

# The King's Highway

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## THE FENCE OR THE AMBULANCE

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed

Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;

But over its terrible edge there had slipped  
A duke, and fall many a peasant;

So, the people said something would have to be done,

But their projects did not at all tally.

Some said, "Put a fence around the edge of cliff;"

Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."

But the cry for the ambulances carried the day,

For it spread through the neighboring city;

A fence may be useful or not, it is true,

But each heart became brimful of pity

For those who slipped over the dangerous cliff;

And the dwellers in highway and alley

Gave pounds and gave pence, not to put up a fence,

But for an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is all right, if you're careful," they said,

"And if folks even slip and are dropping,

It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much  
As the shock down below—when they're stopping."

So then day after day, as these mishaps occurred,

Quick forth would these rescuers sally,

To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff  
With their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked, "It's a marvel to me  
That people give far more attention

To repairing results than to stopping the cause,

When they'd much better aim at prevention.

Let us stop at its source all this mischief,  
cried he,

"Come neighbors and friends, let us rally;

If the cliff we will fence we might almost dispense

With the ambulance down in the valley."

"Oh, he's a fanatic," the others rejoined;

"Dispense with the ambulance? Never!

He'd dispense with all charities too, if he could;

No, no, we'll support them forever.

Aren't we picking up fools just as fast as they fall,

And shall this man dictate to us, shall he?

Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence

While the ambulance works in the valley?"

But a sensible few, who are practical too,

Will bear with such nonsense no longer;

They believe that prevention is better than cure,

And their party will soon be the stronger.

Encourage them then, with your purse and your pen,

And while other philanthropists dally,  
Let them scorn all pretense and put up a fence  
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Better guide well the young than reclaim  
them when old,

For the voice of true wisdom is calling;

"To rescue the fallen is good, but 'tis best  
To prevent other people from falling."

Better close up the source of temptation and  
crime

Than deliver from dungeon or gallery;

Better put up a strong fence around the top  
of the cliff

Than an ambulance down in the valley.

—Sel. from Gospel Banner

## CONGREGATIONS, CASH AND CONSECRATION

Rev. Walter F. Lewis

Should any single church have all these attributes its success would be assured, however even the best of churches had to have a beginning, and in all probability that beginning was without much of these advantages, except possibly some individuals possessing the last named.

It is not the purpose of this article to say which is most important of the three, or to discuss the relative values of each, nor even to tell how any or all may be obtained, rather to help us all to realize that generally we get along with less of all three than we should have at hand.

Congregations come, and keep coming, not through accident, but by careful consistent and continued planning. More than that they get others for the same reason they come. At first it may be the singing, which does help considerably; or curiosity, new (and proper) items in our worship foster this (sometimes) commendable trait; or because some of their friends attend. There is no getting around the fact that altogether too often, the young person who is converted and follows Christ consistently has a lonesome job. Worthwhile? Of course, but difficult and lonely just the same. Sure then it cannot be wrong to get them coming in couples or groups. The children and young folks of today are the Church of tomorrow. Then for the sake of Him who died for us, let's take time, thought and thoroughness in planning and presenting interesting as well as helpful services.

It has been my thought occasionally that if we had the cash to properly repair, redecorate and remodel our churches it would help in getting congregations and converts. I believe that. It is also my belief if you cannot have what you want (in cash or buildings) then make the best use of what you have. In territory that belongs to many of our churches (or in that "no man's land"—where no church occupies for the Lord) are people who would accept Christ, if they only knew. It takes cash to buy gas to reach these places. It takes more automobiles than are available, it takes a proper building, it takes new music and more supplies, it takes more fuel and light, it takes more Bibles; and these cost in cold, hard cash.

In confidence, I declare if we had automobiles and drivers who could afford to regularly get loads from nearby districts, as yet untouched by any church, we could nearly double the attendance at church and Sunday school. Not every one would accept Christ, but some would, experience shows that. Tithing, the storehouse plan, giving must enter into our life if we are to reach the unchurched and those without Christ.

Consecration doubtless will greatly assist if not entirely reach the goal of our necessity in cash and congregations. Consecration is more than testimony. It is more than praying. It is more than giving yourself to the Lord, or your money to His cause. Consecration is Christ living in you. "If every member were just like me, what kind of a church would our church be?" With the most of 1940 before us let us determine that individually it shall be the best possible for Christ. We will never be absent from service, unless there is a reason that we can give to Christ; that will help the size of the congregation. That will pay our tithe—strictly—and free will offerings from time to time, that will help provide for the cash. That even when prevented from attending service we will pray for the church and pastor, and purpose to work all the harder when again we do attend; consecration. This is a big job, and an exceedingly important one. May God bless and direct us in His Name.

## "SOME STARTLING FACTS"

There are 60,000 churches which did not report one single convert in the year of 1937. 9,000 churches closed their doors in 1937.

10,000 villages in America reported without a church of any kind.

There are 30,000 villages without a resident pastor.

There are 30,000,000 children under twelve years of age without Bible instruction.

There are 70,000,000 persons in the United States without church affiliation.

Eight per cent of the entire population of the U. S. A. attend church services on Sunday morning and only two per cent on Sunday evening.

There are seventeen square miles of slums in the City of New York, or 300 miles of street frontage.

There are 9,000 cases in New York every year where parents ask for the arrest of their own children.

England in twenty-five years has completely abolished slums. At the present rate it will take 250 years in this country.

We have a fifteen-billion-dollar crime bill in the U. S. A.

One out of every four families in the United States falls victim of major crimes.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

When a sheep is excluded from the fold it will bleat around until it is readmitted; when a hog is put out of the pen, it will root around and try to upset it.—Sel.