

## A REQUIREMENT, A REQUISITE AND A RESULT Acts 1:8

By Rev. Ralph Hobson, Vice Chairman, Home Mission Board

In Acts 1:8 we read "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

I have noticed three factors worthy of consideration in this important portion of Scripture. First, there is a Requirement; secondly, a Requisite and thirdly, a Result.

1. A REQUIREMENT.—What is a requirement? According to Webster it is a demand. Our text suggests a requirement or a demand of the Christian Church for world-wide evangelization. The word of Jesus in this respect is specifically clear in as much as He suggests witnessing to begin at Jerusalem, which is the home base, our own city or town. Then Judea could mean in the surrounding areas. Samaria may well refer to one's own nation. All this takes in home missions. Then of course "and unto the uttermost part of the earth" is clear, world-wide evangelization or foreign missions.

It is required of us as Reformed Baptists to zealously engage in proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ and His power to save. It is one thing to maintain a witness in a given area such as a city, town, village, etc., but it is quite another thing to be engaged in aggressively proclaiming the gospel throughout our Maritime Provinces and Maine. How many cities, towns and villages in the Maritimes and Maine are still without a Reformed Baptist Church?

2. A REQUISITE.—Why is it we are hindered in our task as a Home Mission Board and as a denomination? This brings us to our next point for consideration, a requisite which is suggested in our text. What is this requisite? It is the empowering of the mighty Holy Spirit. We can talk all we want about being sanctified and a clean heart, etc., and all this is certainly Scriptural and a vital experience, but there seems to be something sorely lacking. In my own humble opinion it is a vital Holy Ghost experience in quickening power that sets us to doing something for God. We lack the power of the Holy Spirit. The positive aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit needs as much emphasizing as does the negative aspect of cleansing and purifying from all sin.

All this may appear to be a severe indictment, but nevertheless, it also appears to be true by the evidence arrayed against us. As a denomination we need a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, giving us that zeal with which the early Christians were possessed and by which they did great exploits for God in spreading the gospel in their day.

The fact that our material resources are so limited could be another evidence that we lack the power of the Holy Ghost. One thing a Spirit-filled Christian is apt to do and that is be honest with God in respect to what belongs rightfully to Him. Loosened pocket books is in keeping with a Spirit-filled experience. Many are holding back spiritual revival by holding back their tithes and offerings. In Malachi 3:10 we read, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I WILL NOT OPEN YOU THE WINDOWS

## ANOTHER NEW CHURCH FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

It is with thankfulness to God and appreciation to people that I record the dedication of a splendid new edifice at East Ferry, Digby County, N. S.

This church is a monument to a people who recognized the need of such a place of worship and were willing to labor and give for its attainment. One of the things that pleased me most during my visit was the justifiable pride evidenced by the people of the community in this quite remarkable achievement. East Ferry is a community of fine homes and the church they have built rates with the finest of the buildings there.

The pastor, Rev. Gerald McKinnon, has been the keyman from the start, and the people working with him are loud in their praise of his energetic and cooperative spirit. It is inspiring to know that a young couple can accomplish so much in so many ways during their first pastorate.

I shall not describe in detail the building, I rather expect Rev. Nicholson will do this in his letter. He, Rev. Walter Fernley and Paul Mullen, had a part in the dedication service. We were sorry that the bad storm the night of the dedication hindered folk from the surrounding communities to attend. Paul and I stayed on for services over the Lord's day and it was good to team up with Paul on this happy occasion. Sunday was a fine day and we were honored with the presence of God. I'm sure God spoke to many in the evening service and we should have seen a better response.

The people of the place very graciously entertained. Some who are not members of the church act so much like Reformed Baptists that they may as well be members. It looks to me as if they are spoiled for anything else.

Well, I say again, these things are refreshing. Marysville has done a big job of redecorating, Barker's Point plans to dedicate their new church early in February; Deer Island writes that they are working to get their building ready for worship in the near future; Ingomar is building their church; Staceyville is getting material ready for building this Spring. Looks like advancement. May God grant it on all fronts. I'm so glad we have a message that the Bible supports. I find the Word of God a great help when I am preaching holiness. I fear I would have difficulty with it if I preached anything less. The pattern for the "children of light" still is: "Be ye followers of God, as dear children", so this places me squarely in the way of holiness. I never exepct to find God following any other course. I still believe that "truth is not where the church is, but the church is where the truth is." May God help us to keep our emphasis unclouded.

> Yours, rejoicing in our wonderful Lord, F. A. Dunlop.

OF HEAVEN, AND POUR YOU OUT A BLESSING, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Giving on the part of God's people may be both a means and a result of revival. A deep experience in the Holy Ghost will give us spiritual power and increased resources for the carrying out the work of God.

3. A RESULT.—Lastly, let us consider the Result of the empowering of the Spirit of God. It is the fact that we SHALL be witnesses in our Jerusalem, in our Judea, and in our Samaria. This will take care of our Home Mission projects. The grand result will be a greater world outreach as our denomination spreads and with it the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.