

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

and an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8.

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REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH, MONCTON, N. B.

THE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH. MONCTON, N.B.

The Moncton Reformed Baptist Church was organized in the W.C.T.U. Hall, Main Street, Feb. 12th, 1889, by Revs. G. W. MacDonald, W. B. Wiggins and A. Hartt.

The officers were as follows: Rev. W. B. Wiggins, B.A., pastor; John Good and G. B. Storey, deacons; Mrs. Jeffrey Rushton, treasurer; A. L. Bubar, Clerk.

There were 20 members. They worshipped in this hall for over one year, when the pastor urged and encouraged them to "arise and build." The greatest difficulty was to obtain a lot of land on which to build that would not be situated too far from the centre of the city.

There was a strip of land very nicely situated near the centre of the city, but the owner was quite unwilling to sell, as he was holding it till the lots should greatly increase in price. The pastor made it a matter of prayer and obtained a direct answer from the Lord that the owner would sell the lot on the northeast corner of Queen and Archibald Streets. He met the owner that day, and, after some conversation, the man concluded to sell, but demanded a heavy price, namely, \$1,700.00, and that in cash within four days, for a lot 100 by 130 feet. The church thought this too big a price, and considered themselves unable to meet it. But the pastor said that he would assume the responsibility if the church would pay him interest on the sum at 6 per cent., to which they readily agreed, as that was about the sum which they paid as rent for the hall in which they were now worshipping. This vote was passed on March 27th, 1890, together with a resolution to proceed to build a church thereon.

The Building Committee consisted of the pastor, deacons Good and Storey, and Sisters Kinnie and Harrop. At a meeting of the committee, deacon G. B. Storey was chosen

chairman, and the pastor as secretary, and later Sister Kinnie was appointed to solicit subscriptions, and Sister Storey as treasurer. This committee was now empowered by the church to erect an edifice 26 by 48 feet and 15 feet posts, deacon Good to see to the getting of the lumber necessary.

On Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24th, 1890, the pastor, deacons John Good and G. B. Storey, together with Bros. Samuel Keith and Carey Freeze, met at the lot and levelled the ground and made ready to build. They employed as head carpenter and builder Alexander A. Briggs, the pastor, W. B. Wiggins, to have the general superintendence of the work. On Tuesday, May 27th, 1890, Mr. Briggs and the pastor laid the foundation sills. The work was continued, except interruptions occasioned by the state of the weather, and the first meeting was held in the church on Sunday, July 13th, 1890, and the carpenter ended his work on Saturday, July 19th, 1890, having completed his work in 43 days. The painting was mostly done by the pastor, under the direction of Bro. G. T. Harrop, who did all the graining.

On Sunday, Sept. 7th, a beautiful autumn day, the church was dedicated to the worship of God and the preaching of Holiness. The programme was as follows:

Dedicatory sermon by Rev. Wm. Kinghorn, at 10.30 a.m., from the text, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end," Heb. 3:6. After the sermon, pastor Wiggins read several dedicatory passages of Scripture, and made a few appropriate remarks, after which Rev. G. W. MacDonald made the dedicatory prayer. In the afternoon Rev. G. W. MacDonald preached an able sermon from the words "That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the House of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the

truth," 1 Tim., 3:15. In the evening, Rev. A. Kinnie preached from the words: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1 Tim., 1:15. At all the services the church was crowded. Good music was provided by the choir. Miss Alice Goodspeed, of Peniac, presided at the organ, and Alfred G. Good assisted with his cornet.

The collections for the day were over \$50.00. Thus, in about three months from the time the foundation was laid, this neat and commodious church building was built, furnished and dedicated, worth at the time \$1,500, but which could not be built at the present time for \$2,500. And yet all the funds needful were cheerfully given by the members of the church and their friends. The only debt that remained at dedication was less than \$200, and in one year from that time the church building was free from debt.

The lot was yet to be paid for, and as there was more land than the church needed, by vote they sold one lot of 40 feet for \$500 on Nov. 11th, 1896; and April 11th, 1900, another lot of 40 feet for \$500, thus leaving only \$700 due. Sister G. B. Price, of Vancouver (formerly Mrs. S. L. Kinnie, and a former member of the church), made a very generous offer of \$500 on condition that the church would raise the remaining \$200, and thus make them free from debt. To this the church consented, and in May, 1912, the sum was raised, and the lot was free from debt.

Since then a concrete foundation has been put under the building, a new galvanized steel roof has been put on, pebbled stained glass put in the windows, natural gas has been installed for both light and heating purposes, the building painted both within and without, the lawn nicely arranged, etc.

It is seated with chairs, but preparations have been made to put in pews, which, in the near future, will be accomplished.

This church has had an interesting and unique history. The members, though not numerous, are earnest and active Christians, and united in heart and hand with their pastor in doing good work in the city. There have been seven pastors since its organization, some having remained for a short time. Rev. W. B. Wiggins, B.A., was their first pastor, and has also been their pastor for the second time since July 1st, 1907.

If you want to do a great thing, "present your body unto God a living sacrifice" then live for him only.

All things are possible to him that believeth.—Jesus.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."—Bible.