

## Practical League Problems

### How Can We Help Our Pastor?

Topic for October 10: Ex. 17, 8-13.

We recently submitted this question to a few of our subscribers, and have received some very sensible and suggestive replies. We submit a number.

W. J. Cairns, Secretary of the Montreal Conference Epworth League, writes:

1. By "boosting," not "knocking."
2. By showing a ready willingness to help in the work.
3. By taking a real interest in what the church is doing.

Miss Hattie Inkpen, Great Burin, Newfoundland, suggests:

1. By intercessory prayer.
2. By attending the Sunday and mid-week services regularly.
3. By being attentive listeners.

Miss B. E. Adams, Brookville, says:

1. By working under his direction in seeking out new members and strangers in the community, in visiting the sick and helping to relieve the needy.
2. By so interesting the unsaved in the regular services that they may become willing to give themselves to our Leader and His service.

Mr. A. E. Plewman, Toronto, gives these practical hints:

1. By doing our duty as Leaguers well. The most efficient help is to be a good Leaguer.
2. By getting the names of newcomers from him and looking after them.
3. By co-operating in the singing, personal work, etc., at special services.
4. By praying for him, and then answering our own prayers to the best of our ability.
5. By consulting with him, getting his advice, and generally making a friend of him, rather than treating him as someone to be held in respectful awe.

Miss Macklin, Cobourg, writes:

1. By attending and taking part in prayer meeting.
2. By finding and reporting strangers and the sick ones to him.
3. By holding study classes to inspire missionary zeal, and committee meetings to plan best methods of arousing interest in every department of church work.

A. E. Coombs, Newmarket, makes these suggestions:

1. By reporting either directly or through parents, to the pastor, all newcomers who are Methodists. Systematic surveillance of a certain district of town or city should be made.
2. By practising regularly new Gospel Hymns and singing these at Sunday services occasionally.
3. By looking after the poor—particularly by carrying relief, thus co-operating with the Missionary and Relief Committees.

A. Odell, I.P.S., Cobourg, wisely says:

1. By being loyal to him.
2. By speaking well and respectfully of him.
3. By regular attendance at the public services of Sunday.
4. By discouraging all disloyalty of others towards him.
5. By reverently sustaining his uplifted hands.
6. By assisting in his financial support as far as able.

A. Bayner, Barrie, sends these hints:

1. By always being present on time at the meetings and taking part therein.

2. By trying to bring our companions to the Saviour and into church fellowship.
3. By private prayer.
4. By always speaking well of him.
5. By reverence in God's house, and by honoring God with our substance.
6. By doing all we can to help along the missionary cause in foreign lands.

Miss Emma B. Galloway, Toronto, sends a card full of good things, thus: "The young people of any church may help their pastor by praying for him, and working loyally with him. The work is the Lord's and cannot succeed without His blessing and guidance. The pastor is the leader of the workers in his church, and all should labor together. Tell others how much the pastor has helped you. Do not forget to tell the pastor himself. League workers come in contact with children and young people whose parents do not attend church. Let the pastor know about them and let them know about the pastor and church. Yours will not be a professional call, and may be more successful for that very reason. Be thoroughly loyal to him, and you will be a real help to your pastor."

James Clayton, Milliken, well suggests in addition to similar plans as are given above, that the young people "do all they can to assist the pastor in the meetings, not depending on him to do all. In this way a larger number will participate, and greater interest be sustained, and the services become more fruitful of spiritual results." He is right. Too often the pastor practically does it all.

W. Fox, Jr., Toronto, would have the young people in relation to their pastor:

1. Keep his faults in the background.
2. When helped by his discourse, tell him so.
3. Shake hands with him heartily and often.
4. When he asks them to do anything, do it to the very best of their ability.
5. Try to always speak well of him.

A. T. Byrd, Toronto, says:

1. The young people should be the pastor's evangelistic band, not only to help him in the services, but as personal canvassers to "compel them to come in."
2. The Visiting and Relief Committee should work hand in hand with the pastor in giving aid and comfort to the sick and needy.
3. The young people might have charge of the prayer meeting occasionally. Let them furnish a choir to lead the singing. By this means some of our young people's missionary enthusiasm might be infused into the prayer meeting, which in many cases needs some awakening.

R. Alliston, Alliston, would have the young people treat the pastor as a personal friend, call upon him once in a while, and cultivate his friendship. By recognizing and acknowledging him as the spiritual leader of the church and co-operating with him in all meetings and plans of work when asked to do so, they may very materially assist him in ensuring success.

Fred R. Foley, Bowmanville, President of the Bay of Quinte Conference League, puts in a good word for the country pastor. He writes:

"In most country churches there is no vestry where the pastor can have a few quiet minutes for meditation and prayer by way of self-preparation before the service. On the contrary, he has to drive into the shed, attend to his own horse, then meet a number of people standing about the door. All of this tends to take his mind off holy things. What a help it would be if someone who perhaps is not able to take part in public service, were appointed

to attend to the pastor's horse and allow him to go quietly from his carriage to the pulpit in the spirit of devotion to lead his people in their worship. I am sure if I were a pastor, this would be a great help to me."

### The Mind of the Convention

The following resolutions were adopted: The executive committee of this Eighth International Convention of the Epworth League, comprising representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, at a meeting held in Seattle July 10th, passed the following:

1. Resolved, that we place on record our sense of appreciation of the fraternal feeling which has existed between the three Churches taking part in these conventions during the past sixteen years. At none of our gatherings has this been more pronounced than at Seattle. At this convention, for the first time, we have had the privilege of singing from a hymn book adopted by the three Churches. The Epworth Leagues of the three Churches taking part. While our methods may be slightly different, we have a common purpose, and are engaged in the same great enterprise. Let us work together unselfishly, heartily, and persistently in carrying out the design for which the Epworth League was brought into existence.

2. Resolved, that we declare ourselves unalterably opposed to the liquor traffic, which we regard as the enemy of the Church, the home, and the Government, and we rejoice in the splendid temperance victories in recent years throughout all parts of this continent. We would urge all our chapters to take an active part in the temperance reform, working, praying, and organizing, until this evil has been driven from the land.

3. Resolved, that we look with alarm upon the prevailing tendency to make the Lord's Day a day of pleasure and profit rather than a time for rest and worship, and we would call upon our young people everywhere to stand solidly for the maintenance of the sacredness of the Sabbath.
4. We rejoice in the rapid development of the missionary spirit in our Leagues, as evidenced by the attention that is given to the subject of world evangelism in our chapters, and by largely increased contributions to missions. The motto of the convention has been "The Enthronement of Christ." Let us not forget it! Let us carry home with us the thought that the Epworth League exists for no other purpose than to help prepare the way for the universal reign of our Lord and Master.

5. We would urge upon all our Epworthians to recognize the opportunities for missionary work that lie at their own doors. While we do everything possible to extend the kingdom of Christ in the dark places of the earth, let our eyes not be closed to the avenues of Christian service that open up before us at home. Let us give attention to saving the multitudes around us, by whatever means the Lord may seem appropriate, giving special attention to personal effort.

6. We desire to recognize the courtesies that have been extended to us at this convention. We wish especially to tender our thanks to the members of the Seattle who have opened their homes to the delegates; to the splendid choir which rendered the oratorio of the "Elijah" so magnificently; to Bishop Quayle for his fine lecture; to Professor Gabriel for so efficiently leading the singing at these meetings; to the local press; and to all others who have in any way helped to make the convention a success.

7. Resolved, that an international convention of the Epworth League be held in four years, and that in future these gatherings be held quadrennially, instead of biennially.