

MACEDONIA SEEKS A PASTOR

By H. C. Mullen

Rev. Mr. Paul,
Troas, Asia.

Dear and Reverend Sir:

As clerk of the church of Macedonia, I have been instructed to communicate with you, with a view of securing you as pastor for the ensuing year. We are in need of a pastor, but before we could possibly decide to accept your services in such capacity, there are a number of things that we would like to have understood and settled beforehand. It will save us much inconvenience, and no doubt will be more satisfactory to yourself.

First of all, our church requests that you come over for at least one Sunday, so that we all may have a chance to see and hear you. We would then be much better able to judge whether we wanted you or not. We do not feel it wise to take a chance in this important matter. Our church is particular about a preacher's style, and we need an eloquent and prepossessing man to hold our prestige with the churches around us. You will pardon the reference, but we do not want an old man; we have heard some reference to a man who was called "Paul the aged" (old Paul), you might give us an idea of your age. We want a young man. Again, there is the matter of education. What have been your educational advantages? How many degrees do you hold? We would much prefer a man with a Master's degree, or any S.T.D. but we insist upon the B.A. degree.

All the churches about us have college men filling their pulpits, and it would put us in a bad showing not to have a college graduate.

There is another item that we would not overlook in our note to you, the matter of remuneration. You will receive the Sunday collection which we hope will amount to about \$15.00 a week. Of course this amount will vary, and there will be very stormy Sundays when there will be none at all; this will be your loss. We like this method best for it relieves the church of the load of responsibility, and it seems easier for the pastor alone to take all the risk of times and exigencies occasioned by crop failure or a drop in prices.

Few of our working men get more than \$45.00 a week, and considering the high cost of living, and the price of gasoline and good clothes, we think that if we raise you \$15.00 it will be about all that we can do. In this connection we may as well remind you that we have no parsonage, but there are some suitable houses to let on Straight Street, at prices varying from 40 to 50 dollars a month. We like our pastors to live in a good respectable looking place that will not detract from the dignity and respect of our church. One other little matter we would like for you to know. We expect our pastor to keep himself well dressed. We like to see him in his clerical broadcloth every day of the week. It may be out of taste to mention this, but a former pastor disgraced us by publicly wearing trousers patched at the knees. Yes, and his wife shocked the ladies of the church by wearing a hat for the second season.

Now, having mentioned the woman, we want you to state in your reply whether you are married or not, and if so, how many children you have and their ages. We would not care to engage a man with a large family, it would increase our responsibility, and if there are young children it would be an impediment to your wife's cooperation with you in the work, and we expect her to take an active part in W.M.S., the Ladies' Aid and the Sunday School.

We also object to our minister's doing manual labor. We have had pastors who persisted in working with their

hands and we object on the grounds that it is undignified, and looks as though he were impecunious, and it also reflects upon the church, as though they were not taking good care of him.

Again, we are not in much sympathy with preachers taking a vacation. We find no warrant for it in the life of Christ, and then it usually comes at a time when nearly all our church have gone to the country, or go out for the week end, and we think it is the place for the pastor then, to be at his post to hold the few together.

We need a good "mixer", and one who spends the major part of his time visiting the people. We expect him to preach sermons well thought out, deep, and homiletically finished. We are not satisfied with mere "talks" upon which little time has been spent.

And, lastly, we wish to remind you that the church of Macedonia calls you for one year only. If the church shows no marked signs of advancement during the year, we shall consider a change of pastors, accordingly we reserve the right to dismiss you at the end of the year. We shall await your early reply.

Sincerely yours,

Clerk of the Church of Macedonia.

Note: The above article was written in reply to an ironical skit on the preacher, entitled "Paul seeks an Appointment", when he writes to the church of Macedonia. This went the rounds of about all the religious papers, I got tired of it, and waiting for someone to reply to it, but as no one did I caught up a pencil and a piece of brown paper lying handy, and in a few minutes the above appeared. It was first printed by the Herald of Holiness, in June 1929. Later it appeared in the King's Highway.

Some of it may not fit quite so well today after a new generation has arisen, but I think there is application enough to merit reprinting.

H.C.M.

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

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text following, "Ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and (as a result) ye shall be witnesses," etc.

They had been a dejected group at the hour of crucifixion, but now in His resurrected presence their courage had grown by leaps and bounds. To a man, they would have rushed to the street and presumptuously argued His Messiahship in their own strength of mind. But God's plan for Gospel progress was not human skill at argument. It was to be Divine persuasion, using man as the open channel for the full-flowing presence of the Holy Spirit. This could be accomplished only when self was emptied of all carnal tendencies and filled with Divinity.

Beloved, have you this power? Are you conscious of the cleansing and infilling presence of the Holy Ghost? If not, may the Lord help you into this glorious experience of purity for Divine service. Without Him, you are a failure in the plan of God.

THE FIRE OF THE HOLY GHOST

It is the fire that prevails. For fifty days the facts of the gospel were complete, but no conversions were recorded. Pentecost registered three thousand souls. It is the cause that sets men ablaze which wins converts. Gladstone's fiery passion routed Parliaments and slew the giants of oppression. Wesley, Whitefield and General

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The King's Highway