

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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Editor - Rev. B. C. Cochrane

Associate Editor and Business Manager

Rev. E. W. Tokley

Contributing Editors: Revs. F. Dunlop, C. E. Stairs,

A. D. Cann

Other members of Committee: Revs. W. L. Fernley,

L. K. Mullen

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIAL

INGREDIENTS OF ENTHUSIASM

By Roy S. Nicholson

General President, Wesleyan Methodist Church

As the religious world prepares to observe the 250th Anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth, one frequently reads, even from non-Methodist circles, exhortations that it shall meet with a "warm response."

Great hymn festivals are being planned which will feature Charles Wesley's hymns. His hymns have been described as "excellent in expression, sublime in poetry, doctrinal in content and universal in application."

Furthermore, they manifest an ardent zeal for the principals of the Evangelical Revival and turned multitudes to the Methodist Movement because their message was one of hope and joy for needy hearts. The early Methodists were truly enthusiastic Christians. No wonder Methodism spread to the ends of the earth.

In John and Charles Wesley's day "enthusiasm" was scorned as if it were a plague. But it helped to make Methodism a conquering force against otherwise overwhelming odds.

One of John Wesley's rules for congregational singing was: "Sing lustily, and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you are half-dead or half-asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. . . ."

The late Dr. Beverly Carradine, a holiness leader of the previous generation, declared that one evidence a church needed reviving was its listless, half-hearted singing.

In the early part of this century the fervent congregational singing of the holiness people drew crowds to their revivals. Oh, that our church members would recover the enthusiasm that characterized those Christians!

An Intellectual Recoil?

Why have we lost our enthusiasm? Don't be too quick to answer. Is it due to an intellectual recoil against emotional expression in religion? Is it because we have lost our zeal for Christ's cause? Is it due to a reaction to what appeared to us as "extravagance" or "fanaticism" in

others? Their excesses are no excuse for our indifference.

Jehovah's Witnesses exhibit an enthusiasm for their business that should rebuke the lukewarmness of most members of our holiness churches. What a shame! What a pity! May God forgive us.

What is our conception of Christian "enthusiasm"? "An earnest and commendable devotion, an intense and eager interest" for the work of Christ. That includes everything we ought to do for Him who gave Himself for us.

In the midst of so much talk about hurtful, unspiritual pressures from "the world", we should ponder this sentence from a dictionary: "Against the hindrances of the world, nothing great and good can be carried without a certain fervor, intensity and vehemence; these joined with faith, courage, and hopefulness make enthusiasm." There are the ingredients of enthusiasm: fervor, intensity, vehemence, faith, courage, and hopefulness. It takes them all to produce enthusiasm.

If you are hesitant to try to mix these ingredients, look at the moral and spiritual indifference which abounds on almost every hand and remember this Scripture: "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." One cause of weakness today may be our lack of holy enthusiasm.

A FAMILY ALTAR

(Continued from Page 3)

Bible and pray. All felt they could not. They had not been converted during the years. Finally John said, "Let us all kneel and give our hearts to God. That would be what Mother and Father would want us to do." So they knelt before God and brokenly confessed their sins to God, asking him to save them. God answered their prayers. Although these men were past sixty years of age, God in answer to a praying father and mother at a family altar saved them. That was the reward of faithfulness in prayer. Surely no family should wait for many years before establishing a family altar. If you are on the high seas, in prison, in a school, or at home, establish your period of prayer and Bible study. Do it faithfully before God. He will answer your prayers.

Pray to God in the name of Christ on the basis of his shed blood, on the basis of his sure promises to answer, and on the basis of God's faithfulness to answer prayer.

As a young man, Dr. Reuben A. Torrey became discouraged with life because of his sins. He was about to commit suicide. Then he seemed to hear his mother say, "Reuben, in the darkest hour of your life don't forget to pray and God will hear you."

He knelt and confessed his sinfulness, asking God to save him, and God promptly forgave him of all his sins. He became a great pastor, Bible teacher, and evangelist, with a world-wide ministry for about fifty years. Back of this was God and a praying mother. Begin this day to have a set time for prayer and Bible study.—Joseph T. Larson in The Alliance Weekly.

NOTICE TO OUR CHURCHES

During the year I corresponded with our Churches regarding Insurance on Beulah Buildings. I was to let you know when the needed amounts should be forthcoming from our individual churches.

Will each church in the Alliance send our Alliance Treasurer, Rev. Laurence Mullen, Woodstock, N.B. the sum of \$8.00 to cover Premium charges. This matter should be attended to immediately. We need that each church should respond at once. Thank You.

Sincerely yours,

Fraser Dunlop.

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