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# THE

# MISSIONARY SURVEY



JANUARY, 1924

## To The New Year

One song for thee, New Year,  
 One universal prayer;  
 Teach us—all other teachings far above—  
 To hide dark hate beneath the wings of love  
 To slay all hatred, strife,  
 And live the larger life!  
 To bind the wounds that bleed;  
 To lift the fallen, lead the blind  
 As only love can lead—  
 To live for all mankind!

—James Whitcomb Riley

CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION  
AND  
MINISTERIAL  
RELIEF

PUBLICATION  
AND  
SABBATH  
SCHOOL  
WORK

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



PUBLISHED BY  
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# THE MISSIONARY SURVEY

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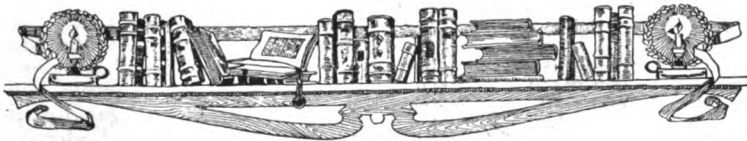
Dating from the year 1903 when the business was reorganized and the Sunday School Extension Department began to function, a steady enlargement of the staff of Field Workers has been made, and the increase in the value of books, Bibles, tracts, Sunday School literature has been quite large. Last year sixty-four workers were used for whole or part time and for several years the number has not been under forty. It was found that the donation of our literature could be made more effectively and economically through the pastors in home mission fields, the Superintendents of Sunday Schools, the Woman's Auxiliary, and interested members of our church than by any other methods, so these channels of distribution are being largely used.

The value of the books, Bibles, libraries, tracts and periodicals donated during the past three years is as follows: for 1921 \$59,879, for 1922, \$54,693, for 1923 \$28,422. It is worthy of note that the distribution of free literature for the past three years (\$142,994) about equalled the total distributed during the first forty years of the life of our church. The further fact should be remembered, that the distribution

of free literature is now very largely a contribution from the Business Department of the Committee, the Sunday School Extension offering from the churches being used in support of the Department and the Field Workers.

During the past three years over 3,400 libraries containing fifteen volumes each have been given to small mission schools, and over twenty-five hundred packages containing from three to six volumes each have been sent to pastors laboring largely in home mission fields. In addition evangelistic and doctrinal tracts totalling millions of pages were donated and about six hundred Mission Sunday Schools received their literature free of charge. About six thousand Bibles and Testaments were donated annually for the recitation of catechisms in addition to the distribution of a large number of Bibles and portions to individuals.

This brief summary should convince the church that the distribution of free religious literature is not being neglected by the Publication Committee even though the old Colportage system has been abandoned.



### “THE HOME AS A SCHOOL OF RELIGION”

By GILBERT GLASS, D. D., *General Superintendent.*

**WE** ARE apparently in the midst of a genuine awakening with regard to religious education and its place in the evangelistic and character building work of the Church. Much attention is being given to the training of Sunday School workers and those who are to specialize in the direction of young people's activities, and the Church will certainly feel the effect of the Conference work and

training courses in the immediate future.

Along with this greater program for the Church School and the Young People's Society, the reestablishment of the home as a place of vital religious influence and definite religious instruction and training, must be given strong emphasis and must be made a part of the major program of the Church without delay. It has been customary to

mention the failure of the home as one of the reasons for developing more effective teaching and training work in the Sunday School and other church agencies. There has been an evident feeling that this failure must be acquiesced in to some extent as inevitable because of the drift of modern social conditions and the exactions on the time and energy of parents which the quickened pace of modern commercial and social life has made.

Such acquiescence, which so far has been perhaps more apparent than real, should not be tolerated for a moment. There are good reasons for contending that the home is more subject to leadership in the forming of adequate programs of religious training than even the Sunday School, or other larger and more general church agencies.

Modern parents have master motives, such as love of their own children and concern for their welfare, which the church can use most effectively if she will only give sufficient time and thought to the furnishing of practical programs which will appeal to parents and help them in their problems of discipline and conduct control.

The Sunday School which traditionally represents the strictly educational plans and policies of the church is, of course, vitally concerned in the building of the home as a school of religion. The program is one that concerns the church as a whole, however, and should not be considered merely as auxiliary to the Sunday School, or as incidental to the teaching which is done in the larger groups.

It is also true that the Church must go much further in developing home religion than the mere exhortation to parents to be true to their obligations and to build the Family Altar. Family worship will undoubtedly be one of the chief factors in developing home religion, but a more or less formal family worship program is far from being sufficient. Family worship will undoubtedly grow out of a well planned

program of home instruction and training.

What is chiefly needed now is a definite program for promoting family religious teaching, and definite assistance to parents who are willing to begin at the beginning and develop their plans in practical and helpful ways.

Not long ago an officer of the Woman's Auxiliary in one of our larger churches expressed herself as being anxious to find a place of real practical service in the educational work of her church. She is a woman of fine consecration and unusual gifts and training, and her position in the Woman's Auxiliary is that of Secretary of Young People's Work. In addition to her co-operation with other religious agencies, such as the Sunday School and the Christian Endeavor Society, and the work she might do in developing a corps of trained leaders, the suggestion was made to her that she might present and emphasize the need of home religious training in connection with her talks to the different circles of the Auxiliary. After some consideration of its scope and importance, and the fine literature which is rapidly accumulating on this subject, she became enthusiastic about it and said that she expected to take this as her chief objective at least for the coming year. After all, what more desirable or attractive objective could be suggested to the consecrated ability of many of our Auxiliary leaders?

The Educational Department of the Presbyterian Committee of Publication, to which promotion of home religion was committed by the last General Assembly, will be furnishing definite material along this line from time to time. Some of the things which must be taken into consideration in the beginning and which should engage the prayer and thought of pastors and church leaders, as well as parents are as follows:

1. The developing of religious influence and atmosphere in the home. This is, of course, not a matter of pro-

gram or schedule, but will require attention and study nevertheless. The whole realm of conversation and conduct in the home is involved. Parents must be brought to face the matter of their influence in table talk, topics of conversation, reading material, social life and recreation, and the whole range of conduct which so inevitably exhibits our deeper convictions and traits of character. Parents should undoubtedly talk together about their home habits and their relationship to their children in the general conduct of the home.

2. Religious instruction in the home. This introduces a duty which many parents have not heretofore faced, as they have thought of the pulpit and the Sunday School and other church agencies as being almost exclusively responsible for the religious teaching of their children. On the other hand, the home because of its many advantages in having the children during the most teachable years of youth can not escape chief responsibility for instruction in God's Word and the great doctrines of the Church. Parents will need to study child development and methods of instruction suited to the different ages in order that they may well perform the duty which God has put upon them. Programs for home teaching which shall be supplementary to the teaching work of the Sunday School will be worked out in the near future.

3. Development of prayer life and devotional attitudes. This is a most attractive and natural field of service for parents and one which they can most easily approach effectively with a minimum of special training. Yet there is much of great interest and vital value in literature which is now available along this line.

4. The recognition and use of Christian principles in matters of parental discipline, conduct control, etc. Even Christian parents are much inclined to depend upon their natural parental instincts in meeting problems of this kind. They must be guided into a

careful thinking through of all such matters in the light of approved educational principles and the teaching of God's Word rightly understood.

Included in the program of religious teaching and training in the home, as well as the creating of a wholesome Christian atmosphere, will be the memorizing of scripture and catechisms, the teaching and singing of the great hymns of the Church, the discussion in a natural and informal way of the great essentials of our Christian faith, and their bearing on every detail of our lives. The program of family worship is a matter of sufficient importance to be considered in a separate discussion.

Some helpful material can now be furnished on this and the whole matter of home religious training, and a list of suggested books will be furnished at the end of this article.

We have just had the pleasure of looking over some of the Beginners Bible Stories which are now being prepared by Miss Elizabeth McE. Shields, and we can not refrain from mentioning some of the helpful material which is furnished in the Beginners Bible Stories for parents under the heading of "Home Responsibility Hints." These are very practical and attractive, and in addition a bedtime story is suggested in each of the leaflets. Some of the hints have to do with such things as making the family worship helpful to little folks; teaching children to pray rather than to say prayers; suggestions for teaching stories to children in the home; training children to love the best in music and art; teaching children to love the truth; the proper exercise of authority; the power of example, and many other fine suggestions. All of our Sunday School literature will seek more and more to take home teaching into consideration. This, of course, has always been the ideal and aim of our editors. Lists of good books on home training furnished in our Sunday School periodicals and leaflets.