

— Editorials —

Our Revival Strategy

Too long we have delayed a revision of our attitude toward the annual "revival meeting." Our thinking has got into a rut in this regard and we shall have to get out of it before God can do among us what He wants to do. The Church has never needed a genuine revival as much as it needs it today, a revival of spirit, of love, and of enthusiasm. But more often than we like to admit the so-called revival meeting passes and we find ourselves asking, "Why didn't something happen?"

We are much like the pig who had been getting out of the pen by going through a hollow log who, after the farmer extended the fence, went through the log as he had done before but could not understand why he still was in the pen. We too go through the hollow log, hoping it will get us somewhere. But we seem to be unaware that the fence has been extended. New problems have arisen. New forces confront us. And to overcome them we must devise a new and a more effective strategy.

In the past, certain methods have been successful. They have produced the desired results and on that basis alone we justify their continuation. But those same patterns, once so successful, do not do the job today.

Let us haste to say that some things do not need a change. The Word must still be preached. Prayers, desperate prayers, must still rise to God. The Holy Ghost must still convict men of sin and unrighteousness. And men's hearts must still be warmed by the great Songs of the Faith. But other areas of our program call for some radical revision.

1. WE NEED A NEW REALIZATION OF THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING. Is it not so that we often lift our eyes, looking for a harvest, only to discover, too late, that no sowing has been done? We believe that most of those who respond to the call of God during revival meetings are those who have been dealt with, in a personal way, previous to the meeting and possibly over a long period of time. If then this is the method God is able to honor and to bless, why not increase our effort at this point? Let us organize our forces and do our sowing early. The hour of reaping promises to produce a greater harvest.

2. THE CHURCH NEEDS REVIVAL BEFORE EVANGELISM. If the spiritual life of the church was as it ought to be, perhaps this step in our strategy would be unnecessary. The church ought to be "on fire" all the time. It should not be the unusual for there to be altar services, sinners being saved and believers sanctified. This should be the regular order. But such is not the case. Too often the new born babes of an evangelistic meeting find themselves in a strange environment. The enthusiasm of the "saints" does not seem to match their own. Their first visit to prayer meeting is a shocking one, for some of the "pillars" are not there. What then? Unless they are a rugged breed, able to survive the adjustment to a not-too-spiritual atmosphere, they lose their new faith and wallow back into a worse condition than before.

Successful evangelism, then, can only grow out of a church already having a revival! The evangelistic meeting becomes a matter of taking advantage of a healthy spiritual condition conducive to bringing new ones to Christ.

3. LONG-RANGE PREPARATION IS A MUST. The preparation for many of our evangelistic meetings takes place during the two weeks previous to the meeting. This cannot be right. Oh yes, the evangelist may have been engaged for a number of years. But have we laid our plans

carefully? Have we prepared our own church for the meeting? Have we let the community in on the secret? Have we prayed and organized, and given God a chance to work among us? We ought to remember that not even God works in a vacuum. God always works through prayer, plans, and men.

To our own defeat we have tended to make the evangelistic meeting the "whole" play rather than the "final" play. The evangelistic meeting as such ought to be the final and the climactic move in a series of moves over a long period of time. Improved strategy at this point would have saved us many a disappointment over an evangelistic meeting that did not prove successful.

4. EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS NEED UNITED AND CONCENTRATED CONCERN. More and more our evangelistic meetings are becoming shorter. Perhaps the age we live in demands that this be so, but all the more reason then to make the shorter meeting a concentrated one. We must face it. Some sacrifices will have to be made. But if a meeting is planned and announced far enough ahead it ought to be the Christian duty of all in the church to support it, even at the sacrifice or the re-scheduling of personal plans and activities. Nothing less will make possible the concentrated effort which will be necessary for a successful meeting.

These are not all the answers. They may be some of them. But certainly our revival strategy needs some revision. One thing sure, when we prepare the way God is ready to send a revival. May this happen soon in all our churches!

THANKS TO MRS. W. H. MULLEN

This issue of "Sisters All" brings to an end a column which has been written exclusively for The King's Highway by Mrs. W. H. Mullen, Wollaston, Mass. In the midst of many other calls of duty Mrs. Mullen has produced an outstanding column and we wish to express to her our heartfelt and sincere appreciation.

A good number of readers have written to express thanks to our hitherto anonymous writer. Mrs. Mullen's solid spiritual insights, coupled with her warmhearted understanding of life as it is "at home" has made her column richly practical and spiritually beneficial.

Again, we say "Thanks" to Mrs. Mullen. We are already looking ahead to a future time when she will do some more writing for The King's Highway.

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

Published Semi-Monthly at Moncton, N. B.

L. K. Mullen, Editor and Business Manager

W. E. Green, Editor Y. P. Page

All subscriptions and renewals should be sent to Rev. L. K. Mullen, Box 723, Woodstock, N. B.

All material, except notices, must reach the editor by the 15th and the 30th of each month.

— SUBSCRIPTION PRICE —

Per year, in advance \$3.00
United States Subscribers 3.00

Printed by Moncton Publishing Co., Ltd.

Printers and Publishers, Moncton, N. B.

AUTHORIZED AS SECOND CLASS MAIL
BY THE POST OFFICE DEPT. OTTAWA
AND FOR PAYMENT OF POSTAGE IN CASH

MONCTON, N. B., DECEMBER 31, 1962

The King's Highway