

- Editorial -

A TIME FOR PRAYER AND PATIENCE

Many of our most serious church problems develop out of the "pastoral recall." Unfortunate, too, for in most instances no one starts out deliberately to create a problem.

But why the problem at all?

Part of the answer lies in the fact that the whole matter of the pastoral recall is covered with sensitive spots. Strong feelings, created by strong ties, are involved. Human weaknesses and short-comings are involved. Loyalties and traditions are involved. And, usually, family relationships are involved.

And the problem is a difficult one for both the pastor and the people. The pastor must ask himself, "Should I remain longer?" — and consequently run the risk of overstaying what might have been a very successful pastorate. Often a decision to stay involves the pastor in conflict and division which he might easily have avoided by taking another church. But, feeling his work was not done, he stayed. In some instances, however, pastors have hurt both themselves and the church they pastored because they seemed to be incapable of discerning the proper time to leave a church.

On the other hand, neither should a pastor feel that because he has been in a church for four or five years that he necessarily ought to leave. The history of individual churches would suggest, at least generally, that longer pastorates are much more healthy for a church than shorter ones.

But the people also have a problem. Supposing they feel that a change is due, and in the best interest of the church, but still love and respect their pastor so much that they find it quite impossible to vote against him. How can they convey to him their true feelings without it taking on the appearance of disloyalty?

We may as well admit it. The pastor-church problem is a tough one. But does not this offer to us a grand opportunity to put into practice the very principles which we preach and which we profess to believe?

A number of our churches are facing, at this very time, the matter of their pastoral recall. Such an issue, so important and so difficult to handle, ought to call those concerned to serious prayer and to prolonged heart-searching. This is a matter that requires, necessarily, the sure guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let no one commit himself to a course of action without the green light of Spirit guidance. Unwise action at this particular time can create calamity.

Prayer and patience seem to be our best insurance against misunderstanding. Let both be among us in superabundance during this critical time.

BETHANY SUNDAY-FEBRUARY 17

Bethany Bible College, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, now in the midst of its eighteenth year of operation, continues to serve the entire Church in the vital capacity of training our ministry, both at home and abroad, and in sending forth dedicated and spirit-filled laymen into every walk of life. This gives to Bethany a noble calling and one which ought to inspire and command the highest interest and support from all of us.

But over and above every denominational consideration, as important and as critical as each day may be, Bethany participates in even a higher goal — that of instilling Christian principles and holy ideals into the hearts and minds of youth all across the Maritimes and

Maine, whatever their denomination happens to be. Bethany is the Reformed Baptist contribution to Christian Education and we must ever see its support as a blessed privilege and never as a mere obligation which has been thrust upon us.

The financial needs of Bethany, at this particular time, are tremendous. The call on February 17 is for every Church and every interested individual to ask the Lord to make it possible for them to contribute generously. Let Bethany's offering this year be a record one. Let us strengthen the hand of the administration by a real vote of confidence. This is a service to the Lord. Let us give accordingly.

In Appreciation

To B. C. Cochrane, N. E. Trafton, B. M. Hicks, S. E. Cameron, G. B. Bridgeo, and W. C. Burbury.

These six men, each by contributing four articles, have made possible an entire year of the column "Our Pastors Speak." With the publication in this issue of Brother Burbury's last article this particular series comes to an end. Each man was asked to choose his own subject of writing and we wish to commend them, both for their choice and for the fine manner in which their articles were prepared. In our opinion, these articles have been "top-notch" and have added greatly to the quality of our denominational publication.

And although we are sorry to see this series come to an end, we are happy to announce that with the next issue of The Highway a new series will begin under the heading "Our Missionaries Speak." Eight of our missionaries in Africa have each prepared three articles for publication and we shall be starting the series with the articles of Rev. C. D. M. Sanders.

RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

I have long ceased to pray, "Lord Jesus, have compassion on a lost world!" The Lord rebuked me for making such a prayer. He seemed to say to me, "I have had compassion on a lost world, and now it is for you to have compassion."—A. J. Gordon.

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
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