



the King's highway

LEADERS' CONFERENCE

The privilege of being part of the Leaders' Conference at Headquarters in Marion, Indiana, provided the representatives of our Atlantic Conference with heart warming inspiration and soul stirring challenge.

From 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6 to Thursday noon, December 8, Revs. C. E. Stairs, B. C. Cochrane and I joined the Conference Presidents and Vice-Presidents from across the church, along with the College Presidents, as they met with the General Superintendents and Departmental Officers. As new members of such a gathering, we were cordially welcomed and made to feel very much at home.

Following registration, the first afternoon of the conference was taken up with a very impressive service of dedication of the reconstructed Headquarters Building. Among those taking part in the service was Mr. Larry Olsen of South Dayton, N. Y. Brother Olsen is a Wesleyan Methodist layman and was the contractor in charge of the reconstruction. We were impressed with his devotion and dedication as he testified of God's goodness and help during the difficult days of rebuilding while trying to salvage as much of the tornado torn wreckage as possible. How grateful we are to God for such capable laymen who invest so generously in the work of the Lord. We were reminded of our own Bro. Joe McDowell and his contribution as the Bethany contractor. Following the service, which was attended by about 80 headquarters personnel in addition to the visiting conference officials, we toured the new offices and printing plant. Space does not permit a detailed descrip-

tion. How we wish it were possible for our people to visit Headquarters. The building and its equipment present a most attractive appearance while proving very functional and practical.

The remainder of the conference session was given over to reports, papers, discussions and challenging addresses. The program realistically faced the problems of the church and with faith and vision charted a course of progress for the days ahead.

As has been the case in all our contacts with the leaders of the church heretofore, we who represented our Conference were impressed with the spirit and wisdom demonstrated by each of the leaders. We found the conference leaders and college presidents to be warm hearted men with a keen desire to extend the borders of Christ's kingdom. The common heart cry was that we might experience genuine revival across our church.

All with whom we conversed expressed appreciation that we had become one. They spontaneously gave evidence of a sincere welcome, not only to your representatives personally but to our entire denominational family, to the fellowship and ministry of

the church. We found it natural to feel at home and once again discovered our conviction of God's seal upon our merger strengthened. As Bro. Stairs joined the college presidents in presenting the work of their respective institutions, great interest was expressed by many conference officials in the place our Bible College can fill in the future of the church.

The conclusion of the conference featured Dr. Melvin Snyder, General Superintendent of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, in a most forceful and challenging message. It was particularly timely since the merger of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Pilgrim Holiness Church seems assured. Plans are now taking definite shape for a merging General Conference in 1968.

I must forego the temptation to report at greater length and detail. Suffice it to say at this point that we are happy to be part of this new denominational structure. We look to the future with renewed faith and expanded vision. As we share in the blessing of this larger fellowship, our prayer is that we shall make a worthy contribution to the outreach of the church through the ministry of our Atlantic Conference.

THIS ISSUE

GETTING THE BEST
OF
CRITICISM