

WHEN PRAYER IS USELESS

By the Associate Editor

"When ye make many prayers I will not hear."—Isa. 1:15.

In the light of all the promises which God has made to hear and answer prayer, it may sound unscriptural and very discouraging to say that prayer is useless. Well, our purpose is not to discourage any soul from praying, for it is not less praying we need, but more. Nevertheless, the Word teaches us that there are times when prayer is useless, or if we get answers to our prayers we will have to do something besides pray.

In Isaiah's day, God told his people that He would not hear because their hands were full of blood, that is, they were guilty of wickedness of some kind which was hateful in the sight of God. The prophet also said: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear." So we see that prayers are vain when men continue in wilful sins, or in wilful disobedience to God. In other words if a soul will seek to be saved, or find pardon with God, he must turn away from all that he knows is wrong, and begin to do all that he knows is right in God's sight.

There is a very easy and popular method in use in some churches these days where souls are instructed to just accept Christ and join the church in order to become Christians, and no mention is made of repentance, or of confessing, and forsaking sin. Hence, the so-called new converts do as they are told without any apparent change of heart or life, for they keep on smoking cigarettes, attending movies and worldly amusements, and suppose they are Christians because their names are on the church book, while they know nothing about being born again and becoming new creatures in Christ, according to the scriptures. Away back in the days of David, he learned that in order to have audience with God he could not wilfully transgress God's

laws, or tolerate sin in his heart or life. He said: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psa. 66:18: Even in that far off day, David saw his need of holiness, or a clean heart, hence he prayed, in Psa. 51: "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." And again: "Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts, etc. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow;" and also, "create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me." That is the Psalmist's prayer for heart holiness.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul says, that God has called us to holiness, and he therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man but God. Let us ask, can a man reject God's call to holiness, and still have answers to his prayers? Our Lord also teaches us that we cannot retain an unforgiving spirit, or hold hardness against a brother or wrong another, and not confess our wrong and try to make reconciliation, and expect God to hear us when we pray. Hear Him! "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift, etc., first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

Is it any wonder that our prayers become dry, and formal, and lifeless with no inspiration, when we do not live our lives and Christian experiences by the word of God. Furthermore God will have his people to go forward, make progress in his work. He said to Moses anciently, "why criest that unto me (why pray); speak unto my people that they go forward." Men of the world realize that they must advance, and keep pace with their competitors, or they will fail, and become back numbers: But the tendency of our churches is to become satisfied with our present attainments, settle down, become lukewarm, and say, I am rich and increased in goods and have need of nothing. Hence have no burden, or soul passion, or liberty in prayer. And you

know, beloved, what God said to the church of the Laodiceans: "I will spue thee out of my mouth." God has promised us great things when we pray if we obey him, and live according to His word: He says if our heart condemns us not, whatsoever we ask, we receive of him because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. The fervent (not cold, formal) effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Let our slogan for this year be: "Go Forward!" Let us make advancement on all fronts. Let us live our lives by the Word of God, then we can pray with confidence and faith, which brings answers as He has promised.
H. S. DOW

WEDDINGS

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Barton-Cameron

On Sept. 8th at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. E. E. Cameron, Fredericton, Rev. F. A. Watson united in marriage Mavis Marguerite Cameron and Edmund Russel Barton.

Laws-Mooer

At the home of the bride's father, Roy Mooer, Marysville, Sept. 29th, Miss Ruth Aileen Mooer, became the bride of Douglas Lloyd Laws. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. A. Watson.

Merrill-Lawson

At Marysville, N. B., Oct. 5th, Miss Evelyn Grace Lawson was united in marriage to Nathan Roy Merrill. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. A. Watson.

Allain-Linton

At the Reformed Baptist parsonage, Fredericton, N. B., Monday evening, Nov. 26th, Caroline Agnes Allain, became the bride of Pte Frank Ashton Linton. Rev. H. E. Mullen performed the ceremony.

Dow-Harmon

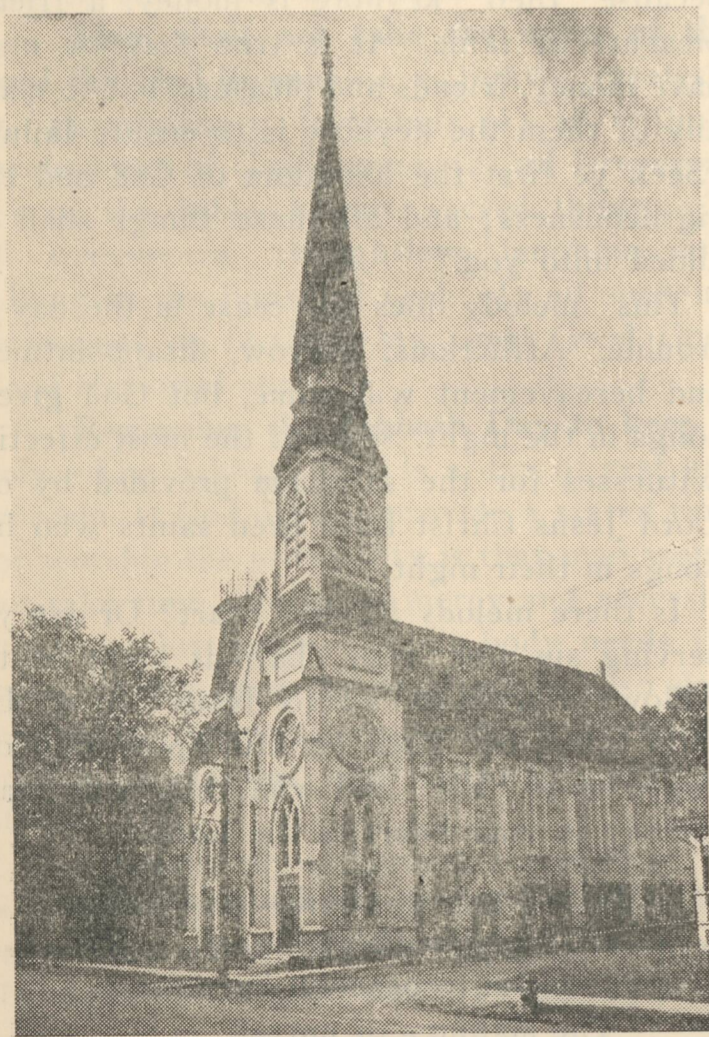
At the residence of Mrs. Grace Colpitts, Woodstock, N. B., Nov. 5th, Mr. Ernest Wesley Dow and Miss Maxine Elizabeth Harmon were united in marriage. Rev. G. A. Rogers officiated.

From early youth a man of worth
Lay helpless as a child;
For many years a stalwart lad
Passed by his way and smiled.
In bitterness the stricken one
Beheld the contrast wide,
And pondered why the lad possessed
The powers to him denied.

The years rolled by; a chastened soul
Had caught a vision clear;
His feeble hand penned messages
A dreary world to cheer.
While stricken ones, revived by him,
Show'ed blessings on his name,
The envied youth sank silently
Into a grave of shame!

God help us to be more content
Whate'er our lot may be;
All will be well if He but shape
Our humble destiny.
The Savior bore a rugged cross,
And rugged may be ours;
But far more heavy might we find

Getting Acquainted With Our Churches



CHURCH AT WOODSTOCK, N. B.

On November 3rd, 1888, history was made at Woodstock, N. B., when a group of people from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Maine, formed an organic union to be known as the Reformed Baptist Church and dedicated themselves to the holy responsibility of propagating the message of full salvation.

Subsequent to the birth of the denomination, the church at Woodstock was organized with forty-one charter members and Rev. G. W. MacDonald as pastor.

In 1903 the church building was completed and dedicated with special services attended with the blessing and power of the Spirit.

For more than fifty-seven years the Woodstock church has stood true to the principles of righteousness and true holiness, faithfully supporting a ministry of scriptural freedom from sin. Various obstacles and difficulties have been encountered, but the Spirit who led the people in the beginning has been with succeeding generations to give victory in the saving of sinners and sanctification of believers. Woodstock has always given liberally to the support of missions, Home and Foreign.

The following ordained ministers were given license to preach by the Woodstock church: Revs. P. J. Trafton, M. S. Blaisdell, F. A. Watson, Harvey Blaney, Ralph and Ronald Sabine.

Revs. H. L. Robertson and G. A. Rogers and Miss Mary Campbell are supplying the Woodstock church at present.