

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S., Paulpietersburg,
Natal, So. Africa, Sept. 25, 1932

Dear Highway Friends:

I trust this finds you all well and enjoying your beautiful autumn weather. We in this country have spring now with its beauty, but the thought of hot weather robs one of too high an expectation. We do have some very hot days but generally cool nights, which revive our strength and spirits.

We have had one of the nicest winters that I have seen in Africa and this enabled us to get out to the distant outposts and spend more time in all outposts than formerly. I have only been at home about ten or twelve whole days in the last three months, usually home about a day or two, then away again to another field, but the weather was ideal and one had no fears of spending nights on the hills if need be, or in native huts; most of the nights would have been comfortable on the hills.

Our work in general is very encouraging. We have had six day schools going most of this winter and the possibility of one or two more next term. We built one new church in a new field and expect to have it officially opened within a few weeks (D. V.)

Last week we had a wedding here at the station then went across the Pevaan river to have the Big Wedding Feast, where we held one big open air service and two in the Church nearby. We had three heathens give themselves to the Lord, one man and two women, and in addition many requests for prayer and another to pray for healing of their bodies.

We are constantly called upon to minister to sick and needy. Six weeks ago I was called across the Pongola to see a man with a broken leg. He was thrown from a horse, receiving a compound fracture of both bones, tibia and fibula, the fibula had a chip about two inches long split off as well as a complete break. The tibia was a clean break. After setting it I made three visits to see that it was not tampered with, which is a necessary precaution, for some curious folk want to see it. However, it was not tampered with and what seems to be a perfect union has resulted, for which I am very grateful.

We had another pitiful case here for about a week—a young man who had become entangled in a rope with which he was fastening a load upon a donkey's back. He was dragged about half a mile face downward, receiving painful wounds in face and body, and left in a dazed condition, but seems to be making a good recovery. The Misses Sterritt also are constantly finding many very needy cases to attend to.

Now I am not going to write more, for time will not permit. I trust you will all continue to pray for our work here and all workers, white and black. You are not forgotten in our prayers and it would do your hearts good to hear these black folk pray for the folk that have sent them the good news of salvation. May the Lord bless you all in the homeland.

Sincerely yours in Him,

D. M. MacDONALD

"The reputation of a man is like his shadow—it sometimes follows and sometimes precedes him; it is sometimes longer and sometimes shorter than the natural size."

"THINK ON THESE THINGS"

"As he thinketh in his heart, so is he."—Prov. 23:7.

"Sow a thought, and reap a desire,
Sow a desire, and reap an act;
Sow an act, and reap a habit;
Sow a habit, and reap a character;
Sow a character, and reap a destiny."

The fall of man in the garden brought evil or depravity into his heart. God, in looking upon his corrupted condition, said "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Evil thoughts are the fore-runners of evil actions. They bridge the way for all manner of sin. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"—Matt. 15:19. We see sin begins in thought and comes first in the catalogue of crime. As men view the conduct of sinful actions and behold their defiling effects, we can trace them back to their origin and find it started, or had its birth in thought. The man in prison, the woman in the slums, and all manner of sinners in and out of hell can look back and see their sad fate started in their thought life. Emerson says, "Thought is the seed of action; but action is as much its second form as thought, to the end that it may be uttered and acted. The more profound the thought, the more burdensome. Always in proportion to the depth of its sense does it knock importunately at the gates of the soul, to be spoken, to be done."

Evil thoughts may be lightly regarded, but like the little foxes, they destroy the tender vines of conscience, conviction and right living, and drag the soul into the vilest of sins, and finally sink it into ruin and damnation. God says, "I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts." (Jer. 6:19).

No person is so good as not to be tempted. With temptation, evil suggestions present themselves to the mind, which has the power of choice. It is in our power to resist the evil suggestion and pray for overcoming grace and deliverance. The promise is, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee." The Saviour was tempted in all points like as we are, yet He overcome and did not sin. We overcome evil thoughts and all manner of sin through Him. Thoughts are not sinful to us until we give them space and suffer them to function in our minds. By harboring or entertaining them they become sinful. We are to resist and destroy them. The command is, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."—2 Cor. 10:5.

If we, as Christians, do this, we will be happy, and sinful thoughts will be repulsive to us. David said, "I hate vain thoughts, but thy law do I love." Solomon declares, "The thoughts of the righteous are right." And Paul says, "Charity thinketh no evil." And in giving instructions to govern our thoughts he says, "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."—Phil. 4:7, 8.—The Church Herald and Holiness Banner.

MENACES TO CHRISTIANITY

Being Part Two of a short series of informative articles dealing with a subject of paramount importance

By Envoy David Shankland

The second source of menace is the worldwide atheist movement, with an organized body of over ten millions of people.

The "American Association for the Advancement of Atheism" counts its members in millions. Many of them are in the universities, the seminaries and the high schools. There are atheist societies in Canada, and our educational institutions are not free from their evil influence.

Some of the atheists boldly declare that they are banded together to stamp out Christianity. They brazenly assert that it is responsible for all the evils that the world is suffering from, while others work surreptitiously.

According to a statement in one of their journals, the atheists in the United States have captured the membership of twenty additional colleges in the past eighteen months.

In New York City, high school students have an atheist organization, called "The Society of the Godless." In the city of Philadelphia there is one called "God's Black Sheep." In Los Angeles, there is another, called "The Devil's Angels." One university has an atheist organization, called "The Legion of the Damned." Another state university has one called "The Sons of Satan." Another high school has an atheist club, called "The Hell-Bent Heathen." The students of Rochester University have an atheist organization, called "The Society of Damned Souls." Many of the young people—both male and female—in these seats of learning, have lost their sense of moral and spiritual values.

Not long ago a noted preacher and lecturer visited one of the colleges, and was requested to address the students. He spoke on "The Value of Moral Standards." He tells that, after his lecture, a committee of male and female students called upon him. The spokesman was a young lady student. She told him that the students did not agree with his statements. She calmly stated that they considered that the practice, which he so vigorously denounced was caused by a perfectly natural appetite, and that they did not believe it was blemishing to satisfy that appetite without taking vows that they might regret. They did not agree with the statement that such an act was immoral.

Of course there are many atheists who are moral, but to an alarming extent, there is a fast growing tendency to take the attitude of that committee of students. When young people become atheists, and do not believe that they are responsible to any higher authority than their own sense of what is fitting or desirable, dire consequences are sure to follow.

Men and women in all walks of life—many of wealth and social prominence—have joined the atheistic movement, and millions of dollars have been subscribed to spread propaganda.

These are evils in connection with the spread of atheism that are appalling to think of, and information could be furnished, concerning the same, that might startle us even more than this.