

The Missionary Leader

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No. 8

Home Missions Department

Church Missionary Programme

First Week

OPENING EXERCISES and Reports of Labour.

Talk: "The Need of Sympathy."

Bible Study: "Sympathy."

"Christ Felt the Need of Sympathy."

"Our Strongest Bond."

"Sympathy Opens the Heart."

Poem: "A Psalm of the Helpers."

"The Grace of Sympathy."

Blackboard Motto: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Rom. 12: 15.

LEADER'S NOTE.—In the suggested talk, "The Need of Sympathy," the speaker should present briefly a few of the most striking conditions that call for sympathy. Not only is the world as a whole in a condition of unspeakable sorrow and woe, but everywhere right around us are breaking hearts, longing for sympathy and love and kindness. Many are also literally in need of the necessities of life, and we have abundant room for practical demonstrations of the sympathy we seek to show.

"SYMPATHY is not a quality needed merely in adversity. It is needed as much when the sun shines. Indeed, it is more easily obtained in adversity than in prosperity. It is sometimes easier to weep with those who weep than to rejoice with those who rejoice. For true satisfaction of the heart there must be a fount of sympathy from which to draw in all the vicissitudes of life. Sorrow asks for sympathy, aches to let its griefs be known and shared by a kindred spirit. To find such is to dispel the loneliness from life. Joy also demands that its joy should be shared. The man who has found his sheep that was lost calls together his neighbours, and bids them rejoice with him."—*Hugh Black.*

Bible Study

Sympathy

The Duty of Sympathy

Toward the discouraged. Job 22: 29.

Toward the tempted. Gal. 6: 1.

Toward the happy and the sad. Rom. 12: 15; 15: 1.

Toward the poor and afflicted. 1 John 3: 17, 18; Job 6: 14; James 1: 27.

The Source of Sympathy

Isa. 63: 7-9; Matt. 8: 3, 16, 17; 9: 36; 2 Cor. 8: 9; Heb. 4: 15.

Bible Examples of Sympathy

God showed sympathy—

For Hagar in her distress. Gen. 21: 17-21.

For Israel in Egypt. Ex. 3: 7, 8.

Jesus showed sympathy—

For the blind men. Matt. 20: 30-34.

For the multitude. Mark 8: 1-3.

For the sick. Matt. 4: 24.

For sad parents. Mark 7: 24-30; 9: 17, 18, 21-27.

For those who mourn. Luke 7: 11-15; 8: 41, 42, 49-56.

Christ Felt the Need of Sympathy

"WE need sympathy. Even the most perfect of the sons of men felt this need of intercourse of the heart. Christ, in one aspect the most self-contained of men, showed this human longing all through His life. 'Will ye also go away?' He asked in the crisis of His career. 'Could ye not watch with Me one hour?' He sighed in His great agony."—*Hugh Black.*

Our Strongest Bond

"How little do we enter into sympathy with Christ on that which should be the strongest bond of union between us and Him,—compassion for depraved, guilty, suffering souls dead in trespasses and sins! The inhumanity of man toward man is our greatest sin. Many think they are representing the justice of God, while they wholly fail of representing His tenderness and His great love. . . . We need more of Christlike sympathy; not merely sympathy for those who appear to us to be faultless, but sympathy for poor, suffering struggling souls, who are often overtaken in fault, sinning and repenting, tempted and discouraged."—"*Ministry of Healing,*" pages 163, 164.

Sympathy Opens the Heart

"THERE are multitudes struggling with poverty, compelled to labour hard for small wages, and able to secure but the barest necessities of life. Toil and deprivation, with no hope of better things, make their burden very heavy. When pain and sickness are added, the burden is almost insupportable. Careworn and oppressed, they know not where to turn for relief. Sympathize with them in their trials, their heartaches, their disappointments. This will open the way for you to help them. Speak to them of God's promises, pray with and for them, inspire

them with hope. Words of cheer and encouragement spoken when the soul is sick and the pulse of courage is low,—these are regarded by the Saviour as if spoken to Himself."—"*Ministry of Healing,*" page 158.

The Grace of Sympathy

AS Christ's followers we are exhorted in the Scriptures to exercise sympathy. Peter says, "Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

In the exercise of the grace of sympathy we come into the lives of our fellow-men. The approach of kindly, loving sympathy will seldom be repulsed. The great sin-sick, sorrow-burdened world is reaching out its hands for help. There is no home that sorrow has not entered, no threshold but that some shadow has been thrown athwart it. These conditions afford rich opportunities for missionary labour. So desirous is the Lord that we shall enter into the experience of others that He permits sorrow to come into our lives in order that through the lessons we learn we may find closer approach to our fellow-men.

When we sense the load of sin in our own experience and find relief from its oppressive weight, when we in our own great sorrow find comfort in the Lord Jesus, then it is that we can go forth to find others and bring them to the God of all comfort and consolation.—*Selected.*

A Psalm of the Helpers

He that turneth from the road to rescue another,
Turneth toward his goal:
He shall arrive in due time by the footpath of mercy,
God will be his guide.

He that taketh up the burden of the fainting,
Lightheneth his own load:
The Almighty will put His arms underneath him,
He shall lean upon the Lord.

He that careth for the sick and wounded,
Watcheth not alone:
There are three in the darkness together,
And the third is the Lord.

—*Henry van Dyke.*

Church Missionary Programme Second Week

OPENING EXERCISES and Reports.
Bible Study: "Missionary Workers."
"He Did What He Could."
Plans for Work.

LEADER'S NOTE.—"He Did What He Could." All may not be able to do all that this man did, or just what he did. But it may suggest something that we could do, unthought of before. We need to get into closer touch with others, and especially do the young need our personal interest and efforts. A little time in this meeting could be well spent in considering how we can do more in a social, Christian spirit to help others.

Missionary Workers

1. To whom has Jesus committed His work in His absence? Mark 13:34; 2 Cor. 5:18-20.

2. What mind should be in us respecting the salvation of our fellow-men? Phil. 2:4, 5.

3. What is the underlying principle which actuates a true missionary worker? 2 Cor. 5:14.

4. Will any amount of labour, suffering, or sacrifice profit us anything without this love? 1 Cor. 13:1-3.

5. May we expect any better treatment from the world than our Saviour received? John 15:18-20.

6. Is suffering for Jesus' sake a part of the Christian's earthly heritage? Phil. 1:29.

7. For what purpose are all created, made new creatures, in Christ Jesus? Eph. 2:10.

8. What question does Jesus ask those who are not engaged in His work? Matt. 20:6.

9. What does He command each to do? Verse 7.

10. What will be done with those who refuse to honour God in bringing forth fruit in His vineyard? John 15:2.

11. What does the Saviour exhort those to do who see no work to be done? John 4:35.

He Did What He Could

ONE of the leaders of the Methodist Church tells of a church in which was a man who many years ago said to himself, "I cannot pray aloud, and cannot testify in the meetings, and there are many other things that I am unable to do. But each Sunday I can prepare two places at the dinner table in my home, and invite in a couple of young men that have no home here in the city."

This he continued to do for thirty years, and during these years he became acquainted with a large number of young men, a number of whom were led to the Lord as the result of this kindly act.

This man died a short time ago and was to be buried several miles from his home. A special train was

to take the guests to the funeral. In this train, room was prepared for those whom the dead man had won to the Lord. When this became known, there were no less than one hundred and fifty young men who took their seats on the train, and these all testified that they had been led to the Lord through the efforts of this man.

When we truly love the Lord and the souls who are perishing because they do not know Him, we will find some way of helping them, no matter how poor, how retiring, or how feeble we may be. The one thing needful for successful missionary work is the love of Christ in our hearts.

Church Missionary Programme Third Week

OPENING EXERCISES and Reports.
Bible Study: "Discouragement and Its Cure."
Plans for Work.

Blackboard Motto: "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth." Isa. 42:4.

Bible Study

Discouragement and Its Cure

Causes of Discouragement

Resentment: Cain, when rebuked for sin. Gen. 4:13, 14.

Hardship: Israel in the wilderness. Num. 14:1-4; 21:4-6.

Criticism: Moses, when the people complained. Num. 11:11-15.

Physical weariness: Elijah when he fled from Jezebel. 1 Kings 19:4.

Disappointment: Jonah, because Nineveh was not destroyed. Jonah 4:3, 8.

Fear: Sailors in the ship with Paul. Acts 27:20.

Cure for Discouragement

Faith: 2 Cor. 4:8, 9, 13, 16, 17; Rom. 8:18, 28, 38, 39; Phil. 3:13, 14.

Prayer: Mordecai and the Jews (Esther 4, 5); Hezekiah, when defied by Rabshakeh (2 Kings 19:14-19); Jonah (Jonah 2:1-10); Jesus (Matt. 26:39, 42). Praise: Ps. 42:11; 30:1-3; Paul and Silas (Acts 16:19-26).

God Wants His Children Courageous and Happy

Reasons for courage: Deut. 31:6; Joshua 1:9; Ps. 5:11; John 16:33.

Source of courage and joy: Ps. 27:14; Isa. 61:3.

Notes

The causes for discouragement have been very much the same all through the ages. Cain became greatly discouraged when he was rebuked for his sin. How does reproof affect us?

Israel was even willing to return into slavery because of their distress over the hardships of the way. Have the flesh-pots

of Egypt ever tempted us, when we were having what we thought was a hard time?

Moses was cast down—though patient a long time—because of the murmuring and criticism of the children of Israel. How does faultfinding and criticism affect our Christian experience?

Elijah was utterly disheartened because of a wicked woman's anger, because he was physically exhausted, and because he got to thinking he was the only righteous person left in all the world. Do similar conditions ever affect our courage?

And Jonah! He became discouraged because Nineveh repented and was saved,—because the destruction he had foretold was averted, and because a little blessing which had been especially sent to him by the Lord was taken away by the Lord. How does it affect our courage when our plans are upset and some of our earthly comforts are withdrawn for a little while?

The sailors in the ship with Paul lost hope because they were afraid. Does fear ever drive courage out of our hearts? or have we learned the blessing of the promise, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee"?

Church Missionary Programme Fourth Week

THIS programme is to be prepared by the officers of the society. We would suggest that matter be culled from some of our papers or books, and consist of reports from the field or timely instruction along missionary lines. Every missionary meeting should tend to increase our interest in home and foreign missions and to prepare us to do better service for the Master.

Missionary Volunteer Department

Missionary Volunteer Programme First Week

Blackboard Motto: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2.

Hymn: "There Are Lonely Hearts to Cherish."

Prayer; Scripture Drill; Reports; Hymn, No. 568.

Bible Study: Sympathy. (See page 1.)
Talk: "What Is Sympathy?"

"How Sympathy Helps."
Poem: "If."

Story: "Peter Willing-Sympathy."
Choice Paragraphs from "Ministry of Healing."

("Helping the Tempted," pages 161-164; "In Contact with Others," pages 483-496.)

Questions: How to Make This Topic Live.

Poem: "Comfort One Another." (See Record July 2.)

Hymn: "Christ in Song," No. 761.

LEADER'S NOTE.—This is a beautiful subject, and presents an opportunity to our Missionary Volunteer leaders to bring out many helpful truths, which are vital to the success of the society. Some one has said, "To know all, is to forgive all," and this is another way of saying that if we sympathize truly and deeply with others, we shall have in our hearts and on our tongues no criticism for them, but only kindness

and helpfulness. The quotations, "How Sympathy Helps," will give opportunity for several to take part. The story of Peter Willing-Sympathy should be told to the children. The smaller ones will have their own ideas of what the word sympathy means, and the leader should try in a tactful way to enlarge their vision on this point. Sympathy means kindness and gentleness and helpfulness at home and in school and in the neighbourhood. Encourage them to form plans of helpfulness, and at the same time endeavour to keep down the spirit of self-righteousness. Helpfulness that is extended to please ourselves is like a flower without perfume. It can win no heart to Jesus, and will bring no reward to the doer.

What Is Sympathy?

WHAT is sympathy? Sympathy is that deep, wide, imaginative affection which shares the experiences of other lives. No one of us exhausts human experience, any more than he exhausts the air of heaven. All about us others are living a real life and a deep one. They are passing through joy and sorrow, much of which we shall never know any more, probably, than we shall know the coasts of Korea or the zone of the south pole. Every morning we waken in a world bowed down by woe, every night we sleep in a universe where eyes are wet because some hope of the soul has set, some dream of the heart has died. Shall we leave the sad world comfortless? Shall we be careless of its sorrow, heedless of its grief?

Sympathy is the power of the heart to feel; to go out of one's personal, inevitably narrow experience, and say, "All men are my brothers. Nothing human is alien to me." This is not a sentimental idea, but a very practical one. It is one of the realities of life. The more our hearts reach out to others, the wider our own outlook becomes, the deeper our tenderness, the more efficient our every helpful power. Whereas, the hand we stretch not out to help, withers. To this law there is no exception. Persons who "shut them from their kind" cannot realize what they are missing. It is like living in a dark cave, with close walls above and about, and neither light nor air in one's life.

Sympathy ought always to be of the tonic sort. Our comrades need not only petting, they need courage. True sympathy does not foster weakness and selfishness; it is as bracing as the north wind.—*Anna Robertson Brown.*

"THEY are never alone who are accompanied by noble thoughts."

How Sympathy Helps

"ONLY through sympathy, faith, and love can men be reached and uplifted."—*"Education," page 78.*

"Sympathy will respond to a friend's gladness as well as vibrate to his grief."

"The other name of sympathy is love."

"There is poetry and there is beauty in real sympathy," says Oliver Wendell Holmes, "but there is more—there is action." The noblest and most powerful form of sympathy is not merely the responsive tear, the echoed sigh, the answering look; it is the embodiment of the sentiment in actual help."

"You will not be any poorer if you smile along your way,

And your lot will not be harder for the kindly things you say,

Don't imagine you are wasting time for others that you spend;

You can rise to wealth and glory, and still pause to be a friend."

"The wonderful example of Christ, the matchless tenderness with which He entered into the feelings of others, weeping with those who wept, rejoicing with those who rejoiced, must have a deep influence upon the character of all who follow Him in sincerity. By kindly words and acts they will try to make the path easy for weary feet."

If!

If every boy and every girl,
Arising with the sun,
Should plan this day to do alone
The good deeds to be done,
Should scatter smiles and kindly words,
Strong, helpful hands attend,
And to each other's wants and cries
Attentive ears should lend,

How many homes would sunny be,
Which now are filled with care!
And joyous, smiling, faces, too,
Would greet us everywhere,
I do believe the very sun
Would shine more clear and bright,
And every little twinkling star
Would shed a softer light!

—Selected.

Peter Willing-Sympathy

PETER WILLING-SYMPATHY was travelling along a hot and dusty road. It was up hill, too, and he was carrying a heavy burden. His feet were sore, and his head ached, and altogether he was having a hard time of it.

He was wondering how he could ever get to his journey's end, when he came across a poor old man, who was sitting by the roadside. This old man also had a burden to carry, and it was so heavy that it had entirely worn him out.

"Now, what's to be done?" said Peter Willing-Sympathy. "I have all I can carry, to be sure; but it will never do to leave this poor old man in such a plight." So Peter Willing-Sympathy hoisted the old man's burden on his back beside his own, and bade him come along with him.

Then it was that a strange thing happened. Not only did the stranger's burden seem to add no weight, but the two together were not so heavy as the one before, nor did Peter feel so tired.

While he was marvelling over this, a little farther up the hill he overtook an aged woman. She was walking very slowly, and was just about to give up through weariness.

"Now, what is to be done?" cried Peter. "I certainly have my hands full, and yet it would be a shame to leave this poor woman to faint by the way." So Peter took her arm and helped her along the uphill road.

And then there happened another wonder; for the road, that had been so steep and hilly a moment before, now seemed to Peter to have become level. Indeed, he even thought that it was slightly inclined downward, and he had hard work to persuade himself, by the position of the sun, that he was still in the right direction and had not turned square around.

Well, so it went on. Peter stopped by the way to give to a third worn-out pilgrim, a drink of cold water he carried, and as he went on, lo! the road no longer seemed hot to him, but cool and pleasant. At another time he stopped to bind up the foot of a boy, who had cut it on a sharp piece of glass, and was crying bitterly; and, as Peter went on, his own feet, which had been sore and blistered, seemed as fresh and springy as when he had started. Some way he lost his own headache in binding up the aching temples of the poor old woman he was helping along. And, in short, Peter Willing-Sympathy came to his journey's end as fine and fresh as might be, just because he had stopped all along the way to help other people.

You do not believe this story, children? Well, you have chances every day to find out whether it is true or not.—*Selected.*

Missionary Volunteer Programme Second Week

OPENING EXERCISES.

- "Ideals."
- "Modern Opportunities."
- "Self-Sacrifice in Soul-Saving."

LEADER'S NOTE.—Impress upon the young people that there is a work for them to accomplish in the cause. It would be well if the various avocations in this work were suggested by the members, instead of being read in the article, "Ideals." At the close of the reading or talk on "Modern Opportunities," mention any local work in which the members could participate.

Ideals

THINK of the wonderful ideals offered to young people. We are living in the most interesting and most important time of the world's history. All the influences of the world's history are focused in this age in which we live. The world is filled with strife and commotion. There are also things that are cheerful and tend to delight, but all hastening on to that final event, the event which is to put an end to sin and misery. God has called His people to the work of giving the warning message to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. He has laid this burden upon His people, especially upon the young people. There is the work of the cook, the nurse, the matron, the physician, the minister, the printer, the artist to illustrate the printed page. . . . What a field there is for editors, writers, teachers, canvassers; for book-keepers, stenographers, secretaries, and business managers. What a field for Bible workers, colporteurs, missionaries, and ministers, the highest calling that God has extended to men.

C. C. LEWIS.

Modern Opportunities

SOME years ago few opportunities were afforded our young people. We had but one sanitarium, a two-story frame building, with two or three physicians. Nobody saw then what was before this idea. But now see the openings for our young people in this kind of work. It would be impossible to place before them higher ideals than those which the providence of God is placing before them at the present time. And such a variety of work! Surely every young man and every young woman can find something suited to his or her taste and natural ability and God is calling our young people to consecrate their ambitions to His service, to do this work which He has given them to do. This is the highest calling that could be extended to them. Let them not be attracted by the calls that come from the world. Let us close our ears to these calls and open them to God's calls. Just as truly as the voice of God called Samuel, so truly is the voice of God speaking to the young men and women of this day to give their lives to service. Not only so, but with the call of God to service there is also the call to prepare ourselves for that service. Let us then prepare

ourselves for the work. Let us embrace the opportunities that are about us. I can conceive of no higher ideal for a young man or a young woman to have than the ambition that he will cultivate the powers which God has given him, that he may use them to the glory of God.

C. C. LEWIS.

Self-Sacrifice in Soul-Saving

A FARMER in North Carolina once drove two high-mettled horses into the town. Stopping in front of one of the stores, he was about to enter when his horses took fright. He sprang in front of them, and heroically seized the reins. Maddened by strange noises, the horses dashed down the street, the man still clinging to the bridles. On they rushed, until the horses, wild with frenzy, reared on their haunches, and leaping upon the man, all came with a crash to the earth. When the people came to rescue the bleeding body of the man, and found him in death's last agony, a friend, bending tenderly over him, asked:

"Why did you sacrifice your life for horses and waggon?"

"He gasped with his last breath, 'Go and look in the waggon.'"

"They turned, and there asleep in the straw, lay his little boy."

"As they laid the mangled form of the hero in his grave, no one said, 'The sacrifice is too great.'"

It was his little boy sleeping in the waggon that caused this father to sacrifice his life. He was not thinking about the value of the team or the waggon, but about his boy. He was entirely oblivious to danger, and willing, if necessary, to die to save his little boy, sleeping in the straw. Did he make too great a sacrifice? No one will say that he did! . . . Would it be putting it too strongly to say that we should put forth as earnest efforts to save eternally in heaven the souls of those whom we meet as this father put forth to save his boy from being killed? When we are willing to die that others may be saved, we shall see sinners come to Christ.

G. B. THOMPSON.

Missionary Volunteer Programme

Third Week

OPENING EXERCISES.

"Petitions We May Be Sure Will Be Granted."

"Faith and Trust."

"Assurance."

"A Tamil's Faith in Spite of Adverse Circumstances."

Poem: "Prayer." (See *Record* July 16)

LEADER'S NOTE.—From the last two readings, develop the lesson that prayer and *taking God at His word* shut out worry and depression. There are some things we may know for a certainty will be granted. Young people are confronted with very perplexing questions. They wonder, How can I be sure I shall receive what I wish for, without being presumptuous? God *may* will otherwise. And again, If I do not *feel* sure, will that be doubting, "wavering," as James' epistle says no man should do? Show on the blackboard in the Bible study, the things we may know God will give us. We may know that in response to our petitions for loved ones, God will send the Holy Spirit to plead with them, and His angels to be with them. But it is not God's way of working to change a human heart against its will. If we do not see the desired conversion, we must not say God has not heard and answered our prayer, for He surely does all in His power to call them to repentance, and we must keep on praying until that person surrenders. When we feel tempted to give up, it may be because Satan sees he is likely to lose the battle, and at that very time he tries to cause us to stop praying.

Petitions We May Be Sure Will Be Granted

GOD will bless us spiritually:

Isa. 55 : 7. Abundantly pardon.

1 John 1 : 9. Forgive and cleanse.

Luke 11 : 13. Give the Holy Spirit.

He will help us mentally:

James 1 : 5. Will give wisdom.

He will help us physically to do His will:

Phil. 4 : 13. Strengthen us.

He will supply our temporal needs:

Matt. 6 : 33; Ps. 37 : 4; Phil. 4 : 19.

He will answer our prayers for others.

Dan. 10 : 12, 13. Send His angel.

Faith and Trust

A DEFINITION of faith: "Faith is trusting God, believing that He loves us, and knows best what is for our good."—"Education."

"Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has his way prepared to bring relief. 'No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.'"—"Ministry of Healing."

"God can change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook."—"Testimonies."

"Our Heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."

"There is comfort and joy in the service of Christ. Let the world see that life with Him is no failure." "Talk of the promises. Talk of Jesus' willingness to bless. He does not forget us for one brief moment. As you ask the Lord to help you, honour your Saviour by believing that you do receive His blessing. All power, all wisdom are at our command. We have only to ask. . . ."

With the power and light that God imparts you can comprehend more, and accomplish more than you ever before deemed possible."

"It is faith that connects us with heaven, and brings strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ God has provided means for subduing every evil trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. . . . Look not to self but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men, is still the same mighty Redeemer."

"I saw that there was a great lack of faith with the servants of God, as with the church. They were too easily discouraged, too ready to doubt God, too willing to believe that they had a hard lot, and that God had forsaken them. I saw that this was cruel. God so loved them as to give His dearly beloved Son to die for them, and all Heaven is interested in their salvation."

"I saw that every prayer which is sent up in faith from an honest heart, will be heard of God and answered, and the one that sent up the petition will have the blessing when he needs it most, and it will often exceed his expectations. Not a prayer of a true saint is lost if sent up in faith, from an honest heart."—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. I, page 121.*

"Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish."

A Tamil's Faith in Spite of Adverse Circumstances

A TAMIL who was recently baptized lost his position as printer when he first began to keep the Sabbath. His wife is a Catholic, and she complained much because they had so little food and clothing. The children often cried for food, and they had little else than a cloth to wind about them for a scanty covering. It was pathetic to see them, and hear the brother tell his trials, but we tried to encourage him to hold on to the strong arm of God, and assured him that God would turn his trials into victory. He struggled along for months in poverty after having borrowed money to purchase machinery for a printing plant. Finally he began to get more work, and it continued to increase until he was able to move to a more favourable location, and his business became established. Then a friend from whom he had borrowed forty pounds asked for its payment. He felt that he must pay this money, and promised to do so, though he knew not where it was to come from. He took the matter to the Lord in prayer, and in only a day or two he received a large job that brought him just about the amount he needed for his debt. Joyfully he thanked God, for he knew He had sent him the money. This gives him more faith in the Lord, and he

is witnessing for the truth not only by his life of obedience, but by his lips, as the way opens.

Assurance

A KANSAS lawyer tells how one of his clients bade him good-bye after the transaction of important business in his office. He was a strong man, apparently, in the very prime of life, comfortably situated and blessed with all that makes life desirable. But the physicians had discovered that he had a fatal malady and could not live more than three months.

His wife and children were heart-broken and could not be reconciled to the sorrow that seemed like a cruel fate. He comforted them as best he could. "Do not grieve so," he implored them. "I am relying on the promises in this Book,"—he tapped the Bible that lay on the table at his side,—and I am not afraid."

He went to the lawyer's office to have his will made. When it was done, he arose to take his leave.

"How would you say 'good-bye' to a man under such conditions?" asked the lawyer. "I knew, in all reason, that I should never see him again on earth. I confess to you that it was one of the most trying moments in all my long and varied experience with men in professional life."

The embarrassment was all on one side, however, for the caller extended his hand as frankly and naturally as if he were parting with his friend for a few weeks. Without a trace of altering in his voice he said,

"Good-bye, Mr. —, I hope to meet you on the other side."

His perfect ease and faith so inspired the lawyer that he was enabled to reply, "Good-bye, sir; I hope you will." And they parted. In less than one month from that day the man passed out of the life here.

"He was only an average man," said the lawyer, "an ordinary Kansas citizen, but his Christian faith was more than ordinary, and it shows what can be accomplished in the soul of one who accepts the good and tried principles of Christianity, and squares his life, as far as possible, by the good Book."

How is it with us? Can we live so that our parting with our friends would be as calm as his, if we knew that it was our last meeting?—*Our Young People.*

Missionary Volunteer Programme Fourth Week

OPPORTUNITY is afforded this week for a programme prepared locally. We would suggest that the subject be the South Sea Islands and that information in regard to the opening of the work in these fields be obtained from "An Outline of Mission Fields," and late reports of progress could be gathered from the *Record* and from other sources. Different fields could be assigned to different members, and they be asked to give the result of their research in the form of talks.

Tree Enigma

THE last letters of the names of trees, left out in these verses, will name a native of an ancient and glorious land.

"Can the — tree, my brethren, bear olive berries?"

"The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the — that was in Lebanon."

"And he ran before, and climbed up into a — tree."

"In her mouth was an — leaf plucked off."

"And there came an angel of the Lord, and sat under an —."

(Answers to Enigma)

Greek

James 3 : 12.
2 Kings 14 : 9.
Luke 19 : 4.
Gen. 8 : 11.
Judges 6 : 11.

Fig.
Cedar.
Sycamore.
Olive.
Oak.

Sabbath-School Missionary Exercises

(August 4)

In the Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands

OUR first mission in the Marovo Lagoon is located on the island of Marovo, in about the centre of the lagoon. In the northern part of the island are gathered the few remaining stray tribes. Here Brother and Sister Nicholson are working. A large native schoolhouse has been built, which also serves as a church. The mission house is native built, but it has an iron roof; and recently a board floor has been put in. Previously we had only the earth for a floor. The Marovo people love everything that is sacred, or sanctified. So a holy day—the Sabbath—is very acceptable to them. They love to attend the Sabbath meetings,

and will come in their canoes a distance of from two to ten miles to do so.

Some have tried to intimidate them, and prevent their joining us, by telling them that we had so many things sacred in our teachings that they would not be able to eat anything they liked nor do anything they wanted to do. They replied: "And you teach us to eat everything. You are very dirty Christians. We don't want you." Their weapon against us was turned back against themselves.

These Marovo natives who first met Christianity a few months ago, are now as eager to follow the light as they were before to hunt heads. Most of them will compare favourably with members in the homeland. So quickly are they developing that even now in the Sabbath-school one will take the review and go through the entire lesson, emphasizing interesting points, and another will offer prayer. Several are able to assist in these ways. They seem to take to the Bible as to a long-lost friend.

We are doing all we can to train our Marovo young people, that they may be able and willing to carry the truth to these poor lost sheep in the uttermost parts of these islands. Soon there will be a rich harvest of souls. One poor native, who helped us build the Marovo Mission, just before he died, said: "Take my family. They belong to the Mission." All the natives say that this man never said one cross word to his wife. This testimony concerning a heathen shows us that the Holy Spirit is teaching the savage righteousness.

G. F. JONES.

(August 11)

Calls in the Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands

NOW that our work has been started among some tribes in the Solomon Islands, other tribes are interested and anxious to know our attitude toward the natives. They watch to see whether we are coercive in our methods, or whether we bring the gospel in gentleness and love. This latter method in time wins and conquers the stoutest savage. In all the mission work done among these islanders, there is noth-

ing else that appeals to them as do the principles of religious liberty as we present them. No people are more eager for the assurance of perfect liberty to worship as they please than are these poor heathen.

When the native understands that we do not compel him to adhere to a certain course of living, he soon promises that in time he will give up everything that is bad. The light of conversion is entering his soul, and he begins to have confidence in our work and teaching. After this he listens attentively to the truth, and in time he turns toward the light. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." It is the Holy Spirit that has given us an entrance among the tribes of the Marovo Lagoon; and the news of our coming has been carried to the inhabitants of other islands hundreds of miles away. These also say, "Come over and help us."

We have now four missions in the Solomon Islands, numbering over five hundred followers, and fifteen hundred people in other parts of the islands are waiting for us to take up work among them. Then there are territories inhabited by fierce cannibals. These also await the coming of our missionaries.

Should not our young people "be the head" in this pioneer mission work? To read and admire the lives of daring, faithful pioneer missionaries of past days is not enough; neither will "the heathen in his blindness" be reached by an ambitious aim in life merely to deliver pleasing sermons from the rostrum; nor is it honourable and brave to wait until some one else has first tamed the wild man of the bush. Now is the time when recruits are needed; just now is our grand opportunity.

G. F. JONES.

(August 18)

A Visit to a Heathen Village on Malekula, New Hebrides

THIS Sabbath morning I am sure you would all like to take a walk with me to one of the heathen villages near us. But as you cannot do this, I will tell you a few of the things you would notice.

The road to the village is only a narrow foot-trail, not sufficiently wide for two to walk side by side. First to be seen on nearing the village are

the high reed or split bamboo fences which surround each little compound. After climbing a high stile, we have a view of the houses.

Each compound generally contains two dwelling-houses, one for the men and one for the women. I fear, however, you would not recognize them as houses. They are simply grass roofs, shaped like tent roofs set on the ground, with a door at one end, hardly large enough for the owner to crawl through. Walls, windows, and chimneys are unheard of, so the light and air must find their way in, and the smoke its way out, as best they can. At night the doors are shut, good fires are built inside, and then men, or women and children, and very often dogs, a pig or two, and several fowls, all go to sleep together on the damp ground. (The animals are not always kept in the dwelling-houses, however.) Just outside are the sheds where the choicest tusked pigs are kept tied, and perhaps some kind of shed for a kitchen. All this is to be found within one tiny yard.

As we see the people in their heathen state, clothes are conspicuous by their absence. One thing, however, is always present, stuck in the belt or armband, and that is the pipe. Even the tiny children learn to smoke as soon as they can walk, and young and old will do anything to get tobacco.

Time will not permit us on this occasion to take more than a hurried glance at the many who come with swellings, sores, and diseases of all kinds. We can only wonder that they are as well as they are.

One thing you would probably notice, is that there are not many children to be seen around. Just think for a moment of one of the sad reasons for this! Many a little one comes to these heathen homes only to be buried alive, and especially so, if it be a girl. And why? Simply because it is too much trouble to care for it. The little girls that are saved are sold sometimes before they are weaned. There is not one little girl in the village nearest us above three years of age who is not betrothed and paid for, or partly paid for with pigs.

Do you wonder that after viewing these things, we ask you to give of your means and your prayers for these degraded people? They are not so low that the love of Christ cannot reach them and touch their hearts.

ALMA B. WILES.

(August 25)

The Women of Atchin, New Hebrides

THE common idea among native races that the women are beneath the men prevails here to a large extent. Women do not live in the same houses as men, and are not allowed to eat with them, nor touch their cooked food. The inconsistent part of it, however, is that the woman can help grow the food in the gardens and even bring it in for the men.

Although small of stature and physically much below the women of Central Polynesia, the amount of work they do and the loads they carry, show that in strength and endurance they can compete favourably with others of finer physique.

The sight of these women bent under heavy loads fills one with a sense of the injustice of it all, and especially so as the men walk along with scarcely any or no load at all. Generally the women bring more in their canoes than the men do, on returning from "Big Island," where the gardens are. When families go together, the wife usually does the paddling. Maybe the husband will steer, and then on arrival quietly step out and leave his wife to unload. He does however help her to pull up the canoe above high-water mark.

The people here are very fond of pigs for food and bartering purposes. Only men use the pig as food, yet the women must bring food for these animals and see that they are fed before they themselves can be free to sit down and enjoy their own meals.

Another thing one often sees is different paths for men and women, and of course the most roundabout one is for the women.

Now how many of us would care to exchange places with the women of Atchin? Despite all their cares they take things cheerfully, and among them one finds some who are just as lovable, kind, and thoughtful of others as any white women.

About thirty of them attend regularly the Sabbath-school held for them at our mission home.

We open Sabbath-school with some familiar hymns and then a new one or two is tried, following which we have a lesson from the Scripture roll. The most attentive pupils repeat aloud everything that is said, and if one gets the idea better than the others she tells it out again. It may be this is the way they will learn. As yet

they know very little of church etiquette and are often called to attention during the lesson or prayer. They are learning, however, and when we remember the pit from which they were digged we take courage from any little token of progress.

Pray for us that much wisdom, grace, and tact may be given us to use in leading them onward and upward in the heavenly way.

MRS. A. G. STEWART.

Foreign Mission Day

(August 25)

Love the Mainspring of Missionary Effort

1. GOD so loved the world that He provided the plan of salvation. John 3: 16.

2. Our Saviour impresses this thought in His parable of the lost sheep. Luke 15: 3-7.

3. Jesus impressed upon those whom He taught that it was love which impelled Him to give His life a ransom for many. John 15: 9, 13; 10: 11.

4. Paul, in writing to the believers in Galatia and again to those at Ephesus, emphasises the same fact. Gal. 2: 20; Eph. 5: 1, 2, 25.

5. It was the offspring of this love that inspired Paul throughout his arduous life of devotion to the salvation of his fellow-men. 2 Cor. 5: 14; Rom. 9: 1-3.

6. On His way from the supper room to Gethsemane our Saviour gave to His disciples the great new commandment to love as He loved. John 15: 8-12.

NOTE.—The fruit referred to in the eighth verse is the "fruit of the Spirit" of which Paul states *love* is the first characteristic. We are exhorted, "Continue ye in My love," that is, "as My ambassadors manifest to men the love that the Father and I manifested to you." In doing this we shall taste of the Saviour's joy which is to see souls saved for His kingdom.

7. Men may preach, teach, and give, to support others in such work, without avail unless actuated by love. 1 Cor. 13: 1-3.

8. On the other hand the manifestation of real love will draw men's hearts to God. Jer. 31: 3. John 12: 32.

NOTE.—It is because God has shown such wonderful—everlasting love—to us that our hearts are drawn to Him. "We love Him because He first loved us." Similarly the love of Christ as proved by His death on the cross, draws hearts to Him.

9. This supreme motive of love will alone enable us to endure the life of the true missionary.

First-Fruits in Madras

SUNDAY, February 25, was a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving for the workers and believers in Madras. In the early morning we all repaired to the Adyar River, about six miles distant from our place of worship, where seven people followed their Lord in baptism, and identified themselves with His remnant church,

The place selected for the baptism was ideal. A beautiful morning, a clear flowing river, natural scenery of tropical beauty, and surroundings that were quiet and peaceful helped to add solemnity and holy joy to this blessed occasion.

This fruit was the result of the faithful and earnest labours of Brethren Poley and Peugh, who began work among the English-speaking people of this city a year ago this month. At that time a small hall (the only place available) was secured in a convenient quarter and public preaching services were held twice a week in addition to the Sabbath-school and the Wednesday-night prayer meeting. Much time was also given to personal work from house to house, and in the distribution of our message-filled literature. The interest still remains good among the people, there being a number who are earnestly studying the truth and looking forward to baptism as soon as they are fully instructed. Brother Poley plans to commence a fresh series of meetings in the near future.

These first-fruits have not been gathered without a hard struggle on the part of both workers and believers. As is always the case, the message brought a severe struggle into the experiences of all who were called to step forward; but God honours those who honour Him, and verifies all His promises for their temporal and spiritual prosperity.

Of those who were recently baptized, one brother and his wife were in charge of the Salvation Army work here in Madras with good prospects of promotion. A host of friends used their utmost influence to keep them from taking the step they did, which only resulted in making them the firmer and hastening their decision.

Another brother held a good position with an English firm, having charge of one of the departments. Learning that he was attending our meetings, and that they would have to dispense with his services on Saturday, they gave him a certain time to make up his mind one way or the other. This he did, and he made up his mind in favour of the "one way." He immediately went into business for himself which enables him to pay five times the tithe he was able to give in his former employment.

Another brother had charge of the mailing department in a Madras newspaper office. This being no longer open to him after deciding to

obey the Lord, he immediately started a business of his own and the Lord added His blessing. Another brother, a Tamil, was employed by a certain mission. They learned that he was interested in our teachings and gave him five minutes to make up his mind. He did it in less than a minute, and was discharged on the spot. He immediately began canvassing for our Tamil literature, and the Lord blessed him in a wonderful manner.

A lad fifteen years old wanted to be baptized last December when we had our first baptism, but on the morning of the baptism some of his relatives locked him up in a room in the house, while two men went to the scene of the baptism to make sure of preventing him in case he escaped from the house and made his way thither. His mother was very bitter toward the truth. Although prevented from following out his desire, he continued to attend the meetings and live in such a way as to win over his mother. She finally gave her consent, and last Sunday was among the spectators who saw her boy baptized.

Pray for the workers and work in this dark and needy city.

J. S. JAMES.

Gospel Work in Spain

TWO weeks ago I visited the little church in Jerica. After Sabbath-school and a study on the importance of personal missionary work, we thought to put into practice some of the advice given, so walked out to Viver. We found the two sisters living there of good courage in the Lord, especially as one or two persons in the town were somewhat favourable to the truth which had been presented in public meetings a short time before. One of these sisters has been paralyzed for about eight years, but is now able to walk, as a result of some treatments given her by two of our nurses. Her first visit to her family made an impression on them, as it was *Protestante* friends who had relieved her. The public meetings had caused a stir, but no one would again rent our workers a hall. As the four of us walked into the town, we noticed a strange expression on the faces of some, and soon the word went round that the *Protestantes* had come, and that this time their bishop was with them.

Soon after we entered the house, people began to gather in the streets at both sides of the house. Then

the schoolmistress sent her pupils, and they began an interesting performance at one corner of the lot, while others threw stones from the other corner. The children cried out in chorus, "Go away! Go away!" adding from time to time, "False religion, we do not want you here. Go back to Jerica and stay there, you shameless Protestants."

We endured this for some time realizing the value of the promise of the Lord, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Finally two of the boys went out and spoke to some who had been throwing stones. They heard the schoolmistress indorsing the actions of the people, and began to speak to her.

Just then the mayor of the town came upon the scene, saying, "We will not permit any discussions on the street. You may say all you want to in any hall or house. These men have a right to say all they want to, just as others have the right. Let this demonstration cease; if not, to the jail you go."

The brethren then thanked the mayor for his interest and returned home. We thank God that once more we have seen the truth of the promise, that men can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. We see the enemy working in all kinds of ways against us, but the truth goes forward, and here and there a faithful family is being gathered out of the thousands who still sit in darkness.

We have but one minister here, and our need of a director for the field is great.

H. A. B. ROBINSON.

Argentina

THE past months we have had some good experiences here in the city of Rosario de Santa Fe. We have had two baptisms—one of four believers and the other of eight.

Among the first baptized, and the most interesting, was a native woman who came to us direct from Catholicism. One of our sisters lived in the same house with her for a few months, and shortly after moving she went one day to visit the sister, taking her Bible along. Our sister asked her to read a portion, but she replied that the saints would send a plague in her family if she should read such a book. Again and again she was asked to read a few lines, and finally consented, although she feared some terrible

calamity would befall her. Later she came to the meetings, and one morning burned up all her saints, pictures, and images. That evening there was a terrible electric storm, and she feared greatly that the saints were sore displeased. Soon her husband returned, and she told him what she had done. He said, "Thank God all the saints and images are burned up. Now we can live happily."

She never missed a meeting, and did not rest easy until her husband, who is a brakeman on the railroad, got a pass and went hundreds of miles to one of the northern provinces to bring back their two eldest children, so that they also might enter the church.

In the meantime she began selling small books and papers enthusiastically. Wine as well as meat disappeared from the table. She told me her husband was greatly pleased with the wonderful change in her, and he also expects to keep the commandments as soon as he can arrange his work.

She recently bore this testimony in meeting: "It is never too hot or too cold, the wind never blows too hard, it is never too far nor rains too much for me to come to meeting. Many times when it comes time to eat, there is scarcely enough to go round my family of six children; however, now that I know the truth, I am happy." After the series of meetings just closed, the daughter also was baptized.

We have a good attendance and interest now, so we are hoping the Lord will see fit to add many more to His flock here. We have a membership of about sixty.

At present there seems to be a great awakening of the Italians in this country, and a thirst for the gospel. Two men come to my room at night once or twice a week to study the prophecies; they also attend our meetings when it is possible. We have a nice little meeting place in this large city, the second in the republic. I am hoping the next camp-meeting may be held here.

A. R. DENNIS.

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