

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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- Editorials -

THANK GOD FOR OUR CAMPS

How many who read these words can say, "It was at Beulah that I was first converted," or "It was at Beulah that the light of holiness first burst upon me," or "It was at Riverside that I was reclaimed," or "It was at Riverside that I received my call to Christian service," or "It was at Youth Camp that God first came to my young heart."

Thus who would even attempt to evaluate the ministry among us of our Summer Camp program? Most of us know those who are preaching today, serving as missionaries, or living as consecrated laymen, who became established in their faith at one of our Camps.

But the conversion of the unsaved, or the sanctification of believers, or the calling of Christians to special service, is only a part of the Camp ministry. For it is at our Camps that our hearts always seem to find blessing, that the ministers meet the laymen of our churches, that Christian young people have opportunity to meet with one another, that together, as representatives of the entire church, we gain new vision for growth, new incentives for service, and a new perspective on the total ministry of our denomination. It is at Camp that we establish new goals for the various denominational departments and where we lay the plans for individual church participation in helping to carry out these goals.

Thank God, today, for those in years past who with vision and divinely given foresight laid the foundation of our Camp programs. May the ministry of the Summer Camps continue to increase among us.

A WORD ABOUT YOUR BUDGET

Why is it that some churches, whether large or small, always raise their budget? And why is it that some other churches seldom ever raise their budget? The reason cannot be wholly economic, for some small churches, with only a few members, pay their budgets faithfully, while some others, with apparently much greater resources, let their budgets go unpaid.

Admittedly, certain circumstances and particular local conditions may be the hindrance, but we believe the real reason to be in the area of our attitude toward the budget—both from the point of view of the pastor and of the people. In this, the pastor is without doubt the key man. Generally, if he will lead the way, if he will present the

need of the budget to the church, and if he will lead the way himself in giving toward it, the church will catch his enthusiasm and will support him in it.

However, there are instances when this approach does not appear to be successful. The attitude of the people is such that they cannot feel to support the particular budget being presented. On this point, we believe a word is in order. It ought to be remembered that every budget represents a program of our church, approved and adopted by the Alliance, that these budgets are in some instances less than the minimum amount required to operate these programs, and that as members of the Reformed Baptist Alliance we are obligated to stand behind, in every way possible, the interests of the entire church.

Pastors and Churches, let this be the year when every budget in your Church is paid. This, in itself, will witness more eloquently than words to your faith and courage, and to your confidence in the ministry of the various departments of the Church.

★ ★ ★ THE MAKING OF A MINISTER

by C. E. Stairs

I do not speak as an authority on this subject, but I do speak from the vantage point of some training and some experience. Why do I speak? Because I feel a compulsion to communicate my conviction to our future ministers.

What is most important in the training of a minister? The answer will sound simple, I am sure, yet many young men—perhaps many schools—have given too little thought to this primary consideration. The most important concern in the making of a minister is the development of a deep, intelligent spirituality. All other concerns are secondary.

This development cannot be taken for granted—as though it came merely by aging; or as though it took care of itself while a man attended to other matters. This development cannot be neglected nor can it be slighted in preference for academic advantages. Spiritual development must be fostered. Therefore when a prospective minister contemplates his preparation he must consider his spiritual development first.

There are at least three significant factors in the development of the spiritual strength and sensitivity that a minister needs. (These factors are biblically sound.) One is spiritual environment: a place where Christian simplicity prevails and where spiritual interests predominate. Another factor is spiritual example, for the principle of reproduction pertains to the spiritual as well as to the physical even in lesser characteristics. And another factor is the concentrated and thorough study of the Word of God, for no subject can take its place in the development of spirituality and in the making of a minister.

Too many young men have gone too far in academic subjects before they undertook to learn the Word of God. In some cases they have become enamored by intellectualism rather than spirituality. Their thinking is lacking in biblical concepts and content—as is their preaching also. They are not true ministers of the Word. Their personal convictions are weak due to a lack of depth in revealed truth. Thirsting for knowledge they hurry on to fountains of education. Or desiring association with people of their own educational level, they leave the simple holiness folk for the higher classes of society, Alas! Alas!

All this could have been different if the proper foundation had been laid first. Higher education is excellent, but it must have the proper rock bed first.

Humility, that low, sweet root,
From which all heavenly virtues shoot.

—T. Moore