

AN APPRECIATION OF VICTORIA
CHURCH ACTIVITIES.

To a chance perusal of a recent issue of the Highway may be attributed the assumption that a word portrayal of the church doings, in all its several activities at Victoria might not be unappreciated, even though coming from the perspective of a 'back bench.' Aside from periodical times of cold epidemics and occasional interest in revival services in sister churches the local activity is kept up to normal and this by the entire force keeping perfectly adjusted and staying everlastingly with it. Services are regular, and inspirational enough to be highly attractive, and in this feature, little distinction, strange to say, can be made between a preaching service and either the off Sunday or Thursday prayer meeting.

A lively and interested Sunday School, that is well officered and with competent and conscientious teachers, is maintained throughout the full year, with a fairly good attendance generally, but as in all communities—there are others whose presence would add interest and make for far greater results. The Missionary Band, organized several years ago, is going strong and is active in its particular work. Each third Monday a well prepared program is an interesting feature of the evening's exercises and adds special attractiveness to the regular routine work of the band.

At the January meeting an exceptionally fine time was had and many new faces were noticed in the audience and these and others are ever welcome.

Mrs. Chas. E. Shaw is the active and much interested President, who with Miss Cora Tilly as Secretary and organist, carries the responsibility of accomplishing much of the success of the band during their tenure of office. At Monday night's meeting (Jan. 15) singing of hymn, "Preach Jesus wherever you go," opened the following pleasant exercises. Scripture lesson, read by Madam President. Prayer by Pastor Lester.

Business Routine.

Recitation by Marguerite Harris.

Chorus—"I'll go where you want me to go."

Recitation—Myra Elliott.

Recitation—William Elliott.

Solo and Chorus by Donald Heywood and choir, "Saved every day."

Reading, "Ginger's Big Gift," by Alice Shaw.

Recitation by Arthur Shaw.

Exercise—"Missionary Spectacles," by Don. Heywood and Claude York.

Recitation by Ada Cox.

Solo—"Little Brothers and Sisters," by Ella Heywood.

Reading—By Gordon York.

Duet—By Rev. Lester and Miss—

Reading—By Marguerite Harris.

Solo—By Mrs. Harris.

Reading—By Mrs. Elliott.

Reading—By Charles M. Shaw.

Recitation—"Give God thy best," by Mrs. Shaw.

Recitation, "A little pink box," by Alice Shaw, who in her naively sweet manner used this as a vehicle for the introduction of a prettily decorated mite box which

was considerably appreciated by the audience.

As a finale to the affair Pastor Lester was asked to talk a few minutes on mission work and after expressing his pleasure at being present on this occasion, he devoted some short time to an interesting account of the work of the Reformed Baptist mission work in Africa. He told of the new church just completed, of the Sanders, well remembered by many here; and of the Sterritt Sisters, all of which was interesting especially since many too hold pleasant memories of these girls from their visit here just previous to sailing for the foreign field.

You will have judged that this church, though modest in numbers, is a live wire, and in its modern and comfortable church home what wonder that the spirit prevails in this little church community to "stand by the stuff."

Just recently through the active interest of Mrs. Thos. Tilley an elegant communion service of silver and glass has been provided and Sunday, the 7th inst., was the first occasion when this latest acquisition to the church equipment was used. This beautifully chaste furniture lends an additional grandeur and elegance and solemnity to an always impressive and sacred ceremonial of the church.

Brother Lester is just recently been placed on this circuit, but he possesses the happy faculty of "sitting in" and from the start has been generally accepted as one of the family. His pulpit deliverance is such as to appeal strongly to the appreciation of his people and all who have him.

Many readers of the Highway will be pleased to know that Henry Elliott was out to the Band meeting Monday night at the church and that recovery from his recent accident is assured, and Mrs. Tilley too, so long an invalid, gets around her home quite readily and on occasion gets to church service. This privilege she greatly appreciates.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have written these last few sentences with a deep sense of the "discriminating powers" of the traditional blue pencil, may it continue to flourish in pursuit of quality in the Highway.

MACMILLAN.

MISSIONARY LETTER.

Hartland P. O.,

Via Paulpietersburg,

Natal, So. Africa,

Dec. 12th, 1922

Dear Homeland Friends:

I think it has been a long time since I have written you, but as letters are coming from the different missionaries all the time you have not lacked tidings from the mission station.

We praise the Lord for His continual care and goodness. The hot weather is certainly depressing and we have had some excessively hot days lately. How we do praise the Lord when the refreshing showers come. It seems that we could not stand it, were it not for the great downfalls of rain, and the cool breeze that accompanies them. So far this season we have had no hail storms. We have to use

our sunshades as soon as we go outdoors for the heat is so great, and some days one feels it is almost too hot to go out unless absolutely necessary.

Mr. Mayoss has our fence up now which is a comfort for the animals and hens are shut out. We have a little garden planted, some squash and corn which we brought from home, and some tomatoes. The native girls are regular farmers and take a great interest in gardening. Already the corn and squash are up and looking well.

The natives are busy in their gardens this time of year, and we do not see so many passers by or have so many callers, but daily there are some who appear. Last Wednesday there was an unusually large class. Faith said fifty-five were present. Sunday afternoon we had a good meeting though only a small number came. Faith brought a good message from the story of Naaman, the leper, and the people listened very attentively.

In less than two weeks the Christmas meeting and the great feast will be on hand. We trust the Lord to make it a spiritual time. Many will come that day who do not come at other times, and will have the opportunity to hear the gospel message.

Life moves on steadily without much change or variation, and we plod on, daily looking to the Lord for growth in grace and the knowledge of Zulu customs and language. Truly one needs a call, definite and sweet to the heart, to live in a foreign land and be daily content. We are happy to say that Jesus does this for us. The greatest patience is required and the promise that whatever we do in Jesus' name "shall in no wise lose its reward" is most comforting to our hearts. It seems as though His goodness to us is beyond expression, and we feel that to live in Africa for Him is the least we can do in return for all his benefits to us. There is never a day that He does not show us His tender care and love.

I must mention Baby Hope's arrival on Nov. 20, Paul and Ruth's little daughter. We had a very interesting letter from Ruth last week describing her appearance. Of course we should all love to see her.

Lydia will soon be returning from Durban, where she has been having surgical treatment. We shall be glad to see her happy face again, and hear her earnest prayers and exhortations. To see even one such staunch Christian as Lydia, is an inspiration to missionaries, and proves that God is able to change these poor natives even as He does white people. Many of the natives remember Mr. and Mrs. Kierstead and speak of Carl and Eugene too.

We welcome the Highway and enjoy the homeland news it contains. God bless all our dear ones who are praying for us and providing for us so kindly; we do appreciate it so much. May the new year be one of blessing and prosperity.

Yours, trusting in the blood of Jesus,
ALICE F. STERRITT.

"I resolved that, like the sun, so long as my day lasted I would look on the bright side of everything."