

HOME MISSION DAY

The great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel" has ever given Christians a vision of perishing peoples in distant lands. Thousands have left the comforts of the home land to bury themselves in the jungle of heathenism, that the Seed, the Gospel, that had been sown in their own hearts might also be planted in the lives of others who knew not the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Nor has their efforts been in vain. Although accused of burying their lives, they rise and shine as great men and women of the past and present, never to be forgotten in time or eternity. Their names are carved, not to be effaced in the granite history of the church.

However, the distant lands that we think of today were once the homelands, or near the homeland of the early church. What has happened? Could we say that sufficient effort was lacking to strengthen the home base? If so, are we profiting by their mistakes? It would certainly be embarrassing to us if the natives whom we are seeking to convince that Christianity is superior to their heathen customers, should visit many of our so called Christian churches.

The fountains of the homeland are being polluted. Churches that once had a clear tone of the gospel message are now silent on Bible truths. We shuddered when missionaries told us about witch doctors, and devil doctors, and I wonder if there isn't some comparison in God's sight when He looks down into the hearts of a great many leaders of the cults in our own land. They have taken away the true bread and doled out the stones of modernism and nothingisms until it is not an unheard of thing to find whole towns and communities with no evangelical message. Should not these tragic facts drive us to our knees and to the great commission of our Saviour.

More impelling than this is the apparent awakening of the masses. Although many are indifferent and more seem gospel hardened, yet perhaps due to the uncertainty of the time in which we are living, man is wanting to know the truth. It is deathbed honesty—nothing but the full provision of Calvary can satisfy his heart and mind at this tragic hour. Do we have that message?

Some tell us that the old rugged devil chasing, sin killing Bible truth that saves men from their sins and crucifies the "old man" will never be popular, and perhaps that is true, but hearts are hungry for these two works of grace, and more than that they are calling for us to bring them the message. Several communities have invited us to come, and the heart cry of a great many more who never heard of the Reformed Baptist Church is, "Come and bring us the message that is committed unto you." Can we humbly bow our heads and say, "This is our day, Lord help us to be faithful."

The efforts of the Evangelistic Crusade designed by our Superintendent has been limited somewhat due to unforeseen developments. However, tent meetings and special campaigns have been held during the summer months. Souls have been saved and sanctified, churches have been organized, and although we can numerate many encouraging facts we still feel that in the wide fringe of the unseen, God has done a great work through the Evangelistic Crusade that cannot be placed in the column of figures now, but will be in the near future. Four campaigns have been held—three churches have been organized—two

other campaigns are now going on. Praise the Lord!

We are asking if all of our pastors and churches will co-operate to make October 28th a Great Home Mission Sunday. With thanksgiving to God for His goodness to us let us raise our Home Mission budget, and more. Then immediately send the money to Rev. G. R. Symonds, treasurer of the Home Mission Board.

The need is great but God is able.

R. H. NICHOLSON,

President of the Home Mission Board.

Church Extension Pays

By John E. McGraw

Church extension, when wisely promoted, yields returns which perhaps cannot be duplicated in any other line of human endeavor. We venture to say that:

1. Church Extension Pays Materially.

The buildings and equipment secured will usually far exceed in value the actual outlay required by those who sponsor the project. Much labor will be donated and many gifts will be received from "outsiders." When a new work is undertaken in God's time and way, the result will usually be a substantial church building where otherwise would be none.

2. Church Extension Pays Financially.

When once established, a church will continue through the years contributing to the various departments of Christian enterprise until the returns far exceed the original investment.

3. Church Extension Pays Morally.

A spiritual church is a great moral asset to any community. It brings to bear directly upon the minds, the hearts, and the lives of the people the only adequate remedy for our moral ills. Only two or three per cent of our criminals previously attended Sunday school regularly. How much better it is to have our youth in Sunday school, young people's, and church services, than to have them joy riding, attending Sunday amusements or loafing in beer gardens!

4. Church Extension Pays Socially.

We are socially inclined to the extent that we will seek fellowship with kindred minds. Because of this, various organizations have been formed to unite men in every form of association and endeavor. But only the church exists for the purpose of lifting fallen man into exalted fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Nowhere else is found such fellowship one with another as the blood-washed know. Other social agencies endeavor to change man's environments—take the man out of the slums. But the Church is God's human agency in changing man's heart—taking the slum and scum and sin out of the man.

5. Church Extension Pays Educationally.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom." It is the truth of the Bible taught, preached and exemplified by the Church that really leads men out of weakness, ignorance, selfishness and sin. This alone is the true meaning of education. Many a young man would have remained ignorant and unknown outside his backwoods community had not the Gospel message, and perhaps a call to preach, given

him the inspiration and grace to work and study until his own life was filled and enriched, and then poured out to bless others. One such product justifies a score of pioneer efforts.

6. Church Extension Pays Domestically.

A home without a family Bible, a family altar and a family pew is dangerously incomplete. Human affection under the stress and temptations of modern life so often breaks down unless reinforced by divine love. The Church stabilizes the home by inspiring high ideals; furnishing young people with suitable companions from which to choose life partners; supplying wholesome social fellowship; re-echoing Christ's warning against divorce; effecting reconciliations, and proclaiming grace to bear and forebear.

7. Church Extension Pays Spiritually.

After all, the above are by-products of the Church which exists for the chief purpose of saving lost souls. Each soul in that unchurched neighborhood is worth more than the material world; for each one Christ prayed and bled and died. If we were as willing to share His sufferings as we are desirous to be partakers

of His glory, those sinners would hear the Good News. Some, at least, would repent and believe; heaven would rejoice, and Christ, seeing the travail of His soul, would be satisfied.

8. Church Extension Pays Eternally.

Our buildings will crumble; our money will become worthless, and our present knowledge seem as nothing. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the souls of men will live eternally. In the regions beyond our narrow confines are burdened, sinful, domed souls. Ahead of us all lies the judgment. Therefore, let us extend our vision, our interests, our program, our prayers, our sacrifices, our efforts, and thereby our churches, until in this life we receive a hundredfold harvest, and in the world to come, the plaudit of "Well done," from the Redeemers, our sacrifices, our efforts, and thereby the day of its exaltation and His eternal triumph.—Wesleyan Methodist.

A PRAYER BY DR. FRANK LAUBACH

Lord, end this wishy-washy, lukewarm, mumbling religion. Lord, set us on fire. Put the divine fire in us before the atomic fire destroys us and our world. Take away our small thoughts and love. Make us big as the world in vision. Take away our weakness. Fill us with the strength of Jesus Christ. Help the sleeping might of Britain and America to be awakened into glorious action by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are sick of our disgusting indifference and Thou art sick of us. Do not spew us out of Thy mouth, but set us on fire. We have been afraid and hid our talent in a napkin. God of courage, sweep out our pitiful timidity. Make us divinely unafraid. Help Christendom to rise, not in fine sounding words, but in deed and in fire and in truth, and change this defeat in the battle for freedom and for Christ to victory.

Lord, send a Pentecost at any cost; send a Pentecost and begin in me, now. Keep Thy promise, Christ, and baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Face us the other way around. Start us ahead. The altar is ready, the offering is ready. Lord, now send the fire! Amen.—Presbyterian Record.