

# MISSIONARY PAGE

## Fiftieth Anniversary Services

E. A. M. Kierstead

1953 is a major milestone in the Reformed Baptist mission effort in South Africa as it marks the end of fifty years of preaching, teaching, and healing amongst the Zulu and Swazi people in Northern Natal and South-eastern Transvaal.

1903, the birth year of our missionary endeavour, showed the following entries in the balance sheet. To credit: Dr. H. C. Sanders, wife and two children living in a tent and native-style hut on an unimproved rented farm, Balmoral. To capital and buildings and equipment: nil. To native staff and members: nil.

Shortly after Dr. Sanders arrived, Samuel Mavimbela, arrived as a heathen in heathen skins and declared his desire to become a Christian. This very Samuel is still living and is our oldest and most faithful preacher. For many years he has lived at Entungwini.

Since 1903 our mission work has undergone many changes and developments—there have been ebbs and flows in its existence. Additions, subtractions, births, deaths, even break-offs. The first years were years of austere and primitive living and self-sacrifice—money was very scarce for food, clothing, houses, schooling, church buildings and schools. Missionaries had a hard frontier life that took its toll in health and vigour.

It was not until about 1947 or 1948 that finances began to appear in anything like sufficient quantities to take care of the day by day needs and bare wants of more than forty years of preaching, teaching and healing.

Previous to 1947 and 1948 the only major expenditures for the mission field were about \$1,000 for the Old Mission house, \$3400 to buy Balmoral farm, \$600 to build the Hartland church, and occasional sums of \$200-\$300 for repairs and extensions to existing buildings, besides the living allowance for native workers and missionaries. Up until 1930 we had only one Mission Station and no out-station buildings except those of a very primitive and very temporary native. Yet in spite of this the evangelistic work developed from zero members to several hundred members and hundreds of adherents, the number of native workers increased from zero to about thirty.

The major developments of the years 1930 to 1947 were: the establishment and building up of the Altona Mission Station by the Sterritt Sisters, the development of schools by the MacDonalds, and the development of the Hartland Hospital work, necessarily of a temporary native because of the withdrawal of Government aid, by Sister Grace Sanders.

The first Five Year Plan of consolidation, development and expansion with its more ambitious financial support from overseas has changed the overall picture to the following: 3 Mission Stations manned by European missionaries, 2 Sub-Mission Stations manned by Africans, 13 fairly substantial church buildings, 3 native preacher's cottages, 1 teacher's cottage, 16 schools with an enrollment of some 600 children, 10 European missionaries on the field, 23 paid African preachers and Bible women, and some 400 church members in good standing.

The July Anniversary services were held over three days. Friday's theme was "Looking Backward". Saturday's theme was "Preparation for the Future." Sunday's theme was "The Challenge of the Future."

The main features of the Friday service were: A historical sketch of the mission work by Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead, a personal testimony by our oldest member and preacher, Samuel Mavimbela, a letter of greeting and reminiscence from Mrs. Ella Sanders, and a presentation of a gift to Samuel Mavimbela.

Saturday's service was made up of the ordination of our first Bible school graduate Absolom Sibiyi, the re-ordination of Rev. P. J. Malaza, the setting up of a new Bible woman Jeneta Dlamini of Mbucu, the taking in of new members and Communion service.

On Sunday Rev. W. Morgan and Rev. A. Metula preached challenging messages that sought to awaken us to our opportunities and privileges in Christ and the Gospel and to encourage us to an all-out effort for the future. A thank offering of about \$65 was given to be put aside to help buy a new church site or something of that sort.

A further heartening sign of advancement was the Roll Call of churches and outposts which showed that, more or less, regular services are held in about 60 different communities in Natal, Transvaal and Swaziland. Weekly, even daily, the Gospel challenge must be heard by hundreds of listeners who are interested in and need the Word of Life which is able to save them from sin, darkness, and superstition and is able to make them new creatures in Christ Jesus.

As we start on our second Five Year Plan of continued consolidation and extension work will you not ask yourself what share God would give you in this challenging program and pray that the next few years' work might result in more missionaries, more preachers and Bible women, more teachers and nurses, more churches and schools, and what is the most important, more saved and sanctified souls? Jesus said, "Go"; "The field is already ripe unto the harvest"; "Give and it shall be given thee."

### MISS UTA CHASE TO VISIT CHURCHES

**Miss Uta Chase is touring our churches under the approval of the Foreign Mission Board in the highest interests of our South African Mission Field. All churches desiring her services contact her at her address, 328 Smythe Street, Fredericton, N. B.**

**R. H. PARKS,  
Sec'y of The Foreign Mission Board.**

"I feel as if I could not live, if something is not done for China."—J. Hudson Taylor.

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"If you want to serve your race, go where no one else will go, and do what no one else will do."—Mary Lyon.

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"That land is henceforth my country which most needs the Gospel."—Count Zinzendorf.

## SACRIFICIAL ARDOR An Indomitable Purpose

By Paul S. Rees

Communism has a missionary passion reminiscent in its intensity of the finest hours in early Christianity. A contemporary of Lenin is quoted as saying concerning the leader, "There is no other man who is absorbed by the revolution twenty-four hours a day, who has no other thought but the thought of the revolution and who, even when he sleeps, dreams of nothing but the revolution."

To belittle this passion—a passion which largely infects and inflames all Communists—as systemized resentment—does nothing to diminish the almost mystical ardor with which the followers of Marx and Lenin work at their job of fomenting revolution.

Where now is the fire in Christian hearts and the flame in Christian eyes to match the fierceness of Communism's zeal? Once it was there. It was there when the events were taking place that wrote themselves imperishably into the Acts of the Apostles. Here were men and women who, with passionate and joyous abandon, hazarded their lives for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

### Anemic Custodian

Today, in the main, a pale and anemic sort of Christianity appears as the heir and custodian of the Christian tradition, while Communists, armed with doctrines that would destroy Christianity root and branch, have taken over the sacrificial ardor and the indomitable drive of Christianity's apostolic originals.

Call these missionaries for Communism devil-possessed, if you will. What we need now, both as counterpart and counteractant, is a host of Christians who are Christ-possessed to the same degree. We need their witness to all that is personally redemptive and socially corrective in the evangel of the New Testament.

## DISTRICT NO. 3 FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The third District Foreign Missionary Society convened with the church at Beals, Maine, the Saturday afternoon of the District Semi-Annual Convention of Oct. 1-4.

The President of the District Society, Mrs. J. A. Moses, gave a clear summary of the work of this District so far in meeting the challenge of our Foreign Mission Investment.

Last year \$27.00 in money was raised for a double Communion Set for South Africa, also \$112.50 toward Mfene Church.

Our Prayer League money, \$33.42, of last year went toward the building of new churches in South Africa.

Proposed for 1953-54 that each of the ten societies of this District pay \$3.00 a group toward the training of a native student for the Ministry of Nursing.

The \$2.00 dues from each Society is for printing our monthly bulletin, to keep the Societies of our District up to date on current Foreign Mission interests.

Mrs. R. H. Parks,  
Sec'y-Treas.

"If I had ten lives, I would gladly lay them down for my Christ in the white man's grave, to gain, by the grace of God, the black man's resurrection."—Canon Taylor Smith.

The King's Highway