

MISSIONARY PAGE

FROM LOUWSBURG, NATAL

Dear Friends:

Greetings from this part of the field, and may you have true joy at Christmas, and God's special blessing throughout the New Year.

We felt that God definitely led us to come to this place, so it has been natural for us to pray for God to lead us to the souls that He might be able to use us to help. We have also been praying that God would give us a Sunday School at each outpost.

We have eight regular outposts, and two other places where occasional services are held, and we are seeking out new points that can become outposts. Louwsburg had a very small Sunday School, which had about died out, so this was one place that we prayed definitely about. Now we have a weekly Sunday School, with an average attendance of 27, and we hope that this number will grow a lot yet.

Twelve miles from Louwsburg is the Gobeni outpost where there is now a regular weekly Sunday School, and also a class for those who are preparing to become church members. God put the burden upon us for the land that lies in between. On the 4th of October a call was made at a kraal five miles from Louwsburg, and arrangements for a Sunday School made. Since then it has been conducted on the same day as the Gobeni services, and has an average attendance of twelve which includes some adults who seem as interested as the children.

Recently Sunday Schools were revived at Sihlute and Kotongweni. So now we have six Sunday Schools most of the time, and a seventh one about ready to organize.

Yesterday we responded to an invitation from a Dhlamini man who asked that we come and have a service in his kraal. He had attended a service held in a near-by kraal, and felt quite deeply wrought upon. Both he and his wife are backsliders from other churches and have gone to drinking beer. In yesterday's service this man requested that we pray for him that he be delivered once again from beer. He wishes that we keep coming to have meetings in his kraal. This makes the third kraal in that section we now have interest in. We hope that it will not be long before we have a permanent outpost there.

While in Zululand with Brother Morgan recently, we called on several kraals. Two of these, nearby two of our outposts, I trust may prove fruitful for the future benefit of these two outposts.

As it seems that God's time has about come for us to leave this field and pay the homeland a visit, we now have some new requests we are making of Him. (1) That His perfect will be done in connection with this last mentioned subject. (2) That He will save the souls that we are making contact with in preaching services, classes and Sunday Schools, as well as individual contacts, and those that are made through the instrumentality of tracts. (3) That He will help us to finish the work He has for us to do on this field at this time.

The Lord willing, we trust to return to this foreign field again, to labour once more for the Master where He may choose.

We do praise the Lord for all He has done

FROM HAROLD AND SHIRLEY KIERSTEAD

Greetings from the Kierstead Juniors in His Name. The time has gone so fast since last year, when we entered the Mission work at Altona, and so many things have happened and we have had so little time for writing, so we have decided to write a form letter to all the Church. We hope you will forgive us for not writing individual letters this time, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for all the many kindnesses of gifts, prayers and thoughts of us, in every way. We certainly appreciate all the help that you have given us in the past and we would value your prayers for the days which lie ahead.

There are so very many of the natives who have never heard the glorious news of Christ's Gospel and perhaps never will. Pray for us that we may never lose our Gospel zeal. Pray that we may put personal consideration aside as we labor towards the extension of His Kingdom.

At present Harold is working at Msobocheni, where he is busy starting the church building. This building will fulfill a long felt need in this area as there are no other established churches near at hand and the population in this area is fairly dense.

The 50th Anniversary Services to commemorate the 50th year of Mission work in South Africa were recently held at Hartland M. S. This was a fitting place as this is where the work was started by Dr. and Mrs. Sanders in 1903, soon to be followed by Rev. and Mrs. Kierstead in 1905. The services were very well attended and a time of great blessing was had by all. One of the highlights of the services was the sermon by Preacher Samuel Mayimbela, who was converted in 1903, and has been a steady and trustworthy worker since that date. Although he is very old and frail now his testimony is still clear and bright and there is no doubt that he is one of those who can truly say that he has walked with Jesus. He is the worker who is stationed at Entungwini, where a new church to replace the old one was opened during April.

The work around Altona is being blessed of the Lord. There have been several new seekers and three young men and women have given their lives to the work of the Lord, for which we thank and praise the Lord. More workers are always needed on the African field as we never seem to have enough.

May the Lord bless you all richly is our daily prayer.

Yours for Him,
Harold, Shirley and Jennifer Kierstead

for us in the recent, and more distant past. We also praise Him for what we see Him doing for us day by day. His saving and keeping power is wonderful. Thank God for full and free salvation.

Yours happy in Him,
Charles, Myra and three girls

Who Gave Himself For Us

"Our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity" (Titus 2:13-14).

The living center of Christianity is Christ Himself—the Christ "Who gave himself for us." The center of our faith is not Christ the Man, or Christ the Teacher, or Christ the Example, but Christ the Redeemer. It is quite impossible to define New Testament Christianity apart from Christ and the Cross. The ultimate purpose of our Lord's incarnate life was to rescue us from the penalty and power of sin; and to that end He "gave himself for us."

Himself! In that word is the key to the meaning of the atonement. Who was it that thus gave Himself for us? It was none other than "our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ."

The work of Christ must never be separated from the person of Christ. As James Denney expressed it so clearly: "If Jesus Christ is not the person the New Testament says He was, then His death did not accomplish what the New Testament says it did." The Christ who died for us upon the Cross was the God-Man. What He gave for us there was none other than Himself—an offering of infinite value, achieving an eternal redemption which avails for all time and for all people.

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

In this verse the doctrine of the Church comes into view—and rightly so. No definition of apostolic Christianity would be complete without a reference to the Church, the People of God. Certainly the New Testament knows nothing of a churchless Christianity. The Church is not opposed to the Gospel; it is part of the Gospel. Christ gave Himself for the Church, so that the Church is His by right of purchase. And this means that those who are saved by His grace are not just isolated units, but members of a redeemed community.

What kind of people ought we to be, if we are members of that community? (1) A holy people, purified from sin; (2) a surrendered people, the Lord's own possession; and (3) an active people, zealous of good works. While it is true that we are not saved by good works, it is true that we are saved for good works (Eph. 2:8-10); and it is by such good works that we are able to express our gratitude to Him who has saved us.

"I would not work my soul to save;
That work my Lord has done;
But I would work like any slave
For love of God's dear Son."

What is Christianity? It begins as a revelation of grace; it issues in an experience of salvation; it demands a life of discipline; it points to a consummation of glory; it centers in the person of a Redeemer; it manifests itself in a community of the redeemed.—Living Waters.

George Whitefield:

Lord when thou seest me in danger of nestling down put a thorn in tender pity under my nest . . . I am determined to go on until I drop, to die fighting though it be on my stumps."—Goodell.