I AM A
COVENANTER

By
Twelve Ministers
Six Lady Missionaries
Five Laymen

Dedicated to
Covenanter Young People
in
All the World

Home Mission and
Young People's Secretary
INTRODUCTION

Among the many excellent publications by Dr. D. H. Elliott when he was Forward Movement Secretary, right after World War I, was a little booklet entitled “Why I am Glad to be a Covenant Minister.” It contained brief sketches by “Fourteen Successful Ministers.” I remember how the testimonies impressed me during college days.

The challenge to young people to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ for His glory and the service of the Church is never silenced. A new generation has grown to manhood and womanhood. Now as never before the Lord calls them into His service. He asks for loyalty and courage, for knowledge and wisdom, and for surrender to His will. He calls not only for ministers, although twelve congregations are vacant—but also for young men and women in our missions fields of the Near East and in the United States, and for consecrated laymen and women in all our congregations, whose delight is to declare what God has done for their souls.

It has seemed appropriate therefore to publish a new booklet with testimonies from both ministers and laymen, and from both men and women.

It is impossible to include all who are deserving of a place in it. Some others were asked to contribute, but for reasons of their own did not respond. On the other hand “there are very many others who would have been as willing and able to record their reasons as these, and we are sorry we could not include them all. But these will represent many departments of the Church’s service, and various avenues through which her work is being done.” For the selection of the writers, and for their pictures, I take full responsibility (or blame).

The publication is sent on its way with the prayer that it may commend the Covenant Church, its ministry, its missions, its message and its membership to the young people, who yet have uncertainties as to where or how God calls them to serve.

Most sincerely yours,
The Rev. Remo I. Robb
Home Missions and
Young People’s Secretary
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

By
Delber H. Elliott, D.D.

For forty-five years it has been my privilege to serve in the ministry of the Covenant Church. My parents were Covenanters before me. At about five years of age I occasionally lined up my older sisters on a Sabbath afternoon to preach them an extra sermon. Never did I finish without having occasion to reprove them for some unchurchly conduct.

Despite this intolerable attitude on the part of my first congregation, I have never had one regret for entering the Christian ministry. I would rather preach the everlasting Gospel than do anything else in the world. There is no fun like work—if it is work you love to do.

Furthermore I have never regretted becoming a minister in the Covenant Church. I have not experienced the thrill each Sabbath of preaching to large audiences. But I have been free to preach in favor of everything that is right and against everything that is wrong without fear of hostility on the part of my congregation. With all of its imperfections, I believe that the Church of the Covenanters, in profession and teaching, is nearest to the Scriptural pattern of a Christian church.

I am content to serve a denomination which endeavors to hold fast the principles of the John Knox Presbyterian Church; a church with the broad kingdom program of the conversion of individuals, the evangelization of society and the Christianizing of nations; a church which ever proclaims the universal sovereignty of Christ over men and nations.
"Why are you a Covenanter minister?" Apparently meaning, instead of being a minister in some other denomination.

The love of money could not have been the motive for any one becoming a Covenanter minister, nor could ambition to preach to large congregations in palatial church buildings have been the motive. The average Covenanter congregation is small, as salaries cannot be large, church buildings cannot be palatial, marriages, baptisms, and admissions cannot be numerous. The motive could not be ambition for popularity. The Distinctive Principles of the Covenanter Church are not popular and will not be popular as long as this age of ecclesiastical inventions continues.

In every denomination there are many small congregations and a good many ministers who have to minister to small congregations all of their lives. But there are some ministers in the Covenanter Church who had they been in large denominations would by their native abilities have been promoted to the higher positions.

Some of the men who, for years have taught in our seminary or have been employed in the witness bearing work and in the national reform work, have been men whose outstanding abilities would have commanded high salaries, fine church equipment, and large congregations had they been ministers in large denominations. Moses was not the only one who chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

It seems that no one could have become a Covenanter minister on any other basis than a profound conviction that the Covenanter denomination stands as a sacrificial witness for certain great fundamental truths of the Christian religion which must be accepted before God's will can be done on earth as it is done in heaven.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

by
Jesse C. Mitchel, D. D.

As a young man I had certain plans for my life, but was not very happy about them. There was a feeling the Lord would have me follow another course, which I did not want to do. When I surrendered my will to the Lord, there was an immediate conviction that I should go to the Foreign Field as a missionary.

At that time our Foreign Mission Board was not calling for anyone in line with my training. Thus my going to the Theological Seminary was primarily in preparation to be a Missionary in the Covenant Church, rather than a conviction I should be a Minister of the Gospel.

Throughout my years of preparation and service there has come an ever increasing appreciation of the Gospel Ministry, and an assurance it is the calling in which the Lord would have me labor.

To be a pastor and minister in the home land has given great joy. One finds a response to spiritual matters and a zeal in service among the membership of the Covenant Church that is indeed encouraging.

As a Ministerial Missionary it is especially encouraging to see the general interest in obeying the Great Commission of our Lord, as shown by the number of missionaries for the membership of the Church; the financial support rendered; and the important place given in prayer. While on the field, at special times of need, it was wonderful to know that you are not alone in the work, but have a loyal and faithful church backing you in every emergency.

The Covenant Church offers a field for service in which the whole membership accepts a responsibility. Such an association and fellowship one rarely finds.

The love and support shown by the Church as a whole, calls for my utmost in service to the Glory of our Lord and His Church.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

by

C. E. Caskey

To what other occupation would one turn? No other work will ever satisfy a man called to preach the words of eternal life. As war had lessened the supply of ministers six openings demanded consideration when I finished our seminary. Nothing has ever changed the wish expressed then for six lives—to give all six to the ministry.

To what other church would one turn? In no large denomination is there the close bond of fellowship which unites our ministers, and clergy and laity, clear across the nation. Holding the Bible to be the only rule of faith and life protects us from the Modernism of so many churches. We do not have to compete with the lodge for time and interest in the Lord's work, nor with a musical program (often by jealous and temperamenta) musicians) in the worship service. Our members can and do lead our prayer meetings, and can be called on for public prayers. Our people know their theology and their Bibles. It is stimulating to preach to Covenanters.

In few churches does one have the freedom we have to denounce all sin, knowing that our members will back us up, and that they are not financially involved in those sins. There is also freedom for the true gospel, limited neither to the social order on the one hand, nor to the saving of individuals only on the other, but exalting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of both men and nations.

I am glad to be a minister, and glad to be a Covenanter minister.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER
by
Paul D. McCracken, D.D.

Among many other reasons for being a Covenanter Minister I offer the following:

1. I was born in a Covenanter home, of parents who believed in the Covenanter Church, her standards and her program. I was taught the Covenanter philosophy both by precept and example, and through the years there has been a growing conviction of its soundness and importance.

2. I believe the Covenanter church holds and practices more of the truth than any other church. With all of her shortcomings the Covenanter church seeks to hold high the banner of truth. We acknowledge the whole Bible to be God's Word and the only infallible rule of faith and conduct. And whether we call it fundamental or distinctive, we consider this truth essential as a solid basis on which to build life in all of its relationships.

3. I am proud of the faithful contendings and far reaching achievements of our Covenanter forefathers along lines of civil and religious freedom, moral reformation, righteous laws, and Christian government. To follow in their train is an honor, not an uncertain privilege.

4. I am faced continually in the Covenanter church with the challenge of soul-winning, and of working with small groups to accomplish great but unpopular tasks. The vision of neglected fields and areas unclaimed for Christ beckons us on. The Macedonian Call still sounds.

5. I am persuaded that the Covenanter church has a great mission to perform in Christ's program of kingdom building, and that faithfulness on our part will ultimately be rewarded with victory and triumph under the leadership of Him who is the Head of the Church.
I am glad to be a Covenant minister because to me the ministry of the Covenant Church is the highest calling in the world.

I was dedicated to the Covenant ministry before I was born. The Lord gave the vision to my parents, who passed it on to me, and I have tried not to be disobedient to that vision.

I would not be interested in preaching just ANY gospel, but I am intensely interested in preaching the Kingship of Christ, the Open Life, Purity in worship, the Holiness of the Sabbath Day, and all the other Biblical truths taught in the standards of the Covenant Church. I believe in preaching the Divinity of Christ, His Virgin Birth, the Inspiration of the Scriptures, and all the other cardinal truths of God's Word, and I know I have unrestricted liberty to preach these great doctrines from the pulpit of the Covenant Church. Truly it is an honor to preach the whole gospel from the Covenant pulpit.

It has been a real privilege the last seven years to give my entire time to preaching Christ to America. This great doctrine of the Kingship of Christ over the nation stands near the top as one of a number of important reasons for our existence as a denomination. The Covenant Church leads all other denominations in witnessing for the Royal Rights of Christ. It is therefore a great honor to have a part in this notable endeavor.

But whether or not I should have ever been called into this field, it would have still been the Covenant ministry for me. There is no greater honor than to serve the Lord in the ministry of the Covenant Church.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

by

R. C. Fullerton, D. D.

I am a minister because of godly parents who prayed that at least one of their four sons might be a minister. After I entered the Seminary they told me that this had been their prayer for many years. Such prayers are answered.

I am a minister because I was compelled to be. I am not one who planned from childhood to be a minister and never considered another occupation. Other fields seemed to offer richer rewards, and at least three opportunities to acquire almost unlimited wealth opened to me. Because of an inner compulsion I entered the Seminary to prepare for the ministry. Even then the struggle was not over and mid-way through my Junior year, I accepted an offer and prepared to leave the Seminary. After two days of misery, feeling that I would be lost, if I looked back after pulling my hand to the plow, I rejected the offer. I have found that God pays His servants well in many ways.

I am a Covenant minister because I believe in the Covenant standards. She has a message for every ill in this world. The Lord Jesus Christ is mighty to save lost sinners and a needy world. The world, as well as individuals, must have a Saviour. That Saviour is the Lord, Who is King and Head of all individuals and organizations.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

by

J. G. Vos

I am a minister because of God's call to that office. I am a Covenantanter minister because I am convinced that the official creed of the Covenantanter Church sets forth the truth of God's Word more faithfully, fully and consistently than the creed of any other denomination, and because I am convinced that the Covenantanter Church's creed is not a mere "dead letter" but is regarded seriously by enough of the Church's membership to warrant the hope that this creed will not only be retained but will be accepted in earnest by an increasingly large proportion of the membership in the future.

The creed of our Church sets forth the Christianity of the Scriptures in what I am convinced is its most consistent form: Calvinism or the Reformed theology. I am also convinced that the Covenantanter Church's creed sets forth a more thorough and consistent exposition of the Reformed theology than the creed of any other Calvinistic denomination. Because I am absolutely convinced of the truth and importance of the Reformed theology, I am attached to the creed of the Covenantanter Church. Because I believe that the Reformed theology is the torch of truth which must be transmitted to the future, I wish to serve in a Church whose creed proclaims that theology fully, frankly and without apology. Because I am sure that Calvinism is the only form of Christianity that can be validly and successfully defended against the assaults of modern thought, I choose to devote my ministry to a Church which is committed to the propagation of Calvinism and its consistent application to all of life.

Of course I do not regard the official creed of the Covenantanter Church as infallible. There are details of that creed concerning which, after twenty years as a Covenantanter minister, I still have scruples. But I am and shall continue to be a Covenantanter minister because I believe that creed to be the most Scriptural of creeds, and because I believe that the propagation and defence of this theology in the Covenantanter Church is not a lost cause nor a hopeless task.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

by

Frank H. Lathom

The main reason why I am a Covenant minister is because I was born into a Covenant home. I always attended a Covenant church except on special occasions and listened to Covenant preachers. One of these pastors told my mother while I was yet a lad, he always thought of me as being the preacher of the family. I rebelled against the idea at the time and later in college prepared myself for teaching. But at the end of my college days the call came to me to preach the Word. Now I know I never could have been happy without answering that call.

I am hopelessly in debt to the Covenant Church. By this I mean I can never repay her all I owe. It was in her Sabbath School and from her teachers that I received my first public instruction in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. It was in her young people’s society that I got my first chance at leadership and my first experience in public speaking which was to mean so much to me in later life. I left Indiana University at the end of two years in order to get Bible training. I found a Christian institution run by Christian men and women. I found there a fine Christian young woman, raised in the home of a Covenant elder, who consented to be my life partner. This was the best thing that ever happened to me aside from my conversion to Christ and his cause.

I have now been preaching and teaching the Word for twenty years. Like any pastor I have had my ups and downs; but the ups have far outweighed the downs. I believe in the Kingship of Jesus Christ over men and nations. I am glad to have a small part in the great work of his Kingdom on earth. I trust that by God’s grace I shall remain a faithful minister of the Word until I die.

THE REV. FRANK H. LATHOM
Pastor, Religious Education Director
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER

by

C. C. BROWN

On the surface that seems easy to answer, there are a number of reasons, and my problem is to select the important ones.

The first reason I think is the fact that I attended a Covenant Mission school. The parent Church children miss something that mission children get. It seems as if most of the zeal for the Salvation of mankind is found in the missions. That's no reflection on the Church that makes it possible for missions to exist. There are so many things that I can understand and appreciate because of the Christian men and women who were so patient with all of my shortcomings. Missions, in my way of thinking, are living examples of Christianity. Well, I grew in a situation where people had a genuine concern for others without that condescending attitude exhibited by so many Christians.

The next important reason for being a member of a particular church, after, of course, you believe you are called of God, is where you can best serve God and humanity. I believe I can best serve in the Covenant Church; because the things in general that it stands for I am in agreement with. That gives me freedom and peace of mind. I feel “at home”. I don't have to worry about “what is going to become of the church”. I can forget about a lot of trouble that others might be having.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MINISTER
by
John Coleman, D.D.

So far as my memory goes back, becoming a minister was to me like growth to manhood: it was not an issue, but inevitable and desirable. Perhaps it was affected in some degree by my schoolboy nickname, "Preacher," from my father’s profession. Curiously, the conviction was not shaken by the fact that I stuttered grievously and often had to give up reciting a lesson for which I was well prepared; surely the stuttering would disappear when it was too much in the way. I used to prepare a talk for the Wednesday evening prayermeeting and then stutter through it. The good people of the Allegheny congregation had the Seminary professors as well as my father and some excellent lay speakers always with them, but they endured my painful efforts with impunity that came to my ears. I have always remembered their courtesy with gratitude. I tried to teach a class in the morning Messiah Mission under Elder S. M. Orr and in the afternoon congregational Sabbath School. The children also were courteous. Two years of speech training helped, but often in the early days of my ministry in New Concord the old fear came on me in the pulpit, and sometimes the fact, of stuttering.

Why a COVENANTER minister? Our home was a continuing center for the discussion of the Covenant vision. Dr. George roomed with us for a year, then two Seminary students; the Seminary itself was only two or three squares away and I was often in the company of the Seminary "boys." They made the Covenant ministry seem worth while. Then, many a Sabbath evening the Coleman boys and their father went at the discussion of "Covenant principles" "hammer and tongs." Father wrote tracts and we helped to mail them. He went year after year to the meetings of the interdenominational committee that was laboring on a revision of the metrical translation of the Psalms, and we heard the story of his efforts to hold the group close to the original when some wanted to replace it with "better poetry." Conventions on Christian Political Loyalty and Secret Orders were held in the Allegheny
church, and we were there to listen and run errands. I still remember the thrill of addresses by such men as McLeod George. To speak like that and for such a cause would be a worthy ambition for an archangel, let alone a stuttering boy.

My boyhood reading included such books as Robinson Crusoe and Swiss Family Robinson, and the discussion of political Christianity at home and the stories in those books were for years amalgamated in dreams of an island with inhabitants who wanted a fully Christian civilization and were working it out in what today we call a “pilot plant”. The Covenant position was more than “God in the Constitution” or “Not voting”; it called for a total national life in covenant with God such as John Calvin, John Knox, and James Beech and my father would rejoice in. While an undergraduate I read James Orr’s Christian View of God and the World and carried it beyond the philosophical and theological fields to which Dr. Orr largely confined his discussion.

After 12 most pleasant years with the New Covenant congregation I came in 1920, of what seemed the call of the Church, to the Bible Choir in Geneva College and in that field and in the kindred field of Political Science, I have been employed ever since. Later, work in the Seminary was added. The pulpit and the teacher’s desk have not seemed dissimilar. But whether in the College or in the Seminary or in the pages of the Witness or on Synod’s Social Justice Committee, the dreams and visions of my boyhood have not lost their appeal and more and more seem in accord with the history, the promises and the prophecies of the Scriptures.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MISSIONARY

by

Rose A. Huston

When Christ said to His disciples, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel," He gave them a work which was for them physically impossible to accomplish. And when He said "Lo I am with you even unto the end of the age," He gave them a promise which they personally could not fully appropriate. The work was world-wide; the promise was age-long. The twelve were limited, as we are, to a small space, and to a short time; His command and His promise are for all time, and forever in the present tense. And they are meant for you and for me.

The Covenanter Church has a full and complete message for the world, the message of God's Word, stressing man's sinfulness, his need of a Saviour, and the blood of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation. It has a message adequate for Christian living for the individual, for society, and for nations.

The Covenanter Church has a historical background of faithfulness to the Word of God, loyalty to the Church, and a record of faith and courage in upholding the Truth even unto death, and these are ever an inspiration to faithful service, and a strong challenge to enter the Gospel message as proclaimed by the Church.

The world today needs the Covenanter message, which in part is a unique message, neglected or ignored by many churches, and a message which demands in those who preach and teach it, grace and wisdom, deep convictions and high-hearted courage which the Holy Spirit alone can give.

Then, it is a joy and satisfaction to represent a Church people willing to work and to give, to pray and to live for the glory of God and for the hastening of His Kingdom on earth.
WHY I AM A MISSIONARY DOCTOR
IN THE COVENANTER CHURCH
by
Ida M. Scott

First, why a Covenanter?
Paul said he was born a Roman citizen. Like many others, I was born a Covenanter, and have never had reason to change to any other denomination. We fall far short of the example Paul gave us, but I do not know of any other denomination with higher standards, and though we may not live up to our standards it is well to have something toward which to strive.

Why a Missionary?
Home influence probably was the most important factor in leading me to choose mission work. My parents were missionary-minded. We always had the church papers in our home, including missionary periodicals, and missions had a prominent place in our interests and in the family budget.

When I was in college, Monday evening was devoted to the study of missions under the late Rev. J. M. Coleman. The point was made that it was as necessary to have a call to stay at home as to go to a foreign field. I had no special call to stay at home. Later, I did have such a call for twenty-five years.

Possibly, "I being in the way, the Lord led me," so when the call came "Who will go for us, and whom shall we send?" I was ready to say "Here am I, send me."

It is a privilege to have a small part in the work in China, even though I am well beyond the retiring age. If some young person, well equipped as a physician and surgeon, with a zeal for doing the Lord's work, ready to use his talents to relieve suffering humanity, and at the same time directing his patients to the Great Physician, were to volunteer, the mission would welcome him with open arms.
WHY I AM A MISSIONARY NURSE IN THE COVENANTER CHURCH

by
Jean M. Barr

Why am I a missionary?
Why am I a nurse?
Why am I a Covenanter?

Back in the period of 1916-1917 several missionaries on furlough from our South China Mission and Miss Anna Milligan of the United Presbyterian Church spoke in our church, old Eighth Street, Pittsburgh. I had heard other missionary addresses that were also very interesting, but this time it was different; every one of the speakers was speaking directly to me. And that was the way the call came to me to be a missionary.

I am not a "born nurse" and did not spend my childhood nursing sick dolls. But experience met during my first term in China led me to resolve to get some kind of training during furlough that would enable me to help the sick at least a little. But the furlough passed with nothing accomplished to my disappointment. However, trouble which later spread over the whole of China had already begun in the South, and the missionaries were not returned to the field at the appointed time. That was the Lord's answer to me, giving me time for a full course in nursing, and permitting me to return later as a registered nurse.

I was born and reared in a Covenanter home, so I am first of all a Covenanter by inheritance. The years have brought many contacts with many people of many different faiths. Members of my own family are in other churches. There have been many opportunities to make a change. But having begun as a Covenanter by inheritance, I remain a Covenanter by deliberate choice.

It is a privilege to be able to say, "I am a Missionary Nurse in the Covenanter Church."
WHY I AM A MISSIONARY IN IN THE COVENANTER CHURCH
by Elizabeth McElroy

I am a Covenant Missionary because I felt I had been called. This call did not come all at once. Many people had influenced me in the step I took.

First of all my parents. The family worship that the Covenanters always stood for had its influence. I can still hear Mother starting the psalms tunes and Father praying for us and the Covenant Church. My pastor's home where I stayed and went to school had its share in the call. When small, one of our missionaries home on furlough once said, "Every three minutes thirty souls go down to a Christless grave." I can see him yet in the Quinter Church as he took out his watch and counted, "One, two, three," up to thirty. When he finished he said, "Now, thirty souls have gone down to a Christless grave." Its impression never left me.

"A girl is born," is a saying in Arabic after a long silence during a conversation. For if a boy is born it is heralded from the house tops, but a girl, silence and sadness reign over the home. So as Principal of the Girls' School, first in Mersine and then in Latakia, I felt I was helping to overcome this slavish idea that girls do not need a Christian Education.

As a Bible woman I enjoy visits in Latakia and in the villages with these Christian educated girls, who are now in homes of their own.
WHY I AM A MISSIONARY TEACHER IN
THE COVENANT CHURCH

by

Eunice McClurkin

Not because I have any illusions about my qualifications! There is so much to learn—more than the Arabic language. Yet inadequate for the task as I am, God called me to it unmistakably at the Grinnell C.Y.P.U. Conference in 1947, and He opened the way for me to arrive at the appointed field four months later.

Colleagues in the aircraft company where I had been employed as engineering draftsman wondered at a missionary going from their midst, and most thought of me as entering an adventure. I'm not the adventurous type. Why not go on witnessing for Christ at the plant and in the field of the home congregation?

But the Master brought me to a new environment, where I soon came to love the Syrian young people, and to long that their potential usefulness might be realized in the yielding of their wills to their Redeemer-King.

College-day interest in missions did not then result in a call, but the way opened for me to take graduate work in French, then to gain experience in a business office and an industrial plant. Queer preparation for a girls' school director in the Near East? Such as it is, the Lord had claim on it. May He use it to His glory and grant the ability to depend upon Him to provide all wisdom required for the work assigned. "Faithful is He that calleth you .... Brethren, pray for us." (1 Thessalonians 5:24, 25)
WHY I AM A COVENANTER MISSIONARY TEACHER

by
Blanche McCrea

This is not too easy a question for me to answer very definitely, but there are two Bible verses I'd like to quote. I Chronicles 29:5, "The gold for things of gold.... And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

I have grown up with these verses in my heart. They were the inspiration of my oldest sister, who, if the Lord had not laid her aside on a bed of illness for five long years, then taken her to Himself, would today be numbered among those who have served in our China Mission Field. I could go on and tell you much about this sister, who was like a young mother to me in my babyhood and childhood, and always like a source of inspiration to me. I believe I am right in saying that she, more than anything else, is my reason for being a Missionary teacher in the Covenant Church. There were, of course, other Providential leadings which directed my steps to this particular branch of service.

It was the Covenant Church which gave me my Christian home, and my church beliefs, the one from which I received my regard for the Lord's Day and His Holy Word; and therefore the Church which receives my service for the Lord Jesus Christ. Weak and imperfect though that service is, I pray that the Lord will use it for His glory.
III.
COVENANTER LAYMEN
WHY I BELONG TO THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by

W. J. Anderson

Not that I believe that no one can enter the kingdom of heaven but those belonging to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, but I do believe it is the very best way. I say this because the standards of the Reformed Presbyterian Church are high. This church believes that men should be brought up to this standard and not the standard brought down to suit men.

I belong to this church because it is a psalm singing church, and I believe that is God's plan of worship and He intended us to use them for His glorification.

I believe the Covenant church lives closer to God's word and without interpreting the Scriptures to accommodate modern whims.

I like the stand this church takes against divorce, oath bound societies and voting.

And as a man of my race I love this church for the great part it played in the abolition of slavery, my parents being in that number.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER
by
Charles Marsden Lee

When I was about eight years old I joined the church on profession of faith in Christ. My father was then pastor of the Taylor Congregational church in Seattle. Since he was distressed at the toleration of unitarians in some Congregational churches, he left his ministry and took the pastorate of a Presbyterian church near Cincinnati. In 1889 I joined this church.

Before I was aware of the Reformed Presbyterian denomination, I had heard my father preach in favor of the recognition of Christ in our national Constitution. Also I knew that his brother, E. Trumbull Lee, D. D., was a Vice-President of the National Reform Association. I met in 1898 the first family of Covenanters that I had known. They were the family of Mr. Frank Stewart of the Cincinnati congregation. One member of that family is my wife. As I became better acquainted with her, I came to admire her faith. Strictly speaking I did not marry into the church, because I joined it in 1911 under the influence of Dr. R. C. Wylie, whom I admired very highly. This was two years before I was married.

Among the distinguishing principles of the Covenanters, I admired most the desire to recognize Christ as the source of authority in government. Also I was glad to promise not to introduce any divisive element into the church, because I thought that it was small enough already. I delight to live with those who attempt to live most nearly as Christ would have them.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER

by
Andrew D. Robb

Most folks who join the church at the usual 12 to 16 years of age and are yet members at their silver wedding anniversary could very likely assign association as the reason for their action. This is probably more in evidence in the Covenanter church than in many others. Family teaching of the earlier years and the fruits of church relations later would more completely express the reason for this continued Christian service.

I am grateful that the first 15 years of my life were so largely arranged by Christian parents with regular attendance at church services. The next three were fortunately spent within the wholesome environment of the Denison, Kansas congregation. A year at Geneva furnished many rich companionships and connections that might have been lost in the next two at a college that taught 'strange' doctrine, had it not been for the preaching and prayers, through that period, of my pastor, Dr. R. R. Taggart. My senior year at Geneva allayed somewhat the confusion of the two previous, then the help of a good Covenanter wife and the several starting events of the next few years definitely settled attendance at and service in the Covenanter church.

The little part I have had in the service and courts of our church, or in endeavoring to promote the Kingship of Christ, and other Christian ideals and practices has brought its blessing of profitable occasions and fine relationships both in my chosen profession and church. I am glad my early training provided an understanding of and led me to an acceptance of the Biblical truths as proclaimed by the Covenanter church.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER
by
John Dale Russell

I am a Covenanter because I was born in the Church and am grateful that through it I was first brought into knowledge of and communion with my Lord and Saviour. I remain a Covenanter because I get a satisfaction from its worship service that I never find in the services of other denominations, I love the unaccompanied singing of the Psalms, with their rich content and their marvellous application to every situation in the life of the Christian. I appreciate the emphasis that is placed on the Bible as the only rule of faith and conduct, and the willingness of the Covenanter Church to be guided completely by the inspired Word of God. I enjoy the ministry of our Covenanter pastors, men who are by long tradition both godly and educated, intellectually alert, able to expound intelligently the teachings of God's Word. I remain a Covenanter because in no other church do I find such a tenacious clinging to certain fundamental principles which I believe are clearly taught in the Bible, my only ultimate source of authority. I am proud of the history of the Covenanters and am happy to be counted worthy of association with all those who in former days and now uphold the Blue Banner and that for which it stands.
WHY I AM A COVENANTER

by
Ross Latimer
Salesman, Emporia, Kansas

Strict accuracy compels the statement that I originally became a Covenanter because my father and mother determined I should be one.

From earliest childhood I read stories of the Covenanters and read books like "Tales of the Covenanters," "The Killing Times in Scotland," and others, and it was understood I would join the church when I became twelve years of age. I learned to ask and answer the shorter catechism without any help (We asked and answered half of them every Sabbath evening.) I also learned some of the larger catechisms, read the Confession of Faith and the Testimony and prepared for membership.

I still remember the Saturday afternoon I appeared before the session in the old brick church at Rose Point and was accepted as a full-fledged member of the church. There were communion Sundays. Up to that time it had been my duty on communion Sundays to attempt to maintain some semblance of order among the younger members of the family while my mother went to the table. This day though, that was over, and I followed my mother to join my father at the head of the table. It was a great experience, and the memory still lingers.

A few years later I left home and have attended many different churches and heard many different ministers preach many different sermons, but today I am more convinced than ever I will never belong to any other church. Why? Not being a theologian, perhaps I cannot make myself clear, but there is something about the preaching as well as the standards and practice of the Covenanter Church that affords a greater degree of satisfaction for the yearnings of my inner self than that of any other I have encountered.

To illustrate, just a short time ago I attended the closing service of an evangelistic campaign in another church. The pastor received more new members than a lot of Covenanter congregations have altogether. The appointments were perfect, but the whole thing seemed so mechanical it had little meaning. A week later I attended communion at one of our country churches. The appointments were very ordinary, but as I listened to the preaching and sat at the table with the others, I found the meaning the other service seemed to lack.
"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth."

(Psalm 68:4)

"The torch of truth from Scotia's hand
Banner Blue, our Banner Blue!
Falls at our feet a burning brand;
Banner Blue, our Banner Blue!

We catch it up at His command
Its flame will light up every land;
Christ's Crown and Covenant firm shall stand;
Banner Blue, our Banner Blue!

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