

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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EDITORIALS

PREPARING FOR THE "CALL" MEETINGS

Churches of our denomination will soon be holding meetings to consider the important matter of pastoral leadership for the period following the 1959 Alliance Session. Ministers will be confronted with the necessity of making decision as to their sphere of service in the future.

I am sure that members of the laity and the ministry concur with the suggestion that these meetings are vitally important to both groups. In some respects they are the most momentous of the church year.

There should be a common concern that all who will have a part in these meetings, and all who will be effected by them, be as well prepared to make and accept decisions as it is possible for us to be. If some churches and pastors had been better prepared on previous occasions, better history would have been written. Church meetings have become a setting for very unfortunate situations because the people involved, laymen and ministers, were not really ready for the business in hand when the time for decision arrived.

Much prayer should be offered by all concerned during the next month. Our Lord spent a whole night in prayer before selecting his apostles. Churches should give special time and attention to prayer in preparation for "call" meetings. And ministers should likewise wait upon God for divine guidance. If more prayer were offered, less mistakes would be made. If the heart were enriched through much communion with God, the mind would be better prepared for deliberation and decision.

And we might well add to prayerfulness, a careful consideration of the regulations which apply to these meetings and a similar adherence to them. Our Church Manual provides specific guidance for us, and we would do well to follow the prescribed procedure so that all things may be done decently and in order. It may be helpful, as a reminder, to list some of the important statements of our Manual which apply to the "call" meetings: 1. "We recommend that the church hold its

meeting for the calling of pastor during the first week of March, and, the present pastor, if recalled, should give his answer not later than April 1st." p. 42, par. 7.

2. An ordained or licensed minister may be called to the pastorate of a local church, or circuit, by a two-thirds vote of all church members of voting age, voting at a meeting duly called for that purpose, provided that such a person be a minister of the Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church, or is recommended or approved by the Alliance Superintendent. "p. 38, par. 1.

3. "Only those persons who have been received into church membership and have attained to their fourteenth birthday shall be entitled to vote." 42, par. 5.

4. "Voting for pastor shall be done by ballot, ballots having been prepared by the church clerk." p. 88, section 3.

5. "If when calling a new pastor, the church desires to have arrangements made for calling a second, or third man, if the first called does not accept, there should be as many ballots as names desired listed. There should not be first, second, and third choices from one ballot." P. 88, section 7.

6. "The local church may, when voting to renew pastoral relations, after the pastor has served for at least one year, at a church meeting duly called for that purpose, extend the call for a period of two or three years, on condition that the recall for one year has been presented and a favourable vote received." p. 38, par. 5.

It would be well for all who are concerned that the "call" meetings be conducted according to the recommendations and regulations of our Church Manual, to read carefully the statements applying to these meetings as found on pages 38, 39, 87, and 88.

The conduct of all related to the "call" meetings, and any business meeting of the church, should be after the highest ethical standards. Kindness, courtesy, and unselfishness should characterize actions and attitudes. The Lord has been grieved, ministers have been sorely hurt, and churches have lost prestige in the community, because of unchristian statements made and situations created in church meetings.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all."

EVANGELISM, THE GREAT URGENCY

(Continued from Page 3)

become so obsessed with church needs that we forget world needs. If some of our own members cannot see the urgency of evangelism, then we must pray in new recruits.

Certainly God must be raising up some church "for such an hour as this." Will it be Wesleyan Methodism? With the world tottering on the brink of global war, is it not time for us to review our programs and objectives in the light of those who can read "signs of the times"? We must not abandon to Jehovah's Witnesses the great proclamation, "The kingdom of God is at hand." We must not leave all city-wide evangelistic crusades to Billy Graham and his excellent team.

Are we alert enough to know the movements of the Spirit at this point of the twentieth century? Are we abandoned to God's will enough to forsake personal interests and party spirit, so that God can place us at any point on the spiritual battle lines of earth and trust us to make a counter-offensive from that point? The day is still upon us, but "the night cometh, when no man can work." Before that night comes, God grant that Wesleyan Methodism shall have fulfilled its historic evangelistic mission.

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