

# OUR HOME FIELD

VOLUME XIII.  
NUMBER 10.

Published Monthly by Home Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention.

ATLANTA, GA.  
MAY, 1902.

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Miss Buhlmaier, Baltimore.—Your request to give you some incidents from the landing was not forgotten, and while there is an abundance of material to do so, there is not an abundance of time.

I have just received news of a family which it was my privilege to assist upon their arrival here, and believing it will be interesting to you, will try to tell their story. Last summer I met a company of Germans from Russia en route to Michigan. They were poor, not even having sufficient to live upon while traveling thither. We provided them with necessities, and helped them to the train, etc. Before parting, it was learned that they had found the Lord which caused us to rejoice. We were in communication ever since, and thus learned of the sad fact that one of the men, father of three little ones died, and left his wife here as a stranger to provide a living for her little ones.

About a month ago she wrote to tell me that her sister with her six children would shortly arrive in Baltimore, asking that I would look after them and do for them as I had done for them. (The husband and father of this large family was one of the party mentioned above, who had arrived last summer.)

The steamer was out longer than was expected, and so it happened that a meeting in which I was to take part came on the same day as the arrival of the steamer. I had to attend that meeting, and could not be at the pier just as the steamer came, but hurried to get there as soon as possible. The first thing after reaching the pier was to look after this particular family. I found them locked up in the "detention room" because they had no money for their journey. After application to the commissioner, we soon had them released and ready to proceed on their way. A telegram was also sent to notify the relatives of their arrival. But now listen to a few lines which I will put in English from the letter just received.

"Oh, how we wished that you were present to witness the great joy upon the arrival of our people. The joy experienced cannot be expressed. The pastor came early in the morning with the telegram announcing their arrival and we all proceeded to the railroad station and waited for the train. Such shouting and rejoicing when we saw each other as the train pulled in! The children do not get tired speaking of the good lady that helped them. 'O papa, just think, we would not have seen you, if it had not been for that good, good lady. They held us up when we came to Baltimore, but when we heard some one asking for Mrs. M., we already felt happy for we thought, now some one has come to take us to our papa, but oh, we had to ride, and ride and ride. Oh papa, you were so far away from us. But now we have you back again, and it is all because of that lady.'"

Since the arrival of these people last month, it was my privilege to help another in just the same way, which is not a little thing in their mind, as you have seen from the above.

A few days ago I visited the out-going steamer. It was a bitter cold day and there were not many passengers.

I now turned to find the only woman passenger on board. Oh, it was so sad to listen to her story. A maiden lady in her seventy-first year and partially paralyzed, she came to this country twelve years ago, to make her home with a married sister, who lived in W—. All went well until the sister died and the widower married the second time. The new wife did not care to be burdened with the old Auntie, and so they decided to engage passage and send her back from where she came. It seemed so hard, almost cruel. Of course we must not judge, but certain it is her lot is not an easy or pleasant one. Her faith in God seemed very faint and dim, which only adds to her misery. How glad I was that I could bring her a message of good news of One who never fails and never forsakes, but who always loves and upholds. The poor old soul nestled to my bosom and wept bitterly while she exclaimed: "Is it possible to find such kindness in a stranger?" Kindness, sympathy—what a long way they can travel! Wonderful!

Rev. J. V. Cova, Matanzas, Cuba, writes as follows:

\*\*\* There is a special case now at hand for me, on which I should be glad to hear your opinion. There are some evangelists at Jaruco, a small town between Havana and Matanzas, who have begun, some two years ago, a gospel unsupported work there, and another at Madruga, another small town near the limits of the Province of Matanzas. They invited me to go to the latter place to make wedding, as they are not registered at the Civil Government as regular ministers. I went on the 15th inst. and before making the matrimony, I preached, on request of the worker who was with me there. As soon as I had finished, the Roman Priest of the town, who was hearing me in the outside, began addressing the people who had gathered in the street, in the most violent language, calling us by the most ugly names, and insulting us awfully. He said, among many other things, that we Protestants were cursed of God, and had come to Cuba to work in favor of annexation, for enslaving the Cuban people to the chain of a hateful stranger, and he concluded by appealing to the patriots and to the colored people, for siding with him to expel from their town the abominable disciples of the devil, etc. He finished his wrathful speech and went away, but the people rushed again to the porch of the mission to see the matrimony, which had been left for the last of our meeting. I made it, trying to impress the mind of that people with the exceptional solemnity I gave to the ceremony. They were orderly and attentive, and when everything was over, retired without any disturbance. Then the priest sent against us a band of negro boys with tin boxes and horns, making a great noise and crying, in order to frighten us, and make us believe that the people were opposed to us, and then manifested their disapproval of our presence. But I noticed that no grown person participated in the peagant, and only those negro boys did the play, whilst everybody were affirming that all that was a trick from the priest to mortify us. All ended with this, and on next morning I came over to Matanzas. Our first thought was to send a communication to the Governor of the Province complaining against the provocation of the priest, and the evident support given him by the local

authorities, who had witnessed the scene without making the least attempt to prevent it; but just at that moment I had the pen for writing it, a young lady of that gospel band, who was with us there, asked us the question that if we had well thought of what we were going to do, trusting more in the arm of flesh than in the arm of God, and asking us to pray before taking any step, and wait for inspiration; so we did, and after very fervent prayers, the Word of God was read, at the 37th Psalm, 1-7, and then Mr. Paine, the evangelist, said: "The notification is already made; we have sent it to our Omnipotent Lord; no other will be presented."

I have never seen in my life such a perfect surrender and trust in God. I was full of admiration, and participated of his faith. He must be believed.

But now, yesterday morning, that same man came to see me here, and told me that he had been called from the U. S. to enter a seminary, and follow his theological studies, and that he had prayed for his work in Madruga and had felt the inspiration to come to me, and offer me it. He wished me to go now and then and preach there, and they will go on paying the rent of the chapel and my fare for going and returning. All this without any compromise on my part, and whenever I would feel inclined to do it. I found no word of opposition in my lips for refusing, and felt it was He who was in all this. What do you think of these things?

REV. W. H. KUYKENDALL, Hobart, Oklahoma: Hobart, Okla., is only seven months old and has between four and five thousand inhabitants. The City Council has let the contract for, and they are now at work putting in electric lights, water works \$130,000, oil mills, etc. Five other denominations got the start of the Baptists here.

The writer has been pastor here one month, and we have organized a Sunday-School, a B. Y. P. U., a prayer-meeting, and we are now taking preliminary steps to build a four or five thousand dollar brick church house. They have built a pastor's home and now use it for a church house.

REV. J. B. BROCK, Opelousas, La: Enclosed you will please find my report for the quarter ending Jan. 31, 1902. We have accomplished but little in this quarter; but we are earnestly endeavoring to preach Christ in this intensely Catholic town. Our congregation is small and our growth here, because of Catholic influence, will be necessarily slow. We ask an interest in your prayers that God will bless our work, and may the Lord bless you in yours.

REV. M. T. WHITE, Wichita Falls, Texas: I have just returned from a trip in the Comanche country that has recently been opened to a settlement. I find a great destitution. Other denominations are taking the field, but in the country there is but little or no Baptist preaching. The towns have some preaching. There are families living on most every quarter section. We must take hold of the work, or the field is lost to us.

"I gave my life for thee,  
My precious blood I shed,  
That thou might'st ransom be,  
And quickened from the dead;  
I gave, I gave my life for thee,  
What hast thou giv'n for me?"



# OUR HOME FIELD.

PUBLISHED ONCE A MONTH BY THE

**HOME MISSION BOARD**

—OF THE—

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.**

722-723-724 Austell Bldg. - ATLANTA, GA.

ATLANTA LITHO. & PRINT. CO. ATLANTA.

**Subscription Price 10 Cents per Year.**

Fifty copies or more mailed in one wrapper, to one address, 5 cents per copy, per year.

Subscriptions payable invariably in advance.

To any one sending ten subscriptions at 10 cents each, or fifty, to one address at 5 cents each, we will send one copy free.

**REMITTANCES:** We have to pay exchange on checks drawn on all points except Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta and Covington, Ga., and Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York or Boston.

Subscribers who can not send checks on one of these points are requested to remit by Registered Letter, Express, or Postoffice Orders. Small amounts may be sent in stamps.

Address all remittances to **OUR HOME FIELD, Atlanta, Ga.**

Entered at the Postoffice at Atlanta, Ga., for transmission at Second Class Rates.

## REPORT TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

I will make this week my first report to the Southern Baptist Convention as Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Board. It will not be easy for those unacquainted with such duty to realize the responsibility I have felt in this matter. It is so difficult to put in cold type the wonderful work that God has given into our hands. The short paragraphs necessary about each department to bring the report within the compass of reasonable size has seemed to me literally to belittle the noble enterprises represented by it; and the statistical tables, which present the number of sermons, religious visits, prayer-meetings and such services, seem so cold and inadequate to a just representation of the noble work being done by the devoted men and women who are out in the open field in hot conflict with sin. As these have been in process of preparation, your Secretary has felt, oh that he could make these few lines and these figures breathe. Suppose we could follow any one of these several hundred missionaries, and actually enter into the experiences of his heart and life as he goes in the service of his Master day by day through a long year. ~~Or if we could go~~ to the humble home and sit down with his wife and children and have them tell us all their experiences while the husband and father has been gone to preach.

There is a just and noble sympathy with our foreign missionaries when they leave home, kindred and loved ones, and go away to another nation to preach the Gospel; but who has had a just appreciation of the home missionary who, with limited salary and unromantic routine of constant toil, labored in the unpromising fields in our own

land. Will you kindly remember that a missionary rarely, if ever, has a good place. It is always the hard places to which missionaries are sent. They go where there are no churches, or where the churches are declined and where there are difficulties and troubles among the church members, and in places where lawlessness abounds, either in large cities destitute of the Gospel and abounding in godlessness, or in the districts of country where religion is unpopular. The missionary is so often regarded as an intruder, and sometimes is even told to attend to his own business, when he is consuming his very life and heart attending to his Master's business, made his own by his consecration of life to service.

I have tried to make an honest report, setting forth in the simplest language and without glare or glamour the real and true condition of all the affairs connected with our work. All through its lines you may read, if you like, the painful feeling of inadequacy of the work done to the demands and possibilities of the fields of our labor. It is little wonder that a Board sometimes speaks as if it was impatient at the progress made in our denomination, and it would not be strange if the men who think of these things constantly should look longingly toward the churches who, through their Convention, have set them forward to manage this work.

"Happily Forward" is our motto, believing with all our hearts in the purpose of God, and joyfully contemplating the steady, though seemingly slow growth, of the spirit of missions in the churches, and determining, by the grace of God, to make the very best use possible of what we have and thereby give the highest possible encouragement to increase our means of usefulness.

Let us one and all bless God for our churches, for their vast number, and for their noble membership, their powerful and devoted pastors, and thank God that the Kingdom is coming and each one of us strive to do his duty, looking unto Jesus, "who for the joy set before Him endureth the cross despising the shame," taking comfort from his love and strength from his courage, seek with all our hearts to do his will.

## WORK AMONG THE NEGROES.

Our work among the colored people is possibly the most difficult of any that we attempt. It is so hard to do good without doing harm. If there were seven million Negroes in Africa who could speak English and were as well acquainted with the Bible and numbered as many good preachers and true Christians as we believe are among the same number living throughout our country, and this end had been reached by mission work, we would regard it the most phenomenal and glorious of all mission work.

Slavery has always been regarded as a humiliation and extreme hardship upon any people. For one man to be in bondage to another is regarded a degradation, and of course in many respects it does degrade, but the most far reaching and immediately glorious blessing that ever could have happened to the Negroes was their importation into this country. Of course no one will doubt that their presence here in such numbers without the bondage, if it could have been had without the dire conflict of the races, might have been better still, but that could not have been. The strongest tie that exists between the two races today is the tender memories between "Master" and "slave," and if the memory of those days were removed there would be a painful situation confronting us. The Southern white people have never been unconcerned about the spiritual welfare of the Negro. Our Home Mission Board in its work among them at the present is fulfilling the demand of the good wishes of the noble Christian people who have desired their welfare and sought their best good through all the years. We have made many earnest efforts to do them the most good possible. We cannot send white men as missionaries among the Negroes, and we have not found it best generally to send Negro men as missionaries to them. It is not in accordance with their natures to receive and be profited by either. We have fallen on this method and find it to work most happily. Good Negro men are secured in each State who superintend institutes and rally meetings, in which are gathered the preachers and deacons and Sunday-School workers for instruction for short periods. In addition to this we have secured the services of some of the best Negro women to organize women's missionary societies among them and institute and encourage, so far as practicable, religion in the homes.

The Home Mission Society has good schools situated within reach of all the Negroes in the South who may be inclined and able to secure educational advantages. Besides those, our State governments are furnishing all the Negroes within school age with primary education. This leaves to us the most desirable of all the opportunities of helpfulness to them, to go directly to the betterment of their religious life in the homes and in the churches, and this we mean to do while it seems to result in the good which it now promises.

## SERMONS TO CHILDREN.

Our versatile young brother, C. A. G. Thomas, of Sanford, N. C., has compiled a little book of sermons delivered on Sunday evenings to the Orphans Home children at Thomasville, N. C., that will be found bright and helpful to the children. He has laid tribute on needles, pins, postage stamps and such common everyday articles of constant use to illustrate and impress the sweet simple truths of the Gospel.

Send him 50c and he will furnish you with a copy of the book.



# WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Auxiliary to S. B. C.

304 North Howard Street, BALTIMORE, MD.

Motto: GO FORWARD.

MISS ANNIE W. ARMSTRONG, Editor.

## GOOD WORDS FROM WELL-KNOWN WRITERS.

The cords of enterprise by which the gospel is to be carried to the ends of the earth are woven out of the very fibres of human hearts. You can not make them out of gold and silver, or braid them out of commercial interests, or twist them out of public enthusiasm. They are woven on the loom of personal consecration in the secret place with God.—*Rev. A. T. Pierson.*

Be the willing wires, the live wires along which may run the power of God to every part of our organization.—*F. E. Clark, D. D.*

He who gives the commission *always* gives opportunities of exercising it, but it is our part faithfully to seek and watch for these, and courage and faith will increase as they widen.—*F. R. Havergal.*

We have it in our power to put untold gladness and help into the lives that every day touch ours. We can do it by learning the divine lesson of service and by regarding every person as one to whom we are sent.—*J. R. Miller, D. D.*

In our great cities are multitudes, many times five thousand, who spiritually are starving in a desert place. Christ's command is, "Give ye them to eat."—*Josiah Strong, D. D.*

The greatest foes of missions are prejudice and indifference, and ignorance is mother of them both.

"I need thee," hear the Master say,  
As to the work he calls to-day,  
"The work is great, the workers few  
And I've some work for thee to do."

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

David's appeal "Magnify the Lord and let us exalt His name together" is the thought of our hearts as we look forward to the 14th Annual Meeting of Woman's Missionary Union. "The good hand of God" has led Southern Baptist women into many paths of usefulness as helpers together for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, and precious is the opportunity of coming together annually to review the past, to profit by the experience of others, and to plan for the future.

As usual, the Annual Meeting W. M. U. will be held in connection with the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets this year at Asheville, North Carolina. The place selected is First Baptist Church, corner of College and Spruce streets, three and a half blocks from Convention Hall, and connected by street cars. The first session of the Woman's Missionary Union will be held Friday, May 9th, at A. M.

The Committee of Arrangements for W. M. U. of which Mrs. J. H. Tucker, of Asheville, is Chairman, is doing all in its power for the success of the meeting. Much attention has been given to details which help to make everything move smoothly, and to the pleasure of expected visitors. The Reception Committee—Mrs. G. A. Shuford, Chairman—has arranged for social enjoyment at a reception to be given the delegates in the parlors of the Battery Park Hotel.

The Constitution of Woman's Missionary Union provides for eight delegates from each State, besides the Vice President, and General Officers. Other workers and friends are urged to be present, if possible, and will be cordially welcomed.

For convenience of those who will attend the Convention and Annual Meeting W. M. U., the Board of Trade of Asheville has published a very

helpful directory containing list of hotels and boarding houses, their rates, location, number that can be accommodated, etc., and also a map of the city. Directory and map may be obtained by writing to Mrs. J. H. Tucker, Box 583, Asheville, North Carolina.

In making announcements bearing upon the Annual Meeting, it is appreciated that comparatively few members of Societies throughout our Southland will go to Asheville, yet we remember that it is within their power to contribute towards the success of the meeting. Most earnestly do we ask that those who remain will pray for divine guidance to be given their representatives, for it is "Not by might, nor by power but by Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts" that we are fitted for the work.

## JOTTINGS FROM TRIP OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY W. M. U. TO GEORGIA, ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, FLORIDA.

Leaving Baltimore February 24, before reaching Mobile, Alabama, we were delayed twice—once for eight, again fifteen hours—because of heavy rains. Delays occasioned by rains and wash-outs continued, even in Florida we experienced the delights of a drenching deluge of southern rain in which umbrellas were of slight service. But, when we left the land of Flowers all nature was beautiful, bright, fragrant, and in keeping with the warm weather, thin white dresses were being worn. Great was the change on arrival in Baltimore. It was unusually cold, damp and disagreeable for the season, and though the store windows were bright with summer finery, the heavy apparel of winter was seen on the street. The Corresponding Secretary W. M. U. found furs necessary to personal comfort.

During 21 days absence from Baltimore, 3,300 miles were travelled, 17 places visited, and 26 times we had the privilege of addressing meetings.

In Louisiana, we expected to visit two places. Having been prevented from going to but two on account of storms, we were much relieved to learn that the President of the Central Committee had reached these points and held the meetings without us.

At a R. R. junction where we were forced to remain several hours through the breaking down of an engine, we learned incidentally that the young girl in charge of the lunch counter was a Baptist. She seemed pleased to talk of missions and promised to organize a Society.

The outlook is brighter for mission work in New Orleans, Louisiana. Female missionaries are to be appointed in connection with the four white churches of that city. Miss Georgia Barnett is the first one appointed.

In Pensacola, Florida, we were surprised to see a Norwegian church which is supported by the Norwegian government.

At Tampa, Florida, we had the pleasure of being entertained by the sister of Miss Mary Taylor, our missionary in Cuba.

What an inspiration to service there is in the thought of obstacles overcome by some in order to attend meetings! Workers came not only from the immediate neighborhood, but from distant points, some as far as sixty miles. One who was to be married the next day drove thirteen miles to be present at the meeting. A wife of a Florida missionary came bringing her ten months old baby. Another mite of seven weeks was in the arms of its mother, for she felt impelled to embrace this opportunity of learning more of the Master's work. An old lady of seventy-two years celebrated her birth-day by coming to the meeting and seemed so happy because of it.

Meetings with children were very delightful. One little fellow in attendance on a spiritual, practical meeting remarked: "It was the biggest thing out."

The privilege of coming in closer touch with State officers, of seeing the earnest, practical

efforts that are being made for the success of the work, of knowing meetings had been well worked up preparatory to our coming, of helping to the extent of ability, was ample compensation for all discomforts of travel.

Four times unexpectedly the door of opportunity was opened, and we addressed meetings of Colored women, once in Louisiana, three times in Florida. They seemed deeply interested in facts given them regarding the work of the Woman's Aux. National Baptist Convention (Colored) and appreciated the help which is being extended by Southern Baptists. A few leaders among the Colored people who had seen us in attendance upon the meeting in Cincinnati, were specially appreciative of interest in them.

A telegram announcing the illness of a member of the family made it necessary to leave Florida sooner than we had anticipated. Though the trip had been unusually trying because of heavy rains and neuralgic pain, we greatly regretted that all engagements could not be filled. Among many delightful memories of this visit, not the least are those of the warm hospitality everywhere extended, the assurances from individuals and Societies of renewed consecration to the great work which has been entrusted to Woman's Missionary Union Aux. S. B. C. In thinking of the friends and co-laborers whom we had the pleasure of meeting, our heart's desire for each is "The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee."

## WAYS OF HELPING, The Missionary Cause.

(Continued.)

21. Have at your church a union meeting once a year with the missionary societies of all the evangelical churches of the place. Many new ideas can be thus obtained.
22. Spend less money for the nonessentials of life and more in the purchase of missionary tracts.
23. Distribute these tracts in the Sabbath school.
24. Send them off in private letters.
25. Subscribe to Our Home Field and Foreign Mission Journal.
26. Lend missionary papers when done with them.
27. Take an afternoon in which to canvass for subscribers to the missionary periodicals.
28. Give a year's subscription of a missionary paper to some needy member in the church.
29. Place a bound volume of some missionary magazine or paper in the Sunday school library.
30. Solicit missionary books or funds with which to purchase such for a circulating library for the society.
31. Save all the clippings you can find which would be profitable to read aloud in the meetings.
32. Write on cards or slips of paper any scriptural quotation or remark of any author concerning missions for the same purpose.
33. Interest the committee on purchase of Sunday school books to choose as many missionary books as possible.
34. Ask each Sunday school class to contribute the funds for and to buy a new book for the library in the interest of missions.
35. Give mission books as rewards to Sabbath school scholars.
36. Offer rewards to all scholars in the school for essays on such objects as these: "What the Bible says about Missions," "Why I should help in the Missionary Work," etc. Give each competitor a reward.
37. Ask some singer of the church to meet all the children of the Sabbath school at certain times to teach them missionary songs.
38. Help the pastor as far as practical in securing large missionary collections.
39. Have a Thank Offering Day. Prepare interesting exercises for this time.
40. Make the society's president or the pastor's wife a life member of the Missionary Society.



