

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIALS

A Visitor's Impressions

A Beulah Camp evangelist of a few years back writes the following impressions received while he was among us: "I sense among your people an urge, a stir, a drive, a restlessness, tho' many of them are not aware of it as yet. It is a spiritual stir—not necessarily the restlessness of the age.

"The Superintendency is one evidence of desire for expansion and intensification of your life and program. It implies organized, centralized progress and an integrated church. It is bound to bring a speeded-up advance. I see for you, in the immediate future, a broader vision, a steadier march, and a more missionary approach. There will be new churches, a new roster of younger preachers. "Your growing school, increased radio contacts, financial budgeting, more business-like polity, will all combine to give you a sharpened sense of unity . . ."

Will Your Church Do It?

As we near the close of our church year, the activities and achievements of the local churches are brought under examination. What we have or have not done will be revealed in our annual reports.

It has been a rather difficult year for some churches, especially in finances. Living costs have reached an all-time high while we have suffered some economic reverses. Some communities have had serious unemployment problems and have struggled to care for the current expenses of the local church. Fortunately, these situations have not been common, but in some sections, particularly the coastal areas, it has been a "hard year."

The annual reports will reveal the extent of the church's support of denominational enterprises. The amounts contributed to Foreign and Home Missions, Bethany Bible College, and the Alliance Fund, will bespeak the interest the pastor and his people have in the general program of the church. Some churches have already reported budgets for 1940-50 paid in full, others that they expect to reach the goals set for them. No church will raise the money asked of it for denominational work without earnest and perhaps sacrificial effort. Where little or no emphasis is given to denominational needs and no special effort is made to raise budget allocations, churches will no doubt report failure in this matter.

In some cases failure to meet objectives will be the result of local unemployment problems in some others it may be due to a lack of interest in our denominational work. Where churches have tried and failed, commendation may still be in order (2 Cor. 8:12), but where failure is due to negligence and lack of vision, both the pastor and the church are "without excuse."

Some churches are raising budgets for the year while carrying very heavy local obligations including heavy building and extension programs. How they do it we do not know, but that they do, the figures show. As already suggested some of them do it because they're bound to, even though it means sacrifices. One church borrowed money to pay its budgets last year.

Perhaps your church faces the seeming necessity of reporting "budgets unpaid." But is it necessary? There may be a way. There's time yet to plan and pray, and perhaps turn failure into success. Other churches have done it, are you sure your church cannot?

Choosing Your Delegates

Alliance time is just two months ahead. This year's business sessions will be the most important in our denominational history. The issues to be considered, particularly the church union motion, are vital to the future of the Kingdom of God in this area.

Delegates for this year's Alliance should be carefully and prayerfully selected. We have not been too particular in this matter. Delegates appointed have been too often just any who plan to be present at the Alliance sessions regardless of ability to represent the churches in debate and voting. This should not be. Those who represent the churches at Alliance should be chosen for their ability to discuss matters of business relating to the denomination and cast their votes after judging fairly as to the right decision on the matter under consideration.

We have fine laymen who are not only capable of intelligent consideration of the problems of our work, but can be trusted to vote fairly and conscientiously. In many cases it has seemed many of these men could not attend the Alliance Sessions and represent their churches in the past. This year the churches should select the delegates best qualified to represent them and bend every effort to make possible their attendance at Alliance.

The only way we can make denominational decisions is to have capable representatives from the churches meet in a body to share their views, discuss the proposals presented, and then vote according to fair judgment. Choose your delegates with care.

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS

James A. DeWeerd,
Editor "Christian Witness"

The simplest definition of a Christian is a follower of Christ. This means that we should walk as he walked. In the same way in which the first steps of a babe are usually the hardest so the initial steps of the past when one breaks with the sins of the past and from the old crowd are often the hardest to take. As one after a long illness must learn to walk again, so persons of weak faith will find it hard to keep from falling. In much the same way that the physical body is developed by exercise and

movement so must we train our spiritual lives by disciplined actions.

Let us investigate to see where following in the footsteps of Jesus will lead us. He was always found in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. It was Oliver Wendell Holmes who said that all of us have in our heart a little plant called reverence and that it needs to be watered at least once a week. A devout Christian will be found in prayer meeting and at worship services on the Lord's Day. Some have a tendency to complain about the abilities of the pastor or of the class leader. Spiritual people will be at their best for God regardless of human leadership because they have learned to rely upon the more sure leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The steps of Jesus often led to the homes of sinners. The Scribes and Pharisees found fault in him by saying to this man that "He was gone to be the guest of a man who was a sinner." What his enemies used as an indictment against him is our basis for loving him. The association of unequals is an outstanding mark of Christianity. This does not mean we should stoop to the level of the unsaved for we must be on higher ground to lift up others. It will be impossible to get a man out of the well by jumping into it with him. The same spirit which prompted Christ to be seen as a guest in the home of Zacchaeus and of Simon and to talk to the fallen woman by the wayside will cause us to go out of the way to reach the unfortunate. Some times the remark can be heard by some professedly good church people, "I am too good to be seen with people like that." The mourners' bench would be the best place for anyone with such an unchristian attitude.

If we walk in the footprints of Christ there will be visits for us to make to the homes where there is sickness and to chambers where there is death. One famous preacher said if he had his life of ministry to live again he would preach more to broken hearts. Another said that in every seat in the church there sits someone with a broken heart. Almost every one is carrying burdens about which others know nothing. The true Christian is endued with a desire to console the sorrowing, to visit the sick and the imprisoned.

The pathway of the white-souled Galilean at last led to the cross. None of us who follow him can escape that.

"Our crosses are hewn from different trees,
But we all must have our Calvaries.
We climb the height from a different side,
But all must go up to be crucified.
As we climb the steep another may share
The awful load that our shoulders bear,
But the costliest sorrow is all our own
And on the summit we bleed alone."

We should be reminded, however, that he knew his way out of the tomb and ascended into glory. He became the first fruits of them that slept. We shall some day follow him into glory where we shall behold him and where we shall be like him forever. Beyond the rough and restless waves of this life there is an heavenly shore on the other side of the tides of time.

Some day with the myriads of the blood-washed, we who have followed him all the way shall walk with him in the new heavens and the new earth where there shall be no fear of falling and our stumbling steps will no longer cause us to falter.