

WEEK OF SPECIAL PRAYER, JANUARY 7-14, 1866.

The following is the invitation issued by the Evangelical Alliance, with reference to Special Prayer throughout the world on the first week of January, 1866:

The beginning of this year, as that of previous years, was marked by the gathering of Christians in all parts of the world for united prayer; and it was made abundantly clear that our Father in heaven was, by His Holy Spirit, drawing his children together in love, that He might bless them.

The Evangelical Alliance, by their British and Foreign Organizations, would again affectionately and earnestly invite Christians in all countries to make arrangements for meeting during the Week of Prayer, at the commencement of the New Year.

Much encouragement is felt from the fact that in almost every land, even the most remote, the previous invitations have been largely responded to, and multitudes have acknowledged, with devout thankfulness to God, His gracious answers in "crowning the year with His goodness," and conferring special blessings upon the Church and upon the world.

Let us again set apart the week beginning with the first Lord's day of the New Year for united supplication, with thanksgiving, in the spirit of love, and in sympathy with our brethren who "in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both theirs and ours." Surely the need is great. Error is abounding: masses are ignorant of the Gospel; the children of God are still far from manifesting the unity of the body of Christ—and whether as nations, or families, or individuals, we have urgent dangers. Meanwhile, our Heavenly Father is ready to supply all our need according to the riches of His grace, and is able and willing not only to keep us secure from all harm, but "to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think." May we not confidently expect that suitable blessings will be bestowed in proportion as prayer is offered with "one accord" by those who are united by a common faith, and who share in the blessings of a common salvation?

"O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come."—Psalm lxx. 2.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth."—Psalm cxlv. 18.

"And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of Hosts: I will go also."—Zech. viii. 21.

"Seeing, then, that we have a great High Priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God—let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."—Heb. iv., 14-16.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."—Eph. vi. 18.

The following topics, amongst others, are suggested as suitable for exhortation and intercession on the successive days of meeting:—

Sunday, Jan. 7.—Sermons on the duties of Christians to each other, as members of the body of Christ.

Monday, Jan. 8.—Acknowledgment of Divine mercies and confession of sin.

Tuesday, Jan. 9.—The Christian Church: That its testimony may be clearer, its faith stronger, and its devotedness, liberality, and zeal enlarged.

Wednesday, Jan. 10.—Nations: For their temporal and spiritual welfare; for kings, and all in authority; for the maintenance of peace; and for the increase of "righteousness, which exalteth a nation."

Thursday, Jan. 11.—For Christian Families, for Servants, and for Schools and Colleges.

Friday, Jan. 12.—For Christian Missions and Ministers, and for all engaged in Christian work.

Saturday, Jan. 13.—For Christians in sorrow, in sickness, and in persecution: For the Widow and the Orphan.

Sunday, Jan. 14.—Sermons: The blessings to be expected from the manifested Union of Believers in all countries.