

Trip to Johannesburg Area

Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead

Last Friday Kenneth and I took the mission pick-up and started for Johannesburg, 240 miles away. The trip was taken without mishap and we got there in the evening.

Saturday we went 70 miles farther on with Harold to see Reginald at the Nazarene Bible College, Potchefstrom. He was surely glad to see us. We had a nice chat with Rev. Pass, the principal, and stayed to dinner, then returned to Johannesburg.

On Sunday the three of us set out again for the Benoni Location where we were to have a church service with our members there. We picked up eight adults and went on to the Apex shanty-town where the service proper was to be.

The service was held in the home of Rev. Amos Mugomezulu who has intimated that he wants to join our church. Several of his members were also present. We had a real good service.

After the service we returned to Johannesburg where I picked up Shirley and Jennifer and then sped on to Vryheid as I had to be back at the College to be on duty Monday morning.

In view of the fact that we have about twenty or more members and adherents in and around the Location of Benoni we have been considering the advisability of starting up Mission work in and around Johannesburg and its suburbs as thousands upon thousands of natives have moved to this area from all parts of Southern Africa. Although quite a few Missions are working in the Compounds, Locations, and towns there are still thousands of natives who are yet untouched by the gospel. If they can be won for Christ there, many would go back to their homes in the hinterlands to win others to Christ.

If we had had a spare missionary and if we had had sufficient finances to build a church before the end of 1954, we probably could have had a church site in a new Location to which 70,000 natives are to be moved shortly.

There is such a mixture of races and tribes in the Johannesburg area that a missionary should be acquainted with as many languages as possible. One who had been born or grown up out here would probably be the best for this type of work.

It has been really remarkable how many open doors we have at the present time to extend the borders of our work. If we had more missionaries and the funds to build churches and mission houses, we could start at least three new Mission Stations immediately in areas where we would have three or four preaching places around each Mission Station. As it is we can only hope and pray that we do not lose these God-given opportunities.

Yours for the areas beyond,

E. A. M. Kierstead

More girls than men apply to missions. The score is 18 to 1. **WHILST THE WOMEN BLAZE THE TRAIL**, endure hardness, difficulties, sickness, discouragement, the **MEN** sit at home and "keep the home fires burning." —Clipped.

A Spirit-Filled Life

Mrs. Davis gave a sudden exclamation of dismay and lowered her letter. "Oh, poor Muriel Fanshaw!"

Her niece waited a few moments and then asked, "Who is Muriel Fanshaw? And why is she poor?"

"She was the brightest girl in our class," Mrs. Davis answered, "and pretty and popular besides. You would have thought she had the best chance of happiness of any of us. But things have been against her all the way through; first her father died, then her mother had a long illness; then her brother's wife died, and she had her brother's children to bring up. And now she has become hopelessly crippled! She goes to the Home for Incurables next week. She announces it as casually as if she were running down to Atlantic City. That's her way. I—I just can't stand it to think of Muriel Fanshaw in prison the rest of her life!" I don't see how God can let her!"

Muriel Fanshaw did not stay in "prison" very long. Less than a year after she had entered the home she was set free from her tired body. She went quietly, alone in the night. No one had supposed that her freedom was so near. Immediately everyone who knew her began to speak the thoughts that were uppermost in their minds.

"She did so much for us!" the nurses explained to the superintendent. "We'd be blue, or discouraged, or edgy, and just a moment or two in her room would seem to straighten us out."

"There was nobody like her!" patients cried. "She was always so ready to listen to your troubles or to help you out of them."

And when the flowers began to come some of them carried curious messages:

"I never saw her, but I feel as if I had lost a dear friend. She wrote my sister's letters for her, and she always put in something about her, as well as what she said."

"She wrote to me when my baby died. I'll keep that letter always."

Finally one of the nurses brought a bit of paper to the superintendent. The date on it was the day before the girl had come to the home. "I found it on the floor of her room," said the nurse. "I suppose it dropped out of something. I thought maybe if everybody could hear it—"

The minister read it at the funeral:

"I am going to my new adventure tomorrow. It was a battle at first; then I thought how much time Jesus Christ must spend there. He must need people to help Him with so many. I am going to dedicate my room to Him to use as He will."

"We called her a prisoner," said the minister, "and all the time she held the freedom of the universe. God Himself bestowed it upon her, the God who accepted her gift and so used her little room that every life that crossed its threshold was blessed thereby."

That night Mrs. Davis, reading the city paper, exclaimed, "Muriel Fanshaw has gone! Oh, poor Muriel!"

—"Youth's Companion".

God's hour came at the Feast of Pentecost. It is fitting indeed that this feast, which was kept in remembrance of the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, should be the day for the beginning of the new era. The promulgation of the evangelical law to every creature is to supplement the idea of the law given to one nation.

Pentecost and missions are inseparable. It is impossible to divorce Christian experience from the Christian task; one without the other would soon wither. Either would leave the Church standing on one foot; progress would be unknown. Advancement is realized in spiritual graces and in Kingdom conquests only as there is power with a program. Cleansing and crusading are harmonious; they are the twin results of the Pentecostal experience. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Speaking with other tongues on the Day of Pentecost signified the fulfilling of the Great Commission. They were to preach the gospel to every creature, to disciple all nations. However, there was an insurmountable difficulty at the very threshold. To prove that Christ could give authority to preach to all nations, He gave ability on this occasion to speak to the various peoples in their own languages. The cloven tongues which appeared unto them in the Upper Room were given to indicate that God would through them divide unto all nations the knowledge of His grace. They also illustrate the large place which human speech must occupy in the dispensation of the gospel. Dr. J. W. Goodwin said, "When the heart has been made free through this fiery baptism, the symbol of tongues aflame with holy fire to carry the glad news seems most striking." Upon each believer there rested a luminous tongue, symbolic of fervent, zealous witness each would be empowered to bear.

Pentecost furnished the motive power for Christian conquest of the world. It put the Church on the march across the boundaries of nations. Pentecost purified their hearts of sin and selfishness and sent them into all the world as flaming witnesses. It marked the manifestation of the Spirit as the Executive of the Godhead for our dispensation, the Head of the new order, the Representative of Jesus Christ, the sole source of power to win the world for Him. Jesus came into the world to save it, and commissioned His Church to complete His well-begun work. The plan was laid and power was bestowed. Nowhere else will be demonstrated the sincerity or the veneration of our religion, the reality or fiction of our loyalty to Jesus. His commission is unmistakable; it has the authority of an unrestricted command. The Holy Spirit is here to execute this great task.

The Book of the Acts is a narrative of how the Church began its universal witnessing for Christ. It is the record of the beginning of the mightiest movement in the world. "In peace or war, in the past or present, no project has been so bold, no adventure so thrilling as the enterprise of carrying the gospel to the whole world." According to Acts 13:1-3 the winning of the world not only calls for workers to be sent, but obviously demands

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