

# THE FORWARD MOVEMENT



The Board of Missions of the  
Protestant Episcopal Church  
281 Fourth Avenue, New York

# The Forward Movement

## HOW IT ORIGINATED

**T**HE Cincinnati General Convention was dominated by a sense of unity in one blood, and that more vital unity which springs from our fellowship in the Gospel and our share in One Living Christ. Differences of party, of section, even of nationality, were relegated to their proper place, and as a natural consequence the record of the Convention shows that it was a Convention of missionary progress.

The Convention plainly expected that the members of the Church would gladly undertake great things for God. Accordingly it instructed its Board of Missions to perfect plans for enlarging the missionary staff. It recommended that throughout the Church men be enlisted in diocesan and congregational committees for Church Extension. It created five new missionary districts — four in the United States and one abroad — and elected six missionary bishops.

The action of the Convention largely increased the obligations of the Church, so that for the fiscal year September 1st, 1910, to August 31st, 1911, they amount to \$1,400,000.

In view of these facts our Board of Missions has called upon all the members of the Church to join in a Forward Movement.

## WHY A FORWARD MOVEMENT IS NEEDED

**T**HE Church is not at present responding adequately to its opportunities at home and abroad. There is scarcely a diocese whose diocesan mission funds are sufficient for the needs.

Much more might be done to extend and establish the Church in the domestic mission field, if more men and money were available. The need for men is quite as urgent as the need for money. The Forward Movement calls for lives as well as dollars.

The missions abroad are under-staffed and for the most part inadequately equipped. The situation is one of critical opportunity. The World Conference in Edinburgh recorded its conviction that "the next ten years will, in all probability, constitute a turning point in human history, and may be of more critical importance in determining the spiritual evolution of mankind than many centuries of ordinary experience. If those years are wasted, havoc may be wrought that centuries are not able to repair. On the other hand, if they are rightly used, they may be among the most glorious in Christian history."

It is evident that to be true to her Leader the Church must go FORWARD. There can be no thought of retreat, no attempt even to "mark time."

## HOW CAN THE FORWARD MOVEMENT BE REALIZED?

**T**HE application of these principles in every congregation will insure the success of the Forward Movement throughout the Church:

1. *Education* in the facts of missions through sermons, addresses, lantern lectures, the circulation of THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS and the distribution of literature.

2. *Intercession* for missions, based on knowledge of the facts, in private devotions and in public worship, especially at the celebration of the Holy Communion.

"Do this in remembrance of Me."

"Go ye into all the world."

"Lo, I am with you alway."

3. *Organization* for the enlistment of men as missionary advocates in order that the responsibility for disseminating information and securing adequate gifts may be shared by many instead of being left entirely with the rector.

4. *A personal presentation* to every member of the congregation of the privilege of sharing in the enterprise.

5. *Giving for the Church's Mission* in the diocesan, domestic and foreign fields, in proportion to the ability of each person, preferably on a weekly basis.

# FEATURE NUMBER ONE

## The Missionary Committee

### The Missionary Committee

This will enlist a group of men who will cooperate with the clergyman in spreading information and urging prayer for missions. It provides an opportunity for effective service and so stimulates the spiritual life of the men composing it. Numbers of men, who two years ago were simply occupying pews in church, are now really working for the Kingdom, as a result of membership in a missionary committee.

For further particulars about the Missionary Committee see Leaflet No. 1108 to be had free from the Board of Missions, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York.

### THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

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1. Divides and locates responsibility
  2. Enlists lay-activity
  3. Reinforces rector's efforts
  4. Challenges study of missions
  5. Provides great opportunity for service
  6. Reaches membership individually
  7. Stimulates spiritual life
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The Rev. J. J. Gravatt, of Holy Trinity, Richmond, Va., says: "The Missions Committee of ten men is a joy and delight to the rector."

# FEATURE NUMBER TWO

## The Every-Member Canvass

**Why a Canvass?** Because this method effectively increases the number of givers. Investigation indicates that not more than one in five of the communicants of a parish usually gives anything at all to further the Church's world-wide Mission.

**Every Man Responsible** The Every-Member Canvass stresses the fact that *every* Christian man, woman and child is responsible for the welfare of the Kingdom. Giving, like prayer, is a grace, and the father cannot exercise this grace for his child, nor the wife and mother for her husband and family. It is, moreover, impossible for a few men or women to discharge the whole missionary obligation of any congregation. The *Every-Member Canvass* is the only way to reach the *entire membership*. No annual collection ever did it or ever will.

**Supplements the Public Appeal** There is great educational value in the Every-Member Canvass, not only for the man whose subscription is sought, but also for the men who do the canvassing. The public appeal with all its advantages is manifestly very inadequate as an educational factor. In some way it must be supplemented, for many questions arise in the minds of the hearers which can never be answered except as opportunity is given in personal conversation.

**The Church's Mission and Spiritual Vitality** The life of the Christian disciple is incomplete unless he has a part in the world-wide work of the Kingdom. The bishops of the Anglican Communion said, at the Lambeth Conference of 1897: "The fulfillment of our Lord's great commission to evangelize all nations is a necessary element in the spiritual life of the Church and of each member of it."

**Reaches Beyond Membership** The Every-Member Canvass reaches beyond the communicants of the congregation, as is demonstrated by the fact that a church in Pennsylvania reports that, as a result of an Every-Member Canvass, there are fifty per cent. more names on the roll of missionary and benevolent subscribers than are on the membership list of the congregation.

# How to Launch an Every-Member Canvass

## *I. Precede it by an Educational Preparation:*

**The Missionary Committee** Let the rector call a few men together informally, at the home of a member of the congregation in order that he may:

1. Explain what he wants to do in arousing and educating the congregation to its missionary privilege and duty.
2. Ask them to help by organizing as a missionary committee.
3. Enlist their coöperation in prayer for the success of the plan.

The preliminary educational work may cover three Sundays and may be planned along these lines:

### FIRST SUNDAY

Sermon on "The Missionary Spirit as Evidence of Loyalty to our Lord." Special emphasis may be laid on what twentieth century Christians owe to the missionary spirit of the past.

A Massachusetts layman wrote recently: "I *do* think more emphasis should be laid on the fact that Missions are not a fad of the bishops and clergy but are established in obedience to our Lord's command to go and teach all nations; That our Church maintains them obediently and that it is the duty of every Churchman to help in this obedience. It is only lately that I have come to see and feel this. It isn't solely the question 'Are you interested in Missions?' but 'Are you doing your duty in obedience to Our Blessed Lord's command?' I am sure that many persons never viewed it in that light."

As the people leave the church let the Missionary Committee hand them copies of Leaflet No. 969.

This method will be found much more effective than scattering the leaflets through the pews.

Leaflet No. 969 and all others mentioned may be obtained from the Board of Missions, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York. It would be well, whenever practicable to make the Missionary Committee responsible for securing these supplies. Let them be encouraged to establish personal communication with their Board of Missions.

### SECOND SUNDAY

Sermon on "The Wide Scope and Varied Character of the Church's Work at Home and Abroad."

As the people leave the church let the Missionary Committee hand them copies of Leaflets No. 978 and 979.

## THIRD SUNDAY

Sermon on "The Value of More Systematic Methods of Missionary Finance as Evidenced by the Experience of the Congregations Adopting Them."

In some places it may be well to consider the possibility and propriety of asking a layman to speak for ten minutes on "Modern World Conditions and Opportunities," or on "The World's Debt to the Missionary." Material for such addresses can be obtained from the 25 cent package of pamphlets to be secured from the Board of Missions.

As the people leave the church let the Missionary Committee hand them copies of Leaflet No. 1105.

### *II. Have a Men's Supper*

WHILE this educational work with the congregation is under way let the Missionary Committee begin plans for a men's supper to be held early in the week after the third Sunday.

**Why a Supper?** It secures larger attendance. Tickets should be prepared, and the committee, with the help of other men should sell the tickets to the men of the congregation.

This will show that others besides the rector and Missionary Committee are interested in the event, and the fact that a committee of prominent men have the tickets on sale is the best kind of advertising.

Pulpit announcements, newspaper advertising and handbills show no adequate results as compared with this method, and have failed repeatedly, even when used persistently, to bring out a worth-while audience.

If rightly handled, the supper will bring out eighty per-cent. of the men of the congregation over eighteen years of age. No other plan will do as well. Attempts to have the men remain after the Sunday services, or to come to a mid-week meeting have invariably failed to produce the results desired.

The supper gives more time for the work of the evening. It can usually be served at 6.30 p. m., and within an hour the tables are practically cleared and the chairman has introduced the first speaker. This leaves time for two or three addresses, a local report, a careful discussion and the adoption of the policy before the time for adjournment.

**It Insures Fellowship** The main object of the supper is not merely to feed men. It is a recognition of the fact that the universal and highest expression of fellowship among the nations of the earth has always been the breaking of bread. Commercial, educational and kindred organizations have

ror years adopted this method of bringing men together when a cordial feeling of fellowship is desired. Cannot the men of the Church show equal judgment in planning for the things of the Kingdom?

**The Novelty Attracts** Men have come and will come to a missionary supper who would not give a second thought to an eight o'clock meeting. Two years of trial in Canada and the United States have abundantly proven that there is practically no city, or town, or local congregation where this feature is not advantageous.

Parish houses, Sunday school rooms, new unoccupied buildings, store-rooms, gymnasiums, armories, hotel dining-rooms, restaurants, department stores and even the crowded city apartment, all have been utilized for this work. A committee of ladies can easily be found who will be glad to do this service for the cause when a caterer cannot be secured.

**Special Preparation for the Supper** Let the rector, in consultation with the Missionary Committee and other leading laymen, talk the matter over and agree upon the main line of campaign. Before the day of the supper, let a card catalogue in duplicate be prepared giving the names and addresses of all the members of the congregation.

Let subscription cards for the canvass be secured from the Board of Missions, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York. Let the order for Duplex Envelopes be sent to the Board, with full particulars as to the number of sets required and when the dating is to begin.

The Board will supply the envelopes free for the first year to any congregation appointing a missionary committee and making the canvass in the manner suggested.

**Essential Features of a Successful Supper** Let the supper be simple and inexpensive. Tickets should be purchased in advance that it may be known how many to provide for. Empty seats chill the spirit of the gathering.

Let cards be printed and placed at each plate bearing the following:

- a. Number of communicants in the congregation.
- b. Amount given preceding year for current expenses.
- c. Amount given preceding year for missions and benevolences in America.
- d. Amount given preceding year for missions abroad.



- e. Per capita gift for missions and benevolences in America.
- f. Per capita gift for missions abroad.

Let the programme be carefully planned. There may be two twenty-minute addresses — at least one of them by a layman — on such topics as "The Urgency and Crisis in the Far East," "What Laymen Can Do for Missions," "Missions and Commerce," "What Prominent Laymen Have Said about Missions," "The Need for Church Extension at Home." Material for such addresses can be secured from the Board of Missions.

Let two or three men be prepared to speak for three minutes each on "Are We Doing All We Can?" and "What Shall We Try to Do?"

Have a free discussion on the importance of every member making some regular contribution, even if necessarily small, to the missionary work of the Church. Subscriptions should not be solicited at the supper.

Let other men be prepared to offer resolutions prepared in advance along the following lines:

1. **RESOLVED:** That this meeting recommends that a determined effort be made to lead the congregation to increase its offerings for the Church's mission work from \$—— given last year to at least \$—— for the present year, and that continued effort be made to secure larger missionary giving from year to year.
2. **RESOLVED:** That with the approval of the parish authorities a canvass of the congregation be made for subscriptions on a weekly basis for the Church's mission work. These offerings to be made preferably through the use of the duplex envelope.
3. **RESOLVED:** That the Missionary Committee which has arranged this meeting be given power to add to its numbers in order that the canvass of the congregation may be immediately undertaken.

Let each of these resolutions be adopted by a rising vote. By that method every one is given an opportunity of recording his personal attitude on the proposal.

**The Canvassing Committee** The Canvassing Committee should have at its disposal the duplicate card index of the names to be canvassed. The Committee should be divided into teams which will go out two by two. The entire constituency should be apportioned among these teams, preferably after reading the lists, in

order that each member of the Committee may indicate the names of those persons whom he can most conveniently see, or with whom he will have the most influence.

Let one set of the cards containing these names be assigned to the men doing the canvassing. Let the corresponding cards be retained by the chairman with a record of the name of the member of the committee to whom they have been assigned.

The canvass should be in person, not by mail, nor by telephone nor by proxy, except where members are out of town, in which event letters have been found useful.

The canvassing should always be for an offering on a weekly basis.

A time limit should be set (say two weeks) for the canvass, and public announcement should be made to the congregation as to the purpose of the canvass before the canvassers begin their work. Let the result of the canvass be announced as soon as it is completed.

**Shall Current  
Expense be  
Included in  
Canvass?**

In the majority of cases current expenses are on a fairly satisfactory basis and in initiating the new plan, it has been thought undesirable to disturb the current expense budget or income.

The canvass has, therefore, as a rule been for missions, sometimes for domestic and foreign (i. e. general) missions, sometimes for diocesan, domestic and foreign. The canvass for missionary offerings on a weekly basis almost always results in larger gifts for current expenses without the necessity for a canvass or other special effort. See page 15.

**The Sub-  
scription  
Card**

The subscription card recommended for use in the Every-Member Canvass will be supplied in any quantity free by the Board of Missions, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York.

**Number of  
Treasurers**

In some congregations there is one treasurer of the parish funds and another treasurer for the missionary funds.

Where the Duplex Envelope is introduced, the amount which has been previously subscribed for current expenses is placed in one end of the envelope and the amount subscribed on the weekly basis for missions in the other end of the envelope. The envelopes are perforated through the center and can readily be torn apart, one end being given to each of the treasurers.

**Should One  
Treasurer  
Handle Both  
Funds?**

Not as a rule. The foregoing plan has proven preferable. The Diocese of Chicago has adopted a canon requiring the appointment of a missionary treasurer for every congregation.

**The Every-  
Member  
Canvass in  
combination  
with the  
Annual  
Offering**

While the annual offering has achieved much in the past, its inadequacy in this present day of missionary opportunity is universally recognized. Thousands of business men over the country have pronounced the Every-Member Canvass for offerings on the weekly basis the best method of missionary finance. Experience has demonstrated that it is the most effective, fair, economical and productive.

Some congregations supplement the weekly offering for missions, by general offerings especially on some of the great festivals of the Christian Year. This plan gives opportunity to those who desire to make special thank-offerings and to any who have been unwilling to adopt the weekly plan.

## Stewardship

**I** WILL place no value on anything I have or may possess except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ.

*David Livingstone*

# FEATURE NUMBER THREE

## The Weekly Offering

### Why a Weekly Offering ?

Every congregation must adopt some method of missionary finance, and might as well have the best. What method of finance has proved the best yet devised in enabling most congregations to provide for their current revenue? The weekly subscription basis, with numbered and dated envelopes in which to pay these subscriptions week by week, has unquestionably proved to be the best method. Why then should we adopt an inferior method for dealing with the missionary finances, by means of which the world is to be evangelized ?

### "Annual Collection" Inadequate

It is difficult to understand how we could ever have fallen into so inadequate a method as an "annual collection" for the propagation of Christ's Kingdom to the ends of the earth. There is only one satisfactory explanation to offer, viz.: that the Church regarded the evangelization of the world as a subordinate issue and not its primary business. Now that a new conception of its duty is beginning to pervade the Church, the "annual collection" is being superseded in some quarters by more reasonable and adequate methods. All kinds of halfway measures have been tried by those who have discovered the weakness of the "annual collection," but none of these has proved satisfactory. Some have tried a semi-annual collection, others a quarterly collection, and still others a monthly plan, but, speaking generally, none are as effective as the ideal plan, viz.: *An offering every week, from every member, according to his ability.*

### Half-way Methods Unsatisfactory

Some who regard the weekly plan as clearly the best method have hoped, by getting a quarterly or monthly plan adopted, to prepare the way for the introduction later of the weekly offering. This is mistaken judgment. There are so many arguments for the weekly method that it is easier and better in every way to come to it directly, instead of experimenting with plans that are at best unsatisfactory.

### Advantages of the Weekly Offering

Many reasons may be given for the weekly offering for the Church's Mission as well as for the current expenses of the congregation.

1. *It is educational.* It keeps the Church's Mission before the people week by week, enlarging their sympathies and promoting spiritual growth.

2. *It enlists a larger number of givers.* Many people with small incomes, ashamed or unable to make their contribution to an annual collection, will give a small amount each week, thereby helping materially to increase the total from the congregation.

3. *It makes possible larger giving,* especially by those of moderate ability. Experience shows that it is as easy to get an average of ten cents a week from an ordinary congregation by the weekly method as it is to get \$1 a year by the old collection plan.

4. *It replenishes the treasury regularly,* thereby saving the Board of Missions from the necessity of borrowing and paying interest on large sums of money, with which to pay the appropriations. During the first four months of the present fiscal year the expenditure was \$460,000, while the income was only \$172,000.

5. *It does not decrease but actually increases* the offerings to current expenses and other benevolences. This has proved to be true in hundreds of cases. It is in perfect harmony with the operation of spiritual law.

6. *It promotes prayer.* Each weekly offering reminds the giver that intercession for the cause should accompany the gift.

Systematic, proportionate, cheerful weekly giving is the most scriptural, fair, business-like, and productive method. Where properly introduced and worked it secures the largest possible educational, financial and spiritual results.

**L**IFE is most worth  
living to him whose  
work is most worth while.

# FEATURE NUMBER FOUR

## The Duplex Envelope

### What the Duplex Is

As the name implies, it is a double envelope. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long, and is securely gummed through the center to form two pockets, each of which is large enough to contain contributions many times larger than the average contributor is willing to give.

The one pocket is used for contributions to defray current expenses; the other for contributions to the benevolent causes.

### Number and Date

The envelopes are numbered so that the name of the contributor need not be written on the envelope. They are dated one for each Sunday of the year and are collated in packages of fifty-two.

### The Carton or Holder

The fifty-two envelopes are enclosed in an attractive and substantial holder which may be hung on the wall in some convenient place where it may always be in sight and never out of mind.

### Envelopes Should be Ordered early

Each set of envelopes is separately printed, numbered and dated. About three weeks is required to fill orders. The envelopes should, therefore, be ordered in advance, in order that they may be ready for the subscribers immediately after the Committee has secured the subscriptions.

### Let Every One Use the Duplex

The number of envelopes need not be limited to the number of subscribers for missionary support. Let the duplex envelopes be used by those who are giving for current expenses only. Sooner or later the challenge and appeal of the missionary end of the envelope will prove irresistible.

Remember that the Board of Missions, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York, will supply free for the first year as many sets as can be advantageously used, to any congregation appointing a missionary committee and making an every-member canvass as outlined in this leaflet.

# HOW THE NEW PLAN WORKS

INCREASE  
IN  
FOREIGN  
MISSIONARY  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
\$ 10,175

INCREASE  
IN  
HOME  
MISSIONARY  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
\$ 14,150

INCREASE  
IN  
RECEIPTS  
FOR  
CONGREGATIONAL  
EXPENSES  
\$ 27,956

It Helps Current Expenses as well as  
Missionary Offerings

An analysis was made of the statistics of eighteen churches where a special effort had been made to secure an increase in subscriptions to *foreign missions*. It was found that while the contributions to foreign missions were almost doubled in the eighteen churches, the increase to foreign missions being \$10,175, the increase in home missionary offerings was \$14,150, and the increase in receipts for congregational expenses was \$27,956. "There is that scattereth and increaseth yet more; there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth only to want." Such is the law of the Kingdom.

THE light that shines  
farthest shines bright-  
est nearest home.

## UNDER THE OLD PLAN

### Few Give



Investigation indicates that not more than one in five of our communicants makes any offering for the Church's general mission work at home and abroad. The circle represents the communicant membership of the Church. The black segment represents the number who give

for the furtherance of the aggressive work of the Church.

## UNDER THE NEW PLAN

### More Give



The circle represents the membership (1,300) of a large and missionary-hearted congregation. The black segment represents the number (180) who were giving to the missionary cause before the Every-Member Canvass. The black segment, plus the shaded portion, represents the number (880) who were making

weekly offerings after the canvass.

☐ Correspondence concerning the Forward Movement should be addressed to "The Secretary," Church Missions House, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Additional copies of this pamphlet may be obtained by asking for Leaflet No. 1109. Price Two Dollars per Hundred.

Additional information concerning Forward Movement methods will be found in Leaflets No. 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1115, 1122.

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