

INSTRUCTIONS

— FOR —

Ministers and Workers

— OF THE —

English Conference

— OF —

The Old Baptist Union.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

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Ministers and Workers of the English Conference of the O.B.U.

Issued by the Authority of the General Conference, December, 1904.

INTRODUCTION.

Twenty-five years' experience has taught us much that is worth teaching to others, of methods, and means, of best fulfilling the unchanged commission of preaching "the Gospel to every creature." And the following instructions are not based upon the experience of one man, or even of several, but are founded upon the collective knowledge of all our older and well-tried ministers and workers. Such knowledge has had to be paid for, sometimes dearly enough. We have tried many plans, some well-known and with others, perhaps, successful, and some new ones which circumstances have called forth, and we have found a few of them worth standing by, while the remainder have had to be relinquished; for it must be borne in mind by all who labour in our Union, that the very stand which we take for the whole truth without compromise, entails a difference in our very circumstances which re-acts upon our methods.

Our first aim is at unity, because the necessity for a one-ness of His people is so clearly taught by Christ and the apostles, and has also been confirmed in our experience as the great principle of strength, either for building up what God has already given us, or for extending His work. Unity in the faith is of course of the first importance; but to this must be added, as far as possible, a unity of aims, of methods, and of actual effort, if much is to be accomplished for God. Our object in issuing these Instructions is to help our ministers and workers to thus work together for the glory of God and the good of men. They are set forth in the spirit of brotherly love, and we have no hesitation in declaring that there is nothing contained therein that is contrary to the spirit and letter of the New Testament.

The following is the faithful admonition of the Word of God:—

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. vi. 33). "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. v. 11). "Abhor that which is evil;

cleave to that which is good" (Rom. xii. 9). "Adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things" (Titus ii. 10). "Let your conversation be as becometh the Gospel" (Philip. i. 27). "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. v. 22). "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. iv. 29). "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (2 Tim. i. 8). "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. xii. 2). "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John ii. 15). "Walk in wisdom towards them that are without" (Col. iv. 5). "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only" (Jas. i. 22). "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (Col. iii. 16). "Holding forth the word of life" (Philip. ii. 16). "Let your light so shine before men" (Matt. v. 16). "Follow after righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience meekness" (1 Tim. vi. 11). "Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's" (1 Cor. vi. 20). "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. x. 31). "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim. ii. 15). "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecc. ix. 10). "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. v. 17). "Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (1 Pet. iii. 8). "Be kindly affectioned one to another" (Rom. xii. 10). "Be clothed with humility" (1 Pet. v. 5). "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger be put away from you" (Eph. iv. 31). "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. xii. 21). "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings. That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Philip. ii. 13, 14, 15).

I.—Our order of Government, and its appointment.

The first and most important principle of our Government is—God's GUIDANCE. We believe that Christ, as the Head of the Church, should have the pre-eminence in all things concerning it. Hence our choice of a Presiding Bishop, members of our Executive Committee, and all other officers of the Conference, is made with fasting and prayer for *Divine guidance* above every other consideration. And every minister or worker who is concerned in electing or choosing any person to office, is expected, and earnestly exhorted, to seek to know the Lord's will in the matter, and by no means to "lean to his own understanding," or be led by the opinions of others in such important affairs.

Every ordination to the offices of Elder or Deacon is preceded by fasting and prayer for the Lord's guidance also; and no appointment of ministers to new fields of labour, or removals from old fields, are made without much prayer for a knowledge of God's will on the part of the leaders of the Conference, in which all the Union is specially requested to join. Thus our system of government is neither Autocratic nor Democratic, but a Theocracy.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL. Under God, the Conference upholds as its first officers, the International Presiding Bishop and Council, which are elected by every Conference and Mission, comprising the International Old Baptist Union, in accordance with the International Rules. But the International Council has no power to interfere with the working of the Confer-

ence, except in International matters relating to our world-wide organization. The English members of the International Council are chosen at the December Conference for the ensuing year.*

THE PRESIDENT OR BISHOP OF THE ENGLISH CONFERENCE is chosen or re-appointed at each Four-Monthly General Conference, in accordance with our Deed of Trust and "Seven Supplementary Rules."**

THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES (hereafter spoken of as the Council) is the Parliament or Congress of the Conference, which, under God's guidance, has the control and regulation of all matters pertaining to the Conference, including the election of all general officers and committees, and the appointment of ministers. It is composed of all the *ordained* men—Elders and Deacons—in the Union, and of pastors of churches who may be on probation for ordination.† This Council meets only at the General Conferences, which are held on Easter Sunday and the first Sundays in August and December, and the Saturday and Monday preceding and following the same, except any special emergency requires its attention in the intervals, when it can only be convened by the Presiding Bishop and Executive Committee acting jointly.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is composed of the Presiding Bishop of the Conference, and six Elders who have pastoral charge. These are elected annually at the August Conferences by the Council of Representatives according to the "Seven Supplementary Rules."**

The Conference is divided into Districts, over each of which a DISTRICT OVERSEER or Bishop is appointed by the Council of Representatives at a General Conference.

MINISTERS OR PASTORS of churches or missions, who are either ordained Elders, or upon probation, are appointed to the oversight of their fields of labour by the Council of Representatives at the General Conferences.† All those who have been in our ministry for five or more years have the privilege of retaining their pastorates in the same churches for an indefinite period, and will only be removed by the Council of Representatives, either at their own request or upon the well-founded petition of a majority of their members, unless they cease to uphold the faith, or rules of the Union, in which case they can be removed at any time by the Council of Representatives or Executive Committee. Those who have not been in the ministry five years may be removed or appointed to other churches at any General Conference, if needs require.

ELDERS AND DEACONS are appointed in every church to assist the minister in his duties. These must be men of God, chosen according to the Scriptural qualifications (1 Tim. iii. 1-13), and recommended to the Council of Representatives at a General Conference after they have fulfilled their callings upon probation. They can only be ordained by the consent of the General Conference, and only at a meeting when the President of the Conference is present, or someone appointed to represent him. All this care is necessary to avoid the ordination of unworthy men, as all ordained Elders and Deacons are members of the Council of Representatives, and wherever they may remove, while in fellowship with the Union, their office or calling

*See "The International Rules of the Old Baptist Union," price 1d.

**See "Seven Supplementary Rules to the Constitution," price 1d.

†See "The Constitution and Articles of Faith of the Old Baptist Union," price 2d.

remains, and must be recognised by any of our churches to which they may be transferred.

A SECRETARY AND TREASURER must be appointed in every church from among its officers or members, and these may be either male or female. These workers, as well as Sunday School, Children's Mission and Band of Hope Superintendents, and Secretaries, Choir and Band Masters, Bible or other Class Leaders, and all officers and workers, must in all cases be members of the Union, and must be appointed by a majority of votes at the Local Quarterly Conferences of the church to which they belong.† And all such officers and workers shall be solely under the direction of the minister of the church, and must in no case act without his knowledge and consent. Neither can any meeting be lawfully held in any department of the church, without the knowledge and consent of the minister.

II.—The Duties of our Ministers and Workers.

The duty of the PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE CONFERENCE, or President, is to preside over all Conference gatherings and meetings of the Executive Committee, and see that all matters are therein carried out according to the rules. He has also the right to preside over all meetings in any of the churches when present, if he desire. In connection with the Executive Committee, all matters pertaining to the work, as a whole, must be brought under his notice, and it is his duty to correspond regularly with the District Overseers and receive reports through them of all the churches and missions of the Conference.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE members must meet together whenever summoned by the President, and assist him in managing whatever business affairs may need attention between the General Conferences, according to the "Seven Supplementary Rules."

DISTRICT OVERSEERS are expected to take the general oversight of the ministers and churches in their districts. It is their duty to obtain a regular monthly report from every church under their supervision, and forward the same, with an explanatory letter, to the President, that the whole Union may work harmoniously together for the glory of God. They should visit each church in their districts, if possible, once or twice in each term, and see that all things are progressing, under the Lord's guidance, in accordance with the rules of the Union. They have the right, as needs require, to advise the ministers in their Districts in any matter, and to preside over all meetings in their Districts, when present, if they wish to do so; but they have no power to alter or interfere with the arrangements of the ministers or churches, except under special circumstances and by the consent of the General Conference or the Executive Committee. They must confer with the ministers of their Districts with respect to the raising and expending of district funds, or in reference to the extension of the work in their Districts, or the management of any difficulties which may occur in connection therewith. But they must be careful not to exceed their duties, contrary to the rules, in any matter.

MINISTERS OF CHURCHES OR MISSIONS have the right to preside over all meetings in their respective fields of labour, and to take the general oversight of all the officers and workers under them, with the assistance of two or three able councillors chosen by each church to assist them. In their re-

sponsible work of endeavouring to lead sinners to repentance, and believers nearer to God, they should seek to use every member under their charge to his or her utmost capacity. To successfully accomplish this, two or three outposts, or smaller Missions, should be opened in connection with each church that has a stationed minister, within walking distance of the central church, where week-night meetings may be held—and in some cases Sunday services also—and where the local preachers and workers may have opportunities of labouring for the Lord.

Ministers wholly engaged in the work should consider that their time is the Lord's, and should therefore use it to the best advantage. The morning is the best time for study; and the afternoon of each day should be devoted to visiting from house to house, or among the sick and absentee members of the church; or in the distribution of suitable tracts, upon which the services should always be well advertised. In visiting, it is well to remember that ten or fifteen minutes is generally quite long enough time to stay in one house; and whenever permitted, the minister should pray with those present before leaving, but should never talk upon trivial subjects, or stay so long that his visits become a bore rather than a blessing.

Tract Committees may also be organised and worked in most churches to advantage, when workers may regularly visit from house to house with tracts (stamped and covered), which may be changed or renewed from week to week. In this way, by properly dividing a town or neighbourhood into tract districts, the whole neighbourhood may be regularly visited every week, if sufficient workers are forthcoming.

IN RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS into fellowship, whether by Baptism or Transfer, from other churches, the minister should give them the right hand of fellowship publicly before the church, and should then commend them to God in prayer, for His blessing to rest upon them and make their fellowship with the Church a means of mutual blessing. A "Certificate of Membership and Constitution" (price 2d.), with his or her name duly entered therein, should always be given to each new member at his or her reception. The names and address of each member must in every case also be carefully entered by the Local Secretary in the Church Register. If a member remove to a distance, his or her address should be secured, and if there be a Branch of the Union near, the member should be urged to attend the meetings, and unless he or she desires otherwise, should be transferred as soon as possible to the fellowship of the nearest Branch. Many members have been lost to the Union for want of this care. When a member removes to a place distant from any other Branch of the Union, the Pastor, or some one appointed by him for the purpose, should regularly correspond with the absent one, sending our Magazine and other helpful literature from time to time. By this means the truth may be spread, and the way opened by God's blessing for future churches. A member's name should never be finally removed from the Church Register, unless such an one is guilty of unrepented sin, or expressly wishes it to be so removed. It has been a great joy to many, upon returning to a place, to find after years of absence that their names have been retained upon the Church Register. Every person baptised and receiving the Laying on of Hands in our churches, is to be received into fellowship at the same time,—there should be no delay in this.

ALL WHO PROFESS CONVERSION in our services, or through the instrumentality of our ministers and members, should be carefully and prayerfully watched over, and led on in the ways of God. Their names and addresses should be taken, and they should be visited and strengthened in every way. The duty of obeying the command of Baptism, and being received into church fellowship, should be brought before them, and they should be baptised and added to the church without undue delay.

THE ORDINANCES OF THE GOSPEL should be regularly and Scripturally observed in every church. 'The Lord's Supper*' should be administered at least once a month by the minister, assisted by the Elders or Deacons. Baptismal services should be held whenever there are candidates, and the ordinance of the †Laying on of Hands of the Elders for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, should always follow baptism, in accordance with the Scriptures. Where there are no local Elders in a small church or mission, the minister should invite one or two from another Branch (with their minister's consent) to assist him in this ordinance. Should any sick ones desire to be anointed and prayed over (according to James v. 14, 15, & Mark xvi. 17, 18), the Minister and Elders should comply with their request, unless, after prayer, they feel led to act otherwise.

Our members should be encouraged to bring their little ones to the house of prayer, to be publicly named and dedicated to the Lord by prayer and the laying on of hands of Minister and Elders, after the example of our Lord (Matt. xix. 13, 15).

FINANCES. It is the duty of every minister to use every endeavour to make his church or mission self-supporting, and it should be his aim to extend and help to maintain the work of God in other centres also, by raising means for the District and other funds of the Union. Members should be kindly and gently shown that it is their Scriptural duty to maintain their minister, and help the work of God generally, by liberal free-will weekly offerings. Many of our Ministers and Members give a tenth of all their incomes to the cause of Christ, which is a Spiritual and God-pleasing principle. It is advisable that seat to seat collections should be made at the Sunday services, for the rent or other expenses of the place of worship, besides which one collection may be made on a week evening towards the support of the minister. The object of every collection should always be explained before it is made, and two responsible persons should be appointed to count the same, and enter the amount in a book kept on the spot for the purpose, before the money is handed over to the Treasurer.

A suitable Treasurer should be appointed in each church or mission, who should enter all amounts received and expended in a book, and should only pay out money as directed by the minister.

We have no hard and fast rules as to the methods of the minister's support,—such being left to the discretion and leadings of the minister himself, or the desire of the church, but we can recommend the following as methods which the experience of many of our ministers advises:—

(1). Small Envelopes may be regularly, and at stated intervals, distributed to all the members, with the request that they will enclose in them the portion of their weekly gifts which they desire to contribute to the Pastor's support, and place the same in a Box at the Chapel or Hall door, or put it in the weekly seat-to-seat collections.

*See "The Lord's Supper." Price 1d. †See "The Laying on of Hands." Price ½d.

(2). Or, if preferred, a Pastor's Fund Collector may be appointed, to obtain directly from the members each week any donations they may desire to give towards their minister's support. In this case a book should be kept in which the names of givers, and amounts contributed, should be carefully entered. The sum total should be checked by the minister each week, and its receipt acknowledged by his signature. In either case a week-night Collection may be made on behalf of the Pastor's Fund as stated above.

Home and Foreign Mission Boxes should be distributed amongst our members in every Branch. A local Secretary should be appointed, to see that they are given out and brought in every four months just prior to our General Conferences. The money they contain must be sent to the District Overseer, to form (after a tenth has been deducted for the Central Fund) a District Fund, from which the poorer and struggling ministers and missions *in the district* may be assisted, as the ministers of the District shall decide; or if such help is not needed, other districts at home or abroad may be helped. These boxes should be in every house where a member of the Union resides, and the sympathy and help of other Christian friends should also be requested. Any friend who will guarantee to find not less than one shilling every four months, should have a box for the purpose. A collection should also be made for this Fund, in every Branch, on the Sunday mid-way between the General Conferences in each term. Let us all remember the exhortation, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the Law of Christ."

From the Central Home and Foreign Mission Fund, formed by a tenth of the District Funds, the poorest districts at home and abroad are helped, and General Conference Expenses are met, as means allow.

It is every minister's duty to see that Building Fund payments, or rents of chapel or hall and other necessary expenses, are promptly paid when due. Debt is a disgrace to any church.

The Head Quarters Ministers' Training College Fund is a fund specially raised by voluntary contributions for the purpose of founding and maintaining a Training Institution for candidates for our ministry.

The General Building Fund is carefully preserved in the hands of well chosen and responsible Trustees by a Model Trust Deed, for the purpose of erecting or purchasing suitable sites, halls, chapels or ministers' houses, for the Union.

No person must attempt to collect any money in any of our churches or missions, for any purpose whatever, without the knowledge and approval of the minister.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS should be established in all our churches and missions for they are the nurseries of the church, in which the children may be led to Christ and well-grounded in the knowledge of the truth. Where there is no Sunday School, the duty of the Church is only half done, and sooner or later the church will suffer in consequence. It is a mistake to suppose that any person will do to teach children; both the Superintendent and Teachers should be carefully selected; and the Minister should remember that he is Pastor of the School as well as of the Church, and therefore it behoves him to take a deep personal interest in its work. He should frequently visit the school and take an active part in all that concerns it. All Teachers' meetings should be presided over by the Minister, who must be consulted as to all the affairs of the School. A School Superintendent or other Teacher, has

no right to arrange Anniversary Services, Excursions, Tea Meetings, or anything else of importance, without the previous knowledge and consent of the Minister. "Do all things decently, and in order."

CHILDREN'S MISSIONS, OR BANDS OF HOPE, OR JUNIOR ENDEAVOUR SOCIETIES, should also be established wherever possible, that the children's spiritual interests may be cared for during the week, as well as on Sundays. As with the School, a suitable Godly man or woman should be appointed to take charge of these meetings, and the Minister should personally help to make them successful, as much as possible. Whoever is appointed to superintend these, must be solely under the direction of the Minister of the Church or Mission, of which they form a part.

SENIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETIES will be found very useful in the churches, in bringing our younger members out into active service for Christ. Rules for their organization and maintenance, and Cards of Membership, may be had from any of our Book Depôts.

TRAINING CLASSES should be held, if possible, in every District, where suitable young men may be prepared for the ministry, by instruction in doctrine, discipline, and necessary educational matters. It is very important that our Ministers should be continually looking out for likely candidates for the ministry, and should do all that lies in their power to encourage and assist those who feel called of God to His work, to offer themselves to the Conference.

OUR GENERAL CONVENTIONS are established for the purpose of aiding our Ministers in their labours of love, with holy cheer and brotherly sympathy and advice, as well as for the transaction of business; hence, every minister should attend them, and every church and mission should do its utmost to raise the necessary travelling expenses of its pastor to represent it there. We have learned by experience that those ministers who cannot, or do not, regularly attend the Conferences, lose a great deal thereby, and their churches also suffer in consequence.

A report of every church or mission must be sent up to the General Conference, on the form provided, several days previously, that the labours of the church may be properly represented and included in the General Four-monthly Report.

The particulars of BAPTISMS should also be sent in to the General Secretary prior to the General Conferences, as follows:—Christian names and surnames of the persons baptized; place of baptism; name of minister officiating; date of baptism. All Magazine and Book accounts must be cleared up at each General Conference, and Home and Foreign Mission Boxes must be brought in to the minister of each church, and their contents sent to the District Overseer for the District Fund. The minister and representatives should be back in their fields of labour the day after the Convention.

LOCAL CONFERENCES should be held in each District or Church quarterly or four-monthly, at which reports of the various departments of the Church should be read, and a full account given of the finances, conversions, baptisms, members added, and all other matters. Local workers should also be elected or re-elected to office on these occasions, and a Public or Members' Tea may take place, to be followed by a Public Meeting, when ministers and workers from our other Branches should be invited to assist.

THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNION—including the Magazine—are issued solely for the purpose of disseminating a knowledge of the whole truth as it is in Jesus, and should therefore be kept well to the front by all our ministers. A small glass-fronted case could be procured or made at a very little expense, and hung up in every chapel, hall, or mission-room, or the entrance thereto, in which our publications—with their prices—could be displayed. Christian Endeavourers and other workers should also be urged to sell our Magazine from house to house, and an announcement that the Magazine may be had at the close of the service should be made at each meeting. In this way, the pure Gospel may be widely spread, and the more of our publications that are sold or distributed, the greater probability is there of a harvest of enquirers being reaped. In very many cases we have found that our publications have reached those whom we could not personally, or at least have confirmed the work begun by the minister's instrumentality.

CHURCH PROPERTY must in no case be sold or disposed of at any time, by the minister or any other person, without the consent of the General Conference or Executive Committee. All seats, organs, harmoniums, musical instruments, reading desks, books, boxes, or other effects pertaining to the churches and missions of the Union, are—unless expressly stipulated to the contrary—the property of the Union, and are held in trust for the members by the Trustees of the Union. All receipts for property purchased in any Branch should be deposited with the Trustees at Head Quarters, for the safe-guarding of the members' interests. And no chapel, hall, or other building must either be taken or given up in any place without the consent of the Council or Executive Committee of the Union.

THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS in every Branch should be audited by two responsible persons appointed by the Minister every quarter or four months at the Local Conference. The Secretary's books shall also be inspected by the Minister from time to time.

CHURCH MEETINGS should never be held, but the Minister should confer with two or three of the Elders, Deacons, or leading workers in his church or mission, in all matters requiring his decision, asking them to pray with him over any important matter. Two or three of the most spiritual men in each Branch should also be selected by the minister to sit on the platform during meetings, and assist him in any way needed.

III.—How to proceed in opening Branches.

The first step in opening a new work is, to prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance, and commit your way unto Him "Who openeth and no man shutteth." The Lord's help and direction are the first essentials in all His work, but especially will they be felt to be needed in breaking new ground. But without attempting to usurp the place of the Holy Spirit in guiding His servants aright, the following advice, based upon the experience of many who have been successful in pioneer work, will be found helpful in the majority of cases.

One of the chief rules to be observed in commencing a new work is, to run into no *unnecessary expenses*. To hire a large hall or chapel, or to have bills and stationery printed, or incur any other needless expense, until a church has been established and is self-supporting, is the height of folly. The old proverb should be remembered, "First *creep* and then run." No

man has a right to begin God's work by getting into debt, contrary to the instructions of God's word.

Some of our churches were begun in the open-air, where there was no rent to pay, and far more hearers to be had than would probably have been the case at such an early stage, in a house or other building. At the open-air meetings an appeal was made to the hearers to open their houses for cottage meetings, and thus little by little the work went forward. It has been found a good plan, where there are members and friends willing to assist thus, to commence with cottage meetings, aided by open-air preaching and house to house visitation, accompanied by the distribution of good tracts—especially our own distinctive literature. Or, the minister or worker might himself take a house to live in, and open that as a meeting place. "Who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zech. iv. 10). When a sufficient number of members have been gathered to bear the expense of a hall or more suitable place of worship,—and *not before*,—such a place may be hired. The minister or worker should let the people understand from the first that it is intended to establish a permanent work, and begin by putting his own name down as a member; then, as people are converted and baptized, they can be added as members, until there are a sufficient number (ten members) to be organized as a church. Bear in mind that all Branches must be self-supporting. A report—monthly, or even weekly—should regularly be sent in to the District Overseer, and his prayerful counsel should be obtained in all important matters connected with the progress of the work.

IV.—Advice on the Conduct of Meetings.

Meetings of every kind in connection with a Church or Mission, must be conducted by the Minister or by someone acting under his authority, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Ministers or workers in charge, should see that the meeting is opened and concluded *punctually*. To commence or close a meeting after the advertised time, is to deceive the public, and set a bad example of carelessness in sacred things.

Open-air Meetings

should be held regularly in every Branch of the Union, all the year round. When properly conducted they may prove a great blessing to those who attend no place of worship, and they are certainly one of the best means of spreading the truth, and bringing people into a chapel or hall. It has been found best not to hold open-air meetings too far from the place of worship. On week-evenings as well as Sundays, if a few earnest workers can be gathered together, short bright open-air services should be held for half or three-quarters of an hour at some convenient street corner. The indoor services should be well and clearly announced whenever the people gather round. Open the meeting with singing and prayer; insist on plain short addresses, keep the workers in a good ring to allow space for speakers. Music, processions, banners, &c., may be used according to circumstances, at the discretion of the Ministers.

Indoor Meetings

should be opened with singing, fervent prayer, and reading the Scriptures. Sermons by the minister, or short spiritual addresses by other workers should then be delivered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Those who

are thus asked to speak for ten or fifteen minutes, should not exceed the time allotted them, lest they grieve the Holy Spirit, and destroy the effect of the meeting. "The Spirit of the prophets, is subject to the prophets" (1 Cor. xiv. 32). The Minister should by God's help aim at making the meetings spiritual, cheering, edifying, and soul-saving, to the glory of God.

Prayer Meetings should always be held at the close of Sunday Evening services in which all that are unsaved should be urged to decide for Christ. A week-night prayer meeting should also be held in each church, when the needs of the church, the Union, and God's work generally, should be brought to the throne of grace. Unless under exceptional circumstances it is not advisable to hold too many week-night meetings in any *one* place; far more good may be done by opening several mission stations within a short distance, by the assistance of the members and workers. Lawful means of attracting the unconverted to the services should not be despised, such as good music, singing, tract-visiting, etc. Special services may be advertised by hand-bills or posters, though we have not derived much benefit from these as a rule, but a good and attractively-written notice board or printed bills should always be placed outside the place of worship, and members and friends will often help to advertise the meetings by exhibiting a notice board outside their shops and houses. A report of any special meetings should be sent to the local newspaper, for thereby the work is advertised, and may be helped. Due preparation should be made beforehand for special Services, by special prayer, house to house visitation, open-air meetings, etc.

The usual meetings, as well as special ones, should always be announced at each indoor service. Suitable deacons or workers should be appointed to politely put strangers in their seats, lend hymn-books, make the collections, and generally attend to the order and comfort of the meetings. A chapel or hall-keeper, or someone specially appointed for the purpose, should also see that the place of meeting is opened in good time, properly cleaned, lit, and ventilated, for much more depends upon these matters than many suppose. Meetings should not be prolonged to late hours; and when they are closed, the members should be taught to leave orderly, and not remain too long consuming the gas and losing the good effects of the service by idle talk.

Y.—Advice to Ministers on many matters.

Never neglect private prayer, and daily reading of the Scriptures; be at least as diligent in the Lord's business, as you would be for an earthly employer; remembering that the eye of the Lord is always upon you. "Seek *first* the kingdom of God, and His righteousness," before yourself, your pleasure and profit, or your friends. Be careful to guard your conversation in private as well as in public. Be sober at all times, remembering that "for every idle word, we must give an account to God." Do not neglect "the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers" to attend meetings in other churches; by all means help every branch of the Union as far as you can, but take care first to do your duty in your own sphere of labour. Beware of complying with the invitations so frequently made to ministers to attend meetings in other societies. Your whole time and attention are needed in the work to which God has assigned you. The

stream which rolls the greatest amount of water to the sea, keeps its own channel.

Never argue with any one in the meetings, or in private, and do not let the members argue either, if you can prevent it. "The servant of the Lord must not strive." Never get into debt. If you cannot pay your way, wait on the Lord, search your own heart, and see wherein the fault lies, and then if the way does not open, write to the District overseer and fully explain your position, but put forth every effort before you do this. Keep a note-book in your pocket, and capture any helpful ideas that may come to you, without delay, also constantly write therein all items requiring your attention.

Do not speak ill of your brethren in the ministry, nor allow others to do so in your hearing without rebuke. Always stand up for the Union and its officers and workers; it is like sawing off the branch on which you are sitting, to find fault with the Union to which you belong: and beware of the spirit of jealousy which would lead you to speak ill of those who have laboured before you in a church. If you do these things you will not prosper, you cannot ride to respect by finding fault with, or under-rating the works of another. Do to all in this respect as well as others, as you would they should do unto you. Never in a public meeting speak of anything which you may have heard against any member of your church.

Remember that religious meetings are intended for the comfort and edification of God's people, and for leading sinners to repentance, not for fault-finding. If at any time, a brother should be overtaken in a fault, take him aside alone, in the spirit of love and gentleness, and endeavour to "bind up the broken." Beware of the spirit of discouragement; it must not be allowed to remain if it ever attack you. Prayer, fervent, and in faith, will drive it back to the devil. Always speak cheerfully and hopefully to the members, and never discourage them with your trials and cares. Neither speak yourself, nor allow others to do so, in a public meeting, as though something were wrong with the church, or the Union, or its officers. All such talk has a very bad effect on the minds of the people. "Rejoice in the Lord alway," and leave fault-finding and evil-speaking to the agents of the devil.

Do not fight your way, but win it; by showing love, gentleness, forbearance and kindness to all. The minister who is leaving one church for another, should make every effort to leave the church out of debt, with all accounts, books and necessary instructions, for his successor.

Lastly, please read these instructions frequently, and endeavour prayerfully to act upon them, in preference to leaning to your own understanding and limited experience. May God add His blessing to these instructions, for Christ's sake. Amen.

