



Bethany Bible College

# the King's highway

## GUEST EDITORIAL "KEEP IN A DRY PLACE"

Byron E. Lamson

"Keep in a dry place." This was the instruction on one of the boxes used in moving my library to the editor's office. For the safekeeping of the product originally packed in that box, this advice seemed necessary. Something inside the box was subject to injury from a damp environment.

"Keep in a dry place" —this is a negative proposal. It aims at preservation, protection, and survival. For some, this is the soundest advice one can follow. They know that we are living in a dangerous world, and that the future holds little hope for improvement. This is a technique for survival. Escape from the city complex of problems and retreat to a quiet suburb of living—"Keep in a dry place."

### Security Complex

The typical advice given a young man in choosing a profession is:

1. Select a business with adequate financial resources.
2. Enter a profession which offers prestige and social standing.
3. Make sure about advancement opportunities, salary and retiral program.

In addition, play it safe. Don't be a radical. Certainly one cannot afford to "go out on a limb" or champion any causes, especially unpopular ones. Keep your life, your influence, your service strictly under control and for your own personal advancement: "Keep in a dry place." Save yourself.

### Fatalism

Implied in such a philosophy of life is a deadly fatalism. Things are what they are, and what I do doesn't make any difference. The medical people in one country I visited have no program for improving living conditions in dirty towns. They could clean

them up, they admitted, but in two weeks all would be filth again. Dirty cities are that way because the people living in them want them that way. There seems to be no idea that men could be changed, and that new men would create new cities. Keep the cities as they are—"Keep in a dry place."

### Salt

According to Jesus, His followers are to function as salt in the world. Salt has value only as it comes in contact with food. Salt makes things taste better; salt kills poisons; salt preserves the good. Don't keep salt in the storehouse; rub it into the places of possible decay. Where life is flat and futile, the salt of the Kingdom is needed, with its cleansing, healing, stimulating outlook and power.

In Japan, Christians plan to work harder and better than the non-Christians. This is their testimony—their way of commending the gospel to their culture. In the first centuries, Christian penetration of society and triumph over pagan religions is explained by competent scholars on the ground that the Christians "outthought, outlived and outdied the pagans." Once again this simple but tremendous witness would shake our culture to its foundations.

Roger Babson is reported as saying: "Any three men, if they really want to do it, can fill any church." A deeper commitment to Christ and the needs of men is called for.

### The Program of Jesus

Our society is headed for more leisure. At present we have a "two-day" weekend; soon it will be extended to three and four days. How will this time be used? Will we plan longer trips and more fun for ourselves? What possibilities for larger service to Christ and His church!

Paul not only warned his converts about world conformity, but moved up to the higher level: "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind." "Repent"—change your mind. This is the great word, the great idea of the New Testament. Men can be changed; and the world, by God's grace, can be changed. The promise is that ultimately Christ will put down all rules and all authority and power. "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

This sounds like a big program, an impossible dream. Yes, it is an audacious expectation which, humanly speaking, is impossible. Large program — but a mighty Christ. He calls us still, as in the long ago by the shores of blue Galilee, "Follow me."

### The Jericho Roads of Life

We believe that our Lord is out on the Jericho roads of sin, frustration, loneliness and despair with the message and the power to heal and redeem broken men and a bruised society. Our responsibility now is to find Him and work with Him there.

This is where the witnessing Christians  
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