

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

The twelfth session of the Reformed Baptist Sunday School Convention was held at Wood's Harbor, June 8th, 1934.

As the president and Secretary were both unable to attend Rev. P. J. Trafton was appointed president and Mrs. Everett Bain, secretary pro tem.

Meeting opened by singing. Scripture reading by Lic. Grace Sanders and prayers offered by Sisters, Mrs. Robert Landers and Thelma Rose.

Interesting reports were sent in from Port Maitland, Wood's Harbor, Sandford and verbal report by Rev. H. C. Mullen from New Tusket. Brief talk by Rev. P. J. Trafton on "The Importance of the Sunday School". Every church should have a Sunday School. A very important branch of our church work. It has a greater opportunity of getting a hold on young people. Our church depends largely on Sunday School. We have failed in the past of putting the proper estimate on this work. We fail as a church if our Sunday Schools are not interesting.

The world is training children to sing and speak. We as a church should seek to educate our children in Christianity. Get them interested in Sunday School.

The mother has a great responsibility of teaching her children about Jesus and Bible stories. The father has a great responsibility in connection with the family. Go to Sunday School and see that the children follow.

Talents lie buried in children which we ought to make more use of. Never get too big to go to Sunday School, make it as interesting as possible.

Rev. H. C. Mullen spoke on "The Sunday School Teacher". Reading from Romans, 12 chapter 4, 5, 7, and 8 verses. Dwelling on part of 7th verse, "He That Teacheth on Teaching." The greatest need is good teachers. Greatest problem is to get teachers.

Teaching is a gift that can be cultivated. God does call teachers. We need teachers that take it to heart. Good teachers will be on time. The calling is the next greatest to preaching.

Only 25 per cent. of young people in the community attend the Sunday School.

Over 75 per cent. of our church members come out of the Sunday School. That's where we are going to build our churches.

There are exceptions where boys and girls are converted in Sunday School where they have no religious training in homes. We are encouraged to say come on and go to Sunday School.

Good teachers solve 75 per cent of the attendance problem. We must have a steady teacher to get scholars interested. Dependable teachers will be faithful and carry a responsibility. No teacher is so good but can be better. Pray over it, you will make a success.

Teachers ought to have a good Christian experience. High calling, much of a task and a chance to succeed.

God only knows where some of us might have been if we hadn't had mothers that insisted on their children going to Sunday School. Where they get instructed in the Word of God. Truth of God has a restraining influence on young lives. "He that teacheth let him dwell on teaching" and make the best of that gift.

We were much encouraged and helped by this convention and felt God's blessing upon us. We feel like pressing the battle for God and keep Holiness at the front.

MRS. EVERETT BAIN, Secretary Pro Tem

HELPFUL HINTS TO PREACHERS

By Rev. E. A. Andrews

The extent to which hints are helpful depends largely on the attitude of those to whom the hints are given. Preachers are called to preach to others, and as a class they may be indisposed to receive even this mild type of preaching. Furthermore, it is somewhat awkward to hint when one has for years formed the habit of striking straight from the shoulder. This milder method should doubtless often be used.

Our first hint is that we "hard-hitters" ought perhaps to hint more and hit less and thus be less offensive. Methinks I hear an "Amen" from a layman. Brother, you are reading hints to preachers, and if you say "Amen" too lustily when the preachers get hit with a hint, we may try to persuade the editor to publish some helpful hints to lay members. Read on, please, and you may run into some inferential hints to laymen along with the more direct ones to preachers.

Is there not a display of a lack of business sense when a preacher uses up ten dollars' worth of "taffy" trying to "hold" a fifteen-cent adherent to the church? Does not the excessive use of "soft soap" indicate a cheapness in the one to which it is applied? And is the receiver any different from the bestower? Vain palaver; senseless gush; ever emment reigned. While this reign was on hard and heavy, he began to preach a series of sermons on tithing, and incidentally urged more liberal contributions to his weekly stipend. The congregations dwindled and the inhabitants of the parsonage longed for a better circuit. The yearly report included a net loss as usual and with a tenderly-hold-me attitude our "hero" places himself in the hands of the conference, hopefully. And so it goes year after year, and some of our lay members are getting so sick and tired of blank ministerial helplessness that—well, none of this and nothing like it applies to any pastor who reads these lines. They are all aggressive workers. They never complain about anything. They are always trying to help others and the work is moving forward. Their example inspires, their counsel directs, their faith inspires and revives. They all have the same name. It is not Blank Head. It is Earnest C. Pusher. The "C" stands for Christian, and real Christians they are.

Never preach longer than you think you should. Always do the best you can with what you have where you are today. Read less and think more, talk less and pray more. Fill up on God, heavens, holiness, and shout for joy as you did years ago. Why have you tamed down so? Are you getting too heavy above the ears and too light in heart? What is wrong with these "big" preachers among us who used to get burdened but who now "preside" in a nice way in all they do? If we don't watch out some of these "big" preachers will soon be the little ones, or at least numbered among them. Why not just go in for God and salvation in the good old-fashioned way? Why not return to the ordinary? This extraordinary stuff as a steady diet ceases to be palatable. There; another layman said "Amen." One thing is evident, when a layman says "Amen" at the right time it indicates that he has not been asleep.

Spirituality in the pew is a stabilizer of spirituality in the pulpit. A goodly number of wide-awake, appreciative, listening laymen will so stimulate the preacher that less of these helpful hints will be needed. In other words, the right kind of pew occupants are as helpful to the preacher as the right kind of a pulpit occupant is helpful to the laymen.

The apostle Paul wrote with pathos dripping from his pen, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." How often the preacher labors and sacrifices trying to be helpful to all without the least indication of appreciation from the beneficiaries. Toil on, brother, sister, you and Paul may some day compare notes on this and many other points. "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Laymen, love your preachers, and be not bitter against them. A word to the wise is sufficient, and if those who read these mild hints will take them in the same spirit in which they are written, immediate improvement may be looked for, in those rare instances where improvement is possible—The Free Methodist.

Spring Arbor, Michigan.

DON'TS FOR PREACHERS

Don't neglect the Course of Study. The course given you by the Church comprises a very brief and well-selected list of books to be studied or read as helps to the understanding of preaching the Word. There is not a subject included in the course that is not exceedingly profitable. God forbid that any of us with time and strength and mental vigor should try to excuse ourselves from the mastery of this valuable course.

It is a question in my mind whether a person can be really spiritual and at the same time intellectually lazy.

What excuse can there be for a preacher who claims to be called of God to preach the Word, but who spends far more time reading the newspapers than he does in studying his Course of Study and those books which help to the understanding of the Bible? What excuse can there be for the one who is always so busy building chicken coops or shopping or gadding about as a mere social mixer that he cannot give even one hour a day to his study? It is not to be wondered that thousands of preachers fail to grow in grace and fruitfulness by the way they spend their time. God puts no premium on ignorance, and the preacher who is too lazy to study need not be surprised if he fails to be approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

If a preacher refuses to give himself to the things which God hath appointed as a means of his spiritual and mental development, he need not wonder if his profiting fails to appear and he neither be able to save himself or those that hear him.

Don't forget that a call to the ministry is a call to study.—Rev. F. Linicome in the Free Methodist.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

God never gave the gift of the Holy Ghost to any human soul who had not come to the point where he would sell all he had to get it. Oh, it is the most precious thing in heaven or earth to be filled with the Spirit, filled with himself, taken possession of by God, moved, inspired, energized, empowered by God, by the great indwelling Spirit moving through all our faculties and energizing the whole being for him. That is the greatest, the most glorious gift He has. He is not likely to give it to people who do not highly appreciate it, and so highly that they will forego all other gifts for it—everything else, creature love, creature comfort, ease, enjoyment, aggrandizement, for this one thing.—Catherine Booth.