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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS

TWENTY FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

Vol. 5

Amherst, N. S., December 1898

No. 58

Motto for the Year.

"Workers together with Him."

Prayer Topic.

For the work and workers at Bobbili, the school and its teachers. For the new converts that they may be steadfast and bring many more to a knowledge of the true God.

Suggested Programme For December.

HYMN.

BIBLE READING. Subject "Womans' Work as found in the New Testament" or if Scripture lesson is prepared Luke 24: 36-53.

(This is to be prepared before hand.)

PRAYER. For our Mission Bands and their Leaders.

HYMN.

Thankoffering for Home Missions.

READING. Tidings.

PRAYER.

CLOSING HYMN.

programme for "Tidings," and the prayer topics for the present year. We notice that you are supposed to have a letter from Bobbili in December. Also that your work and workers at this place are then to be a special subjects of prayer. We are glad of this, because we need your prayers so much. You cannot, neither can we, realize the importance of the position to which God has called us and in which you have helped to place us. I don't know how it is with the other missionaries, but often when an opportunity comes for me to speak to some of these people who are so ignorant of the way of salvation, I shrink from doing so. And why? Simply because I am afraid I cannot make "the Old Old Story" attractive enough to draw them to Christ. "Are we not here the link between dying men, and the dying Christ?" But we know that a band of faithful ones remember us daily before the throne of Grace. Especially do we remember this Sunday morning. We say to ourselves, "This is Saturday night at home, and the dear ones are offering special prayer for us and our work, just now."

Suggested Programme for January, 1899.

HYMN (Let it be one of praise.)

PRAYER by several sisters.

SCRIPTURE. 1 Thess. 5: 1-10.

HYMN.

MINUTES of last meeting.

READING of Tidings.

A talk on our different stations—with the map—(by one who has prepared beforehand.)

CONSECRATION PRAYER for the New Year.

Letter For Tidings.

Mission House, Bobbili, Oct. 11th.
1898.

My dear Sisters of the W. B. M. U.
Last week's mail brought us the

Perhaps a little account of our Sundays in Bobbili would be interesting to you.

We start out on our work about 7 o'clock. When we reach the little

Chapel, which is situated in the heart of the town, we are greeted by a number of bright faced, happy little tots. They have come to Sunday School. The children continue to come in, until at 7.30 when school is opened, from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five are present. In addition to this, one of our young men has a class of fifteen or twenty little street Arabs, every Sunday. He sits down with them, under the trees near the Chapel, and tells them about the children's Friend. I wish I could tell you about my class, but I am afraid it would take too much time and space. But I will tell you this much. It consists of fourteen boys and girls, about nine years of age, as interesting and lovable as any I ever saw in the home land. I am encouraging them to memorize Scripture, and they have become very enthusiastic over it. Yesterday, thirteen of them recited three hundred and thirty-three verses from John's Gospel. One little girl repeated seventy; a boy sixty-three; another boy forty-nine. I was much amused with one little Brahmin girl. In the intermission between Sunday School and preaching service, she with some others, was jabbering over her verses as fast as her tongue would allow her. Suddenly Setharama stopped and exclaimed, "Amma if you will excuse me from repeating my verses today, I will have them well next Sunday." I was quite surprised at this, for she usually had a large number of verses, and recited them very correctly. So I said, "Can't you repeat any?" She answered, "Amma mistakes will come. I can only repeat ten or twenty." By this you may know, sisters, that my little Setharama aims high.

As it has been already hinted, a preaching service immediately follows the Sunday School. Quite a number of the caste children remain, and it is very pleasing to note the attention they give to the Word. We cannot

help but believe that the seed is falling in good soil, and that by-and-by when the Master gathers the sheaves into His garner, there will be some gathered from the seed sown in the little Chapel in Bobbili.

In the afternoon we have prayer-meeting. Afterward as the sun begins to sink in the West, we with the native helpers, go to the villages within walking distance. One or two Sundays ago Miss Harrison and I accompanied by five of the Christian women, walked out to Old Bobbili, a village, a mile or more away. There we divided into three groups, and went in different directions. We were all well received, and the women listened very attentively. A man who thought he knew everything interrupted us when we first began to talk to the women. But we told him he was not polite to treat us that way when we came to his village, and unless he behaved himself, we would go away. He behaved himself.

We returned home in the moonlight. One of the most prominent Brahmins of this town, overtook us and walked home with us. He seems to be quite interested in eternal things. Pray for him sisters, that he may have strength given him to accept Christ, and confess him before the world.

The crowning feature of the day's work is the children's meeting. After we come in from the villages, the bell is sounded, and in response to it, the christian boys and girls gather on the verandah for their evening prayer-meeting. Sometimes, one or more of them have a story to tell us of some little work they did for Jesus through the week. Others want to know the meaning of certain portions of Scripture. All of them want to sing. And as their childish voices ring out in the evening air, one forgets all about being tired or discouraged, and we enter with them heartily, in their songs of praise. Then their heads are bowed,

and one after another their voices are raised to Him who said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me." Their prayers being ended they make their "salaams" and go to their homes.

We come in, and have our evening meal, after which, if we are not too tired, follows a little service of song.

Thus end our Sundays in Bobbili.

Sincerely Yours,
Nettie C. Gulison.

P. S. I received a very nice letter from the Aid Society at Forbes' Point in answer to my last letter to 'Tidings.' I wish to thank the sisters there for it, and sincerely hope they will write again.

N. C. G.

Home Mission Report for Tidings.

The second meeting of our W. B. M. U. Board of Home Missions was held at the residence of Mrs. Allison Smith on Monday afternoon Oct. 31st. All members present except Miss Mabel Parsons, who was out of the city. Convener, Mrs. W. E. Hall, opened with prayer. The circular letter which had been previously written by Miss Johnston was read for approval. After slight corrections it was decided, as arranged at the first meeting, to send a copy of it to every Aid Society throughout the three provinces. The names of the 251 societies were then divided between each member of the Committee, so as to lessen the labor of the Sec'y-Treas. It was also decided to share the expense of postage, and not call upon our already overtaxed treasury.

Miss Johnston read a brief statement from Mrs. Smith our Treas., showing the exact deficit up to present date. Amount \$27.85. This is on last year's account remember. Your Board most urgently request that each society take a special Xmas offering for Home

Missions. Also that when the circular letter is received, you will bring it before your members as soon as possible, and do all in your power throughout the coming year towards raising the pledged amount of \$2,000.

On behalf of the Board

M. E. Hume

Sec'y-Treas.

We clip the following from the Pacific Baptist. It tells us of a new branch of Mission work. May it be ours to give and pray for this Foreign Mission work within our own Dominion.

BAPTIST JAPANESE MISSION.

This first work of ours among a strictly foreign population in British Columbia was begun last Christmas under the auspices of the Calvary church. There are about 125 Japanese in this city of Victoria, though a very fluctuating population. The Methodists have had a mission among them for some time. In fact, it was through that mission that our own got its start, for their Japanese preacher taught the Scripture faithfully, to-wit, that baptize meant to baptize, and consequently a number of those so correctly taught sought baptism at the hands of a Baptist preacher and membership in a Baptist church. Surely those Japanese had sound sense. Thus our mission began with 15, six of them joining the Calvary church by baptism, and two by experience. Five or eight others have been baptized since, making 14 or 15 now members of the church. Their bright leader, such by their choice, is E. Iwanega, and he took charge of the mission last January. He was baptized by Pastor Trotter two years ago. Calvary church rents for this mission a house of nine rooms on Johnson street, between Douglass and Blanchard streets, paying \$10 a month. The "boys" take care of this house as a boarding and lodging-house, under the

management of their superintendent. Nineteen Japanese lodge here, and 13 of them board here. They watch the boats and take care of their countrymen who land, even caring for the sick and for themselves, and giving all a start. They study four nights a week under teachers from the Calvary church. They have a general prayer meeting on Thursday nights, and a special meeting Saturday nights for Christians, besides preaching and Bible school on Sundays. Pastor Trotter has lately received \$700 from a benevolent lady in Ontario toward a suitable building for this mission, which under his guidance is likely soon to materialize.

Suggested Programme for Mission Bands.

(DECEMBER.)

HYMN. "What a friend we have in Jesus."

BIBLE LESSON. Matt. 2nd. chapter.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in concert).

ROLL CALL. Each answering by reciting a verse containing the word Jesus.

SINGING. "Jesus bids us shine."

Lesson found in Tidings.

Close with prayer by leader.

Question for the Band to answer at next meeting. Have I tried to persuade any person to come to Mission since last I met here?

Leader. Can you tell me the name of the country in which our missionaries live?

Ans. India.

Leader. Where do we get the name India?

Ans. From the Romans.

Leader. Is there any other name for India?

Ans. It is sometimes called Hindustan.

Leader. Does the name Hindustan include the whole of India?

Ans. No, only a province.

Leader. Can you name some of the mountains in India?

Ans. In the north are the Himalaya Range.

Leader. Do our missionaries live on the mountains?

Ans. No; they live on the plains.

Leader. Can you describe the plains?

Ans. They are level to a great extent; no hills or forests near them.

Leader. Are the cities and towns on the plains?

Ans. They are, and also a large number of villages.

Leader. Can you tell me the route taken by our missionaries when they go to India?

Ans. They cross the Atlantic Ocean to the Straits of Gibraltar, the Mediterranean Sea through the Isthmus of Suez, the Red Sea into the Indian Ocean.

Notes From Nova Scotia.

The honors of making the first Mission Band Life Member belongs to the Arcadia M. Band in Yarmouth Co, N. S. They sent \$10.00 for F. M. to constitute Mrs. Amy L. Fraser a life member.

Members of our Aid Societies will please note that the above may still be made a Life Member of the Union by the payment of \$25.00.

Ten dollars is easier for the children.

A note from Fourchi says the Band has begun to practice for a Christmas Concert. They were delighted with the mite boxes and map. The Secretary is sure they will make good use of them.