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THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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MARCH, 1915



CITICO MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL.



HOME
MISSIONS

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
AND
MINISTERIAL
RELIEF



FOREIGN
MISSIONS

PUBLICATION
AND
SABBATH
SCHOOL
WORK

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.
AT HOME AND ABROAD

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Volume IV.

March, 1915.

Number 3

SURVEY WEEK	163
PUBLICATION AND SABBATH SCHOOL EXTENSION:	
"Somewhat."	164
Citico Mission Near Chattanooga. Mrs. E. O. Wells.....	167
What is the Training School? William Megginson.....	168
THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY:	
What of the Year?	170
Survey Week.	170
"Others."	171
Two Live Societies in Gastonia. Mrs. W. Y. Warren.....	171
The Band of Hope. Mrs. H. M. Eddleman.....	172
God's Account With Christian America.....	173
"Just Among Ourselves."	173
FOREIGN MISSIONS:	
Monthly Topic—Mexico.	176
The Annual Meeting of the Mexico Mission. Miss E. V. Lee.....	179
Church and Chapel Building and Repairing on the Rio Grande. W. A. Ross.	180
Gifts for Mexico's Sufferers. Mrs. W. A. Ross.....	182
A Visit to Montemorelos Field. R. C. Morrow.....	183
Letter From Miss Kemper.	185
Letter From Rev. L. C. McC. Smythe.....	185
West Gate Church, Chunju. Mrs. L. B. Tate.....	187
Thanksgiving Day in Korea. Wm. P. Parker.....	188
Hospital Experiences at Sutsien.	189
The Hsuehoufu "Upright Heart Female Academy." Mrs. George P. Stevens.	190
Work at Tachow. Rev. C. N. Caldwell.....	192
Tidings from the Sutsien Field. H. W. McCutchan.....	194
President Yuan Shi Kai's Message to the Nation Regarding the Sacri- fice to Confucius. Translated by Prof. Andrew Allison.....	195
Some Falls and Rappings Again at Yencheng. Rev. Hugh W. White....	196
Personalia.	198
Random Notes from China. Rev. P. F. Price, D. D.	202
The Roll that Never Gets Stale.....	203
Now and Forty Years Ago at Nanking. Rev. P. Frank Price, D. D.	203
Bible Classes in Japan and Korea.....	204
Do You Know?	204
Senior Foreign Missions Program for March, 1915.....	205
The Religious Confusion in China. Ng Poon Chew, Litt. D.....	205
Comparative Statement. Foreign Missions.....	208
THE JUNIORS:	
A Missionary Pony.	209
Little Margarita. E. V. Lee.....	209
Hidden Missionaries.....	211
Answers to February Hidden Missionaries.....	211
Junior Foreign Missions Program for March, 1915.....	211
A Glimpse at Mexican Housekeeping. Alice Blake.....	212
The Victories of Peace. Mr. S. B. McLane.....	213
"Help One Another."	214
Our Spanish Americans.....	215
HOME MISSIONS:	
The Assembly's Plan of Finance.....	216
The Texas-Mexican Mission.....	217
Waiting!	220
The Place of the Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute in Mexican Mis- sions. Rev. J. W. Skinner.....	221
Help Needed at the Mexican Gateway. Rev. C. R. Womeldorf.....	223
"We Would See Jesus." Rev. Samuel M. Glasgow.....	224
Mexican Missions in San Antonio. Rev. Arthur G. Jones.....	226
Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom. Rev. E. S. Rodriguez.....	228
Faithful Luz. Rev. Walter S. Scott.....	229
Home Mission Program for March.....	230
Can You Tell?	231
The New Secretary of the Campaign Committee.....	231
Report of the Treasurer of Assembly's Home Missions—April 1, 1914, to January 31, 1915.	232
Those People from Mexico Town.....	232
Not Comment, But Action Needed.....	232
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL RELIEF:	
Editorial Notes.....	233
Monuments. Alex. Karr.....	234
The Village Clergyman.....	235
Extract of a Sermon on Ministerial Relief. Rev. William Crowe.....	235
How Can the Ministry be Recruited? Rev. A. M. Fraser, D. D.....	236
Treasurer's Report.....	238
"If God Permit."	238

Admiral?" "It amounts to \$4,500.00, as my salary while in active service was \$6,000.00. But now, my dear brother, I am a Presbyterian and am in a position to appreciate the work you have done for the kingdom of Christ in connection with the Presbyterian Church. How long have you preached the Gospel?" "I have been in the active ministry for sixty-five years. (For such is the record, my brethren). "You have! Well, the church should surely do abundantly for you in your old age. Would you mind telling me what you are receiving? But before you tell me, I will remind you

that I am aware of your needs, knowing that you did not have the opportunity to lay up anything as I did." "That is true, Admiral. My living was always small I am not complaining of what the church is doing for me, and would not tell you, did I not know of your interest in the matter. So I will tell you that last year the church gave me \$300.00."

And the sad part, brethren, is that this is not a hypothetical case, but such a conversation could actually occur, with every statement absolutely true.

Memphis, Tenn.

HOW CAN THE MINISTRY BE RECRUITED?

REV. A. M. FRASER, D. D.

CHRISt gives us one answer to this question in most unmistakable language. "Pray ye, therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." What a profound satisfaction it is to have any one duty and opportunity of life defined for us so clearly and with so much certainty! How violent, almost explosive, is the response of the Lord foreshadowed in that command! "He will send forth laborers." Some read it "He will thrust forth laborers," and some read it more strongly yet, "He will hurl forth laborers." It was so he forced out Moses from his seclusion, and Gideon from his hiding, and Jeremiah from his diffidence. If we need anything to fortify the Word of the Lord, the actual experience of the Church supplies it. Whenever the number of candidates runs low, we become alarmed and the springs of prayer are started all over the Church. At once the number begins to increase. But we do not too easily become satisfied and restrain prayer and allow the number to recede again.

But not only should we pray a general prayer of that sort, that the Lord would send forth laborers, we may

make specific prayers for individuals, that the Lord would send forth particular persons to become laborers in the harvest. It must be confessed that the warrant for this in the Bible is not so explicit. But there can only be one objection raised to it and that objection is raised. The objection is that it is the prerogative of God to call men into the ministry, and it is a piece of presumption on the part of one man to ask God to put another into the ministry, when he does not know that God has called him. There are two answers to the objection:

First, the same sort of an argument would prove that we ought not to pray for the conversion of any individual. Conversion is the prerogative of God, but none but God can convert a soul. And God himself elects or chooses the individuals who are to be converted, but that does not prevent one praying for the conversion of any individual.

Second, whatever it is we pray for, we ought to say, "If it be Thy holy will." If, therefore, we pray that some particular young man friend of ours may become a minister and always add "If it be Thy holy will," we have not trespassed upon any ground that God has reserved exclusively for Himself.

Here again a gracious experience comes to strengthen our conclusion. How many ministers there are today and how many there have been in all generations of the Church who have been dedicated to the ministry from their birth! Take a few concrete cases. A young man went home from a missionary meeting with a great hope and a great joy contending for mastery in his heart. His hope was that he might be honored of God to be a worker in the foreign field. His fear was that it might break his mother's heart, for he was "the only son of his mother, and she was a widow." Imagine how hope and fear were forced into joy when the mother met his secret with a counter secret—she had dedicated him to missions in his infancy. For many years now the Lord has been putting the seal of his approval on his ministry in a foreign land.

Another youth returned to his home from a young people's missionary convention and reported to his mother that he had volunteered for mission work in Africa. He then learned for the first time that his mother had dedicated him to mission work in Africa when he was a babe in her arms.

A few years ago the *Missionary* copied from the *Baptist Missionary Magazine* an incident from the life of Dr. Jacob Chamberlain that is the counterpart of these two. It is as follows: "At his birth, in 1835, his mother consecrated him, her eldest son, to the work of Foreign Missions, so far as her influence should be able to accomplish it. Her son knew nothing of this and though he grew up with a deep interest in missions, did not offer himself for service until about the completion of his education."

We are all familiar with Dr. Paton's beautiful description of his father's place of prayer in their humble Scottish home, and his own belief that his thrilling life was rooted in his father's closet. It was not an accident that the parent's prayers coincided with the election of

God in thus producing two of the most remarkable missionaries of this age.

But while much of the responsibility is in the hands of the parents, it is not all there. The minister, the Sunday school teacher, a consecrated elder or private member, man or woman, can do a great deal, by watching the youth of the Church, selecting particular ones as subjects of prayer, and by engaging the prayers of others to the same end.

Another way by which we can get candidates for the ministry is to follow up the prayers by a tactful and prayerful suggestion to the person. Parents cannot do this so well, because the child has profound regard for the judgment and wishes of his parents that there is danger of his mistaking the parental suggestion for the call of God. But someone else may do it. A word fitly spoken, a much-prayed over letter, the placing of a tract in the hands of a young man, may arrest his attention and set him to praying for God's guidance. One of the most useful pastors we have tells how, when he was a young man, he received such a suggestion from an elder, and, whereas he had never thought before of being a minister, he now went to a solitary spot in the woods and poured out his soul unto God to show him his duty.

Years ago an elect lady in the town of Waynesboro, Va., called a little Negro boy from the street into her home. After talking to him kindly for a while, she said, "William, when you get to be a man, I hope the Lord will send you as a missionary to preach the gospel to your people in Africa." Out of that suggestion has grown the ministry of W. H. Sheppard in the Congo.

Three sons in the ministry, several colored servants from his home in the same calling, and a large number of young men from his church, are the fruit of one man's zeal, that of the Rev. Dr. Jacob Henry Smith, of Greensboro, N. C.

We greatly need to have the attention of young men directed to the ministry and their prayers for divine guidance stimulated by the judicious suggestion of older Christians. If they

can be brought to think and to inquire at the Throne of Grace what their duty is, we may feel secure "The meek will He guide in judgment and the meek will He teach His way." *Staunton, Va*

RECEIPTS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL RELIEF.

Receipts for the first ten months of the current year were \$67,650.86, showing a decrease of \$2,759.71, compared with the corresponding period last year.

The General Assembly has requested \$172,666.67, or 14 per cent. of the amounts contributed to the Assembly's

causes, for this work. If this amount is contributed this year, \$105,015.81 must be received by the 31st of March.

All funds on hand should be remitted as promptly as possible to Mr. John Stites, Treasurer, Fifth and Market Streets, Louisville, Ky.

SOUTH AMERICA TO HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY.

The Commission on Latin America, of which Dr. Robert E. Speer is chairman, in its report to the World's Sunday School Convention at Zurich in 1913, revealed the urgent need of a Sunday school advance in South America. Less than one out of 190 of a possible Sunday school constituency is actually in the Sunday school. Bishop Stuntz reports that the Methodists, who have the most extensive Sunday school work in South America, have fewer schools in the whole southern continent than they have in the one city of Los Angeles, Cal. Not only are Sunday schools few and poorly attended, but they are for the most part lacking in equipment, grading, litera-

ture, and in trained lay leadership. The future of the Evangelical Church in South America is very insecure while such conditions prevail.

The World's Sunday School Association is now completing arrangements for the support of a Sunday school specialist who shall give his entire time to building up the Sunday school work of the various Mission Boards operating in South America. The man selected is the Rev. George P. Howard, of Montevideo, Uruguay, a man of fine equipment and experience and one of the best Spanish scholars among the missionaries of Latin America.—*Men and Missions*.

"IF GOD PERMIT."

("It is my purpose, if God permit, to become a foreign missionary.")

E. H. H.

"If God permit"—'twill bring to me
The sadness of a sobbing heart,
The sorrow, as for years we part,
The piercing of a feverish dart,
The anguish, and heart-agonies!

"If God permit"—'twill bring to me
The joy of answering His call
To lift my brother from the pall
Of darkest death, and give to all
The vision of the Christ to be!

"If God permit"—'twill bring to me
A life to heated labor lent,
With peril, pain, and sorrow blent,
A struggle 'till my strength is spent,
The vision of a Calvary!

"If God permit"—'twill bring to me
Compensation full and rife,
Something worthy of the strife,
Something dearer far than life,
The vision of Eternity!

Davidson College (N. C.)