

1889—1925

A Record and a Hope

In 1889: \$2,188.64.

In 1922: \$681,145.09.

In 1889: One woman missionary supported and one mission church in Alaska built.

In 1922: Nearly 200 women missionaries supported and churches and schools in all parts of the mission field.

One must search far to find a parallel to this record. What is the history of an endeavor so striking in its growth and so far reaching in its influence?

On October 11th, 1883, in the Church of the Epiphany, Philadelphia, the Holy Communion was administered for the first time to the women of the Auxiliary gathered as a representative body. At the service and at the meeting which followed the sum of \$371.21 was collected, which was divided between the foreign and domestic fields.

The next Triennial was held in the year 1886, and at the service preceding the Woman's Auxiliary meeting the offering was \$82.71, which went to the Bishop of Florida for work among the colored people of that diocese. These sums were disappointingly small, and such a record had its lesson for the Auxil-

iary. Some of the women had been set to thinking with the result that shortly before the time of the next Triennial a suggestion was made which resulted in the establishment of the United Thank Offering.

A member of the Auxiliary, Mrs. Soule, then of the diocese of Pittsburgh, in a letter to Miss Emery made the suggestion that at the coming meeting of the women an offering by all for some one purpose be made. To this was added the request that the secretary should select an object and that an account of the plan be published in *The Spirit of Missions* at least one month before the meeting—a sharp contrast to our present day methods!

Miss Emery's suggestion was that whatever sum should be offered at the Triennial service should be divided equally between the domestic and foreign fields; a church building with furnishings for Anvik, Alaska, and the outfit, traveling expenses and a year's salary for a new missionary teacher needed in Japan were proposed, each object requiring about one thousand dollars.

The first United Thank Offering was, therefore, with only a month's preparation, presented at the Triennial service held in the Church of the Holy Communion, New York, on October 3rd, 1889. The result was looked for with great eagerness and it was with very real disappointment that the sum was found to be only four hundred dollars—one thousand six hundred dollars less than desired.

One member of the Auxiliary came to the rescue, giving the thousand dollars needed for the church

building at Anvik, and the remaining six hundred dollars was contributed, which made possible the sending of the first United Thank Offering missionary.

As the years passed, interest in the new offering grew. Throughout the Auxiliary there developed the feeling that a service of thanksgiving could not be complete without an offering of thankfulness. The system with which we are familiar has been the result, until now there is hardly a diocese or missionary district without its United Thank Offering Custodian, while throughout the Church, in the city parish as in that of the rural community, in mission stations in the foreign field and at home, and among isolated Church-women far from the privileges of parish life, the little blue boxes have a place.

This offering most truly deserves the term *United*. More than one hundred dioceses and missionary districts have a share in it. The Woman's Missionary Band in China and the Woman's Auxiliary in Japan give faithfully and generously. The women in Alaska make bags and moccasins for sale. The Indian women on the reservations in South Dakota sell lace and bead work, while the contents of the little blue boxes are sent from farms in Maine, from ranches in the West, from rural parishes and from those in the great cities; from American Church-women living in Europe, from Brazil, from Mexico, from the Philippines, and from New York's East Side. Is it any wonder that the record of such consecrated and united effort should be a notable one? It is as follows:

- 1889: Church of the Holy Communion,
New York City.....\$ 2,188.64
For church building, Christ Church,
Anvik, Alaska, and for sending Miss
Lovell to Japan.
- 1892: Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore,
Md. 20,353.16
- 1895: Christ Church, Saint Paul, Minn. 56,198.35
These two offerings — \$76,551.51 — were
constituted a Missionary Episcopate
Fund: Interest paying salary, first
three years the Bishop of Oklahoma;
since then the Bishop of Alaska.
- 1898: Trinity Church, Washington, D. C. 82,742.87
With this sum fifty women were sent to
the mission field and sustained for five
years.
- 1901: Grace Church, San Francisco, Cal. 107,027.83
This offering was divided among the
missionary bishops, one share being re-
served for work among the colored peo-
ple of the South. Churches and houses
were built, land was purchased, mis-
sions were started. It is not too much
to say that throughout the entire mis-
sion field, the results of this offering
were felt.
- 1904: Trinity Church, Boston, Mass..... 150,000.00
Used for the training, sending and sup-
port of women workers and the care
of the sick and disabled.
- 1907: Holy Trinity Church, Richmond,
Virginia 224,251.55
Used for the same purpose as that of
1904, with the exception that \$10,000
was reserved for the building of a
training school for Bible women, in
Sendai, Japan.

- 1910: Christ Church, Cincinnati, Ohio..\$243,360.95
For women workers; \$15,000 being used for building purposes — \$10,000 at Saint Hilda's School for Girls, Wuchang, China; and \$5,000 at Saint Augustine's School, Raleigh, N. C.
- 1913: Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, New York City..... 306,496.66
For women workers, and \$15,000 for Hooker School, Guadalajara, Mexico (held in reserve), and \$5,000 for St. Augustine's, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 1916: Christ Church Cathedral, Saint Louis, Missouri 353,619.76
For women workers.
- 1919: Saint Paul's Cathedral, Detroit, Michigan 468,060.41
For women workers, with \$5,000 for school at Valle Crucis, North Carolina; \$5,000 for school at Farmington, New Mexico; \$5,000 for school at Guantanamo, Cuba; and \$5,000 for chapel at Saint Hilda's School, Wuchang, China.
- 1922: Trinity Church, Portland, Ore.... 681,145.09
For women workers after one-tenth of the offering has been set aside as a permanent trust fund, the income to be applied to the support of retired United Thank Offering workers; \$15,000 towards the Florence Greeley Memorial Dormitory for Girls, St. Paul's School, Lawrenceville, Virginia; \$15,000 toward the Nurses' Home, St. Luke's Hospital, Tokyo, Japan.
- 1925: New Orleans, Louisiana..... ?
For women workers after one-tenth of the offering has been set aside and added to the permanent trust fund to be applied to the support of retired United Thank Offering workers; the sum of not less than \$25,000 is to be devoted to mission buildings.