

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

MISSIONS—WORLD'S HOPE

Altona,
April 27, '42

Dear Highway Friends:

It is a lovely fall day, winter is here and the days are short and the night long and cool. Most of the Zulus prefer the summers for they really haven't sufficient clothing to keep them warm when it gets very cold.

Last week was a very busy one on the Mission but Eugene was able to be at home so that helped greatly. So, for this month, we have treated or given medicine to over sixty people.

Also last week, we had two sick boys staying here. One boy, when herding the cattle, called bad names to some other herd boys and that started a fight. As a result the lad got hit in the head with a stick, in such a way that it went into his head and made a hole in his skull.

The second boy had been in a mine hospital in Johannesburg for quite a long time and then was sent home. He has sores on his foot so a week ago they brought him here also. Eugene tended these boys for a week and then felt that they were cases for the hospital so he sent word to the chief, who is the guardian, for permission to take them to a Doctor. The chief consented, so on Friday Eugene took them to Piet Retief and the Doctor said they should go to the hospital for treatment. The mothers are both our church members but the boys are not Christians. We are praying that God will heal their bodies and bring them to Himself.

This chief, for awhile, was not very friendly towards our work and at one time threatened that he might make all his people become heathen. I think for awhile he would not allow his people to come here for medicine. Some weeks ago he sent one of his wives here with a very sick baby girl. Both Eugene and I thought it might die but we did our best for it and now it is alright. We are grateful to the Lord for helping us to help the child. It may be because of that, we do not know, but now he is sending others of his kraal to us, when they are sick.

There was a bit of excitement here on Wednesday when we learned that twins—a boy and a girl—had arrived at the home of our workers, Johanesi and Trifina. This is the third time that they have had twins but each time before one died. This time they are both well but the boy is very small.

Yesterday we had a good service here at Altona. About fifty were present and the spirit of the meeting was very good indeed. The teacher interpreted for me. He does very well and it is easier to preach when he interprets than when the lady teacher helps me as she does not know English so well. Eugene was down to Klipvaal, our nearest outpost.

We, as a family, are well. The children are growing fast and Kenneth is running around with the others now. We thank the Lord for keeping us from fever, etc., thus far and we are praying for grace and strength to keep on working for Him.

By the time this reaches you, you will be thinking of going to Beulah. We do pray that it may be a time of rich blessings.

Yours in Him,
G. M. KIERSTEAD

The Alabama Methodist Conference has approved a resolution providing a \$5,000 life insurance policy for every active member. The resolution indicated "the need of making some provision for the immediate needs of the families of our preachers who die has always been recognized among us."—Gospel Messenger.

"When President Roosevelt told in his speech on Tuesday of the heroism of Dr. Corydon Wassell, a missionary nearly sixty years old, some may have been surprised that a man devoted to the conversion of the heathen should have shown such fortitude and ingenuity—should have been so much the man of action. But I am sure that before this war is over many accounts will appear of the Christian missionary in China. They are a remarkable body of men and women. Nothing surprised me more upon my return to the United States after a long absence in Asia than the low esteem in which missionaries were generally held. 'Psalm singers,' they were often called, and the question was so often asked, 'What business is it of theirs to bring our religion to a people who have such an old civilization?' I never heard anyone say that of them in the Far East. There the mission is respected as a man of action, as a man who gets things done and done well. And although here in the United States there seems to be a great fuss about denominations, out there the interest is only in the jobs that need to be done, the schools and colleges and hospitals and churches that need to be managed. * * * I am wondering what will become of all these missionaries, so many of whom have stuck to their posts throughout these horrible years. * * * They are doing a job among our Chinese allies of which all Americans can be proud and which will not soon be forgotten in China. I often wonder what will happen to our missions and charities at home and abroad in these days of high taxes and lids on incomes. The American missions in China have been supported generously by large numbers of givers of small amounts as well as by the very rich, and although this may come as a surprise to most Americans, by the Chinese themselves. Unless Americans continue to help the missionaries, the greatest hope in China will be shut down for many years to come, if not permanently."—George E. Sokolsky.

CO-ORDINATION OF SPIRITUAL FORCES

Rev. R. H. Hamilton

Some few years back, after the war had broken out, Hon. Winston Churchill broadcast a message to the small democratic nations of Europe, urging them to hasten and band themselves together for their mutual protection against the Nazi menace. The reaction was, as you may remember, that they decided to stand on their own and travel on as neutrals. We have only to look at the sad condition of Norway, Denmark, Holland and others, to see the folly of their course.

Today all forces are being co-ordinated, all waste eliminated, all overlapping removed, that we may win the war. And having won the war by these means, we will proceed to win the peace by similar means and economies.

We have in Canada today about a dozen small holiness denominations, made up of Christian men and women of stalwart convictions. We are trying to carry on programs of evangelism, Christian Education, publications and other departments to advance the interests of our various denominations. We are really doing the very same work and with very limited means, yet we are overlapping our efforts and dividing our forces. We have certain minor differences, but on the general principles of Full Salvation we are a unit. The challenge before us is tremendous, and never greater than now. We quote from the

United Church Observer: "The whole world is in a fluid state. Bastions of Empire have fallen overnight, class barriers, geographic barriers, social and religious distinctions are disintegrating before our eyes. Canada is not outside this great world upheaval, and it would be preposterous to assume that Canada of all the nations now undergoing basic readjustment, should hope to continue without vital changes."

What with "rationing" of vital goods and "freezing certain commodities, and other limitations by orders-in-council, we may not always enjoy even the loose religious privileges we now enjoy. In Japan any religious group with less than five thousand members has been cancelled out. This brought the Free Methodists, the Nazarenes, the Japan Evangelistic Bands and others to form the Holy Sanctification Church of Japan and thus save their work.

We are wondering if something could not be done in Canada to strengthen the cause of the work of holiness, so dear to all of us, and to give us greater prestige when dealing with the government, when launching on aggressive evangelistic moves to carry the gospel to our soldier boys, in assisting our young people in the matter of Christian Education, in meeting all public relations and various other efforts. We are thinking of a Canadian Holiness Association, to be headed up by a Central Council to which all groups may send duly elected representatives.

This would not interfere with our usual denominational activities, only insofar as it might lead to co-ordinating moves for the good of all. It would not interfere with the connections already existing between our Canadian churches and the main bodies in the United States, but would enable the forces in Canada to work as a unit in meeting the needs of our country.

Already one church has appointed representatives to co-operate with the representatives of other churches who wish to look into the matter here outlined. We suggest that our coming conferences take action along this line. We would be glad to see a convention called and this important matter considered by our groups as a whole. We are suggesting an Association, not an Amalgamation.

This article was written on my own responsibility, and not as an official of our church. However if it would bring the matter to a head we would be willing to act as a provisional secretary to receive correspondence and suggestions.

UNCONQUERED FAITH

O for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe.

That will not murmur or complain
Beneath the chastening rod;
But in the hour of grief or pain,
Can lean upon its God.

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt.

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last spark is fled,
And with a pure and heavenly ray
Lights up a dying bed.

Lord, give me such a faith as this;
And then, whate'er may come,
I'll taste e'en here the hallow'd bliss
Of an Eternal Home. —Bathhurst