

stating this if I never have the opportunity of saying it again—I believe it is time for us as a denomination to cry out like did the Prophet Jeremiah, "Ask for the old path, wherein is the good way, and walk therein."

What are some of the lessons I have learned? I have learned this lesson, that a great many of you have learned, especially the ministers, that there are too many churches. I have visited communities where there were two and three churches, and not enough people perhaps to fill one of them, and not enough money to support even one minister among them; and I have been led to ask myself the question: "Wherein is the remedy?" The people have said to me: "Why can't we have a preacher?" I have heard that said so many times that it makes my heart ache to hear it. I have said to them like this: "Why don't you come together—people in this church and people in this other church? The Christlike thing for you people to do would be to come together to see what you can do as a people to better this thing. If you cannot hire ministers, then become united and hire a minister." There are so many of these little churches; I saw so many of these little churches; some of them have not been opened for months and months, some of them have not had the gospel preached from their pulpits for over a year; and I saw them standing all over the country, one erected here and another there. The mistake is that we erected too many of them, and we have not been central enough. We have not been as central as we ought to have been. I hope the time will come in the history of God's people when the people in these communities that are so small and so weak financially, and therefore weak spiritually, I hope the time will come when they will get together as a people, and, as I said before, knowing their needs, taking them into proper consideration, just settle down to the very best thing that can be done, and do it. If there is a Baptist and Free Baptist church in the community, and neither of them can afford to hire a preacher, let them come together as a people, good, sound, common-sense Christian people, and hire a man together; in a great many cases this could be done, and in a great many cases this would certainly be a remedy for the disease that is sapping the spiritual life of many of the churches and of many of the communities.

Now, then, you say to me, "What can we do? What is it that the Young People's Provincial League can do to remedy this thing and help along home mission work?" If you were to ask me what makes a Christian, I would say to you that giving makes a Christian. Christian means to be Christlike, doesn't it? I cannot understand what would make a man more like Jesus Christ than just to be one who gives, —giving of his or her time, giving of his or her mental and physical energies, giving of his or her talents, and giving of money to the cause of God that the gospel of Jesus Christ might be proclaimed in these places, and thus would you give them the help they need. Why do we not know what the word "sacrifice" means. I visited a little church last winter away up among the mountains of Kings Co., and there are mountains in Kings Co. When I came to this little church that was nestled among these mountains I found that my appointment had not reached them, and I went in to see an old lady—Aunt Mary. I tell you that Aunt Mary taught me a lesson. The very

minute that I opened the door and walked in, she looked at me with those keen eyes of hers and said: "I just was reading about you." She only got the mail once a week, had gotten it the Saturday before, and that was the reason my appointment did not get there. She was reading the INTELLIGENCER. Just as I was leaving her, she came to me with a cambric handkerchief, all folded up nicely, and she placed it in my hands, and with the tears rolling down her face she said she wanted to make a little offering to missions. I put it in my pocket, and when I got fairly started on my way and opened it up, there was a 50c. piece wrapped up in it. It was just like the widow's mite; that is what it was. I tell you that when we speak about sacrifice we do not know what it means from actual experience, and if our societies and churches were making the proper sacrifice along these lines I am very sure that things would not be as they are in a great many communities. Why we need just about three missionaries—that is what we need. I cannot tell you it as I see it, but we could use three men and give them all the work that they could do, for I have done the work of two men this last year, and only a man with a sound constitution as I have could stand what I have stood in the way of labor; I am confident of that. I want to say to you, too, that we can do it. We can put—there is no question about it to my mind—at least two men in the field in this province—that is, of course, if we can get them. That seems to be the sticker, we can not get them. We have said that we could not get the money, but we ought to be ashamed of it; we have got the money; our people have the money. Some of you men and women here to-night have got the money. Why I look at your homes and I look at the homes that I have been privileged to visit, and I think of the time and energy and money that is being expended along other lines, and I declare to you to-night that before God we are guilty, because we have not taken into consideration the fact that we are our brother's keepers, and we have been selfish. Well, now, I had another thought I wanted to mention. It is this: That as delegates going away, as we shall in a few days to our respective societies, we ought to keep this matter in mind; we ought to keep it in mind and give this money question our serious consideration; and we ought to make it our chief aim during the next few months—because when we get down to the dollars and cents, and to the discussion of ways and means to raise dollars and cents, then we are getting down to rock-bottom foundations. The cause of God is languishing to-day in part because of the lack of means. And I say to-night to you Christian people, that you ought to bestir yourselves along these lines, and while you have the privilege of worshipping God in such beautiful churches, and while you have the privilege of listening to such sermons, you ought to think of the home mission fields; you ought to think of the churches who have no preacher. But that is not all. I know of men to-day on some of our fields who would gladly go out and give more of their time to some of the outlying districts if they possibly could, but I know of churches that simply won't allow it; I know of churches that have refused to let their ministers go out when the ministers have wanted to go, and greatly desired to go out to different places and help them in this

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blessed work, and to give some labor to churches that have no labor expended upon them.

You know it is very easy to think about consecration at Leagues; easy when we get on the hill-tops of conventional enthusiasm, that enthusiasm that comes as a result of numbers; but it is altogether different when we get into the valley where there is not as much enthusiasm, and where you do not come in contact with as many people or have as many encouraging things to uplift. I would say this to you, to you delegates as you go out, remember that your consecration will lead you to think of others, to think of the different churches that belong to you in part, and of the people who have claims upon you, and who suffer because they have not the privilege of listening to the gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless you. And I want to suggest, too, that this Provincial League — our convention here—will give some time and much consideration to this very important matter of home mission work among our churches, of the settling of difficulties and the selecting of men, and if we cannot get them home, let us send abroad for them and import them. Let us go to God. It is men that we need. I would to God that somebody in this town would hear the voice of God speaking. Men, young men, filled with energy and enthusiasm and consecration to God. Just think of the possibility. Do not be selfish; do not shut yourselves up in a corner, but listen to God's call. Sit down at the feet of Jesus Christ. Lay yourself and your life on the altar of his service. Let him deal with you, and I guarantee that some of you will be sent out—out, for the fields are ripe already for the harvest, and the laborers are few. God help us. Amen.

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