the Year.

"Workers together with Him."

Prayer Topic.

For our convention and the W. B. M. U. Annual Meeting, that a special blessing may descend upon all present and wisdom to guide all its affairs.

Suggested Programme for August.

Prayer

Hymn

Scripture John 14: 1-17

Minutes of last meeting

Treasurer's report for the year

Prayer by several

Reading, Tidings.

Apportionment of Delegates to the annual meeting at Truro

Prayer and closing Hymn

The Revival in Sardis.

It was the noon hour at the conference in Peacedale. Deacon Hart had joined a group of delegates who were talking about the dearth of revivals, and why it was that outside the church there was so little interest in religion, and inside the church so little concern for the conversion of men.

"Well, deacon," said they, as he told them, "we hear you've been having a regular old-fashioned revival over in Sardis."

The broad, happy face of the deacon lit up afresh as he answered: "Yes, the Lord, we've had a great one. We waited years for the Lord to come, but when we just stopped

waiting and every one of us set to work, we found that the Lord was there all the time waiting for us.

"Tell us about it. What methods did you use? How did you go to work?" were the eager questions as they gathered about him.

"Well you see it was in this way. We didn't have no evangelist, 'cause some o' the members said if we'd any money to give away we'd better give it to the parson instead of to a stranger. Besides, you know they all loved the parson, and they said, 'He loves us and he knows all about us; and no man from outside can come here to Sardis and talk to us heart to heart the way parson does.' And so we didn't have no evangelist.

"And it appears to me we didn't have no methods, neither. The parson, he always kept telling us, 'It don't matter much about methods. The Lord wants men and woman and when they're ready to do what's got to be done, the Lord will provide the methods.' The parson kept at us till we all begun to feel that something ought to be done. And then 'twasn't long before we begun to feel that we ought to be doing it ourselves.

"Come to look back on't, it does seem cur'ous how we all acted so sort o' blind-like. There we was all waiting for the Lord to come, and all praying that He would come. And every time our reg'lar prayer meeting was through we shook hands all round and said we'd had a blessed meeting, and it did seem as though the Lord was going to come to Sardis, and then we all went home, and things run on just the same till next week's meeting, and then the parson would ask us 'What are we going to do about these people round us that ain't Christians?'"

"They we'd pray and exhort each other to be up and doing, and the meeting would close and we'd shake hands and say the Lord was good, and we hoped he would come to Sardis. and then we'd go home again, and all the time there didn't seem to be no sinners in Sardis that wanted to be saved and somehow we began to get discouraged like 'cause the Lord didn't come."

"Well, one night, right in the meeting, when everybody was waiting and listening o' the clock, parson says right up quick like, "Deacon Hart, do you know anybody in this town that needs to be saved?"

"You see I'd already prayed and made some remarks, and the parson's question come so sort o' sudden like that I was took all aback, and I stammered out, 'I—I—suppose there are. Why, of course there are. Lots of 'em.'"

"'Deacon Hart', said he, 'will you name one person that needs to be saved?'"

"Well, now, do you believe it? I was dumb as a post. There were lots of people I thought about. But somehow I couldn't seem to bring myself to name a single one. There was Joe Smith. I knew he needed to be saved. His wife joined 'fore she was married, but Joe, he always said, 'I don't mind coming to church once in a while 'cause it can't do no harm if it don't do no

good.'" And he would say that every time on religion, and you couldn't get no further with him. So when I thought of Joe I said to myself, 'It's no use to name him 'cause 'tain't likely Joe wants to be saved.'

"There was old Bill Whitman, a quarrelsome, mean sort o' chap. I knew he needed to be saved if anybody did. No one could remember ever seeing him to church. But when I thought of him I thought, 'Why, Bill Whitman! why, it's no use to think of him as being saved.' There was Charlie Sprague, bright, but wild and full of ridicule for religion, but how could I bring myself to think of him as a hopeful subject for our prayers that he might be saved? Then there was George Slocum, a respectable citizen, with his mind full of politics, but with no use for religion."

"And so I thought of Frank Skillings, who was breaking his mother's heart by his love of drink; and of Aleck Danvers, whose wife with tears had told me only the day before that he seemed to get farther and farther away till it almost seemed as if she must go with him and give up being a Christian; and of James Brown, who was disgracing the church every day with his backsiding. And so on, pretty much all over town. I thought of men that needed to be saved."

"I knew the parson was waiting to say, as soon as I named anybody, 'Deacon Hart, will you lead us in prayer for him?' and so, sort o' helpless like, I just said, 'There's men enough as needs to be saved, but I don't see no encouragement to pray for 'em.' Now, I guess everybody there thought just the way I did, but, you see, nobody had ever said it out loud, and so when I said, 'I don't see no encouragement to pray for 'em,' everybody looked up quick, just as if their own consciences had spoke, and they was ashamed to be caught distrusting God's power to save

"Widow Brown was the first to speak. "Pears to me we've all been doubting the Lord, and that's why sinners ain't converted. We're just like the disciples when they asked the Lord "Why couldn't we cast them out? and the Lord told them, "Because of your little faith. This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer." If we believed as much in the Lord's readiness and power to save old Bill Whitman or Charlie Sprague as we believe in his power to save us, religion would mean a good deal more in this town than it does now. And I believe she continued, with her eyes full of tears, "that the Lord is right here in this meeting to-night to rebuke us, same as He did the disciples when he said, "O ye of little faith."

"Then John Coburn got up, and everybody was surprised as they saw him through their tears, 'cause he never somehow had anything to say in meetings 'cept to pray, and he said, "Tain't no use for us to be awkward in religion 'cause the disciples were. They was all helpless and discouraged like, same as we, and they made an awful poor showing of religion 'fore them Pharisees and that poor, unbelieving father who wanted his boy cured. But when they see Jesus was among 'em then they knew it was all right, as it will be here in Sardis when we make our religion a real thing among scoffers and unbelievers. Don't you remember the Lord turned his sad face to those faithless disciples and told them, "Bring that poor boy hitner to me?"

"And don't we all know that that's what we've got to do here in Sardis—bring Bill Whitman and Charlie Sprague and all the rest of 'em to the Lord in prayer, with the same faith that the disciples had when they brought that boy to be cured? They knew the Lord could cure him, and I believe the Lord can save Bill Whitman and wants to, too."

"Yes, and my boy Charlie," sobbed Mother Sprague. "And my husband," said another. "And mine," "and mine," said several women with eager, trembling voices.

"Well, there the Lord was in that meeting. Our hearts all sort o' melted in common sympathy, and we all see each other heart to heart, and the Lord helped us mightily to pray, and when the parson raised his hands for the benediction, and in broken voice asked that the Lord would go with us as he sent us out into the world, we somehow all fel' as the Lord had come to Sardis, and souls was going to be saved.

"We didn't have no methods to speak of, but every one of us went first to God in prayer, and then from prayer to men and women about us, and it wan't long 'fore we began to rejoice in the most remarkable conversions. Old Bill Whitman come into the meeting one night and said as how he had always hated religion and Christians. No man had seemed to care for his soul, and he'd made up his mind that he was going to die game, and never let anybody know that he ever thought about God and the hereafter and his own wickedness. 'But blessed be the Lord,' he said, 'there was an angel from heaven come to me one day when I was sawin' wood, and talked with me so tender like, and come again, and again, and prayed with me, and here I am, old Bill Whitman, saved by the grace of God! And the angel that the Lord sent was that woman over there in the corner God bless ner!'

"I can't tell you about the rest, 'cause their ain't time. We had a great refreshing and their wasn't a home in Sardis that didn't have reason to praise God and rejoice with the angels in heaven over a sinner repenting and turning to God. It does seem as if the Lord had come to Sardis to stay, blessed be his name for ever."

There was not a dry eye as that group of honest men looked into the

deacon's glowing face and grasped him by the hand.

"Why can't we have such a blessed revival over in our town?" said one. "And in our town, too," said another. "Yes, and in ours," said a third.

And as they passed into the church, for the afternoon session of prayer was just beginning, I said to myself, "Yes, sure enough, why can't we have just such a revival?"

And I found myself saying in answer: "We can it we will. The Lord wants it. Our neighbours need it. It will come if we do what we ought to do—tenderly, persistently, believingly pray and labour, man with man, heart to heart, as guided and helped by the Holy Spirit of God."—*Boston Congregationalist*.

Programme for Misson Band

HYMN "Jesus Saves"

Missionary Creed [in concert]

PRAYER by Leader

BIBLE LESSON Psalm 103

MINUTES of previous meeting.

SINGING "Over the ocean wave"

ROLL CALL Each answering by repeating a passage from the Bible containing the word Give.

QUESTIONS BY LEADER

Ques. In what presidency are the Telegus chiefly found?

Ans. In the Madras Presidency.

Ques. Name some of the pioneer

missionaries to the Telegus

Ans. Mr. Day, Mr. Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. Jewett, Mr. Clough, Mr. and Mrs. Timpany, Mr. and Mrs. McLavrin and others.

Ques. Review the names of our own missionaries in the Telegus Field, locating each at his or her proper station.

The Leader might ask the Band this question to be answered at the next meeting.

Who was the first missionary and what command did he give to his fellows?

Close by singing "To the work"

The empire of India contains a population of about 288,000,000. Of this number 20,000,000 are Telegus. It is among these people that the Baptists of these Maritime Provinces have established a mission in obedience to the command of their King: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This mission was established in 1875. At the present time there are 5 Stations, 5 Mission Families, and 7 churches, and a membership ranging from 25 to 40, and this in a population of 1,700,000—one missionary to about 340,000. In these Maritime Provinces with a population of about 800,000, there is one ordained minister to about 750. This disproportion is very unequal, unfair and unchristian. It is safe to say that at least one-half of the 1,700,000 know nothing whatever of the Christ who came to save them. I. W. M.