

# Sisters All!

Dear Martha,

We just concluded a very fine series of revival meetings. They were not spectacular, in one sense, but there were strong, intelligent messages, soul-stirring to older Christians, as well as plainly instrumental in winning or helping to establish a group of the young people, including our Frannie. The good number of bright, definite testimonies at the final service indicated heartening progress.

Many a minister would thank the Lord and let it go at that—saved sanctified, and petrified. But not our pastor! He realizes that growth, whether natural or spiritual, is fostered by occasional intensive treatments, followed by patient cultivation. When he had been here only a short time, Brother Parker preached a sermon on Christian growth that woke us right up. He deplored the fact that the ritualistic churches look upon it entirely as a process, while the evangelical churches emphasize only the crisis. Each method is so often advocated to the exclusion of the other, whereas both aspects are essential.

We all were impressed with his viewpoint and felt that this was the answer to something we had been needing. Out of it grew a series of Christian life discussion groups, which now meet Sunday evenings at the same time as young people's. We select our group sometimes by the subject that appeals to us: prayer and faith, the meaning of holiness, the social implications of Christianity. Sometimes groups specialize in Bible study or other great devotional literature, or even in the problems of special age groups. We change the format at least once a year, so that everyone mixes around with a variety of others over several seasons. Most leaders come from the regular church membership, but the pastor always conducts a special class for new converts.

These meetings have encouraged us to think of our Christian life as dynamic and developing, rather than as a static event. Problems don't always stay conquered all by themselves. We have to maintain spiritual victory even as we hold on to physical health, by a proper combination of nourishment, good habits, and exercise.

Both apostles Paul and Peter liked to use the figure of "growing" in their letters to the churches. Paul writes to the Ephesians (4: 14,15): "That we henceforth be no more children...but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things." Peter refers to it in the beginning of his first letter (1Pet. 2:2): "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Even his last words contained an urgent plea as well as a benediction: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18)

Do we continue to "grow in grace" as long as we live? In spite of human limitations, I believe that there is no end to the progress we can make, even here and now, in personal prayer and devotional life, in getting along with others, and in enhanced spiritual vision, understanding, and enjoyment.

The growing Christian, like the natural plant, seems to be characterized by certain stages—in the early years by a flowering radiance and enthusiasm, in the middle years by the fruitfulness of blessing and winning others, and in the latter years by stalwart grace and deep-rooted stability. This type of steady, healthy growth requires great effort and perseverance on the part of both pastor and people. Our reward is two fold; we have a vital, going church, and we have a wonderful sense of being individually "alive to God."

"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bring forth fruits in old age." (Psa. 92: 13, 14)

Your loving Sister,  
Mary



## CHURCH NEWS

FROM HAVELOCK, N. B.

Dear Highway:

Just a few lines from this part of the Vineyard.

As we approach "Thanksgiving Day" we are reminded again of God's special benefits to usward.

We spent a few days at Riverside Camp, and enjoyed the services and the Christian fellowship.

The following Tuesday, August 21, we began special services at Salem with Rev. Laurel Buckingham as evangelist. He preached well. The people in the area appreciated his ministry, and God honored the word with conviction on many hearts. Two were forward for prayer and although the visible results were small, there were some very worthwhile victories won. We closed with an all-day District Meeting on Labor Day.

We have just returned from our vacation which was a motor trip through Quebec, Ontario, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. It was wonderful to see so much pretty scenery at this time of year, and to be able to visit with our friends and loved ones along the way. The first Sunday morning we heard a student minister from Wheaton College preach in Faith Baptist Church, Whitby, Ontario, where John attends. That same evening we were at St. Clair Nazarene Church in Toronto. Grand message! Wonderful music! We visited with Deverne and Fannie Mullen and also with Mother Mullen whom we had not seen since Easter. She is staying with the Smiths in Toronto this winter.

The next Sunday we worshiped with Rev. Wendall Mullen, elder son of S. A. and Mrs. Mullen, Hartford, Conn., in his lovely new church. Had the privilege of assisting with the special music and of preaching in the evening service.

A highlight of our trip was our visit at E.N.C. Many changes had taken place since we were students there. We were glad to see so many of our own R. B. young people, and to meet with some former friends and professors of by-gone days. After spending a couple of days in the Boston area visiting relatives and friends we had an enjoyable trip home. The autumn colors were really breathtaking through Maine and New Brunswick. Arriving home we found our yard full of choice hard-wood. The people here are very kind to us and we appreciate them making such a trip possible to us. In our absence Brother Stafford Hutchinson supplied the pulpit. His ministry is always enjoyed by the people.

On October 2, Brother and Sister Samuel Burgess celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Over two-hundred friends and relatives gathered in the Hall at Havelock to make the event a joyous one. They received many lovely gifts and a generous amount of money. They are a grand couple and we pray God will spare them many more years to serve Him.

We are looking forward to having Rev. F. A. Watson with us in a revival effort at Killam's Mills, Nov. 4-18. Will you please pray with us for these services, that souls will be won to Christ?

Yours in His Service,  
J. A. and Mrs. Owens

If we attempt to expound the Scriptures let us read and meditate in private, not merely for others but for ourselves. It is a poor thing for a man to be continually occupied in procuring food for other people and he himself dying of starvation.

—Selected

The King's Highway