

GUEST EDITORIAL

PRAYING — PAYING — GOING

W. H. Graef*

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd * * *

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:36-38).

The above statement, made during the early ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ while on earth, is doubtless of greater import today than at that time. Surely, the need of a burden for souls and a compassion for the woes of mankind is greater today than it has ever been in the history of the world. Pity for mankind was predominant in the heart of Jesus. To Him, a sinner was the most pitiable object in the world. He understood, as no mere human being could, the doom which awaited such as availeth not themselves of the regenerating grace of God. Knowing that all human suffering was the result of sin, and understanding the cause as well as the effect of man's guilt before God, He was "moved with compassion" and pity toward him.

The spirit of compassion which caused the Saviour to yearn over sinners is what Christians need and must have to enable them to perform the work God requires of them in bringing the Gospel message to the world. When the Church is pervaded and actuated by this impulse to see the unconverted saved, she will embrace every opportunity, as did the Master, to open the eyes of the blind, and to turn men from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. Only then will the Church send forth an abundance of laborers into the field to gather in the harvest.

While there may be various ways in which this work may be promoted, we would consider three at this time: praying, paying, and going. Every Christian may labor in one or all of these ways, and we would say, "Woe unto any idler in the presence of so vast a harvest." We are admonished daily by the papers and over the radio, to be in a war industry to help in the all-out war effort. While such exhortations may be all right, we will say that the Church is in a far greater conflict, and copes with a stronger enemy than our armies face, and it will take every effort she can put forth under the command of God in our day to meet the challenge.

If we have felt sin to be the terrible thing which it is, and have experienced the fulness of Christ's love in a thorough change of heart, then we cannot be without pity for the unconverted. A sense of personal responsibility and service to God and to our fellow men should be the first and most impressive thought which true religion awakens in the human soul. If this sense of obligation to God and sympathy toward others were as general among the churches as it should be, then the cause of God would receive more earnest support, and we would see more life and interest in the prayer meetings.

The Christian cannot so much as exist, much less prosper, without prayer. The same is true of our churches and missions. They cannot prosper nor will they exist any length

Mrs. Diadama McLeod was born at Woodstock, N. B., Mar. 16th, 1844, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Baker.

At the organization of the Reformed Baptist Church November, 1888, Mrs. McLeod and her husband, the late Samuel McLeod, became charter members. Our Foreign Missionary Society was organized at the same time and Mrs. McLeod was elected as its first president, which office she held for many years. She was also actively associated with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Sunday School of our church at Woodstock, her husband being superintendent of the latter until the time of their removal from the town.

Mrs. McLeod is now living in Long Beach, California. She will be 101 years of age March 16th, but in spite of her age she is able to be about and is keenly interested in the kingdom of Christ and the affairs of the nation.



Mrs. Diadama McLeod, taken on her 100th birthday

Surely the promise of Psalm 9:16, "With long life will I satisfy thee, and shew thee my salvation," is fulfilled to this saint of God.

The Editor, Associate Editor and all the members of The Highway family extend congratulations to Sister McLeod on the occasion of her 101st birthday.

of time, without prayer. It is by and through prayer that they were inaugurated. It was in a prayer meeting that the Master breathed upon the apostles, and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." We find that the early missionaries were chosen and sent forth by the Holy Ghost in answer to prayer. "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia, and from thence they sailed to Cyprus." Since that day, every one who has been successful in his effort for the salvation of souls has been sent forth in answer to the earnest prayers of God's people.

Our gifts and labors for the cause of God must be made effective by the power of the Holy Ghost in answer to prayer. The Holy Ghost was poured out on the day of Pentecost while the Apostles were praying, and not until this was done were they fitted for the work committed unto them. Prayer has planted every successful Christian mission and brought into the fold of Christ every heathen convert, and it will make the truth effectual in the conviction, conversion and sanctification of souls. It will also bring about the result for which we are requested to pray, namely: laborers. We should pray the Lord of the harvest that the **right** ones be called, and that enough be **found** to gather in the harvest speedily.

Christ would have His people undertake great things for Him, as well as expect great things from him. He would have them to labor hopefully, earnestly and prayerfully in the great harvest field of the world; and while the harvest is great, it will yet be gathered in. The prayers of the people of God will open the purse-strings of those with whom the riches of the world are entrusted. Never before in history have we had the facilities for so speedily getting the message of the Gospel to every part of the globe. We have the most modern printing presses working day and night putting out the Word of God. We have fast transportation to every part of the globe, and while some fields are closed for the present, and we are hindered in going

to some fields, we can say with the Apostle Paul, "A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

Hands are stretching out from our own land, from our neighboring nations, as well as other countries, and the islands of the sea. They are calling to the Church to bring them the light. Shall they call in vain? Are the obstacles to be overcome greater today than they were in times past? Is there sin in human heart that has not been subdued in the past? Has not the Gospel and the power of the Holy Ghost in other times and places overcome all the superstitions and evils of men? Will not the same truth, by the power of the Holy Ghost, do the same work now, in answer to prayer, that was done in the Apostles' day? "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

It is ours to labor. It is ours to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest. It is ours to give to the support of those who are thus called. When we do this God will hear and answer prayer for the speedy conquest of the earth for His Son.

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TEMPERED TRUTHS (Continued from Page 1)

and sectarian people one can find anywhere are the "No-church-joiners" and the "Come-outers." One must be able to pronounce all their "Shibboleths" or he is branded as an "outsider" and a "wandering star." When one's beliefs make it difficult to worship with others of conflicting views, he must build his altars elsewhere. And thus, the division is born. Somebody calls to him from across the fence and says: "What are you?" And he answers back, "I don't belong to any particular church; we haven't any name." Then his neighbor says, "Go ahead and preach awhile, and when I have discovered what you emphasize most, I will name you." And so it goes. From that time forth if you burn incense on his altars it must be the kind he favors.

There just isn't any way out of it. We must "head up" somewhere. The only thing left for us is, to use the best wisdom God has given us, remembering that the church we choose will become the one great molding influence of our Christian life.