

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission Station,
November 1, 1950.

Dear "Highway" Friends,—

Another milestone has been reached and past in the Dedication of the new church building and native preacher's house at Calvary Mission. These buildings constructed from burned brick, concrete and stone, plentiful in that region, corrugated roofs and steel window frames provide fine buildings which will add much to the stability of the work. The capable leadership of our superintendent, Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead, is outstandingly manifest in all the forward ventures of our foreign field.

The native preachers and native workers cooperated splendidly. All gave a month's salary. For them this would mean \$6.00.

The Quarterly Meeting and Dedication Services took place from Oct. 18th over the 22nd, with a peak attendance of nearly 300 natives. Saturday afternoon 12 were baptized and more than that joined the steadily growing membership of this church centre.

Calvary Mission is situated in the approximate centre of our 200 acre site, located 13 miles from Paulpietersburg, Natal in the opposite direction from Hartland Mission. At Calvary Mission we have a large day school attendance. Our Grootspuit school is about 5 miles from there.

The building program for permanent buildings on our mission field must go on steadily for a year or two yet to properly set up the field and allow for extension.

The German farmer, from whom the site was purchased, with his brother and father were at the opening and their keen interest has been shown in many ways to our mission effort.

The cost of the erection of these buildings is £250 of which £100 help is still needed to clear this investment. Your help in this would be most appreciated.

By the time this letter gets in print many of you in the homeland will be preparing for the Christmas season. May the Lord richly bless you all is our prayer. We shall be looking forward to the Dedication of the new church at Altona Mission, at the Christmas and New Year Quarterly. God is richly blessing the foreign work and definitely giving direction by His Spirit in every forward move.

Yours in Him,

R. H. and MRS. PARKS.

PRAYER THE KEYSTONE OF REVIVAL

Charles G. Finney

Charles G. Finney, in speaking of the beginning of his revival work, says: "I had been in the habit of rising early in the morning, and spending a season of prayer alone in the meeting house; and I finally succeeded in interesting a considerable number of brethren to meet me there in the morning for a prayer meeting. This was at a very early hour; and we were generally together long before it was light enough to see to read. One morning I had been aroused and called the brethren up, and when I returned to the meetinghouse but few of them had got there. As I came up, all at once the glory of God shone upon and around about me, in a manner most marvelous. The day was just beginning to dawn. But all at once a light perfectly ineffable shone in my

soul, that almost prostrated me to the ground. I think I knew something then, by actual experience, of that light that prostrated Paul on his way to Damascus.

"I used to spend a great deal of time in prayer; sometimes, I thought, literally praying 'without ceasing.' I also found it very profitable, and felt very much inclined to hold frequent days of private fasting. On these days I would seek to be entirely alone with God, and would generally wander off into the woods, or get into the meeting-house, or somewhere away entirely by myself.

"The spirit of prayer that prevailed in those revivals was a very marked feature of them. It was common for young converts to be greatly exercised in prayer; and, in some instances, so much so that they were constrained to pray for whole nights, and until their bodily strength was quite exhausted, for the conversion of souls around them. There was a great pressure of the Holy Spirit upon the minds of Christians; and they seemed to bear about with them the burden of immortal souls. They manifested the greatest solemnity of mind, and the greatest watchfulness in all their words and actions. It was very common to find Christians whenever they met in any place, instead of engaging in conversation, to fall on their knees in prayer.

"Not only were prayer meetings greatly multiplied and fully attended, not only was there great solemnity in those meetings, but there was a mighty spirit of secret prayer. Christians prayed a good deal, many of them spending many hours in private prayer. It was also the case that two, or more, would take the promise: 'If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven,' and make some particular person a subject of prayer; and it was wonderful to what an extent they prevailed. Answers to prayer were so manifestly multiplied on every side, that no one could escape the conviction that God was daily and hourly answering prayer.

"If anything occurred that threatened to mar the work, if there was an appearance of any root of bitterness springing up, or any tendency to fanaticism or disorder, Christians would take the alarm, and give themselves to prayer that God would direct and control all things; and it was surprising to see to what extent, and by what means God would remove obstacles out of the way, in answer to prayer."

"Prayer is an essential link in the chain of causes that lead to a revival; as much so as truth is. Some have zealously used truth to convert men, and laid very little stress on prayer. They have preached, and talked, and distributed tracts with great zeal, and then wondered why they had so little success. And the reason was that they forgot to use the other branch of the means, effectual prayer. They overlooked the fact, that truth by itself will never produce the effect, without the Spirit of God, and that the Spirit is given in answer to earnest prayer."

ARE YOU ABLE?

To suffer without complaining?
To be misunderstood without explaining?
To endure without breaking?
To be forsaken without forsaking?
To give without receiving?
To be ignored without grieving?
To ask without commanding?
To love despite misunderstanding?

To turn to the Lord for guarding?
To wait for His own rewarding?
Love never fails. I Cor. 13.

—Sel.

BABYLON SPEAKS

I am Babylon!
Hear my hollow voice call
Through the long-dead centuries!

Listen, proud New York, gay Paris,
Mighty London, and arrogant Moscow!

Once I, too, was great—
But the wars came and men died
Before my walls . . .

Now the lonely jackal
Stalks through my dead streets
And stabs the black silence of the night
With his cry . . .

I am Babylon!
Listen to my warning:
When centuries have rolled by
Archaeologists will yet pace
Your streets forlorn—
Studying your ruins
As now they study mine!

—William Allen Ward.

THEY SEEM TO MEAN BUSINESS

A Citizens' Committee in Richmond, Indiana, has gone after the comic book and paper situation in that city. Thirty of these books have been banned from the newsstands, and the deputy prosecutor has announced that there will be prosecutions if necessary.

Rev. O. B. Noren, president of the Ministerial Association, is the chairman of the committee. He says:

"This is not the end of the work. We will continue to study and make surveys of comic books on our newsstands. Another meeting will be held in a month, so that we may report our findings.

"In the meantime, we urge parents to cooperate by seeing that their children are supplied with more educational and worth-while reading material in place of comic books or other literature that is unfit for them."

This is good and commendable action for this one little city. But probably no one is doing these things in your town. If not, are your children allowed to feed mentally on the coarse drivel of the funnies? Same stuff they get in the movies—only a little more juvenile—for beginners in juvenile delinquency.—Holiness Worker.

INTERCESSION

Billy Sunday tells the story of a minister who was making calls. When he rang the bell of a certain home a little girl opened the door. He asked for her mother, and she asked, "Are you sick?" He said he wasn't, and she asked, "Are you hurt?" Again he said "No." Then she asked if he knew of anyone sick or injured. When he replied that he did not, she said, "Then you can't see mamma, for she prays from nine to ten o'clock." It was then twenty minutes after nine, but he sat down and waited forty minutes to see her. At ten o'clock she came in with the light of glory on her face; and he knew why her two sons were in the theological seminary and her girl was a missionary. "All hell cannot tear a boy or girl from a mother like that," comments Mr. Sunday.—Christian Digest.