

**MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN
BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION.
FOR THE USE OF MISSIONARIES
AND MISSIONARY CANDIDATES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649019519

Manual of the American baptist Missionary union. For the Use of Missionaries and Missionary Candidates by Various

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**FORD BUILDING
BOSTON, MASS.**

1908

Upt

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PREFACE

This manual has been prepared for the guidance of three classes of persons in their relations to the American Baptist Missionary Union: those who desire to become missionaries; those who are under appointment, but have not entered their fields of labor; and all missionaries in all fields of the Union.

It is not expected that the manual will answer all questions of method and policy which may arise, but it will set forth the principles of missionary service, and indicate the general purpose of the Executive Committee, and their wishes with reference to the most important matters connected with work under their direction.

It will always be assumed, therefore, that candidates, appointees and missionaries will become thoroughly familiar with the contents of the manual. Thus the new workers will find answers to many questions which they would naturally desire to ask of the officers of the Union, and all missionaries will find assistance in the complete and systematic adjustment of their relations to the Missionary Union.

Inasmuch as changes are continually being made in the regulations here given, this manual is not to be considered a final statement.

Directions for correspondence will be found on page 30.

MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION

I

CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

THE CALL

The Universal Call. The call to missionary service includes the whole church of Jesus Christ. Every disciple of the Master ought to make a careful, personal adjustment of his life to the simple, sublime, unchanging scheme of kingdom building imparted by Jesus to his disciples, which makes his Church responsible for the evangelization of all nations in all ages of the world. If this great truth could be recognized and acted upon, it would simplify many missionary problems; it would furnish a vast army of disciples filled with missionary zeal; it would make comparatively easy the selection of those who were actually to go as missionaries.

The Right Attitude. "Young man, the burden of proof is on you; give Christ the refusal of your life!" This was Dr. William Ashmore's answer to the question, "What constitutes a call to be a missionary?" This principle of the right attitude is the key to the whole question of the call to be a missionary. It is

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a mistake to suppose that God desires his workers to undergo an agony and wrench of decision in becoming missionaries. Every disciple of Jesus Christ who takes the right attitude toward the universal missionary call, pressing forward toward the mark, will find that his life will be in obedience to that call, whether he stays at home or goes to foreign lands.

God can use men at home in all occupations and professions to help carry out his great purpose for the nations, if they have really heard the universal call. But if one knows the need of the world, if the heart responds to it, if there are no clear duties to hold one at home, the question of being a missionary should never be put into the balance with other things. The only true course is to move straight onward along the open way until one comes face to face with the consideration of personal qualifications for being a useful and successful missionary. In regard to some of these qualifications, each candidate will be able to judge for himself, but of some qualifications others can judge better than he.

An exceedingly helpful collection of papers and addresses on this general subject has been published by the Student Volunteer Movement under the title, "The Call, Qualifications and Preparation of Missionary Candidates."

QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate for service as a foreign missionary should be a sincere disciple of Jesus Christ, sound in the faith, of recognized Christian character, faithful in his religious duties, and honorable in all his relationships with men. But in addition to these fundamental qualifications for all Christian work there are

others which are of especial importance to the foreign missionary, and which have been found necessary and vital by all missionary societies through the experience of a hundred years.

Physical Qualifications

Youth. It is true as a general principle that the prospective missionary should be ready to enter upon his work when he is not more than thirty years of age, a few years younger if possible. There are good reasons for this, among them the years that must pass after appointment before a missionary can begin to do good work on any field.

Health. Sound health is an absolute qualification for the missionary. The most consecrated spirit must have a strong body to work with in our mission fields, a constitution that will stand the wear and tear of climate, exposure and toil.

Physical Training. A missionary ought also to know how to keep his body in a good state of development. This will benefit him and the work he seeks to do.

Intellectual Qualifications

Thorough Education. The foreign mission fields need and must have well-educated young men and women. This is the word that comes back with ever increasing emphasis from the workers on the field. "My son," said a wise mother, "if you are to be a missionary, you must stand high in scholarship. Do not let it be said that a second-rate man was palmed off on the Lord for missionary service." The mastering of difficult languages, the understanding of the great

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non-Christian religions, conflict with the acute intellects of the nations, application of truth to different types of mind—these and other tasks demand the most complete general and theological training and the broadest mental culture.

Knowledge of Men. With all his other training the student who is to be a missionary should gain a knowledge of human nature, especially human nature apart from God. That is the book he will have to read when he gets to work in earnest. Familiarity with settlement and other forms of Christian work in our large cities may prove of great advantage.

Spiritual and Temperamental Qualifications

These qualifications are of the highest importance because by them the missionary is enabled to use the trained powers of body and mind to the best advantage; without them the highest abilities will fail.

Loyalty to Christ. Personal devotion to the Master "whom I am, and whom I serve." The faith that brings the consciousness of direct communion with Jesus is the anchor of missionary life.

Confidence in the Message. "We missionaries," said one of our veterans, "know that the Bible is the word of God." "There is no new gospel," says Robert E. Speer, "which is desired on the mission field. No men are wanted who have lost hold of the divine Christ, the cross of Calvary, and the holiness of God."

Optimism. Not thoughtless optimism, but the optimism which believes that God's great scheme of redemption will be triumphant, and rejoices to have a part in it; the optimism that keeps men full of good