

THE
GOSPEL MAGAZINE

AND

PROTESTANT BEACON

“COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE, SAITH YOUR GOD.”

“ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.”

“JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TO-DAY, AND FOR EVER.”

VOL. LXIX.—NEW SERIES.

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PREFACE.

THE year 1934 is drawing to a close and it falls to us to write the preface to *the one hundred and sixty-ninth volume* of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE. It is a wonderful fact that the Lord has kept it going for so long a period. It stands alone as the *oldest religious Magazine* circulating in England and abroad.

It still stands for those great doctrines of grace which marked the ministry of the Revs. A. M. Toplady, Dr. Doudney, and James Ormiston, three of its former Editors. The errors of Sacerdotalism, Modernism, and Arminianism are becoming more and more manifest, and there are strong tendencies to bring about co-operation between the forces of error and of truth. The need, therefore, of a Magazine which by Divine grace stands for the plenary inspiration of the whole Bible, and for all the great foundation truths contained therein, is becoming increasingly apparent.

We believe that we are voicing the views of the Trustees of this Magazine when we say that we desire that its testimony should be at once distinctive, Evangelical, Uncompromising and Calvinistic, and at the same time gracious and Christlike in its setting forth of Divine truth.

The letters which we receive from our readers at home and abroad, testifying to the value of the Magazine, cheer our hearts. The Trustees are also

very grateful for the contributions to the GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund which are kindly sent by many of our well-to-do, and also by our poorer readers. They would be glad if the need for this Fund did not exist, but a Magazine like ours, not being popular with the crowd, needs this special support, and we pray that it may be continued.

The removal by death of many of our readers from time to time, naturally lessens the number of our subscribers, and is a loud call to all our readers to use their influence to add to the number of those who regularly take in the Magazine. Although it is good for the Magazine to be lent to friends, *it is only the regular payment of a subscription of 6/- a year which supports the financial needs of the Magazine.*

No doubt most of our readers have had *sorrows* as well as joys during the course of this year. To all such we extend our warm Christian sympathy. We, ourselves, have been called this year to endure the greatest sorrow of our life, by the call Home of our precious wife. For ten years she regularly wrote "Our Young Folks' Page," and for about seventeen years she lovingly drew up the Index for the December issue. Her work on earth is now finished, and needless to say *we greatly feel her absence*, while we warmly express our gratitude to our many readers who have expressed their loving Christian sympathy.

We are very grateful to our regular helpers in this work, and in the name of the Trustees we warmly thank them.

It is our custom every week to remember all our readers at home and abroad in prayer. We would recommend all our readers to do the same, and to ask that God may grant abundant wisdom, grace and grasp of His truth to all who write for the Magazine. "Who is sufficient for these things?" "Brethren, pray for us." Let us give ourselves to regular prayer for an enlarged circulation of the Magazine, for increased blessing on its testimony, and for all the needed funds for carrying on its work. Any testimonies to the usefulness of the Magazine which we print are not intended for self-glorification, but rather to show how the Lord Himself is making use of His truth for the comfort of many of His scattered people. We feel increasingly that we have nothing that we did not receive. We send our warm Christian greetings and best wishes to all our readers in distant lands and at home.

THE EDITOR

(*Thomas Houghton*).

Whittington Vicarage,

Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn.

November 9th, 1933.