

## Suggested Programme for January.

## SUBJECT

Prayer for increased spiritual power to come upon the membership, upon all missionaries and teachers, that secret believers in the mission fields may be taught of the Spirit.

The following programme is built upon the assumption that spiritual power may be obtained (1) by direct prayer to God; (2) by earnest study to understand the will of our Father concerning our relation to our needy brethren; (3) by using the power as God gives it to us.

Use Bible, Hymn-book and "Cycle of Prayer."

Hymn 391 Canadian Hymnal.

Prayer.

## BIBLE READING

1. *Calls to Prayer*, Isa. 62: 6, 7; Luke 11: 2, 3. Matt. 9: 38; 1 Timothy 2: 1; John 16: 24.

2. *Conditions of Prevailing Prayer*, Pls. 66: 18; 1 John 3: 22; 1 John 5: 14; John 11: 13; John 15: 7; Luke 11: 8; Mark 11: 24.

3. *Assurances to the Prayerful*, Rom. 8: 32. Eph. 3: 20; Rom. 10: 12; Matt. 7: 8; Matt. 18: 19, Isa. 65: 24.

## RELATION OF PRAYER TO MISSIONS.\*

Hymn.

A KNOWLEDGE OF OUR OWN METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, how it is organized and managed. (See page 3 CAMPAIGNER.)

Hymn.

How the missionary department of an Epworth League may organize to help the missionary work of our Church. (See "Deadlock in Missions," page 4 CAMPAIGNER.)

## Why Master World-Wide Missions?

*Abridged from an article in "The Student Volunteer."*

BY D. L. LEONARD, D.D.

WITHOUT the study of missions no one can become an all-around, well-equipped follower of Christ. The conviction is settled nowadays that salvation signifies vastly more than the mere saving of one's own soul, that it includes obedience, service, ministry, walking in all things in the footsteps of Him who came to rescue the lost, whose bidding it also was, Go ye into all the world, Disciple all nations, Preach the Gospel to every creature. His motives are to impel and His spirit is to be manifested. Every saint is to be a Good Samaritan. To God there are no foreign nations. Said Wesley, "The world is my parish;" and Zinzendorf, "That land which most needs me shall henceforth be my home." Carey sat every day with a map of the world before his eyes, with deepest solicitude meditated upon the woful condition of humankind, and planned a sublime, world-wide scheme for rescue. Without a consuming missionary zeal, how can one be worthy to bear the Christian name? And how is such divine fervor possible without investigation and ample acquaintance with the facts of the case? In its absence the use of the Lord's Prayer with its sublime petitions, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," must verge perilously close upon mockery.

And then without a fair knowledge of the world-field how can one deem himself cultured, possessed of a liberal

education? No scholar would willingly be ignorant concerning the history of civilization, of

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democracy, the enfranchisement of women. And certainly no Christian student should consent to be uninformed as to the modern expansion of Christianity, the Gospel crusade of the nineteenth century, embracing every continent and island. How much vaster is this and more momentous than the campaigns of Alexander, or Napoleon, or Grant. The Son of God is the great Captain, and under him are marshalled more than 15,000 picked men and women from America and Europe, associated with at least 50,000 gathered and trained in pagan lands, to lead a host already numbering more than 1,000,000, whose ranks are recruited by at least 75,000 every year. These are scattered everywhere from the equator to the poles, speaking tongues by the hundred, and representing every grade of civilization and savagery. A missionary's task involves vastly more than "sitting in the shade of a tree and reading the story of the Cross to every passer by." He masters the language as well as the manners and customs and religious ideas of the people; he evangelizes night and day, but he also translates the Scriptures and creates a Christian literature; he establishes schools to diffuse intelligence and to train pastors and teachers;

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and dispensaries for the relief of pain and the healing of the sick; he is a teacher of industry and mechanical skill; and, in short, devotes himself to whatever is essential to laying the foundations and building the superstructure of Christian society. Foreign missions include in their vast sweep at least three-fourths of the earth's surface and the well-being of more than three-fourths of the human race. "Be ye enlarged." It is well worth while to climb to this celestial altitude and take in a view of the kingdom of our Father—the blood-bought possession of His dear Son.

Besides, so much of transcendent interest is connected with the conquest of the world for Christ that one cannot afford to omit it from his educational programme. Here are discovery and exploration on a stupendous scale—in the Dark Continent for example, and the Islands of the Sea—as well as travel and adventure. Geography is included, for in thought we traverse every continent and ocean and become acquainted with every people; nor less biography of the most instructive and stimulating kind—the lives of hundreds of illustrious men and women filled with incidents most pathetic and tragic, whose achievements have told mightily for righteousness and the redemption of the race, a great company and worthy every one of a place with the immortals named in the eleventh of Hebrews. History, too, is unfolded before our gaze—the beginnings of commerce, colonization and conquest. Yes, and a key is supplied with which may be unlocked some historic problems. Thus we may learn the providential meaning of the phenomenal spread of Anglo-Saxon speech and domination.

Moreover, this is of a truth the "coming" theme. The trend of the age is overwhelmingly towards it, the tide of thought, conviction and desire set mightily that way. No movement of the century is more evident or more general than missions, the growth in giving the multiplication of instrumentalities, increase of the evangelizing force. A hundred years ago Christendom was contributing but a few paltry thousands a year, which have now grown to

\* Send to Methodist Book Room for "Cycle of Prayer," Sc., and "Prayer and Missions," Robert E. Speer, Sc.