

tating to Him in asking Him to find a purchaser for my plant, without finding out whether or not God would have me to dispose of the same. I then told the Lord I was ready to preach and print, preach alone or print alone, which ever He made known as His will for my life.

"I locked the door of my office and went home, perfectly at rest in heart. The next morning, God had sent to my office five different men who said they had read the ad and had thought they would come in. They talked over the matter with me, but put it off. Not one of the five men knew another of the group. At two o'clock that afternoon a deal had been closed with one of the men and I was out of the business.

"The lesson I learned was, that it does not pay to dictate to God. Too often, we ask the Lord to show us His will, but we go about to make our plans foreign to God's will, or in other words, trying to bend God's will to fit into our plans. Such lessons as these have helped us at Bethesda.

"And remember," he forcefully repeated, "God will do the same for you and your church as He has with us if you'll dare to launch out on a program of world-wide evangelism."

HOW TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE
They are constantly giving out. Their prayer life.

THEIR WISDOM
What to do. When to do it. What not to do.

THEIR MATERIAL NEEDS
Finances. Food. Means of travel.

THEIR STUDY
Time and inclination. The language. Lessons and messages.

THEIR CONTACTS
With the Christians. With the unsaved. With the other missionaries.

THEIR HELPERS
God's choice of helpers in the home and in the Church.

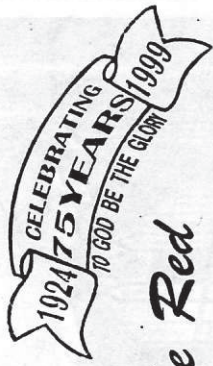
THEIR HEALTH
General health. Protection from insects, parasites, etc.

THEIR CORRESPONDENCE
Contacts with the home helpers.

—Orinoco River Mission.

Bethesda Church "Missions Through the Years"

\$45,000 In the Red



A LITTLE BAND of thirty-five people were staggering under the tremendous load of a \$45,000 debt. \$20,000 had accumulated for current liabilities, and a bonded indebtedness of \$25,000 weighed heavily upon the members of Bethesda Evangelical Free Church of Minneapolis.

Close friends and even those within the work saw not one ray of hope. Creditors were waiting for the doors to be closed permanently, so that they might salvage a pittance of their money. It was the unanimous opinion of everybody that they should admit failure and quit. To make matters worse, this little group had no pastor. No man wanted to become a pastor of a church which was \$45,000 in the red!

That was twelve years ago.

Today, things are different. Instead of 35 people there are nearly 1,000 in the regular services each Sunday. Instead of 100 in the Sunday School there are now over 1,200. Instead of 15 at prayer meeting there are nearly 300. Instead of a building with a \$45,000 debt there is now a \$90,000 building paid for to the last penny.

Curiously enough, this amazing turn of events began when a young preaching layman came to Bethesda

Church with a burning passion for the souls of men around the world.

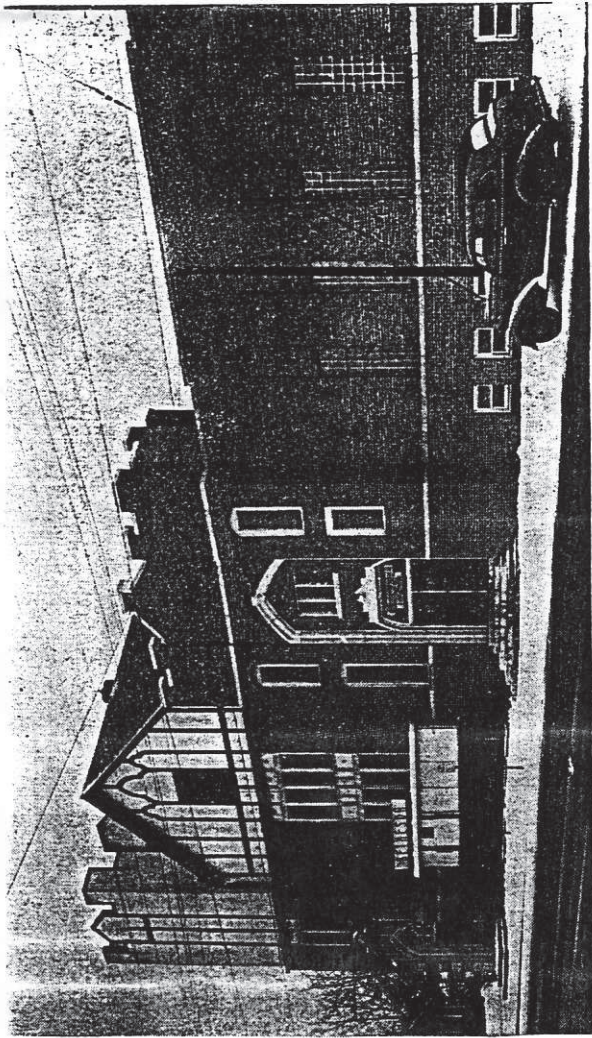
His name is Henry B. Prince and he insists in a humble manner, "There is nothing sensational about the work at Bethesda, nor is it due to the personality in the pulpit. God will do the same thing for any church that dares to launch out and get the gospel to the regions beyond. God's own Son was a foreign missionary and those who follow in the footsteps of His Son are the recipients of special blessings from the Father."

That his idea has worked seems obvious. Before he came to Bethesda \$13.01 had been given to Missions. This year they expect to spend \$25,000 for Missions.

In order to understand how Henry Prince came to such an unusual sphere of usefulness it will be necessary to go back to the beginning.

Of St. Paul birth, he was taught prayers and grace in his home, taken to the Sunday School at five and joined a Congregational Church at twelve. Until the age of 21, as he says, he had "lots of religion but no salvation." Then his two sisters were saved and began talking about salvation over the dinner table.

However, having just finished a



dancing school and playing professional football he had no interest in such things. His sisters were slightly beside themselves—was his verdict.

But soon conviction came and increased until one night he slipped out of his bed and onto his knees. After reading John 5:24 several times he accepted Christ as his Saviour.

Immediately, he set out to win others to Christ and he's been busy doing that ever since.

Sunday School classes, street meetings, gospel teams and then evangelistic services followed. Always he left behind scores of souls who had found Jesus as their Saviour.

Printing during the day (he had his own printing business) and preaching at night he soon began taking evangelistic campaigns around the country.

About this time a curious set of circumstances took place. A neighboring church, near Bethesda, invited him to preach at a series of evangelis-

tic meetings. Bethesda joined in a two-week campaign for souls. Impressed with the punch that this young preaching layman had they invited him to preach in their church during the month of July in the summer of 1929.

It was a discouraging month. Just a handful of people turned out. At a prayer meeting there were only six including Prince and his wife.

Then in September the young layman was invited to preach again. And in October, they asked him to continue until the first of the year. On the first of the year they extended him a call to become the pastor of the church. At first he rejected the call. Firmly he declared that he would not take the church unless he could establish and lead a weekly prayer meeting and carry on a missionary program central to all other activities of the church.

Immediately some registered their

complaints. "What? Start a missionary program when we are \$45,000 in debt?"

The young pastor's only reply was, "You've tried everything else. Now, why don't you give God a chance to work in His way? A vital missionary program is the only way out."

Gradually members of the congregation began to realize the truth of his statement. And they decided to take "as their excuse for existence the evangelization of the world."

Then things began to happen! Missionaries from every society were invited to present their work. Hearts were stirred. Pocketbooks were opened. Attendance increased. Missionary giving abounded. The church treasury was filled over and over again. Soon the debts were liquidated.

Strange thing was that the more the church gave to missions the more they seemed to have for themselves. Before the young layman had come to the church they had given \$13 to missions. Twelve years later they had averaged \$4,162 per year to a missionary program.

For the year of 1945, they expect to reach \$25,000 with a program which calls for fifty per cent of the income in the church, Sunday School, and all affiliated organizations into the missionary fund.

Bethesda now supports missionaries in Alaska, China, South America, Central America, India, Africa, and the United States, besides giving thousands of dollars each year direct to mission boards.

Now, Pastor Prince carries on a

daily radio program "The Bible Hour" which is heard over a network of stations throughout the middle northwest and also edits a 16-page magazine for his radio listeners, "Things New and Old."

Today, Prince says, "If there is one lesson Christians need to learn, it is that after committing themselves to the Lord, they should take their hands off and *let God work out His will.*"

"An experience which I have had will explain what I mean," he continued. "The Lord had been blessing the work at the church and we were actually turning people away. Calls were continuing to come in for the evangelistic meetings and I saw that I could not run the church and a business and also hold evangelistic campaigns without breaking under the load.

"I therefore, came to the conclusion that the thing to do was to sell my interest in the printing business.

"Immediately, I deposited thirty-five dollars with a business service. For this amount these people were to advertise my plant and contact prospective purchasers. Three months went by—I heard nothing from them and grew quite discouraged.

"In talking to Mrs. Prince one evening over the phone in regard to the matter, she rebuked me by saying, 'You are always in too much of a hurry, and do not seem to learn the lesson of patience and waiting on the Lord.'

"I accepted her rebuke and sat down to think things over. At the conclusion, I knelt by my office chair and told the Lord that I had been dic-