

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

P. O. Box 33, Vryheid, Natal,
April 30th, 1950.

Dear Highway,

Well I say, "Praise the Lord"!

What is the cause of our joy and exuberant feelings? \$1,000!

Well, in this instance one thousand dollars is more than just one thousand dollars that will make a part payment on a car, a house, or something similar and is only a part of a whole. Furthermore this one thousand dollars is not just one thousand of other thousands or even one thousand added to another thousand. It is the FIRST one thousand dollars that has come to this mission field for many more years than I have any memory of. It is one thousand dollars in its own right—in fact a church. The Lord bless the donor.

The Bible says faith is the substance of things hoped for. Several of us out here had faith to begin building a church at Altona. The excavation of the foundation began in December 1946. The cement foundation was poured in 1947. 20,000 brick were made and burned in 1948. In the year of our Lord 1950, the walls are going up and a rough cement floor has been laid. Steel windows are being used. When I left Altona yesterday the walls were up all around to the top of the cement lintals over the windows—but, the builders had run out of brick. The last two or three feet of the walls will have to wait until we can make and burn the remaining bricks that are needed. The rafters are on hand and about two-thirds of the corrugated iron needed to roof it over. Pray that this much needed but scarce commodity will soon be forthcoming. We are trusting that the building will be finished in time for our Christmas celebrations and Christmas Quarterly which is due to be at Altona this year.

The old church at Altona has undergone a transformation again. The steeple has disappeared. A partition has divided the building into two rooms with separate entrances. Most of the outside and all of the inside has been re-plastered. The result is two school classrooms that will postpone the day of building a school for five years or so. The walls are still of unburned brick inside so the building is not a permanent one.

Since writing the above I have been to Altona again. This time to take down more corrugated iron that I was fortunate to get and some new brick forms for the workmen so that the extra brick needed for the church can be made. Brother and Sister Parks were well and Sister Grace Sanders seemed to be somewhat improved in health.

Yours in Him,

E. A. M. KIERSTEAD.

HOLINESS AND MISSIONS

Every Christian should be a successful soul-winner, whether on the foreign field or at home in personal dealing. The biggest hindrance to this prime purpose of life is the lack of the empowering baptism of the Holy Spirit that cleanses the heart from the pride, envy, fear of man, self-centredness, temper, and the like, that clouds our experience from time to time and limits our usefulness. God calls every one of us to inward holiness and outward soul-winning, and the two go together.

The price of this experience is a complete surrender of ourselves and our wills to God, which shows itself by living ever afterwards

in the loving "fear of the Lord." When we are prepared to attend our own funeral and let God deal with the "old man," we can then live thereafter to do God's will as revealed to us. While we live thus in hourly trust and obedience we are conscious, not of the "conviction" of the Holy Ghost, but of His "comfort" and His positive inward witness to our experience. When we live on this level we are "going on our way" spiritually, growing in grace day by day, as God intended we should.

Are you already living this life? If not, and you know you are a child of God, why not make a complete consecration of yourself to God here and now and ask Him to sanctify you wholly, then believe He does it. Perfect consecration plus appropriating faith brings entire sanctification. Do it now!—Holiness Mission Journal.

THE CALL TO HOLINESS

Samuel Chadwick, D. D., in "Heart and Life"

There is no doubt about the call. It is on every page of the Scriptures, and the reason for it is in the nature and character of God. Holiness is not optional, but imperative. Because God is holy, His people must be holy. Without holiness no man can see the Lord. It is imperative. It must be possible. He who wills the end must provide the means. The will of God is our Sanctification. The command of God is that we be holy. If sanctification is His will, and holiness His command, He must have made it possible, otherwise He would mock us and call us to an unequal and unfair task. Life would be doomed to disappointment and dissatisfaction, failure and condemnation.

When God calls us to holiness it is frankly admitted that the demand is beyond us. We cannot attain unto holiness. God gives what we cannot gain by any will or effort of our own. Sanctification is not attained: it is obtained. For it is of grace through faith, and not of merit by works. It is without price, because it is beyond man's possibility. He who wills our sanctification is Himself the Sanctifier.

The Will of God

God wills our sanctification. Of that there is no doubt. It is not a doctrine of man to be accepted or declined. We are called unto Holiness and God requires His people to be holy because He is holy, and His holiness is the pattern and His people to be holy because He is holy, and His holiness is the pattern and standard of His demand. Absolute holiness belongs to God alone, and when He commands that His people be holy as He is holy, it means that every quality of holiness in Him must be in them, even as Jesus commanded, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." What He wills, He commands. "For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man but God, who hath also given unto us His Holy Spirit." I. Thess. 4:7-8. To reject the call is to reject God. To despise the call is to despise God. To deny the call is to deny the Holy Spirit.

The will of God is our sanctification. Will implies purpose, purpose is dependent upon power, and power assumes provision. What God wills to be He must be able to do, and what He requires He must make possible. Will implies freedom, our freedom as well as

His. God cannot make saints as He makes worlds. When He wills man's sanctification another will is involved. Man cannot be sanctified even by God apart from consent and without co-operation. The thirty sixth chapter of Ezekiel is the chapter of God's "I wills." At the end of the chapter God says: "I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it." And immediately adds another "I will": "Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be enquired of by the House of Israel, to do it for them." God's will waits for man's will; God's power is conditioned upon man's consent. His will is plainly our sanctification.

The Act of God

Saints are God's workmanship. Sanctification is the act of God. Concerning this, the Word of God is decisive and emphatic. St. Paul prays in the Thessalonian Epistle: "The God of Peace Himself sanctify you wholly." It is the Lord who separates the godly unto Himself, and He alone can make that which is separated to be holy in nature and character. There is a cleansing required that is beyond man's power, and there is a sanctification to be wrought that God alone can do. The carnal mind is rooted in the sub-soil of human nature, and man knows that he cannot cleanse himself. Sanctification is not by the will of man. Neither prayer nor discipline, Bible study nor fasting, penance nor ordinance, can purify the heart and sanctify the nature. It takes God to do that. He is able. He Himself does that which He wills and commands.

The experience of sanctification is variously ascribed to God, to Christ, and to the Holy Spirit. We are sanctified through Christ; our Lord sanctified Himself that we might be sanctified, and we are sanctified through the offer of the body of Christ once for all (Heb. 10:10). We are sanctified with the blood of Christ (Heb. 13:12) and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin (I John 1:7). We are sanctified through the Word of God. "The Word is Truth" (John 15:3-17; I John 1:7). We are made holy through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:16; I Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2). We are saved by faith. From first to last salvation is of grace through faith. As we are justified by faith, so are we sanctified by faith.

When Does God Sanctify?

If man must be holy to see God there must be some point at which the work is done. Because the blessing seems impossible outside heaven, there are many who believe that it takes place at death. There is no Scripture authority for such belief, and death is never said to be either the time or the means of sanctification. Many regard holiness as a state toward which we continually strive but never attain. It is thus always an ideal and never an experience, but God speaks of it as an act, and treats it as an experience. The Scriptures never identify it with the new birth. They urge it upon the regenerate as an inheritance, and command it as an obligation. John Fletcher of Madeley, has answered the question of time:

"If our hearts are purified by faith, as the Scriptures expressly testifies, if the faith which peculiarly purifies the heart of Christians is a faith in the promise of the Father, which promise was made by the Son, and directly points at a peculiar effusion of the Holy Spirit, the purifier of spirits; if we may believe in a moment, and if God may in a