

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PASTORS AND PEOPLE

By the Superintendent

We have reached a crisis in the aggressive expansion programme of our church. The forward movement originating with the birth of the Evangelistic Crusade, has gained momentum steadily during the past three years, and the blessing of God has been upon us in most singular manner and measure. Great opportunities of service have been presented to us of the Lord, and, as we have accepted them and undertaken the task of campaigning in new communities and seeking to establish holiness churches in towns and cities lacking the full salvation message, God has given good success in nearly every venture. As a consequence, we have seen more new churches established in the last five years than in the previous thirty-five. And still doors are opening, new opportunities are being presented to us. The challenge we face at present is greater by far than it ever has been since our denomination came into being.

Our pastors and people responded splendidly and unitedly to the proposed Evangelistic Crusade when the idea was first presented, and they have given wonderful support to the advance programme all the way. But we are now facing a crisis. The purchase of lots, promotion of tent meetings and other types of campaigns, the purchase or erection of churches, the supplementing of pastors and workers who "stand by" to establish the work begun, all of these things which belong to efforts related to our extension programme, demand strong financial support. We have expended heavily and are continuing to do so. This past year has been particularly taxing in this respect. The extensive repairs to the church at Old Town, Maine, the Sussex campaign and subsequent arrangements for pastoral care of this new work, purchase of the Halifax property, extensive repair and renovation work on the church building, locating a pastor there, and then the promotion of campaigns in all these centres to build strong works in all these places. Such procedure demands very strong financial support. As already stated, our people have been giving wonderful support but

right now we are in need of a spirit of giving which will carry us beyond anything we have ever known. We need the help of people who have the means and the vision to give in the hundreds and the thousands. We need the support of churches which look upon their budget allocations as minimum objectives, and, moved by a Spirit-given desire for the continued advancement of the work, will go far, far beyond the goals set by the budget committee.

Our Home Mission funds are low. That means that the potential support for our new work and other new efforts is low. If such a condition continued to exist we should have to curtail our efforts and limit our plans for the future. I don't think that will be necessary, for I believe that our pastors and people want the forward movement to continue. Some of our laymen have already given evidence of being gripped by a great vision for the work. One man commits himself to give \$2,000, another speaks of giving \$1,000, and another sends \$500. This is the spirit which will keep us going. May it fall on all of us!

We need special help in support of our Home Mission programme, and when we support this phase of our work, we support every phase of the work, for the establishment of new churches means new students for Bethany, additional support for our Foreign Mission work, more people to attend our Camp Meetings, etc. Perhaps some who read this statement could give \$100, \$500, \$1,000 as a special gift towards the support of a new work or the establishment of another. If so, will you pray about it? Perhaps some of our churches could take a special offering to assist us right now. Special gifts from our people, special offerings from our churches in response to this message would mean that our supporters say "Don't slow down, don't stop the work. We'll stand behind the Crusade efforts to the limit of our ability. We cast another vote for a continued advance by promising to pray more, do more, give more. Forward, ever forward!"

THE CAMPUS CORNER

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR

Perhaps in our thinking we have reserved the term "honour" for those in authority. But the word does not necessarily belong to that group. Why is it not appropriate to attribute to those who exemplify the noblest of Christian virtues?

In this instance we honour those of the Port Maitland and Sandford Churches who have given so much in so many ways to the life of Bethany Bible College. These people have mothered the School from its infancy. They have been much aware of its struggles, its crises, its needs.

Paying the budget has not been a problem to these people; they "live above it." They have furnished the money for most of the private loans the School has obtained. They have been the most faithful supporters of the School's radio ministry. They have helped pay the bills of students with whom they have had no family connections. They have sent a truckload of vegetables, fruits, preserves, and food-stuff every fall. They have provided much of the food for the entertainment of commencement guests year after year. Frequently the fishermen have sent in a donation of fish for use in the dining hall. Occasionally, at the end of the summer recess, women from the two churches have cleaned the Main Building. And always when a holiday comes, the homes in Sandford and Port Maitland are opened to the faculty members and students.

The list of kindnesses mentioned is not exhaustive but it is suggestive. "And what shall I more say? For time would fail me . . ."

Sometimes initiating and always encouraging these kindnesses are the selfless pastors, the Wilsons.

To honour these is not to dishonour others who have given much. It is to give due recognition to our gracious neighbours.

The people of Sandford and Port Maitland may be too modest to appreciate this "eulogy," but, after all, roses are for the living.

MESSAGETTE

ROMANS 12:13

A certain man was purchasing a pair of shoes. After one or two of plainer style the dealer fitted him with a most handsome pair. They were comfortable and also stylish, but as the man put out his foot with the shoe upon it, he discovered something and he said, "Henry Field, you can't have that shoe." It was not in the shoe, but in himself that the something was discovered. It may seem a little thing, but it is infinitely better for him to wear the plainer pair than to make provision for the self-life every time he saw the finer ones upon his feet. Whatever in your life is withering and blasting a character that otherwise might be strong and beautiful and lovely, I beg of you in God's name, PUT IT AWAY! Although it may seem a little thing, it is nourishing a carnal growth that will hinder your spiritual development and make you a poor excuse for what God would have you to be. Everything that ministers to the self-life is wrong for the child of God, and upon all that carnality mentioned by Paul, you can write that one little and woe-entailing word—SIN.—William Biederwolf.

TO WHAT LENGTHS WILL YOU GO?

"A Florida, U. S. A., gentleman offered to take a street beggar into a restaurant. He refused, saying, 'I asked for money, not for food . . . Of course I'm hungry. I haven't eaten a good meal for three days.' He explained frankly, 'I'm a Communist, we need money for literature.' It is wondered how many Christians would be prepared to go hungry to get money for distributing their literature. It is an undeniable fact, which we have to admit to our great shame, that in many of the mission fields of the world it is missionary enterprise that is making people literate, but it is Communism that is providing the literature to read. Communism has avowed that it will conquer the world by literature and this story illustrates to what lengths the adherent of Communism will go to make literature available. Oh, that the Christian Church would wake up to the great need for Christian literature to be made available for those who become literate through Mission Schools and reading classes!—Flood Tide.

"INSTANT IN SEASON"

When Charles Alexander was with an evangelist, writes Dr. R. A. Torrey, holding meetings in a town in Iowa, a very ignorant fellow was among the converts. He could not quote a verse of Scripture, but he made up his mind he was going into Christian work. He came to Mr. Alexander and said, "I'm going with you." "But Fred, what will you do? You can't go along with us." Fred said, "But I am, I'm going with you." "Fred, what will you do? You can't preach. You can't sing. What will you do?" "I can do anything. I'll blacken your shoes. I'll do anything you want me to do, but I'm going along." He went with them. He had very little ability, but what he did have he gave to the Lord wholly, and in five years that ignorant boy was used to lead 1200 souls to Christ. He had a record of their names and addresses and he followed them up.

But he went back on his consecration. He became crazy after money and permitted known sin in his life.

Some of you say, "I am wholly consecrated; there was a time when I gave up all. I laid it on the altar." Have you kept it on the altar, or have you picked it up again? Are you still instant in season?—Sel.