

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

VISION AND VICTORY

God's programme for His Church calls for a continuous advance. The command of Jesus to His disciples: "Go ye . . ." has never been fully obeyed. Its challenging echo reverberates through the centuries calling every redeemed soul and every consecrated disciple to aggressive action in the Kingdom of God. When we cease to move, we cease to perform the service to which we are ordained. When abounding iniquity, chilling indifference, and satanic opposition impede the progress of the church, it is because the flow of divine power has been stanchied by our own lack of vision and passion. Enlarged borders and expanding horizons are God's choice for us. "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations," was His command to ancient Israel. Translated into form which applies to our present situation it might be rendered: "Enlarge the sphere of your labours, plan for progress and spiritual increase."

A healthy church is a growing church. The normal outlook of a God-led, God-blessed people is toward new territory. Upward and onward is the chosen course of all who will obey the Spirit's call. Relapse and retrogression indicate that spiritual weakness and inertia have infected the blood-stream of the "body of Christ." Lack of progress testifies of a sub-normal condition within that organization called to be "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

It is an unhappy situation when we are content to maintain the "status quo" of our work. "Holding our own" is a phrase which often conveys ominous implications. The only sure way to retain the territory we have taken is to advance into new areas. This principle applies in personal experience and Christian service. The ground we have gained is well protected if bounded by other areas newly acquired. Thus and only thus can we consolidate our gains.

The command to enlargement, as given to Israel in Isaiah 54:2, seemed untimely, if not unreasonable. Barrenness and desolation were stark reminders of the humiliating defeat and gruelling captivity the guilty nation had suffered. Standing amid the solitary ruins of the beloved Jerusalem, humbled and penitent, the remnant of the faithful who had returned to re-

build must have wondered if the prophet had not misinterpreted God's message to them. The racial depletion which war and servility had caused left plenty of room for those spared to return to their land, but still Isaiah emphasizes the word "enlarge." The call is unmistakable and the command is evidently of God for it is followed by the customary pledge and promise of blessing to the obedient: "Thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." Imitating their father Abraham, they "staggered not at the promise of God" but "being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform" they set to work. And in response to their faith God gave the increase even in excess of the promise.

This is God's programme for His people. "Forward!" is the command to the church locally and denominationally. If we are to be in divine order, we must plan for progress and enlargement in every community and in every land. Let us advance under the unfurled banner of the mighty Captain of our salvation!

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

ANOTHER SERVANT OF GOD PROMOTED

Rev. E. E. Shelhamer, evangelist, writer, world traveller, went to be with the Lord from Winona Lake, Indiana, January 21, 1947.

Born in a log house near Mateer, Pa., December 16, 1869, Elmer Ellsworth Shelhamer was chosen of God as Jeremiah the prophet to a great work in the Kingdom of Christ. He was converted to God at the age of 16 years, and feeling called to preach entered a training school. During college days he came under the influence of full salvation preaching and was sanctified wholly. From that time until death Brother Shelhamer became an able and faithful exponent of heart holiness. He joined the Free Methodist Church and retained affiliation with that group until transferred to the church triumphant, but his ministry was inter-denominational. His ministry was world-wide in scope and he preached to multitudes of every continent. He was also a gifted writer, his brief, helpful messages having a very wide circulation. A courageous and faithful warrior in the army of the Lord, Brother Shelhamer fell in action, his last sermon being preached January 15, in the closing service of a revival campaign. The text of this last message was: "Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Another of God's elect has finished his course and awaits in rest the crowning day.

A NEW CRUSADE

Under the banner "Fighting Faith Crusade", the Salvation Army has launched a campaign to revive the spiritual life of all peoples. On January 21, this Crusade was inaugurated in 97 countries and colonies in every section of the globe where the Salvation Army operates. 28,000 full-time officers and millions of lay officers and soldiers are participating in this revival campaign. Any effort in the interests of spiritual recovery is worthy and this enterprise of the Army deserves our sympathy and prayers. May the spirit of Booth, Bramwell and Brengle be upon those who co-labour in

this good work, until the glory which has crowned the work of this great movement in former days shines forth once more!

"THINGS WHICH HAPPENED"

E. E. Shelhamer

"But I would that ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel" (Phil. 1:12)

By-products of certain oils and minerals are sometimes more valuable than that from which they were taken. In like manner it is possible to turn to our profit spiritually, things which are coarse and cruel. How wonderful that we can outwit men and devils when we let a miracle-working God rule and overrule in our behalf.

Things do not just happen to come to a real saint. Paul would have the "brethren" know that he did not need human comfort, for the great God had timed everything to the minute, so that whether in or out of prison, everything had worked out for the "furtherance of the Gospel."

When we wholly believe "all things are possible," we are well nigh omnipotent. Such a person can grow tall sitting on a low bench; can shine more brightly by giving up his own brilliancy; can rule over others by letting them ride over him; yea, can overcome all opposition and "smile at Satan's rage." Long after his critics have landed on the scrap heap of dead orthodoxy, he will be going strong and his message will have life and power. Why? Because he has solved the hardest problem in the universe—"Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:35).

Look at Joseph! Neither he nor his envious brethren ever dreamed that his being sold in Egypt and being subjected to all kinds of slander and suffering, was God's method of promotion to the premiership of the most powerful kingdom (then) in the world. Oh, for the ability to wait, if need be for years, to be vindicated by a miracle-working God!

Again, look at Moses! We speak of him as the meekest man on earth, but it was not always so. His killing an Egyptian drove him to the "backside of the desert" where he learned meekness from gentle sheep. Later, when he returned from the mount, he became impatient and with one blow broke the Ten Commandments. Strange that men can climb to the heights, then suddenly tumble and become a disappointment.

God graciously gave him another chance. This time he was to speak gently to the rock. But instead he "smote" it, saying, "Ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" And for thus speaking "unadvisedly with his lips," he was not permitted to go over Jordan and enjoy the milk and honey. How sad, after all those years of hardships to be denied this glorious privilege. Yet, here again, the compassionate God planned something nice for his "servant," though he had to wait about 4000 years. Finally, we see him standing in the promised land, beside his transfigured Lord. "All is well that ends well."

Years ago a certain man invested unwisely and lost everything. He could have done as others, gone into despair, and committed suicide. But instead he resorted to prayer and soul winning. The result was, many were saved who might have been lost had it not been for