

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

DEAR FOLK: Natal, South Africa
 When this letter reaches you, you will be well into the New Year. May it be a year of much blessing to you all, and of prosperity in the work of the Lord. Our Christmas and New Year meetings are over. They were seasons of blessing. Altogether eleven were baptized and brought into the church. The spirit of revival is manifest in all the outstations. Many are giving themselves to seek the Lord. Altogether the outlook is very bright. Difficulties of course, we have, and problems to meet. New demands are always arising for strength, money and time.

Now a word about our schools. Despite all our writing, folk seem to be ignorant of the position that the school has in our work. First of all there is no compulsory education for the Natives. Secondly, the Government makes no provision for schools at first. Before we can get any recognition whatsoever from the Government, we must have a daily average in our schools of twenty pupils all the year round, which makes the position most difficult, for in the greater part of our field most of the children must work six months. For example it took us eight years on this Station of expense and unremitting effort. In addition to what the Sanders had done before we came, before we were recognized or helped by the Government with our Mission Station school. At Altona the school was held eleven years before the Government allowed a grant. This means that at these two stations the missionaries have had to bear the greater part of the expense of these two schools for all these years.

In addition to these two, there are ten outstation schools. Each of these schools represent from thirty to fifty dollars a year that the Missionary has to pay. The cheapest that you can get any teacher (that is any good) is five dollars a month. School ten months of the year means fifty dollars.

It is absolutely necessary to Christian faith and practice for the believer to be able to read the Word of the Lord, hence the great necessity of schools. Now we solicit your prayer for these schools. Ten are in progress; there should be fifteen at least, but we have not the funds to carry them on.

I am writing this letter because of the question in Brother Kierstead's last letter to me in answer to my letter to him where I had forewarned him of his part of the burden of financing schools. His question was: "Was it necessary for the Missionary to support these schools?"

"Why does not the Government support them?"

In answer, I can state that I do not know why the Government does not, but I do know that it simply does not; until they come up to the Government requirements, they are not considered at all, and even after being considered, owing to the small amount allotted to this department of Native education, there is such a long waiting list that it takes years before a new school falls in line for aid.

Until the people here, and those in the Homeland, recognize the need, it falls to the Missionary to support these schools out of his own allowance.

We have today forty good native workers preaching the gospel. All but two of these received what education they have from

our own missionaries. Did it not pay to sacrifice to keep schools?

There are about two thousand names on our church books here, members, seekers and young people who were given as "Church Babies." About five hundred of them are able to read the Word of the Lord for themselves. The majority of these would be about the age of thirty-five or under. There is a great opportunity and a great need represented in the education department of our work. We are pleased to note that the people are rapidly awakening to their own need of an education and also that the majority of white people are now beginning to favour the education of the Natives. Some farm owners will not allow their Natives to go any further than to barely read, but many of our older members had their primers burned by their "White Man," and were absolutely refused permission to learn to read. Think, yourselves, what it would be, not to be able to read or to write. He that "hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" We who have had the privileges of an education should, as much as possible share with our brethren who have this great need. There may be some of our readers who are not interested in spiritual things, but are interested in a square deal. There may be others who are not at all interested in us as a Denomination, but are interested in schools. All come to our schools, whatever denomination, if they have an opportunity. If such there be, here is an opportunity, for interdenominational work. These black brothers of yours need your help. We are grateful for all the progress that has been possible along educational lines, and we pray that it may be more as the years go on. We are glad for what all the Mission societies are doing along this line. Some of these societies are situated where there is no compulsory farm service, and therefore can maintain a better average.

In conclusion, we are eagerly looking forward to the coming of the Kiersteads. Now my letter is so long I must close right here, with Christian greetings to you all.

Yours in Him, for

REV. D. M. MacDONALD

South Africa,

January 14th, 1939

Dear Friends:

Greetings in Jesus' precious name! As we have entered upon the New Year we are expecting great things from God. Many are the wonderful promises which, through Christ, may be ours if we appropriate them through faith. I am sure we all feel we should love to do a lot for Him this year. But we must "know" God in the sense that Daniel did if we are to be able to do great things for Him. "But the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." (Dan. 11:32). God chose Solomon "to build an house for the sanctuary" and told him "to be strong and do it" but first David said to his son, "Know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and a willing mind." (I. Chr. 28:9, 10) Of Saul (Paul) God said to Ananias, "He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15). We hear Paul say to the Philippians (3:7-10), "But what things were gain to me those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the

excellency of the knowledge of Christ my Lord . . . that I may KNOW HIM." God chose these and many others for a special work and they yielded to His will and allowed His Spirit to have His way no matter how difficult the road, so as to fit them for the chosen work. Perhaps God has a special work for you to do for Him this year. He has CHOSEN YOU to—what? For Paul to fulfill God's will he had to go through much hardship, trial and suffering. When Moses felt the call of God in his soul to service, he "chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of reward. To obey God this year may mean considerable hardship and suffering on our part. Paul said, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings being made comformable unto His death." (Phil. 3:10). Paul also told us that his victory in sufferings gave other tried ones courage to go through with God.

While visiting our brother Paul, his wife and family in Boksburg a week ago, George Charles and I had the great privilege of seeing the "Reduction Works" at the gold mine there. We saw the men and machinery at work, from the time the rocks were drilled for blasting underground (we went down to the 14th level—4,000 feet, carried up from awful darkness to the bright sunlight; crushed and reduced to fine powder; put through various processes till it finally emerged from a fiery furnace a molten mass to be poured into molds to cool. The heat caused the dross to float to the top—a thick black crust which was thrown away. The brick of gold was scrubbed with a brush and water, then tapped with a hammer and blunt chisel so that the remaining particles were chipped off. It was then sent somewhere else to be refined. One brick weighed 65 pounds, and was worth from 6,500 to 7,000 pounds sterling. Paul succeeded in lifting it about two inches from the table. Ah, how I enjoyed seeing it all. It made me think of the marvellous grace of God. Saving us from the horrible pit of sin; translating us from darkness to light. Washing away our sins, cleansing and purifying our hearts by His Holy Spirit, removing the dross from our hearts, and perfecting us daily as we become more like Him as we grow in Grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. No wonder Gold is so costly! The machinery is very expensive, and the acids, mercury, etc., not to mention the many lives given to secure it from underground, or the poor men who have been crippled for life, or dying of pneumonia, etc., from working in that unhealthy dangerous place. Do you wonder that a lady who went with us said, "Surely it is worth every penny of that price!" Why was so much pains taken and expense put on those black-looking rocks? Because they contained gold! Because it was the only way to obtain the gold from the rocks. Why should we "think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try us, "as though some strange thing happened unto us." But let us "rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when His glory is revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (I. Peter 4:12, 13), and I. Peter 1:7—"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than that of Gold that perisheth, though it be