

Church and District News

THE SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

I thought it might be of interest to you if I wrote something of my travels in these past few months, the general state of the work, and the present need for prayer and support. Since the summer season, with its Camp Meetings, Youth Camps, Tent Meetings, etc., I have been busy in attending district meetings, visiting churches, supplying some churches which are pastorless and in some cases where pastors were absent for a Sunday, assisting in work relating to new churches being established, attending dedication, rededication, or other services of special nature. During September and October I attended four

District Meetings

at Fredericton and Gordonsville, N. B., Westchester, N. S., and Jonesport, Maine. All these meetings were held in a good spiritual atmosphere with good preaching by our men and blessed fellowship with the saints. All the districts received encouraging reports from local churches and the emphasis was upon a continued advance in all departments of the work. In October I attended two very special services at

Glassville, N. B. and Old Town, Maine

At Glassville, a new church was dedicated to the glory of God and the preaching of full salvation. A tent meeting held in that community in the summer of 1951 resulted in the salvation and sanctification of a number of people and a desire for a church building in which these who found help might worship and serve God together led to the erection of the building dedicated. This venture was led by Rev. H. M. Kimball who conducted the tent meeting, cared for the people who banded together, and sparked the move to build a church. Brother Kimball worked zealously and faithfully in this project and was rewarded by having the joy of seeing the building dedicated with a company of people present which the building could hardly begin to accommodate, and an offering of some \$700 which, with pledges yet unpaid, would clear the church of all debt. The dedicatory service was richly blessed of the Lord.

At Old Town, Maine, the large church building we have leased there, newly repaired and redecorated at a cost of more than \$3,000, was rededicated in the presence of a capacity congregation and under the blessing of the Lord. Something of the history of this venture appeared in the last Highway, with a picture of this fine building, so I'll not repeat what you have already read. The splendid work of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Moses in securing this building and labouring so ardently to establish a holiness church in this fine city, is worthy of highest commendation. They have served sacrificially in this venture and have been rewarded by seeing the work enjoy a steady if not spectacular growth. It was a joy to be present in the Sunday School that day when the attendance reached the sixty mark!

In September we were with Rev. R. H. Nicholson at

Sussex, N. B.

The Lord has blessed wonderfully in this new work. A tent meeting opened in this fine town on July 22nd., with Revs. R. H. Nicholson and N. E. Trafton, and Song Evangelist Paul Mul-

len, as workers. After two weeks, Brothers Trafton and Mullen had to leave to attend to other appointments, and Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Hobson came to assist Brother Nicholson. Then, during the latter part of the campaign, which continued in the tent until the last of August, Paul Mullen returned for another two weeks. The polio epidemic had been so severe in Sussex that the theatre had to close for the lack of patrons, but the tent meeting continued! And when the weather forced closure of the tent meeting, interest was so good that the campaign was moved to a hall where attendance increased. This meeting, in the tent and the hall, continued two full months. A good company of people were attending the services and they were now asking if we couldn't remain and establish a holiness church in Sussex. Brother Nicholson, who had "stood by" in this meeting all the way through, felt the pull to remain there, and this announcement was received with joy by the people. Regular services are being held, a Sunday School has been established, and the prospects are most encouraging.

Then there were trips to

Halifax, N. S.

and discussion of plans for repair and renovation of the church building purchased there, plans for pastoral care of this new work, arranging for purchase of a parsonage, etc. Work on the fine building obtained in Halifax is nearing completion and special plans for the official opening will be announced shortly. The building has been repaired and painted outside, and thoroughly renovated inside, with a new wall and ceiling, platform rebuilt and remodelled, baptismal fount installed, etc. When finished, the Halifax church will be a building of which we may be proud, a building that will provide good accommodations for the beginning of what we believe will be a great work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. As you have already learned, Rev. Ralph Hobson will be the pastor of this new work. Brother Hobson comes to our work under a call from the Lord and with a persuasion that Halifax is the place where God wants him. He is well qualified for this great task and will render an effective ministry in this great and needy city. To provide living quarters for a pastor, we found it necessary and advisable to purchase a house, and have obtained a fine home in a good residential section of the city. Interest in this new work is spreading in the city and there seems every indication of good attendance and good support from the beginning.

Besides these special contacts, I have visited more than half of our

Local Churches

and have been received most cordially by both pastors and people. Moreover, there has been a splendid response to the challenge which the present state of the work presents. Our pastors and people are more unitedly and enthusiastically behind our Crusade than ever before and are praying, giving, and co-operating in a very inspiring manner. Keep praying. Above all, KEEP PRAYING. All the wonderful things which God has done and is doing is in answer to prayer. If you joined our praying army last spring, that army of 1,000 prayer volunteers, "be not weary in well doing". Pray

SUSSEX

Since our last writing, which was a report of our special services here in Sussex, there have been many encouraging happenings revealing the hand of God in this place.

In October we held a baptism. Due to the cold at that time of year I would prefer an earlier date for an outdoor baptism, and with no little concern did I listen to the weather reports as the day approached. October the nineteenth dawned dark and cold with a light fall of snow on the ground. The concern was all mine, the candidates were unshaken in their determination to obey God. We held a short service in the hall preceding the baptism and then gathered at the river. Quite a few were present to witness the outside service. Some stood on the opposite side of the narrow river, others lined the highway bridge, and still a greater number joined us by the water edge and sang heartily and reverently. The sun broke through the clouds and beamed down warmly on the gathering. The presence of the Lord was felt in a special way. No one noticed the cold water and the spiritual blessing received by all was a token of God's approval.

We cannot report any outward victory in the salvation of souls in our regular services. However, the interest is increasing and new faces are seen in the congregation nearly every Sunday. Our mid-week prayer meetings, which are held in the various homes, are times of blessing and are well attended. Twenty-five to thirty is not an unusual number. On November the sixteenth we organized a Sunday School with twenty-six in attendance. This number has steadily increased until forty-one was the high reached last Sunday. We should double this in the future.

For some time after coming here to pastor this flock, we had no permanent place of dwelling. Rents were hard to find and then after we did locate one, we were obliged to wait a month until the former tenant moved out. However, the kindness received and the entertainment provided for us by these kind folk will long be remembered. We finally got settled in a comfortable house at Sussex Corner and shortly after our arrival the people of our congregation, along with Brother and Sister Stairs and some of their people, met at the parsonage to welcome us to our new home. About fifty were in attendance. It was a very enjoyable evening. They sang the good old hymns, chatted merrily, said some nice things, and then before leaving presented us with a generous sum of money.

Our hearts swell with thanksgiving to God and this people He has saved from sin. There are a few discouraging things along the pathway of a Christian but great are the blessings. Praises be to the Lord! Pray for us. This is the day for God's people to go forward.

In the bonds of freedom,

R. H. and Mrs. Nicholson

for Sussex, pray for Halifax, pray for us in respect to other openings now before us, other campaigns now under consideration. Pray for the other churches referred to, Glassville, Old Town, etc., pray for the Foreign Missionary work, Bethany Bible College, and all other branches of the work. Oh, don't forget to pray!

Yours for continued advancement,

B. C. COCHRANE.