

[pp. 1-2]

1246 W. Irving Park Blvd.
Chicago, Ill. Oct. 28, 1903

Women's Presbyterian B'd of the Northwest.
Chicago, Ill.

You ask me to write a letter in regard to my religious experience, and motives for wishing to enter foreign missionary work. It is a difficult thing to do, because there is so little that is noteworthy in the former, and my motives are, as I suppose is the case with others, many and varying.

As long as I can remember, I have considered myself a Christian. Looking back, I can see that if I was a Christian, I was a very weak and spasmodic one, so far as influence upon my character is concerned. Yet it would be impossible for me to set any date or any year when I became a Christian. Of course, there were seasons when my religious life was definitely quickened. I wished to join the church when I was 12 years old, but was advised against it because of my youth, and finally joined at 18. I took a Sunday School class at 17, and was active in Christian Endeavor Work, from the time I was 15 or 16.

As to my motives, so far as I can judge, they are these:

(1) A desire to obey the last recorded command of our Lord, and no Special Providence in my case bidding me stay, rather than go.

(2) A longing to see the Kingdom of Christ come, and

(3) To do my part towards its coming, in the place where my efforts will count the most towards that end.

(4) Similar to (3): to be where I am really needed, and not merely to fill a place that some one else would gladly occupy.

(5) A recognition of the deep need of heathen lands, both conscious and unconscious.

(6) For the last dozen years God seems to have been leading me to the point where I should be both willing and able to offer myself for this work. So far as I can judge, it is the work He wants me to do; and I want to do his will.

Very sincerely yours,
Alice M. Monk.

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