

CORRESPONDENCE

971 N. Main Street,
Butte, Montana,
October 14, 1950

To The Highway Readers:

For several weeks I have intended to write to The Highway. Prior to my coming here I have been so busy in my Seminary work as not to afford time to do so. From February until August 31st my wife and daughter were with her mother in Fort Fairfield, Maine. She has since passed beyond to be with her Saviour.

In this letter I shall endeavor to give a description of Butte, the parsonage, the churches which I serve and a few personal interests. From early spring it was very evident that there would be no vacant churches in which to serve in New Brunswick or Maine, among the Reformed Baptists. At an early date several offers were extended to me, one of which was a fine position of teaching in a church school in Mid-west. It was my concern that I should above all be in the will of the Lord for me. Therefore I declined, not knowing what or where I should be this year.

Butte is the largest city in Montana. It is located on the west side of the continental divide at an elevation of 6,000 feet. Butte is the principal railroad and business centre of the Rocky Mountain northwest. The chief industry is mining of copper, gold, lead, zinc and silver. There are many banks and business houses besides a large number of churches. The Roman Catholic Church is the leading church, yet there are thousands of Protestants to preach the gospel to.

Trinity Church and parsonage is located on Main Street, in a fine location. The church is a red brick structure with an up-to-date equipment. We have as fine a choir as I have ever listened to and very devoted to the Lord. There is a Junior Choir of recent origin of thirty-seven young people who meet every Thursday evening in the Church. Apart from the Junior Choir we have a young people's work who meet on Sunday evenings for service in both of these churches.

The other church which I serve is six blocks north of the parsonage. Here there is a fine building, well furnished. There had been no preaching in this church for years, one devoted woman carried on a S. S. and a large Young People's work. Last Sunday I opened a preaching service here. There was a fine attendance and promise that many more would attend. Both churches are gas heated. I have never preached to people who seem to be so hungry for the word of God or who accept the gospel more eagerly. One great surprise to me was the class of people to whom I have to preach. Most of all my people are from Cornwall, England. They are very loyal and great singers, I think. We have more young people attending the morning service than ever I have preached to before. Our church is about full.

A word about the parsonage, which is located between Trinity Church on the south side and the Blain School on the north side. This is where Marilyn attends, just a driveway between parsonage and school.

The parsonage has five rooms and a bath room, also a small basement and pantry. It is

very cosy and well lighted. When we arrived the Church put in a new bedroom suite, a new parlor suite, and three new rugs on the floor, then at the reception presented us with a parlor lamp, and the following week installed a frigidaire.

The weather is very mild and warm. We had snow for two days but have had ideal weather for several weeks. Above all the outlook to do something for the Lord seems most promising. Ten of our S. S. teachers with myself are making a complete survey of all the protestant homes in this area and are finding many who have not attended the S. S. or the church because they have not been called upon. As wife and I go from home to home and call and pray, the people give expression of delight that some one calls and prays with them and invites them to church and the Lord. I cannot recall of a single home that has not wept as we prayed for and with them. Thus you can see that we have a great responsibility and are in need of much prayer.

In thinking of the work in Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia I believe there is much to be done. It needs supremely as all other places, Christ first, last and all the time. This has grown more lengthy than I anticipated; will continue to say that wife and daughter are in the usual health and like it very much here. The Lord continues to give me the best of health. If any find time we would appreciate hearing from them. We feel to thank the Lord for His goodness to us.

Yours in the Master's service,

H. L. ROBERTSON

Booth Memorial Hospital,
232 Summit Ave.,
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings in the name of our faithful Lord. I'm thinking of you and wondering to whom I should write first in answer to the requests, "Send us your address and a line when you get settled." This is one way a person can cover a lot of ground in one stroke—through the printed letter that will reach you by the friendly visit of the King's Highway. I'd be delighted to hear from any who have time to write.

You'll be glad to know about some of the pleasant surprises that awaited me at Booth Hospital. First, there were more Christians here than I expected. In the senior class there were a number of Christians but I think our class is above record. In it are six former Bible School students. These are planning for definite Christian service, and some are looking forward to the foreign mission field.

Among the students and staff there are some who are not Christians, but in the nurses' home the spiritual atmosphere prevails. We all meet for Chapel at 6.00 a. m., when we sing a hymn, then kneel for the Lord's prayer which is repeated in unison. At 6.00 p. m. there is the evening chapel service. This is not compulsory as in the morning. However, a goodly number attend, and often a student is in charge of the selection of hymn, scripture, comments and the prayer. In our hearts we are thankful for the good we can receive, knowing these conditions are better than any nurses' home I know of.

How pleasant it is to sit at meals with a group of girls, the majority of whom are clean in appearance, countenance and conversation,

and possessing Christian ideals. How helpful to see these bow their heads in thankfulness to God for their food. I continually am glad for this.

Then the accommodations of the Nurses' Home are much better than I expected. On both floors there are long, spacious halls that are nicely furnished. From these are rows of private rooms for the individual nurses. These rooms are attractively and cosily furnished. Their privacy means so much to the one who needs quietness for rest, meditation and prayer.

The location is beautiful. The hospital is surrounded by nice homes and lovely tree-bordered walks. On Summit Ave. one can get a wonderful view of Boston City on one side, and Brookline on the other. The shopping districts are within walking distance.

The course in nursing is ideal for prospective missionary work. Already we students feel a lot of theory has been crammed in the four weeks of our stay. More and more we are given longer hours on the different floors to practise the theories learned in class.

This experience is a fulfillment of a desire of my heart that God has seen fit to delay until the present time. All I can say is, I love it, and feel contented here, and confident of being in God's will. Of course there will be the strenuous days of increased responsibility and greater demands as one would find in any hospital. Your prayers will be especially appreciated then that complete victory of soul will be maintained at all times, and the beauty of Jesus will be seen in me. God's grace is sufficient, and wonderful strength has been mine, and will be provided daily as promised.

Last Sunday a group of students walked to the Christian Missionary Alliance Church at Brookline, where was held a missionary Convention. In the afternoon I was pleased to see Vera Michaels there. Many of us will not forget Miss Michael's song, "Thanks to God," which the Holy Spirit honored in that blessed morning service at Beulah.

It is a pleasure to occasionally visit Mrs. George Rogers, who makes her home with her sister in Dorchester. We have good times together.

Before closing I want to tell those who don't know about the fine farewell gathering that was held at the home of my pastor and wife at Port Maitland. Though it was a very stormy night there was a good representation of the Port Maitland and Sandford churches. By their presence and gift of money these friends reminded me afresh of God's faithfulness. The kind words of encouragement expressed by Brother Wilson increased my determination to be true to the confidence of these good friends, and most of all to be true to Jesus who has done so much for me. My desire is to be like Him.

In closing I want to praise God for His wonderful provision made through the sacrifice of the Blood of His Son, to sanctify and satisfy the heart. When sin is gone there is no response to any of the devil's plans. The Holy Spirit is present to protect, guide and strengthen as each need arises. The things of earth look dim, but the upward look is bright. Jesus is precious to my soul.

Yours to prove His grace.

THELMA ROSE