

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTISTS OF CANADA

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EDITORIAL

A PATTERN FOR PROGRESS

We should never be content with merely "holding our own" in the work of God. In personal experience, in the work of the local church, in denominational interest, and with respect to the world-wide activities of Christ's Kingdom, we should be looking for, praying for, and working for progress and expansion. When we cease to go forward in the will and word of God, we begin to recede from the normal level of Christian life and service. If we recline we shall decline.

Hardy growth and solid progress in spiritual matters call for the exercise of faith, carefulness and utter dependence upon God.

To His ancient people the Lord gave this command: "Enlarge the place of the tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes, for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left."

Preparation for enlargement must precede the breaking forth. Room must be provided ere the increase will be given. This is the normal process. God calls for the attempting of the unreasonable and the achieving of the impossible. If we only accomplish that which cold reasoning dictates, we shall never make any remarkable gains.

Since progress in God's work is normal, plans for progress should be made. The making of those plans will call for faith and vision but the life of the Church of Christ is dependent on this outlook.

Substantial gains in the work of God are made through the exercise of care and caution in spiritual enterprise. There are dangers associated with ambitions toward increase and expansion. Some groups have recorded gains in their work that have lacked the substantial qualities characteristic of a God-inspired, God-directed movement. An enthusiasm toward denominational increase and an unhealthy desire for impressive statistical reports have become a snare to some people who were previously motivated by loftier aspirations. Emphasis on extension and enlargement without a corresponding concern for the maintenance of scriptural standards of spiritual life and conduct will prove fatal. If we are making progress, it will appear in the records, but statistics alone are not indicative of advancement. Length and strength

must be added in equal measure if a work is to be done which will stand the test of time and eternity. As we let the ropes out let us drive the stakes down. Only thus shall we guard against a loss of labour.

If we respond to the challenge toward aggressive effort in the Kingdom of God, and give due attention to the quality of our work, God will surely bless the labours of our hands. If our motives are pure, our standards right, and our labours faithful, the Lord will give the increase. On this we can depend. Under His blessing the barren wastes will become fruitful and the desolate cities inhabited.

"Soon the time of reaping will be over." The call of God is upon us to go forth and work while it is day. This is a time when every pastor and every church member should unite to make the work of the Lord go and grow. "The night cometh (and quickly) when no man shall work." Willing and capable workers are consecrating themselves for service in new fields. The "old" fields must be worked as well. Let every man in his God-appointed sphere serve the Lord whole-heartedly, earnestly labouring that His Kingdom may come and His will be done on earth as in heaven.

THE LAYMEN—TOO OFTEN FOR— GOTTEN

Ministers have been the natural leaders of the church all down the centuries. They have been trained in theology and in church history. They are specialists. Moreover, they are usually persons giving full time to their churches. The value of the pastors, evangelists, superintendents, bishops, and special ministerial instructors and educational leaders to the church is beyond computation.

But too often we have failed properly to recognize the place of the layman in the church. We have taken him for granted.

But note: The laymen are numerically the larger part of the church.

The laymen, having their contacts with the outsiders, of their lives are good and alert, are the best "salesmen" for the church.

It is the laymen who do most of the Christian living, inasmuch as there are many of these compared with the ministers.

It is the laymen who fill the pews, giving the minister his hearing.

It is the laymen who fill the prayer rooms.

It is the laymen who finance the church, paying most of the bills. Many of them tithing, and some doing much better than this.

It is the laymen who man our Sunday schools and lead our young people, and who often work as unpaid visitors.

It is the laymen who support missions and Christian education.

It is the laymen who make the impact upon the business and political world.

Laymen have served as class leaders, Sunday-school superintendents, and trustees. Some have been professors or trustees of colleges, and some have borne heavy general church responsibilities on boards and in general offices.

The mind of any minister of experience contains the names of some men and women whose lives were as ointment poured forth. God and some of us know how well they served. Also they held up the hands of the man of God. The rewards which we all believe are at the end of our way are to be passed out by One who sees in the dark as in the light and who knows all the unadvertised loyalties and services of every minister and every lay-

man.

And while we wait for the final awards, all of us have joy in filling full the places to which we have been assigned. It is good that there are a variety of talents and of appointments to serve a variety of needs.—Free Methodist.

FUNNY-BOOKS ARE WELCOME MATS TO WARPED WAY OF LIVING

How many of us have growing children youngsters, teenagers for whom we would do anything to keep out of prison? We do not know how many fathers of growing children are in this penitentiary; we do not know how many imprisoned fathers there are throughout the Nation. We do know that of all the fathers in the Land we, you and I, are the ones who know that everything possible must be done to keep kids out of reform schools, jails and prisons. Fathers who have never served time in a penitentiary cannot know how seriously important is our job of combating juvenile delinquency! To them it is a newspaper headline until their boy gets in trouble.

Your "News" has long held against cheap-crime movies, trash radio skits of cops and robbers selling some product which kids are "told" to ask their mother to buy in return for the privilege of listening to the exploits of "real men" and lives of crime. There is another effective contributor to juvenile delinquency which must be stopped: the F-U-N-N-Y B-O-O-K. Only, they are not funny! They are hideous welcome-mats to a warped way of living.

We can . . . and will . . . denounce FUNNY BOOKS until our ink is gone and our mouth cannot speak!

Study the cover-page of any of the ghastly, fantastic "Comic" books kicking around in your or your neighbor's cell! Some of them are so gross in their distortion of truth that they depict life in a prison as constant shooting of inmates by guards or guards by inmates. If the horror stories scared out kids into being fine upright sort of folks or made them ashamed, fine; instead the stories glorify the convict and the life that brought him to that station!

As a start to the campaign to combat juvenile delinquency, "News" proposes that all comic, so-called FUNNY BOOKS, be banned from sales at newsstands, drug stores and 10-cent stores! Such reading is NOT for kids . . . the kids of the managers or owners of the stores or the kids of their patrons!

There are comic books which re-print the "funnies" people read and enjoy in their daily newspapers. Unfortunately, however, one group of comic books cannot be set aside as "safe" and another as "banned." The loopholes would be found too readily . . . the lurid and sexy, shoot 'em down—rob and kill 'em kind of picture stories would be found beneath a "Dagwood and Blondy" cover!

Before you make up your mind as to whether or not you'll go along with the "News" on this idea . . . look through a FUNNY BOOK again, carefully!—Selected.

A REASON FOR HOLINESS

"Are these feet so soon to tread the courts of heaven? Is this tongue so soon to unite with the heavenly beings in praising God? Are these eyes so soon to look on the throne of eternal glory, and on the ascended Redeemer? Then these feet and eyes and lips should be holy; and I should be dead to the world, and live for heaven."—Albert Barnes.