

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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EDITORIALS

OUR MISSIONARY GIVING

According to the "Missionary Crusader," America spent more for dog food than for foreign missions last year, in fact, 45% more! Here are some of the figures given under the caption, "How America Spends Her Money": For Foreign Missions, 130 millions; Dog Food, 175 millions; Tobacco, 5.373 billions; Alcoholic Beverages, 9.05 billions.

Besides the above statistics, the table shows that the nation spent two billions more for tobacco alone than for all religious and welfare activities. And the amount spent for liquor was more than three and a half billion beyond that again.

Is it any wonder that crime, tragedy, sin, and death increase at an appalling rate under such a system of spending! Think what could be done toward evangelization at home and abroad, if the money spent for liquor and tobacco were used for the promotion of the Gospel and the work of feeding and clothing the needy peoples of the world.

And what do you suppose the heathen would think of our religion if they should learn that "Christian" America spent 45 millions more for dog food last year than was raised and spent to "send the light"?

Our giving to foreign missions, in the places and among the people where giving to this great enterprise is at its best, is still very low by comparison. Last year, for the first time in our denominational giving, our contributions to foreign missions were in excess of 10% of our total giving. Think of it. We spend 90% of our churches' income on local and homeland projects, we squeeze out 10% or less to evangelize the unenlightened millions who "sit in darkness." And some have ventured to complain that we have been giving too heavily to foreign missions! It is quite understandable that such criticisms have been made in private rather than in public. How could we, without shame, declare that 10% is too much, or nearly enough to spend on foreign missionary endeavour?

Some of our local churches have a better record. A number of churches were well above the ten per cent level in foreign missionary giving last year, two churches gave more than twenty per cent, and one church even went

beyond twenty-five per cent in foreign missionary giving. But the high level of giving by these churches also indicates that, with a little better than ten per cent for foreign missions from the whole denomination, some churches were well below the ten per cent level. Some gave less than two per cent.

God blesses the church with missionary vision. Individuals and groups have proven that generous giving for the spread of the Gospel among the heathen always results in blessing and increase to the giver. Some churches would be more successful in general financing (and some individuals as well) if they would adopt a better plan for missionary giving.

The Easter Offering for foreign missions is less than three weeks away. Let us aim at an all-time high in one day's giving and follow up with plans for a minimum of ten per cent or more for the church year.

THE MISSIONARY CHALLENGE

I think that there will be general agreement among our pastors and people with the suggestion that our missionary work was never more challenging than it is at present. We have the largest staff of workers on the field that we have had at any time in our years of foreign mission endeavour, and a fine, capable, consecrated group they are. With the opening of the Rhodesian work our area of operation has greatly increased during the past year. This is one of the most significant developments in our foreign missionary work since the time of its inception.

Here are some of the challenging aspects of our missionary project:

(1) Expansion of the Rhodesian work. This will include sending more missionaries into that area, training natives for service among their own people, building churches, financing the proposed dispensary, etc.

(2) Sending more missionaries to the field. Glendon and Betty Kierstead are scheduled to sail some time this summer or early fall, Karl and Helene Gorman soon afterward, probably early in 1958:

(3) Heavier financial investment in the training and support of native workers.

(4) The possibility of bringing Rev. E. M. and Mrs. Kierstead home this year, a move which would mean much to providing stimulus to missionary interest among our people and also allowing for the mapping out with the Foreign Mission Board of a continued advance in South Africa and Rhodesia.

The challenge is before us. We will have opportunity Easter Sunday to declare our interest in this work and our desire for progress. Give liberally for foreign missions on Easter Sunday!

IS THIS CHURCH YOUR CHURCH?

An artist was once asked to paint a picture of a decaying church. To the astonishment of many, instead of putting on the canvas an old, tottering ruin, the artist painted a stately edifice of modern grandeur. Through the open portals could be seen the richly carved pulpit, the magnificent organ, and the beautiful stained glass windows. Within the grand entrance was an offering plate of elaborate design for the worshippers. But—and here the artist's idea of a decaying church was made known—right above the offering plate there hung a square box bearing the legend, "For Foreign Missions," and right over the slot through which contributions ought to have gone he painted a huge cobweb!—Selected.

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