



## A SUNDAY IN VRYHEID

Mrs. E. A. M. Kierstead

The day dawned bright and clear, after several cold, dark days and bright and early we were astir. Not much "sleeping in" on Sunday in our household. It is church the same as any other day in that respect.

Last Thursday Brother Morgan told us about some of his congregation who have moved here, near one of Kenneth's Sunday Schools. So after breakfast my husband went to see if they would like a service each Sunday morning at 10:30. They readily agreed so then he also stopped to see the farm owner and ask permission to have services with these people, who have recently moved onto his farm. He also was agreeable for which we were indeed grateful.

Some of the Vryheid people have become very interested in the Lord's work and are helping Kenneth in his Sunday Schools. At 9:30 they started out for the first service of the day. Some were in a little van, two on a scooter and two on bicycles.

Kenneth has been allowed to use a little church at this place, but now to use it he would have to pay rent, so has his services outside. It's hard on the little ones especially, when it's cold and wet, yet it's wonderful how they enjoy coming, even in the cold rainy weather.

Today was nice and the attendance very good indeed. The presence of the Lord was near, as one young man brought the message. Other young people sang, the children were attentive and we trust they will remember the lesson and profit by God's word.

About 10:30 my husband started off, with our four girls—Mina and Tokozile are students at the teacher's training college, Pauline in High School and Alice, who works for me, but who is planning to start teacher's training in February. All the young people, from the S. S. joined him, and they had another very good service. My husband preached, some of the young people sang and nearly all gave short testimonies and about 12:30 they arrived back. The young people were thrilled and asked to go again, the people of the kraal seemed glad and we do trust that much good was done.

We hurried with dinner and shortly after Vernon returned with his van and with six young people they started off again for their second Sunday School. There the attendance was also good and they again reported a good time in the Lord. While this was going on, two native preachers came to visit us. One was from quite a distance so I made tea and just had time to fix a tray of food for them, when the ladies arrived for my Bible Class. I do so enjoy the time spent with them. The theme today was, "God answers prayer" and our lesson was about Elijah and Ahab, with the prophets of Baal, on Mount Carmel.

We have longed to start our own work here in Vryheid, and my husband has made different trips around the area, but nothing seemed to open up. Now that these people have moved here, we trust it will be a start of a healthy work. Please pray with us that God will establish His work and that many souls may be born into the Kingdom.

It is evening now, a cold wet night. I am alone at home, the others are at the service here. It's been a good day in the Lord. There was no special move towards God in the services, but seed was sown and we pray it will find fruit unto His glory.

## SUFFERING WITH CHRIST

Perhaps there is no subject more misunderstood than that of bearing the cross of Jesus Christ. Because the cross is associated with the idea of suffering, some have the mistaken idea that anything that brings suffering into their lives is a cross that they must bear. To use the cross as a figure of speech in describing suffering is not inapt, in a literary sense; but bearing the cross of Jesus Christ is something else.

"If we suffer (with him), we shall also reign with him," is the inspired word of the Apostle Paul. Such suffering is unique and arises out of our identification and heart union with Jesus Christ.

It springs, first of all, from our identification with Him as the Christ of God. The world in many instances has shown a willingness to concede that Jesus was a great teacher and example, but refuses to acknowledge Him as divine Saviour and Lord. He was presented to Pilate as a malefactor and is still the rejected One. Our identification with Him as the Son of God raises the issue that brings on the conflict.

Suffering with Christ arises also out of our identification with Him in His great purposes. "He shall bring forth judgment unto truth" (Isa. 42: 3). "God was in Christ," says Paul, "reconciling the world unto himself" (II Cor. 5:19). Christ's great purpose is to vindicate God and righteousness in the world. His death upon Calvary as the Lamb of God was to redeem men and reconcile them to God. The work of foreign missions is redeeming love in action.

It may sound trite to say it thus, but the Spirit of Jesus is always interested in the things that Jesus is concerned about. We put it this way to make it plain that it is our conviction that those who have the Spirit of Jesus in their hearts are mightily moved and touched at the thought of going down into the depths of sin and degradation in mission lands with the message of salvation.

When the gospel work suffers loss, we suffer; when the cause of Jesus Christ is in need of men and money, we feel that need, and we must do what we can. Righteousness is not yet established in the world; God and truth are not yet vindicated as they shall be. Until our warfare is accomplished, we must expect to bear burdens and suffer with Him.

Paul speaks of the fellowship of His suffering (Phil. 3:10). Suffering has its own peculiar fellowships. Men who have fought through military engagements together have a bond of fellowship that others do not share. Those who enjoy true heart union with the blessed Son of God have entered into the fellowship of His sufferings.

Bearing the cross of Jesus Christ and suffering with Him is also unique in its termination. Much human suffering is forgotten as time wears on, and outside of Jesus Christ human suffering tends to beget bitterness. But suffering with Jesus lifts us to a throne. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him."

The cause of foreign missions is a glorious task, but one that is marked with blood and tears and sweat. Africa, Mexico and all the other fields have a spiritual parallel to the "Heartbreak Ridge" on the Korean battle line. True missionary work is marked with suffering. We quite misunderstand both the purpose and nature of the work if we think otherwise.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

"If," declares a Christian statistician, "there were but five thousand Christians and each won three people to Christ each year, and each of those won did the same, in ten years the present population of the world would be won to Christ."