

CHRISTIAN WORKER

ISSUED MONTHLY

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

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HOW TO SUCCEED.

After several years labor in the field as an evangelist, and watching closely the details of the work, we feel competent to write a few observations on this essential phase of our work. Especially do we think the subject well timed, on account of the near approach of the annual meeting of the co-operation, where the question of "how to succeed," will be an important question before the brethren assembled on that occasion.

That we have met with some success in the past, is not a debatable question, but an established fact, no one will deny this. To say that we have attained the greatest possible success, is to say that we have become perfect at a bound, a thing without a parallel in the history of fallible men. But experience is a good thing to improve upon, unless we are ready to exclaim, "we have our growth," and if we have our growth now, the fact is patent we must remain children.

The intelligent reader will not ask us to show that evangelizing is a necessary in spreading the truth. This is an admitted fact, hence it needs no proof. The question of "how to succeed," is the important matter.

1st. We must not undertake more than we can do well. Past experience is worth much on this point. The desire to show up a large amount of work on paper must be suppressed. One good, solid self-sustaining church is of more benefit to the cause than several weak puny ones, in fact the more of the latter we have the poorer we are.

2nd. To open the work in a new place, and make it a success, requires patience, and that of the Godly sort. Not only must the chosen laborer have patience, but also those who are holding up his hands. Other fields, however needy, would better wait a while, yea, success depends on their waiting. The grace to wait, is not easily exercised by those who are ready and anxious to see the good work opened out in their vicinity; but let it be remembered that you will want others to be patient when the work opens at your place. The evangelist should stay in a place until the cause is firmly established. To enable him to do this, no definite time should be set, for meetings elsewhere, until the work is on a firm basis. We regard the work a success when as many have been gathered together as are likely to obey the gospel, and have some good leader among them to continue the work, and if there are none among them competent for leaders, there should be some one secured from a distance to fill the place as teacher and leader; a failure here is fatal to success.

3rd. Without raising the question of who is not qualified for a work of this kind, we venture this suggestion; that every brother who can hold a successful meeting in an old established church, is not always fitted on that account alone for this work. There are certain qualifications which the evangelist must have, in order to succeed in a new field, we would enumerate as follows. 1st. A good man. 2nd. A good speaker. 3rd. A good general. 4th. An industrious man. 5th. One who sees everything, and has the tact to turn it to ad-

vantage. 6th. A bold, fearless defender of the faith.

To succeed, select for your evangelists men who have the necessary qualifications. Many good men, who are good preachers, are not good evangelists. The easiest way in the world to handicap our success is to select men without any reference to their adaptability for the work. It is somewhat humiliating to have to say it, nevertheless it has been done; men have been chosen for positions in church work because they would be offended if they were not so chosen, and this is the only reason in the world for choosing them. It is success in the master's work that is wanted, not an opportunity to reward some weak brother, who is jealous of his standing among the brethren.

4th. Our success at any new place depends largely on getting the new converts to work, organizing a Sunday school and prayer meeting, and make each one feel that he or she is a part and parcel of the church's force of workers. We are not claiming that this is the best way to make a great show, but by every means; if it was how we wanted we should select a Humboldt, and send him round to start religious cyclones, and leave nothing but the debris behind him. We enter our solemn protest against the use of any "hotch potch," as Calvin called it, to attract the people. The gospel is the greatest attraction on earth, and he that is attracted by it, will stay when he comes. Those who are only attracted by this nonsense will leave as soon as the nonsense ceases.

5th. One chief element of success is to get the brethren everywhere interested in the work, talking favorably of it, and praying for its success. If the prayers of all God's people in Ontario were enrolling the throne of God, in heartfelt petitions for help and guidance, we would be able to rejoice together in seeing many "turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God."

6th. The selection of places to hold meetings for the purpose of establishing a church, should be regarded as an important matter. When the resources are limited both in laborers and funds, we should use the greatest wisdom in selecting places to hold our meetings, always giving preference to the place that promises the best prospect of success. To begin a work, and fail, is not only a damage to the brethren elsewhere, but is a serious hindrance to future work in the same place. Here especially, is where the united wisdom of more than two good and wise brethren should be used. To meet with good success, is a source of encouragement to all who are working together, failure has the opposite effect.

Let the question of, "How to Succeed," engage the minds of the brethren everywhere, and then come to the annual meeting prepared to suggest something for the good of the cause.

FIELD NOTES.

We are now able to say what the visible results of our eight weeks meeting in Welland are. There is now a congregation of about thirty immersed believers, banded together for work. They have Bro. J. C. Goodrich from Auburn, N. Y., to labor for them temporarily, until the way is open for some definite arrangement. They have a good Sunday school and Wednesday night prayer meeting, where all are urged to take a part. The last night of our meeting a noble young man made the good confession. With the right kind of work, coupled with faithfulness on the part of all the members, we see nothing in the way of their complete success. In addition to the above may

be noted that a full board of trustees were elected, and \$500 in cash was raised to pay on the meeting house, and the remaining debt will be carried by the brethren of Welland.

We left Welland on the 21st and came to Acton, remaining with the family until the 23rd and then returned to Welland, preached on Friday night, and immersed young brother Gilchrist. On Saturday, Bro. Hendershot conveyed me out to Wainfleet church; preached morning and evening on Lord's day; two studied their intention to obey the gospel. The congregation in Wainfleet at one time occupied the entire field in that region, and it can truly be said that the church there is "a sleeping giant," and when fully awakened, will be a power or good. The church has been rather sleepy for some time back, but a few of the earnest ones continued to urge a forward move, but were held in check by the more conservative ones. Two unsuccessful meetings were held without any practical results. A meeting was called on Monday night, 28th, and a pretty full representation of the members were present—46 in all. Eld. Thompson presided, and stated the object of the meeting and the grievances, etc. W. H. Swaze, Jr., was chosen as an additional Elder, and D. J. Swaze chosen as deacon. It was determined to organize a Sunday school on the following Lord's day, start a prayer meeting, and be prompt on time at the meeting hour, and institute some energetic christian work. They will co-operate with Welland in sustaining a preacher in that field. Now that they are "set in order," we hope that their zeal will not flag, but that they will go on from conquering to conquest. We think that a grand opportunity for gathering a rich harvest is now opened in Wainfleet.

Leaving Wainfleet on the 29th, we arrived home at 6 p. m.

Left home again May 2nd, on west bound train; arrived in Stratford at noon, found Bro. Edgar Macklin, who is the leader of the little band of six or seven disciples. Bro. M. is a deeply pious young man who has been in the church about eighteen months; he is anxious to do something for his master, but he is not in sympathy with the brethren in the work anywhere; he seems to want help from the brethren somewhere but will not receive it from a co-operation, and others will not help him; so we do not see what can be done for Stratford until Bro. M. changes his mind, unless it be done over his protest. He has promised to investigate the whole matter, conferring with our best men, and if he finds that he is wrong we hope he is too honest to hold on to an error when he knows it. We also met Bro. Freeman, whom we take to be a good christian man, and anxious to see the cause progress. They have at present a small room rented that will seat about twenty persons, and they intend to start a Sunday school.

Came on to London in the evening and attended the "Holiness meeting" of the Salvation Army, and pronounced it a farce. Called on Bro. D. Oliphant; found him very ill; enjoyed his company very much. He thinks his life work is near its close, but he fears not "the crossing." Scarcely have we spent two happier hours than those with Bro. Oliphant and his afflicted family. He may have faults, and who has not, but his pure spirit is rich. He rejoices over the prospects of the church. May our Heavenly Father deal tenderly with our brother.

Arrived at Kamoka at 2:35 p. m.; stopped for tea with Bro. Graham, who has two sons in the U. S. Pension office at Washington, D. C. (physicians). Came on to Poplar Hill, where the church is located; halted at old brother Campbell's, found him prostrate with paralysis, and claim-

ing waiting the summons to "come up higher;" he has been one of the mainstays of the church in Lobo from the beginning, and now at the remarkable age of 87 years, he is sinking down to rest, loved and respected by all who know him. His son James, will occupy his place largely at the church. In the christian family our every want has been supplied with a "Martha's care." On Lord's day, May 4th, it rained; small audience in the morning, but much better at night. There had been a mistake in the time of our coming, hence no announcement. Will visit Moss and Appin before going east again.

SEVERAL THINGS.

Pray every day. Pay for what you pray for. Work in the Sunday school; be at the prayer meeting; come to the annual meeting. Bring a good suggestion with you. Come to work, come to encourage all good work, come to worship with your brethren from all parts of the Province; come with a cheerful gift for the Lord's work. Come to hear the good reports from the field, and rejoice with the workers over the success. Come and tell us what you need in your communities; come and help supply the needs in destitute communities. Are you going to have a "June meeting?" Are you satisfied with what has been done; you ought not to be; always strive to do more. Have you done anything towards spreading the gospel this year? Think it over.

THAT DEBATE AT WEL-LAND.

We announced in our last issue that a debate would take place in Welland, between Bro Walker and a representative of infidelity. We had a perfect right to so announce, because they accepted the invitation to debate, and when it came to the test, I pressed them hard to make good their words, or "shut up;" they backed down. They said that they could not secure a man to meet our's now, but would at some future time. This was their easiest way out of it. The truth is, that infidels are cowards, and have no faith in their own doctrine. They will blow and bluster, until you get after them in a business like way and then they will crawl out of a very small hole.

Should there be any doubts as to the truth of the above, we have some very interesting correspondence. They will not deny their "hand write." We might entertain our readers with a few choice bits from their letters.

A PROPOSITION.

We propose to organize a committee composed of staunch men, who are not afraid of their shadow, for the purpose of opposing infidelity. Mr. Watt the champion of infidelity in England intends to make Toronto his headquarters after September, and Canada is to be the chosen field in which to sow his poisonous doctrine. We propose to make it so hot for him, that he will wish he had remained in England. Our plan of work will be somewhat as follows, engage "Dark Broder, or Aaron Walker, or some other able man, and follow Mr. Watt up with challenge after challenge. The committee to guarantee the remuneration to our representative, and devise ways and means to do this. It will take organized opposition to meet an organized foe. We would like to hear from parties concerned.

AURORA MEETING.—We expect a pleasant and profitable meeting at Aurora as announced by Bro. Lediard, the invitation extends to all the Brethren. And the brethren at Aurora will give all a hearty welcome. It will be a time of rejoicing to see many of the oldest workers and hear them speak. W.

NEWS NOTES.

Brother James Lediard is holding a meeting in Collingwood and report seven additions to the Church there. Meetings still going on.

The brethren at Owen Sound are on a forward move. Particulars given next month.

Bro. A. Scott reports two added to the Church at Walkerton. On Lord's day April 27, husband and wife made the good confession, and were baptized on Wednesday following.

The printer omitted several lines in Bro. Scott's last article on Meditations; the manuscript having been destroyed we cannot correct it.

Bro. Fowler recently paid a visit to "Old Bethany," West Virginia, his Alma Mater. Sister F. remains to visit among her friends for a while.

Bro. Sinclair was holding a meeting in Port Hope the last we heard from him.

Bro. Anderson says that he can report some progress. He married Bro John Laws, and they have a Sunday School.

The Editor of the WORKER kindly sends congratulations. We have another boy!

We are anxious to hear from the Churches on Manitowlin Island, and in Muskoka. Will not the brethren write and tell how they prosper?

Sister E. J. Trout, who has spent the winter in Detroit, has returned to Warton for the summer.

There are four young brethren in Ontario, that have said that they intend to prepare for the ministry of the word. They are faithful young men, and should be encouraged.

Who knows anything about Marchmont? Address H. B. Sherman, Acton.

Bro. Crowson has engaged to labor in the Georgian Bay region so we have been informed. He has held some very successful meetings of late.

EVANGELIZING.—There is to be a meeting of the Wellington Co-operation the last week in May, so we are informed, at Eyrton. We presume that they will fully announce it.

We are exceedingly anxious to see at least one delegate from each Church in the Province, at our annual meeting. We however leave all the announcements for Bro Lediard to make.

MR. CANUEL.—Good word comes from this church, one recently united from the Baptist's. We will be with this church (D. V.) on the 18th.

The brethren in Hamilton have organized a Sunday School there for the first. They are encouraged with their start, and we hope they will have great success.

Had a pleasant call at Bro. Wheeler's in Hamilton on the 25th ult. He is succeeding fairly with his grocery business.

Bro. J. Lediard of Hillburg, came over and paid us a visit on the 24th. He is full of zeal concerning our work.

Bro. Lister contemplates a trip down east soon. The brethren at Hillier and West-Lake will be glad to welcome him after many years absence.

Bro. J. C. Goodrich of Auburn, N. Y., is engaged for the time being at Welland. He has recently been over at Waukegan, Ohio.

Bro Silas Moot will soon be home on his vacation from Lexington, Ky., and the brethren he enriched by his labors in the Niagara District.

Bro. Hertzog reported 10 additions in Detroit as the result of a two weeks meeting held by him at the Plum st. church.

We expect old Bro. Black at

our annual meeting. Will it be the last! He is quite well now, 88 years of age, it we mistake not. Grand old man.

Now would be a good time to renew the WORKER, and get a neighbor to subscribe. The brethren have done nobly for it thus far, but never true in well doing.

We cannot nor will not answer queries that involve the character of the Elders; because we cannot know the whole truth without hearing both sides of the matter, and we often suspect that the real object is to get an answer to give a party purpose. We are not an oracle anyhow. Why not turn to "the law of the Lord" at once. There is no appeal from this, there is no man's judgment.

Our exchanges show a growth in the spirit of missions that is very refreshing. When we become a missionary people in the true sense of the term, the conquest of the world will be comparatively easy.

Bro. Archie Sinclair, who presides over the destinies of the church in Lobo, is a man of faith and steadfastness. Much of the success of the church in her work, is due to the energy of this faithful man of God, who seems to wear the mantle of his sainted Father. Our brother met with a remarkable loss in the demise of his christian wife, last February.

SUSPENDING FOR THE WORKER.—Let the Sunday Schools that have been frozen up during the winter, carry on a vigorous campaign during the summer thus re-decaying the time. Neither freeze up in winter, nor melt down in summer, is still better.

Do not think for a moment that the church is "in running order" until you have a live prayer meeting. When children can live without bread; a church can live without meetings for prayer, and praise, but not before.

What have you done toward spreading the gospel among those who have never heard it? Do you expect to hear the master say to you "Well done, good and faithful servants?" Perhaps not. Now is the time to work. Maybe you can't when you get every thing just as you want it.

MARRIED.—At the residence of J. H. Bradshaw, in Wainfleet, March 19th 1884, Mr. Leslie Killman, to Miss E. N. Stringer. The bride was the recipient of many valuable presents. We congratulate Mr. Killman on his capture of a first prize. May long life and much peace attend them. They immediately went to their new home near St. Catharines.

Bro. John Laws at Jordan has taken to himself a partner for life Bro. Anderson in Hamilton made them one on the 23rd. The bride and groom being of age we conclude that they will be able to steer clear of shoals and quicksands, without a word from us, but we wish them much joy and happiness, all the same.

GUESTS.—There has been two additions recently to the church at Guelph. Also two subscriptions, who went to the Christadelphians, this is right, let every man go to his own place. Be a man, or nothing.

QUESTION.—They continued daily in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat, (food) with gladness? Does this refer to ordinary meals, or the Lord's table?

E. H. LHMANN.

ANS.—It refers to both. They met from house to house for breaking bread (Lord's Table.) "Did eat their meat," refers to ordinary meals. They "had all things common," so far as food was concerned. Bro.