

Dehra Dun North India

7th October 1887

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 1st August telling me of the action of the Synod of New Jersey in appointing a week - Nov. 13-19 - for prayer for Foreign Missions reached me duly and rejoiced me greatly. I

have long felt that this is what the Cause and the workers in the field needed. When in America a few years ago, speaking

in Cincinnati in the interest of Foreign Missions, I remarked that what was needed more than

money was the sympathetic prayers of the Church at home. I emphasize the statement now. The longer I live on heathen ground, the more is the conviction forced on me that the

Church needs to be behind the worker in the field - not financially merely, but sympathetically. The work of the Church heretofore in the matter of Foreign Missions has been too mechanical. She has rolled off her responsibility on to the Board and contents herself with an Annual contribution to the Cause, and the whole subject is dismissed from her mind until the matter comes up at the Assembly in regular course.

This has been the case with the Church - acting as a corporate body; but I know there have always been individuals who have had the interest of the Cause so much at heart as to pray for it in private and in public.

If there could be such an interest in the Church, as a whole, the power of the Holy Spirit would be more manifest

in the conversion of souls abroad. I rejoice at the action of the Synod of New Jersey, and give God thanks for it. I expect an out-pouring of God's Spirit in the Foreign field as the answer, and it will come, if the prayers be the cry of souls in an agony for the Salvation of the heathen.

I need not say that, God helping me, I will unite with you in prayer for the same object.

The heathen have no sense of want until it is produced in them by the Holy Spirit.

They are dead in trespasses and sins. There are individuals, many, who have through the preaching or the reading of the word been brought to see their need and to have an intellectual conviction of the truth that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of men; but

They do not act on it. They need
The Holy Spirit's power to set them
free.

I have heard of instances, long
ago, of individuals voluntarily
taking the initiative in inquiring
the way to be saved; but they have
been few & far between, and I have
heard nothing of recent date.

It is Holy Ghost power
that we need both at home and
abroad, and nothing else can
be a substitute for it.

Missionary meetings, however
interesting they may be, will accomp-
lish nothing for the heathen, if
the motive that brings the people
together be primarily their own
spiritual good - to hear interest-
ing addresses and to have their
hearts warmed up. Warmth
is very necessary; but it must
be a warmth in which there is
a forgetfulness of self - the warmth

of a mother, who seeing her
child in danger of being
run over in the street,
rushes forward - utterly
forgetful of self - and snatches
her darling from the im-
pending doom.

I hope you will pardon
the freedom with which
I have written passing
thoughts in a hurried way,
and believe me to be, dear Mother,
your affectionate
R. Thackwell