

# RURAL CHURCH AWAKES TO LARGE OPPORTUNITY

By ALTA M. GENTRY.

The importance of the rural church to the commonwealth has been such that it is impossible to measure it. It is only when we go to the statistics that we can realize the vast importance of the many small organizations throughout this country that are worshipping God, not with the danger and persecution of the years of long ago, but with the heart breaking problems of indifference, neglect and the ever increasing attractions that turn men from the things of the spirit and to the things of the world. But while each small rural church is face to face with these problems, many times discouraged by them, the work they have been doing has not been lost and statistics show that 86 per cent of those included in Who's Who received their religious training in the small rural church. The leadership of the country has been coming from these communities and, in one denomination alone, 75 per cent of the ministers of the church are from the church in the open country or the small village.

All this in spite of the fact that until a few years ago the rural church was the stepping stone only to the city church. Now the rural church is receiving the careful study of leaders of all denominations which recognize that when they neglect the country field they are neglecting not only the source of church leadership but also of the leadership of the nation.

With the coming of this new focus of intellectual power on the rural church and community there has come in the past few years a great change in the church itself or rather in its activity. Where in the past it was a place where people worshipped on Sunday and then left it for the week, except perhaps for the midweek service, it has come to be a factor in the life of the community that touches every phase of its life. No longer does the church hold itself aloof but rather takes the lead in all sorts of community movements.

The church of the old day was built to house the denomination. The modern church is built to serve the needs of the community. In this day the church that does not create a demand for itself will not grow and will not reach the people that need its ministry.

The church should serve. If it is to follow in the steps of the Master it will serve not only the spiritual life but will "go a little farther" and serve the social, physical, and economic life even as did the Master.

Under these four heads the modern church builds its program, putting of course, the spiritual at the head and in the supreme place the aim and goal of all work. But the economic life is considered. Poverty is not considered a synonym for spiritual life as it was in the days when the old man prayed for his pastor, "Dear Lord, you keep him humble, we'll keep him poor." Now the financial life of the community is the business of the church if there is any way that the people may be served and better conditions brought about. Farmers' institutes, stock judging, poultry culling demonstrations, pig clubs, garden, cooking, sewing and chicken clubs are part of the rural church program in many sections of the country. Baby clinics, home nursing classes, community fairs and much of the work which is done by the county agent, the club leader, home demonstration agent, and health nurse in this country, are brought to these less favored sections by the "community church". This is a term used in many ways in this day but its best meaning is, a church of any denomination which, realizing its responsibilities to the community, seeks not to build up itself out of the community but rather seeks to build up the community in every phase of its life, holding always to the ideals of the Man of Galilee who himself said "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." When the farmer prospers the churches progress and are able to develop the larger, "more abundant life," for the community.

Health has come to be recognized as being not a luxury but as a religious duty — so athletics, gymnasiums, swimming pools, tennis courts and all manner of clean recreation have come to be a part of the thoroughly organized church even in the small country church where all kinds of ingenuity has to be practiced to get the necessary equipment but with the "vision", the rest of the equipment comes to those who say it will be done and have the faith and courage of their convictions. Science has shown that recreation in sane and healthful surroundings is re-creation of body and mind and the church finds it not only a duty but an impelling necessity to take the "wreck" out of recreation for its young people and provide social life which gives rest, pleasure and health for all.

The church of the modern program must needs supply food for the mental life and recognizing its re-

sponsibility must assist in providing and demanding trained teachers and adequate equipment for the public schools. It will supply Christian colleges for the training of leaders and will direct the reading of its youth and supply the needs of the entire group it is serving with books, lectures, study clubs. Whatever the need, the modern church program will try to supply it in the best possible way.

Above all else, the modern church is a teaching church and thousands of rural churches have caught the vision and are making their Sunday schools graded and are adding to the equipment the things that will make for greater efficiency in the work. In spite of the fact that there are not enough trained teachers, with characteristic faith and courage, rural schools are putting in training classes for teachers who are now teaching and for those who will take up the work in a short time. Institutes, conventions, training classes, correspondence courses and many other methods are being tried in the various churches in an effort to meet the tremendous responsibility that is placed upon the rural church.

The territory served by the Gresham Outlook has many churches that have caught the vision and are meeting the needs of their members and constituents in various ways.

While time and space forbid a complete recital of the work done or planned by these different churches something of the work that has been done is told in another article in this issue.

### New Use for Old Water Hose.

Making spark plug covers from scrap water hose is one of the ways by which the Southern Pacific railway utilizes and salvages old materials.

A large number of spark plugs are used by the railroad on its gasoline motor cars in the maintenance of way department. To prevent injury to extra spark plugs, E. H. Polk, district storekeeper for the company at West Oakland, California, conceived the idea of making rubber covers from old water hose.

The hose is cut into strips of about 3 1/2 inches in length and the extra plugs are placed in these holders to prevent injury such as breakage of porcelain and damage to threads.

Automobile owners would do well to adopt this ingenious method of protecting spark plugs.

The Southern Pacific saves hundreds of thousands of dollars annually through salvaging scrap and waste materials.

The man with the biggest mind can make it up the most quickly.

### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND THE OREGON NORMAL

Catching an inspiration from the recent observance of Education Week, and seeking to follow up the rising tide of interest in elementary education, the students of the Oregon State Normal make an appeal to the people of the state to do their part to provide larger and better facilities for the training of teachers. While much that is commendable has been done it is desired that present urgent needs be known and fully understood. "Education is dynamic and must keep pace with the industrial and social progress," says the appeal.

It is further explained that it is the desire of those interested in education in Oregon to plan for the improvement of the entire educational system from the kindergarten to the university. Naturally, in viewing the entire system, the thought is inclined to linger upon its foundation, the elementary school.

In order to plan effectively for the improvement of the public school system it becomes immediately apparent that two features enter prominently into the development of the schools. These are the material factor on the one hand, including adequate equipment in buildings, school furniture, course of study and text books; and the vital factor on the other hand, consisting in properly trained and cultured teachers. There can be no efficient school system, no matter what the organization, without properly trained teachers. At the present time, the state of Oregon requires a limited amount of professional training for all teachers entering the profession. This is one of the features of Oregon's superiority educationally. The institution provided by the state for the training of teachers for the elementary schools, the Normal School at Monmouth, is limited in its capacity. The demand for trained teachers is now outrunning the ability of the Normal School to prepare them, and the demand of students desiring to prepare for teaching has become greater than the Normal School can meet.

More students are applying at the Oregon Normal School for admission and training than can be properly accommodated with its present equipment. This year the increase in enrollment is more than 50 per cent above that of the corresponding date in 1921. Last year, the total attendance was more than 50 per cent greater than for the preceding year. Thus, within two years, the attendance has more than doubled. Everything points to a continuation of this increase. Notwithstanding the crowded conditions, practically the same faculty, with only one additional member,

### A Pastor's Christmas Prayer

Rev. and Mrs. Geo. C. Berreman wish their parishioners and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We hope the joy expressed by the angels to the shepherds may fill your hearts and may they be so filled with the spirit of Him, whose birthday we shall soon commemorate, that unto you, it will be "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

We pray that you will let Him be your leader during the coming year, realizing we are one year nearer the time when Christ shall reign in every heart and righteousness shall cover the earth.

aside from critic teachers, is endeavoring to carry on the increased work. A number of classes register more than 100 students. At least two-thirds of the classes in the Normal School are much larger than they should be, and entirely too large to do the work required of them. It will be impossible to meet the requirements of efficient training of teachers without increased facilities. Moreover, the standing of the Normal School among other similar institutions, as well as its standardization with the U. S. Department of Education, is jeopardized.

There is immediate need along three particular lines, not to speak of plans for future growth. These imperative needs are additional members of faculty, a new training school at Independence, and increased living facilities for students. Additional class rooms will be a requirement of the near future.

Oregon is at the present time inadvertently neglecting her Normal School and allowing herself to fall far behind other states in her facilities for training her teachers. By way of comparison, states not as large or as populous or as wealthy are providing considerably more for normal school support than is Oregon. Idaho, with a population of only a little more than half that of Oregon, and an assessed valuation of less than half, provides one and one-third times as much for its normal schools. Arizona and New Mexico, with less than half the population and two-thirds the assessed valuation, furnish three times as much each for normal schools as does Oregon. Other states are making corresponding provision for the training of teachers for their elemen-

tary schools. Colorado, with a population a little larger and an assessed valuation one and one-half more, appropriates four times as much for its normal schools. Washington, with less than twice the population and about twice the assessed valuation, gives approximately six times as much for normal schools. California, with four times the population and three times the assessed valuation, grants over 11 times as much for its normals.

It is believed that when the people of Oregon know the imperative need of their one institution established in the interest of the boys and girls in the primary and grammar schools of the state they will not withhold the meager sum necessary for the adequate support of that institution.

### GAS USED FOR 1000 PURPOSES

Few people know that city gas is today used for approximately a thousand purposes. Aside from its use in a thousand manufacturing processes, the health and comfort of probably one-half the people of the United States depends in large measure on its unflinching delivery 24 hours of every day in the year. Over four billions of dollars is invested by the thousands of gas companies in this country.

The business of gas manufacture is growing at the rate of about sixteen per cent a year. This means that in six years the production of gas in this country will be double what it is today.

It would be interesting to hear the fish story of the fish that got away.

# "You can do it Better with Gas"

Our Modern Gas Ranges are a delight to the HOUSEWIFE See the new Reliables with **OVEN HEAT CONTROL** Wonderful!

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For Smaller Homes Where you wish to heat only 1 or 2 rooms **The Cottage Floor-Heater** at only 75 dollars Installed is just the dope. No Work — No Dirt — No Ashes

For those who wish to **SAVE GAS** We have the **CHAMBERS FIRELESS** The finest Gas Range which human ingenuity can produce. The oven is built like a vault **A Loaf of Bread** Baked in 7 Minutes! Angel Food in 11 minutes after the oven had been heated 5 minutes.

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