

## LET'S TALK SHOP

Conducted by HARRY T. MORRIS

This journal was designed to be read with some degree of profit by the religious leadership of the western part of the nation. One of the editorial policies is to gear the journal to the needs of this religious leadership as far as it is possible to do so. Like a producer of any commodity, we shall keep in mind the consumer of what is written herein. We should like to encourage pastors to do serious study, to keep themselves aware of what is happening in contemporaneous religious thought and otherwise stimulate pastoral thinking. But in addition to these functions we should like also to provide practical helps to the pastor as administrator of the local church. To achieve this purpose we are in this issue introducing this section entitled, "Let's Talk Shop."

Our readers are invited to send to the editor any plan or program of a practical nature which they have tried and found to be workable. If you have discovered a better way to plan and execute your calling program, how to file sermon materials, how to simplify and make more effective any plan of organization, how to beautify the property, how to minister to the non-residents, including men and women in service, how to recruit or train lay people to share in the work of the church—if you have experimented in any of the practical, everyday work of the pastor and found some better way of doing the job, send it in so that it may be shared with the other readers of our journal.

### Electrifying a Reed Organ for Church Use

There are many churches which cannot afford a pipe organ and as many more that have no trained organist to play one if they had it. These churches may like to know that a reed organ can be electrified and made to produce beautiful church music. The following procedure was followed in St. John's Methodist Church in Santa Fe, N. M.

First, one must find a good organ. The best type is the larger organ, one that was operated by a handle to be pumped by the organ pumper. Nearly every dealer in musical instruments has one stored in the warehouse somewhere and would sell or give it to a church if asked about it. The organ should be overhauled by a good piano tuner who knows organ structures.

In the Santa Fe church the pastor bought a used blacksmith forge blower with a ten-inch fan. He found a quarter horsepower electric motor and on v-belt pulleys he hitched the motor to the blower, securing them to the floor of a basement room. To reduce noise to a minimum a cellotex-lined box was made to be placed over the motor and blower. The pipe used to connect the organ to the blower was common galvanized down-spouting, the kind that is used to carry rain water from the gutter to the earth at the corner of a house. The joints of the pipe were soldered together to make them airtight. Inside the organ one finds the bellows which should be squeezed almost shut, like one squeezing up an accordeon, then fasten in that position. A galvanized roof jack was fastened over a hole which was cut in the back of the wooden panel of the bellows. The organ was fastened to the floor securely so as to prevent breaking the soldered joints by vibration.

The principle of reed organs is vacuum, contrary to common opinion, which means that in fastening the pipe to the blower, the pipe must be fixed to the intake of the blower. This causes the blower to pull air out of the bellows in the organ rather than pumping air into it.

A double electric wire should be run from the motor to the organ console and a handy switch fastened somewhere within reach of the organist. The organist seats himself, turns on the switch and within fifteen seconds has enough power to pull out all the stops

and play whatever he likes.

Visitors in that church very often comment on the beauty of the organ music and are surprised to learn that it is an old Estey reed organ which was electrified. Best of all, the total cost of installing the organ, purchasing the forge blower and the washing machine motor was only twenty-eight dollars.

If any reader finds some detail lacking in the foregoing installation he may address his questions to the editor who will give them to the writer for answering.

### **Making Men in Service Feel At Home**

In First Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon, where the writer recently visited, he found the following plan working effectively to make all men and women in uniform to feel at home.

A rotating committee made up of parents of men and women in service, take turns in preparing and serving a Sunday dinner in the church dining room. Before the benediction every person in uniform is invited to stay for the Sunday dinner and to bring sweethearts and wives along. The committee members act as hosts and hostesses to the group. They have grace. Then everybody is asked to feel perfectly at home and enjoy the meal. After the dinner, the people in uniform are asked to tell in an informal fashion where their homes are, what church they attended when at home and anything else they'd like to tell about themselves.

The day the writer was present a lady brought in a birthday cake and presented it with the following explanation, "This is our son Jerry's birthday and since we always had a birthday cake with candles on it for his birthday dinner we are asking you to eat his cake for him. He's in Africa somewhere and can't be present with us but we thought he would like some of his buddies to eat it for him."

### **So the People May Talk to the Pastor**

Many pastors are finding it wise to keep regular office hours just as phy-

sicians do, thus giving their people an opportunity to come to the study for counselling.

Most of the problems which people would like to talk over with the pastor are of a highly confidential nature. They do not like the idea of a visit with the pastor if other ears can hear the conversation. They are therefore encouraged to counsel with the pastor if they know he has a time and a place where such private conversations may be conducted.

If the pastor will print in the bulletin and have printed on his stationery which he uses for pastoral letters, the office hours which he holds open for visitation by his people, in a short time they will be coming to him for the ministry of pastoral counselling. It is easy to over-advertise this function. Therefore care should be taken to keep the announcements in good taste and in keeping with professional practices. The pastor who urges his people to come and talk their problems over with him will discourage those who really ought to come and encourage those who easily become a counselling problem. If he lets it be known in good taste that he is available at certain hours at a given place, that is enough to give adequate promotion to this highly valuable function of the minister.

(H. T. Morris)

### **Leaders Enough and To Spare**

Where and how to get workers needed for the church school is a double question most local churches are asking. Yet, almost any church would be astonished at the great number of capable leaders within its constituency that are being overlooked. Many of these can be secured through sound method.

Let a church first clearly define the teaching and other educational tasks for which it needs leaders. A systematic search within the constituency for these required leaders should then be begun and continued until all possibilities shall have been explored. Proceeding with a **complete** list of names

of constituents, each person should be considered and listed for the particular tasks he or she is capable of performing, even though not yet fully prepared. This list should be kept on file for reference and be consulted for the most promising person it will afford whenever a leadership task is to be filled. In most instances, this method will yield more prospective leaders than will be needed at any one time. The "spares" should be kept on the list and engaged in preparation for future employment.

How workers shall actually be gotten into service is the second part of the question before us. A few important rules of procedure should be followed: (1) For any particular task, a capable person from the prospects listed and classified should be elected by a responsible board or committee of the church to fill it. This gives the weight

of authority so many prospects are looking for. (2) The electing board or committee should inform the prospect of his or her election and secure acceptance. Some such appeals as the following should be made to insure the prospect's acceptance: "The task needs you; you have the ability to fill it; you will find satisfaction in this service; you are asked to serve only for a limited time; you will be given good facilities and conditions under which to work; you will be given opportunity to prepare if you so desire; you will be given whatever assistance you may need; you will be given recognition for your achievements." (3) A great many persons from the prospective leaders' list should be employed; but no one should be loaded with too many tasks that require of him too much time and effort.

(Ira A. Morton)