

On Being a Superintendent

By a Sunday School Worker

IV. THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE PASTOR

Where there is no assistant pastor, the Sunday School superintendent is, next to the pastor, the most conspicuous and important officer of the church. Indeed, he should be a veritable assistant pastor, co-operating closely with the pastor, and aiding him in many practical ways.

To this end the superintendent should consult the pastor often and regularly. Do not allow this consultation to be a matter of haphazard, but have a regular time for it, say every Monday evening; and a regular place, say the pastor's study. One thing that the superintendent will learn from these consultations, if he is wise, will be the criticisms of his administration, which the pastor is in the way of hearing. In return, the superintendent can perform the same essential service for the pastor.

Constructively, the superintendent can give the pastor invaluable advice about his teachers. In his calls, the pastor will continually come across teacher possibilities, especially among the newcomers. Furthermore, the pastor can help the superintendent mightily in the matter of pupils. Every new family that comes to town is possible material for the Sunday School, and the pastor will give an invitation to the School as heartily as to the church.

Another way in which the pastor can help the superintendent is by giving him new ideas for the Sunday School work. The pastor has many books and papers which the superintendent does not see, and will often garner from them some plan that will fit the School. In the ministers' meetings and denominational and other gatherings which he attends, the pastor has many opportunities to glean bright methods from other pastors and Sunday School workers. When he exchanges with other preachers, he usually visits their Sunday Schools, and if he keeps his eyes open he can pick up many an excellent notion for his home School.

It is very evident that the pastor should be a member of the superintendent's cabinet. He should not be there on sufferance, or

without a vote, but should be regarded as in reality an officer of the School. Ample opportunity will be given him to take part in the discussions, and no important matter should be thought ready for a vote until he has expressed his opinion.

In the sessions of the School special prominence will be given to the pastor. His place will be on the platform, beside the superintendent. He will be told that interjected whiffs of suggestion, commendation, or exhortation will be welcome from him at any time. He will often be asked to offer prayer or conduct the Bible reading, or speak briefly to the School. When the superintendent offers prayer, he will not fail to pray for the pastor and his work.

In turn, and in all fairness, the pastor will give public honor to the Sunday School, and to the noble workers in it. The superintendent will feel free to suggest notices of the School to be given from the pulpit, mentions of its features to be made in the church prayer meetings, little advertisements of the School for the church socials and the church calendar.

One great work in which the pastor and superintendent can most profitably co-operate is the School evangelism. They will combine to turn the efforts of the teachers and the whole bent of the School toward confession of Christ and sincere membership in His church. Just what methods will be used will depend on local circumstances. The two will consult regarding methods, and will work together for the salvation of souls. Thus by the best and truest of all tests the Sunday School will prove itself a part of the church, and the superintendent will be a genuine assistant pastor.

Will He Keep Coming?

By Rev. J. M. G. Mulch, B.D.

The reason why a few of our Bible Classes fail lies in the teacher himself. It sometimes happens that what is taught is neither worth while in itself, nor is it put in an attractive manner.

Here, for example, is a young man full of spirit as a young colt. It is a beautiful day for a drive or a walk. Yes, the Bible Class