

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

Rev. P. W. Briggs will not take a church this year because of poor health. He and Mrs. Briggs expect to visit their daughters for a time, who live in the U. S.

Five young men were ordained to the gospel ministry this year, and several more received license to preach.

I think eight young men and women offered themselves to go to Africa as missionaries.

Several of our brethren will be engaged in tent meeting work this summer. Rev. and Mrs. Owens will be at Hainesville, N. B., and Rev. H. M. Kimball will be at Blackville, N. B.

Rev. H. S. Dow was elected editor and business manager of The Kings Highway again this year at Beulah, and Rev. E. W. Tokley associate editor. Please address all Highway correspondence to Rev. H. S. Dow, Head of Millstream, Kings Co., N. B., or to Kings Highway, Box 277, Moncton, N. B.

The vote, on the question of union between the Nazarene, and Reformed Baptist Churches was not taken this year, as was expected. The Alliance thought it better to lay the matter on the table for the present.

PERSONALS

All of our R. B. preachers were present at Beulah Camp this year, except those in Africa in missionary work, and Rev's H. L. Robertson, who is attending Asbury Theo. Seminary, Minot Blaisdel, in Hubertson, Mass., and Mrs. Ida Keirstead, who was too ill to attend. Beside these several of the brethren of the Nazarene church were with us. Rev. Homer Smith, Rev. Mr. Phillips, Rev. R. T. Sellick, Rev. Wheelock, in the interest of the Bible Society; Rev. Wasson and some others whose names we did not get. Others besides the evangelist, Rev. R. V. Delong, who were a blessing to the meeting, were his mother, widow of the late Thomas Delong and the evangelist's wife and two daughters, who assisted in the singing; and last but not least we would mention Mrs. Roxanna Sabine, one of our members at Tusket, N. S. Sister Sabine will be 97 in October of this year. She seems well and happy in the Lord.

Mrs. F. A. Watson, of Marysville, N. B., has been very ill of late with a heart attack. She was in the hospital for several days, but is home again and some improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Cook, members of our Church at Seal Cove, were visiting friends in Moncton recently.

CRIPPLING CAUTION

By Paul Rees

If we are to get anywhere with God, or with ourselves, or with our tasks as Christians, ours must be the faith that ventures, the spirit that dares. Only then will we find, in new and astonishing ways, that underneath us are the everlasting arms of God.

Consider some of the contrasts between caution and daring.

For one thing, caution commonly thinks in terms of material loss or gain, whereas daring thinks in terms of spiritual enrichment or advantage.

Nothing Dared, Nothing Done

Again, caution is controlled more by the precedents of the past; daring is controlled

more by the possibilities of the future. Precedents have their value, but they also have their peril. The line of least resistance is always easiest to follow. The Apostle Paul found it so when he stood up before the Hebrew Christians in Jerusalem and elsewhere, and begged for a free Gospel that was untrammelled by the needless restrictions of the ceremonial law, such as circumcision.

Paul knew that a new day had dawned. That ordinance had served its purpose as a religious observance. It was now time to cut loose from it. It was daring, but then daring was part of the greatness of Paul's soul. Nothing dared, nothing done, was the principle on which he lived.

Her Master's Tribute

Another contrast between caution and daring lies in this; caution is the creature of a cold intellect; daring is the product of a warm heart. Certainly I do not plead for a thoughtless Christianity, for God gave us our minds as a priceless boon. But still less would I plead for a heartless Christianity. The heart must outrun the reason, or no great adventures of the spirit will ever succeed.

When the poor widow cast in her two mites, which was the sum total of her wealth, reason alone would never have justified, much less commended, her act. Yet Our Lord declared, "Verily . . . this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury" (Mark 12:43). A woman's heart won that tribute from the Master where cold logic would never have done it in a thousand years.

Frosty and Calculating

The frosty, calculating, comfort-loving prudence of millions of church members stands rebuked by the spirit of daring dedication which that widow displayed. She took risks for God. Precious few of us are willing to do it.

Once more, caution has an unhealthy fear of consequences; daring has a courageous scorn of consequences. Instead of the three Hebrew children fearing the consequences of their refusal to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, they scorned the consequences.

How different, too, was the life of those early Christians who, in Acts 15:26, are described as "men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"You dreamed great dreams of things to do, of plan and purpose high and true and great and fair; but come, now, tell me today, when thick and fierce was battle fray, O did you dare?"

"The world is full of men who know the path that's right, the way to go; but needed there are men who, with a hand that's strong, can grasp and slay the giant wrong—men who can dare."

"Faith is an affirmation and an act,
That bids eternal truth be fact."

To which we venture to add:

Faith issues its sublime decree,
Its holy fiat: LET IT BE!
Commands the deeply-rooted tree,
Be plucked up! planted in the sea!
Or bids the mountain to depart,
Believing, doubting not in heart,
That what Faith willeth shall be done,
Because Faith's will—with God's is one,
By mystic union with His Son.
Concerning work of God's own hand,
He bids us His own power command.
And so prayer asks not, but decrees—
Knows no impossibilities.

—Arthur T. Pierson

THE JOY OF CHRIST

J. B. Chapman

God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows (Hebrews 1:9).

Although Himself known as the "Man of Sorrows," Jesus, nevertheless, proposed to give His joy to His apostles. He made this proposal at the time when His cup of earthly sorrow was fast filling to the very brim. In connection with the deepest humiliation through which the Son of God was called to pass, the author of the Hebrews made mention of "the joy that was set before him." As the climax of all, the words of the text which we have quoted at the beginning tell us that Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness above or more than all others.

Happiness is akin to "happening," chance and luck. It depends upon favorable circumstances and may be shallow and fleeting. Hence happiness is not often mentioned in connection with the permanent things of the people of God. Joy describes a deeper stratum, reaching down even to the resources of God. One may have joy amidst tears of sorrow, even as the ocean depths may be peaceful while yet the surface is disturbed by violent storm.

Jesus was anointed as no one else ever was, and that makes it consistent for Him to be known as Christ, the Anointed One. Usually men have been king only, as was Saul, and they have found trouble when they tried to be priest also. A few have been both prophet and priest, as was Samuel, or prophet and king, as was David. But Jesus was prophet, priest and king. Such as were prophets were such only to a segment of humanity. Such as were priests could make but limited atonement for sin. Such as were kings have ruled in small, mundane spheres. But Jesus is prophet to all intelligent beings, priest to the whole human race, and King eternal without limit as to sphere.

Oil has been used in the consecration of prophets, priests and kings from the earliest days of recorded history. Gladness marked the accession of all these to their respective offices, for by such means it was indicated that the incumbents were adapted to the office, and their subjects were favored in having them enthroned. But Jesus Christ is a million times more fitted than any prophet, priest or king that ever spoke to the ears of men, pleaded for mercy upon the transgressor or gave out words of authority for the direction and protection of his trusting subjects. The plenitude of the oil of gladness upon His head indicates the joy of holy angels and redeemed men to have Him crowned. "Let all the people praise him!"

NOTICE

A meeting of the Alliance of the R. B. Church of Canada has been called for business August 18, 1950. 2.00 p. m. at Riverside Camp, Robinson's, Maine. Churches please send delegates.