



## HOME-"SICKNESS"

by Rev. G. A. Inman\*

Some of the minor diseases a person is subject to in his life time are: measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, mumps, etc. There are other sicknesses one might experience, such as car-sickness, air-sickness or sea-sickness; none of which is very pleasant to endure.

There is another sickness that I am thinking of, which perhaps everyone experiences at one time or another, that is home-sickness. It is the sickness that cannot be relieved by a needle or a pill. That feeling which comes from a person's first time of being absent from home. Surrounded by strangers and new environment, the thought of the fellowship and understanding received at home leaves an empty feeling. Sickness of this sort is not considered a disease, but a sign of health.

However, I would like for us to think of Home-Sickness, from a different angle in regard to Home Mission work. In view of the sickness which shall occur if this part of the Lord's work is overlooked and neglected. One dictionary gives the meaning of the term sickness as "any disordered or weakened state".

May we consider only a few of the symptoms of this type of home-"sickness". The first might be that of, "A Lost Vision". In this respect there is a danger of us being far-sighted. The spiritual needs are forgotten around us. It is true every community is plagued with many churches. But until a town or a community has a church, which declares the Gospel of Christ, that is able to deliver men and women from their sins and give them a new life, it may be considered a needy area. Indeed, it is a field for Home Missionary work.

We are "Our brother's keeper". Have we forgotten who our neighbours are? What blessed opportunities are open to tell of Christ and His love to needy hearts and lives.

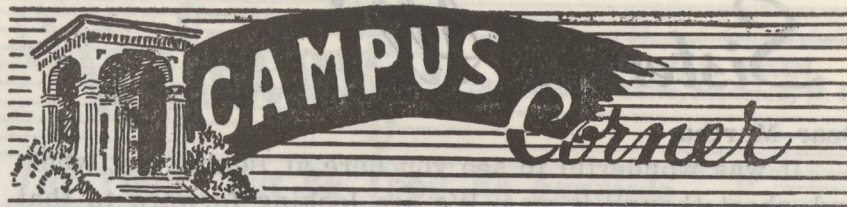
Another symptom is, "The Neglect of Prayer". I am sure as we realize the needs, we would not intentionally neglect to pray on behalf of the work in the homeland. But perhaps we have permitted the non-essential things to crowd out the burden for the work. Do you suppose if we spent more time in prayer, that the work would take on added interest, new enthusiasm; and men, women and young people would find Christ as their Saviour? I believe it would. Someone has said, "When men speak to God, God speaks to men." May it be our determination to pray, until we witness people being wrought upon by the Spirit of God.

There is another symptom which I hesitate somewhat to mention, that is, "The Failure of Giving". However, giving does play a major part. We are thankful for those who give. But somehow we feel more could be giving. It may be that we need to learn the lesson of "how to get along without the things, which we feel we need or would like to have," so that we might have to give. If our giving is of this spirit, the blessings received will far surpass the sacrifice.

Let us not fail to give, but may we purpose "to give until it hurts".

The last symptom might be, "The Lack of Workers". "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few". We can be thankful for those who have pioneered new fields. Their task has been great; confronted with cir-

The King's Highway



## IMPRESSIVE FACTS ABOUT BIBLE COLLEGES

The American Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges recently conducted a careful research on the preparedness of Bible college graduates for seminary work. "Tests show that Bible college graduates do just as well as graduates from liberal arts colleges when entering seminary. During the course of seminary study the men from Bible colleges actually did better than the men whose pre-seminary training was secured in a liberal arts college or an engineering college."

(Note that seminaries accept graduates of Bible colleges, as well as graduates of liberal arts college.)

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In the area of Bible knowledge, "seminary matriculants tested average lower than students finishing one year of Bible college, and are about 20 per cent lower than Bible college graduates."

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Speaking of Bible colleges in "The Pilgrim Holiness Advocate", Melvin Dieter says: "To the extent that a church at any level of its educational process forsakes a singular and primary devotion to a thorough grounding in the Word of God for its ministers and laymen, to that same extent she has revealed a basic shift in spiritual and evangelistic outlook."

"Out of this kind of atmosphere have come over half of our Protestant missionaries and a large share of our pastors and other Christian workers."

★  
Dr. Bob Cook (former President of Youth for Christ International) once declared that whatever vocation a Christian young person prepares for, his basic training should include several years in a Bible College.

Bible colleges **specialize** in preparing Christian workers.

Bible colleges **excel** in sending out laborers for the Kingdom.

Many spiritual youth **prefer** Bible colleges—like Bethany (Moody, Prairie, Toronto, and others).

circumstances and problems which are known alone to those who have experienced them.

We may have a vision, we may pray and give, but who will go, who will be willing to sacrifice if needs be in order that the Will of the Lord may be done, "on earth as it is in Heaven". It may be you whom the Lord is calling.

In view of the Home Missionary work, let us seek to avoid any symptoms that might suggest "disorder or a weakened state". May the Lord help us to do our utmost in being faithful in regard to the unfinished task.

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