

THE CHALLENGE OF HOME MISSIONS

By Rev. R. H. Nicholson

In a ministers' conference, where several denominations were represented, the question was asked, "What is Home Missions?" A number of ideas were projected but after considerable discussion on the point still it seemed that the answer was not too clearly given. No one seemed to have the challenge of this work outlined before him. Perhaps some of us are not clear in regard to this work and what has been described by some, as a lack of interest has been merely a lack of information.

May we emphasize first that Home Missions must not be absorbed in our thinking with the general work of our denomination in the homeland—Home Missions is a separate project. Just as much a separate project as our Bible college and our foreign work. And shall we suggest without stating the reason why, because the reason is very evident to any thinking person, these other important projects will be curtailed if Home Missions is neglected, but if it gains proper support there will be a greater future for our Bible College as well as more missionaries and more dollars for the lands across the sea.

There are three definite responsibilities resting on the Home Mission Board in our denomination. First, giving financial aid to underpaid ministers. Second, assisting to a limited amount with building projects, where the local church is unable. Third, and this is most essential, opening up and supporting work in new areas. This work demands many thousands of dollars if it is carried on well. Have we met the challenge? Scanning over the work accomplished in the last eight years we have rejoiced that fourteen new churches have been opened up. Praise the Lord!

This has involved the building or purchasing of places of worship. But is that all? No! The purchasing and constructing of materials could never touch the real work—the real work is in the hearts of men and women, boys and girls.

It has been our privilege to look into the faces and hear the testimonies of these redeemed souls. Oh what transformations! What miracles of God's grace! So often we have heard these words spoken while tears of joy flowed freely, "Thank God for sending the Reformed Baptists this way with the message of full salvation."

Do we believe that God has called us out for a special purpose and with a special message—holiness? If not we have been deluded and the sooner we are absorbed in some other group the better. But we are not deluded, There is too much evidence to the glorious fact that God has called us to preach the gospel throughout the Maritimes and Maine. Have we done it yet? Are there not hundreds of towns and cities we have not touched yet? How many souls will perish in hell unless we reach them with God's message of salvation? Yes, there are other churches but still there are thousands who are still lost because God is depending on us to take them the good news.

Sunday, October the second, is Home Mission Sunday. First of all, let us pray that God will send forth laborers into His harvest, then let us plan to make this Home Mission Offering the BIGGEST YET! In order to meet the challenge in the past we have had to go several

INTEREST IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rev. Ralph Hobson

The lack of interest in the Sunday School on the part of some professing Christians is appalling. In recent years Sunday School attendance has decreased and some Christians are no less responsible than the unsaved worlding. There are some justifiable reasons why some Christians do not attend Sunday School. On the other hand there are those who could well find their way to the house of God at the Sunday School hour. The reason for their not going? Just simply—not interested.

It is amazing how some Christian young people will refuse to show an interest in the Sunday School. Men and women in the church are also guilty of lack of interest. Then Sunday School is a place for the whole family, from the grand parents down to the grand children. Young married couples with small children of Sunday School age should be under spiritual compunction to be in Sunday School. The trouble is that a lot of our evangelical Christians lack a lot of spiritual compunction of any kind, yet they dare to take on the name of Christ and call themselves Christians. Christianity is blighted and blurred by professing Christians who have no spiritual backbone or moral stamina to do what they know they ought to do. Thus the reason why some of our churches fail to get beyond a certain peak in its growth and development. The same goes for our Sunday Schools.

Pastors and Sunday School superintendents, let us solicit our church people to back our Sunday School rally day and encourage them to come regularly throughout the year. The Sunday School ought to be one of the strongest departments of our church. It ought to receive the support of every Christian family within the church. Christians do not let us give way to the devil by being guilty of neglecting the Sunday School.

CO-OPERATION

Select a magnet of steel,
Of any given length;
Then double it, and joy you'll feel
Quadrupling its strength.
Not two-times-two—not four, but eight,
Whenever we co-operate.

Our mighty God can take just one,
And make a thousand flee;
But give Him two and then He'll run
Ten thousand to the sea.
Things increase at a ten-fold rate
Whenever we co-operate.

Sure, I can take a hook and line
And catch a single fish;
But if you'll help me hold the seine,
We'll take in all you wish.
A bigger catch and better weight
Whenever we co-operate.

Since this great truth is written large
On products of the mine,
Exhibited in the battle charge,
Rewards the fisher's time,
'Tis plain enough, without debate,
God wants us to co-operate.

—Selected

thousand dollars in the red. To meet the challenge in the future we face a double financial load. Let us Pray, Repay and Pay!

PROGRESS IS GOD'S PROGRAM

Rev. N. E. Trafton

When Israel faced the Red Sea the voice of God spoke through Moses saying, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go FORWARD." The attitude of God remains the same, and unless we are stirred up continually we become negligent concerning the great issues that confront us as a church.

RALLY DAY

If Sunday schools are worthy of our interest, then we should explore every possibility of making them a power for the kingdom.

RALLY DAY should mean a renewed effort to contact every boy and girl in the community who are not in Sunday school.

RALLY DAY should emphasize the urgent need of presenting Christ as Saviour to the hearts of youth.

RALLY DAY should pin-point the fact that now is the time to lay the foundation for the church of tomorrow.

Make October 2nd the beginning of a new endeavor for a wide awake, spiritual, growing Sunday school.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY

Are we awake to the need in our own land? Every city and town without the message of full salvation is a challenge to our faith.

NEWFOUNDLAND offers great possibilities for evangelism. We hope to enter this great country in another year as God leads. When shall the first church be received into our Alliance? soon . . . soon, by the help of God.

A FULL TIME GOSPEL TEAM is the only answer to a continual program of progress in home missions.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY, October 2nd is for the purpose of stimulating interest, and securing financial support for the progress that must be made, for the souls that must be reached, and the responsibility that rests upon us to preach the gospel to every creature.

WHAT WILL YOUR ANSWER BE?

AROUSE, YE CHRISTIANS

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to get their eyes off their weariness, off their petty duties that teenagers can do, and move out where the tides run fierce.

Easy-chair, complacent traditionalism must be abandoned and a wide-awake program geared to modern methods must be launched under the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Get down in your knees, stand up on your feet, move out of your ruts and, above everything else, be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is imperative. So long as Christians imagine that the only thing lacking in their life is more earnestness, more importunity, more strength, and that if they can only obtain these benefits they themselves will become all they ought to be, the preaching of full salvation will be of little avail.

If the people of God will tarry for the experience of entire sanctification that removes the last remains of sin, a revival will be on such as the world has not seen. Then, soldier of Christ, be filled with the Spirit. Move out into the grace of entire sanctification and on out to evangelize the world.

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