

THIS IS THE VICTORY



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

PUBLISHED BY

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Canada
ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS.

Vol. XIII. No. 9] TORONTO, OCT., 1896. [Price 5c. a year

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

Our Boards of Management, Officers and Committees.

JAPAN.

From Miss Belton.

KYN KARNIZAWA, NAGANO KEN, *July 17th, 1896.*

Here in our summer home among the mountains more leisure is found for letter writing than when we are in full work during the year. When preparing the report of the evangelistic work for the past year, I thought of many things which I supposed might interest you, but for which space could not be taken. So I will tell you some by letter instead.

The way in which the people here first learn of Christianity is very interesting to me. One woman, whom I met a short time ago, told me how she became desirous of becoming a Christian. Ten years ago, living in Tokyo, in

Shiba district, she heard of a new religion introduced by foreigners; she heard of the one true God and learned a little of His character. Then she removed out of the city and for many years heard no more of it.

About a year ago they again came to Tokyo, and she became ill and her mother came to take care of her. Now Mrs. A., a member of Azabu Church, was an old acquaintance of her mother's and called at this lady's house. We will call the first-mentioned lady Mrs. K. Her mother called at Mrs. A.'s house, and while there, some one from our school came in, read the Bible, prayed and told them the meaning of being a Christian. The mother came home and told her daughter that she had heard wonderful things that day, and said, "This is the true religion, I am sure it is." Her daughter's acquaintance with Mrs. A. led to her attendance at our meeting and she is eagerly seeking the way of life.

One day my interpreter and I called on her. We were heartily welcomed, and during the conversation I asked her if she prayed. She said, "I don't know how to pray, but I often talk to God." Then she said it had been told her, God would hear if *three* people prayed together much more surely than when *one* prayed alone, and she added, "if this is true I want you to be sure and pray with me before you leave, for I have many things to ask of God." We explained to her that God would hear her every prayer. Before we left, my interpreter prayed and Mrs. K. followed, and then we understood what she meant by "talking to God." She knew no forms of prayer, nor with what words to approach the throne, but simply asked what she wanted, as one speaks to a friend.

During our next visit at her home, a boy of about sixteen, a neighbor's son, came in. He had been drinking all the previous day and was still feeling the influence of the indulgence of his appetite. Mrs. K. talked to him so kindly, yet so plainly, about this evil habit and urged him to attend church in order to learn all that was good and true, that I thought, here is a woman who is herself only learning about God, yet is trying to point others to the light, while in Christian countries many who have always known the

truths of the Bible are not alive to the opportunities of helping others.

At one of my meetings an old woman attends regularly. She listens earnestly and remembers the Bible lessons very well. She is a Christian, and when one day we talked about heaven, I asked her what did she think heaven was like. She laughed, and said, "Indeed, I don't know at all; but sometimes when I am at Mrs. M.'s house I think heaven must be like that home." Mrs. M.'s is a happy, Christian home.

At that meeting nearly all who attend are quite elderly women, but their eagerness to study the Bible and to learn to sing is quite refreshing.

In the work among the poor in Azabu we sometimes discover some sad cases. Money to relieve extreme poverty, to buy food or medicine in case of illness, or to lend to those who do not want charity, is supplied by Japanese Christians in our school, or from our own purses. Sometimes the sum necessary to bring relief from want or pain is so very small that one feels the recompense of seeing the recipients comfortable or of receiving their gratitude more than repay.

One day I visited a few of the poorest homes in company with the Bible woman. In one lived a father, mother and four children, in a house not nearly as good and scarcely as clean as a stable in our country. Bad food and lack of cleanliness had brought on a loathsome skin disease, the baby suffering most from it. The Bible woman had supplied them with bath tickets twice, with good results, but they had no clothes except what they wore day and night, for they had no bed clothes at all. I sent them some good soap and a quantity of borax, and instructed the Bible woman to teach the mother how to wash her children at home; she had depended entirely upon the public bath and yet had no money to purchase tickets. Soon afterwards they sent their thanks to me for my excellent "medicine."

Another family lived in a better house and were somewhat cleaner in appearance. The mother was dead; the father, grandmother and two dear little girls composed the family. The father had suffered from spinal disease for many years. He had been a teacher and showed by his conversation and

manners that he belonged to a much higher class than most of his neighbors in that district. The little girls had not been permitted to play on the streets and, in consequence, had very sweet, modest manners and talked like grown-up women. But it pained me to see how seldom they smiled and to hear their innocent account of their past life, so full of unconscious pathos. We became better acquainted with them afterwards, as they attended the Charity School and Azabu Sunday School. The father earned about five or six sen a day—not enough to buy their food alone, though they used broken food from the barracks. Before we left Tokyo the family was turned out by the landlord and scattered here and there, the Orphanage taking charge of the younger girl to save her from being given to a jinrikisha man who, the father felt assured, wanted her only to sell her to a life of shame.

Ever since I came to Japan I have had a Bible class in English for young men in connection with Azabu Sunday School. A few of the young men from our Boys' School attend it and sometimes scholars from other schools. Not far from Azabu is a large school, founded by a Mr. Fukuzawa. There are upwards of a thousand young men in it, some taking the primary and some the collegiate course. It is a stronghold of Buddhism. Mr. Fukuzawa once professed Christianity, but, in the words of one of his pupils, "his school grew very small, so he became a Buddhist once more. I think he wants to be half-Christian and half-Buddhist." From this school I have had five young men in my Bible class, two of them, Mr. O. and Mr. K., have been especially interesting. Mr. O. had heard a little about Christianity before I met him; Mr. K. knew as little about it as one could who had studied English only long enough to read and talk fairly well.

When they first came to my class I was teaching in Acts, chapter xxi., from the 30th verse. They were intensely interested in "Mr. Paul" from that day, his courage first gaining their admiration. Their questions showed a simple desire to know the truth and the meaning of Christianity. The story of Paul's conversion made a deep impression upon them. One day when they called on

me they told about their fellow-students' opposition to Christianity. One of them said, "We can't talk about it to our friends at all, or they will only quarrel with us. My best friend quarrels with me because I have got a Bible and because I go to your Sunday School. He found my Bible on my table and wanted to burn it. He said it was a wicked book and that I am not his friend any more." I told him to pray for his friend; then I asked them if they had begun to pray to the true God yet. They told me they were both praying twice a day for blessings on their friends, for guidance in the future of their lives and for more light. In the class one of them asked me to write down the simple prayer I offered before beginning the lesson, and he was much pleased to be shown the Lord's prayer. But they have not yet learned to keep the Sabbath; their consciences are not awake on the subject.

The story of salvation, the nature of God, the relations existing between our hearts and our Creator, the sinfulness of sin and the hope of heaven—these and similar topics we have discussed, but they have much yet to learn. I asked one of them how he came to desire a knowledge of Christianity. He said he was sick and lonely far from home last fall and a true believer in Buddha. But in his time of need Buddhism failed to satisfy him, he longed for something to rest in. One day a Christian young man called and lent him his Bible, which he looked over, reading a little here and there. He became convinced that this book revealed the true God, and from that time desired to become a Christian.

When I am absent from Tokyo I keep up a correspondence with the boys of my class, and when they remove or return home they write to me occasionally. Some belong to Christian homes, others have no other earthly help than the Bible and Sunday School class. They are always respectful, obedient and attentive, and although their often very limited English vocabulary proves an obstacle in teaching them, yet it is a very interesting class.

At the end of the year I invited the women from all the places where I held meetings, to come to the school for a general prayer-meeting. The morning was rainy, but thirty-

five women came, so that, including the Bible-women, some of the school girls and workers, my interpreter and three missionaries, we had quite a large gathering.

One thing surprises me very much, that is the number of *old* women who attend the meetings. That a *young* Japanese woman should show an inclination towards the "new religion" is not so wonderful, but that old women who have spent their lives believing in a false religion, should turn from it and become Christians seems surprising, yet I do not doubt that their life-long prayers at the throne of the "unknown God" have been heard and answered by Him whose compassions fail not, and now He "whom they ignorantly worshipped" has been declared unto them.

I must bring my long letter to a close. Miss Cartmell will tell you of our life here and the merry time we had the morning after the night in which a boisterous wind blew in the wooden doors, which serve instead of a wall at one end of our house. Since that night Miss Wigle thinks it is a necessary qualification for missionaries to have strong hands and feet in order to hold three doors at once. You will understand this when you see the rude sketches Miss Cartmell will send.

Our annual meeting comes off next week. I look forward anxiously for the report of the Stationing Committee, as I am not sure that I can remain in Tokyo next year. There is plenty of work for two in the Evangelistic Department, but the laborers are so few even in these days compared with the harvest. How we long to hear that two or more new ladies are coming. It is such a blessed work, it seems strange that more women are not ready for it. But the Lord of the harvest *will* send his laborers.

FRENCH WORK.

The following extracts are taken from the monthly reports of the East End Mission School, Montreal:

Miss Matthieu writes, "The month of March has been most encouraging in every respect, there having been an attendance of thirty-six pupils. Of this number, three were Germans, sixteen French, and seventeen English. I would

acknowledge God's help and guidance in district visiting. One Roman Catholic family recently left their own church united with us, and sent their eldest boy to our school. A few days attendance convinced the child that there was a difference between our school and that of the Friars' which he had been attending. He said to his mother, 'We sang about Jesus and talked of His being once a little boy.' His parents are fond of reading and anxious to get French literature.

"Thirty-four pupils attended during the month of April, and showed a marked interest in their lessons, memorizing a number of Scripture verses. At present they are studying the parables. A few of them have drawn the map of Palestine. I have found great pleasure in visiting the homes of some of the pupils. The mothers have given me a warm welcome and words of cheer with reference to the improvement in their children. Two brothers who have been attending regularly for the last two years, refused to observe the regulations of their own church. They said to their mother they could not go to confess any more, as they felt they were sinning against God, and added 'just you come with us to our teachers' church and you will find something of interest.' These parents have been coming to our meetings for the last three Sunday mornings. God bless the dear boys who have the moral courage to come out on the right side, and thus influence their parents.

"The month of May, with its usual round of moving, left a few vacant seats. The number of pupils registered was thirty-two, of whom twenty-seven were French Canadians. During the afternoon hours I have visited fifty-seven families, reading to some of the mothers and praying with other. I am realizing more fully, that their is no better way to success than by becoming acquainted with the mothers and our pupils in their homes.

"My heart was cheered last week when one of the scholars, a girl fifteen years of age, asked me if I would sell one of our catechisms, as her mother wished them to study it at home. This may seem a trifling fact to some, but to me it is a gleam of joy and encouragement. God's blessing is resting upon us, and our children are coming into the light."

F. H. KNOX, *Sec. of French Com.*

INDIAN WORK.

From Miss Paul.

PORT SIMPSON, B.C., *July 13th, 1896.*

We have had rather an eventful year, with many discouragements and many encouragements. The time has passed quickly and we have enjoyed our work. I can see a great improvement in some of the girls this year; they are becoming more trustworthy and seem to take more interest in their work in every department. We are having vacation in school now, and have been camping since last Friday at Whiskey Bay. We have two tents, a large one for the girls and a smaller one for ourselves. It is a lovely beach, and the girls find pretty flowers, shells, star fish and sea eggs, and bring them to us.

They will stay until next week if the weather is fine. It seems to do them good to have a couple of weeks free in the open air. These people camp so much in the summer that we think it well for us all to have a little of it. I am going for a vacation trip on the *Glad Tidings* with Mr. Crosby and family to Essington and the various canneries on the Skeena, also down as far as River's Inlet. It will be a new experience, as this is my first trip. Mrs. Redner mentioned in her last letter that some of the girls were sick with grippe. One little girl, Mary Maxwell, aged eight years, died, the others have recovered.

We enjoyed District Meeting very much this year. All the ministers and their wives were here except Mrs. Pierce, who bravely stayed up the Skeena alone and took charge of the people while her husband came down to District Meeting. Dr. Carman and Mr. Woodsworth cheered and encouraged us during their visit. We all appreciated Dr. Carman's addresses very much. We were sorry that they could not stay longer with us.

The village is almost deserted now. Everyone who is able to work is away. Dr. Bolton and the nurses are at Essington. We sympathize with the Dr. and Mrs. Bolton in their bereavement; their sweet little baby, Marjory, 8 months old, was laid to rest a few weeks ago in this far away land.

INCREASE.

LONDON CONFERENCE BRANCH.

North Hall Church (near Corinth) Mission Band.

BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE BRANCH.

Solmesville "Little Helpers' Band."

Bancroft Band.

TORONTO CONFERENCE BRANCH.

Brampton (Grace Church) "Gardiner Mission Circle."

CONCERNING THE SUGGESTED PROGRAMME.

As reports from the Branch meetings will be presented and discussed at the November Auxiliary Meeting, we omit the usual Suggested Programme.

Auxiliaries having received these reports at the October meeting will find a subject for Thanksgiving, Thanks-living and Thank-offering on page three (3) of the *Missionary Campaigner* for November. Price, 2 cents. This number may be ordered from ROOM 20. Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping. This literature for the Suggested Programme for November will not be ready to send to subscribers until the end of October.

NOTICES TO AUXILIARIES AND MISSION BANDS.

The Literature Committee is prepared to receive deposits of \$1.00 for the literature to be used in connection with the Suggested Programme, and will send the necessary literature whenever called for by the programme, as long as the money lasts. The usual charge of two cents, for wrapping and postage, will be deducted for each parcel.

Orders for *Palm Branch* should be sent to Miss S. E. Smith, 282 Princess Street, St. John, N.B. Single copies, 15 cents; 10 copies to one address, \$1.00.

Life-membership fees are to be sent with the quarterly returns to the Treasurer of the Branch in which the member lives.

Letters concerning the organization of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary of the Branch in which the work is situated. For Corresponding Secretaries' addresses see Annual Report.

Manuscripts for loan can be procured from Room 20. Subjects: "Chinese Religious Faiths," by A. W. Briggs; "Systematic Giving," by A Systematic Giving. Postage and wrapping, 3 cents each. The manuscript to be carefully enclosed in paper, and returned the day after it is used.

Will friends who order literature from Room 20 kindly remember *not* to send three-cent stamps, if larger or smaller denominations can be procured? Remit by money order or bills when possible.

All communications regarding Supply Committee work should be addressed to Mrs. Wm. Briggs, 21 Grenville Street, Toronto, Ont.

LEAFLETS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

FOR CHRISTMAS.

	Each Pe
Our Christmas Gifts. A Service.....	.06
Gloria in Excelsis. A Christmas Cantata.....	.10
Christmas Selections, No. 3.....	.20
Christmas Treasury, No. 5.....	.15

A Package containing a sample copy of each for 40 cents.

(A signifies Adult; J, Juvenile.)

Countries—China. By Dr. J. T. Gracey.....	.15
Metlakahtla.....	.05
(A J) Missionary Catechism.....	.05
Our Work Series—No. 1 is out of print until further notice; No. 2, Our Chinese Rescue Home; No. 3, Our Work in Japan; No. 4, Medical Work Among the Indians; No. 5, Manners and Customs of the Indians of Simpson District, B.C.; No. 6, Manners, Customs and Religion of the French-Canadians; No. 7, Trials and Triumphs of Methodism in the North-West.....	.01
The Claims of India.....	.02
The Needs of South America.....	.02
What is Zenana Work?.....	.05

Each Per doz.

Woman in China .....	.01	.10
Woman's Rights in India .....	.01	.10
Women of the Lower Congo .....	.01	.10
(A J) Who will Open the Door for Ling Te? .....	.02	.15
(A J) Question Book Series—Japan and Korea, China, Chinese in America, Mexico, India, Siam and Laos, Africa, Persia, South America, and Syria 10 in set, 50¢ .....	.05	
Some Curious Things About Japan.....	.02	.20
Medical—Murdered Millions .....	.17	
Medical Work Among the Indians at Port Simpson .....	.01	.10
Kania, A Story .....	.02	.20
Apply—Beginnings at Muddy Creek .....	.02	.15
(J) Clare's Part .....	.01	.10
Light Out of Darkness	50c. per hundred	.01 .10
Ups for Workers—Do They Understand? .....	.01	.12
A Question of Delegates and One of Expenses .....	.02	.15
Experience of an Auxiliary President .....	.01	.10
Duties of Auxiliary Officers.....	free	
Happy Hints for Mission Bands—music and pro- grammes .....	.05	.50
Maps and Money .....	.03	
The Auxiliary Member Between Meetings. 65c. hund.	.01	.10
Fuel for Missionary Fires .....	.55	
How Our Mission Band Learned to Pray .....	.02	.20
Rules of Order .....	.05	.30
Scattered Helpers' Leaflets and Cards.....	free	
Methods of Work, and Suggestions for Young People's Societies	Sample copy free	.08
That Missionary Meeting .....	.02	.15
Pea!—A Basket Secretary .....	.02	.15
An Appeal to the Women of the Methodist Church....	free	
A Call to Young Women.....	25c. per hundred	.01 .04
How Much Do I Owe? .....	.01	.08
Her Son .....	.05	
Heathen Claim and Christian Duty .....	.01	.08
Inasmuch .....	.01	.12
Personal Responsibility .....	.02	.20
Not for the Heathen Merely, but for Christ.....	.01	.06
She Hath Done What She Thought She Couldn't .....	.01	.10
The Voices of the Women.....	.01	.10
The Responsibility of Not Doing .....	.01	.10
Unemployed Talent in the Church .....	.02	.15
Why Our Society did not Disband .....	.02	.15
The Great Harvest Field of Missions .....	.01	.10
Will You Offer Prayer this Afternoon? .....	.02	.20
Winding Up a Horse	35c. per hundred	.05
Winding—A Talk on Mite-Boxes.....	.02	.20
A Tithe for the Lord	50c. per hundred	.01 .10
God's Tenth. A True Story.....	.03	.30
How Much do I Owe.....	.01	.08

	Each	Per
Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box.....	75c. per hundred	.01 .10
Mrs. Bartlett's Thank-Offering.....		.01 .10
Proportionate Giving (an exercise). By M. B. Willmott	35c. per hundred	.01 .05
So Many Calls.....		.01 .08
(J) A Partnership. A Penny a Week and a Prayer...		.02 .15
(A J) Experiences of Some Mite-Boxes.....		.01 .10
(J) The Society at Springtown.....		.02 .15
Miss Witterly's China.....		.01 .10
(J) Tothor and Which.....		.01 .08
Ten Reasons for Tithing.....	free	
The Value of Small Gifts.....		.02 .15
The Grace of Liberality.....		.01 .10
The Wilful Gifts and the Disconcerted Deacons.....		.02 .20
What We Owe and How to Pay It.....		.01 .10
Winding Up a Horse.....	35c. per hundred	.05 .05
Miscellaneous —Cycle of Prayer.....	\$2.00 per hundred	.03 .30
Gist. By Miss L. R. Gracey.....		.60
Helping Together with Prayer.....		.01 .08
Preparation for the Master's Work.....		.01 .10
Charlotte Marie Tucker (A. L. O. T.).		.03
John G. Paton. Story of His Life.....		.10
Origin and Work of the W.M.S.....	free	
The Mission of Failures.....		.02 .15
Women Under the Ethnic Religions.....		.02 .20
Why Are We Protestants?.....		.05 .50
Narrative —Sister Phoebe's Salvage Corps.....		.02 .20
Heaven-Sent.....		.01 .10
The Revolt in the Hall Closet.....		.02 .15
(J) Little Corners.....		.01 .10
The Measuring Rod.....		.01 .10
What Thomas Henry and I Learned at the Board		
Meeting in London.....	75c. per hundred	.01 .10
Personal Responsibility.....		.02 .20
Exercises and Programmes —(J) A Mite-Box Song....		.03 .20
America for Christ. With Music.....		.03 .25
How Some Little Dollies came to go as Missionaries		
(for four little girls).....	4 copies 12c.	.04
Happy Hints for Mission Bands. Music and Pro-		
grammes.....		.05 .50
Missionary Songs By E. Lorenz, words and music....		.25
Proportionate Giving.....	35c. per hundred	.01 .05
(J) The Light of the World is Jesus..... (for 15 children)		.02 .20
Poems —"Do Ye Next Thyng." "So Much to do at		
home." "Unawares." (J) "A Little Brown Penny."		
Each poem.....		.01 .10

Please enclose 2 cents additional for postage and wrapping.

For the above, Address MISS ANNIE L. OGDEN,
 ROOM 20, WESLEY BUILDINGS, RICHMOND ST. WEST, TORONTO, ONT.
 Open every morning.