

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE — REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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EDITORIALS

CAN WE PAY OUR BUDGETS?

Our Alliance budget committee has set the financial goals for this church year. Each pastor and each church should know by now the amount of help they are asked to give the various denominational projects. The important question confronting us is—can we reach the goals set for us?

The first reaction of some pastors and churches toward the budget allotments will be, "they're too high, our church has too many local responsibilities to contribute that much to denominational work."

But wouldn't it be too bad to admit failure without an effort, to concede defeat without a struggle. Especially when the money asked for Missions, Home and Foreign, for Bethany Bible College, for the Superintendent's salary, for the General Fund, is money needed to support the forward movement of our work. Every dollar asked for is a dollar needed, and the failure of any church to accept the share of financial responsibility presented to it, is a failure that will effect the whole programme of our church.

One thing is certain—we can't pay our budgets if we won't try. If we just "throw up our hands" when the budget goals are presented, we won't succeed, nor will we know whether we can or not. On the other hand, a little planning, plus a reasonable amount of co-operation, with a measure of sacrifice added, will enable most and probably all of our churches to give a "budgets-paid-in-full report at next year's Alliance Sessions.

It's a poor policy to lay the budget apportionments aside and plan for their presentation to the church "at a later time." The wise pastor will bring the requests of the budget committee to his people as soon as possible. Then with a vote of approval from the church, plans can be made for raising the amounts needed.

The Home and Foreign Missions Sundays, plus the regular giving of the people in monthly missionary meetings, should take care of these obligations. The General Fund allocation is low enough that with a slight effort on the part of any church, it can be met in full. The Superintendent's salary and Bethany budgets should be paid monthly or quarterly. This can be done if the total amount asked for is divided by twelve or four with the purpose of sending money into these

funds at regular intervals. Our Superintendent has rental, travel, living expenses, etc., which should be cared for as regularly as the pastors'. Otherwise his reputation will suffer and he will be unable to carry on in his work. The men and women employed at Bethany are likewise in need of regular support, and if the boys and girls who attend the College as students are to be given meals, kept warm, etc., there must be money to pay the grocer, fuel dealer, etc. And so we should plan to channel money into these funds regularly.

We can pay our budgets, if we will. Some pastors who are underpaid press their churches, and with success, to give this needed support to denominational work. Some churches that are carrying a very heavy load in local financial responsibility, are "coming through" in support of denominational work. It can be done. Not easily, perhaps, but "where there's a will, there's a way." The great satisfaction of reaching the goals, reporting a "budgets-paid" or "Budgets-plus" effort in this church year, awaits the pastors and churches which have a purpose to co-operate and a will to succeed.

A BOOST FOR BETHANY

A little past mid-September, Bethany Bible College will open its doors to a group of hopeful students and settle down to the work of another school year. Let us join together in prayer for good wishes to the Faculty, under its newly-elected president, Rev. Wilfred Green, and the student body. May this be a banner year at Bethany!

It is almost startling to realize that reaching the date of Bethany's opening will mean that we have passed the three-month mark of the church year. In fact, since a resolution was passed at this year's Alliance setting May 31st as the closing of our statistical year, we are already passed the three-month mark! This means that the first quarter's budget payments are actually due.

What a fine thing it would be, and what an encouraging gesture to those who carry the responsibility of the Bethany programme, if our churches would greet the opening of the school year with the payment of the first quarter of the Bethany budget. The expenses of the school accumulate even during the holiday period, but they increase sharply with the beginning of the school year. Consequently, if Bethany is to get away to a good start this Fall, budget payments from the churches will be needed. Suppose we pastors present the matter to our Church Boards or congregations early in September. Make it a "boost for Bethany" proposition.

ORDINATION SERVICE

A very impressive service was held at Meductic, N. B., on Thursday, Aug. 11th, when Kenneth Jewett, pastor of the Meductic-Southampton churches, was ordained to the Gospel ministry. With a capacity congregation present, the service was under the direction of our Alliance Superintendent, Rev. N. E. Trafton. The ordination sermon, "Barnabas, a New Testament Preacher," was delivered by Rev. C. E. Stairs, was an excellent message preached in the power of the Spirit. The ordination prayer was offered by Rev. B. C. Cochrane. Other ministers attending and assisting in the service were Revs. J. O. Owen, H. S. Hicks, P. W. Briggs, and Revs. Saunders Young, Hardy Warden, and Rev. R. G. Smith

SAVING THE ABSENTEE

Recently I listened to a fine Christian man, Sunday-school superintendent in a live, growing rural Sunday school. He considers his job No. 1 on a long list of varied and sundry activities, both in the church and in his chosen profession. The subject of absenteeism in the Sunday school was being discussed. For sometime numbers in his Sunday school habitually indulged in irregular attendances.

At one of the regular worker's conferences the problem was discussed at length. On several different occasions it had been considered, but this time decisive action was taken. The plan included a listing of every absentee on special cards each week. The cards were then handed to the teachers of the classes who became responsible to contact the absentee before class session the following Sunday. The teachers agreed to co-operate in either making the contact themselves, or getting someone to do it for them before the following Sunday.

A comparison of average attendances with the year previous with the same period of time this year revealed major increases in average attendances each quarter in which visitation was faithfully carried on.

Absenteeism can be cut to a minimum. Faithful visitation, plus faithful, Spirit-filled teaching are two essential factors in successful Sunday-school work. Enthusiasm coupled with energy and complete dependence upon God builds solid Sunday schools.

People appreciate your interest and concern. A spirit of helpfulness captures the heart. A pastor continuously called upon by a young married couple who were uninterested in Christ and the work of the church. Finally, to rid themselves of his continuous calling, they began to attend church. One Sunday morning as the invitation was given to participate in the communion service, along with a strong salvation appeal, God touched their hearts and both were converted. Today they are not only saved for the Lord, but are strong assets to the church where they are now members. One is the Sunday-school secretary and the other, teacher in the Primary Department. Both are teaching in the Vacation Bible School, making a real contribution to the department where they are working.

Your Sunday school is located in a territory where are resources which God wants to use in His kingdom. Some of these are hidden to the natural eye. Many are afflicted with the disease of Absenteeism; others have not yet been in Sunday school. Both can be reached through a strong visitation program. Institute definite plans to cut down absenteeism in the Sunday school; launch out to gather in the uninterested. Make this year the best in the history of your church.—Mary E. Bennett in The Wesleyan Methodist.

"God will give us all the liberty we are willing to take. We can be free to pray, to testify, to do personal work, to do whatever we are called upon to do anywhere and everywhere. is grace is sufficient.

of the United Baptist Church. Special singing was provided by Brother Jewett and his sister, Mrs. Harold Hawkins, Mrs. J. A. Owens, Stillman Cameron and Cedric Landers. After the service Rev. and Mrs. Jewett entertained a large number of guests in a fellowship hour at the parsonage.