

MISSIONARY PAGE



First Things First

By Mary Campbell

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

This seems to be a very simple and clear text, but when a dozen and one legitimate and necessary things are clamoring for first place, how can we be sure that we are putting first things first. This is true in the life of a missionary even as it is in the life of young mothers and others. Why cannot I get some writing done? When the spare moment would arrive, the thought would enter "But you haven't had any definite Zulu or Bible study." If my head were not too thick at that time (it usually is) I would get settled with my Zulu Bible, dictionary, English Bible, paper and pen. Thus the letters piled up, also parcels of cards unthanked for (not for some time tho' has such a parcel come), etc. Now Christmas cards, letters, gifts, second-hand clothes are coming. Please friends, forgive me, if I seem to be lax, and accept this as a "thank you." Meanwhile I'll keep plodding along and surely sometime before this time next year, you will receive a personal letter.

Brother and Sister Haywood are happily married. How pleased we are that Nina's "Yoke fellow in the Gospel" has at last come. God is blessing them and I am sure He will continue to do so.

Dear friends, may you one and all have a very happy Christmas with His presence very near, and may the year 1955, if Christ tarries, prove a year when many many souls are saved eternally.

God bless you! Do continue to pray for us one and all! We NEED your prayers. TOO, PLEASE SEND CARDS!!

SMITH - HAYWOOD WEDDING

A picturesque wedding took place at Altona Mission Station on the 13th of November, 1954 at 2 o'clock when Miss Nina Jean Smith was united in marriage to Rev. Eric Malcolm Haywood by Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead.

Mrs. William Morgan played the wedding march. Rev. Harold Kierstead deputized for the father of Miss Smith. Rev. William Morgan acted as best man. Mrs. Harold Kierstead sang a solo and Jennifer Kierstead carried the bride's train.

About twenty Europeans; mostly neighbours, attended the wedding, and between 300 and 400 natives. The church was packed as well as the school-room annex and many spectators remained outside.

A buffet reception was held in the mission house for the European guests after the wedding. The natives also enjoyed a feast of meat and mealie rice.

Both the natives and Europeans presented the Haywoods with numerous useful and pretty gifts.

The Haywoods left for Vryheid where they will spend a few days before taking up their missionary duties at Altona.

—E. A. M. Kierstead.

THE CHRISTMAS FAITHFUL

B. H. Pearson

When the mystery of God made man in Bethlehem's First Noel, ushered in the era of "Emmanuel,"—"God with us"—few indeed were the faithful whose expectancy was of God for the fulfillment of the prophecies and the deliverance of Israel.

There were astonished shepherds who came with haste to see the thing which the Lord had made known unto them when the Christmas Angel said, "Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."

There were kings from the East whose erudition and reverence for creation and the Creator could be challenged by seeing His star in the East and who came to worship Him.

There was a Virgin Mary and a Joseph to whom the divine oracles could be revealed.

But in a unique way there were only two in the Christmas story to represent those faithful ones who, without angel visitant or chorus, without mystic stars and celestial guidance, nurtured solely by the revealed prophetic word, sustained by the inner breath of the Spirit, laboring in prayer, in lonely vigils of intercession, provided the faith channel through which God could work to bring to pass His eternal purposes of the Incarnation.

Of Simeon and Anna we know but little. They were neither erudite Magi nor wealth-creating shepherds. They were not of the priestly order to minister in the Temple worship nor yet Levites to serve. Of Simeon it is said that "He was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him." Of Anna it is said, "She departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

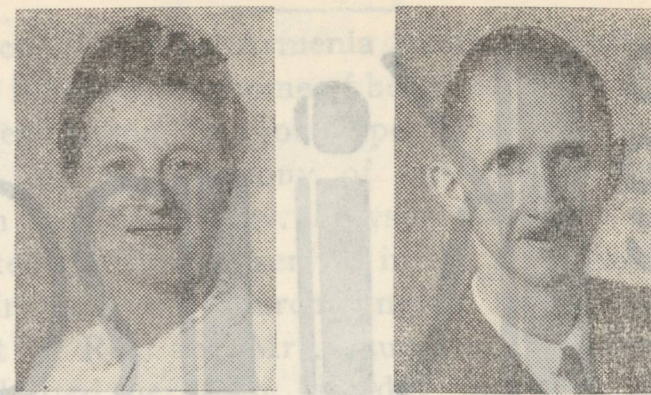
Both of these Spirit-guided ones were lifted up out of the obscurity which commonly shrouds the lives of intercessors. For the most part in the pomp and ceremony of the usual Christmas celebration, such as these are forgotten, but in the first Christmas story they live forever to cheer and encourage those whose labor is prayer and whose sacrifice is intercession.

The rarest and the costliest coin brought as gifts to our Lord at Christmas time is just that—prayer and intercession.

If our Lord should come this Christmas time would He find us offering through prayer and intercession, the faith channel for the accomplishment of His divine purposes? Can we work and walk through the holiday season with uppermost in our lives the one great purpose which brought Christ to earth that First Noel and will yet bring Him back in splendour—that of the redeeming and saving of earth's lost millions?—The Missionary Standard.

MRS. KIERSTEAD ILL

We regret to learn that Mrs. Kierstead, wife of Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead, superintendent of our South African missionary enterprise, has had a physical set-back and has been ordered to take a complete rest. Please pray for Sister Kierstead.



In Appreciation

After some years of service on the African Field we asked for furlough and the Foreign Mission Board brought us home in time for Beulah and Riverside Camp Meetings.

It was our wish to meet our people and re-acquaint ourselves with our ever growing denomination. The Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board in co-operation with our pastors arranged a tour of the churches. Up to date we have visited 24 of our churches and have just concluded the Missionary Convention here at Bethany Bible College.

Doors of warm hospitality have been opened to us in every community, and we have greatly enjoyed the fellowship with our pastors and people. Many tangible tokens of friendship have been received during this tour of the churches.

It is not an easy task to try to represent the Foreign Field, and to tell of the needs, and the signs of progress, so we have appreciated the prayers of God's people as we have travelled from place to place. Above all else we appreciate the wonderful presence and blessing of God that has attended these meetings and conventions.

We desired a home of our own for a few months of our stay in the homeland, and God has given us this too, and His people have done much to furnish it and to fill our pantry with groceries and vegetables. A tribute of gratitude is due the people of Port Maitland, and Sandford, and Yarmouth in this connection.

Shortly after our arrival here in Yarmouth we were given a surprise donation. We think that some of the good people here at Bethany were responsible for starting this.

While visiting the churches we desired that our two older children should attend school. Two kind friends in Port Maitland made this possible by giving the girls homes to stay in. We appreciate the way in which they cared for the children, and made them happy. We now have the children with us here in Yarmouth and they are attending the Milton School.

But, friends, we are not yet satisfied. There is one greatest of all longings, and that is for a Denomination-wide revival. And when and where shall it begin? Would to God that it would begin here in the homeland ere we go back to the foreign field. Then crossing the great expanse of water, burst into flames on our African field. We have the talent, and the means for doing much more for the Lord here at home and on the foreign fields; but, unless we can catch the heavenly vision, and zeal, and power, the battle is too great for us.

Let us humble ourselves before our God, peradventure He may be intreated of us. He is "able to do exceeding, abundantly, above all that we ask or think."

Wishing you all the privilege of pleasing Him at Christmas time, and seeing greater manifestation of His approval and blessing upon us during 1955.

Yours still in need of prayer,
Charles and Myra Sanders and girls

The King's Highway