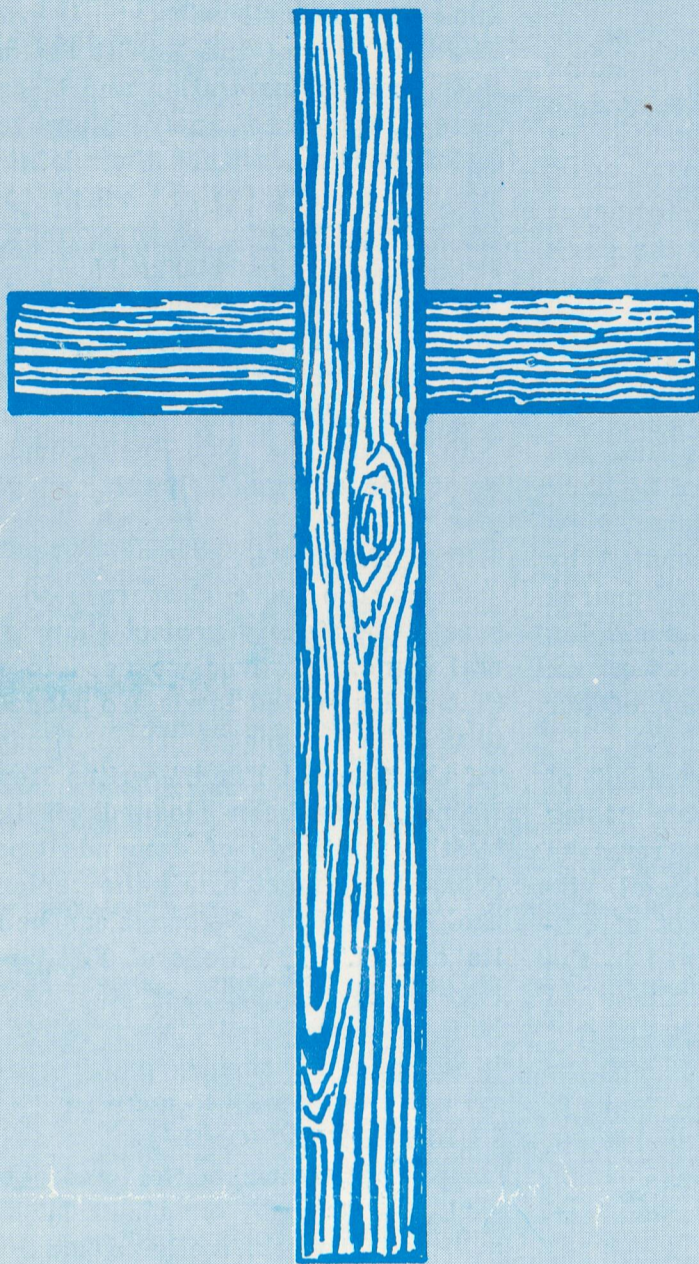


YARMOUTH, N. S.
HOWARD COGSWELL
R. R. No. 5
Sept. 64



the King's highway

MERGER COULD BE A MISTAKE

On the other hand, it could be a move in the right direction. As a group we cannot ignore the trend toward union that is gaining momentum as time passes. Already several distinctive holiness denominations have joined hands and the results have been beneficial for both parties. As an Alliance, we have agreed to provide our people with information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of a proposed union with the Wesleyan Methodist Church. We must have courage to dispense with prejudice or tradition, and seek to discover whether God has a plan for us that would enlarge our field of usefulness. As a matter of personal opinion, I venture to share some of my feelings in this regard...

First of all, the name Wesleyan Methodist Church, in my opinion, expresses what we are and what we believe, more clearly than the one which we have held for nearly seventy six years. In all our attempts to suggest a name we have never found one as concise and meaningful.

Secondly, we would share in benefits that we could not provide for ourselves, such as, A Publishing House, World Headquarters, better missionary opportunity and supervision, enlarged educational advantages with increased support for our Bible School program. Furthermore the oversight of a General Board and General Officers would provide the type of leadership that we ur-

gently need. Another benefit would be the opportunity for our pastors and evangelists to consider new areas of service, and the influx of worthy men from other conferences to ours.

Thirdly, the advantages received from being part of a larger family fellowship. Smallness may have its good points, but there are some dangers as well. It is so easy to become ingrown and restricted in vision: to follow the same pattern, for lack of stimulation which comes from the sharing of ideas with others. Another pertinent problem is the lack of proper respect for authority, and because our circle is small we become irresponsible and insubordinate to the point that denominational projects suffer. As Ministers, leadership from a central church authority would be healthy for all of us, and especially good for some of us.

Space permits me to point out only one more important fact. Our doctrines and standards are comparatively identical, and procedure in worship and administration are much alike.

Like all good marriages, the adjustments should be accomplished without too much

strain on either side. My purpose in sharing these ideas is to create a desire for more information on this important subject. Possibly you are convinced that merger would be a mistake. Why not put down your reasons in writing? If suitable your article may appear in the November issue.

N. E. Trafton, Editor.

PRAYER REQUEST

Mr. Joseph Moses is a patient in the Boston Deaconess Hospital for treatment and possibly surgery. Prayer is requested.

1964 ALLIANCE MINUTES

The 1964 Alliance Minutes are now ready for distribution. The cost is .50c per copy. Please place your order as soon as possible.

L. K. Mullen
Box 723
Woodstock, N. B.

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