

We suggest that you make announcement of the campaign at once through the local press, and thus insure that no other meetings shall be fixed for that week which will interfere with this plan. Your own denominational board will gladly respond to your call for literature to aid you in preparation for the work.

THE PLAN THAT WORKS.

A WORD TO MINISTERS.

Read what a "Pastor" writes in the *Evangelist*. Let us use as much of it as applies to Canada.

Debt! Debt!! Debt!!! How sick is the whole church of the word, and how much sicker of the condition! But what shall be done about it. What is the medicine that shall prove a specific for the disease? To repudiate, and let missionaries suffer for our bad faith? Never! To retrench and abandon the work the Lord hath so greatly opened before us and blessed? That were recreancy, indeed!

Yet have we done the next thing to that, and refused to take up any new work; that is, we decline to enter any new path into which our Lord may lead us never so clearly?

And we have not found it any too successful a way to get out of debt! The Boards still labor and complain; the work still languishes; missionaries, veterans, candidates suffer!

Yet all feel there is a remedy, and that it consists in letting the facts be known. We rely on the often tried benevolence of the church. It has never failed. Let the urgent need be but once appreciated and the funds come forth.

To give this information we have many plans. There is our dignified and able Magazine, our bright and popular papers, and millions of statements and leaflets for free distribution.

Yet there is a lack of adequate result. And it is to be expected. Very few families in proportion to our membership read the Magazine or the papers. Very few churches make systematic use of the free leaflets and statements. And where they do, if that is all they do, the result is and must be very inadequate.

We all know it is so. And in the nature of the case it must inevitably be so. Why? For the same reason that religious reading converts very few sinners; many in the aggregate perhaps, but exceedingly few in proportion to all.

When it comes to the Gospel, we realize that only the living voice, a heart speaking to a heart, will widely prevail. We never convene mammoth evangelistic meetings to distribute tracts for the masses to read. Nor do we even permit the preacher at such times to read his message. We know there is no power adequate but the fresh, persuasive power of the living voice that can prevail. An application of this principle I

am persuaded would solve forever the debt problems of our Boards, and would maintain adequately their current and aggressive work.

Shall we then return to the ancient plan of the peripatetic agent? God forbid! What then? Why then the very same means that the churches use to secure the presentation of the Gospel and of duty. That is, let the preacher in every congregation present these causes in just the same way that he presents matters of church interest and duty, and he will receive a similar response. The churches that give the most in proportion to their ability are the churches where the pastors themselves present, with all the power they possess, the crying needs of our soul-stirring work.

Leaflets, statements, papers, magazines,—all have their place, and all may be and should be systematically and persistently used. But each pastor should most earnestly supplement all this by his ardent appeals.

One of the Secretaries of one of our most deserving Boards says: "Notwithstanding the invention of all manner of novel ways of securing money for our Boards, including the valuable work of committees upon systematic beneficence, and the influence of wide-spread statistical statements, there remains, when all is said and done, no expedient that can possibly take the place of the old-fashioned, time-honored one of each pastor feeling a conscientious interest and using his personal influence with his own congregation. I would willingly exchange the entire paraphernalia of literature, magazines, Heralds, leaflets and everything else that is sent broadcast over the church, for the simple assurance that every pastor would act in the matter."

Undoubtedly this man is right. It is the only sure relief. Every pastor and church finds a way to meet their absolutely necessary church expenses. So each pastor can, if he will, assure the success of the collection of the proportion of funds his church ought to pay. An instance may be in point.

In a church where the Home Missionary offering had fallen off in one of these hard years, some forty dollars from the amount of the year before, the pastor briefly and earnestly called the attention of the people to the matter. Additional offerings shortly appeared, that brought the amount to some twenty-five dollars more than the previous year. The spoken word accomplished more than all the literature.

So I recently saw an Elder's appeal for the Board of Relief, followed by a few words from the pastor, result in the largest offering for that cause in the history of the church.

These things are open to all. There is no patent on the plan. But there is an exceedingly great obligation that every pastor should do his duty. Wherefore, brethren, let us come up to the help of the Lord and of our brothers who do the frontier fighting