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# W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

Vol. 3.

Amherst, N. S., May, 1896.

No. 29.

*MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.*

"Workers together with Him."

*PRAYER TOPIC.*

For Mr. and Mrs Morse at Bimlipatam that health and strength may be continued to them and the word of our Lord prosper in their hands. That Mr. Morse's letters to the children may be greatly blessed For our Aid Societies and Mission Bands that the spirit of consecrated giving may be theirs.

## Suggested Program for May.

Opening Prayer.

Hymn.

Scripture, Acts 1: 1—12.

Prayer by two or three.

Reading Tidings.

Hymn.

If possible have our new map of our Telugu Field, and let the leader or some sister appointed beforehand, point out Bimlipatam, give its population, its needs, and tell what missionaries are there etc.

Prayer that Mr. Morse's letters to the young people in the Messenger and Visitor may be greatly blessed.

Hymn.

Business. Call for Report of Treasurer for the Society.

## Closing Prayer.

A key to this new map will be found in one of the back numbers of Tidings.

Dear Sisters :

I have been asking the Lord to give me a message for you through "Tidings," and think I could not do better than tell you something of the blessing we have received since we came to Vizianagram to attend conference.

We had all been asking our Heavenly father to pour out a special blessing at this meeting and He has more than fulfilled the expectations of at least one of His weak children.

As we attended session after session the Holy Spirit seemed to direct the speakers in all they said and we were

certainly drawn nearer to our Master and realized as never before what the influence of the "comforter" could do.

Three days of conference and communion has helped prepare the missionaries for the Telugu Association and we thank the Father for the blessing he is bestowing upon our native brothers and sisters. To-day has been a great day in the Association, it was given up to the subject of the Holy Spirit, in the evening when talking to a native brother he said, "It seems to me as if I had something in my life now that I never had before." I just enjoyed sitting looking into the faces of the Christians, and noting how they would light up when they seemed to grasp the truths taught by Christ Himself when he was here upon earth.

It is only as we ourselves are filled that we can reflect our Master, and as these people seemed to take that thought in, the longing seemed to come to them for the abiding presence. Since coming to India I have realized as never before how closely our lives are watched by those who know not our Lord, and that our lives are either witnesses for or against Christ—living is indeed a solemn thing—and we all need the prayers of our brothers and sisters in the homeland that we may "live for Christ."

We who know nothing of what it is to live in heathenism cannot know the struggles that many of our native

Christians have to pass through and are passing through each day, but we can pray that they may be "living examples."

I have been rather unsettled during the year because of the illness at our station but think that my experiences have been very helpful in many ways. I have had the privilege of touring with Miss Wright and have learned much from her. For three months I have been helping with the boarding children at Chicacole and know that they have helped me, my mistakes in the language are many and laughable but they bear patiently with me and correct me and I try not to make the same mistake twice. I wish you could go into the school each day and see those children as they sit on their benches and study their lessons. I always enjoy every hour spent in the schoolroom. I must tell you some thing of one of the boarding boys that I have taken a special interest in, he is an orphan about thirteen years old, he had an attack of intermittent fever which lasted over seven weeks, and as Mr. and Mrs. Archibald were away and Miss Wright ill I nursed him through it. The lady apothecary was very kind and for weeks came twice a day to see him. Balaram was the most patient child I ever saw, took whatever he was asked to without any trouble, for two weeks we had no hope of his recovery but we felt that he was a Christian and that if the

Lord called him home it would be a blessed change for him—but the call did not come, and he has been restored to health.

A short time ago I witnessed for the first time in India a baptism, and I am glad to say Balamam was one of the number baptized.

For about eight weeks I have had a class in Sunday School composed of the little children and have been trying to teach them something of the life of Our Lord when on earth, they listen very attentively and help me more than I feel that I help them. They use short sentences and I can always catch their meaning, and I in return use the same language, for I realize that I have to begin with the language of a child, "walk before I run," still I try not to be discouraged—but just go on slowly.

During the year I have had five different teachers. One reason was because of my moving from place to place, and another was because of the inability to teach. I am now without a Munshi, but hope soon to get settled down to study again. Mr. and Mrs. Corey and myself hope to get settled in Parla Kimerdi early in January.

We are very sorry indeed to bid some of our number good-bye, but we trust that they may receive a blessing in the homeland and they may be a blessing to the churches in interesting them more in Missions than they have been in the past. The needs have

been great in the past and will be still greater here as there will be fewer to cope with heathenism. Hoping that the Lord will bless all your efforts, I will close.

Very sincerely yours,  
M. Clark.

Vizianagram.

We regret "Notes from New Brunswick" have not reached us for this issue."

### Praise Meetings.

MRS. D. E. FINKS.

Delightful occasions are these, when properly planned and conducted! Often they are more far-reaching in their results than almost any other form of a missionary meeting.

The first one of which the writer has any knowledge was held in a far western city, under the shadow of the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains. The idea was an inspiration, born of God, in the heart of one of His children. It had been a time of peculiar trial, a severe epidemic of fever had swept through the city, and the angel of sorrow brooded over many a hearthstone. Scores had been carried by disease to the door of death, and many had passed through that open portal.

The number of those who gathered at the regular missionary meeting was small; the leader was away seeking bodily strength. The thought

came to one of that faithful band, "Can we not praise God for lives spared ; for mercies which have come to us in the midst of trial; and for the tidings which reach us of the scores and hundreds of conversions in other parts of the world ?" That thought took root, and soon sprang up, to blossom into a blessed fruition.

Plans were carefully matured, and the day set for the praise meeting. And what a meeting it was ! Some who were present cannot speak of it now without emotion. The attendance was a surprise ; the ingathering of thank-offerings a marvel ; the spiritual outpouring a revelation.

And now a few words about the method of conducting Praise meetings.

It may be said at once that the mere conclusion to have such a meeting, and announcement from the pulpit, are not enough. There should be much *careful preparation* for some time previous. Invitations should be written—or printed when the number to be reached is large—and sent to each lady in the church and congregation. Let each invitation include a little envelope marked "Thank-offering," or "Praise Meeting." Invite everybody accessible. There is special point in this, for, by the free use of these invitations, those who have never shown any previous interest in missionary meetings will often attend, and become permanent workers in the cause. Many have received their first missionary impetus at the Praise meeting.

The following is a suggestive form of invitation :

Dear Mrs.——.

You are most cordially invited to attend the annual Praise Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society, to be held in the—Church, at 3 o'clock p. m. Tuesday afternoon. A program of unusual interest may be expected. The presence of every lady connected with the church and congregation is desired, and you are requested to extend this invitation to your friends. Please place your thank-offering for the mercies which have come to you from the Father's hand, in the enclosed envelope ; seal and bring with you to the meeting.

In addition to these invitations, a full notice should be given from the pulpit, urging all to attend.

A carefully prepared programme should be arranged.

Short papers on such topics as "Praise for Temporal Blessings," "Praise for Spiritual Blessings," "How May We Praise God Most Acceptably ?" etc., may be prepared and read, and will help to deepen the interest. Other topics will naturally suggest themselves. A review of the year's work is also excellent.

At the close of the regular exercises, the treasurer brings forward the gathered offerings, and announces the sum total. A prayer of consecration is then offered, asking God to use this free will gift in the spread of His kingdom.

The influence of a thoroughly good praise meeting permeates the whole year's work of a missionary society. Has your Society never held such a meeting? Try one.