

The Christian Endeavor

The General United Brethren Christian Endeavor Society

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Correspondence. All letters of inquiry, orders for supplies, reports, etc., should be addressed to the General Secretary.

Literature. We carry a good supply of United Brethren Christian Endeavor and Christian Endeavor literature. Order all needed supplies through us. See catalogue for prices, or apply to the General Secretary.

Finances. The Quarterly Collections and all other United Brethren Christian Endeavor funds should be sent promptly to the Treasurer.

These pages are furnished by Rev. A. B. Bowman.

THE PRAYER MEETING.

Sun., Nov. 28. Topic—Inspiring Stories from Home-Mission Fields. Acts 10: 1-6, 34-48. (Missionary Meeting.)

Some Bible Hints.

Many families who are foreigners, in our towns and cities, and even in our rural districts, are anxious to do right and to be good, and to serve God. (v. 2.)

How slow we are to look up the people who need gospel instruction. Sometimes they must search us out in order to hear the word of life (v. 5.)

Prayer is one of the preparations for the home mission field. God will lead us to our work if we wait upon Him (v. 9.)

God wants to save the whole community. He has no favorites, no special race or color, but He looks with concern on all His creatures. He has His eye on every family in your community (v. 34.)

All your friends and neighbors need Christ preached to them. The foreigner needs the gospel. The church must find them and preach to them (v. 36.)

Every Christian is a witness to the saving power of Christ, to every one who does not know Him as their personal Savior (v. 39.)

We preach a whosoever gospel, but how can men believe if they have not heard the gospel? It is our business to see that every man within our reach has Christ preached to him (v. 42.)

The Holy Ghost will always accompany us on a home mission task. The gospel is never presented in vain even to the foreigner (v. 44.)

We can win the foreigner in our midst best, by being sociable with him. Let us show that we think him worthy of associating with us (v. 48.)

Planning for the Meeting.

Get the attention of the members on the fact that there is need, in their own community, for home mission work. Let them think of the families who do not attend church and who may not feel welcome to come, because they are not Americans.

Get the members to feel the call which Peter felt, to go to them and present Christ

to them. Show the fact that God wants every family saved. Show the "whosoever will" gospel.

Why not have your society be a real home mission society, and let your community be a real home mission field for them. Visit the sick, the poor, the shut-ins. Minister to their physical needs, then present the Gospel to them.

This will be a good time to talk Life-Work Recruit to the society. Someone may feel the call to do work at home. God may have sent for one of your society as He sent for Peter. Why not?

Outline for the Leader.

Wonderful opportunities lie before the church of America today. People from all over the world are again flocking to our shores. They need Christ more than they need an opportunity to make a living. The church must fill this need. They must not be neglected otherwise they will become bitter in their opposition to the church and likely to our country.

The church can preach Christ to them by finding them employment; by saving them from being exploited by unprincipled men; by seeing that their housing conditions are just; by teaching the women good house-keeping.

The church can invite them to come to their services and so teach them that religion is no respecter of persons; that we love their souls, without regard to social distinctions. Only in this way can the church help them, religiously.

Cornelius changed the life of his community because he was interested in salvation for himself and for his community. A Christian church was established because he sent for the preacher to come to his house to preach the gospel. In this way the church may be established in any community. And we believe there is no community in America without one family which would be glad to encourage the coming in of the church.

Churches must go where they are needed; where the people are unchurched; where they will not step on the toes of other churches; where there is a good hope for the future of the venture; in communities where the people are anxious for the church; then there will be no crowding in some communities and others neglected.

Rapidly growing cities offer great inducements to the churches. Great sections of such cities are still unchurched. They need the help of the church to minister to their spiritual and social needs.

Suggestive Thoughts.

Home mission activities are within the reach and power of any Christian. All it takes to be a home missionary is a disposition to seek out the opportunities around your own home and church.

Christian Endeavor Societies can do a lot of good, besides giving fine training to the young people, by making a survey of their community and setting the members to work along home mission lines. Look up the sick, the foreigners, the shut-ins, the poor, the unemployed, the neglected children, the overworked mothers, the servant girls, the hired help; in fact, look up the nonattendant population and invite them to the services of your church.

We get more enthusiastic about foreign mission work, because it is farther away, and we do not feel called upon to assume personal responsibility beyond giving a little money; but the home mission work calls for personal enlistment. Work, even Christian work, is not so pleasant to some Christians.

Let us not neglect the sick. Christ healed them. He ministered to their needs. He sometimes exhausted his physical strength to help them. The church must follow Him in this work. It is a sure way of getting the attention of those ministered to, and will break down prejudice against religion and the church.

Christ ministered to the poor. He spent much, if not all of His time, with them. The church must follow the same line in order to succeed. Get the children clothed so they can attend Sunday-school and Junior Endeavor. It will pay.

Read the many fine books on Home-Mission Studies. Get acquainted with the needs of America. Find what the tasks are which confront the American Church. Then you will be interested to push your church into the needy fields. Your young people must have an outlet for their energy and zeal or die of stagnation. Let them know that their is a place for each one, even in the home land.

Questions for Discussion.

1. How can we help the foreigner in our midst?
2. What is the home mission work in your community?
3. What home mission work can our society do?
4. Why are home missions necessary?
5. What aid can we render to home missionaries?
6. What story of home mission heroism has most impressed you?
7. How can we reach the nonchurch-goer?
8. What is our duty toward the sick and shut-ins?

Bible References.

- Visit the Stranger—Exod. 22: 21; Lev. 19: 34; Ruth 2: 8; Jer. 7: 6; Matt. 25: 35.
 Visit the Sick.—Ps. 35: 13; Matt. 25: 36-37; Luke 10: 9; Acts 28: 8; Jas. 5: 14, 15.
 Visit the Poor.—Lev. 25: 35; Deut. 15: 7; Prov. 14: 31; Luke 3: 11; 1 John 3: 17.

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