

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE — REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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Editor - Rev. B. C. Cochrane

Associate Editor and Business Manager

Rev. E. W. Tokley

Contributing Editors: Revs. F. Dunlop, C. E. Stairs,

A. D. Cann

Other members of Committee: Revs. W. L. Fernley,

L. K. Mullen

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SPECIAL NOTICE

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EDITORIALS

MONEY DOES TALK

Appeals for financial aid are coming to us from every department of our denominational work. The Home and Missionary treasurers and the Bethany Bible College business manager have already been heard from. In this Highway there is an urgent appeal from our Alliance Treasurer.

Our churches are heavily taxed for the support of denominational projects. No one who is acquainted with the facts will deny this. Our budgets are much higher than those of most churches on a system similar to ours. In fact, I do not know of any group which levies a tax on its churches, that has a higher per capita rate. There may be some, but I do not know that there are. On the other hand, I do know that the per capita rate for denominational support is much lower with many churches than that upon which our budget allocations is based.

Three questions face us in this, that may be a crisis year in respect to denominational financing:

(1) Are the projects that we are asked to support worthy of sacrificial giving?

(2) Can our local churches meet the financial demands of budget and budget-plus giving according to our needs?

(3) If the lack of funds forces us to adopt a policy of retrenchment, where shall we curtail or suffer loss?

I believe that there is denominational unanimity on the first question—our denominational projects are vitally important and worthy of our best support. The personnel carrying the responsibility of service under denominationally sponsored projects is made up of a group of fine, consecrated people. The work they are doing is extremely important. Our missionaries, home and foreign, our Bethany Bible College faculty, and our Alliance superintendent, are giving splendid service in their respective spheres. I am sure that we concur in the opinion that these workers and the projects they represent for us are deserving of the best that we can give.

But are our financial commitments too taxing, is the burden greater that we can bear? From some quarters complaints are heard. "Our budgets are too heavy. We cannot give as much as we are asked to contribute, Local projects will suffer if we give too generously to denominational work". But are we giving as freely as we

might? What of our heavy expenditures for clothing, furniture, automobiles, T.V. sets, etc., etc.? Are we really giving to the point of personal sacrifice? I wonder. Then consider this suggestion—what churches are doing the best for local projects, those supporting denominational work, on a budget and budget-plus basis, or those who are giving only partial support? Only 55% of the churches reported in the statistical report for 1958-59 paid budgets in full. The remaining 45% fell short. And, surprising enough, a high percentage of the "budgets paid" group is in the low income division of our churches. Which suggests that it is not the matter of whether we can, as often as it is whether we will. We have already consented that our budgets are high. They must be high if we are to maintain our denominational work. But they are not too high for us to reach, if we are prepared to give sacrificially.

If we do not have a better response in budget support this year, we may be forced to reduce our personnel and restrict our activities. Are we in favour of bringing missionaries home from the foreign fields or informing home mission pastors that we cannot or will not support them? Must we notify the president of Bethany that he must dispense with some of his faculty members? Shall we be forced to discontinue our denominational superintendency? Surely we don't want any of these things to happen. And yet, we cannot hope to maintain operations on the present scale if we do not have more general and more generous support for denominational work. With aggressive leadership by our pastors, and whole-hearted response from our laity, we can be sure of help from God in a programme designed to keep our denominational workers at their posts and our denominational work on the move. Let us face the task with faith and fortitude.

May the financial support received from your church convey the message, "We vote for progress. Keep the workers on the job, and we will support them. Let our motto continue to be 'go forward'"

Money talks. Reaching the treasuries of our denominational departments it will convey a message that will gladden the heart of God and cheer the spirits of His servants.

The only message that has practical significance in a time of financial need is that which your dollars carry. So let them speak for you pastor, church member, until "their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world". Make their volume to increase from a murmuring chant to a mighty chorus, loud and full enough to be heard by all who serve God and our Church in the Homeland, and in the far-flung reaches of Africa and the Rhodesias!

The challenge is before us. We should not, and we need not fail!

JESUS WENT TO CHURCH

Dr. A. J. Gordon had a dream in his early ministry that was as real to him as the vision of Peter when he saw the sheet let down from heaven.

It was on a Saturday night. Gordon was weary from his preparations for Sunday. He saw himself in the pulpit before a large crowd, just ready to begin his sermon. A stranger entered the church, passed halfway up the left aisle and quietly accepted a place in the pew offered him by a gentleman. Gordon forgot the features of the stranger, but always remembered distinctly the other details of the scene.

After service, Gordon approached the gentleman with whom the stranger had sat. He asked, "Can you tell me who the gentleman was who sat in your pew this morning?"

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