

# The King's Highway

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### The Folk On The Fringe

By W. T. PURKISER

Every growing holiness church has two kinds of people in its orbit of influence. There is the hard core of those who carry the loads of responsibility and service. And there are the folk on the fringe. Paradoxically, the folk on the fringe can be the measure either of success or of failure.

For the folk on the fringe are, generally speaking, either on the way in or the way out. Those on the way in are the measure of the church's effectiveness in reaching out into its community and drawing the needy toward its fold. Those on the way out are the measure of the church's failure to integrate and hold those who have felt the magnetism of its message of full salvation.

We may therefore think of the folk on the fringe as either problem or promise. To the extent to which we can harden our hearts and reconcile ourselves to the loss of any soul for whom Christ died, they constitute a problem. Then the only real question is how to drive them off and get rid of them as expeditiously as possible. Generally that isn't hard to do, and there are some who seem to have cultivated the art pretty nearly to perfection.

But there is promise in the presence of the folk on the fringe. They are an immediate challenge to the church and its leadership. When once we see that human life never stands still and its relationships are never static, we sense the urgency of drawing more and more of the folk on the fringe into the hard core of responsibility and service. For if they are not drawn in they will certainly be driven out.

To the degree that we are successful in bringing nonchurched people into the circle of the church's influence, we will find among us those whose standards differ greatly from our own. If our attitude toward them creates a hurdle they must overcome we shall doubtless be guilty of shutting up the kingdom of Heaven against those who would enter in. On the other hand, if our attitude toward them constitutes an invitation to a new and better way of life, it may easily make the difference between deliverance and disaster, and even between heaven and hell.

How Careful and Christlike we need to be at this point! My heart was stirred in reading recently the words of J. B. Chapman in the Herald of Holiness of May 26, 1926:

"And it also often occurs that in standing against worldliness in principle, preacher and people become needlessly offensive because of their exaggerated emphasis upon incidentals. There are some preachers who are splendid so long as they stay with the essentials of faith and practice, but who are unfit for children and youth to hear when they get off into tangents and 'dig' em up' on particulars of dress and social practice. There is no more reason why a preacher should use salacious language than there is that yellow journalism should use it, and there is no reason why preachers and people should occupy themselves with the incidentals of dress and behaviour in such a way as to drive people away before

## Wanted

100 SUBSCRIBERS WHO WILL RENEW THEIR HIGHWAY THIS WEEK.

PLEASE BE SURE YOUR YELLOW LABEL SAYS 1963.

THANKS,  
L. K. MULLEN, Editor

### Home Mission Day

Get —now for 'HOME MISSION DAY,' SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th.

Ready May we prepare our hearts and minds, in view of the Home Mission work. Let us pray to the end that our vision of the needs in the homeland, as well as in foreign lands, may be broadened.

Set —new objectives for this year. Purpose to give your best that a Record-Breaking offering will be received on Home Mission Day. The Financial program has increased over that of last year. We look to you to share in carrying the extra load.

Go —is the great commission for today. It was Christ's aim during His earthly ministry. On one occasion, He said to His followers, "Let us GO into the next towns, that I may preach there also."

Oct 13 Before His ascension into heaven Christ reminded His early disciples of their responsibility, in the command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Some have gone, some are going, will you go? May we join together, by prayer, labour, and financial support; to put the "GO" in the GOSpel.

they have heard the saving message of truth as it is in Jesus Christ."

These are strong words, but absolutely true; and we ignore them only to our sorrow and to the damage of those God has put under our care. If we take seriously what we have been saying about the urgency of evangelism, we will welcome the folk on the fringe as our promise for the future. They are the field we have to work, and will become part of the force with which we work as we bring them into the spiritual and dependable core at the center

The Herald of Holiness