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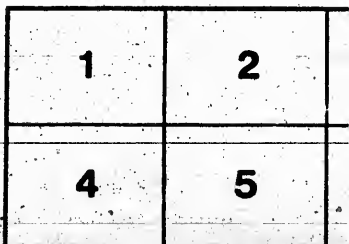
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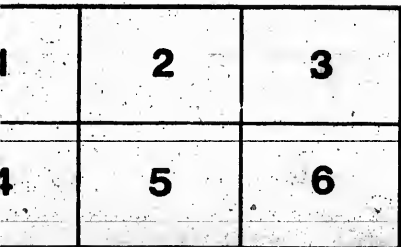
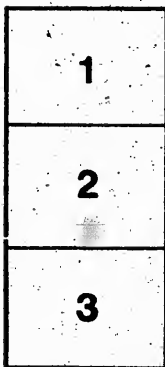
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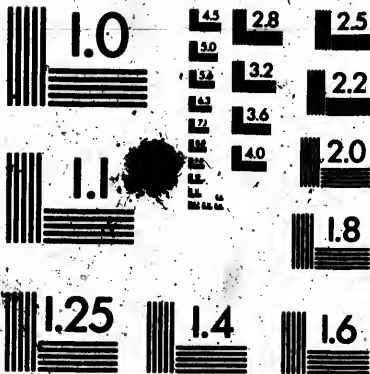
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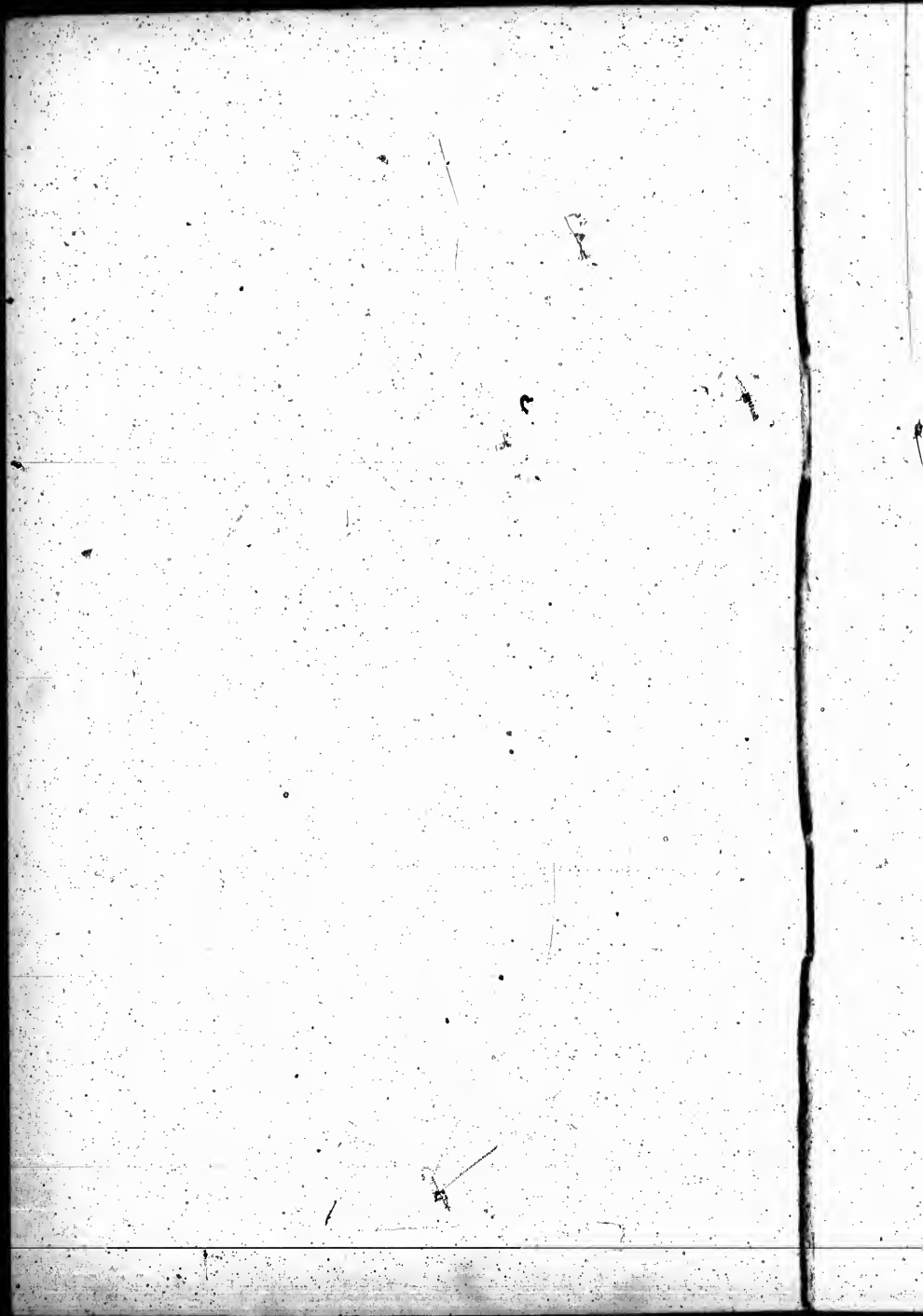
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Pray without ceasing.

**The Presbyterian
Volunteer Union
for Foreign Missions**



Helps to Intercession

BY

REV. ANDREW MURRAY

AND

Topics for Prayer.

ARRANGED BY

THE PRESBYTERIAN VOLUNTEER UNION
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

IN CONNECTION WITH

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

REMEMBER the Hour of Prayer. Between 9 o'clock
and the hour of retiring every Saturday evening.

"Enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut
thy door, pray to thy Father."



It is expected that all who can will regard the hour of
prayer and take time to wait upon God and have specially
in thought :

The Church of Christ and the World's Evangelization.

Our own Church and her missionary undertakings,

The Laborers in the field.

The Union, its Members and its Work.

clock
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PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

HELPS TO INTERCESSION

PRAYING ALWAYS
WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION
IN THE SPIRIT
AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE
AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS
AND FOR ME

I EXHORT THAT FIRST OF ALL
SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS
GIVING OF THANKS
BE MADE FOR ALL MEN
FOR KINGS, AND ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY
PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

HELPS TO INTERCESSION

Pray without Ceasing.—Who can do this? How can one do it who is surrounded by the cares of daily life?—How can a mother love her child without ceasing? How can the eyelid without ceasing hold itself ready to protect the eye? How can I breathe and feel and hear without ceasing? Because all these are the functions of a healthy, natural life. And so, if the spiritual life be healthy, under the full power of the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing will be natural.

Pray without Ceasing.—Does it refer to continual acts of prayer, in which we are to persevere till we obtain, or to the spirit of prayerfulness that should animate us all the day? It includes both. The example of our Lord Jesus shows us this. We have to enter our closet for special seasons of prayer; we are at times to persevere there in importunate prayer. We are also all the day to walk in God's presence, with the whole heart set upon heavenly things. Without set times of prayer the spirit of prayer will be dull and feeble. Without the continual prayerfulness the set times will not avail.

Pray without Ceasing.—Does that refer to prayer for ourselves or others? To both. It is because many confine it to themselves that they fail so in practising it. It is only when the branch gives itself to bear fruit, more fruit, much fruit, that it can live a healthy life, and expect a rich inflow of sap. The death of Christ brought Him to the place of everlasting intercession. Your death with Him to sin and self sets you free from the care of self, and elevates you to the dignity of intercessor—one who can get life and blessing from God for others. Know your calling; begin this your work. Give yourself wholly to it, and ere you know you will be finding something of this "Praying always" within you.

Pray without Ceasing.—How can I learn it? The best way of learning to do a thing—in fact the only way—is to do it. Begin by setting apart some time every day, say ten or fifteen minutes, in which you say to God and to yourself, that you come to Him now as intercessor for others.

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Let it be after your morning or evening prayer, or any other time. If you cannot secure the same time every day, be not troubled. Only see that you do your work. Christ chose you and appointed you to pray for others.

If at first you do not feel any special urgency or faith or power in your prayers, let not that hinder you. Quietly tell your Lord Jesus of your feebleness; believe that the Holy Spirit is in you to teach you to pray, and be assured that if you begin, God will help you. God cannot help you unless you begin and keep on.

Pray without Ceasing.—How do I know what to pray for? If once you begin, and think of all the needs around you, you will soon find enough. But to help you this little tract is issued, with subjects and hints for prayer for a month. It is meant that we should use it month by month, until we know more fully to follow the Spirit's leading; and have learned, if need be, to make our own list of subjects, and can dispense with it. In regard to the use of these helps a few words may be needed.

1. How to Pray.—You notice for every day two headings—the one **What to Pray**; the other, **How to Pray**. If the subjects were only given, one might fall into the routine of mentioning names and things before God, and the work become a burden. The hints under the heading **How to Pray** are meant to remind of the spiritual nature of the work, of the need of Divine help, and to encourage faith in the certainty that God, through the Spirit, will give us grace to pray aright, and will also hear our prayer. One does not at once learn to take his place boldly, and to dare to believe that he will be heard. Therefore take a few moments each day to listen to God's voice reminding you of how certainly even you will be heard, and calling you on to pray in that faith in your Father, to claim and take the blessing you plead for. And let these words about **How to Pray** enter your hearts and occupy your thoughts at other times too. The work of intercession is Christ's great work on earth, intrusted to Him because He gave Himself a sacrifice to God for men. **The work of intercession is the greatest work a Christian can do.** Give yourself a sacrifice to God for men, and the work will become your glory and your joy too.

2. What to Pray.—Scripture calls us to pray for many things: for all saints; for all men; for kings and all rulers; for all who are in adversity; for the sending forth of laborers; for those who labor in the gospel; for all converts; for believers who have fallen into sin; for one another in our own immediate circles. The Church is now

so much larger than when the New Testament was written; the number of forms of work and workers is so much greater; the needs of the Church and the world are so much better known, that we need to take time and thought to see where prayer is needed, and to what our heart is most drawn out. The Scripture calls to prayer demand a large heart, taking in all saints, and all men, and all needs. An attempt has been made in these helps to indicate what the chief subjects are that need prayer, and that ought to interest every Christian.

It will be felt difficult by many to pray for such large spheres as are sometimes mentioned. Let it be understood that in each case we may make special intercession for our own circle of interest coming under that heading. And it is hardly needful to say further that where one subject appears of more special interest or urgency than another we are free for a time day after day to take up that subject. If only time be really given to intercession, and the spirit of believing intercession be cultivated, the object is attained. While, on the one hand, the heart must be enlarged at times to take in all, the more pointed and definite our prayer can be the better. With this view paper is left blank in which we can write down special petitions we desire to urge before God.

3. Answers to Prayer.—More than one little book has been published in which Christians may keep a register of their petitions, and note when they were answered. Room has been left on every page for this, so that more definite petitions with regard to individual souls or special spheres of work may be recorded and the answer looked for. When we pray for all saints, or for missions in general, it is difficult to know when or how our prayer is answered, or whether our prayer has had any part in bringing the answer. It is of extreme importance that we should prove that God hears us, and to this end take note of what answers we look for, and when they come. On the day of praying for all saints, take the saints in your congregation, or in your prayer-meeting, and ask for a revival among them. Take, in connection with missions, some special station or missionary you are interested in, or more than one, and plead for blessing. And expect and look for its coming, that you may praise God.

4. Prayer Circles.—There is no desire in publishing this invitation to intercession to add another to the many existing prayer unions or praying bands. The first object is to stir the many Christians who practically, through ignorance of their calling, or unbelief as to their prayer availing

much, take but very little part in the work of intercession; and then to help those who do pray to some fuller apprehension of the greatness of the work, and the need of giving their whole strength to it. There is a circle of prayer which asks for prayer on the first day of every month for the fuller manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church. I have given the words of that invitation as subject for the first day, and taken the same thought as keynote all through. The more one thinks of the need and the promise, and the greatness of the obstacles to be overcome in prayer, the more one feels it must become our life-work day by day, that to which every other interest is subordinated.

But while not forming a large prayer union, it is suggested that it may be found helpful to have small prayer circles to unite in prayer, either for one month with some special object introduced daily along with the others, or through a year or longer, with the view of strengthening each other in the grace of intercession. If a minister were to invite some of his neighboring brethren to join for some special requests along with the printed subjects for supplication, or a number of the more earnest members of his congregation to unite in prayer for revival, some might be trained to take their place in the great work of intercession, who now stand idle because no man hath hired them.

5. Who is sufficient for these things?—The more we study and try to practice this grace of intercession, the more we become overwhelmed by its greatness and our feebleness. Let every such impression lead us to listen: **My grace is sufficient for thee, and to answer truthfully: Our sufficiency is of God.** Take courage; it is in the intercession of Christ you are called to take part. The burden and the agony, the triumph and the victory are all His. Learn from Him, yield to His Spirit in you, to know how to pray. He gave Himself a sacrifice to God for men, that He might have the right and power of intercession. "He bear the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Let your faith rest boldly on His finished work. Let your heart wholly identify itself with Him in His death and His life. **Like Him, give yourself to God a sacrifice to men:** it is your highest nobility, it is your true and full union to Him; it will be to you, as to Him, your power of intercession. Beloved Christian! come and give your whole heart and life to intercession, and you will know its blessedness and its power. God asks nothing less; the world needs nothing less; Christ asks nothing less; let nothing less be what we offer to God.

FIRST DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"I bow my knees unto the Father, that He would grant you that ye may be strengthened with power through His Spirit."—EPH. iii. 16,

"Wait for the promise of the Father."—ACTS i. 4.

"The fuller manifestation of the grace and energy of the Blessed Spirit of God, in the removal of all that is contrary to God's revealed will, so that we grieve not the Holy Spirit, but that He may work in mightier power in the Church for the exaltation of Christ and the blessing of souls."

God has one promise to and through His exalted Son; our Lord has one gift to His Church; the Church has one need; all prayer unites in the one petition—the power of the Holy Spirit. Make it your one prayer.

HOW TO PRAY.—AS A CHILD ASKS A FATHER

"If a son ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? How much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"—LUKE xi. 11, 13.

Ask as simply and trustfully as a child asks bread. You can do this because *"God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart, crying, Abba, Father."* This Spirit is in you to give you childlike confidence. In the faith of His praying in you, ask for the power of that Holy Spirit everywhere. Mention places or circles where you specially ask it to be seen.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the world's evangelization.

That the workers on the field may be more filled with the Spirit, and their numbers increased.

That the Church of Christ may awake to her great responsibility in regard to the world's evangelization.

SECOND DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT OF SUPPLICATION

"The Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us."—ROM. viii. 26.

"I will pour out the spirit of supplication."—ZECH. xii. 10.

"The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men—ay, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer."

Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in him to pray. God waits to give the Spirit in full measure. Ask for yourself, and all who join, the outpouring of the spirit of supplication. Ask it for your own prayer circle.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN THE SPIRIT

"With all prayer and supplication, praying at all seasons in the Spirit."—EPH. vi. 18.

"Praying in the Holy Spirit."—JUDE 20.

Our Lord gave His disciples on His resurrection day the Holy Spirit to enable them to wait for the full outpouring on the day of Pentecost. It is only in the power of the Spirit already in us, acknowledged and yielded to, that we can pray for His fuller manifestation. Say to the Father it is the Spirit of His Son in you is urging you to plead His promise.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the Indians of our Dominion. _____

That the Church at home may be aroused to a spirit of prayer on behalf of their work at home and abroad. _____

For our Central India Missions. _____

THIRD DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR ALL SAINTS

"With all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all saints."—EPH. vi. 18.

Every member of a body is interested in the welfare of the whole, and exists to help and complete the others. Believers are one body, and ought to pray, not so much for the welfare of their own church or society, but, first of all, for all saints. This large, unselfish love is the proof that Christ's Spirit and Love is teaching them to pray. Pray first for all and then for the believers around you.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT

"By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another."—JOHN xiii. 35.

"I pray that they all may be one, that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me."—JOHN xvii. 21.

"I beseech you, brethren, by the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me."—ROM. xv. 30.

"Above all things being fervent in your love among yourselves."—1 PET. iv. 8.

If we are to pray we must love. Let us say to God we do love all His saints; let us say we love specially every child of His we know. Let us pray with fervent love, in the love of the Spirit.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the Home Mission work of our Church.

For Ministers, Office-Bearers, and Members of the
Church at home.

For the Presbyterian Volunteer Union.

FOURTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS

God is the Holy One. His people is a holy people. He speaks: *I am holy: I am the Lord which make you holy.* Christ prayed: *Sanctify them. Make them holy through Thy Truth.* Paul prayed: *“God establish your hearts unblumable in holiness.” “God sanctify you wholly!”*

Pray for all saints—God’s holy ones—throughout the Church, that the spirit of holiness may rule them. Specially for new converts. For the saints in your own neighborhood or congregation. For any you are specially interested in. Think of their special need, weakness, or sin, and pray that God may make them holy.

HOW TO PRAY.—TRUSTING IN GOD’S OMNIPOTENCE

The things that are impossible with men are possible with God. When we think of the great things we ask for, of how little likelihood there is of their coming, of our own insignificance. Prayer is not only wishing, or asking, but believing and accepting. Be still before God and ask Him to give you to know Him as the Almighty One, and leave your petitions with Him who doeth wonders.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For our Missions in Formosa.

For the young people and the Young People’s Societies

of our Church.

For the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society.

FIFTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—THAT GOD'S PEOPLE MAY BE KEPT FROM THE WORLD

"Holy Father, keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, as I am not of the world."—JOHN xvii. 11, 15, 16.

In the last night Christ asked three things for His disciples: that they might be kept as those who are not of the world; that they might be sanctified; that they might be one in love. You cannot do better than pray as Jesus prayed. Ask for God's people that they may be kept separate from the world and its spirit; that they, by the Holy Spirit, may live as those who are not of the world.

HOW TO PRAY.—HAVING CONFIDENCE BEFORE GOD

"Beloved, if our hearts condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."—1 JOHN iii. 21, 22.

Learn these words by heart. Get them into your heart. Join the ranks of those who, with John, draw nigh to God with an assured heart, that does not condemn them, having confidence toward God. In this spirit pray for your brother who sins (1 John v. 16). In the quiet confidence of an obedient child plead for those of your brethren who may be giving way to sin. Pray for all to be kept from the evil. And say often, "What we ask, we receive, because we keep and do."

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For our Missions in the West Indies and Demerara.

For the Colleges of our Church.

For the Student Volunteer Movement.

SIXTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT OF LOVE IN THE CHURCH

"I pray that they may be one, even as we are one:—I in them and Thou in Me. That the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and hast loved them as Thou hast loved Me . . . that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them."—JOHN xvii. 23.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love."—GAL. v 22.

Believers are one in Christ, as He is one with the Father. The love of God rests on them, and can dwell in them. Pray that the power of the Holy Ghost may so work this love in believers, that the world may see and know God's love in them. Pray much for this.

HOW TO PRAY.—AS ONE OF GOD'S REMEMBRANCERS

"I have set watchmen on thy walls which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that are the Lord's remembrancers, keep not silence, and give Him no rest."—ISA. lxii. 6.

Study these words until your whole soul be filled with the consciousness, I am appointed intercessor. Enter God's presence in that faith. Study the world's need with that thought—it is my work to intercede; the Holy Spirit will teach me for what and how. Let it be an abiding consciousness. My great life-work, like Christ's, is intercession—to pray for believers and those who do not yet know God.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For our Mission in Honan.

For the Courts and Committees of the Church.

For the Educational Work in connection with our

Foreign Missions.

SEVENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON
MINISTERS

"I beseech you that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me."—ROM. xv. 30.

"He will deliver us, ye also helping together by your supplication on our behalf."—2 COR. i. 11.

What a great host of ministers there are in Christ's Church. What need they have of prayer. What a power they might be if they were all clothed with the power of the Holy Ghost. Pray definitely for this; long for it. Think of your own minister, and ask it very specially for him. Connect every thought of the ministry, in your town or neighborhood or the world, with the prayer that all may be filled with the Spirit. Plead for them the promise, *"Tarry till ye be clothed with power from on high"* *"Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Ghost is come upon you."*

HOW TO PRAY.—IN SECRET

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy inner chamber, and having shut to thy door, pray to the Father which is in secret."—MATT. vi. 6.

"He withdrew again into the mountain to pray, Himself alone."—MATT. xiv. 23; JOHN vi. 15.

Take time and realize, when you are alone with God: Here am I now, face to face with God, to intercede for His servants. Do not think you have no influence, or that your prayer will not be missed. Your prayer and faith will make a difference. Cry in secret to God for His ministers.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For our Mission in Korea.

For the Sabbath Schools and the Children of the
Church at home.

For the Mission Work among the Jews.

EIGHTH DAY.

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT ON ALL CHRISTIAN WORKERS

"Ye also helping together on our behalf; that for the gift bestowed upon us by means of many, thanks may be given by many on our behalf."—2 COR. i. 11.

What multitudes of workers in connection with our churches and missions, our railways and postmen, our soldiers and sailors, our young men and young women, our fallen men and women, our poor and sick. God be praised for this! What could they accomplish if each were living in the fulness of the Holy Spirit? Pray for them; it makes you a partner in their work, and you will praise God each time you hear of blessing anywhere.

HOW TO PRAY.—WITH DEFINITE PETITIONS

"What will thou that I should do unto thee?"—LUKE xviii. 41.

The Lord knew what the man wanted, and yet He asked Him. The utterance of our wish gives point to the transaction in which we are engaged with God, and so awakens faith and expectation. Be very definite in your petitions, so as to know what answer you may look for. Just think of the great host of workers, and ask and expect God definitely to bless them in answer to the prayers of His people. Then ask still more definitely for workers around you. Intercession is not the breathing out of pious wishes; its aim is, in believing, persevering prayer, to receive and bring down blessing.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For our Missions in the New Hebrides.

That Mohammedanism and other false religions may be overthrown.

Missions among Lepers.

NINTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR GOD'S SPIRIT ON OUR MISSION WORK

"The evangelization of the world depends first of all upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for men—ay, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, world-wide prayer."

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate Me Barnabas and Saul. Then when they had fasted and prayed, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed."—ACTS xiii. 2.

Pray that our mission work may all be done in this spirit—waiting on God, hearing the voice of the Spirit, sending forth men with fasting and prayer. Pray that in our churches our mission interest and mission work may be in the power of the Holy Spirit and of prayer. It is a Spirit-filled, praying Church will send out Spirit-filled missionaries, mighty in prayer.

HOW TO PRAY.—TAKE TIME

"I give myself unto prayer."—PS. cix. 4.

"We will give ourselves continually to prayer."—ACTS vi. 4.

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God."—ECCLES. v. 2.

"And He continued all night in prayer to God."—LUKE vi. 12.

Time is one of the chief standards of value. The time we give is a proof of the interest we feel.

We need time with God—to realize His presence; to wait for Him to make Himself known; to consider and feel the needs we plead for; to take our place in Christ; to pray till we can believe that we have received. Take time in prayer, and pray down blessing on the mission work of the Church.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For work among the Chinese in Canada.

For work among Women in Mission Lands

Medical Missions.

TENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR GOD'S SPIRIT ON OUR MISSIONARIES

"What the world needs to-day is, not only more missionaries, but the outpouring of God's Spirit on every one whom He has sent out to work for Him in the foreign field."

"Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be My witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth."—ACTS i. 8.

God always gives His servants power equal to the work He asks of them. Think of the greatness and difficulty of this work,—casting out Satan out of his strongholds,—and pray that every one who takes part in it may receive and do all his work in the power of the Holy Ghost. Think of the difficulties of your missionaries, and pray for them.

HOW TO PRAY.—TRUSTING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

"He is faithful that promised." "She counted Him faithful who promised."—HEB. x. 23, xi. 11.

Just think of God's promises to His Son, concerning His kingdom; to the Church, concerning the heathen; to His servants, concerning their work; to yourself, concerning your prayer; and pray in the assurance that He is faithful, and only waits for prayer and faith to fulfil them. "Faithful is He that calleth you" (to pray), "who also will do it" (what He has promised).

Take up individual missionaries, make yourself one with them, and pray till you know that you are heard. Oh, begin to live for Christ's kingdom as the one thing worth living for!

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For work among French Roman Catholics in Canada.

Missions to Papal countries.

For Africa.

ELEVENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR MORE LABORERS

"Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest."—MATT. ix. 38.

What a remarkable call of the Lord Jesus for help from His disciples in getting the need supplied. What an honor put upon prayer. What a proof that God wants prayer and will hear it.

Pray for laborers, for all students in theological seminaries, training homes, Bible institutes, that they may not go, unless He wants them and sends them forth; that our churches may train their students, seek for the sending forth of the Holy Spirit; that all believers may hold themselves ready to be sent forth, or to pray for them who can go.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN FAITH, NOTHING DOUBTING

"Jesus saith unto them, Have faith in God. Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he saith shall come to pass; he shall have it."—MARK xi. 23.

Have faith in God! Ask Him to make Himself known to you as the faithful, mighty God, who worketh all in us, and you will be encouraged to believe that He can send forth suitable and sufficient laborers, however impossible they may appear. *But remember, in answer to prayer and faith.*

Apply this to every opening where a good worker is needed. The work is God's. He can give the right workman, *if he must be asked and waited on.*

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For _____ Foreign _____ in our own country.

For the spirit of Liberality and the more Systematic _____

Giving to the Lord's work.

For the islands of the sea.

TWELFTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT TO CONVICT THE
WORLD OF SIN

"I will send the Comforter to you. And He, when He is come, will convict the world in respect of sin."—JOHN xvi, 7; 8.

God's one desire, the one object of Christ's being manifested, is to take away sin. The first work of the Spirit on the world is conviction of sin. Without that, no deep or abiding revival, no powerful conversion. Pray for it, that the gospel may be preached in such power of the Spirit, that men may see that they have rejected and crucified Christ, and cry out, What shall we do?

Pray most earnestly for a mighty power of conviction of sin wherever the gospel is preached.

HOW TO PRAY.—STIR UP YOURSELF TO TAKE HOLD OF
GOD'S STRENGTH

"Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me."—ISA. xxvii, 5.

"There is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth himself to take hold of Thee."—ISA. lxiv, 7.

"Stir up the gift of God which is in thee."—2 TIM. i, 6.

First, *take hold of God's strength.* God is a Spirit. I cannot take hold of Him, and hold Him fast, but by the Spirit. Take hold of God's strength, and hold on till it has done for you what He has promised. Pray for the power of the Spirit to convict of sin.

Second, *stir up yourself* the power that is in you by the Holy Spirit to take hold. Give your whole heart and will to it, and say, *I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me.*

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For Missions to Miners in our own Land.

That the Ministers of the home Church, and the Professors in our Colleges may recognize their responsibility to the World's Evangelization.

The Native Christians in Formosa.

THIRTEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT OF BURNING

"And if shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion shall be called holy: when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning."—ISA. iv. 3, 4.

A washing by fire! a cleansing by judgment! He that has passed through this shall be called holy. The power of blessing for the world, the power of work and intercession that will avail, depends upon the spiritual state of the Church; and that can only rise higher as sin is discovered and put away. Judgment must begin at the house of God. There must be conviction of sin for sanctification. Beseech God to give His Spirit as a spirit of judgment and a spirit of burning—to discover and burn out sin in His people.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

"Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do. If ye shall ask Me anything in My name, that will I do."—JOHN xiv. 13, 14.

Ask in the name of your Redeemer God, who sits upon the throne. Ask what He has promised, what He gave His blood for, that sin may be put away from among His people. Ask—the prayer is after His own heart—for the spirit of deep conviction of sin to come among His people. Ask for the spirit of burning! Ask in the faith of His name—the faith of what He wills, of what He can do—and look for the answer. Pray that the Church may be blessed, to be made a blessing in the world.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For Native churches in Foreign Lands.

For Bible societies, that the Word of God may be translated into every tongue.

For the guidance of our missionaries in the development of the work in Korea.

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FOURTEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

"That the children might not be as their fathers, a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God."—Ps. lxxviii. 8.

"I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thy offspring."—ISA. xlv. 31.

Pray for the rising generation, who are to come after us. Think of the young men and young women and children of this age, and pray for all the agencies at work among them. That in associations, and societies, and unions, in homes and schools, Christ may be honored, and the Holy Spirit get possession of them. Pray for the young of your own neighborhood.

HOW TO PRAY.—WITH THE WHOLE HEART

"The Lord grant thee according to thine own heart."—Ps. xx. 4.

"Thou hast given him his heart's desire."—Ps. xxi. 2.

"I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord."—Ps. cxix. 145.

God lives, and listens to every petition with His whole heart. Each time we pray the whole Infinite God is there to hear. He asks that in each prayer the whole man shall be there too; that we shall cry with our whole heart. Christ gave Himself to God for men; and so He takes up every need into His intercession. If once we seek God with our whole heart, the whole heart will be in every prayer with which we come to this God. Pray with your whole heart for the young.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the Prayer Life of the Church that it may be more intense, more constant and more prevailing.

For the removal of the Opium and the Liquor Traffic and all covetous hindrance to Christianity.

That the spirit of unity and Christian fellowship may obtain amongst missionaries in every land.

FIFTEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

"As for Me, this is My covenant with them, saith the Lord: My Spirit that is upon thee, and My words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of thy mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever."—ISA. lix. 21.

The future of the Church and the world depends, to an extent we little conceive, on the education of the day. The Church may be seeking to evangelize the heathen, and be giving up her own children to secular and materialistic influences. Pray for schools and colleges, and that the Church may realize and fulfil its momentous duty of caring for its children. Pray for all godly teachers.

HOW TO PRAY.—NOT LIMITING GOD

"They limited the Holy One of Israel."—PS. lxxviii. 41.

"He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."—MATT. xiii. 58.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?"—GEN. xviii. 14.

"Ah, Lord God! Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power; there is nothing too hard for Thee. Behold, I am the Lord: is there anything too hard for Me?"—JER. xxxii. 17, 27.

Beware, in your prayer, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, of how He delights to hear Christ, of your place in Christ, and expect great things.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church may be guided by the Holy Spirit in administering the Foreign Missionary undertakings of our Church.

For the Presbyterian Volunteer Union for Foreign Missions.

That the Church at Home may come to recognize her responsibility and her privilege in the Ministry of Money.

SIXTEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR SABBATH SCHOOLS

"This saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children."—ISA. xlix. 25.

Every part of the work of God's Church is His work. We must do it. Prayer is the confession that He will, the surrender of ourselves into His hands to let Him work in us and through us. Pray for the hundreds of thousands of Sunday-school teachers, that those who know God may be filled with His Spirit. Pray for your own Sunday school. Pray for the salvation of the children.

HOW TO PRAY.—BOLDLY

"We have a great High Priest, Jesus the Son of God. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace."—HEB. iv. 14, 16.

These hints to help us in our work of intercession—what are they doing for us? Making us conscious of our feebleness in prayer? Thank God for this. It is the very first lesson we need on the way to pray the effectual prayer that availeth much. Let us persevere, taking each subject boldly to the throne of grace. As we pray we shall learn to pray, and to believe, and to expect with increasing boldness. Hold fast your assurance: it is at God's command you come as an intercessor. Christ will give you grace to pray aright.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That the Home Mission Committee of the Church may be guided by the Holy Spirit in the oversight of the Home Missionary work of our Church.

For mission work in Arabia, Persia and other Mohammedan countries.

For work among the Indians of North America.

SEVENTEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR KINGS AND RULERS

"I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgiving, be made for all men; for kings, and all that are in high places; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity."—1 TIM. ii. 1, 2.

What a faith in the power of prayer! A few feeble and despised Christians are to influence the mighty Roman emperors, and help in securing peace and quietness. Let us believe that prayer is a power that is taken up by God in His rule of the world. Let us pray for our country and its rulers; for all the rulers of the world; for rulers in cities or districts in which we are interested. When God's people unite in this, they may count upon their prayer effecting in the unseen world more than they know. Let faith hold this fast.

HOW TO PRAY.—THE PRAYER BEFORE GOD AS INCENSE

"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, out of the angel's hand. And the angel taketh the censer; and he filled it with the fire upon the altar, and cast it upon the earth, and there followed thunder, and voices, and lightning, and an earthquake."—REV. viii. 3-5.

The same censer brings the prayer of the saints before God and casts fire upon the earth. The prayers that go up to heaven have their share in the history of this earth. Be sure that thy prayers enter God's presence.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That Native Evangelists may be Spirit-filled and their number greatly increased.

For mission work in Mexico and Central America.

EIGHTEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR PEACE

"I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplication be made for kings and all that are in high places; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."—1 TIM. ii. 1-3.

"He maketh wars to cease to the end of the earth."—PS. xlv. 9.

What a terrible sight!—the military armaments in which the nations find their pride. What a terrible thought!—the evil passions that may at any moment bring on war. And what a prospect the suffering and desolation that must come. God can, in answer to the prayer of His people, give peace. Let us pray for it, and for the rule of righteousness on which alone it can be established.

HOW TO PRAY.—WITH THE UNDERSTANDING

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding."—1 COR. xiv. 15.

We need to pray with the spirit, as the vehicle of the intercession of God's Spirit, if we are to take hold of God in faith and power. We need to pray with the understanding, if we are really to enter deeply into the needs we bring before Him. Take time to apprehend intelligently, in each subject, the nature, the extent, the urgency of the request, the ground and way and certainty of God's promise as revealed in His Word. Let the mind affect the heart. Pray with the understanding and with the spirit.

SPECIAL PETITIONS.

For the Religious Education of native children in connection with our missions.

Mission work in Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

NINETEENTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT ON CHRISTENDOM

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

—2 TIM. iii. 5.

"Thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead."—

REV. iii. 1.

There are five hundred millions of nominal Christians. The state of the majority is unspeakably awful. Formality, worldliness, ungodliness, rejection of Christ's service, ignorance, and indifference—to what an extent does all this prevail. We pray for the heathen—oh! do let us pray for those bearing Christ's name; many in worse than heathen darkness.

Does not one feel as if one ought to begin to give up his life, and to cry day and night to God for souls? In answer to prayer God gives the power of the Holy Ghost.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN DEEP STILLNESS OF SOUL

"My soul is silent unto God: from Him cometh my salvation."

—PS. lxii. 1.

Prayer has its power in God alone. The nearer a man comes to God Himself, the deeper he enters into God's will; the more he takes hold of God, the more power in prayer.

God must reveal Himself. If it please Him to make Himself known, He can make the heart conscious of His presence. Our posture must be that of holy reverence, of quiet waiting and adoration.

As your month of intercession passes on, and you feel the greatness of your work, be still before God. Thus you will get power to pray.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For Rulers and all in authority that they may be dis-

posed to encourage the work of missions.

That persecuted native Christians may be sustained and

enabled to persevere in the faith.

Afghanistan, Beloochistan, Burmah, Ceylon.

TWENTIETH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR GOD'S SPIRIT ON THE HEATHEN

"Behold, these shall come from far: and these from the land of Sinim."—ISA. xlix. 12.

"Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall haste to stretch out her hands to God."—1's. lxviii. 31.

"I the Lord will hasten it in His time."—ISA. lx. 22.

Pray for the heathen, who are yet without the word. Think of China, with her three hundred millions—a million a month dying without Christ. Think of Dark Africa, with its two hundred millions. Think of thirty millions a year going down into the thick darkness. If Christ gave His life for them, will you not do so? You can give yourself up to intercede for them. Just begin, if you have never yet begun, with this simple monthly school of intercession. The ten minutes you give will make you feel this is not enough. God's Spirit will draw you on. Persevere, however feeble you are. Ask God to give you some country or tribe to pray for. Can anything be nobler than to do as Christ did? Give your life for the heathen.

HOW TO PRAY.—WITH CONFIDENT EXPECTATION OF AN ANSWER

"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and will shew thee great things and difficult, which thou knowest not."—JER. xxxiii. 3.

"Thus saith the Lord God: I will yet be inquired of, that I do it."—EZEK. xxxvi. 37.

Both texts refer to promises definitely made, but their fulfilment would depend upon prayer: God would be enquired of to do it.

Pray for God's fulfilment of His promises to His Son and His Church, and expect the answer. Plead for the heathen: plead God's promises.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That our missionaries may be preserved in good health.

For the Inland Provinces of China.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR GOD'S SPIRIT ON THE JEWS

"I will pour out upon the house of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplication; and they shall look unto Me whom they pierced."—ZECH. xii. 10.

"Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved."—ROM. x. 1.

Pray for the Jews. Their return to the God of their fathers stands connected, in a way we cannot tell, with wonderful blessing to the Church, and with the coming of our Lord Jesus. Let us not think that God has fore-ordained all this, and that we cannot hasten it. In a divine and mysterious way God has connected His fulfilment of His promise with our prayer. His Spirit's intercession in us is God's forerunner of blessing. Pray for Israel and the work done among them. And pray too: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

HOW TO PRAY.—WITH THE INTERCESSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"We know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."—ROM. viii. 26.

In your ignorance and feebleness believe in the secret indwelling and intercession of the Holy Spirit within you. Yield yourself to His life and leading habitually. He will help your infirmities in prayer. Plead the promises of God even where you do not see how they are to be fulfilled. God knows the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Pray with the simplicity of a little child; pray with the holy awe and reverence of one in whom God's Spirit dwells and prays.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That all charged with the administration of our Foreign Mission work may be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

That the Young People of our church may recognize and improve their wonderful opportunity of promoting Foreign Mission work.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR ALL WHO ARE IN SUFFERING

"Remember them that are in the bonds, as bound with them; them that are evil entreated, as being yourselves by the body."—HEB. xiii. 3.

What a world of suffering we live in! How Jesus sacrificed all and identified Himself with it! Let us in our measure do so too. The persecuted Stundists and Armenians and Jews, the famine stricken millions of India, the hidden slavery of Africa, the poverty and wretchedness of our great cities—and so much more: what suffering among those who know God and who know Him not. And then in smaller circles, in ten thousand homes and hearts, what sorrow. In our own neighborhood, how many needing help, or comfort. Let us have a heart for, let us think of the suffering. It will stir us to pray, to work, to hope, to love more. And in a way and time we know not God will hear our prayer.

HOW TO PRAY.—PRAYING ALWAYS, AND NOT FAINTING

"He spake unto them a parable to the end that they ought always to pray, and not to faint."—LUKE xviii. 1.

Do you not begin to feel prayer is really the help for this sinful world, what a need there is of unceasing prayer? The very greatness of the task makes us despair. What can our ten minutes of intercession avail? It is right we feel this: this is the way in which God is calling and preparing us to give our life to prayer. Give yourself wholly to God for men, and amid all your work your heart will be drawn out to men in love, and drawn up to God in dependence and expectation. To a heart thus led by the Holy Spirit it is possible to pray always and not to faint.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That a rich blessing may rest upon all efforts to deepen the missionary interest in the Church at Home.

That the Spirit of Prayer on behalf of the World's Evangelization may come upon the Church at Home.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR OWN WORK

"I labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily."—COL. i. 29.

You have your own special work; make it a work of intercession. Paul labored, striving according to the working of God in him. Remember, God is not only the Creator, but the Great Workman, who worketh all in all. You can only do your work in His strength, by Him working in you through the Spirit. Intercede much for those among whom you work, till God gives you life for them.

Let us all intercede too for each other, for every worker throughout God's Church, however solitary or unknown.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN GOD'S VERY PRESENCE

"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you."—JAS. iv. 8.

The nearness of God gives rest and power in prayer. The nearness of God is given to him who makes it his first object. "Draw nigh to God"; seek the nearness to Him, and He will give it; "He will draw nigh to you." Then it becomes easy to pray in faith.

Remember that when first God takes you into the school of intercession it is almost more for your own sake than that of others. You have to be trained to love, and wait, and pray, and believe. Only persevere. Learn to set yourself in His presence; to wait quietly for the assurance that He draws nigh. Enter His holy presence, tarry there, and spread your work before Him. Intercede for the souls you are working among. Get a blessing from God, His Spirit into your own heart, for them.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For Christian work among students in Foreign Lands.

For Unoccupied lands: Tibet, Afghanistan, Turkestan,

Annam.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT ON YOUR OWN CONGREGATION

“Beginning at Jerusalem.”—LUKE xxiv. 47.

Each one of us is connected with some congregation or circle of believers, who are to us the part of Christ's body with which we come into most direct contact. They have a special claim on our intercession. Let it be a settled matter between God and you that you are to labor in prayer on its behalf. Pray for the minister and all leaders or workers in it. Pray for the believers according to their needs. Pray for conversions. Pray for the power of the Spirit to manifest itself. Bangl yourself with others to join in secret in definite petitions. Let intercession be a definite work, carried on as systematically as preaching or Sunday school. And pray, expecting an answer.

HOW TO PRAY.—CONTINUALLY

“Watchmen, that shall never hold their peace day nor night.”—ISA. lxii. 6.

“His own elect, that cry to Him day and night.”—LUKE xviii. 7.

“Night and day praying exceedingly, that we may perfect that which is lacking in your faith.”—1 THESS. iii. 10.

“A widow indeed hath her hope set in God, and continueth in supplications night and day.”—1 TIM. v. 5.

When the glory of God, and the love of Christ, and the need of souls are revealed to us, the fire of this unceasing intercession will begin to burn in us for those who are near and those who are far off.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That more of the native Christians may be called out and prepared for the evangelization of their own people.

For God's blessing upon the circulation of Missionary Literature:

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR MORE CONVERSIONS

"He is able to save completely, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession."—HEB. vii. 25.

"We will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word. . . . And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied exceedingly."—ACTS vi. 4, 7.

Christ's power to save, and save completely, depends on His unceasing intercession. The apostles withdrawing themselves from other work to give themselves continually to prayer was followed by the number of the disciples multiplying exceedingly. As we, in our day, give ourselves to intercession, we shall have more and mightier conversions. Let us plead for this. Christ is exalted to give repentance. The Church exists with the Divine purpose and promise of having conversions. Let us not be ashamed to confess our sin and feebleness, and cry to God for more conversions in Christian and heathen lands, of those too whom you know and love. Plead for the salvation of sinners.

HOW TO PRAY.—IN DEEP HUMILITY

"Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs. . . . O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."—MATT. xv. 27.

You feel unworthy and unable to pray aright. To accept this heartily, and to be content still to come and be blessed in your unworthiness, is true humility. It proves its integrity by not seeking for anything, but simply trusting His grace. And so it is the very strength of a great faith, and gets a full answer. "Yet the dogs"—let that be your plea as you persevere for some one possibly possessed of the devil. Let not your littleness hinder you for a moment.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the recognition and realization on the part of all
Ministers and Professors in our Colleges of God's gracious
purpose in Jesus Christ for the whole world.

For godly living and constancy of purpose on the part
of all the members of the Presbyterian Volunteer Union
for Foreign Missions.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT ON YOUNG CONVERTS

"Peter and John prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost; for as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus."—ACTS viii. 15.

"Now He which establisheth us with you in Christ, and anointed us, is God; who also gave us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."—2 COR. i. 22.

How many new converts who remain feeble; how many who fall into sin; how many who backslide entirely. If we pray for the Church, its growth in holiness and devotion to God's service, pray specially for the young converts. How many stand alone, surrounded by temptation; how many have no teaching on the Spirit in them, and the power of God to establish them; how many in heathen lands, surrounded by Satan's power. If you pray for the power of the Spirit in the Church, pray specially that every young convert may know that he may claim and receive the fulness of the Spirit.

HOW TO PRAY.—WITHOUT CEASING

"As for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."—1 SAM. xii. 23.

It is sin against the Lord to cease praying. When once we begin to see how absolutely indispensable intercession is, just as much a duty as loving God or believing in Christ, and how we are called and bound to it as believers, we shall feel that to cease intercession is grievous sin. Let us ask for grace to take up our place as priests with joy, and give our life to bring down the blessing of heaven.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the Holy Land and the Jews throughout the world.

That our missionaries may be cheered in their work
and saved from depression of spirit.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT OF INTERCESSION

"I chose you and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you."—JOHN xv. 16.

"Hitherto ye have asked nothing in My name: in that day ye shall ask in My name."—JOHN xvi. 24, 26.

Has not our school of intercession taught us how little we have prayed in the name of Jesus? He promised His disciples: *In that day*, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, ye shall ask in My name. Are there not tens of thousands with us mourning the lack of the power of intercession? Let our intercession to-day be for them and all God's children, that Christ may teach us that the Holy Spirit is in us; what it is to live in His fulness, and to yield ourselves to His intercession work within us. The Church and the world need nothing so much as a mighty Spirit of intercession to bring down the power of God on earth. Pray for the descent from heaven of the Spirit of intercession for a great prayer revival.

HOW TO PRAY.—ABIDING IN CHRIST

"If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done to you."—JOHN xv. 7.

Our acceptance with God, our access to Him, is all in Christ. As we consciously *abide in Him* we have the liberty, not a liberty to our old nature or our self-will, but the Divine liberty from all self-will, to ask what we will, in the power of the new nature, and it shall be done. Let us keep this place, and believe even now that our intercession is heard, and that the Spirit of supplication will be given all around us.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For the Children of the Home Church that they may
 early be interested in the work of the World's Evangeliza-
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Northern Africa and the Soudan.

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THIRTIETH DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH THE WORD OF GOD

“Our gospel came unto you not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.”—1 THESS. i. 5.

“Those who preached unto you the gospel with the Holy Ghost sent forth from heaven.”—1 PET. i. 12.

What numbers of Bibles are being circulated. What numbers of sermons on the Bible are being preached. What numbers of Bibles being read in home and school. How little blessing when it comes “in word” only; what Divine blessing and power when it comes “in the Holy Ghost,” when it is preached “with the Holy Ghost sent forth from heaven.” Pray for Bible circulation, and preaching and teaching and reading, that it may all be in the Holy Ghost, with much prayer. Pray for the power of the Spirit with the word in your own neighborhood, wherever it is being read or heard. Let every mention of “The Word of God” waken intercession.

HOW TO PRAY.—WATCHING AND PRAYING

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; whilst praying for us also, that God may open for us a door for the word.”—COL. iv. 2, 3.

Do you not see how all depends upon God and prayer? As long as He lives and loves, and hears and works, as long as there are souls with hearts closed to the word, as long as there is work to be done in carrying the word—*Pray without ceasing. Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving.* These words are for every Christian.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

That the Foreign Mission Committee and the mission-
aries on the field may be guided in relation to Industrial
Work.

Arabia and Turkey in Asia.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

WHAT TO PRAY.—FOR THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IN HIS PEOPLE

"I am the Vine, ye are the branches"—JOHN xv. 5.*"That ye should do as I have done to you."*—JOHN xiii. 15.

As branches we are to be so like the Vine, so entirely identified with it, that all may see that we have the same nature, and life, and spirit. When we pray for the Spirit, let us not only think of a Spirit of power, but the very disposition and temper of Christ Jesus. Ask and expect nothing less; for yourself, and all God's children, cry for it.

HOW TO PRAY.—STRIVING IN PRAYER

"That ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me."—ROM. xv. 30.*"I would ye knew what great conflict I have for you."*—COL. ii. 1.

All the powers of evil seek to hinder us in prayer. Prayer is a conflict with opposing forces. It needs the whole heart and all our strength. May God give us grace to strive in prayer till we prevail.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

For God's providential and present control of all missionary work, that all human obstacles may be removed, and that all plans and movements may be conformable to His will.

Rev. Andrew Murray,

PRESIDENT OF THE CAPE GENERAL MISSION.

From *The South African Pioneer*.

THE name of ANDREW MURRAY has been for many years well known throughout South Africa, and later, through his books, there are few names more familiar in the English-speaking world than that of the author of "Abide in Christ."

The father of Andrew Murray came out from Scotland nearly seventy years ago, and became an honored minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Graaff-Reinet. His work was richly blessed, but his great legacy to South Africa was his family, five of his sons becoming devoted ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church, and four of his daughters ministers' wives, while another daughter is the principal of a large school for girls.

The second son, Andrew, bearing his father's name, was born at Graaff-Reinet May 9, 1828, and it is this Scotch Afriander with whom we are now concerned.

When his eldest brother was sent home to Aberdeen to complete his classical studies, Andrew, then only nine years of age, accompanied him. Both brothers became in time students and graduates of Marischal College. Here both the lads drank deeply of the missionary and evangelistic spirit they had already received from their revered father. Here they frequently heard William Burns, afterwards the noble missionary to China, and they caught not a little of his heroic spirit.

After graduation they went to Holland to complete their theological education at the University of Utrecht. Here they were soon the centre of a circle of earnest disciples, and both took an active part in the formation of a Students' Missionary Society.

When the curriculum of Utrecht was finished, they returned to South Africa, the elder brother ultimately becoming a Professor in the Dutch Theological Seminary at Stellenbosch, while the younger, Andrew, was appointed the minister over what is now the Orange Free State. Mr. Murray was only twenty

years of age when he was ordained to this work, and for a long period he was the only minister in this wide territory, but he was not dismayed. Fixing his headquarters at Bloemfontein, he entered upon his labors with untiring energy.

The farmers were not well pleased with the youthful appearance of their pastor, but when they heard his first sermon, they found there was one before them whose youth was not to be despised. And when they witnessed the amount of riding, preaching, catechizing, and family visitation done by the young minister, not only in the Free State, but beyond their borders in the Transvaal, their surprise gave way to esteem.

The people gladly gathered in large numbers to worship with him, generally in the open air, sometimes under sails stretched as a protection from the burning sun. The influence of this activity is still felt in the whole district. In travelling through the Free State and Transvaal one is continually meeting those whom he has joined in marriage, or those whom he has baptized; and many a one speaks of him as a spiritual father, and has some loving remembrance of his visits. While thus engaged in the Free State, Mr. Murray found a helpmeet for himself in the person of Miss Emma Rutherford, the daughter of the Hon. H. E. Rutherford, well known as a staunch friend and generous supporter of the Lord's work in the whole country. It may be readily believed that it was to no paradisaic locality that the bride was taken, but for the sake of her husband and the Gospel of his Master, she bravely faced and shared all the hardships of life on the frontier. That these were often severe enough, appears in the fact that after some years Mr. Murray was prostrated by fever, and was long in recovering from the results of the ordeal. His physicians declared that he would never be a strong man again. But, as it proved, this was simply a turning-point in what was to be a yet more extended service. For the young minister shortly afterwards, in 1866, received a call to Worcester, an important inland town of Cape Colony about eighty miles from Capetown. He accepted it, and once again found cause to praise God, who followed him in his new sphere with fresh triumphs of His grace. It was at

this time that the great wave of revival which, beginning with America and Ireland, and sweeping over the Eastern World, rolled in gladness also over South Africa. There was at Worcester a very marvellous manifestation of the convincing and converting power of the Spirit of Christ. A multitude of souls were gathered into the Kingdom, and the hands of the Lord's servants were full of work. Those who knew Mr. Murray intimately speak in the warmest terms of the wise and gracious influence he exercised at that time, in the way of endeavoring to seize and turn to the best account the spiritual earnestness of the time, and yet prevent it from falling into confusion and fanaticism.

It was while pastor at Worcester that Mr. Murray began to present some of his utterances in literary form. Amongst the first of his books was a little volume entitled, "Waarom gelooft gij niet?" ("Why do you not believe?"), and another named, "Het nieuw Leven," ("The New Life"), a series of counsels to young Christians who have lately entered the narrow way. Both of these, and especially the latter, have been much blessed to many, and are still widely circulated at the Cape and in Holland. As we have indicated, they were first written in Dutch. So also were two other volumes which he published at this period, "Abide in Christ" and "The Children for Christ." After remaining at Worcester for four years, Mr. Murray accepted a call to Capetown, where he remained about the same length of time. The work here was felt by him to be encompassed by many difficulties. There were three Dutch churches in the city, in which, according to the method still pursued in Holland, three ministers preached in turn. The arrangement prevented the growth of that strong pastoral sympathy which Mr. Murray had hitherto found a most valuable element in his work. He asked that he might have a church and a portion of the people as his own congregation. This being declined, he felt free to wait for a door of the Word in another quarter. This at last came through a call to Wellington, a pleasant town about forty-five miles from Capetown, on the part of a congregation largely composed of descendants of French Huguenot families who had fled thither in the days of their tribulation,

and become associated with the Dutch Reformed Church. It is in this sphere that Mr. Murray still lives and works with great joy and success. The people have plainly inherited the blessing promised to thousands of them that love the Lord and keep His commandments. And this is seen in the fact that again and again there have been most blessed times of refreshing, and large harvests of souls for the Kingdom of the Lord. This, under God, is largely due to the single-hearted resolve of the pastor to know nothing among the people but Christ and Him crucified, and to seek above all things the salvation of souls. There are very few ministers of our day who have a keener insight into sacred truth. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that, successful as Mr. Murray is as a pastor, he is a pastor and nothing more. He has also done a grand work as a Christian educationist. Even in his first charge he spared no pains to get good teachers for his people. And he has pursued the same aim ever since. This desire has been fulfilled with remarkable success in Wellington.

Shortly after his removal thither, he became acquainted with the life and work of Mary Lyon, of Mount Holyoke Seminary, in America, and became fired with the resolve to have a similar institution in South Africa, where the conversion and Christian education of girls might be made the chief aim. "This is what I have always wanted," said he. "In sending for teachers to England or Scotland, I have no security that they will understand this aim, or enter fully into it. I shall send to America for teachers." He did so; and being fortunate enough to secure the services of Misses Ferguson and Bliss, of Holyoke, he founded in 1874 the Huguenot Seminary at Wellington, over which these ladies still preside. There are about two hundred young ladies from all parts of South Africa being educated on the methods of Mount Holyoke and in the same spirit. A minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Capetown tells us:—"It is difficult to say in a few words what blessings this institution has conferred on South Africa, not only by the education in a Christian spirit of many hundreds of young ladies, but also by a large number of them having become teachers imbued with the spirit of the Huguenot Seminary." "The story of the conversions and revi-

vais at this institution," writes another, "is quite wonderful; and now there are several schools throughout the country which look to the Hugenot Seminary as their mother, and work on the same principles." The most prominent feature in the whole education is the paramount importance attached to Christian missions.

While maintaining this oversight of his flock and the Christian schools of the province, Mr. Murray is as much as ever bent on the carrying forward of evangelization. In this direction he has had marvellous blessing. After his work at Wellington became known, no one was in greater request for taking part in special services in other congregations throughout the country. Often he has found many souls just waiting to be brought into the Kingdom, and has given the message that led them to Christ. With such plain indications of the finger of God before him, it is little to be wondered at that Mr. Murray should have been led to think that he ought to have the work of an evangelist occupying the larger portion of his time. The way for this was not at first plain. A prolonged illness in 1879, for one thing, interrupted this service. But after granting him a remarkable recovery from it, the Lord was pleased also to show his congregation that this line of effort was to bulk very largely in his future work. He came in great power and blessing to the people. There was an ingathering of souls such as they had never experienced before; and then the Church was made willing and ready to allow their pastor to devote at least half his time to evangelistic work. In the prosecution of this service during the last six years Mr. Murray has found the Lord making manifest the savor of His knowledge by him in almost every place he has visited. His tours on special missions have of late extended not only to the Eastern Province of the Colony, but also to the Free State, Transvaal, and Natal. And we are informed that there are hardly any congregations in those different States where there are not found those who now look up to him as their spiritual father, and who have been helped by his preaching on their way Zionward.

Mr. Murray has also established at Wellington a training seminary for missionaries to the Kaffirs and

other tribes. Here a much simpler course of study is required than for ordinary pastors. The students are ordained simply as missionaries, but they do a work which could not be carried on by any other agency. Amongst Mr. Murray's own relations also the missionary spirit is still being deeply cherished. It is but recently that one of his nephews, Rev. Andrew C. Murray, has gone to Lake Nyassa as a missionary of the Dutch Church, and is co-operating with the other Scotch brethren already there.

In connection with his work as an evangelist, Mr. Murray has been led to take a deep interest in the movement now everywhere making such progress towards lifting up professing Christians to a higher plane of spiritual life and service. In this work also the Lord has caused His servant to prosper greatly. Singleness of eye for the glory of Christ in souls, is the secret of his success. No attempt is made to dazzle by words of wisdom, or by the over-straining of Biblical questions. Everything that might attract the hearer to the speaker himself is laid aside.

And hence some have said about his preaching, what we have noticed some critics saying of his books, that there is a want of zest and brilliance in his style. But as one of our correspondents says, "I think all will admit that they never hear him without being stirred up from the very foundation, and made to feel as if they were only beginning the Christian life, and had yet to learn what full trust and consecration mean." It is with this same power that his last four works—"Like Christ," "With Christ," "Holy in Christ," and "The Spirit of Christ,"—are fraught. All of them were written at Wellington, and only after the topics they deal with had been studied and meditated on, and spoken about at Christian conferences on subjects akin to them.

So lives and works, then, this faithful servant of Christ. He has a remarkable power of winning the confidence of men, and we learn without surprise that even in earlier years he was twice appointed a deputy on important missions to England in connection with civil questions in this country. But the Church is his chosen field of work. Moderator of Synod for no less than three times, he is honored and loved by all his ministerial brethren.

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"My soul wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him."—PS. lxxii : 5.

"This I saw, that when a soul loves God with a supreme love, God's interest and his are become one."—DAVID BRAINERD.

"Live more with Christ; catch more of His Spirit: for the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of Missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we shall become."—HENRY MARTYN.

"Deeper than the need of men; deeper, far, than the need of money; aye, deep down at the bottom of our spiritless life is the need of the forgotten secret of prevailing world-wide prayer. Missions have progressed slowly abroad, because piety and prayer have been shallow at home."—ROBERT F. SPER.

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest.”—

Matt. ix. : 38.

Oh, for some five hundred Elijahs, each one upon his Carmel, crying unto God! and we should soon have the clouds bursting with showers. . . . Oh, for more prayer—more constant, incessant mention of the mission cause in prayer! and then the blessing will be sure to come.—
SPURGEON.

Resolved, That we be constant in prayer and in the cultivation of personal religion, to fit us for the discharge of these laborious and unutterably important labors; let us often look at Brainerd, in the woods of America, pouring out his very soul before God for the perishing heathen without whose salvation nothing could make him happy.
—From the Covenant of CAREY, MARSHMAN AND WARD.

The Foreign Missions of the Church.

In obedience to the Lord's last command our Church has undertaken to preach the Gospel to heathen people within our own country and in the regions beyond.

1. MISSIONS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. Population 109,000.

- (a) Mission to Indians in North-West Canada. Seventeen mission stations, thirty-seven missionaries and teachers.
- (b) Mission to Indians in British Columbia. Population 9,000. Seven mission stations, five missionaries and teachers.
- (c) Mission to Chinese in British Columbia and Quebec. Five missionaries.

2. FORMOSA. Population 3,000,000.

Two Canadian missionaries, one ordained native preacher, forty-two unordained native preachers. Oxford College and Girls' School.

3. HONAN (North China). Population 15,000,000.

Three mission stations, twelve male missionaries, four single lady missionaries.

"These from the land of Sinim."

China's death rate would bury Canada's population in seven months.

4. **CENTRAL INDIA.** Population 10,000,000.
Seven mission stations, eleven male missionaries,
sixteen single lady missionaries.
India contains nearly one-fifth of the human race.
If every missionary in India could reach 45,000 souls, 200,000,000 people there would still be unreached.
5. **WEST INDIES.** Population 75,000. (Among the Coolies of Trinidad and Demerara).
Eight mission stations, ten missionaries and teachers,
four ordained native pastors.
6. **NEW HEBRIDES.** Population 50,000. (The Islands of Efate Santo and Erromanga).
Three Canadian missionaries, fifty-four native helpers.
"The isles shall wait for his law." Isa. xlii : 4.
7. **KOREA.** Population 12,000,000.
Three Canadian missionaries laboring in the Province of Ham Gyong.

missionaries,

of the same race.
Each 45-
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