

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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— Editorials —

CONCERNING THE CALLING OF PASTORS

During the next four or five weeks, many of our churches will hold meetings for the calling of pastors for the 1961-62 church year. The recommendation of our Church Manual is that these meetings be held "during the first week of March". (p. 42)

Again quoting from our Manual: "The meetings for the calling of pastors are among the most important of the church. They should be approached prayerfully, and conducted strictly according to the prescribed procedure, as well as under the highest ethical standards". (p. 87) The suggested order for the "call" meeting is found on page 88.

Without question, the pastor is a key man in any church. That would seem to be both scriptural and logical. The man who occupies the pulpit, directs the administration, and serves under divine appointment as overseer over the church of God, will quite naturally have a vital influence in and for the church he ministers to. As a preacher, as a leader, and as a man, the pastor exerts a profound influence upon the church and community in which he labours.

If the statements of the foregoing paragraph are true, then they are sufficient to substantiate the claim that meetings of churches for the calling of pastors are extremely important to both the minister and the people. Our approach to them, and our conduct of them, should therefore be in a spirit of Christian concern and consecration.

The democratic principle of free and private expression of opinion should operate on the highest level when churches and church members contemplate the casting of ballots on the calling of pastors. People should be granted the liberty of expressing themselves according to conscientious conviction, and there should be no effort or interference that is designed to hinder such expressions. On the other hand, the people who are conscious of the power of the ballot, should not misuse that power for selfish purposes. People should not resort to dishonourable tactics in an effort to steer the voting of others in a course that is according to their preference; neither should pastors employ unbecoming methods in order to "make their calling and election sure".

God has a place for each man, and a man for each place. It should be our common concern that pastoral appointments for the future be according to the will and wisdom of God. If this is the sincere desire and steadfast purpose of all concerned, the decisions of those who call and those who are called will produce results that are gratifying to us and for the glory of God. So may it be!

ARE WE DOING OUR SHARE?

Requests for financial help reach us from every department of our denominational work. For the support of our Alliance Superintendent, our Bible College, our missionary work at home and abroad, and for the payment of obligations related to denominational work, money is needed.

If each church of our Alliance will carry its share of the financial load, the various branches of the work will have the finances needed for debt-free operation. Some churches have greater giving potential than others, and these should carry the heavier part of the load. And we believe that the reports given at annual Alliance meetings indicate that they are willing to do so. But if the church with a lower giving potential does not carry its share of the burden, we will be forced to cast off part of the load or be faced with increasing indebtedness.

It is difficult to understand a situation described by some of our treasurers who, reporting receipts from various churches, list some as having paid **nothing** on budgets. We cannot think that this state of affairs indicates a totally indifferent and irresponsible attitude on the part of the churches thus classified.

Surely there is no church of our Alliance that would vote the superintendency out of existence unless it were absolutely necessary. And we are certain that there is not one church that would favour the closing of Bethany Bible College, the discontinuance of all missionary work, and the sale of our Beulah and Riverside Camp Grounds. And yet, when there is absolutely no support given to a project, we are, in effect, voting that it be abandoned.

Our financial problems can be solved quite simply by practical adherence to a slogan such as—"We will do our share". Concerned pastors and responsible laymen should take stock of the financial affairs of the local church to discover whether denominational work is lacking the measure of support it needs and merits.

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THE POWER OF PRAYER

(Continued from Page One)

outer world. Sundays, after church service, the sick woman would ask, "Any special interest in church today?" "No," was the constant reply. Wednesday nights, after prayer-meetings, "Any special interest in the service to-night? there must have been." "No; nothing new, same deacons made the same old prayers."

But one Sunday noon the sister came in from service and asked, "Who do you think preached to-day?" "I don't know. Who?" "Why, a stranger from America, a man called Moody, I think was the name." The sick woman's face turned a bit whiter, her eye looked half scared, and her lip trembled a bit, as she quietly said: "I know what that means. There's something coming to the old church. Don't bring me any dinner. I must spend this afternoon in prayer." And so she did. And that night in the service that startling change came.

Then to Mr. Moody himself, as he sought her out in her sick room, she told how nearly two years before there came into her hands a copy of a paper published in Chicago called the *Watchman* that contained a talk by Mr. Moody in one of the Chicago meetings, Farwell Hall