

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

P. O. Box 33,
Vryheid,
October 1st, 1950.

Dear Highway,
Greetings!

Our summer is just around the corner and we are anxiously looking for the rains that will break a long drought and make gardening possible.

It may interest many of you to know that we have experienced a minor boom in several of our outposts as regards the enrollment going up in our church schools. At Kipunyawo the enrollment jumped from 55 to 83 necessitating opening up a second class and engaging a second teacher. So far the parents have made the necessary adjustments by promising to pay something towards the teacher's salary and by borrowing an abandoned mud house with a grass roof but minus windows. The parents have asked our mission to approve of their action and incorporate this second class into our Government-aided school. But should we agree, it will mean that we should supplement the teacher's salary from Mission funds for the present and eventually provide the second classroom needed—both of which means need of funds from Canada.

At Kwabanakile the enrollment has gone up from the 20's to 48, so that this school is now eligible for Government assistance if it were available. This school is in such an inaccessible place that it may be hard to get assistance for it.

The new school which was opened at the beginning of the year at our Calvary Mission site seems to be promising, 21 pupils are in attendance with the promise of more after the new year.

There are now around 425 African boys and girls attending our schools. These constitute a challenge to us as a mission and a denomination as they are under our influence and supervision and need to be won for Christ. Being in groups they are more easily contacted and provide fertile ground for Sunday School work, D.V.B.S. and the like. Our weakness lies in the fact that many of our friends in the homeland have not yet caught the vision of the need and value of supporting schools, and, secondly the size of our staff out here has not hitherto allowed us to give these schools the help and supervision that they ought to have. Many of us on the field are beginning to realize that we have hitherto neglected what should be one of our most fruitful fields of endeavour in our work of spreading the Gospel. The work in the homeland is a witness to the fruits of what special efforts among young people can produce.

Our five-year building program is in danger of bogging down for lack of funds. I wonder if you realize what a blow this is to our faith and to the realization of our plans and needs? If we felt that the Africans could bear a heavier share of the finances we would try to urge them to do more but such is not the case—they are responding nobly as it is. Under the circumstances we can only let you know our needs and trust that God will give you a greater vision and desire to help.

Originally we aimed at building churches at Kwabanakile, Kipunyawo, Altona, Ntuvane, Piet Retief, Calvary Mission, Paulpietersburg, and Louwsburg. We felt that if we could

build these buildings our work out here would take on a more permanent nature and we and the Africans could worship and work more efficiently and more comfortably. At the same time we would be providing suitable buildings for our schools as well and make our schools eligible for government assistance thus eventually reducing our financial burden.

We are glad to report four of these churches have already been built and that the Altona building will likely be finished before the beginning of the new year. Three of these seven projects remain to be achieved, the Ntuvane project is held up for the lack of a suitable site and the other two projects are held up for lack of funds (the Paulpietersburg building is also in need of a site).

Not only have we these planned projects to finish but we now have at least two other buildings that should be erected as well; one of these, a church and school building at Lujokane, must be built within the next nine months; the second is at Brereton Park (Msobotsheni).

Some of our readers may wonder why the hurry (within nine months) of building at Lujokane. The answer is that we have recently been granted a church and school site at this place and there is a regulation in our "Permission to Occupy" which states that the occupier must fence the area within six months and must erect a suitable building within twelve months. It is so difficult to get such sites and they are at such a premium that if we did not quickly seize our opportunity some other church or mission would press their claim and we would be shut out from an area of twenty-five square miles and afterwards we never could openly have either a church or a school in that area. So you can see how important it is to seize such an opportunity when it comes without delay. That is why we are making so many appeals for help and are so keen to be able to continue with our building program.

Some one else may ask, "but why get so excited all of a sudden? Why was not some of this building done years ago?" Our answer is that we did not have the sites here-to-for nor had the need developed to such a great extent.

Yours in Him,

E. A. M. KIERSTEAD.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE SUPERINTENDENT WRITES:

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings in the name of Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own precious blood.

The summer season of 1950 is in the past for us, but its blessings and victories are remembered with thanks to God. The Lord was pleased to give us two splendid Camp Meetings, a fine Youth Camp, many good Daily Vacation Bible Schools, and some fruitful tent meetings.

Leaving Riverside Camp on August 21st, I began my year's itinerary work attending the Quarterly Meeting of District No. 3 at Wood Island, N. B. Since that time we have attended two other District Meetings, (Districts 2 and 4, at Head of Millstream, N. B., and Port Maitland, N. S.) twenty-seven of our churches, and three other points where we have regular appointments though no organized church.

As I have travelled and contacted our churches, I have been greatly blessed and encouraged. There is a spirit of faith and enthusiasm prevalent and all the churches I have visited manifest an earnest desire to cooperate in support of the work of our denomination and the cause of our Lord and Saviour.

At the Alliance Sessions of 1948 we made history in our work by establishing a superintendency for administrative leadership, and adopting a budget system to finance our various denominational projects. Both moves were somewhat revolutionary for a group that had functioned under congregational polity throughout its sixty-year history, and some people had misgivings regarding the success of these ventures. We have passed through some crises during the past two years, and there have been a few times when we have wondered whether the new system would become established, but at the beginning of this new church year, and after visiting more than half of our denominational territory, I am convinced that our ministers and lay people are heartily in favour of this new system.

Without exception, the pastors and churches I have visited this year, have shown me every kindness and courtesy. It has been a joy to meet with them and present the work of our church. And how encouraged I have been with the response toward this year's budget allocations! Some of our churches have heavy local obligations as a consequence of purchasing new church buildings, repairing or enlarging the buildings previously owned, etc., and I feared that some churches might feel they could not give to denominational projects as they would like, but such is not the case. Churches which are involved to the extent of thousands of dollars in local projects are raising amounts requested for Foreign and Home Missions, Bethany Bible School, and General Fund, and best of all they are doing it with enthusiasm! The pastors and churches WANT to support the work and so they are doing it. And for the first time since the budget system was adopted, churches are talking of passing the objectives set for them, raising more money toward the support of denominational work than they have been asked to!

Friends, we have every reason to be encouraged. New churches are being organized and new church buildings being erected. Churches long established are being revived and revitalized and in a number of places it has been necessary to enlarge church buildings to accommodate growing Sunday Schools and expanding church membership. Everywhere there is a call for enlargement, in missionary work at home and abroad; in our Camp Meeting work both Beulah and Riverside; in our Bible School work at Bethany. More openings are presenting themselves and more workers are volunteering, larger buildings are needed to house the people attending our Camp Meetings and enrolling at our Bible School. And the best of all—God is with us!

Let us keep prayerful. "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed". Isaiah 54:1-3.

Your servant for Jesus sake,

B. C. COCHRANE.

ARE MISSIONARIES UNBALANCED?

Are missionaries unbalanced? Of course they are! I'm one of them. I ought to know. A missionary probably began as an ordinary person. He dressed like other people, and