

Guest Editorial

THE LORD WILL GO BEFORE THEE

"For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward."

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When allied troops were moving toward the Normandy coast on D-Day, mine sweepers went before the ships filled with soldiers and their equipment. Without this precaution it would have been certain disaster for the whole undertaking.

God is our mine sweeper. He goes before the trusting soul to prepare a safe way. Our responsibility is to follow carefully the path he marks out.

One man on a ship making the first landing on the Normandy coast, said, "We were following the mine sweeper closely but at one point we discovered we were out of the cleared channel. We stopped everything until we corrected our position."

It is of great importance that the child of God follow closely. When he discovers that the path marked out by the Lord has been missed every activity should be stopped and every necessary adjustment made until the soul is in the protection of close fellowship with God.

Are there towering mountains of difficulties in the path just ahead? His obligation is to go before, our obligation is to follow closely, and where He goes He will supply strength and power for us to follow.

I know not what tomorrow may bring but I am secure for the promise is: "The Lord will go before you."

He is never surprised, discomfited or thrown off balance. He is equal to every emergency and He will not fail.

His wisdom prepares the road over which I must travel and His love allows no thorns or deep valleys but that are good for me.

He determines the character of the road I am to travel and He chooses the weather I am to encounter.

"I will trust and not be afraid for the Lord Jehovah is my strength."

COULD I RETRACE MY LIFE . . .

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not be other than well, both for earth and heaven.

My comrades, I have given you only a very faint and imperfect idea of the manner in which I should deal with my life, had I the privilege of living it over again. Nevertheless, it is there, and to the realization of that standard I shall consecrate the remaining days of my advanced years. For all will agree that the service and devotion which I feel would be my duty at the commencement of my life must be equally my duty at its close.

Whether young or old, this, then, is my standard of love and duty, and my standard it shall continue to be until I utter my last word, and breathe my last breath on earth.

Will you not join me in this consecration? Long years may yet be your portion. The world may yet be before you. God is on your side.

—The Free Methodist

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass".

The King's Highway

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM REV. AND MRS. F. A. DUNLOP

It seems quite impossible to improve upon the accepted formula, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". At least such a greeting expresses much that we feel in our hearts and desire for you our friends.

Whoever was responsible for dividing time into years must have been Divinely inspired. Like Sunday breaks up the days of the week, preventing an unbearable monotony, so does the New Year create a break in the order of things that is both helpful and inspiring. In most things, we react more favorably toward the new than the old. Happy as were the experiences of 1958, I'm sure most all prefer the prospects of 1959 to living over again the days of 1958.

The ascending scale of events, scientifically, prevent a lapse of interest in things. To drive a well heated car in sub-zero weather during our New Brunswick Winters is a luxury we owe to Science. I often wish my Dad, who spent most of his life on Maple Ridge, could come into our home and set the thermostat to suit himself - another luxury we owe to Science. But these are mere trifles. Today, while I sit here typing, there is sweeping around our earth a man-made Satellite, weighing several tons, and travelling at the rate of seventeen thousand miles an hour. What benefit we may derive from this may be only the promise it carries of greater things to follow. What achievements are yet to be realized by men are impossible to say, but when we travel with them to the present point of discoveries, some of us are tempted to say, "we were born forty years too soon." However, we can thrill to these wondrous things while we are living, and who can tell ere 1959 has ticked away we may take a trip to the moon.

But seriously friends, do these marvelous things attained by scientist ever condemn you? We, who have faced so long the boundless areas of God's infinite grace, but have been satisfied to live on tradition and the handed down creeds of past centuries? Surely life, as we know it today, is a thing of challenge. If God is willing to unlock the hidden mysteries of His physical Universe, to men who even question His existence, what will He not do for men who love Him supremely. If we would but follow the ascending scale of prayer, as suggested by Jesus: "Ask, and ye shall receive, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you", surely some astounding discoveries would be our reward. I must believe that our glaring impotence is the result of our growing indifference. I am satisfied that if the men who are putting satellites into space labored with the same enthusiasm I do to put spiritual forces in orbit 1959 would be obliged to write a different history regarding their achievements. Doubtless, we should close in the gap between the promises of God and the program we foster. This generation is desperately in need of a church that can bring to it not only the fact of Pentecost but the fruits of Pentecost. Would God thus honor our people? I believe He would, if we pay the price. It is blessed to know that 1959 for everyone is "as bright as the promises of God."

WATCH YOUR WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;

A cruel word may wreck a life.

A bitter word may hate instill;

A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way;

A joyous word may light the day.

A timely word may lessen stress;

A loving word may heal and bless.

—The Bible Friend