

The King's Highway

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EVANGELIZE

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I wish to list three texts:

The first is an urgent call: "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:9. The second is a Divine command, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. The third is a clear statement of the qualification of the God-called, Christ-commissioned church, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

In every worthy enterprise before they go far they **analyze** their task from every conceivable angle. There are always those who theorize. A theory is good if it works. We take more stock in a proven fact than in a score of speculative theories that remain unproven. However, we should be always ready to use the better **means** and **methods**. In every line of work it is well to **organize** so we can carefully plan our work and time. In these days of war we always feel that we must **mobilize** our forces. The word that may not be upon the lips of our generals in the armed forces, nor in the minds of many of our leading statesmen, yet should be in the minds and hearts of all true Christians. That word is **Evangelize**.

Is there a need? What are the facts facing us? Take a look at home conditions and take a long look abroad. Iniquity is bounding and the love of many is waxing cold. This is a sign of the "falling away" that the Bible speaks of. Church attendance and attendance at Sunday school have fallen off in America and Canada. One judge in N. Y. said that boys who were criminals were those who never attended or seldom attended the Sunday school. The criminals are those who are not influenced by the Sunday school and church. Never has there been such a falling away in attendance at Church and never has there been a greater increase in crime.

During the year 1943, age 18 predominated among all persons arrested, according to F. B. I. records. Arrests of 17-year old boys increased 27.7 per cent and 16-year old boys 61 per cent. In 1942 and 1943 arrests of girls under 21 years of age increased 130.4 per cent. A few years ago figures showed that about 85 per cent of the crimes were committed under 25 years of age and about 81 per cent under the age of 21. J. Edgar Hoover says: "We must engender in our youth a sense of moral responsibility founded upon religion. It must be a religion that embodies a creed and a code as well. Improved facilities for recreation, intelligent administration of juvenile courts, increased guidance for children

whose families have been weakened by war—all of these are necessary and good, but not enough. The answer lies in religious education because religion reaches a part of man where sociology is ineffectual; it reaches his motives, his reasons for pursuing a way of life. In the last analysis, religion is the recognition of man's dependence upon a superior being and his obligation to observe a higher law."

Observing these facts concerning youth and realizing that the Sunday School is the greatest feeder of the Church we should aim to evangelize our Sunday School. We should teach the Word and aim to win them to Christ. Here is where some are reached or lost to the church. We should have a proper conception of the value of a child, endeavor to understand them, appeal to them, and win them for the Master. Rev. H. V. Miller says, "When the home stands the nation lives, when the home disintegrates the nation dies. The church places God's benediction upon the home. When the church is strong the nation is strong; when the church is weak the nation loses its moral fibre. There is no national integrity apart from the homes. Homes cannot be builded apart from the influence of the church. The hope of America is in the power of the church."

Rev. R. V. DeLong says: "Our nation needs a spiritual awakening and a moral cleansing. If the church fails where can we look for help? The church cannot impose its principles legally, but it can impress its message by righteous living. Change individuals before you change society. The nation needs better men. Sponsor and support any movement for civil and moral righteousness. Sponsor a return to a religion that is life-changing, sin-breaking, heart-cleansing, and soul-purifying."

We see a great need of reaching each person, each family, each church, each community whether it is city or country. There is a need of a great revival of Home Missions in Canada and the United States.

Then when we look abroad we read articles like this: "The World Dying for the Gospel," by E. G. Marsh in God's Revivalist, January 21, 1932. He gives the following figures:

Mexico has a population of more than 15,000,000.

Central America has more than 5,000,000 and has less than 300 missionaries.

South America has nearly 60,000,000 of whom more than half can neither read nor write. There are only 750 missionaries. 6,000,000 in the interior are untouched by the Gospel. 8,000,000 are in the West Indies with less than 1,000 missionaries.

Persia and Arabia have 25,000,000 and only 300 missionaries. Note Nepal, Siam, French Indo-China, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Melanesia, Polynesia, Australia and the Philippine Islands. The above population is about 60,000,000.

Africa has 160,000,000. The great Sudan, with about 50,000,000, is almost untouched by missionaries.

India has more than 325 million, 85 per cent of whom can neither read nor write. The caste system makes social conditions bad. Hinduism is the prevailing religion. 10,000,000 die annually and most of them without Christ.

China has about 420,000,000. Only a few can read or write. Prevailing religions are Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, and Mohammedanism quite strong. In Korea and Japan we find about 80,000,000. Japan has a high educational standard, but that doesn't meet the heart need. **Shintoism** and Buddhism are the prevailing religions. We have Alaska, Newfoundland and Iceland, Greenland, some Isles of the Sea and Europe that we haven't given in our figures. There are many unsaved ones in Canada and the United States.

Dr. R. T. Williams says: "Knowledge is essential to Christian experience and efficient service. We serve well only when we understand our task and our obligation."

We have observed conditions from the facts and figures both on foreign and home soil. These convince us that we need to realize that the task is a big one. If we look around us, we begin to feel that if we are going to perform our local task that we need help.

We can use mechanical helps, such as typewriters, telephone, mimeograph, news papers, and the radio. We need hearts to lift, feel, pray and believe together. We need and enjoy their faith, vision, inspiration and fellowship. In unity there is strength. When we begin to lift our eyes beyond our church and community to neighboring cities and towns, and when we begin to allow our minds to take in the nation or the world, then we **surely begin to** feel a sense of the burden of souls around the world.

We have not wasted time in stopping to **analyze**, but now we must not simply **theorize**. Mobilization has been the outstanding word since the aggressive nations started to over-run other nations in Europe. The war has revealed the possibilities of a thorough mobilization. They mobilize science, capital, industry, and manpower to attain maximum strength against a fierce foe. The church is capable of a similar mobilization for spiritual conquest against Satan and a spiritual crusade for souls.

(Continued in next issue)

When gossips meet, the devil can sit down and rest.

Put truth in a picture, and you help God to speak.

The man who forms a good habit helps God.

"Let your light shine." Do not talk about the lantern that holds the lamp but uncover the light and let it shine.—George McDonald.

Moses D Hillman, May 45

13

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