

Evangelistic.

DON'T!

Dear Brother Pastor don't allow your people, young or old, Epworthians or mission workers or any church society or organization to forestall your plans and efforts for the deepening of the spiritual life and the promotion of a revival. We have known many a revival nipped in the bud by some lecture course or concert or humorous reading; exercises that might be proper at other times, but which are not consonant with spirit of brokenness of heart and prevailing prayer that precedes and accompanies a mighty work of the Spirit. O, let us lay aside every weight and remove every stone out of the highway for the coming of the King!

If those official members and prominent leaders in your church who indulge in questionable amusements which prove a stumbling-block to so many were truly converted to God and fully consecrated to His service, what a tidal-wave of salvation would visit congregation, Sunday-school and community!

EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL WORK.

- Christ and the ruler. Matt. 19, 16-22.
 Christ and the leper. Mark 1, 40-46.
 Christ and the boy with a dumb spirit. Mark 9, 14-29.
 Christ and Bartimeus. Mark 10, 46-52.
 Christ and Andrew. John 1, 35-40.
 Andrew and Peter. John 1, 40-42.
 Christ and Philip. John 1, 43.
 Philip and Nathanael. John 1, 45, 46.
 Christ and Nicodemus. John 3, 1-15.
 Christ and the woman of Samaria. John 4, 1-42.
 Christ and the nobleman. John 4, 46-54.
 Christ and the infirm man of Bethesda. John 5, 1-18.
 Christ and Mary Magdalen. John 20, 14-17.
 Christ and Thomas. John 20, 26-29.
 Christ and Peter. John 21, 15-23.
 Philip and the Eunuch. Acts 8, 26.
 Peter and Cornelius. Acts 10.
 Ananias and Saul. Acts 9, 10-19.
 Paul and Silas and the Philippian jailer. Acts 16, 25-31.

HINTS FOR PERSONAL WORKERS.

Be perfectly natural and courteous in your approach when talking with inquirers.

Seek to attract. Avoid repelling. Remember we are to win them.

Be willing to make a mistake for Christ's sake, rather than miss an opportunity which may never again present itself.

Deal with the inquirer alone. Avoid terms not in common use among the unconverted.

Avoid the spirit of controversy.

Before giving the word of God ascertain the condition of mind that you may

rightly divide the word of truth unto the inquirer.

Find out what the person believes, rather than what he does not believe.

Avoid giving your own experience, as this may lead him to expect conversions in the same manner as yours, which is not likely to be the case.

Be candid in dealing with sin.

So far as possible select persons of your own sex and age in presenting Christ.

Press them to decision.

Engage in prayer together.

After having done your best and there seems to be no result, leave, prayerfully, the sinner and the seed you have sown to God, the judge of all.

When the sinner has found Christ let the fact be doubly assured to both mind and heart by Isa. 12, 1, 2.

Impress on the inquirer the importance of jealousy guarding the beginning of the new life. Matt. 13, 3-9, 19-23.

Take full name and address and church preference and see that he is introduced into the Church of his choice.

DECISION DAY.

One of the best addresses delivered at the recent Provincial Sunday-school Convention, at Brockville, was given by Rev. W. H. Hincks, L.L.B., of Toronto, on Decision Day. The following are some of the good things from this address:

We naturally ask, what is meant by "Decision Day?" It is a day set apart in the Sabbath-school which gives the children an opportunity of declaring definitely for Jesus Christ. It is not a day suddenly to be sprung upon the Sabbath-school. With us it was a day set apart three months before submitting the test to the school. The preparation consisted of three factors, (1) the home, (2) the pastor, (3) the school itself.

I may say that we began our work on the first day of this year, with the announcement from the desk that all children should belong to Jesus Christ.

(2) That the responsibility in bringing children to Christ rested upon the home and on the parents, first.

(3) That the home had the better opportunity than the Sabbath-school; that the home was responsible before the Sabbath-school.

I then announced that we would take from eight to ten sermons along that line, and that at the end of these sermons, putting the responsibility where the Word of God puts it, the pastor and superintendent of the school would test the faithfulness of the home in this matter; that the day on which this test should take place should be called "Decision Sabbath," and that every child led by the parents and by the pastor to accept Christ might indicate it by signing a decision card.

If the home and the church do not together afford the children a distinct opportunity for decision, the outside world will. We find the book stores getting a certain class; cigar stores get them; the billiard halls get them; the saloons get them. We go down to see the theatres emptying at night, and we find that the theatres get them. We find the Sabbath bicycle gets them. We find the vaudeville in the parks gets them;

and, at last, the penitentiary gets many of them; but we find that neither the Sabbath-school, the Church, the Epworth League nor the Christian Endeavor really gets hold of a very large proportion of the boys.

History proves conclusively that early decisions, that early decisions tell emphatically on the after-life of the child outside of the religious sphere, and if outside of the religious sphere, we reason, surely within it.

"Decision Sunday" steps right into the life of a child at that period when ideals begin to take hold of him or her, and if you lead up to it properly, with the sanction and care that the scripture demands of you, you are going to make it one of the most blessed days in the history of your church.

Now, the point I would emphasize is one, perhaps, more interesting to the pastor than to the Sunday-school teacher, because "Decision Day," with its necessarily thorough preparation, gives to every pastor the opportunity from the pulpit and in his pastoral class to put the responsibility of child-religion where the Word of God puts it—upon the Christian home, and to strengthen what remains of the family life in our own homes.

"Decision Sabbath" will be a permanent blessing for a boy or girl come from a home where the father and mother are as two blades of one pair of shears, each properly united, each in proper relation to one another, and above all, each in proper relation to God. But there is little hope for "Decision Day," it may become a terrible danger to the Church, if it is suddenly sprung upon the school without very strenuous preparation upon these family and home lines.

Of course we cannot wait for ideal conditions, but we strive to lead up to them by prayer, and pulpit, and song, and pastoral visitation, and only submit the question when there is a degree of ripeness. With such preparation we held, in my own congregation, our "Decision Sabbath." Between 150 and 200 children, mark you, with the advice, with the sanction and with the sympathy of their parents, signed our "decision card." Whole classes of young ladies from 18 to 25, signed it. We have some classes where every member signed last March and have stuck to it, unfolding beautifully in Christian life. We have what is better, because it seems that religion comes so much more natural to the daughters, whole classes of boys who have signed these cards. I took a census two weeks ago in my school, by stepping up to the desk and asking the boys and girls who had signed these cards a year ago and were still holding fast to the vow they then took, to indicate it, and we were delighted and thrilled with the large number of hands that went up. I can assure you we believe "Decision Sabbath" has come to stay in this country. I thank God for the day I heard of it, and for the day on which I submitted it in my own little sphere, and I can recommend it thoroughly. But I warn you never to try it after one or two weeks' preparation; there are so many questions involved, and I believe the more thorough the preparation and the more solid it is, the more blessed will be the results.