

the officials: that there were several evangelicals among us here, and that we should request them to be so kind as to let us have a room for prayer meetings; and at last we succeeded. Several times I had to lead the meeting. Two came to the knowledge of the truth.

"Meanwhile I found here two Russian Baptist (Stundist) brethren, with whom I began at once to have spiritual fellowship, and in the same room we began to hold Bible and 'prayer hours' (meetings) in the Russian language. God bless the work! We want more souls for the Gospel. After some time the prisoners were sent from Camp No. 3 to Camp No. 2, so that only the first company remained in the place, where I and a Russian friend, who had been awakened, were left behind. The others who went away had left me a Russian Testament. I had already received a German Testament from Brother Schneider, of Hamburg, and was very thankful to him for it. Though other believers had left us, still it was good that we two could be here.

"At this time, the fortress of Novogeorgievsk fell. That brought 12,000 more prisoners to our camp! That meant for us a new call, 'Up to the work!' At once I made out an announcement that in one of the barracks (giving the number of it) would be held a Russian evangelical meeting. The first evening we were only three together. We edified each other in the Russian language. The hour we spent together was rich in blessing; I shall never forget it. The meetings were held every night. More and more of the men came, and all listened with great desire. The room at last was quite full. Then God gave us a Russian brother, who had been a missionary, and had been captured, Pavel Malachowski. My heart was full of joy. But still we were lacking in reading material, until the beloved Brother Lehmann helped us out with Bibles, Testaments and tracts. I express to you my thanks. The joy you have supplied is indescribable, and the blessing is very great. Now we have in the camp twenty-eight newly converted brethren and ten older converts."

From these letters it will be seen how large a work is opening up before the Gospel Committee—a work which needs the energetic co-operation of every Christian in America who has a true appreciation of this great Gospel opportunity.

Thousands of dollars are needed to provide the material sufficient for the multitude of prisoners, who are accessible and eager for the Gospel. With adequate funds the misfortune of thousands may become their good fortune, in that they shall receive the "Bread of Life."

Urgency of the Task.

This work can be done only during the time of war. If we miss this present opportunity, it may never return. The long neglected evangelization of the great Slav nation depends tremendously upon immediate action of the American Christians.

The movement is the child of many prayers. Those who believe in its availing power are asked to unite in petition for funds commensurate with the need; for wisdom in selection and use of men and material, and for God's blessing upon all that is attempted.

To translate, issue and distribute hundreds of thousands of different booklets, large funds are needed. Through articles published in the Christian Herald and Missionary Review of the World, several thousand dollars have been received. Gifts, large and small, are urgently solicited. "Teach us, O Lord, the thoughts of

Eternity and send us to help our perishing brethren."

"I was a hungered, and ye gave Me meat, I was sick, and ye visited me, I was in prison, and we came unto Me. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto me."—Matt. 25:35, 36, 40.

Suggested Subjects for Specific Petitions.

1. That the marvelous opportunity for evangelizing multitudes of war prisoners may not be lost through neglect, indifference or delay.
2. That access to all the different camps, for the distribution of Gospel literature, be granted by officials in charge.
3. That difficulties growing out of mutual suspicion, bitterness of feeling, or other causes, may be overcome.
4. For the leaders and their helpers in the work of distribution, and other Christian service in the camps.
5. That God's Spirit may prepare the minds and hearts of the prisoners for the favorable reception of the Gospel truth.
6. That many of them may be led definitely into the Christian life.
7. That through them many other prisoners and friends in their homes, after the war's close, may likewise be won for the Kingdom.
8. That sufficient funds may be provided to make the response to the prisoners' urgent appeal commensurate with the unparalleled need.

The Plan Commended.

"I pray that this worthy movement may have the earnest and generous support of God's people at this time of crisis."—J. Ross Stevenson, Moderator Presbyterian General Assembly.

"I should be glad to do what I can to forward the particular form of relief which you suggest."—David H. Greer, Bishop Diocese of New York.

"A more important and practical Christian service it would be difficult to name."—R. S. MacArthur, President Baptist World's Alliance Chas. S. MacFarland, General Secretary Federal Council of Churches.

"You are engaged in the most important work of our times."—A New York business man.

Act at once.

Checks should be sent to Edwin M. Bulkley, Treasurer, Spencer Trask & Co., 25 Broad Street, New York city.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

(Continued from page 11.)

ful of all Christian workers. This is due to his consecration to God and to his own manner of living, as he gives it to us in First Corinthians (9:19-23). His whole practice was to adapt himself just as far as possible to the conditions and circumstances of those with whom he was thrown in contact. When in Athens he preached on Mars hill we may be very sure that there was all the dignity in his bearing which belonged to such a position. When he worked with the tent-makers, we may be very sure that he adapted himself to his surroundings and worked just as the others did. So when he was talking with learned people he would deal with them in a very different way from that in which he would talk with the uneducated. He tried in all things to put himself just as nearly into the position of others as was possible, in order to win them to Christ. One great difficulty with many speakers in talking to children is that they use the same language and thoughts in speaking to them which they would use in talking to grown people. In all of our intercourse with others, let us keep constantly in

mind the thought that we are to make as our first effort the attempt to bring them to the knowledge of salvation as it is in Christ Jesus.

SOME C. E. SUGGESTIONS.

By Amos R. Wells.

A Good Prayer-Meeting Talk.

It is brief, treating only one small phase of the topic.

It is vital, springing from the life of the speaker.

It is earnest, seeking to influence other lives.

It is bright, being well mixed with brains.

It is consecrated, being spoken in the fear and love of the Lord.

It is simple, as all truth is.

It is distinct, so that all can easily hear.

And to be all this, it must be prepared well in advance, in much thoughtfulness and prayer.

Pleased Pastors.

Your pastor will be pleased if you form a pastor's aid committee, to be at his service for whatever task he wishes to lay upon it.

He will be pleased if you volunteer to form a Sunday evening choir or orchestra, if these are needed.

He will be pleased if you divide the society into bands, one of which will make it a business to take part in the church prayer-meeting at least one evening a month, dividing the evenings among them.

He will be pleased if you offer to establish a little church paper, soliciting advertisements and taking care of the distribution.

He will be pleased if you form a sermon committee, to mention in your prayer-meeting some of the good things from his sermons.

He will be pleased if you ask him to close each Christian Endeavor prayer-meeting with five minutes of talk.

He will be pleased if you refer to him our most important plans, and if you ask him often how the society can be more useful to him and to the church.

Quiet Hour Occupations.

The reading of the Bible. We can have no more profitable occupation.

Meditation on the Bible. We can have no more fruitful occupation.

Loving and earnest prayer. We can have no occupation more exalting.

The reading of religious books, especially the biographies of great Christians. We can have no more invigorating occupation.

Honest thought about our lives. We can have no more sensible and practical occupation.

RETIRED FROM LABOR AND INCOME.

Some of our good friends of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church are passing through severe and unknown trials. Many who have spent their lives in the service of the Church in poor and unpromising fields have been retired from labor and from material support, because of infirmity and old age.

The widows and orphan children of some of these honored servants of God, who, meagerly supported, yet uncomplaining, have advanced with steady faith to receive their immortal crowns, and have been retired to glory, plead silently and eloquently for our help.

Last year 1,635 churches did not contribute a cent to bring comfort and gladness into these homes.

Although 64 little, fatherless children under the age of 14 years are in homes of want, and have a claim on our sympathy and help because of



what their fathers have done for us and the Church we love, only 379 Sabbath schools sent any offering for their assistance during the past year.

Notwithstanding the fact that we had on our roll of beneficiaries last year 146 widows, whose husbands had given an average of 26 years to the work of our ministry, only 774 ladies' and young people's societies rendered any financial assistance.

We are constrained to believe that this state of things is due, not to a lack of interest and of love for Christ and his Kingdom, but to the fact that many of our sessions, Sabbath school officers, and the leaders of the societies have overlooked this important part of the Church's obligation.

The Assembly urges the churches to contribute \$80,000 this year to supply that which is due our enfeebled veterans and the widows and orphans of those who have departed to be with Him. We can easily do this if each will bear his part.

How unspeakable will be our joy when we appear before the great Session of Heaven, with the four and twenty elders, and the Lamb upon His throne, if we can hear these words from the lips of our Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me."

The gray hairs and frail forms of many of our honored veterans betoken they are much farther from the bounds of infancy than from the gates of death. One by one they are answering the roll call in the presence of the Captain of our Salvation.

Remember the words in Hood's poem, "The Lady's Dream," of the woman, who saw passing before her, in vision, those whom she might have assisted in life:

"And yet it never was in my soul

To play so ill a part,

But evil is wrought by want of thought

As well as want of heart."

There is surely no want of heart in the Southern Presbyterian Church. Possibly many have not thought of this need. Have you?

The Executive Committee of Christian Education and Ministerial Relief of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Incorporated. Henry H. Sweets, Secretary, 122 South 4th Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky.

There is a chord in human nature which responds to a child's cry, and there is something in the divine nature which is equally touched by prayer. —Spurgeon.