

# The Missionary Leader

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## Home Missions Department

### Church Missionary Programme

#### First Week

Opening Exercises.

Reports and Experiences in Missionary Work.

"Letters from a Miner."

Striking Statements from "Ministry of Healing."

"A Golden Opportunity."

LEADER'S NOTE.—This is an opportune time to consider the book, "Ministry of Healing," while it may be secured at such a low price. As we read and value the book ourselves, we shall think of others not of our faith who also would be helped by it. "Striking Statements from 'Ministry of Healing.'" The leader should select some statements, a short sentence here and there, that has particularly impressed him, underlining these and making a note of the page-numbers to refer to them in the meeting. Or better still, make the request beforehand that the members bring their copies of the book to the meeting, each prepared to read one choice promise or pointed statement that they have selected. The book abounds in these. Notice the promise to workers given in the first sentence on page 160. A five-minute exercise of this kind will be most interesting, and we feel sure that no one will want to leave the meeting without ordering the book for himself or for some one else if he has not already done so.

#### Letters from a Miner

FOR the encouragement of those who circulate our literature we quote parts of two letters from a miner with a large family who obtained a copy of "Ministry of Healing" from one of our church members.

Dear Sir,—

A widow in our district has been passing through very serious trouble. Last week I visited her and took the book "Ministry of Healing," thinking it might be of help, not only spiritually but physically. She has read it and is now a changed woman. Could you obtain a secondhand copy anywhere for about one or two shillings? She would like to have one. I can hardly spare mine, it is so helpful to the children.

So on behalf of their missionary society a copy was sent to the miner for this needy woman with a good encouraging letter. Next came this letter:

Dear Friends,—

Thanks very much for your kind letters and book, together with leaflets included, which came to hand in due time. Whilst

on my way to the pit, I called and presented the "Ministry of Healing" to the widow who had found it to be such a great blessing to her soul. She promised to write to you personally to thank you for it. Well, friends, since then I have had a letter from another woman in Sheffield who has five sons serving in the army. Her oldest son died recently, and so she is very much depressed. She wrote asking if I could suggest a good book that might help and comfort her, so I have sent my own copy of "Ministry of Healing." On Friday last I received a letter from her in which she refers to the book as a real treasure.

Her acknowledgment of the book is as follows:

Dear Christian Friend,—

I wish to thank you with all my heart for sending me one of the finest books, with the exception of the Bible, that I have yet handled. My friend, Mr. Richards, brought me his copy one night when I was in very poor health, and also much discouraged. I read it through very carefully, and I must say I have derived a good deal of benefit from its perusal. In the course of a few days I was a new woman. Through the teaching of this book I have been led to have faith in God. He has heard and answered my cries for help and deliverance.

In replying to this letter, a brief explanation was given of the home department of the Sabbath school as a method of regular study of the Bible, and this woman was invited to follow our good Sabbath school lessons with her children. Thus the way has been opened for her reception of other phases of truth.

#### A Golden Opportunity

A GOLDEN opportunity is now given to all our people to obtain the book "Ministry of Healing" for the small sum of 2s., the usual price being 7s. 6d. Only for the first six months of this year this splendid offer holds good, while the book is being used as a Missionary Volunteer Reading Course book. We feel sure that there are a large number who will not be able to join the Reading Course who would be glad of this opportunity of obtaining a copy at this special price. It has therefore been decided that all orders for "Ministry of Healing" that are placed while the book is being thus used will be supplied at this exceedingly low rate. At this price, of course, the book has been cheaply bound, but it is neat and strong, being sewn, covered in semi-limp cloth, and lettered. We trust full advantage will be taken of this liberal offer.

The great world is sick, and wherever the children of men dwell, sin and suffering abound. All sickness and pain, and

suffering and sorrow, are the results of law transgressed. What is the remedy?—First of all, knowledge. Why are we here? What is our Father's purpose in placing us here? What are the laws of our being, both spiritual and physical? Are they beneficent in their purpose? or were they destined for the unhappiness of His children? Having transgressed laws, how may we recover from the transgression and its results?

These questions are answered by "Ministry of Healing" in clear, simple, beautiful language, instructive to the learner, hopeful to the despondent, cheering to the sick, and restful to the weary. It presents a better way, which, though in the shadows of a sick world, is flecked with the sunshine of God's love, and ever-healing hope. It reveals to us a simpler, sweeter life, fuller of joy and gladness, with more room for that helpful service which is "more blessed to give than to receive."

### Church Missionary Programme

#### Second Week

Opening Exercises and reports, followed by special prayer for interested persons.

Study: "The Salvation of Souls of First Importance."

"Scatter-the-Truth Band" in Western China.

"Our Occupation."

## The Salvation of Souls of First Importance

1. HOW only can a Christian character be formed?

"A Christian character can be symmetrically and completely formed only when the human agent regards it as a privilege to work disinterestedly in the proclamation of the truth, and to sustain the cause of God with means. Among the members of our churches there should be more house-to-house labour, in giving Bible readings and distributing literature."

2. What are two of the characteristics that will be manifested by the successful worker?

"We must sow beside all waters, keeping our souls in the love of God, working while it is day, and using the means the Lord has given us to do whatever duty comes next. Whatever our hands find to do, we are to do it with *faithfulness*; whatever sacrifice we are called upon to make, we are to make it *cheerfully*. As we sow beside all waters, we shall realize that "he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Cor. 9: 6.

3. What is said about the work of women, and what result will attend their efforts?

"Women as well as men can engage in the work of hiding the truth where it can work out and be made manifest. They can take their place in the work at this

crisis, and the Lord will work through them. If they are imbued with a sense of their duty, and labour under the influence of the Spirit of God, they will have just the self-possession required for this time. The Saviour will reflect upon these self-sacrificing women the light of His countenance, and this will give them a power that will exceed that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life. They can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their work is needed. Discreet and humble women can do a good work in explaining the truth to the people in their homes. The Word of God thus explained will do its leavening work, and through its influence whole families will be converted."

4. How are we to show that we regard as of first importance the salvation of souls?

"My brethren and sisters, study your plans; grasp every opportunity of speaking to your neighbours and associates or of reading something to them from books that contain present truth. Show that you regard as of first importance the salvation of souls for whom Christ has made so great a sacrifice."

5. What companionship is assured to us?

"In working for perishing souls, you have the companionship of angels. Thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand angels are waiting to co-operate with members of our churches in communicating the light that God has generously given, that a people may be prepared for the coming of Christ."

6. For what should every family seek the Lord?

"Let every family seek the Lord in earnest prayer for help to do the work of God."—*Testimonies, Vol. IX, pp. 124-129.*

### Our Occupation

THE statement of the apostle Paul in which he says that we are ambassadors for Christ is seldom taken as literally by us as it should be. We conclude that it is one of our young sisters that has been causing the census officials a little perplexity by taking the Bible just as it reads.

The following interesting item appeared in a prominent newspaper:

"HEAVEN HOME OF HER EMPLOYER, SAYS CENSUS"

"Albany, N. Y., July 7.—The New York state military census is going to show some curious information. For instance, an unmarried, nineteen-year-old Albany girl gave these answers on her blank:

"What is your business?"  
"Colporteur." (One who sells or distributes religious tracts.)

"Are you in business for yourself?"  
"No."

"If not, what is the name of your employer?"

"The Lord."

"What is your employer's business?"  
"Forgiving sins."

"What is your employer's address?"  
"The heavenly sanctuary."

We are living in a time when we can expect our work to be brought prominently before the public. Every believer

should be able to give a ready answer for the hope that is in him with meekness and fear. We are in the employ of the greatest firm in the universe, and have all the resources of Omnipotence to sustain and protect in giving the last gospel message to a doomed world.

### "Scatter-the-Truth Band" in Western China

FROM far Western China there comes to us a story of the mission work of another denomination. A very successful series of evangelistic meetings had been held, after which it was suggested that the Christians form a "Scatter-the-Truth Band," to give the new-found light of the gospel to their neighbours. The members went out "book-selling, preaching, and tract distributing." This work was kept up for several weeks, and as a result thousands of gospels were sold and much real missionary work done. The report says that "the most far-reaching results of the [evangelist's] work" was this feature which sent into the field to labour this body of Christians. It gave the converts such a love for gospel work that they themselves followed their field campaign with another series of special evangelistic meetings, resulting in bringing in a large number of enquirers.

These Chinese just converted from heathenism had not had so much light on Bible truths, nor the many forms of attractive literature that are ours; but with hearts full of love to Christ they could tell all they knew, and God blessed their little "Scatter-the-Truth Band." With every Sabbath-keeper in Australia an active member of a "Scatter-the-Truth Band" how quickly might the message be given!

### Church Missionary Programme

#### Third Week

Opening Exercises and Reports.  
Study: "Lines of Church Effort."  
Consideration of Lines where Improvement is needed.

### Lines of Church Effort

PERHAPS it will help us to grasp more fully the work we have to do, to set down a list of the various lines of work to which every strong, aggressive church must give attention. Here are a few things which have come to mind in a study of this question, with Biblical reasons why they are introduced into the fabric of our church life. Let us consider if we as members appreciate all these phases of church interests and duties.

1. The spiritual standing and the purpose of the church. Acts 1:8.
2. The Sabbath meeting. Heb. 10:25.
3. The weekly prayer meeting. Acts 12:5, 12.
4. The Sabbath school. 2 Tim. 2:15; John 21, 15, last clauses.
5. The church school. Isa. 54:13.
6. Urging our young people to attend our schools preparatory to working in the cause. 2 Tim. 2:15.
7. The Missionary Volunteer work. Eccl. 12:1; Lam. 3:27.
8. The home missionary work. Mark 13:34; 1 Thess. 1:8.
9. The circulation of our literature. Ps. 68:11.

10. The health and temperance work. 3 John 2.

11. Looking after the aged, poor, and sick. Ps. 35:13, 14.

12. Showing an interest in the erring and discouraged. Eze. 34:4, 6.

13. The faithful payment of tithes. Lev. 27:30; Neh. 13:10-13.

14. Offerings to foreign missions. Prov. 11:25.

15. The celebration of the ordinances. 1 Cor. 11:2, 24-30.

16. The election of church officers in the apostolic church. Acts 6:1-4, 8.

17. The importance of transferring members, sending letter when the member leaves. Rom. 16:1.

As we review this list—and there are other important items that might be added—the following texts suggest themselves:

"Who is sufficient for these things?"

2 Cor. 2:16.

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves."

2 Cor. 3:5.

"Our sufficiency is of God," 2 Cor.

3:5.

Let us ask ourselves the question, "If every member were just like me, What kind of church would our church be?"

### Church Missionary Programme

#### Fourth Week

Opening Exercises.  
Reports of Work Done.  
Lesson: "Our Periodicals."  
Plans for Work.

LEADER'S NOTE.—Our periodicals might be divided into two classes: Those intended mainly for our own members, and those designed to have a general circulation. The *Review and Herald* and the *Australasian Record* belong to the first class. Let a canvass be made of each family represented in your membership, and endeavour to persuade all who do not subscribe for the *Record* to hand the subscription to the missionary leader without further delay. If the members feel that they cannot afford to subscribe for the *Review* individually, cannot the church order one copy for general use to be kept on file in the church library, for the special use of the officers in conducting meetings. This twenty-four-page paper is published weekly. Those planning missionary meetings will find its splendid reports to be of inestimable value. Price 10s. 3d. a year. Suggest different ways our missionary periodicals, such as the *Signs of the Times* and *Life and Health* can be used locally. Members can send subscriptions to their relatives or friends; leading persons in each community can be supplied; tract racks can be filled; supplies can be taken when making a journey or business trip; a rack can be maintained in the home so a supply of literature will be at hand to give to one who calls at the door.

### Our Periodicals

THE periodical work of this denomination began in 1849—almost seventy years ago—with the issuance of the little paper, *Present Truth*. This work was of divine origin, for we read that the Lord "had

another work for him (Elder James White); that he must walk out by faith, and write and publish the present truth."

The first periodical published, *Present Truth*, the name of which was changed the following year to *Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, has stood like a great lighthouse guiding and helping many a traveller to escape shipwreck and disaster upon the rocks of apostasy, indifference, worldliness, or other devices of the enemy. In every part of the world there are brethren and sisters who tell of the good which they receive from reading the *Review*. A brother in Algeria, North Africa, writes: "I am glad the time has come to renew my subscription to the *Review* for one year. I will not miss a single copy of this good paper. Each number comes with instruction and help, and its reading imparts good cheer to me." Another brother who states that he is poor, and paralyzed, and his wife is afflicted, in sending a small amount to have his subscription extended, says, "We have taken this good church paper for twenty-six years, except for a few months, and we cannot afford to be without it."

While the *Review* is loved by our people all over the world, the *Australasian Record* fills an important place in our own Union Conference.

"I would not be without the *Record* if it cost me £100 a year." This was the response of a brother whose renewal to the *Record* was being solicited recently. Would you have replied in the same way? There are some who complain of lack of time to read the *Record*. To this class an experience may be of interest:

A busy mother of three children, after explaining how her time was taken up, says: "You will readily understand that I am very anxious to still subscribe to the *Record*. It is such a faith-inspiring little paper. I would like the numbers I have missed to be sent, also to have my name placed on the Standing Order List." Our people continually write of the blessings received through this messenger.

For twenty-five years the first periodical published was our general church paper as well as leading missionary journal. At that time it was thought best to establish a paper which would be purely missionary in character, and so the *Signs of the Times* (American) was published. This paper has been very successful from the first in bringing the light of truth to many thousands, and has been instrumental in helping hundreds to decide for the truth.

If the same policy were followed now as was followed by the pioneers who mailed the paper to every one they thought would read it, the circulation of every one of our periodicals would be much greater.

While it may not be practical for each individual believer to secure a certain number of copies and re-mail them, because of the added cost of postage, yet these names can be sent to the office of publication, and after the papers have been mailed for a short time, suitable missionary letters could be written. Or the missionary society can post a number together at newspaper rates,—twenty ounces for 1½d. Many people will appreciate these papers.

This is a reading age. This is a time when people form their opinions, in a great degree, from what they read.

Our periodicals are doing a mighty work in the earth, but there is ample room for them to do a greater work, both within and without the church. The way for our periodicals to accomplish the greatest good is for each church to lay definite plans to circulate large numbers in its own locality. Will not each church where this programme is being carried out lay definite plans to circulate our periodicals more freely, and then pray, as the early pioneers did, that God will greatly bless the work of the silent messengers.

## Missionary Volunteer Department

### Missionary Volunteer Programme

#### First Week

### Optimist or Pessimist—Which?

Opening Exercises.

Study: Bible Examples.

Reading: The Sun in Other Windows.

Dialogue: "The Grumbler."

Poem: "Don't Let the Song Go Out of Your Life."

Nuggets.

LEADER'S NOTE.—Call for a definition of the terms of to-day's topic, and emphasize in closing, the personal question, Was that "somebody" you? "The Grumbler" will be much more effective given as a dialogue, and "Nuggets" could be recited by a class of six young people, the parts being assigned beforehand and memorized.

### Bible Examples

PESSIMISTS: Children of Israel: Ex. 14: 10-12; 16: 3.

Thomas: John 20: 24, 25.

Ten spies: Num. 13: 26-29, 31-33.

Optimists: Spies (Caleb and Joshua): Num. 13: 30; 14: 6-9.

Jacob: Gen. 28: 20-22.

The three Hebrews: Dan. 3: 16-18.

Paul: 2 Cor. 11: 23-28; 12: 9, 10.

James: James 1: 2.

### The Sun in Other Windows

AN old woman was busy in the single room that formed her home—an upper room with only a north window. Her visitor commented sympathetically on the lack of sunshine. "You don't get it any part of the day," she said, "and you are shut away from all view of the sunrises and sunsets." "Eh, ma'am, but it's a fine wide window," interposed the old woman eagerly. "An' it's a big bit of sunrises an' sunsets I do begettin', too—through other folks' windows. Look there, ma'am!"—and she pointed to a row of houses across the street.

"When the sun comes up of a mornin', them windows over there do be that rosy and shinin' with it I can tell well what kind of day is comin'! An' at evenin' them other ones is all a glory of red, like fires would be burnin' in 'em. Oh, but my big window is a comfort, and never fear but it gives me a share of all that is doin' in the skies." The spirit that can be glad in the sunshine that glorifies other people's windows even though no rays but reflected ones reach its own, is indeed so

sweet and strong that it can scarcely miss "what is doing in the skies." But how many of us see in the light that falls on other lives only an added bitterness to the gloom of our own?—S. T. Barlett.

### The Grumbler

SON: What is that, father?

FATHER: That is a grumbler, my son.

SON: What is a grumbler, father?

FATHER: A grumbler, my son, is a person who is never satisfied with anything. He constantly looks for the disagreeable. He is never pleased except when he can find something to be displeased about.

SON: What is a grumbler good for?

FATHER: He is good to grumble.

SON: Is he not good for anything else?

FATHER: He proceeds on the principle of, "This one thing I do."

SON: What does he grumble about?

FATHER: Everything. If he is on the farm, he grumbles at the rain or the drought, the heat or the cold, the snow or the ice, the dust or the mud, the clouds or the sun. His wife, children, relatives, friends, neighbours, acquaintances,—each comes in for a share of his doleful notice. If he is a merchant, he complains of his wholesale dealer, his competitors, his clerks, his location, his town. If he is a student, he turns his propensity to fault-finding upon his teachers, his roommate, his fellow students, the rooms, the beds, the board, the course of study, or the general management."

SON: Can he do better than all the persons he grumbles about?

FATHER: No. The only thing he can do well is to grumble.

SON: Does anyone love him?

FATHER: Yes, the Lord loves him, even though he is a grumbler.

SON: Can the disease be cured?

FATHER: O, yes! it can be cured.

SON: Will you please tell me how?

FATHER: Certainly. When the grumbler feels an attack coming on, he should immediately place two of the largest-sized marbles in his mouth, and hold them there until all inclination to grumble has passed away. Repeat as often as necessary.

### Don't Let the Song Go Out of Your Life

Don't let the song go out of your life;

Though it chance sometimes to flow

In a minor strain, it will blend again

With a major tone you know.

What though shadows rise to obscure life's skies

And hide for a time the sun;

They sooner will lift, and reveal the rift,

If you let the melody run.

Don't let the song go out of your life;

Though your voice may have lost its thrill,

Though the tremulous notes should die in the throat

Let it sing in your spirit still.

There is never a pain that hides not some gain,

And never a cup of rue

So bitter to sup but what in the cup

Lurks a measure of sweetness too.

Don't let the song go out of your life;

Ah! it never would need to go,

If with thought more true and a broader view,  
We looked at this life below.

Oh, why should we moan that life's spring-time has flown,  
Or sigh for the fair summer time?

The autumn hath days filled with pæons of praise,  
And the winter hath bells that chime.

Don't let the song go out of your life,  
Let it ring in the soul while here,  
And when you go hence it shall follow you thence,

And sing on in another sphere,  
Then do not despond, and say that the fond,

Sweet songs of your life have flown,  
For if ever you knew a song that was true,

Its music is still your own. —Selected.

### Nuggets

THE habit of viewing things cheerfully, and of thinking about life hopefully, may be made to grow up in us like any other habit.—S. Smiles.

Keep your face with sunshine lit,  
Laugh a little bit;  
Gloomy shadows oft will flit  
If you have the wit and grit  
Just to laugh a little bit.—J. B. Cook.

If you want to be cheerful, jes' set your mind on it an' do it. Can't none of us help what traits we start out in life with, but we kin help what we end up with. When things first got to goin' wrong with me, I says, "Oh, Lord, whatever comes, keep me from gettin' sour." . . . Since then I've made it a practice to put all my worries down in the bottom of my heart, then set on the lid, an' smile.—Mrs. Wiggs."

Grumble? No; what's the good?  
If it availed I would;  
But it doesn't a bit,  
Not it.

Laugh? Yes; why not?  
'Tis better than crying, a lot,  
We were made to be glad,  
Not sad.

Sing? Why, yes, to be sure;  
We shall better endure  
If the heart's full of song  
All day long.

—Life's Common Way.

Two boys went to gather grapes. One was happy because they found grapes. The other was unhappy because the grapes had too many seeds in them.

Two sick men were asked how they were. One said, "I am better to-day." The other said, "I was worse yesterday."

Two boys found some wild bees; one got honey, and the other got stung. The first called them honey bees; the other, stinging bees.

One says, "Our good is mixed with evil;" another says, "Our evil is mixed with good."—Christian Endeavour World.

Somebody did a golden deed,  
Somebody proved a friend in need,  
Somebody sang a beautiful song,  
Somebody smiled the whole day long,  
Somebody thought, "'Tis sweet to live,"  
Somebody said, "I'm glad to give,"  
Somebody fought a valiant fight,  
Somebody loved to shield the right;  
Was that "somebody" you?

## Missionary Volunteer Programme

### Second Week

#### Children of Other Lands

Opening Exercises.

Study: Children of the Bible.

Dialogue: "The Children in Sunny Carribean."

Reading: "Africa's Little Boys and Girls."

Dialogue: "Our Little Chinese Sisters."

LEADER'S NOTE.—To make this meeting a success, the programme should be well planned a week or two ahead. The study should be confined to five minutes, emphasizing the points suggested. The first dialogue is for one older member and six children, and the second is for five older girls. If it is at all possible, have the children go through the dialogues before the meeting is held.

#### Children of the Bible

Isaac: The child of promise and submission.

Joseph: The boy who was true to his God.

Samuel: The obedient child.

The Captive Maid: A little missionary.

The Christ Child: An example of earnestness.

#### The Children in "Sunny Carribean"

MISS MARGARET: Well children, I am so glad that you came over this beautiful Sabbath afternoon. I wonder if any of you have guessed why I told you to find out all you could about the children who live in the countries around the "Sunny Carribean" Sea?

ALL TOGETHER: I haven't.

MISS MARGARET: It is because that is the field where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went last quarter. We want to know all we can about the children we have been helping. Mildred, you start by telling what you know.

MILDRED: I learned that there are little girls in British Guiana whose parents have come from India to work on the sugar estates, who have to marry between five and twelve years old, so, of course, they can't go to school like the little boys do, and I don't think it's fair to punish them that way. When the people hear about Jesus and His love, I'm sure they won't.

FRANK: There are people over there in the middle of the island of Jamaica who live in houses called "palm-thatched, wattled houses." These houses are covered with something that looks like straw, which makes them very cool. This must be pleasant as they have such hot weather there.

HAZEL: I should say it is hot there! Why you know the little girls go down to a stream and wade in and do their washing, then they spread the clothing upon the bank to boil and bleach in the hot sun. I suppose that is what makes the little girls so dark coloured. Instead of bleaching the girls as it does the clothes, it makes their skin dark.

ROBERT: Some of these children go to Sabbath school. Their parents don't go because they can't understand the lan-

guage that is spoken, but the children have learned it by hearing others speak it. After Sabbath school they go home and tell what they have heard in their class.

RUTH: I've been told that in "Sunny Carribean" it is summer the year round. The cocoanuts grow in such abundance that when the children get thirsty they climb the trees for them and drink their water. My, I wish I had good cocoanut water to drink every time I get thirsty. There is also the coco-bolo tree which is such pretty wood. Many of the handles of our knives are made of that wood.

MILDRED: There are Indians down there who don't like the white people, and live away off by themselves in the forest country. They never come to the cities except to exchange nuts and fruits for other things to eat. When they come to the cities where there are water faucets they get under them and call out to the people passing, "Me bath."

FRANK: I feel sorry for the Aboriginal Indian children. Most of their parents pay no attention to them. They are left to find their own food, and often eat things that cause their death. The little boys make bows and arrows. They are very brave; for when dangers threaten, they jump in front of the little girls to protect them.

DONALD: Yes, and they are not taught that stealing is wicked. They just take things when they want them. I think we ought to tell them about the love of Jesus so they will be better children. One of our workers was telling some of the children about Jesus, and the story seemed so strange to them that they could not believe it. One little boy said, "Are you tell truth?" A little girl wanted to do something for Jesus and so she gave her earrings that she loved very much for her mother had given them to her.

MISS MARGARET: Shall we not pray that many of these little children may believe in Jesus, when the missionary tells them the stories which we know so well?

#### Africa's Little Boys and Girls

AFRICA is full of little black boys and girls. Everywhere one goes he passes native villages, and at each one a crowd of little children rushes out to look at him. Some are so tiny that the others carry them on their backs. Most of them have hardly any clothes on, and some none at all. While you sit and shiver in all your clothes, they run behind the waggon laughing and talking. You just wonder how they can keep warm.

What do these little folks do all day with no school, no toys, and no one to help amuse them? They are just as fond of play as any other boy or girl. They know where all the rats have their little paths, can show you all the birds' nests, and where the rabbits live. They can give you the meaning of every bird song. One says, "Where is Deridz-i-a?" (Deridzia is a boy's name.) Another bird says, "My father is dead, my mother is dead, my brother is dead, my sister is dead, I'm the only one left, tu tu, tutu, tu tu."

Did you ever play "Ring around a rosy"? The native children play it, but they say, "He wrestled with a 'gobo' and threw it down." Then they all sit down. A gobo is an animal something like a weasel, but larger.

"Hide and seek" is a favourite game. The girls dig a hole in the ground and fill it with pebbles. All sit around the hole. One girl takes a ball, throws it up, quickly picks a stone out of the hole, placing it beside her, then catches the ball as it falls. As soon as she misses the ball she loses her turn. When all the stones are gone, the girl who has the most wins.

As soon as the boys are large enough, they herd their father's cattle and goats. Often they have to drive them a long way to the water.

How would you like to be named Rat, Bird, Spear, Ant, Little Pig, Pumpkin? That is what some of the children are named here. When we start a school for the natives the children are very anxious to go. Some learn quickly; others are very dull. But one thing they all soon learn and that is to sing at the top of their voices. We sometimes wish we could stuff something into our ears, to shut out the sound.

Let us pray that many of these children may learn to love and serve Jesus.

MRS. ELSIE G. GIBSON.

### Our Little Chinese Sisters

MARY: How would you like to have your pillow made to look "like a tiger with a head on each end, with large black glass eyes, a savage mouth, and leather ears, and filled with sawdust instead of feathers"?

ELEANOR: I should not like it at all.

MARY: That is the sort of pillow that some of our little Chinese sisters have. Others have only a piece of bamboo, or varnished wood, or a polished brick on which to rest their necks.

ELEANOR: Rest! I shouldn't think there would be much rest about it.

ETHEL: I would not like their beds much better than I would their pillows. I was reading, the other day, about a little girl named Chenchu. She slept on a brick bed. One-half of the room was built up "twenty inches above the other part of the room, and was covered with brick the same as the floor. In winter, they built a fire under the bed until the bricks were warm, over which they spread a thin mattress, and thus instead of having one hot brick in their bed they had twenty!"

MILDRED: I remember, I saw that, too, and I read somewhere else, that the fire was made of a bit of dry grass and twigs, and soon went out. Those who were in the bed, therefore, were either roasting or freezing, all the time!

HELEN: I think I could stand the bed and the pillow better than I could the binding of my feet. I heard about one girl whose feet were not bound until she was eight years old, and her feet had "grown so large that the bones of the instep had to be broken!" Her cries could be heard a third of a mile away; and yet no one paid any attention. Her feet were then wrapped with strips of cloth, and bound around with bands. "They festered and broke and large sores formed," and for weeks the girl "lay weeping on a hard bed, until she once more fulfilled the proverb that 'For every pair of bound feet there is a bed full of tears.'"

ELEANOR: That is terrible. What does make them do it?

HELEN: Oh, her mother was a stylish woman, and she thought she would not be able to get a respectable husband for her

daughter if she allowed her feet to grow like a man's!

MARY: Think of going through all that suffering and then never being able to take sure, steady steps, but always having to walk "with a reeling, tottering gait," just because it's the fashion!

ELEANOR: What makes the Chinese people have such heathenish ways?

MARY: Why, it's because they do not have the Bible and know about Jesus.

ETHEL: Well, then, I move that we send them some Bibles at once. What do you say?

ALL TOGETHER:

Yes, we will send them Bibles,  
And missionaries, too.  
We'll work and earn the money,  
And do all that we can do.

### Missionary Volunteer Programme

#### Third Week

### Jesus, Our Best Friend

Opening Exercises.  
What Jesus Is to Me.  
What I Am to Jesus.

LEADER'S NOTE.—Have someone to lead out in both of these subjects, placing the diagrams on the board as each name is given. It might be well to have different members talk the thoughts of each paragraph. Make "My Decision" personal in both cases.

### What Jesus Is to Me

#### Friend

JESUS is my best Friend. His wonderful love is my only hope. Because He loved me, He left heaven and its glory, and came down to this dark speck of a world to save me. Because He loved me, He wrested my hope of eternal life from the enemy, and came forth from the grave to give it to me. Because He loved me, He went to heaven to plead His blood in my behalf. Because He still loves me, He implores me to let Him guide me through life, protect me from dangers of all kinds, and help me bear all the cares that oppress my heart. Because He loves me, He desires to become the King of my heart, the Captain of my soul, that He may sail my barge safely to the haven of eternal happiness. Because He loves me, He wishes to be my Brother, that I may share with Him all the riches of heaven. Isn't He a wonderful Friend?

"Which of all our friends to save us,  
Could or would have shed his blood?  
But our Jesus died to have us  
Reconciled, in Him, to God;  
This was boundless love indeed;  
Jesus is a friend in need."

#### Saviour

"Dr. Franz Muller, of Vienna, died of bubonic fever. When his friend, Dr. Borisch, fell a victim to that disease, he nursed him until death came, exposing with generous self-renunciation his own life in so doing; then, attacked by the fever himself, he devoted the short time that remained to him to recording for the benefit of others the result of his scientific observations. 'I am suffering from the plague,' was the message he posted on the windowpane. 'Please do not send a doctor to me, as, in any event, my end will

come in four or five days.' A sacrifice for his colleague."

This helps me to sense more deeply what Christ has done for me.

#### Creator

"Lord Kelvin, better known as Sir William Thomson, said: 'Forty years ago, walking somewhere in the country, I asked Liebig if he believed that the grass and flowers which he saw around us grew by mere chemical forces. He answered: 'No! no more than I would believe that a book of botany, describing them, could grow by mere chemical forces.'"

By Christ were all things made, and "without Him was not anything made." Nature points to the Creator of all things, and ever sings of His wonderful love. What is my testimony? Does the song of my daily life harmonize with nature's music? Is it continuous praise of my wonderful Creator and Friend?

#### Guide and Protector

"Some years ago," says the *Baptist Commonwealth*, "when Captain Dutton was commander of the *Sarmian*, the vessel had entered the St. Lawrence River on its homeward voyage, when suddenly a heavy fog arose, which completely hid the shore and all objects from view. The ship, which was going at full speed, continued on her course without relaxing the least. The passengers became frightened, considering it extremely reckless on the part of the captain. Finally, one of them remonstrated with the mate, telling him of the fears of the passengers. He listened, then replied with a smile: 'O, don't be frightened! The passengers need not be the least uneasy; the fog extends only a certain height above the water, and the captain is at the masthead, and is up above the fog, and it is he who is directing the vessel.'"

Just so, as long as Jesus Christ has full control of my life, I need have no fears. The terrible confusion of to-day does not confuse Him. He stands above the fog. He knows how to avoid every treacherous rock. His wisdom *can* keep me, and His love *will* keep me. He is the one Friend I cannot get along without.

#### Helper

There are burdens which no human friend can help bear; but Jesus *always* understands our troubles.

"He knows the bitter, weary way;  
The endless striving day by day;  
The souls that weep, the souls that pray,  
He knows.

"He knows how hard the way has been,  
The clouds that come our lives between,  
The wounds the world has never seen,  
He knows."

And best of all, He *cares*. All my troubles He makes His own. It costs much to sympathize with our friends, to put our shoulders under their burdens. Most of us fail at times; but Christ never fails; His "love counteth not the cost."

#### King

"The heart is the real throne of Christ. 'The kingdom of heaven is within you,' said the Master. But the important thing to notice is that if Christ is in the heart, the centre of our life, He will rule that life to its circumference. He will cleanse it from all evil thoughts. He will make it kind and gentle. He will make us eager to serve others. Some time ago a

London paper said that a missionary in China had been speaking about the custom of foot binding, and that some of the Chinese had formed a 'heavenly foot society' to do away with the custom. Christ in the heart makes the feet heavenly, ready to run His errands and execute His will. To what extent Christ is actually in the heart may be seen from the purity of the thought, the life, and the service."

#### Brother

Jesus is my Brother. Is not this the supreme test of His love? There are philanthropists who give large sums of money to help the poor. But where is the philanthropist who will go out to seek sinners, reprobates, criminals, that he may make these unfortunate ones members of his own home circle, and joint heirs with him in his father's estate?

Yet this is just what Jesus has done for me. He risked all to save me; then He made "whosoever will" joint heirs with Him of all things. How very much He must love me! Fifteen times in the Sermon on the Mount, He speaks of His Father as our Father. These words, echoing down through the ages, reminds me down here in the twentieth century that Christ is my Elder Brother. And I know He is coming soon, very soon, to receive those who will be joint heirs with Him. I hope then to go home to my Elder Brother, to my best Friend.

Jesus is a { Friend  
Saviour  
Creator  
Guide, Protector  
Helper  
King  
Brother } to me

#### My Decision

Yes, Jesus is all this to me, if I will allow Him to be. I determine for myself what Christ shall be to me. My decision settles the matter. He has proved His love for me; He has shed His blood for me; He has walked all the way to the grave; learned all the dangers of the journey; He has borne every burden that human hearts can know, that He might be my helper; He has vanquished our common foe, that He might be my King; He has become my Brother, that He might make me a joint heir with Himself, of His eternal wealth. All now hangs on my decision. Eternal loss? Eternal gain? My decision will determine which shall be my lot. MATILDA ERICKSON.

### What I Am to Jesus

#### Servant

"BEFORE the Civil War a traveller passing through the South had his pity awakened for a young slave. He purchased her from her master, and gave her her liberty. She exclaimed: 'Oh, he has set me free! I can never thank him enough! I will serve him all my life!' She thought not of pleasing herself, but her friend; and when any one would speak of her loving service to her benefactor, she would reply, 'He redeemed me! He redeemed me! I will serve him all my life.'"

Jesus has done infinitely more for me. I am his servant, but how do I show my gratitude?

#### Witness

"When Florence Frontenac died, he

bequeathed his heart in a golden casket to his wife. 'I never had it living,' she said; 'I will not take it dead.' Too many, while living, armour-plate their hearts with the love of the world, thus resisting the sweetness of divine love; but when dying, they wish to bequeath their hearts to God. No greater evidence can there be of lack of genuine heart-love; for 'if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.'" Am I in this class? or am I one of his true witnesses? Does my life prove that I love him supremely? In the Missionary Volunteer Society, in my home, among my friends, do my life and my words witness for him? If I do not in word and deed confess Him before others, He cannot consistently confess me before the Father.

#### Messenger

I am God's messenger to my community. Can He count on me?

"At the Battle of Waterloo a regiment sent word to Wellington, saying they must soon yield. His orders were: 'Stand firm.' 'But we shall perish,' they said. 'Stand firm,' he repeated. 'You will find us there,' they replied. All the men fell, each fighting at his post.

"When we give ourselves wholly to God, and in our work follow His directions, He makes himself responsible for its accomplishment. Christ will increase the talent of every faithful worker."

#### Ambassador

"When I was in college," says a Christian worker, "two men were sent to West Africa to fill a vacancy. Before they had been gone three months there came a cable telling us that one was dead. In less than another month a second cable came, saying the second was dead. At once the matter was announced to the students, and the question asked: 'Who will take their places?' Six men at once . . . offered to go, and two were sent. In less than six months these two men were dead, and a cable came again, and the question was again asked, 'Who will go?' That occasion I shall never forget; it stands out as one of the thrilling moments of my life; when the question was asked, 'Who will go?' every man in that college stood up and said: 'Send me.'"

Am I as willing as these to be God's ambassador, wherever He calls me to serve?

#### Friend

Jesus counts me His friend if I do "whatsoever" He commands me. At first sight this seems a hard test of friendship; but when I know my Saviour as He is, I shall love Him supremely and desire above all else to please Him. Then I, too, shall be able to say: "To me religion means just one thing: Jesus and I are friends." There is no better way of proving my love for Jesus than in making His will my own in living and serving. If my highest ambition is to live for Him, I shall be ready for whatsoever may come to test my personal friendship for Jesus. And I shall be able to say:

"O Christ, Redeemer, Master! I, who stand

Beneath the pressure of Thy gracious hand,  
What is the service Thou wouldst have  
from me?

What is the burden to be borne for Thee?

I, too, would say, though care and fear exhaust,  
'What matters it? Love counteth not the cost!'"

I am a { Servant  
Witness  
Messenger  
Ambassador  
Friend } others  
Matt. 25:40 } J  
E  
S  
U  
S

#### My Decision

As effect follows cause, so what Jesus is to me decides what I am to Jesus. These are only different sides of the one supreme question. The place I give Christ in my life will determine the place He can give me in His service. But what I decide to be to Jesus I must try to be to those about me, for He says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." If one hand goes up in faith to Jesus, the other is bound to go out in service for others. If one hand lays hold on Christ for strength, the other will be outstretched with blessings for others. That is the way the Christian keeps his balance.

MATILDA ERICKSON.

### Missionary Volunteer Programme

#### Fourth Week

### Alone with God's Word

Bible Study.

Poem.

Reading: "Alone with God's Word."

Reading: "An Excellent Medicine."

LEADER'S NOTE.—Next Sabbath begins the week of prayer. Show how prayer and the reading of the Bible go hand-in-hand as spiritual helps. Enquire how many are reading the Bible through and studying the Morning Watch. It is not too late yet to begin. Lack of space crowds out the reading "Alone with God's Word," but it is taken from the little book "Alone with God" (pp. 59-61), by Matilda Erickson. If you have not the book, it is obtainable at your state tract society (price 2s. 6d.), and once you possess it you will want to recommend it to the young people of your society.

### Bible Study

1. Gen. 18:22, 23. Abraham and the Lord communed together alone when Abraham interceded for Sodom.

2. Ex. 25:21, 22. In the tabernacle service there was a special place of communion. It was a secret chamber. Only one person ever entered there at a time. He met God before the blood-sprinkled mercy-seat.

3. Matt. 6:6. Here the Saviour urges a similar place of communion, the secret chamber, the individual approach, before the blood-sprinkled mercy-seat. Eight times in these few words the personal pronoun is used. In the secret place He meets His children and reveals Himself to them.

4. Ps. 50:15. Here they find deliverance when in trouble.

5. Isa. 40:31. They find renewed strength for victory and service.

6. Ps. 119:15, 148, 97-99. Here in quiet meditation they obtain light and wisdom.

7. Joshua 1:8; Ps. 1:1, 2. In such communion with God through His Word, they find the secret of success in both temporal and spiritual things.

8. Ps. 63:5-7. Here is the secret of joy and peace.

9. Mark 1:35-37. This was the secret of Christ's power to draw men.

MEADE MACGUIRE.

### Alone with God

"Alone with God!" The keynote this  
Of every holy life,  
The secret power of fragrant growth,  
And victory over strife.

"Alone with God!" In private prayer  
And quietness, we feel  
That He draws near our waiting souls,  
And does Himself reveal.

"Alone with God!" Earth's laurels fade;  
Ambition tempts not there;  
And world and self are judged just right,  
And no false colours wear.

"Alone with God!" True knowledge  
gained,  
While sitting at His feet.  
We learn life's greatest lessons there,  
Which make for service meet.

—Selected.

### An Excellent Medicine

I KNEW of a physician who was visited by a lady, greatly excited, much cast down, who said to him: "Doctor, I do not know what the trouble is, but I am in misery. Please find out what the matter is, and give me something." He looked at her steadily for a moment and said, "You go home and read the Bible an hour a day for thirty days. Then come and see me." She said: "I suppose you think I am a heathen." He replied, "No, I do not think you are a heathen. I think you are a poor, sick, tired woman. You go home and read the Bible an hour a day for thirty days, and then come and see me."

At first she was indignant, and resolved that she would pay no attention to his prescription, but her better mind came as she went along, and she said to herself: "The medicine is cheap. I will try it." Arriving at her home she arranged matters and sat down to read. She knew that an hour was longer than she had generally read the Bible at one time, so she read longer than usual. She glanced up at the clock at the expiration of what she felt sure was an hour, and found that she had been reading just ten minutes. This startled her, for she was at heart a good woman, and she said to herself: "I will not make that mistake again. I will be sure to read an hour before I stop." So she glanced at the clock and started again.

When she felt sure that she had read for more than an hour, she glanced again at the clock, and found that she had been reading twenty-five minutes. This waked her thoroughly, and adjusting herself to the task, she read until, instead of being a little weary and wishing to stop, she obtained an appetite for the Word of God. The hour was all too short, and she found herself living in a new world.

At the end of the month she reported to her physician. As soon as she came into the office he said to her: "Well, madam, I see you have been taking my medicine." "Yes," she said, "I have been taking your medicine, and it is good medicine. I am a different woman from the one who came into your office a month ago." "Yes," he replied, "I saw as soon as you came into the room that what you needed was not medicine; what you needed was God. You have now come in touch with Him.

Keep in touch with Him and you will be well."—"Getting Things from God," in *The Church Officers' Gazette*.

## Sabbath-School Missionary Exercises

(April 5)

### After Twenty Years

OVER twenty years have passed since the first meetings were held in Fiji presenting the "present truth." In that first effort a company of Sabbath-keepers was raised up. A number of men and women who embraced the message then still live, and it is certainly encouraging to note that these brethren still remain faithful. We have lost a number by death, but I think not one baptized member of those early days has been lost to us by apostasy. We were warned by some of our would-be friends that Fijians would quickly go back to the old ways when we left them. But years have proved that the truth has its sanctifying and keeping power.

One of our good old Fijian brethren, Tevita (David) by name, has been a most consistent member all these years. I think all will agree he has "adorned the doctrine" of his Lord and Saviour. The truth has been a great blessing to old Tevita. Twenty years ago he was crippled by falling timber and not expected to live more than a short time. But the truth strengthened him physically, and he has been able to work and does still. Wonderful to relate, after losing his second set of teeth, he has had the third set grow in since becoming an Adventist. If you ask him how and why it happened, he will say it is God's truth for these times that did it.

All these years he has been a great helper in our church work, and more than any other has taken the Sabbath services. His words are always spiritual, and his tender, earnest voice heard in prayer is an inspiration.

Many years ago after the company had been organized with Tevita as leader, and all our workers were in other parts, a native dance was announced for a certain Sabbath afternoon as a sort of counter attraction. Here the leadership of our native brother was demonstrated. At the morning service Tevita called attention to the dance, and asked every father and mother and son and daughter, to be present at the little chapel at the very hour the dance was to be held. Two bells sounded, one for the play and the other for the service. Old Tevita had his entire flock and started his service, preaching a sermon the best he could. At the close of his sermon the music and dancing could be heard, and our old brother told the people they had better remain away from temptation, and suggested that they go on with another service. Feeling he had their consent, the service started over again, and as the old man was not overstocked with sermons, and not fearing that this would fall under the ban of "vain repetitions," he announced the same text and preached his sermon over again. Then at the close there were a few exhortations by others, a prayer or two, and it was seen that the sun had sunk in western skies, the music and dancing were finished, and the Sabbath was over. A victory had been won, for not one left the building

during that long service. Years have come and gone and some of these old men still live on and love the message. Their lives are ripening off for the kingdom.

J. E. FULTON.

(April 12)

### Grace Abounding

"WHERE sin abounds, grace does much more abound." Among simple native tribes, God is performing acts of grace in transforming men and women apparently hopeless in sin, chained by habits from childhood, and strengthened by long practice. But God can make the foulest clean. He is also no respecter of persons. He exhibits His work of grace upon the natives with their dark skin, with the same love and success as upon the hearts of their white brothers.

Ratu Moape, in Colo, Fiji, was old, crippled, and addicted to the use not only of unclean foods, but also tobacco and native grog. He limped about supported by two canes. He heard the message and there was kindled in his heart a better and a brighter hope. For a time he clung to his idols, when suddenly he decided he must make the radical change called for before he could be baptized. He called upon a friend, and asked that *yagona* (grog) be prepared for the last time. This is drunk not only for its flavour and effects, but is often partaken of to bind a solemn bargain. In this sense, Moape called for the bowl, and solemnly took leave of what had been an old friend—a sort of parting love-feast with an old master. The old man, after drinking, hobbled on mile after mile, resting here and there, till at last he found Pastor Parker, who baptized him. Months have passed, but old Moape remains faithful to his vows. What a change has been wrought! Though weak, frail, and crippled, when the truth found him, he has found healing not only of soul, but also of body. He can now work and walk well.

Ratu Josiah of Nagia, another town on the Wainibuka River, also tells of his own experience. He was a terrible *yagona* sot. Its use had disfigured his face, dimmed and reddened his eyes. He heard the message, but was told by his friends, when he told them of his desire to reform, that it would be impossible to make such a change. But God answered the desire of his heart, and gave him victory. "Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound." Ratu Josiah is now well, bright-eyed, with a clean, fine face, and he walks with a quick elastic step. God transforms men by His wondrous grace.

J. E. FULTON.

(April 19)

### Lipi, the Cannibal Chief

LIPi, the cannibal chief, has been one of the most notable warriors and raiders in the Solomon Islands. He has killed many people and eaten many. He and his comrades used to go in war canoes for long distances, often to a large island one hundred and twenty miles away, and suddenly swoop down upon a village and carry away for slaves all they could. Those they killed they also took with them. On their return to the Marovo Lagoon, our present mission quarters, they camped on an island half-way and ate the dead.

This old man, his sons and daughters,

and those who were his slaves, are now loyal mission people, having the most gentle and kind spirits, with not a trace of the old cannibalism. He and his children helped to build our Marovo mission, church, house, and all. Lipi, the old chief, has also nearly finished building another church on an island near his own home. He was selected to be the chief one to look after the proper division of food for a general gathering. But what do you think was their own choice of food? Well, it was not flesh as in by-gone days, but the native taro and nuts all mashed together into a pudding. There were more than three hundred of them, and twenty chiefs, all of the old sort, yet miraculously changed. Who dares to say that the gospel of apostolic days is not in existence to-day?

Shy, timid young bush natives would stand up unasked during this meeting and testify of Christ in eloquent language such as we had not heard before. Wherever I drop anchor with the mission vessel *Melanesia*, chiefs and representative men come and ask for a missionary or say they want to belong to our mission. The good news is spreading all over, but we are short of workers and funds to follow it up.

G. F. JONES.

(April 26)

### At Work in Java and Sumatra

FOR about seven years Brother R. T. Sisley, a man well-advanced in years, has been doing self-supporting work at Soekaboemi, Java, by teaching English. Brother Sisley is known to many of our people in Australia, having spent some years here. He is a brother of Sisters G. B. Starr and Boyd. A young man by the name of Ek Liang attended one of Brother Sisley's night classes, and in a few months became proficient enough to interpret from English into Malay very rapidly. He has done a great deal of translating for our Malay paper, and his work is very acceptable. He is now attending the training school at Singapore, and is making splendid progress in his studies. Last year he did two years' work and finished the common branches. This year he plans to take five subjects by correspondence, and at the same time do first year high school work. This young man is a fair sample of what gospel work is able to do for those who accept it with all the heart and apply themselves to get learning that they may in turn help others.

About eight or ten years ago a young man from Battakland, in northern Sumatra, met some of our workers in Padang, Sumatra, and in process of time accepted the gospel. At once there was born in his heart a desire to do something for his fellow men. He spent some time at our Singapore school, and then began an unselfish ministry for others. For a number of years he has carried on self-supporting school work in Battakland, and through his efforts many young men have been encouraged to live sober, earnest, Christian lives. They become industrious and teach other young people to do faithful work in the smaller details of everyday life. This work proves an uplift to the native, and it teaches him the joy of having his sins forgiven by a loving Saviour, and places within his heart a longing to be more like that One who has done so much for him.

F. A. DETAMORE.

## Foreign Mission Day

(April 12)

### Jesus and the Multitudes

READ Mark 6: 34-44.

Note 1. Love for the multitudes moved the heart of Jesus. Does it move ours?

2. He was moved with compassion for the shepherdless multitudes. There are shepherdless millions still. Where are the Saviour's followers?

3. When Jesus observed the multitudes on that certain day it is said "the day was far spent." Does this not represent the hour in which we work. "The day is far spent." "The time is far past." V. 35.

4. Human effort in its helplessness says, "Send the multitudes away. We cannot feed so many." How can we reach the millions?

5. Jesus says still, "Give ye them to eat." 6. "How many loaves have ye?" Jesus takes our little, and works with it.

7. "He commanded them to make all sit down in companies." "They sat down in ranks, by hundreds and by fifties." Jesus thus places His blessing on proper organization in working for the multitudes.

8. He took the few loaves and fishes and blessed them and then in the hands of His disciples food was multiplied for the multitudes. God can bless us if we co-operate with Him, so that the millions shall be fed.

9. But the great point is the first one—love, compassion. The world is dying for want of love. Where are its lovers?

10. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." John 3: 16. Sacrifice for the dying multitudes brought the Saviour to the world. How are our hearts moved by a world's woes, sorrows, and need?

### India

INDIA is one of the oldest countries of the world. It is also a very great country, having a population of about 320,000,000, or about one-fifth of the population of the world, over three times the population of the United States of America, eight times the population of Great Britain, sixty-four times the population of Australia.

According to the census of 1901, the languages of India number 185, sixteen of which are spoken by more than three million people. Besides these are numerous dialects. With all this Babel of voices one is led to think that the confusion of tongues took place not so far away from India. But the message for these last days is to be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and so we are sure that in this great country with its various peoples and languages which go to make up this great empire, this truth will be published with power.

India is a land of religions. As Paul said of the people of Athens, so we can say of the people of India, that they are very religious. Among the religions, Hinduism is the greatest. It includes more than two-thirds of the people of the empire. In the early years of this cult there is strong evidence to believe that many of the Indian people were groping after God, and at that time there was little idolatry comparatively. But to-day there are said to be 333,000,000 gods in India, more gods than people. Sticks and stones, things animate and inanimate, dead relations, spirits, demigods, ancient

incarnations, and personifications,—all are worshipped. In their worship is included theism, pantheism, polytheism, fetishism, nature worship, animal worship, demon worship, hero worship, and ancestor worship. There is thus a multitude of beliefs, which is rent by many sects. Connected with, and really a part of, the Indian religions are the many philosophies so characteristic of that land, and so sought after by some people of Western lands. The people of India have become very fond of discussions, and are very satisfied with their own religions. On this account missionaries find it most difficult to make headway with their work of presenting the gospel of a crucified and risen Saviour. The fact that there are so many religions and so many languages in India makes the work of the missionary a very difficult one.

The separation of the people into different castes has long been recognised as a destructive feature of Hinduism. Originally society was divided into four distinct classes or castes. The religious leaders or the Brahmans formed the leading caste. Next in the scale below were the warriors; next were the agriculturists, and lowest in the scale were the conquered non-Aryan tribes, or serfs. But little by little each class became sub-divided, till now caste is legion. It has now become an elaborate plan which enables each rank of society to depress or oppress those who chance to be lower in the scale. One has spoken of caste as "a social ladder on which every man kisses the feet of the man above him, and kicks the face of the man below him."

Some of the rules of caste are as follows:

(1) Intermarriage impossible. (2) Change of occupation impossible. (3) Only persons of the same caste may eat together. (4) Meals must not be cooked except by persons of the same caste, or by a Brahman. (5) No man of any inferior caste may touch the rations or enter the cook-room. (6) No water or liquor contaminated by touch of a man of inferior caste can be used—rivers, lakes, etc. excepted. (7) An ocean voyage is forbidden.

Caste is the foe of progress, and the Indians will never become a really strong people until this curse is broken.

One great religion of India, aside from Christianity, which is a foe to caste, is Mohammedanism. Buddhism also, which was once strong in India, ignored caste and claimed that all men were created equal. But with all these religions opposing Hinduism, caste lives on and prospers.

The work of Christian missions in India has been slower than in many other lands, but steady advancement has been made. A late census gives 3,876,000 as the Christian population of India, about two-fifths of this number being Protestants. Of the great religions of India Christianity stands fifth as to number.

The work of Seventh-day Adventists covers a period of about a quarter of a century, but it is in more recent years that active work has been taken up in the vernaculars. At the present time interests are springing up at a number of places, and the outlook is truly encouraging. Men and means are needed. With so many millions to warn there is certainly a call to prayer to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into the harvest. Jesus on seeing the multitudes was moved with compassion. Are our hearts likewise moved?

J. E. FULFON.