

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —

REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

SAVE THE CHILDREN!

"Women and children first!"

In every land where the Gospel of Christ has shed its gracious influence, this is a familiar cry. Workers who labour to rescue human life from peril, whether it be from a sinking ship or a burning building, sound this cry. "Women and children first!" The dependent child is therefore among the first to be saved. Others will be helped when the little ones are cared for.

We fear that in the soul-saving work of the church the order is too often reversed. Its men and women first, then young people, and last of all, children. Great effort is made, much prayer is offered, and perhaps many tears shed over the fathers and mothers and young people in their teens or early twenties. Elaborate plans are drawn up and put into effect in an effort to save these who have "come to the years of understanding". Evangelists, singers, and youth workers are engaged at great expense, as we endeavour to turn the feet of the wayward adults into the paths of righteousness.

But what of the children? As we seek the wandering sheep what is our attitude towards the straying lambs?

In many cases, while the presence of adults is very carefully noted by the preacher and people, the "little child in the midst" is all but unnoticed. Much thought and care is given to planning our services so as to impress and perchance win to the Lord the father or mother, while the little boy or girl in the pew is quite forgotten. When a Sunday School teacher is to be chosen for the young men or young women of the church, great care is exercised to seek out someone who will be able to interest the class and instruct them in the sound doctrines of the scripture. But, when the primary class is in need of a teacher, most any one who professes salvation and is kind and patient will do. We have special services for adults when we seek to guide them to Christ and encourage them in Christian living, while we leave the spiritual care and instruction of the children to a thirty-minute Sunday School period. If a man or woman who has spent forty years in sin, or a young person who is just beginning to travel the wayward course, if these turn to the Lord, we rejoice greatly, and so we should. But if a little child of five, seven or nine years comes weeping to the altar and asks Jesus

for salvation, we make little ado. The sheep restored to the fold is fed and watered with care, while the little lamb that has entered by the door into the sheepfold, is all but neglected.

We should not show less concern or make less effort to save the adult, but we certainly should be aroused to our responsibility to the children. If we put forth as much effort to save the little ones as we do those who are more advanced in years, we would spare the necessity of much of the agonizing labour of later years.

Anyone who thinks it necessary to wait until a boy or girl is of High School age before they are capable of considering the matter of their soul's salvation, is tragically mistaken. It is pretty hard to determine at what age a child is capable of being conscious of sin and accepting Jesus as Saviour, but history proves that these experiences can be known at a very early age. We have heard of genuine conversions among children all the way from three years upward. Many of the greatest saints of all time were saved when very young. Receiving Jesus as Saviour during childhood, many have been safely guided through the dangerous years of adolescence and spared the heartache of reaping the bitter harvest of youthful recklessness. Boys and girls soundly converted and properly instructed, have advanced to adulthood and fruitful service in the local church, in pastoral, evangelistic, or missionary endeavour.

Here is a field too long neglected, here a challenge too long ignored. For the greatest and most fruitful undertaking of our denominational history, for the most fruitful labour within the range of possibility, we might well adopt the slogan "Save the children!"

EDITORIAL GLEANINGS

"TAKE THIS CHILD"

There is a responsibility that rests heavily upon every adult concerning our present child delinquency. God will not hold us guiltless if we sit idly by on the sidelines, and do nothing about this alarming situation. Every Christian should highly resolve before God: "I'll be responsible for the saving of one child in the vast army of some twenty million children who are growing up in utter ignorance and paganism in relation to the Christian faith. There is hardly a single Christian but that could win at least one child for the Lord Jesus Christ. There is scarcely a Christian but what could win one child for a Sunday school, who is not at present receiving any religious training.

The institution which ranks next to the home in importance in furnishing religious training for children is the church. The organization in the church that has been preeminently helpful to children is the Sunday school. It is a well known fact that a large per cent of the children who attend Sunday school become Christians. It was through a Sunday school teacher that Dwight L. Moody was won to Christ and became one of the world's greatest evangelists. One of the greatest things that could happen to our country would be for adults to become so awakened that they would go out and get every child in the community into some Sunday school. Adults should not only go out and invite children to Sunday school, but they should set the example by attending Sunday school themselves. The most alarming thing in our nation is our child delinquency which is rooted in the breakdown of Christian nurture and training in our homes and the absence of children for Christian training in our Sunday schools. The future of America rests in the saving of our children.—Editor, *Pentecostal Herald*.

BEGINNING AT HOME

We view with alarm the increasing number of divorces, the surging tide of juvenile delinquency and the mounting crime wave, and other social disturbances which we all know are largely the effects of the wrong home life. But what are we doing about it? It is high time the Church was doing something to strengthen the home life, to give instruction to young people on the essential factors for establishing homes, to bring into the home those Christian ideals of Bible reading, hymn singing, praying, the discussion of Christian topics related to the lives of the individuals of the home, the personal interest in and training of the individual members in Christian truths, and the promotion of Christian fellowship within the home. So far as our church is concerned we must not lessen in any manner our interest in the personal salvation and entire sanctification of the individual, but we must add to these activities the practical instruction and guidance which will make more homes to be Christian in every respect.—Editor, *Herald of Holiness*.

THE GREATER TASK

While many are working to improve the airplanes, and refrigerators, and harvesters, and printing presses, it is good that some are working on men.

We must begin with the children in our homes and in the community and in the church. We must get these to God. As young people we must keep them going with and for God.

The Christian parents and the Christian workers who are giving to the world better children and better men and women are doing more for our humanity than is being done by the great inventors and industrialists. So while we appreciate what those do who work with tools and temporalities, let us lift up our heads; for our appointments and, under God, our accomplishments, are of even greater importance. Our work bears on immortality and eternity.—Editor, *Free Methodist*.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Etheretta Hurlbert, formerly of Sanford, N. S., passed to her eternal reward April 23rd, 1946, in the home of her son Ernest E. Hurlbert, 9 Banks Street, Cambridge, Mass. Grandma Hurlbert, as we affectionately called her, was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, and spent much of her life in Springdale, Yarmouth County. She was a faithful member of the Reformed Baptist Church of Sanford, N. S. The last few years of her life she lived in Cambridge, Mass. She had reached the ripe age of 88 years when her soul took its flight to be with its maker.

The last few weeks of her pilgrimage on earth she was confined to her bed. And, although her body grew weaker daily, her faith in God was steadfast and sure unto the end. During these days she would "Make melody in her heart unto the Lord in Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs". She had a continuous camp-meeting all by herself as she would sing "In the Sweet Bye and Bye," and other good old gospel songs. It was a joy to minister to her in spiritual things, and some day we hope to meet her with the great host of the redeemed in glory. The funeral services were conducted by the undersigned in the Watson Funeral Parlors, of Cambridge, Mass. Interment was made in Woolwich, Maine.

—Rev. C. E. Willson, Pastor, First Evangelical Church, Cambridge, Mass.