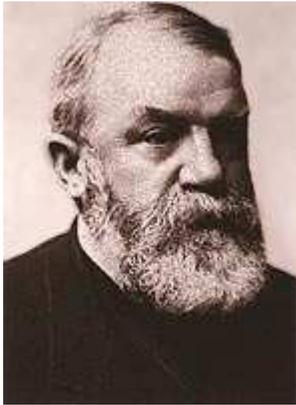




The war between the states, 1861 - 1865, emphasized the need for spiritual help for the men of the BLUE and the GRAY, resulting in the organization of the United States Christian Commission formed from the then recently organized YMCA. The commission soon had an expanded ministry accepted by both sides, distributing medical and food supplies as well as providing Bibles, tracts and other spiritual help through chaplains and delegates. Notable personalities include the famous D.L. Moody and the Philadelphia merchant, John Wanamaker



D.L. Moody was active in the newly formed Young Men's Christian Association. Mr. Moody approached the Y.M.C.A. board of directors about creating an organization to minister to the troops involved in the war between the states. The Y.M.C.A. board created the United States Christian Commission on November 16 1861. D. L. Moody was the president of the NorthWest branch of the U.S. Christian Commission, and was also involved in visits to the battle front

D.L. Moody.

George Hay Stuart

George Hay Stuart, was a philanthropist who served as the chairman of the Christian Commission during the war between the states. It was under his direction, that the U.S. Christian Commission was responsible for distributing over 30 million gospel tracts and New Testaments to the soldiers. George Hay Stuart said: "I have prayed for this union, and I have labored for it, simply because I believe that it would bring glory to my blessed Lord and Master, Jesus Christ." "I have labored and prayed for it, because it would bring brethren together, now unhappily divided, to see eye to eye, that the nations that have so long bowed down to idols might learn of Jesus and Him crucified... Since these twenty four hours have passed away, eighty six thousand four hundred immortal souls have gone to the judgment seat of Christ. " "I never hear the funeral bell toll without asking myself the question, what have I done to point that departed soul to the Lamb of God that died to save a perishing world?" "Brethren, buckle on your armor for a great conflict; buckle it on for giving the glorious Gospel of the Son of God to the millions of the earth who are perishing for the lack of knowledge."

