

IS THERE A SHORTAGE?

In almost all churches is a feeling that there is a grave shortage of preachers. To find a sufficient number of men to fill the pulpits seems to be a difficult job in some communions. The cry comes from all directions, "Give us more preachers."

The situation should be faced squarely. Is there a genuine shortage of preachers, or are we failing to use to the best advantage, the available men? The latter, in my opinion, is the main difficulty.

From observation covering a period of years I would suggest three mistakes which we are making:

1. We have largely discontinued the circuit plan.
2. We assign men to evangelistic work who remain largely unemployed.
3. We retire men before their time.

There are many churches which demand the full time of a minister when the number ministered to is not large enough to warrant it. The circuit idea was a potent force for building churches and ministers in the early days of Methodism and it could be used effectively now.

Men are assigned to evangelistic work who do not spend one half their time on the field. They are good men, they do effective work, but they have been unable to impress the churches with their evangelistic gift. These men should be induced to enter the pastoral work, and do the work of an evangelist on their own field until such time as the wider field would be open.

There are men who have been compelled to retire not because they were infirm in physical powers, nor because they were childish in mental grasp. They were retired because some few within a congregation clamored loudly for a change—for a younger man.

For a conference to retire a man because his hair is thinning is suicide for the conference. Men of mature years are usually rich in grace and warm in sympathy; their lives have been enriched and their abilities sharpened by the passing years. They could render valuable service to troubled souls in this our generation, so confused with life's situations.

Men of mature judgment, who are sound in faith, and tested by hardships are needed in places of leadership in these desperately trying times.

A man who knows God, and who has a passion for souls will not be greatly concerned over finance. Use these men. Compel no man

to superannuate until failing health demands it.—Oliver G. Wilson, in The Wesleyan Methodist.

We are not to wait to be in preparing to be. We are not to wait to do in preparing to do, but to find in being and doing preparation for higher being and doing.—Henry Giles.

OBITUARY

On Sept. 13th Mr. John King, aged 72 years, went to be with Jesus, whom he had learned to love in recent months. Our brother had been a sufferer from palsy for a number of years, and his going is the end of much physical annoyance. He is survived by his widow, seven sons and one daughter. The funeral service was conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. A. Owens, in the Lower Hainesville Church. Music was rendered by Mrs. Owens and Alice. Interment was made in the family lot at Day Hill Cemetery.

May God bless the mourning hearts.

Rev. J. O. Owens conducted a short service at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Hallett, then placed in the Nortondale cemetery their stillborn baby boy. God bless the sorrowing parents.

Mr. Frank Dunlop, brother of Rev. F. A. Dunlop, passed away at the Victoria Public Hospital in Fredericton, following an operation for gall trouble. Mr. Dunlop had been in poor health for several months, and it is comforting to the loved ones to know he called on the name of the Lord and was saved, and gave a clear testimony to his pastor, who visited him the day before he died.

The funeral was held in the church at Millville on Sept. 15th, conducted by Rev. J. A. Owens, assisted by Rev. H. E. Mullen and Rev. George Billington. The R. B. Choir sang three musical selections. He leaves to mourn, one son and one daughter, two brothers and four sisters. Interment was made in Maple Ridge cemetery.

May God sustain the bereaved ones.

Mrs. Herbert Brawn, aged 74 years, passed away at the home of her son, Perley Morgan, in Upper Hainesville, and was buried Sept 3rd, with funeral services from the late home to the Baptist Church. Rev. Mr. Brooks officiated, assisted by Rev. J. A. Owens, of Millville. Interment was made in the nearby cemetery. May God comfort the family, who mourn the passing of a good mother.

THE SUBTLETY OF SIN

J. B. Chapman

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field (Genesis 3:1).

Charles Lindbergh, in his account of early experiences in "barnstorming" as a flyer, remarks that many times he has seen people wave gaily to their friends while the pilot held his breath in uncertainty lest the underpowered plane should be unable to lift itself over the electric wires or the tops of trees in trying to get away from the ground. Then he has seen those same people turn pale when the engine sputtered and missed a few times at an altitude of three thousand feet. But the danger in the latter case was not to be compared with that of the former, since there were many chances that the pilot could get the motor started, and, failing this, a good chance that he could make a safe, even though a forced landing.

The unseen cancer may be a thousand times more deadly than the open running sore. The tooth that appears sound upon casual examination may, nevertheless, be the very one that is generating poison to lower the vitality of the whole body and invite weakness and disease. The serpent that lurks in the grass may be much more poisonous than the one which hisses and acts brave when the traveller appears.

We pronounce our anathemas upon the bandits and sneak thieves, but it is possible that our property is more jeopardized by the graft and crookedness of respectable men in high places. Publicans and sinners—outbroken sinners—were, in the days of our Lord, often closer to the kingdom of heaven than the proud, haughty, self-righteous, religious Pharisees.

Coming to ourselves—for preaching does us no good until it gets to where the preacher says, "Thou art the man": we all know that murder and adultery and dishonesty will bring us into disfavour with both God and men; but we are likely to overlook the fact that concupiscence and hate are damning, even when they are denied expression. We shudder at the thought of perjury in court, but are inclined to overlook envy, wicked slander and foolish and hurtful gossip.

Heaven is quarantined against inner sin, as well as against outward crime. It requires a pure heart as well as clean hands for one to ascend into the hill of the Lord or to find place to stand in His holy place. While justly condemning and shunning outbroken sin, let us also make sure that our hearts are pure and that the very secrets of our hearts are pleasing in His sight.

OVERCOMING DAILY

Resist sloth, laziness, sleeping too long, indulging the flesh. Throw off indifference, coldness, formality, praying just enough to ease the conscience, but not long enough to win any decided victory.

Confess your faults—any unkindness, harshness, critical remarks, lax conversation, giddiness, extravagance, gluttony, shades of untruth, worldliness, carnal pride, vain ambition, unholy thoughts, slackness.

Overcome all tendency of doubt, fear; all infection of the unbelief and defiance of God all around us. Keep faith fresh, love ardent.—Selected.

INTRODUCTION OF LOIS HARVEY

Mrs. Lois Harvey has been added to the faculty of Bethany Bible College this year. She is a former graduate of "Bethany" and prior to her studies here received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Bishop College.

In coming to the school, Mrs. Harvey brings not only high academic qualifications but a fine Christian character.

Mrs. Harvey has taught in the public schools of both Quebec and Nova Scotia. At "Bethany" she will teach literature, history and foreign languages in the high school department.



MRS. LOIS HARVEY