

*"dying to self daily." The theologians call it the initial or crisis experience of sanctification. I call it the act of letting Jesus be Lord. It was a crucial, profound choice that I have had to validate time and time again by obedience in specific instances when He revealed his will in new areas of discipline and service. Through this I came to understand I did not have to find the will of God. He was responsible to reveal it to me. I only had to obey it once it became clear. I can still say with Count Zinzendorf-*

*I heard His call, Come Follow!*

*That was All.*

*My gold grew dim,*

*My soul went after Him.*

*I rose and followed,*

*That was all.*

*Who would not follow*

*If they heard His call?*

## Part 2. The Concept and Content of Ministry

Insight 1. Pastoral Ministry is to be People-Centered not Program- Centered

Every person is important for himself: His needs; his ideas; his abilities; his potential. There is a song we used to sing: "I am the Church, You are the Church,

We are the church together.

All God's people, all around the world

We are the church together."

Buildings and programs, (I prefer to call them ministries) are never an end in themselves. They are a means (a vital and necessary means but only a means) to build people into the church God wants them to be. All people are equal the foot of the cross. Some people have more potential than others, and some are more difficult than others, but when Christ died He died for each one. Each is precious in his sight. God is no respecter of persons and we must not let our affinities affect our concern for people. Let me put it bluntly: you don't build a church, you build people and they are the church.

Insight 2. It's a psychological fact that people tend to act according to what is expected of them. If you expect success, loyalty, heroism, faithfulness, honesty, you make it possible. Have BIG expectations of people. It's better to expect a lot and be disappointed once in a while, than not to expect much and get it all the time. Share your ministry with your people and let them make you a success. For illustration I want to quote here from my last Pastoral Report to the Sturgis Church congregation on July 31, 1958 page 3 under Closing Words. "I do not know how to adequately say what I feel at this moment. The Sturgis Church is known throughout Wesleyan Methodism as a great church, and I have received much recognition as a result. However, while I am not minimizing my contribution to this church, by false humility, I recognize that this church has had a tremendous influence in making me an acceptable minister. If you owe me much, I owe you more. A man with a vision can end in disillusionment unless there are those who will, with him, lay down their lives to make the vision real. This you have done."