

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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— Editorials —

LET'S ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

The announcement of a denomination-wide Sunday School Attendance Contest is a challenge. It is a call to action issued to every pastor and Sunday School superintendent. A denomination-wide response to the call cannot but benefit all churches.

The Sunday School is a vital link in the chain of influences forged by the Church. It is the beginning of church life for those who will make up the greater part of to-morrow's church group. It is estimated that 85% of all church members come from the group that attended Sunday School.

The extended attendance effort is much better than the single Sunday Rally. Sometimes intensive effort is made for a record-breaking S. S. Rally, producing an abnormally high attendance for one Sunday with a leveling off almost immediately. Such efforts have merit, but they do not produce the lasting results that may be realized from an attendance effort such as our Promotional Director of S. S. Work, Rev. A. D. Cann, has presented to us.

If we can enlist a large number of people in a co-operative effort for five Sundays, many who have been attending Sunday School spasmodically may become regulars, and the new scholars enlisted during the period of special effort may likewise be encouraged to attend regularly because of the sustained special emphasis. A climatic Rally for the closing Sunday is then a fine and worthy plan.

The Sunday School is a fertile field for Christian service. If we worked this field more carefully and earnestly, we would not need to depend so heavily on the salvation of adults in revival campaigns to keep the church strong. Children and adolescents are susceptible to the Gospel and we should aim at winning them to Christ in tender years. Then there is the all-important work of teaching, line upon line, and precept upon precept. We should aim to provide those attending our Sunday Schools a systematic plan of Bible teaching that will indoctrinate them in the fundamentals early in life. With the Bible as the primary text book, the S. S. quarterlies, catechism, etc., as supplementary helps, we may train up the children

in the way that they should go, so as to establish convictions concerning right and wrong that will remain with them so long as they live.

The challenge is before us. Let's accept it, and make this S. S. Attendance Contest a great success for the glory of God!

FAN THE FLAME!

Revival fires are burning in various parts of the world. Their glow is the brightest and most hopeful sign on an otherwise very dark horizon.

God has raised up many able, consecrated men, with passionate desire for a great spiritual awakening. Stirring sermons are being preached and written, earnest calls to fasting and prayer are being issued. Many are gripped with the conviction that it is revival for survival.

The pastors and people of our churches should be among those who respond most quickly and eagerly to this challenge. We have maintained belief in and emphasis on revival across the years of our denominational history. During some periods, revival campaigns were not accepted as widely as they are now, but even then the revival emphasis was kept alive in our churches. And for this, we thank God most fervently.

Wherever a spark is struck or a fire kindled that gives hope of a spiritual awakening, we should nourish the fire and fan the flame. God forbid that we should cast any dampening influence upon such beginnings. Let God choose His men and methods. May the Spirit work as He will. Revival may begin in the most unexpected way and from the most unexpected quarter, but wherever it may start, and whoever may be the chosen instrument, may it spring up and burst forth spreading like a prairie fire. If we propose to do anything about the fire, let's fan and fuel it! If we have anything to throw on, let it be oil and not water!

In his pungent book "Why Revival Tarries", (which, by the way, I would commend to all who wish to be stirred deeply concerning this timely subject) the author-evangelist Leonard Ravenhill declares: "For this midnight hour, incandescent men are needed. On the day of Pentecost, the flame of the Living God became the flame of the human heart to that glorious company. The church began with these men in the 'upper room' agonizing—and to-day is ending with men in the supper room organizing. The Church began in revival; we are ending in ritual. We started virile; we are ending sterile. Charter members of the Church were men of heat and no degrees; to-day many hold degrees but have no heat. Ah, brethren, flame-hearted men are the crying need of the hour!"

"O for that flame of living fire,
Which shone so bright in saints of old;
Which bade their souls to heav'n aspire,
Calm in distress, in danger bold.

Remember, Lord, the ancient days;
Renew thy work: thy grace restore;
And while to thee our hearts we raise,
On us the Holy Spirit pour!"

A FRUITFUL PRAYER

I AM WILLING,

TO RECEIVE WHAT THOU GIVEST,
TO LACK WHAT THOU WITHHOLDEST,
TO RELINQUISH WHAT THOU TAKEST
TO SUFFER WHAT THOU INFLICTEST.
TO BE WHAT THOU REQUIREST.
TO DO WHAT THOU COMMANDEST.

Amen.

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