

The Sacrifice of Leaving Home

Matthew 8:14-20; 2 Corinthians 8:9

Arno C. Gaebelein (1861-1945) had a Christ-honoring Bible-teaching ministry throughout America and Canada, speaking to many thousands. He preached to countless numbers of Jews in the New York City area. He taught himself Hebrew and Yid-

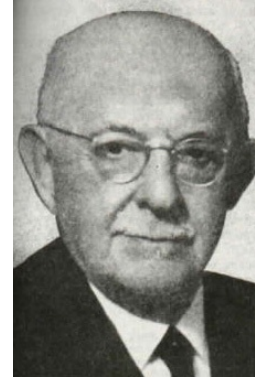
dish so well that many orthodox Jews had difficulty believing he was not a Jew! He was the editor of *Our Hope* magazine, probably the finest dispensational publication ever printed. He went from state to state, often preaching on prophetic themes, especially the Lord's Coming. He was often asked if he enjoyed traveling up and down the land, and he answered with a resounding "No!"

In his own words: "My wife and I always had a comfortable home. I love my home-life more than anything. If I had followed my natural inclinations, I would have remained at home. Once I was in North Dakota, at a very small and rather primitive farm-house. The bed was hard and the meal almost insufficient. Why did I leave my comfortable home for this?"

"I was so homesick that I was tempted to take the next train back. That evening a voice seemed to speak to me in prayer: 'I left a better home than you could ever leave; I had not where to lay My head; I suffered and died for you.' I bowed my head in shame and wept and thanked Him for the small sacrifice I could make and for the grace which permitted me to seek out some of His beloved sheep and minister to their needs. Nor must I forget what all these years of my wandering ministry meant to my wife, who stood by me so faithfully. Many months each year she spent in a sacrificial widowhood."

May we gladly be willing to suffer hardships for the sake of the One who left the glories of Heaven for us!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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