

TO THE PASTOR:

DEAR BROTHER—*The following Appeal is prepared by a lady, at the request of a number of ladies deeply interested in the cause of Missions. Please hand it to some efficient lady, and use your influence for the organization of a Women's Missionary Society in your Church.*

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TO THE WOMEN OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH:

We have been studying the mission fields in foreign lands and in our own country among the emigrants of Lutheran faith and name, and the more we learn of their needs, the more our hearts are stirred within us to do all we can individually, and to arouse others to give their sympathy, their prayers, and their help, in order that our Church may send its quota of men and money for the upholding of our Zion.

By a glance at the work of other denominations, we see that the women of these churches, by organized effort, have sent large treasures of money and an army of efficient workers into heathen lands. The Methodist Episcopal Woman's Foreign Missionary Society has been in operation nine years, and has sent to the foreign field \$447,862.50, and forty-two missionaries, of whom eight were medical graduates. It sustains one hundred and forty day schools, nine boarding schools, four orphanages with one hundred and fifty native teachers and assistants. This is done through two thousand auxiliary societies having over fifty thousand members. The Woman's Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has been in existence seven years. Its receipts for last year were \$139,747. It has two thousand, three hundred and twenty-nine auxiliary societies, which support fifty missionaries, two hundred and thirty-six Bible readers and native teachers, and three hundred and eleven schools. The women of the Congregational church have been organized ten years; they have fourteen hundred auxiliary societies, which raise nearly \$100,000 every year.

We do not know what proportion of the female membership of these churches are represented by these societies; probably one-sixth is a large estimate, and yet their aggregate contributions amount to so large a sum. This work of the women of other churches demonstrates to us possibilities in woman for great christian usefulness. Have the women of the Lutheran church less capacity, less piety, or less zeal? It cannot be that the Lutheran women are willing to be less responsive to the call of their Redeemer to help extend His kingdom in all parts of the earth, than the Congregational, Presbyterian, or Methodist sisters.

The secret of their successful work is, that they are efficiently organized. They can not, neither can we, do efficient work without organization. We appeal to you, that you do what you can by organizing immediately a Woman's Missionary Society in your con-



gregation. No matter whether yours is a congregation of poor or rich members, organize a society, meet at least once a month to consider all the information you can obtain on heathen countries, and the social, civil and educational condition of their men, women and children. Give special attention to the condition of women in Christless countries, and your hearts must glow with zeal to send the means to introduce the Gospel among them. Study also the needs and condition of the Scandinavian and the German Lutheran population of this country, who are ready and glad to be gathered into our church, if only we send them ministers and aid in building churches. In a few short years these foreigners will sustain their own churches, and will be a power both in numbers and in wealth, thereby strengthening the Lutheran church and increasing her influence for good. It will be readily seen that the Lutheran church would have the advantage over other denominations in gathering this foreign material, if it uses the required means. Our duties and responsibilities in the mission field of the West are peculiar. Compared with its wealth and importance, the missionary operations of our church are very limited. The reasons assigned for it are various, viz: "indifference to the subject on the part of pastors;" "a people uneducated in regard to giving," etc. The principal reason is, that as a church we have not given the mission cause the study it deserves, and we are lacking in missionary information. Feeling this, we urge that in your Missionary Society, you make it your first aim to acquire and impart definite information concerning whatever pertains to Foreign Mission work and the Home Mission field. Make the gleaning of missionary intelligence, we repeat, the chief aim of your society. Have no special anxiety about the money at first. When your society is thoroughly well informed on the subject, there will be little danger but that its contributions will be in proportion to its ability to give. Yours ought also to be a prayer missionary meeting.

Please do not throw this appeal into the waste basket. Re-read it; circulate it among the influential members; pray over it, and ORGANIZE.

If any information is wanted, address the Chairman, Dr. J. H. W. Stuckenberg, of Springfield, Ohio, who will gladly see to it that you receive an answer. Tracts and leaflets are soon to appear, giving information on questions in connection with mission work. The general circulation of these we hope will greatly aid in awakening interest in the cause. As soon as published, they will be sent free to any address.

And, now, sisters, there can be no successful women's organizations unless the ladies of the church interest themselves in the matter and prosecute it vigorously. We have now an opportunity to organize a most important movement in our church. We earnestly beseech you not to wait for others, but to take the matter in hand yourselves; expect to make some sacrifices for it in money and in time; ask the blessing of God upon it, then let no obstacle dishearten you, but by



all means ORGANIZE. If you will help, by our united efforts we expect to send large sums of money to the Mission Boards, by which more ministers may be sent to the West, and more missionaries to heathen lands; we expect by our efforts in disseminating missionary information to awaken our Church to more intelligent interest and greater activity in the harvest field of the Master; and we expect also by means of this work to be greatly blessed ourselves in mind and spirit. Dear Lutheran sisters in Christ, we can't longer afford, even for our own sake, to leave this work undone.

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### Hints for the Organization of Woman's Missionary Societies.

As Pastors are in a great degree responsible for the oversight of all Church work, freely consult them and make all preliminary arrangements and appointments with them. Give full notice of the intended meeting, and it would be well to send special invitations to all the ladies of the congregation.

The following Order of Exercises may be of use in organizing the Society and in conducting its work. Experience and the need of each Society will suggest whatever change may be desired.

I. DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES—1, Hymn; 2, Short Scripture lesson and prayer; 3, Hymn.

II. STATEMENT OF CAUSE—1, Short, stirring address from the Pastor or others, stating the object and urging the need of the society; 2, Elect President and Secretary, *pro tem*; 3, Secure members.

III. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION—1, Read and adopt Constitution and By-Laws; 2, Appoint a committee to nominate permanent officers of the society.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS—1, Nominating committee report names of officers; 2, Election of officers; 3, Appoint committees to thoroughly canvass the entire congregation for additional members.

V. REPORT ORGANIZATION—Require the Corresponding Secretary to report immediately the name of the Society to the Chairman of the Gen. Synod Ex. Com., J. H. W. Stuckenberg, D. D., and to the Corresponding Secretary of the Synodical Woman's Missionary Society, if your Synod has such a Society, with the date of its organization, names of officers and number of members.

VI. CLOSING EXERCISES—1, Prayer; 2, Hymn, or Doxology.

The Ladies' Societies ought to be auxiliary to the Boards, or there will be a lack of system, unity, and co-operation in our mission work, and there will be danger of wasting money by misappropriation. Every cent collected for missions ought to be regarded as sacredly dedicated to that purpose, and ought under no circumstances to be diverted from that object. These Societies are not intended to be local or general benevolent societies, but purely missionary.

Organize Mission Bands in the Sunday School. Awaken interest among the children of the school to secure sufficient money.



# CONSTITUTION FOR WOMEN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

## ART. I.—NAME.

This Association shall be called the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the ——— Evangelical Lutheran church of ———.

## ART. II.—AIM.

It shall be the aim of this society to disseminate missionary intelligence, to cultivate a missionary spirit in its members and in the church, and to secure funds to promote the cause of missions.

## ART. III.—OFFICERS.

The officers shall be president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer. These officers shall be chosen annually.

## ART. IV.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings. In the absence of the president the vice-president shall preside. The recording secretary shall keep an accurate account of all the business transacted by the society. The corresponding secretary shall conduct all the correspondence of the association. The treasurer shall take charge of all the money of the society and shall hold the same subject to the order of the society.

## ART. V.—MEMBERS.

The payment of one dollar annually shall constitute membership in the association, and the payment of ten dollars shall constitute life membership.

## ART. VI.—MEETINGS.

On the first Wednesday of each month a meeting shall be held to pray for missions, to receive reports of missionary work in the home and foreign fields, and to transact the business of the society. Public meetings shall be held quarterly, the aim of which shall be to create a missionary spirit by means of addresses and reports on missions, and to secure funds for missionary purposes.

## ART. VII.—RELATION TO THE BOARDS OF HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

This society shall be auxiliary to the Boards of Home and Foreign Missions of the General Synod, and shall co-operate with the same.

## ART. VIII.—APPROPRIATION OF MONEY.

All the money collected by the society, or donated to it, for Home Missions, shall be appropriated to Home Missions, and all money collected or donated for Foreign Missions shall be appropriated to Foreign Missions. All money not collected or donated for a specific object shall be appropriated to Home or Foreign Missions, as the society may designate.

## ART. IX.—DISBURSEMENT OF MONEY.

All the money for Home Missions shall be sent quarterly or annually to the Board of Home Missions; and all the money for Foreign Missions shall be sent quarterly or annually to the Board of Foreign Missions. But the society shall have the right to designate the departments of the work of the Boards to which the money shall be appropriated.

## ART. X.—REPORT TO DISTRICT SYNOD.

An annual report of the contributions of the society shall be sent to the District Synod, in order that the church to which the society belongs may receive credit for the same in the parochial report of the Synod. But the money raised by the society shall not be used to make up any apportionment by the Synod. It is not the aim of the society to do what the rest of the church ought to do, or in any way to interfere with the regular contributions of the church, but to supplement and augment the missionary work of the church.

## ART. XI.—OTHER MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

This society shall aim to promote the establishment of similar societies in other Lutheran churches, especially in the congregations connected with the same synod. It shall also co-operate with the synod in forming the various congregational societies into a Synodical Home and Foreign Missionary Society.

## ART. XII.—ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the society, provided that a month's notice of the proposed alteration or amendment was given.