

EVANGELIZE

Rev. G. A. Rogers

(Continued)

We are confronted with a world-wide problem. We are brought face to face with the Master's commission to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel." We have the Divine call and command. Have we made the consecration and have we waited until He has given us a real Pentecostal experience like He gave the early church? They received a purity in their own hearts, a power to live free from sin and render effective service, and a passion that carried them past obstacles to reach precious never-dying souls.

Rev. Gipsy Smith said there was one "ism" in the New Testament and that was **Evangelism**. Dr. D. S. Corlett says: "Evangelism has been and must continue to be the very life of our church; not in name and program, but in practice and life." The evangelistic spirit should fill the atmosphere of our church and burn on the hearth of our hearts. One writer commenting on the church of today said, "We have lost the sense of Christ's **supremacy**, of Christ's **sufficiency** and of the **urgency** of our message." If these be gone we have no real spirit of Evangelism. **Complacency** needs to be replaced by a real **compassion**. **Co-operation** is needed. It helps to lift and it helps to encourage. In unity there is strength. It will put the foe to flight or it will attract him. "One can chase a thousand and two can put ten thousand to flight." Sinners may fight our warning, but will melt under our love and compassion. Beautiful harmony within may attract the outsider to the fellowship of saints and to Christ himself.

Mohammedism has spread because each one tries to convert someone else. "We are indebted to give the Gospel in the same measure as we have received it," says one. The church must have the zeal of Evangelism. It should radiate and emanate a zeal that reaches the end of the earth. The church must accept the challenge and invade new territory if souls are snatched. Men sacrifice life to invade enemy territory for their country. Can we draw back when it means sacrifice for Christ and souls?

Intensified soul-stirring Evangelism is needed in the Church today if souls are won for Christ. The Bible is full of Evangelistic appeals. The early church freshly commissioned and anointed marched before us inviting us to follow in procession and accomplishment.

Many of the churches have been emptied of young men who have gone to war. We need to close our ranks and double up in our effort. A real spirit of evangelism will help us to keep a strong home base. The church needs to pray for nations that are in the throes of a bloody war, she needs to pray for guidance in the peace plans after the war, and she needs to pray and to make new plans to meet the returning boys with a warm spiritual atmosphere at home and she needs to plan on going to the foreign fields with a force like she has never marshalled before. In an editorial by Dr. Corlett we read. "If the spiritually-minded people within the Christian church around the world would intercede with God for the cause of peace, for the righteous just settlement of international problems, for the guidance and superintendency of His Spirit to be given to the conferences dealing with

these vital problems, God would answer prayer through even the selfish plans of ambitious leaders and influence the decisions. We are responsible to the extent that we may be able to touch God in prayer for the working out of His will in the solution of these great international problems. Prayer is a great panacea for spiritual ills, but prayer is not enough. Prayer and fastings, sacrifice and faithfulness, love and tears will help meet the needs."

The nation calls for every citizen to contribute something toward winning the war. The true church is going to stand the tests of the age. See Matthew 16:18. God has put the key of His "Power-house" within the reach of His people who enter that sacred realm of real intercession.

The God who brought water from the rock, replenished the supply of meal, brought the children of Israel through a sea dry shod, and brought the Hebrew children through the fiery furnace without the smell of smoke, can solve our world problems and send us a gracious spiritual awakening (the like of which the world has never known in decades). This century has not had a far-reaching revival. It is time they began to look for it. God knows how to release His blessings. May the church furnish the lines over which God can send His power and channels through which He can pour blessings. The early church faced the needy world of that day. The need was a challenge, but that was not enough. Christ had to give them not only an outward commission in so many words, but also an inward kindling of passion and love that sent them out to shake the very place by their praying, and to melt hearts by their witnessing, and to put to silence the strongest opposition by their preaching. People took knowledge they had been in Christ's presence.

When Christ came to the world His mission was this: "That the world through Him might be saved." If Christ is inseparable from His mission, it is only reasonable to say that His commission is the core of the Gospel, because it was born in the very heart of Jesus. Again we quote from Rev. D. S. Corlett, "The primary urgency of missions (Evangelism) is Jesus Christ; not the needs of the people as great as they are, not the blessings accompanying the Gospel, as wonderful as these are. Christ in the midst of His church is the greatest missionary inspiration the church can have. Christ coming to the lives of heathen people in personal salvation is the greatest blessing the natives can have. Our chief need is more of Christ, more of His passion and love, more of His Spirit and vision, more devotion to Him and His will; then with the receiving of missionary information our hearts will burn with a passion to go and give that these non-Christian people may be brought to Christ. We must give the Gospel to the world because we know Christ, and to know Him means that we share His passion for the salvation of all people."

On one side we have a great mountain of iniquity and on the other side a great mountain of indifference and in the valley a great sea of future uncertainties that lies before us, and the enemy is close to our heels, but one thing we need to remember is that God is still on the throne and the way up is always open. He sees us as we **analyze** our conditions. He sees us as we **mobilize** our forces for an all-out attack. He sees those that truly **agon-**

ize until they touch Him, and He pours in the spiritual ingredients of **purity, power** and **passion** that will enable His church to precipitate the greatest revival since Pentecost and the like of which many have thought could not occur in this 20th century. This is to truly **evangelize**. In the upper-room, Holy Ghost passion burned first in their own hearts, and then it spread through Jerusalem, all Judea, and Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the world. May the church be characterized with the same Holy Ghost qualifications, and then they can truly **Evangelize** and the results will be amazing. God is unlimited in His power and resources. Dare we believe Him for great things? El-Shaddai is the Hebrew word for "Almighty God." Matthew Henry gives his comment, "El-Shaddai just means the God that is enough." He was sufficient ground for Abraham to believe. He was sufficient ground for the church to trust as they launched their revival after emerging from the upper room of Pentecost. He is all we need today as we contemplate a crusade of Evangelism that begins with us and encompasses the entire globe.

* Given in the Preachers Meeting at Marysville, N. B., Feb. 8th, 1945.

THE EASTER MISSIONARY OFFERING

The president of our Foreign Missionary Society has suggested that I write something to The Highway about an Easter Offering for Foreign Missionary work. I know I do not need to take much of the valuable space in The Highway to accomplish that which is necessary. All our people have needed in the past, and I am sure that is all they will need this time, to be eager to respond, is to have the thought suggested.

There seems no more fitting time than Easter for such an offering, for then our minds are especially occupied with the thought of how much we owe God for His love and mercy. We remember too, that that love and mercy shown us makes us "debtors to all men" and we want to send the Gospel to as many as possible.

Our Foreign Work is growing through the untiring work of our missionaries. This year we have sent out a new missionary and have forwarded money for the purchase of a new church site. New opportunities are opening up which we cannot afford to let slip by, but if we are to be able to make the best of the opportunities that come, we must keep funds on hand, over and above that needed for salaries. Had we not had a little extra money on hand this year we could not have bought the above mentioned church site, and our out-going missionary would have been forced to wait in Lisbon, perhaps months, while we came to the people for extra funds to overcome an unforeseen difficulty encountered with the exchange of our money in a foreign country. We had enough on hand to forward the necessary money immediately, so our missionary could continue her journey, saving both money and time, and for our missionary, a disagreeably long wait in a foreign country.

Let us do our best to swell the missionary fund by several thousand dollars in our Easter Offering. This will replace the extra money we have had to spend this year in sending out our missionary, etc., and enable us to meet other emergencies which may arise in the future.

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