

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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EDITORIALS

MORE FOR MISSIONS

A timely challenge for our churches might be the title of this editorial, "More For Missions". There are several important reasons why the slogan is apt.

The amount given for foreign missions is meager as compared to what is spent on the homeland work. Only eight of our churches reached a 10% mark in giving to foreign missions last year. The remaining forty-five or fifty fell below this mark, and some churches gave less than 2% in support of world missions. Think of it! Most churches of our denomination spend from \$90.00 to \$99.00 of every \$100.00 raised on local and homeland projects. Only from \$2.00 to \$10.00 is given in support of the foreign mission enterprise. Can we justify ourselves in this kind of giving? Surely 10% for foreign missions is little enough. The rate should be much higher. So, on the basis of what we have been giving (or not giving), the "More For Missions" slogan is in order.

Then, if we do not give more for missions we shall have to curtail our operations in the midst of the greatest opportunities we have ever had in this particular branch of the work. Practically every letter from the field informs us of new opportunities for expansion. We are launching a building project in Rhodesia which calls for erection of a hospital and doctor's residence. The enrollment at our Bible School is increasing so rapidly that is we cannot provide additional facilities, we shall have to turn students away. Government recognition and approval have set the stage for an aggressive move in this particular phase of the work, a move which calls for the construction of buildings adapted to Bible School work. This is a great opportunity, and a letter just received from our Superintendent, Brother Kierstead, suggests that the time for consideration of building is now at hand. The approaches of other groups who wish to affiliate or unite with us increases the challenge. And capable, consecrated young people continue to come forward offering themselves for missionary work. The only way we can keep pace with these developments is for our pastors and churches to accept a "More For Missions" slogan.

And if the local church will accept the foreign mission challenge, it will be blessed and prospered. It happens

without fail that the church which become missionary-minded in praying and giving, enjoys greater blessing and success in other departments of the work. Some make the mistake of taking the position that local needs must be attended to first and then, when churches are built, parsonages bought or constructed, and other local improvements made, attention will be given to foreign missions. The weakness of this outlook is that the time when all local needs are met never seems to arrive. The churches that are now doing most for missions, are churches that launched a strong missionary programme when faced with local demands that were heavier than those carried by most other churches. Giving to missions by churches is something like giving the tithe to the Lord. When we honour God by giving, or paying, our tenth, we are able to get along better on the remaining 90%. And when we put foreign missions to the fore in our local church programme, we shall get along better in supporting local and other denominational projects. This is a matter of history in our own work, as well as with many other groups.

Last year four of our churches contributed more than 50% of the total raised for foreign missions, although the same four churches raised only about 30% of the total giving of our Church for all purposes. And if you will check, you will discover that those same churches have had or do have very heavy building programmes. The "More For Missions" challenge was issued in these churches when very heavy financial demands were upon them. Ask the pastors and people of these churches, and they will tell you that the foreign mission emphasis has brought good results not only in respect to providing more support for missions and missionaries, but also in respect to local and denominational interest.

Once more we face the Easter Sunday foreign mission offerings appeal. In other years we have had an encouraging response to this appeal, but this year's call is more important than ever. Easter Sunday would be a good day for the launching of a really strong foreign mission programme in your local church. Even with the churches that are giving liberally to missions month by month, the Easter Sunday emphasis is timely. It would be a tremendously significant thing if the reports of Easter offerings for foreign missions were not only higher than ever, but contributed to by more churches than in any previous year.

When we meet at Beulah Camp this year for our Alliance Session, the questions of continued advancement or the retarding of our foreign missionary enterprise must be faced. The source of reference which will influence our thinking and decisions most will be the action or lack of action by our churches in respect to the Easter offerings and the year's missionary giving.

Consider the matter carefully, brother pastor and church member. Is it right that we give less than 10% to send the Gospel to the "heathen in his blindness"? Should we not aim at this as a minimum, and then go as much beyond as we can? Can we tolerate the thought of calling for a "slow-down" in our missionary work just because we give less than is needed to keep us moving forward? Will we forfeit the opportunity of obtaining the blessings that a strong missionary emphasis will bring to our churches? To these and other questions we hope the answer will be "More For Missions!"

REVIVAL FIRES ARE BURNING!

We hear of movings of the Spirit in a number of our churches. Special prayer effort is bringing wonderful results. In local churches and communities interest in spiritual things is high and many are seeking the Lord. These reports are thrilling. We wish that pastors would report

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