



ARE YOU GIVING YOUR MINISTER A CHANCE TO FLY ?

Is the average minister too handicapped by the economic struggle to use his best powers and capacities?

PLUCK, energy, determination—the imagination to conceive a splendid enterprise—the ability to carry it through—

It was the possession of these qualities by a young preacher, Belvin Maynard, who answered his country's call to war, that turned the eyes of a whole nation to him in admiring wonder as he steered a new course on his ocean-to-ocean flight.

Maynard was only one of thousands of young men who go into the ministry with the desire to express positive, achieving qualities—to do big things, lead men, play a constructive part in the life of the nation.

How far are we giving them the chance to realize this ambition?

How many of them have to bury their finest aspirations when they enter on the bitter economic grind of a minister's life?

The electricians, plasterers and carpenters who work on the building of our churches are paid from \$40 to \$50 a week. The average man who preaches from the pulpit is lucky if he receives half that sum.

\$1,000,000,000 invested in church property by the Protestant church members of America! And yet the majority of ministers receive less than the minimum sum which sociologists say will support a family decently.

Surely, as Billy Sunday says, "Something is radically wrong when a prizefighter in 15 minutes can earn more than a country parson in 15 years."

Ministers as a rule *do not save*. They cannot. Between the ages of 45 and 65, statistics show, many of them supplement their regular work in the ministry by peddling books, writing insurance, or selling real estate in order to earn enough to live on. When old age overtakes them they are too often found in the plight of one minister of 83 who is weaving rugs in order to keep from starving; or another who has been in the ministry for 55 years, and is struggling to support his sick wife with the help of the relief board.

No class of men has contributed more to this nation's greatness than her ministers.

By their force of character and their disinterested service, they have set up a spiritual standard for men of all classes; they have given high ideals to our young men and women; they have helped to check lawlessness and give a balance to power.

In difficult periods of the nation's growth they have thrown their influence on the side of honor and righteousness.

The country must not sacrifice its ministers. Just as war draws into its ranks the most generous of a nation's youth,—so the ministry, by its very hardships and difficulties, has always attracted men of brilliant attainments and unusual capacity for devotion.

As a nation we cannot afford to waste these men. The handicap must be taken off the ministers. They must be allowed to use their gifts and their devotion to the fullest, as leaders of progress in the great days that are to come.

The Christian Herald is leading in the movement to do justice to the minister, to pay him a living wage and to give him his "chance to fly."



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