

— Our Pastors Speak —



COUNSEL FROM CORINTHIANS

ADDICTS TO APPEALS

by Rev. N. E. Trafton

One of the most refreshing expressions in Paul's letters appears in chapter 16, verse 15. "I beseech you, brethren, ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints." We know something about drug addicts, people addicted to alcohol, but a household that cannot resist giving to financial appeals—with a treasure. Paul admonishes the Church at Corinth, who excelled in gifts but not in giving, to remember Stephanas and his family who have supplied the needs of the saints as a ministry unto the Lord.

The people who cry poverty, who resist appeals, complaining that the church always needs money, never lead the way in any forward movement. Stephanas made giving a delight, and encouraged others to get behind the Gospel with their means. Paul is asking an offering for the saints at Jerusalem, who had shared the Good News with the Gentile world. In other words, the local church is asked to support the denominational program. Some churches like Corinth are weak in this direction. Some pastors are too, and the results are clearly seen. The Apostle is not asking for personal support, in fact here he had labored with his own hands that he might not be a burden to them. He will see to it that the budget reaches the denominational treasury at Jerusalem. A pastor who supports the entire program will succeed in his ministry, and in due time inherit a larger congregation. The pastor who plays down denominational support invites suspicion of his motives, and a question mark regarding his loyalties.

Another feature of giving is emphasized. Be wholehearted and systematic. When I come have it ready, says Paul, so there will be no gathering or pressure at the last moment. Lay in store the first day of every week for this need. The only way to raise the budget satisfactorily is to put it on a level of importance with the local needs.

The only sure way to raise money for any project is to do it systematically. The final idea that I shall inject into this article is the method employed by Paul himself. He requests them to appoint men to look after this matter, who will assist him in this ministry. A little more co-operation between the pastor and his people, would do wonders to improve the financial status of the church. Gimmicks will never take the place of sacrificial giving. We must have people who are addicted to the ministry of giving, who cannot resist the appeal for help. Thank God we have many, and may the example they set inspire others to be addicts also.

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The Gospel does not offer you wealth or a position of fame, but it does offer you grace whereby you can live a life that tells upon other lives for God and for His kingdom. There are broken hearts to mend, and evil forces to combat. God loves you, and I plead with you that you may bring your lives to him.

— Herbert Lockyear.

The King's Highway

BEULAH CAMP MEETING

BROWN'S FLATS, N. B.

JULY 6-15 1962

EVANGELIST



Dr. H. K. Sheets

Dr. H. K. Sheets, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, will serve as Beulah Camp Evangelist for 1962. Dr. Sheets comes to us with wide experience in Christian service, both within his own church and in a dozen or more other denominations. He has been an ordained minister and leader of his church for thirty-five years. Assignments have taken him around the world, in particular, Japan, Korea, and Australia.

Having ministered to our church in 1960 as guest speaker to Ministers' Conference and Denominational Youth Rally, we consider Dr. Sheets no stranger and we welcome him among us again.

Assisting with music at Beulah will be Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baker, Brampton, Ontario. The Bakers are singers and musicians, and will be making their first visit to Beulah.

Beulah Camp, having been held at Brown's Flats, N. B. every year since 1894, offers to our people the very finest in spiritual worship and Christian fellowship.

Dates for Beulah Youth Camp are July 20-29. Rev. N. E. Trafton will serve as evangelist and Bible teacher.

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I would not give much for your religion unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk, but they do shine. A lighthouse sounds no drum, it beats no gong, and yet far over the waters its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So let your actions shine out your religion. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by all your conduct and it shall not fail to be illustrious.—Spurgeon.