

church. In doing this, the pastor and evangelist are developing a mutual expectancy, the benefits of which may reach farther than either one can foresee.

Preparing the People

The alert pastor will prepare his people and his community for the coming revival with repeated announcements and reminders. The members will not be left without information. They will be reminded to make their plans with due attention to the coming revival. The coming revival will be prominent in their thinking because the alert pastor makes it so. Household plans, by the pastor's tactful suggestion, will be built around the coming revival.

As the time approaches, special prayer meetings will be started. Prayer lists will be prepared. Members will be reminded to pray at home, and at local prayer groups. They will be urged to call on neighbors, to write letters, and to mail invitations. Prayer will vitalize all of these activities. Thus the membership will be revived before the meeting begins, and when the evangelist arrives, he will find a church in good spiritual tone and ready to serve.

Too often the revival is a dismal failure, not because the evangelist was a failure, but because the pastor was a failure. He did not recognize his duty and privilege by making preparation for the meeting by carefully developing a prayerful and expectant attitude among his people.

Advertising the Meeting

The alert pastor gives diligent attention to advertising the revival, not only prior to its opening, but while it is in progress. It is not the purpose of these lines to discuss the various ways of advertising which are available, however, to mention a few in passing, we would list: window posters, mailing cards, folders, display "ads" in newspapers, and radio announcements. Reports to the daily paper with a brief cryptic statement from the evangelist's sermon of the night before, will at least let the public know that something is going on at your church. Most of these means are available to the rural pastors as well as to those serving in the city.

Some pastors give the impression that they don't think the revival is worth attending—at least their indifferent attitude towards publicity would lead an evangelist to reach such a conclusion. No notices, no suggestions about inviting others, no apparent interest in bringing in the community—such inaction on the part of the pastor begets a like inaction on the part of his people. Apparently, the empty pews are not responsibility of theirs. Such an attitude on the part of the pastor is damaging to the church membership and to the few outsiders who do chance to come.

Of course, the church thinks that the evangelist ought "to draw the crowds" by his great preaching. But most of us are only ordinary evangelists, preaching ordinary messages at our very best. The public ought to appreciate the enormous value of ordinary preaching. If it doesn't, it is up to the pastor to help the public to come, through the medium of prayer, visitation and advertising.

Preparing for the Music

The alert pastor will usually call in a good song leader and/or musicians to assist in the revival. Such help is important. There are

those who do not recognize this and some who even oppose "man-made plans." If care be exercised so that the objective is that God may be glorified, then we can trustfully use every legitimate means to win souls. Good song leaders who are cheerful without being silly, instructive without being boring, earnest without being grouchy, and effective without wasting time, make a valuable contribution to the meeting.

The alert pastor will do his best to provide an efficient pianist or organist. Here is a touchy matter. Not all good people who play an instrument are good players. Some are beginners. Don't discourage them, but give them their development in less important services. Some play correctly but without any inspiration. Some make so many mistakes, it is painful to listen. Some are "established," and woe be the pastor who dares disturb! I pity the pastor who does not have an able, spiritual pianist or organist. He fights against heavy odds. A poor player can instill so much dullness into a song service that good people are distressed. If he can do it without offense, it would be a great achievement for the pastor to import a good musician for the meetings! The alert pastor watches this phase of his revival effort to the best of his ability.

Starting the Service

The alert pastor sees to it that his meetings start promptly on time. It is a nervous strain to see the carelessness of some pastors along this line. Some time it is the song leader who wastes his time by stupidly hunting for songs which ought to have been selected long before the hour of starting.

The timid approach which is sometimes made is bad psychology: "Shall we start now?"

"Perhaps we had better turn to number 602 and open our service."

"Well, I guess it is about time for us to start."

How much better "We shall open our service with number 602. Let every one sing"—and he does it on time.

Endorsing the Preaching

A very decided advantage is to be found in the way the alert pastor endorses his evangelist and his message. He uses proper occasions to support the truth. The evangelist may not be a great preacher, but the pastor can help his people see great value in the messages by a frank reference to them and a public statement of appreciation. It is a great help for the pastor to quote some statements from the previous night's sermon, and briefly endorse the thought. The evangelist is not there for appreciation, but the public approval by the pastor endorsing the preaching just about doubles its value in the minds of the congregation.

I once assisted in a camp meeting where the platform manager was an evangelist of years of experience. He was a shrewd, spiritual, old brother, who must have recognized the psychological value of such a course; he used it repeatedly but without offense. His attitude of appreciation and approval undoubtedly multiplied the effectiveness of the ministry of the engaged workers.

The ignoring of this principle, which is the ordinary procedure, may leave both the evangelist and the congregation under the depressed feeling that the pastor is not in sympathy with the truth or the manner of its presenta-

tion. Satan is on the alert to make the most of every question that may arise, and he will do his satanic best to put a cloud over the worker.

Of one preacher, an evangelist said, "He neither blessed his evangelists nor curses them." That is nothing of which to feel proud. Such a pastor is sadly missing an opportunity to greatly increase the effectiveness of his employed speaker. Private endorsement, while it may relieve the evangelist, will never do for the congregation what a few words of public approval will accomplish.

The alert pastor will know how to avoid giving the impression that he is magnifying a servant; he is simply emphasizing the message for the sake of the meeting.

The same psychological laws obtain with relation to a few words of approbation for the song leader, and for the pianist and other special workers. They do not need it for personal vanity, but it does something for the congregation and gives a lift in the meeting that may spell the difference between merely a "good meeting," and "one of the best meetings since we've been here."

The alert pastor recognizes the opportunities that are his in the revival. He sees them as more than responsibilities, and as he accepts the tasks and pushes the battle, he sees results that can be explained only in the light of his alert co-operation and humble devotion to his calling. May God give us more alert pastors.—Wesleyan Methodist.

A WONDERFUL YEAR

Havelock, Digby Co., N. S.

Dear Highway:

Greetings once more in the name of Jesus. Yes, we have had a wonderful year as the heading suggests. Since last writing we finished up our meeting with Brother Nicholson at Doaktown, where we saw seventy-five souls at the altar, with several forward the second time to be sanctified. From there we went to Lower Hainesville for eight nights with Brother Owens, again where we saw twenty-four at the altar, and then on to Middle Southampton again with Brother Anderson, where we only saw four forward. From there we went to Bloomfield for five nights where we saw twenty-four forward. We finished up our church year at Londonderry Mines for a week-end where we saw twelve souls forward. We enjoyed being with Brother Benson and his people.

We have had the privilege of laboring with thirteen different brethren since last Beulah Camp and we have found them all great men, to work with and appreciate them and their kindness so very much. Also all the church people who were so very kind to us and laboured with us very faithfully to the one great end, the salvation of souls.

We thank God for letting us see two hundred and sixty souls at the altar to be saved or reclaimed and one hundred and eighty-six forward to be sanctified. We give God all the glory and thank all who followed us in prayer and we do solicit your prayers for us for the ensuing year. We plan to remain in the evangelistic field for another year and our slate is filling up quite fast without us ever having anything in The Highway. Those wanting us for revival campaign please let us know as soon as possible.

Yours for Holiness with no side issues.

THE MULLEN TRIO,

Per H. S. Mullen