

OUR PASTORS SPEAK

EDITOR'S NOTE:

With this issue we begin a series of articles by our own pastors under the title, "Our Pastors Speak." To get the column going for at least one year six pastors have been asked to submit four articles each, thus making a total of twenty-four. We would like to think that this series could be carried as a permanent feature of our denominational paper. Rev. B. C. Cochrane, pastor of the Fredericton Church, retiring editor of The King's Highway, and a former Alliance Superintendent, has been asked to introduce the series. With pleasure we carry his first article in this issue. If these articles prove a blessing to those of you who read them, why not write the authors and say so!

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

by Rev. B. C. Cochrane

The word "fundamental" has suffered unmerited abuse. It has been wounded in the house of its friends. As a consequence, it is in ill-repute with many, attacked by some, avoided by others.

But we cannot, or should not, discard a word simply because its definition has been distorted through misrepresentation. Redemption is better than rejection. We wish therefore to use the word fundamental according to its most helpful and wholesome content as related to spiritual truths and experience.

Reliable dictionaries define a fundamental as "an essential or primary rule or principle" . . . " . . . of the groundwork, going to the root of the matter, serving as a base or foundation . . ." It is in this sense that we wish to use the word in this series of short articles. We wish to share with our readers a limited review of some of those things that are essential and primary to our Christian Faith, that "go to the root of the matter", and provide a foundation upon which we may build strong and stable Christian character and establish churches against which the gates of hell shall not prevail.

Obviously, a series such as this will not provoke the interest of any who may be aroused only by something new and novel. For "brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye had from the beginning". I pursue this course with deliberation and design, under the deep conviction that there is an urgent need of our re-examining and re-emphasizing the great doctrines that are historically and perpetually essential to the creation and continuance of "the faith once delivered to the saints".

"The duty of the Church to-day", wrote the able apostle of American Methodism, Asbury Lowery, "is not to discover and put forth some new doctrine, but to burnish up the old; not to coin a new currency out of other and richer materials, but to rub off the tarnish and dirt from the very fine gold that lies neglected and trampled under foot all around us."

Neglect of or departure from the basic beliefs of our Christian Faith has produced inevitable and disastrous consequences within organized Christendom. Lacking the vital truths which alone have power to lead men to repentance and regeneration, churches have resorted to wholesale admission into membership of those who have never been quickened by the Spirit or united to the Church of Christ which He hath purchased with His blood. These spiritual illegitimates, lacking the life and love of God in their souls, have permeated the Church with the spirit and standards of the world. Religious ritual and pageantry are employed as substitutes for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the services, and intensive efforts

DR. W. H. MULLEN GRANTED SABBATICAL LEAVE

On January 26, Dr. W. H. Mullen, full-time professor at Eastern Nazarene College, Wollaston, Mass., will fly to Johannesburg, South Africa, via London, to begin a six-month Sabbatical Leave. Dr. Mullen has been on the teaching staff of Eastern Nazarene College for sixteen years. He serves currently as Chairman of the Division of Philosophy and Religion and also Chairman of the Department of Philosophy.

Dr. Mullen's "home base" during his six months in Africa will be the Adams United Theological School, Modderpoort, Orange Free State. He will lecture at the College in several Bible and theological courses.

Considerable opportunity will be allowed for travel, and Dr. Mullen plans to visit as much as possible of the Reformed Baptist Mission Work in South Africa. Besides getting the "feel" of the current political and sociological scene in South Africa, Dr. Mullen will do research in Christian education, particularly as it relates to the typical African mind and its impact and influence upon it.

We are pleased to announce that during his six months in Africa, Dr. Mullen has agreed to write a regular "African Diary" for "The King's Highway" which will feature in an informal way on-the-spot personal reactions and observations.

BRAZIL MAYOR TAKES STAND

A Roman Catholic archbishop in Marilia, Brazil, has described Protestants, Spiritists, and Communists as enemies of the "holy Faith."

The accusation came about as a climax to a long struggle over city funds for the construction of a Roman Catholic Seminary. According to reports the archbishop allegedly promised he would direct his people to vote for a certain candidate for mayor if after the mayor's election he would give city funds for the seminary building.

City councilmen who got into office in this way, drew up a bill to grant money for the archbishop's project. The mayor, finding that the city was so short of funds that they were two months behind in paying the garbage haulers and street-cleaners vetoed the bill and published his reasons in the local paper.

—The Lutheran Standard

are made through organization and promotion to instill church loyalty into the minds and hearts of the adherents. Nominal christianity is the accepted standard in such societies, and if people are reasonably decent in their living, faithful or even erratic in church attendance, they will be offered the shelter of the church, encouraged to feel comfortable in their unregenerate state, and preached into heaven (according to the funeral sermon) when they die.

No church is immune to the deadly danger of spiritual decline. The modernistic church of to-day was the evangelistic church of yesterday. The insidious and insistent assaults of satanic forces can reduce any religious group to a state of spiritual impotence. Only as we keep vigil to preserve the life-giving beliefs and influences of our Faith shall we be able to continue in the great work of Kingdom-building. For "if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

With care and concern let us "walk about Zion, go round her, count up her towers, review her ramparts, scan her citadels, that you may tell the age to come what a God our God is forevermore" . . . Psalm 48:12-14 (Moffatt Translation).