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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

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"The Sunday School Prayer Meeting."

CAN we have a revival this year? This is a question asked in every church of spiritual vitality. From many quarters, sad to say, there comes a negative reply. No effort for a revival is made, because the prospect of success seems so slight.

Without the vigorous support of the Sunday School, any hope of winning souls seems, in hundreds of churches, to be vain. More and more the church turns with this query to its own—the Church Bible School.

The conscientious superintendent will not be satisfied unless he sees an annual ingathering of souls for Christ and his Church. To secure this he should plan and pray much. Without such an ingathering he must feel sad, disappointed, de-

feated. Decision Day may be made an occasion for securing such results. But the chief need is prayerful preparation.

Said a pastor of a leading Baptist church in New York recently: "My superintendent came to me a short time ago and urged me to have a Decision Day week after next. 'O, no,' I said, 'we are not ready yet.' He was a good superintendent, and a zealous worker; but he did not comprehend the gravity of the issue."

What this Baptist minister found others find—a total lack of appreciation of the issue of the soul's choice of Christ.

The thought, aim, effort of the efficient Sunday School, in all seasons, will be focused on this point. Here is its chief work. All else is secondary to the bringing of souls to Christ and to his church.

Admitted; but how done? One way at least is open, namely, by introducing evangelistic methods, occasionally, into ordinary sessions of the school. Let the pastor have the service, after a brief lesson and the collection. Sing, without instrument, some old hymns, such as may be found in almost any Sunday School hymn book. Exhortation, interesting, informing, loving, should be the order of address—no story-telling or baby talk. The officary of the school should be called up to the front, especially the librarian, and all who usually are unable to be in the regular instruction work of the school. Call for prayers from teachers and officers, the entire school kneeling. Let the Amen be heard. Your scholars, many of them, never heard them. Kindle the fires, as in any warm prayer service. And so the work will begin. The half quizzical expression on the faces of the young, seen at the opening, will disappear, and a deep and serious interest will be felt, and the tide of quiet, intense feeling will be manifest in the remotest Bible class. Then be sure to close before the interest lags.

Such a service held in warm weather will count. And as the school gets out of the rut, and the new and evangelistic spirit comes in, there will be given a chance for the teacher to speak individually, in the school or out of it, on the theme of personal loyalty to Christ. Sometimes failure comes from a silly aping of "old-fashioned" methods. No sensational devices should be tolerated nor any effort to stir up emotional excitement, but a deep, sane, religious impression should be made.