

LET'S HAVE A FAMILY ALTAR

By E. T. Barram

B-r-r-r-r. The phone was ringing and we were in the midst of family prayers. Mother quietly rose from her knees and tip-toed to answer it. It was for me, but Mother said that I was busy and asked if the person could call later. How well I recall that when my buddy did call again he asked why I could not answer the phone, and I was ashamed to tell him. What a rebuke it has been down through the years to realize that I was ashamed of my Lord!

Indelibly written on my impressionable child mind were the memories of these evening-by-evening prayer sessions. After supper my dear old saintly Dad would take down the Bible and read a passage himself or pass the Bible on to Mother or one of us to read, and then we would all kneel to pray.

At first it was our parents and six children, then five, then four, then two. Now we are all away but that rendezvous with God still takes place. I know that every night Mother and Dad take us all before the Throne of Grace, asking that the Lord will have His way in our lives.

Today four of us boys, including the one who came to live with us, are in the Gospel ministry, proclaiming the riches of God's grace. The other two boys are actively engaged in Christian work, and my only sister is a living testimony to His saving power. Thus all of us are serving the Lord. Recently I visited the homes of my brothers, and each one has a family altar. Children in those homes openly confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and take part in audible prayer. Was the family altar in our home worth while?

In these days modern Christian parents wish for their children a godly heritage and a life of Christian service. With that in mind they take them to Sunday School, bring them up in the church and prepare them to go to a Christian college. All of these institutions are commendable, but I believe the great and primary institution is the Home. The first Bible training should center around the Family Altar.

Each day the children should be brought into the presence of God by their parents. During the early, impressionable years the Family Altar should become a part of the children's daily lives. Let the little minds understand that Father and Mother have faith in a God who cares for even the small things in our lives.

Today young people are asking us how such a great God could care for them. That never troubled me. I learned in my childhood that God was concerned for our family, interested in the cattle on our farm and the sick horse in the stable; and still He yearned over the soul of our unsaved neighbor. Parents, teach your children by way of the Family Altar. We read, "Bring the child up in the Sunday School and he will not be brought up in the law courts." I maintain that Christian parents should go one step beyond this and bring that child up around the Family Altar.

Dad, Mother, if you have not had family prayer and Bible reading, let the word of one who owes his Christian heritage to that institution speak to your heart. Let my experience remind you that you owe it to your children. But even greater than that responsibility is your obligation to God, who said:

"These words . . . thou shalt teach . . .

diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

Today there are many helps published to encourage the maintenance of the Family Altar. Secure a daily devotional magazine or book of daily readings . . . set aside a time each day for prayer and the reading of God's Word with whoever is at your home. You'll be blessed . . . God will be honored. Let's have a Family Altar.—The Evangelical Friend.

DELINQUENT PARENTS

Much is written about delinquent youth; more might be said about delinquent parents. Children take advantage of public opinion in order to get their own way. Noisy opinions bluff parents from holding to the standards which they know to be right and from requiring of their children the carefulness which they themselves practice.

Who has not heard the whine of parents over their wayward children and at the same time seen them oppose, criticize, and fight any reformers or revivalists that dared correct their offspring? It is usually the delinquent parents that blame and condemn the neighbors, the schools, the churches, or the government for the downfall of the family.

—Immanuel Herald

COURT ORDERS DEFENDANT TO CONFER WITH CLERGYMAN

Greenville, N. C.—A defendant in court here was ordered to become acquainted with a preacher within two weeks and to stop "sending" his children to Sunday school but to "take them" himself.

The ruling was handed down by Judge J. W. H. Roberts in City Recorder's Court in which the defendant was charged with being drunk. Judge Roberts told the defendant that if he could show evidence of having talked with a preacher—any preacher—within two weeks, the charge against him would be dropped.

In addition, the judge asked the defendant if his children attended Sunday school and the defendant said he sent them each week. "Well, don't send them," the judge declared. "Take them yourself."—Alliance Weekly.

A Family Altar, a place of meeting God. Every father an interceding priest. Every mother a "helper by prayers" and a seerer of divine truth and light."

The problem of our nation's security can be solved at no other place than at family altars by praying families "who will give God no rest until He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

The home that is Christian must be Christ-centered, world-conscious, openly antagonistic to wickedness and ungodliness.

Pray together if you would stay together. Study the Bible together if you would know the togetherness of true love.—O. G. W.

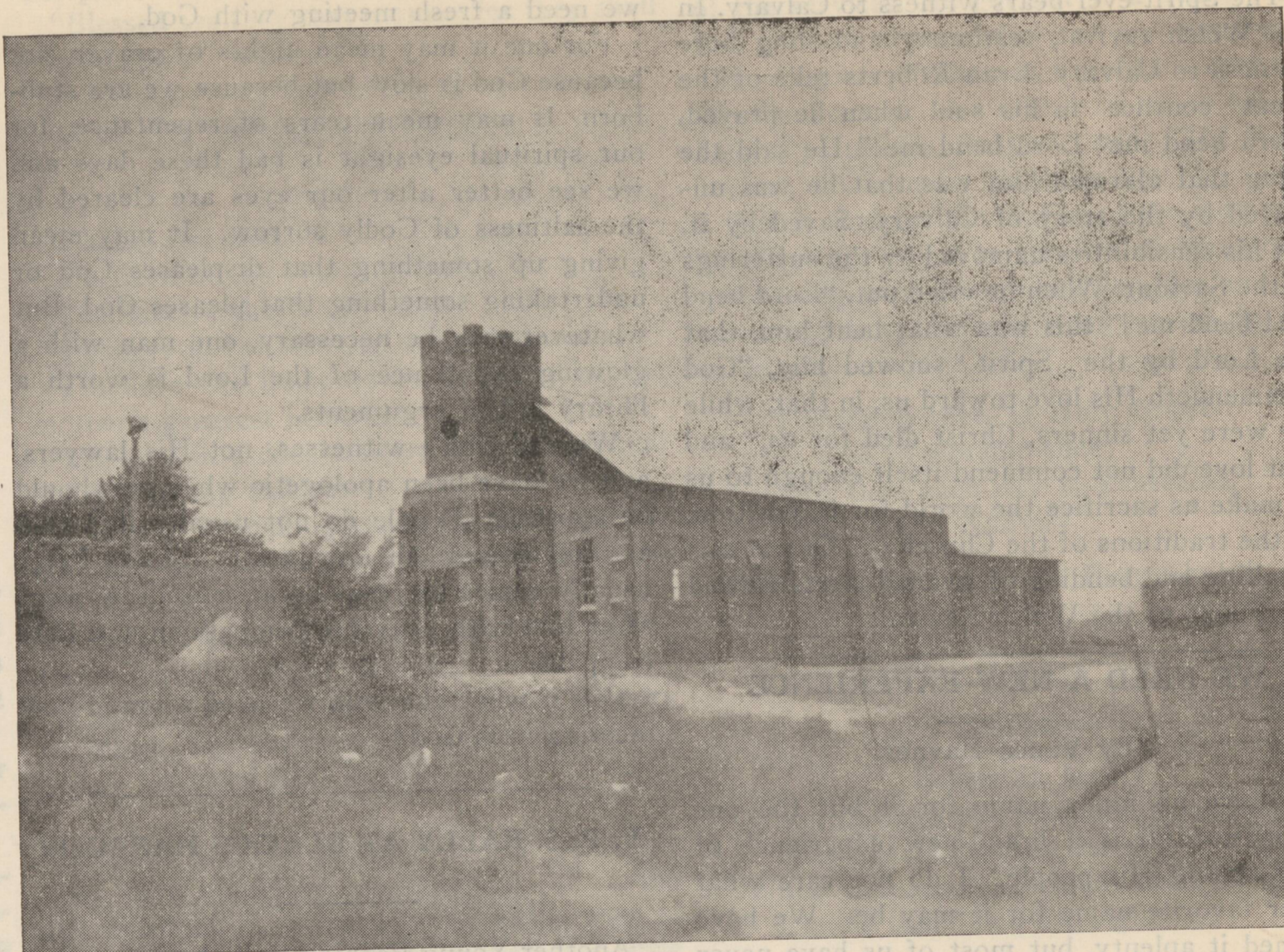
WEDDINGS

Trafton-Grant

At the Reformed Baptist Church in Saint John, N. B., on May 4th, 1951, Helen M. Grant and William K. Trafton were united in marriage by the pastor of the church, Rev. P. H. Green.

Their many friends wish them every happiness.

NEW ALTONA CHURCH



This is a picture of the new Altona church which became a reality as the result of a \$1,000 gift from "A Friend." At the back is a classroom which was built in 1948-49.

The new church is built throughout in red burned brick and has steel windows, cement floors, and a corrugated iron roof. The dimensions are 50' x 24' x 12'. Can the Canadian field duplicate a building of this nature for \$1,740?

At the opening service the main auditorium was packed and a considerable overflow sat in the new school room. Removeable panels 6' x 3' open up between the main church and the school room so that 400-500 people can be accommodated on special occasions.

Pray that the Altona church may remain and become a great soul saving station.

—E. A. M. KIERSTEAD.