

The Fraternal.

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Literary and other contributions for "The Fraternal" should be addressed to the Secretary, Rev. A. J. Payne, 25, The Grove, Earlsfield, Wandsworth, London, S.W. 18.

Special Prayer Union Number.



SECRETARY'S NOTES.

THE Annual Meetings at Bristol passed off satisfactorily. The Business Meeting was well attended. The Librarian reported 80 readers. The list of officers is given elsewhere. Rev. W. H. Pratt was appointed Financial Secretary especially with a view of wiping off the deficit of £15 on the General Account, and it is hoped that all members will promptly respond to his appeal.

We cordially welcome Rev. Wm. Joynes, of Frinton-on-Sea, to the Presidency, and hope that he will have a happy period of service. We hope that Dr. Blomfield will accept his election as Vice-President and look forward expectantly to his Presidency.

The Council are very grateful to Councillor Walter Bryant who was the host of the United Meeting of the B.M.F.U. and B.A.F.

The speeches of our overseas visitors, Rev. Dr. Ashby Jones and Dr. Franklin and Professor Cross and others, were greatly enjoyed and it was felt to be well worth while to arrange for such gatherings during the Session of the Union.

A.J.P.

TO THE MINISTERS OF THE SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER UNION.

Dear Brothers,

First, I would rejoice with you in the quickened life of our Prayer Union. It is very refreshing and helpful to realise the sensible power and quickening of which we are conscious, when we meet at our Father's foot-stool.

Our beloved Secretary, Rev. J. E. Martin, tells me that he has received 220 applications for membership. To these we give our warm welcome, and we trust that they will bring an added strength to our Concert of Prayer. We are not quite sure as to those who have held faithfully to their pledge in the bygone years. If these would kindly send a post card to Mr. Martin, we should be able to tabulate their names for further communications; and there would be a solidarity of a very real and inspiring character. We should be glad to issue a printed list of all our members, that we might spread it out before our Heavenly Father each Sunday morning.

Let me, also, remind our London Brethren of our desire to set apart Thursday, October 4, morning and afternoon, for United Prayer for London specially, but also for our Country and Empire. The invitation will be addressed to all Ministers of Religion to unite with us, as the inauguration of our winter's work. Perhaps the same day could be observed, for the same purpose, in every town, where two or three of our members might feel led to summon their ministerial brethren to meet with them. In the evening there might be a more general meeting of the officers of the Churches. Any suggestions on this proposal will be welcomed. As with Elijah, it is when the Altar of Unity is built, and when the prophets of Baal are routed, that the tiny cloud scuds across the sea as the herald of the hastening clouds!

May I pass on to you the essence of a sermon by John Caird, which greatly moves me, on the text "Take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine." He says, "Instruct your children in the knowledge of God's great love and mercy, but let them see that love cheering, animating, and hallowing your daily life. Describe to them the divinity and glory of the Saviour's person and work: but let them

note how daily you think of Him and how the sense of His presence sheds a reflected beauty on your own. Sermons and speeches may weary, but the speech of the life never tires, let men feel as they behold your earnest, sincere, and unselfish life, and God, and truth, and duty, and Christ are not the mere themes of a preacher's discourse, but the practical principles and motives of your daily life." "Out of the fulness of the heart, the mouth speaketh."

The glorious nature of God will be best shown by the reverence with which we speak of Him! The evil of sin will be proclaimed by our resistance to appetite and sense! We shall best teach the value of prayer, by our prayerfulness! The beauty of the Christian ideal will be best evidenced, as the beauty of our Saviour is on our faces. But clearly none of this radiance can be absorbed or emitted, except in so far that we are detained in our prayers for each other, our homes and our people.

As one looks back on one's life, one realises how much more might have been done, if one had prayed more—yes, and praised more. Not that we are to be always presenting petitions, but that we may *absorb* qualities from God, which one may unconsciously emit or transmit. Probably the light on Moses' face did more to make the people realise God, than all the commandments and statutes, which he recounted and transmitted. The best course of expositions on the sermon on the Mount will be in our lives, day by day, in our homes. "Consider the lilies of the field how they grow!"

Forgive me! I am not preaching to you, dear brethren, but reflecting on what might have been, and may be. With the best of good wishes,

Your Friend and Brother,

F. B. MEYER.

THE PRAYER UNION CONFERENCE.

WEDNESDAY, May 23rd, was a day of cloud and rain, but in spite of these discouraging conditions there was a fairly good response to the invitation to all London Baptist Ministers to gather for Prayer and Conference at Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road. Our veteran President, Dr. F. B. Meyer, presided over the meetings, and it was a joy to us all to find him so well and full of vigour in the midst of the strenuous ministry he was carrying on at Christ Church. No one is more keenly interested in the movement to promote Spiritual Revival in the churches than is he. As he told us at the opening of the meeting it is his desire and his hope that he may see a Revival of the Lord's work before he is called away.

After a season of prayer, a time was spent in conference. The discussion largely turned on the relationship of the Prayer Union with the Fraternal Union. On all sides there was the utmost readiness to co-operate in any way that would make the work of both bodies more effective. The Rev. A. J. Payne, who is Secretary of the Fraternal Union and also Editor of its quarterly magazine, expressed his willingness to place as much space in "The Fraternal" at the disposal of the Prayer Union as might be desired. Thus the "Fraternal and Remembrancer" (which is its full title) will be the channel of information, concerning the work of the Prayer Union, and every member of the latter who is not already a member of the Fraternal Union, is asked to send an annual subscription of half-a-crown to the Financial Secretary, Rev. W. H. Pratt, Nocton Rise, Stratford Road, Watford, so that they may be kept in touch with all our movements.

Following this conference an address was given by Dr. J. W. Ewing, who dwelt on the words of Isaiah, "I said not unto the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain." His address was an earnest plea for more earnest prayer. He spoke of the blessings which come to us through prayer and the wonderful possibilities which it opens before us.

Rev. J. P. Mursell followed with a powerful and earnest word, showing how prayer strengthens us in

overcoming the lusts of the flesh, in our relationship with others, and in the right discharge of the special duties devolving upon us as Ministers.

At 1 o'clock we adjourned for luncheon generously provided for us by Dr. Meyer. Our thanks to our kind host were suitably expressed by Dr. Ewing.

Dr. John Wilson was the first speaker at the afternoon session and his address was an earnest call, that we should give ourselves to the uttermost to the ministry of the word and to prayer. The conference was brought to a close by a heart-searching and deeply Spiritual address by Dr. Meyer, of which we hope we may be able to put a further report, in a future issue.

The time seemed too brief for the considerations of these weighty topics, but we left Christ Church deeply grateful for the season we had spent together, and full of the assurance that, in thus emphasising the importance and the blessing of prayer, we were turning our faces in the direction of true Revival.



PRAYER UNION NOTES.

IT is quite evident that there has been a very definite movement of the Holy Spirit amongst the churches of our denomination, leading to a great longing and an earnest seeking for Spiritual Revival.

The need for this has been brought home to us in many ways. The daily newspapers have had much to say about such topics as:—"The waning influence of the Churches," "The decline in the attendance at Public Worship," "The losing battle, the Pulpit is waging against Petrol," and so on. No doubt there is a good deal of exaggeration, and one sided statement in these newspaper "stunts," but we must all feel that there is enough of truth to lead us to serious thought and earnest prayer for a Revival of the Lord's work amongst us.

It was this feeling that led some of the members of the Baptist Ministers Prayer Union to approach our honoured President, Dr. F. B. Meyer, to ask whether he would convene our London Brethren for a "Quiet Day," such as we used to hold in years past, in the early part of the approaching Autumn. Our beloved friend at once responded and intimated his willingness to help in the way proposed if it were generally desired. So a preliminary meeting of some of the older members of the Prayer Union was held at Christ Church on April 26th, and at this meeting it was resolved to take steps to arouse a wider interest in the Union. Dr. Meyer very generously undertook to prepare a circular and to have it sent to all Baptist Ministers through the country, inviting them to join. It was also resolved that the Secretary should bring the Prayer Union before the annual meeting of the Fraternal Union and also the Pastoral Session which were shortly to be held at Bristol.

An encouraging response has been received to these efforts to make the Prayer Union better known, and so far some 225 brethren have been enrolled as members.

It was further resolved that meetings for our London brethren should be held at Christ Church on Wednesday, May 23rd, Dr. Meyer most kindly undertaking to provide lunch! This meeting was duly held and a brief report of it follows. A meeting to which all the Free Church Ministers of London should be invited was also resolved upon. The date at first fixed was June 20th, but this was felt to be too soon, and in the end it was decided that the date should be Thursday, October 4th, the meeting to be limited to the morning and afternoon so that brethren would be able to leave in time for evening engagements. We trust all our brethren in London and the district around will note this date and resolve to be present.

We shall also be very thankful if all former members of our Prayer Union who still observe our Sunday morning compact will kindly send a post card to that effect to the Secretary. This will enable us to publish a full list of our members, which we hope to do in the coming Autumn. It is also hoped that members of our Prayer Union will consider the possibility of arranging for meetings, for

prayer and conference at convenient centres. Dr. Meyer and other brethren are prepared to attend such gatherings as far as possible. Will any who think they could arrange for such meetings in good centres, kindly communicate with the Secretary, J. E. Martin, The Manse, Erith, Kent?

Arrangements are proceeding for the meetings for Prayer at Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, on Thursday, October 4th.

It has been decided to enlarge this scope and invite our brethren of other denominations to meet with us. A circular will shortly be issued which will, we hope, bear the signatures of Evangelical Leaders of all sections of the Church, inviting all Clergymen and Ministers to gather for Prayer and Conference on October 4th from 11 a.m. to 4 30, with an interval for lunch. Then at 5 o'clock it is proposed to invite the office bearers of our churches to meet for Tea, and afterward for prayer, and to hear addresses from leading laymen. We trust all our Prayer Union Members who are within reach of London will book the date and make an earnest effort to be with us.

It was decided at the meeting of our brethren on May 23rd, that the brethren who attended the preliminary meeting on April 26th, should constitute an advisory Committee to meet with the President and Secretary as often as required, to make arrangements for Meetings and Conferences.

A meeting of this Committee was held on Wednesday, July 11th at which the arrangements for the meetings on October 4th were discussed. It was also agreed that we should send an expression of our deep sympathy with the Members of Wives Prayer Union in the loss they have sustained in the death of their President, Mrs. Henderson. This has been forwarded and grateful acknowledgment has been received from Mrs. J. A. Spurgeon, the Secretary.

There may be many of the wives of our brethren who are not aware of the existence of the "Wives Prayer Union." It is a Union of the wives of Baptist Ministers and Missionaries, and its objects are set forth as follows:—

- 1.—For the deepening of Christian Life in all the members of the Union.

- 2.—For the conversion and spiritual welfare of our children.
- 3.—For the work for the Master in the various churches with which we are connected.
- 4.—For our sisters engaged in Christ's service throughout the world.

The annual subscription is two shillings and all members receive the quarterly paper, "The Helpmeet."

Will our brethren bring this union under the notice of their wives? Those wishing to join should send their names to the Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Spurgeon, 36, Russell Hill, Purley, Surrey.

We are already receiving some enquiries as to Prayer Union Conferences in provincial centres. Dr. Meyer will be glad to help with these so far as possible, but is fully booked up for the remainder of this year.



ENSURING POWER.

Faith is the secret of Success assured !

And the rich treasures, granted us through Grace
 Have ever a foundation strong secured
 That in our souls Faith may retain its place.

The Word Eternal, Life-giving, we preach ;
 The Pentecostal Spirit with us stays ;
 Christ abides with us still to work or teach ;
 Those are the soul's possessions as it prays .

Therefore with Faith, unwavering, we may go
 To teach saints, or bring sinners to the Tree.
 Omnipotence is at our side, we know :

"Tis ever true ;—"*Our fresh Springs are in Thee.*"

WILLIAM OLNEY.