

years. A few will—and do, and they are the salt and seed of the truth in every generation.

A VEHEMENT FLAME

Paul once used the significant phrase vehement desire, and though he did not apply it to himself, he could hardly have found a more accurate phrase to describe his own spiritual life. (2 Cor. 7:11). He burned with desire to know Christ, to experience for himself the "excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." (Phil. 3:8). This holy vehemence carried him onward like a torrent to the end of his days.

Spiritual vehemence frightens the timid saints, but it carries the bolder ones upward to blessed spiritual heights. I wonder whether any great work of God has ever sprung up in any place apart from the presence of a few Christians who were ablaze with vehement desire.

A classic example of the power of holy desire is found in the person of Evan Roberts, who was the human agent in the Welsh revival. His testimony is most revealing and can be downright startling unless we have some measure of the same spirit to prepare us for the shock.

The language he uses to describe his experience furnishes a splendid expression of that spiritual vehemence of which I speak. "Suddenly I was awakened out of my sleep, and I found myself with unspeakable joy and awe, in the very presence of Almighty God. And for the space of four hours I was privileged to speak face to face with Him, as a man speaks to his friend. At four o'clock it seemed to me that I again returned to earth..."

BEND ME! BEND ME!

Again he says: "Shortly some wonderful influence came over me. I felt some living energy of force entering my bosom. It held my breath, My legs trembled terribly. This living energy increased as one after the other prayed, until it nearly burst me ... My bosom boiled all through and if I had not prayed I would have burst.

"What boiled my bosom? It was the verse, 'But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8).

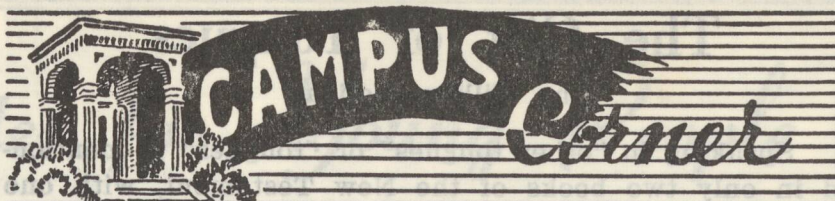
"I felt on my knees with my arm stretched out on the seat before me. The perspiration poured down my face, and my tears streamed so quickly I thought the blood came out ... I cried, 'Bend me, bend me!' After I was bent, a wave of peace filled my soul."

For a generation in this country some of our leading Bible expositors have spent their time proving to us that there is no need for such spiritual vehemence as this, and during that time we have grown progressively colder until today the whole idea of personal saintliness has been all but lost to us.

It may be set down as an axiom that our spiritual state perfectly corresponds to the intensity of our desire. Each of us enjoys as much grace as he actually wants. Where there seems to be a discrepancy between what we possess and what we desire to possess, we may safely conclude that our desire is not as great as we had supposed. We want God, it is true, but we want something else more. And we get what we want most.

What shall we do when we find that our desire is but lukewarm? Treat our condition as a spiritual sickness and act accordingly. Go to God about it as we would about any other sin, and stay before Him in repentance

The King's Highway



NEWS FROM BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE

Bethany Bible College opened September 17th with an enrolment which has been exceeded only twice in the history of the school. The quiet atmosphere of the campus during the Summer months was suddenly changed into an atmosphere of intense activity as students registered and made ready for what we trust shall be a successful career at Bethany.

Fifty-one students have been enrolled representing seven different protestant denominations as follows: Reformed Baptist, Nazarene, Primitive, Baptist, United Baptist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, United Church of Canada.

The present enrolment of students has been exceeded only twice in the history of the school and in the year 1955 the enrolment was equal to that of this year. The greatest increase in enrolment is evident in the Bible Department and in Grade Ten.

The enrolment in the Bible Department shows an increase of 75% over that of last year with some 14 students registered in this department. Thank God for this remarkable increase.

A glance at the distribution of students reveals that approximately 64% of our students came from New Brunswick while the remaining 36% are from Nova Scotia, Maine and South Africa.

Already we have realized the need of larger facilities for our School. It was impossible for us to accommodate the male students in the Boys Dormitory, since our accommodations there were reduced by 50% as a result of the fire last February. It has been necessary for us to place the girls in the boys' residence and to place the boys in the girls' residence. At the present time our facilities are taxed to capacity. This makes us realize more than ever the need for expansion and an improvement of our school facilities. To this end we would encourage our people to pray.

Rev. Bruce Bridgeo has joined the staff at Bethany this year. Mr. Bridgeo is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene College, Kankakee, Illinois, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree last May. Mr. Bridgeo comes to Bethany with a wide range of experience which will enable him to make a valuable contribution to our College. He is teaching in the High School Department this year.

On Friday, September 19th, the staff and students held their annual banquet in the College dining hall at 6:30 P.M. Although the dining hall was extremely crowded, the occasion was one in which a great time of fellowship was enjoyed by all who were present.

We are confident that our people rejoice with us in that our School has a capacity enrolment. We are also confident that those who are interested in this important phase of Christian work will continue to faithfully support Bethany, that this year might be one of the best Bethany has known.

and faith till the flame of pure desire begins to glow within.

With the coming of strong desire, a whole new world will open before us. The simplest Bible truth will come alive with a new and blessed meaning! The person of Christ will become dear beyond expression, and our lives will begin to glow with a fresh and wonderful devotion.