

friendship through understanding—your efforts in teaching will surely fail.

The qualities which are of importance as contributing factors to promotion from the ranks of classroom teachers to administrative positions in education are leadership, broad-mindedness, perseverance, resourcefulness, the ability to organize, tact, and power to work long hours.

A very important consideration in the choice of a vocation is the probability of securing and maintaining work. It is therefore stated in connection with teaching that at present there are many more persons who hold licenses to teach than there are teaching positions to be filled; but there is not a marked oversupply of persons who have the scholarship and other qualifications that are now being required of teachers. Competition in teaching, as in other professions, is keen, consequently only those who are prepared to meet maximum rather than minimum requirements should consider teaching as a life work.

THOMAS D. EASON

GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS AFFECTING RURAL CHURCHES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

AS ONE drives in different directions from Harrisonburg, he is impressed with the number of well-cared-for rural churches in Rockingham county. It has been said that when a church property presents an outside appearance that suggests that it receives careful attention, one may safely decide that the organization of that church membership is active. But if the outside of the building shows need of repair and the church lawn and shrubbery or trees have evidently been neglected, an observer may safely decide that an inquirer will find that there is a lack of well-directed activities in the organization of the church membership. The Rockingham county ru-

ral churches make a favorable appearance on the outside. This observation interested the writer, and after talking with persons who are well acquainted with Rockingham county, it seemed that a study might indicate some geographic influences which have contributed to the favorable condition which appears to be present in the churches of that county. It seemed advisable that the study should have a limited field rather than attempt an investigation including more territory.

If time had permitted, there would have been an attempt to learn the land utilization by the membership of each church group. Such information would have indicated the number of acres devoted to each of the following: corn, wheat, oats, other cereals, alfalfa, pasture, orchards, and woodlands. It is reported in Rockingham county that as they use different crops and do not depend on one crop, it is possible to feel less effects of the failure of a specific crop. When the income of the rural group does not vary to extremes from one year to another, the church program can be more dependably financed. Money may not make religion, but it is not easy to maintain a religious program without money.

Permanent land ownership was another influence concerning which information could not be secured in the few weeks during which this study was made. Rockingham county people say that many farms have passed from one generation to another, so that, for several generations, farms have been owned by one family or its ancestry. This has linked the family, generation after generation, to the same local church. The sentiment which associates with inheritance thus attaches to the site and building provided for the group worship of the community. It is often stated that sentiment cannot be measured, but at least a part of the contributing factors influencing sentiment may be noted. The greater sentimental attitude helps to furnish

the sense of responsibility which is needed in regard to church support in all its phases.

In planning the questionnaire by which the information was secured from the individual churches, it was necessary to limit the questions to that type which a minister might be expected to answer without too much imposition on his time. If there had been included such questions as land utilization and permanent land ownership, the answers to such questions would have seemed quite impossible, and fewer replies would have been received.

The questionnaire asked for the following information:

1. According to enclosed communication definition, is church village or open-country?
2. Distance to nearest church of same denomination?
3. Distance to nearest church of any denomination?
4. Total hours per month church building is used?
5. Number of members residents of community but employed outside of community area?
6. Number of families using automobile for church attendance?
7. Number of families using horse-drawn vehicles for church attendance?
8. Number of families ordinarily walking to church?
9. Church membership information:
 - a. Number of families land owners or home owners
 - b. Number of families tenants
 - c. Number of families having members in more than one denomination
10. Number of families members of some other church or denomination, but conveniently located to attend the church making report.

Accompanying the questionnaire, there was a communication which stated that all churches located in villages of 300 or more population were omitted from the survey. Also, churches located in villages having between 30 and 300 population were to be classified as village churches, while those churches located so their immediate vicinity has a population of less than 30 were to be classified as open-country churches. That rather arbitrary classification was decided upon, because it seemed evident that ease of maintaining a church program will be in-

fluenced by the grouping of the population in the immediate vicinity of the church building. If exact numbers could not be given in furnishing information, ministers were asked to approximate.

The *Daily News-Record* of Harrisonburg publishes a church directory for Rockingham county. It includes the names of eighty-five churches which are located in the open-country or in villages of less than 300 population. Of the eighty-five, a pastor's name was given for seventy-two of these churches. Often a pastor serves two or four churches, so only thirty-eight inquiries were mailed. Twenty-one replies were received, and these gave reports from forty-nine churches. It would appear that the returns are comparatively representative. The pastors replying and the churches for which they reported represent 55 per cent of a complete report.

Thirteen replies were from churches located in villages having populations between 30 and 300, while the other thirty-six replies were from open-country churches. The replies from both groups are summarized in the appended table.

Brief comments may be made regarding the information given by the answers to the questionnaire. Of all the replies from both village and open-country churches, only one reported that its nearest church neighbor was the same denomination. This would seem to indicate that the location of the church site was influenced more by distance and denominational loyalty than by dissensions or divisions within a denominational group. Considering road conditions of a few generations ago and the use of horse-drawn vehicles, the distance between churches of the same denomination would have seemed to have approached the limit that those of former generations found it was convenient to go for church worship.

In observing the hours per month during which the church building is in use, it is noticed that, although in the comparisons

COLLECTED DATA REGARDING RURAL CHURCHES OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

	Village Churches			Open-Country Churches		
	Max. No. Reported	Min. No. Reported	Av. No. Reported	Max. No. Reported	Min. No. Reported	Av. No. Reported
Miles to nearest church same denomination.....	9	1	4.3	10	1/2	4.2
Miles to nearest church any denomination.....	2.5	*		6	†	
Hours per month church building used.....	30	7	14	24	4	9
Members, community residents, employed outside..	45	3	15	25	0	4
Families using automobiles.....	80	2	24	55	0	22
Families using horse-drawn vehicles.....	3	0		10	0	2
Families walking	45	0	14	25	0	7
Families land-owners or home-owners.....	90	8	26	50	2	24
Families tenants	29	0	9	15	0	3
Families having members more than one denomination	24	1	7	12	0	3
Families of other church membership conveniently located to attend church making report.....	15	1	6	30	1	11

*Same yard.
†Same ground.

the village churches have scheduled activities which total more hours than the open-country group, yet the difference is not a great number of hours. This suggests that the activities of the open-country group approach those scheduled by the village churches.

From various sources of information, it was judged there were a fairly large number of persons who were residents of a rural community area but were employed outside that community area. Since the residence was retained within the community, these persons contribute to the supporting population for the rural churches. Two-thirds of the employees of one of Harrisonburg's largest factories are not residents of the city, while another of the larger factories has about one-half of those on its pay-roll coming from outside the city. This labor supply has its residence in the rural communities but comes to the city daily as workers in the factories. The automobile may have brought some problems to the rural church, but that type of transportation makes possible the retaining of a residence in a rural community several miles from the place of employment. This

results in a supporting population remaining near the church, so the church loses less than it would if that labor supply found it necessary to move from the home community.

Also, this means of transportation is a contributing factor in getting people together for their group worship and other church activities. For both village and open-country churches, Sunday has almost become a day of rest for horses. If man is considered as being less inclined to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," as that part of the commandment applies to himself, he should at least be given credit with making lighter demands on the strength of his beast in order that the owner may attend hours of worship within the church. In comparing village and open-country churches, there are about half as many families who walk to the open-country churches as the number of those walking to the village churches.

From the village church reports, it is found that 75% of the families of the church-membership belong to the home-owning group. Of the families in the open-country memberships, 87% are home own-

ers. These per cents indicate the churches of the country have a more permanent group than would be found in sections of the country in which tenancy predominates. Only one rural church in the entire county reported more tenants than land or home owners in the families of the church membership.

The question regarding the number of families having members in more than one denomination was included because this is one of the non-geographic factors for which it was comparatively easy to gather information. Only 19% of the total families in the village churches were reported as represented in more than one denomination. This per cent indicates a pronounced denominational loyalty in the members of such families so the individuals would be concerned about the maintenance of the church program of the denomination to which the individual gives allegiance. Such denominational loyalty would also contribute to an individual desire to maintain his church plant in good repair. As the open-country churches average only half as many families represented in more than one denomination, it would seem that village conditions tend to give more encouragement to persons to marry outside the denominational group. Or it may be that after such marriages, the village churches have retained their members within the denominational groups to a greater extent than is found in the open-country churches.

For the last question regarding members of other denominations having their residence so they were more conveniently located to the reporting church than any other, it is noted that the number is nearly twice as large per church as was found for the village churches, so it might seem to indicate that the open-country church location is not as nearly central for the church group as might have been anticipated at an earlier year in that church's history. It is also noticeable that when comparing the in-

formation given in answer to the last two questions the number of families having membership in more than one denomination is more often found in the village churches, while the open-country church leads in having non-membership families so located that they are more convenient to attend the open-country church.

This type of church survey does not plan to oppose the more usual type which considers total membership, accessions for the year, financial reports, etc., but this survey considers some of the influences which affect the extent of the activities of the church program. A more complete survey should indicate other influences which the natural environment has upon the activities of a church organization.

RAUS M. HANSON

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHRISTIANITY TO MODERN CIVILIZATION

CHRISTIANITY has proved to be more than a religion—it has become a program of life and a motive force for civilization. It has transformed nations as well as individuals. It has shaped social standards and modified governments. It has elevated art, ennobled music, sweetened literature, and humanized law. It has quickened philanthropy, abolished slavery, and magnified education. It holds out the Golden Rule to industry and commerce, and is seeking to displace war with justice and international good will. It has not achieved its full possibilities, but much has been done, Christianity has never really failed where it has been given a fair trial, either as a religion or as a social program.

Lecky, the eminent English historian, in his monumental work on European morals from Augustus to Charlemagne, has this to say:

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