## THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

# THE ORGAN OF THE — REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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## **EDITORIAL**

#### SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

Our denomination is passing through one of the most crucial periods in its near sixty years of history. Decisions and choices of greatest importance have been and are being made. Plans are being formulated which, blessed of God and executed with the spirit of grace and humility, may well mark these years as the most epochal since our church was born under the holy obligation of "spreading scriptural holiness over these lands."

That the hand of God has been graciously upon us we cannot doubt. "Through many dangers, toils and snares" we have already come. Our work has not been spared the difficult crises that often arise to try and threaten a project dedicated to divine service. The mighty adversary of all who would live and labour for the glory of God has repeatedly challenged us to conflict and has waged long and bitter warfare. Sadly, we have not been without loss in conflict, and have been forced to lament on a few occasions, "how are the mighty fallen!" But after suitable mourning for the fallen, courageous men have carried the battle forward and have proven the faithfulness of God. And so the Mighty One of Israel has preserved us and led us onward. And still He leads!

With many denominations deploring the lack of workers and closing church doors because of a shortage of pastors, we have the largest, and perhaps the most promising group of candidates for service at home and in foreign fields in the history of our work. Talented and devoted young men and women in great numbers have declared their call to Christian service and are earnestly and diligently labouring to prepare themselves for efficiency in the Kingdom of God. And these young people evidently possess a spirit of love and loyalty for God and man which makes personal gain a discarded ambition. We are assured, through our knowledge of them, that when they are ready for service they will go wherever the Lord directs them and there labour with consecrated zeal "that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The need of denominational expansion is obvious. The call to enlargement sounds in our ears. Broader horizons meet our view, wide and whitened fields await the labour of our hands, and there is a "sound of going"

which indicates obedience to the divine command, "go forward!"

Right at this point we would do well to pray for purity of motive and sincerity of intention. It is possible to create considerable interest in "extension" work, and gain some results in the establishment of churches and increase of church membership, on a basis that is not God-inspired. What is our object in seeking new fields and endeavouring to plant new churches? Is it mere denominational growth, more churches and more people? If that is our motive, we need to seek a better one. Do we wish to organize new groups so that the young men now in training may find a people to serve when they graduate, or that those of us who now serve pastorates may have a place to go when younger men are called to the fields where we labour at present? If that is our goal, we need to aim higher. Would we promote a forward movement so that the dissatisfied people in churches given to worldliness and modernism might come out of the dens and caves and ally themselves with us? Still we must cry "Excelsior!"

There is an element of good in each and all the suggested objectives but they do not provide the scriptural basis for aggressive effort that we need and which God can give the abundance of His blessing. All the worthy ambitions that might be associated with advance efforts born out of desire for growth of our denomination, the establishment of new fields of pastoral service, and reaching the hungry and unfed of the backslidden churches around us, can be realized by our launching and supporting a campaign of evangelism based on a God-implanted, passionate desire to proclaim the truth that makes men free.

The apostles "went everywhere preaching the Word." The Methodists evangelized under the mighty impulse of conviction that they were raised up of God to "spread scriptural holiness." William Booth and his Salvationists waged warfare against sin and Satan under the blood and fire banner, constrained by love to seek the lost for Jesus' sake. The fathers of our denomination pioneered in proclaiming the message of full salvation in this area because they loved the truth more than the church or the personal interests they must sacrifice to be faithful to God and the call to holiness.

We need a band of men whose hearts God has touched! We need the soul-gripping, life-claiming conviction that we are entrusted with a great commission, the proclamation of the truth which alone can make men wise unto salvation. Nothing less than such a persuasion will be sufficient to provide genuine success in holy endeavour. Nothing lower can be regarded as a scriptural motive to missionary enterprise at home or abroad. O Lord! Give us pure desires!

"Stir me, O stir me Lord—I care not how, But stir my heart in passion for the world; Stir me to give, to go, but most to pray; Stir, till the blood-red banner be unfurled O'er lands that still in heathen darkness lie, O'er deserts where no cross is lifted high.

Stir me, O Stir me Lord, till all my heart
Is filled with strong compassion for these
souls;

Till Thy compelling 'must' drives me to pray,
Till Thy constraining love reach to the poles,
Far north and south, in burning, deep desire,
Till east and west are caught in love's great
fire."

WHY HE FAILS ...

#### E. E. Shelhamer

There are many good and noble preachers who struggle hard but who are nevertheless failures, when it comes to building up the work of God. With the hope of helping someone, let us mention a few causes. The minister fails because—

He does not love long seasons of prayer;

He is too dignified to preach on the streets and in factories;

He reads the newspaper with more relish than he does the Bible;

He does not do enough calling, especially upon strangers and those who are not in the habit of going to church;

He and his people are not quick to show a warm welcome and to greet strangers at the door;

He does not see the importance of cottage prayer meetings and visiting the poor with baskets of provisions;

He has gotten into a rut in speaking too loudly and indistinctly; in being too general or too specific; in being too precise in attire, or too untidy;

He does not preach and practice personal evangelism enough; that is, that every member should be a soul-winner. Each one should be given a chance, even if he is a bit awkward at first;

He and his people are not strict tithers. If they were, there would be sufficient funds to take good care of his family, of the parsonage, of the church, so that everything would look neat, up-to-date and inviting;

He holds too tenaciously to wornout methods in conducting Sunday School and prayer meetings. Some new methods are abominable, but this does not imply that one should hold things so tightly that every new suggestion is not given fair consideration or trial. Why not occasionally ask another to take part or lead a service? One might learn a thing or two! By giving strangers a little recognition they may come again.

### BETHANY BIBLE SCHOOL

Much has been said about post-war industries for the Town of Yarmouth. If we are to see such development take place, the Board, the Council, and citizens generally, must keep active and induce new business to come here.

It is the opinion of many that the best type of enterprise to encourage would be groups which would employ ten, fifteen or twenty persons.

The release in today's paper that Yarmouth is to be the new home of Bethany Bible College of The Reformed Baptist Church of Canada, is a beginning. The college with its teachers, and students constitutes a permanent new "industry" and will benefit all concerned.

In acquiring the MacLeod property on Beacon street for their college, the Alliance have purchased one of the nicest holdings in the County. The large spacious grounds will make an unusually attractive campus, allowing sports facilities on the property in the two large fields bordering on Brunswick Street.

The Herald-Telegram welcomes Bethany College to Yarmouth and wishes it every success..—Editorial, Harold-Telegram, Yarmouth, N. S.