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THE PARABLE OF THE BUSINESS GIRL

JULIA LAKE SKINNER



A certain business girl on a half holiday went down from her office to the church and fell among some ladies of an Auxiliary circle who immediately demanded reasons for her long absence from their meetings, not considering that her work interfered with attendance at the regular afternoon hour. They

women return to their homes. This gives the regular circles in turn an opportunity for constructive service in preparing a simple, hot supper to be served at cost in the church. If this is not practical, tea and sandwiches could be served in the different homes of the women each one taking her turn as hostess. One circle found that by using white paper tablecloths (gladly furnished free of charge by the newspaper office in their city) paper plates and cups, that a dainty lunch could be prepared in a few hours with no work to be done afterwards. This will afford a relaxation and a social fellowship which can be secured in no other way. Fun, friendship, faith are the three "F's" which will make fellowship impossible.

wounded her feelings and departed, leaving her sore at heart.

And by chance there came by a certain other circle that way and when they saw the business girl, they said, "She is not a member of our Auxiliary. She has no part with us in our wonderful woman's work." And they passed by on the other side giving her no chance to explain and robbing her of her enthusiasm.

And likewise came also the third circle to the place and looked upon the girl and when they saw her they said, "How wise of the other circles to leave her alone, for verily we have no time to gain the co-operation of the business women of our church." And they, too passed by on the other side, leaving her half dead.

But a certain woman of vision as she journeyed towards the Eternal City, came where the business woman was lying, and when she saw her she loved her and went to her and bound up her wounds, pouring in understanding and sympathy and friendliness and put her in her own automobile and brought her to her own home and there gave her some of her own vision.

And on the morrow a Business Woman's Circle was organized, with the business girl as leader and her friends as enthusiastic members.

Which now of these women, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto the business girl that fell among the Circles?

Go And Do Thou Likewise!

May the readers of this little parable be like the Good Samaritan woman who had a vision of the possibilities wrapped up in the business women of her church. In almost every Auxiliary there is a group of earnest minded, capable women, who, because of business hours find it impossible to attend the regular circle meetings. Because of continued absence, their names are gradually dropped from active membership, and thus are lost many Christian leaders and a vast amount of spiritual power.

This circle is a unit of the local Auxiliary, run on the same basis as other circles except that the membership remains practically the same each year. The leaders, however, are elected annually, and the time of meeting is arranged to suit the convenience of the members, regardless of the regular meetings of the other circles. Most churches find that the preferable hour is just after work in the evening, before the business

The Chairman of the Social Committee can make good use of this half hour spent at the table. "Get acquainted" contests, games of "Gossip," songs, stunts, stories, dinner speeches from invited visitors, a short musical program—something unexpected, adds zest to the appetite and rests the mind in preparation for the meeting to follow. A song contest was held by the members of one such circle and a prize awarded to the member composing the most appropriate circle song.

So hearty was the response that a small book of original songs was published by them, and have been of wide use throughout the church. A few of these songs are given, in the hope that Business Women of other circles will see fit to express their overflowing enthusiasm by original songs of praise.

PRIZE SONG: JUST LIKE A GYPSY.

*Just like a Gypsy
We've searched for earthly bliss,
Watching and waiting
For something just like this,
Hoping that some day our luck would break,
Wandering, squandering our time on some mistake.
But now that we've found this
We need never wander more,
We've found the Circle
That we've been looking for,
With eats we may grow tipsy,
Like a Gypsy would do.
Searching church and store
Till we hit the door
Right straight to you.*

TUNE: MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN.

*The Business Girl's Circle is dandy,
The Business Girl's Circle is fine.*

*The Business Girl's Circle is candy,
The Business Girl's Circle is mine.*

*Bring one, Bring one, Oh! bring all
Your friends to this treat, this treat.
Tell them, tell them, Oh tell them
Where the Business Girls meet.*

The following is the best menu served at one of these suppers. Such a combination of spiritual food mixed

with good bread and butter will furnish wholesome nourishment for both body and soul:

"THE BEST MENU FOR CHRISTIAN BUSINESS WOMEN."

Price List—See Isa. 55:1.

(No change in price in 2,000 years)

Testimony of an old patron-----Job 23:12.
A Tasty Food -----Psalms 119:103.
A Joy-Bringing Food -----Jer. 15:16.
A Satisfying Food -- -----John 6:35.
Drink: *Water From the Best Well.* John 4:13, 14.
(This food to be served for one hour once a month beginning -----).

Will You Come and Eat With Us?
Remember John 6:54-57.

It Pays To Advertise! A successful Business Woman's Circle mailed to every other business woman in the church and many not in any church a "cable-gram" which asked "Have you a mirror at home? Do you ever look in it? If you do, you will see an exact likeness of the one we want to join our Business Women's Circle. Date. Location. Come and bring your business friend with you." Small cards, just the size to fit in shopping bags were printed with the announcement of the new circle to be organized, and an invitation to all Business Women of the church to belong. These were distributed among the members of the other circles, with the request that they personally hand this invitation to the business women whom they met in the stores and offices. Names and addresses accompanied the request, and the result was a hearty response on the part of the business women and a real interest and responsibility awakened in the other circles for the success of this new enterprise in the auxiliary. Prayer groups were voluntarily formed by them. Knowing that "prayer is work. Prayer leads to work. Prayer works!" they prayed and their prayers worked and there was set to work a new circle, assuming its share of the responsibility in the whole work of the whole church for the whole world.

Since the membership in this circle will remain practically unchanged for the addition of other women as they enter the business world, it is wise to rotate the interests of the circle each year to correspond with the work of the other circles and of the church at large, e. g. a responsibility assumed for the work of Assembly and Local Home Missions one year, with an intensive study of the Home Mission Text Book; the next year, con-

centration upon the work in the Foreign Field studying the latest literature upon the subject. Studies in Christian Stewardship; a series of practical Bible lessons, Parliamentary law, the clothing and education of some worthy boy or girl, the assumption of the responsibility for the help or support of some local religious institution—all these in turn, are worthy of claiming the whole-hearted interest and energies of the membership.

Remember that "ritualism" is as detrimental to Christian service as ritualism. Bear in mind the arithmetical formula that "information plus inspiration multiplied by perspiration (hard work) equals consummation."

Get your "information" by reading the SURVEY and the Auxiliary page in the church papers. These give wonderful new suggestions. Keep up with the literature sent from Auxiliary headquarters, and our Foreign and Home Mission offices. They are wide-awake and will wake you up, too! Send a delegate to the Woman's School of Missions at Montreat. This is a wonderful place and a wonderful way for a business woman to spend her vacation.

The "inspiration" comes from the awakened spiritual resources of the women, giving expression through the devotional period of the circle meeting. Let these be led by the business women themselves, each one eventually being given this opportunity. A devotional chairman should be elected to arrange for this, notifying the leaders well in advance and planning with them new and different ways to make this part of the program especially helpful. The use of prayer songs, "More Holiness Give Me," "Open Mine Eyes That I may See," "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," is suggested with a short sentence prayer before each verse asking for the petition contained therein, and followed by the prayer verse sung with bowed heads by the whole circle. For example:

- (a) Short prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the King, whose we are and whom we serve, introducing
- (b) First verse of "Come Thou, Almighty King," sung softly with bowed heads as in prayer, followed by
- (c) Prayer for greater reverence and love for the Word of God, introducing
- (d) Second verse "Come Thou Incarnate Word," sung as prayer, followed by
- (e) Sentence prayer that the Holy Spirit may take entire possession of our hearts, followed by
- (f) Third verse "Come Holy Comforter" sung as prayer, etc.

Such songs as "Sweet Hour of Prayer" are very effective played softly on the piano without singing while silent prayer is engaged in by the circle members, the

Is YOUR Auxiliary Giving a
HOME COMING PARTY
In honor of
MISS TRAINING SCHOOL of RICHMOND, VIRGINIA?

words of a song, sometimes read, not sung, impress their meaning upon the heart in a new way. To carry out the idea of a "circle" the chairs could be arranged in a circle, the membership holding hands and having an unbroken circle of sentence prayers, each member having been given a special object for which to pray. Scripture prayers are always appropriate and are good stepping-stones for timid members, leading to voluntary prayer. The use of the Church Calendar of Prayer opens up vast possibilities for the awakening of world-wide interests and the making of world citizens. Missionary quotations and the use of favorite Bible verses, or verses beginning with the initials of the names of members also vary the devotionals and give added interest to the meeting. This should be made a real worship program constructive as well as instructive, for it is the key to the spirit of the whole meeting. Visiting missionaries, Auxiliary secretaries and church leaders should be used occasionally to bring inspirational and informational addresses, but on the whole the greatest spiritual results will come from the consecrated lives of the earnest Christian workers within the circle.

These things require the third portion of our formula—hard work. Maltby D. Babcock's definition of Growth is
G o
R ight
O n
W orking

Another sure way to grow is to "grasp and glow." Grasp the vision. Glow over the possibilities involved in it; be enthusiastic about it; tell others of it; above all else, pray for it. And then will come the consummation. The work which has been so prayerfully planned, and the plan which has been so carefully worked will issue in more consecrated lives, and more efficient Christian service among the business women of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

SOME PRACTICAL THINGS BUSINESS WOMEN'S CIRCLES ARE DOING.

- Education of a girl in a Mountain School.
- A Scholarship in Tuscaloosa School for Negro girls (\$100).
- White Cross work. Making bandages for Foreign Mission Hospitals.
- Support of an Out-Station in Africa.
- Scholarship for Indian girl in Oklahoma Presbyterian College.
- Establishment of a loan fund for members of the circle who needed assistance.
- Making baby clothes for Visiting Nurses' Association.
- Making aprons for children of Free Kindergarten.

THE WOMAN'S SUMMER SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

MONTREAT, JULY 10-11, 1924.

A fine program is prepared for the hundreds of women who gather each year at the Montreat School of Missions.

Mrs. E. L. Russell, Field Secretary of the Assembly's Training School, known and loved throughout the church, will conduct the Bible study period.

Miss Anna Milligan, Educational Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church, will lead the study of "Ming Kwong"—the interdenominational book on China.

Miss Katie Belle Baney, Bible Teacher and Home Mission worker of Charleston, West Virginia, will present the text book "The Romance of Home Missions" by Dr. S. L. Morris.

Mrs. C. S. Shawhan will teach Parliamentary law.

Mrs. Henry Lane Schmelz, of Hampton, Virginia, will have charge of the music.

Practical demonstrations of successful methods of Auxiliary work will have a place on the program.

Leading speakers will give inspiring addresses at the night meetings, and pageantry and social gatherings will add zest to the days of the Conference.

For further information, address

MRS. W. C. WINSBOROUGH,
273-277 Field Building, St. Louis, Mo.



Mrs. Albert R. Bauman, Montreat, N. C., who departed this life at the Asheville hospital, March 5, 1924.

Mrs. Bauman was known and loved by hundreds of women all over the Church, who came to know her through her sweet singing on the platform of the Montreat conferences.

Mrs. Bauman was the wife of A. R. Bauman, Secretary of the Montreat Association. Before her marriage she was the soloist in the First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Va., from which city she came as a bride to Montreat in 1914. She is survived by her husband and two small children.