

## "Scattered" — But What?

By F. A. Dunlop\*

"They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." Acts 8:4.

Here is one example where God made the "wrath of men to praise Him". Jerusalem was not a large city; neither were its leaders sympathetic toward the Christian message. Confined to this immediate area the Church must remain small, and this was no part of the Divine plan. The Church had a World-wide Mission, and any agency which could be used to promote the Church's growth, God would utilize.

Persecution, though potentially dangerous to the infant Church, was the instrument at hand, and by its explosive nature Christians went "everywhere preaching the Word." Towns and villages were entered; Asia, Africa, Europe, were given first-hand knowledge of Christianity through encounter and preaching.

How increasingly prospective were the Church's possibilities for expansion through this method! Stay in Jerusalem and remain small, strike the missionary road and spread, were her alternatives. And the great Head of the Church, then, as now, will resort to drastic means, if need be, to get Christians on the move.

That "scattering abroad" was costly business. The best people the Gospel could produce were burned, beheaded and butchered, but out of it came a Christian stronghold in Antioch, Alexandria, and Constantinople.

History, however, teaches us that persecution is not the only method for expansion. Other means have proved successful, and different stages of church history have called for different methods. The important thing seems always to be — a falling upon the proper method.

It is convenient for a denomination to remain small, but it is also cowardly. Any reason offered for merely maintaining the status quo is selfish. Back of the argument, somebody is trying to protect somebody.

At our annual Home Missionary service last Summer an inspiration came to me. At least, I choose to think the vision was inspired. Up to this present, in a land of extensive borders, we have confined our efforts to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and the State of Maine. There are few cities throughout the entire Area of our endeavors and great stretches of sparsely settled communities between. If we had churches in every city, town and hamlet, of our constituency, we would still be small — small as other Denominations go. As I see it, an extension of our borders of activity is imperative.

The "scattering" mentioned in the beginning of this article already has been done. Out from our ranks have gone the very cream of our churches. I have met them in almost every area where my evangelistic efforts have taken me. I have been happy to find them giving their best to God's work where they are, but why have we not encouraged them to organize Reformed Baptist churches, and thus make way for our own peculiar message and witness? Forget it not, every Denomination carries its own peculiar stamp, and I have found many of our people now absorbed into other groups quite homesick for their first love.

Let's face it friends, the alternatives are confronting us: We can stay where we are and remain conveniently small, or, we can hit the missionary trail and plant churches in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Western Canada, the New England States, and on and on. Every new work established, is a potential for another nearby.

Come to think of it, we are a highly privileged people: We don't have to wait for God to act, He has already done so. I marvel that He has waited so long for us to move.

Where are the people we have in Areas beyond?

The King's Highway

Would you like to worship again under the Reformed Baptist Banner? If you would, write us the particulars in your specific case, and unitedly, we will seek Divine direction for future development.

\* Alliance Superintendent,  
Fredericton, N. B.

## The Morning Watch

By A. D. Cann\*

Dr. O. J. Smith, recognized the world over as a missionary statesman and soul winner, writes that during the many years of his ministry he has observed the morning watch. He states that he often prays audibly, and sometimes pacing to and fro. Praying audibly helps prevent wandering thoughts. Pacing back and forth helps to prevent drowsiness.

It is said that the late Dr. A. B. Simpson in his morning watch literally embraced the globe in prayer as it rotated from country to country on his study desk.

The systematic reading of God's Word conditions the mind and spirit for prayer fellowship. The "thus saith the Lord," takes hold of the human infirmities and lifts the man of prayer out of himself.

Guarding these sacred minutes in the early hour of the day is a necessity for the Christian. To have "utterance" whether in the street or sanctuary, time must be given to God's Word and prayer. Christians collapse again and again because of neglect at this point.

Isaiah said—"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;" Conversely, they who do not wait upon the Lord lack strength. Inward dimensions are narrow and shallow because we fail to wait on the Lord. There is little built-in strength from above.

Stanley High notes that Billy Graham spends an average of at least an hour each day reading the Bible, and spends perhaps that much time in prayer. It is while engaged in the exercise of reading and praying that most of his sermon ideas come to him.

Failure to read the Bible and pray results in failure under test. Opportunities for the defence of the gospel are lost. Souls slip through our fingers and fall into an endless eternity without God. When we do speak it is professional and leaves the sinner cold and careless.

Sometimes we are inclined to trace the work of Jesus purely to the fact of his deity. This is wrong. There were also other reasons. Listen! "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." People were healed because the God-man prayed.

George Muller of Bristol wrote and practiced these timely words—"Here is the great secret of success, work with all your might; but trust not in the least in your work."

"Pray with all your might for the blessing of the Lord; but work at the same time, with all diligence, with all patience, with all perseverance."

"Pray then and work. Work and pray."

"Speak also for the Lord, as if everything depended upon your exertions, yet trust not the least in your exertions, but in the Lord, who alone can cause your efforts to be made effective."

Satan wants both ends and the middle of every day. If he cannot keep the Christian from praying, then he will encourage the Christian to substitute praying for paying. If we are to reach our generation with a saving and sanctifying gospel we must pay a price.

\* Pastor, Black's Harbour, N. B.