

Go Ye Into All the World and Preach the Gospel to Every Creature

WHY MISSIONARIES

If we may believe what we read in some current magazine articles, lands which are known as non-Christian, especially some of the South Sea Islands, are almost Edenic. Such questions as "Why disturb these happy, contented people?" are asked glibly and insistently. Often has been the demand to leave them alone in their blissful ignorance. The inference is that any attempt made to change their naive estate is a wrong done them. There seems to be a propagandized implication that the gospel with its prohibitions and moral standards, is a thing not needed. We are asked to keep do-gooders and disciplinarians home.

At first flush, this sounds rather erudite and wise. But, granting that mere attempts at civilizing men in foreign lands, with no power to save from sin, can be nothing short of dismal failure, we do insist that the gospel not only educates, but transforms. There is no Edenic state anywhere in the world. We demand a recognition of the moral values of religion. We insist that even though there may be in some places a simple semblance of happiness, where the morals of the decalogue are wholly ignored there do exist conditions of sin and degradation that ought to be seen by even the visitor for a day. We further insist that it is this very evident degradation that makes the value of missionary endeavor plain. Where Christ is truly honored by preachers and missionaries, souls will be saved from sin. True civilization, not simply change of garb, or a certain type of education, will follow. The very best we have in Christian standards of civilization comes in a direct sequence of the gospel preached to our forefathers. Now, contrary to the claims of some who would have us stay out of mission lands and insist that the people there are happy and care free, we again aver that they are not really happy. It is notable that fears and superstitions fill the minds and hearts of unevangelized people the world around. There may be isolated cases where this does not seem to maintain. But the consensus of opinion of Christian teachers and missionaries is that heathen darkness is filled with fears and dreads that we who live in Christian lands know nothing about. Where there is a constant dread of some type of stealthy calamity, activated by an ogreish monster, there seems little hope of happiness. Few, if any, are the lands where the dread does not exist.

Pagan people are not within a million miles of innocence. More than that, they know they are full of sin. Yet further, heathen night is not so dark that there is no longing for some sort of peace whether it be a resorting to a

witch doctor, or a weary trek to a holy river, or yet some painful penance, there persists a longing for release from a personal state which to them is unideal. Dr. Willis Hotchkiss has well said, "Heathen people are not simply unfortunates who need civilizing, but sinners who need a Saviour."

There is yet another reason why missionaries must not be kept from heathen lands, or even semi-civilized lands. It is the success of the gospel of Christ. If we had nothing but an idle tale to tell, wherein none are offered anything more than an introduction to or increase of the attractive and pleasant things of life, we would do well to stay at home. Let us go further and say that the type of so-called missionary who knows nothing about a real born-again experience and has no concern for the salvation of the lost should be kept home. A passionless ministry is a menace to souls anywhere. It is the passion for souls that leads them to God. A careless industrialist or office worker who knows the way to work but not the path of prayer and who lazes or reads novels while the true missionary labors for souls has no more place on a mission field than a night club habitue. Moral lines between the two lend no spiritual favor to the first mentioned. Let it be remembered that there is great need on the mission fields for men and women who can use head and hands for physical and mental toil. But if there is no spiritual life, only dearth can follow. It was a heart-warming session of our executive committee, some time ago, when there met with us a brilliant young man and his wife, who came before us to talk about an industrial plan on one of our mission fields. But the thrill that came to our hearts was given when that young college-bred industrialist said to us with more than ordinary fervor, "I do not want to go to Africa simply to put into operation some mechanical device, but I desire to be a soul-winner." That is what we need. That is the proper spirit. All who go must be soul-winners, whether ministers or laymen. Workers of that type are the ones who will lift the work of missions from ill repute to honor, from bane to blessing, from failure to success. Let us all pray that none may say that missionaries shall not go to all nations.

—Selected.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,

June 1st, 1947

Dear Highway:

This is Sunday evening after a full day, and almost night, for it is Big Sunday as we call it

in Zulu.

Last night's preaching and praise meeting lasted for nearly five hours. The theme was, "Put on the whole armour of God." Several persons were at the altar for special prayer.

The day began with morning prayers in the church. The same theme was re-emphasized. At about ten o'clock the Young People had their monthly meeting. The day ended with two sermons—one by Daniel Sukazi and the other by George Dlamini, our Altona teacher—and a Communion service. The Lord's presence was very marked in the altar service. One young man gave himself to seek the Lord.

The Preachers' School is drawing to a close with only one more week of school remaining. We hope to re-open the school again in August (D. V.) We want to study another two months at that time if it is possible. Four workers—Rev. Johanisi Nkosi and his wife, Absolom Sibiyi and Johana Bembe—have been in regular attendance. Seven other workers came as they had time.

The regular attendants studied Bible (Genesis and Exodus), Geography, Health and English. The others struggled with the elements of Zulu reading and the like.

Considerable progress has been made towards building a new church building at Kipenyawo. The stone foundation has been finished and over 7,000 bricks have been made. It will take about another week to finish making bricks if all goes well. Then the brick must be hauled to the building site and burned.

The air is beginning to feel frosty out here so we can expect our winter weather any time now.

The food situation is much better generally in South Africa this year as we have had a fairly good crop of mealies (corn). The natives should have it much easier this year as they were near to starvation last year.

The Lord is very real to us day by day and we are determined to continue on in the Way of Holiness.

Yours in Christian fellowship,
EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK?

Whom God calls He can instruct and equip.
Whom Christ commands He can make efficient.
Whom Christ sends He can make fearless.
Whom Christ energizes He can keep from fainting.
Whom Christ directs He can make victorious.
—Sel.