

MISSIONARY PAGE

LOOK ON THE AFRICAN HARVEST FIELD

Rev. Charles Sanders*

The following projects are impressive signs of progress and vision on our African Mission Field. They are a challenge for us to back them with strong intercessory prayer that they may succeed.

1. Opening of a new front in Northern Rhodesia, at Livingstone, by Harold and Shirley Kierstead, who are already locating in a rented house. This work is one thousand miles north of our present Missionary work in South Africa.

2. Establishing of a fairly new front at Benoni, Transvaal, by Paul and Mary Sanders. They already have been granted a site on which to build a church, in one of the large, new, Native Townships. Paul and Mary are already conducting regular services on this piece of land even before a church is built. Benoni is about 350 miles from our first Mission site at Hartland.

3. Commencing of the second year of Bible School at Louwsburg, by Bill and Elsie Morgan. One of our most urgent needs is more, trained, National preachers, evangelists, and youth-work leaders.

4. News of the first Youth Camp; held at Altona Mission. This Youth Camp has been described as having been one hundred percent successful. A band of strong, Christian, young people is our hope for the future spread of the Gospel among the Native people of Africa.

Will you join with the African Nationals, the Missionaries, the Foreign Mission Board, and the fellow Christians here in the homeland in earnest prayer? In a concentrated, dedication of prayertime to the end that these gains may be consolidated? These new bridgeheads should fire our imaginations with a vision of what God intends doing on our African field in the immediate future—given the right human support by effectual prayer, and work, and giving. Prayer is still our greatest need, and you can help. The need for prayer is NOW.

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OUR GIGANTIC TASK

On every line the unmet missionary need is overwhelming. From every viewpoint the task remaining is gigantic. The solution of the problem lies far beyond all considerations of strategy, method and the like, important as these are. It lies in a new controlling and impelling spirit of apostolic evangelism that will surmount every obstacle and ignore every sacrifice in carrying the gospel to the waiting millions.

—R. H. Glover

Said Gilmour of Mongolia, "Even on the low ground of common sense, I seem called to be a missionary. For is the kingdom not a great harvest field? Then I thought it only reasonable to seek the work where the work was abundant and the workers were fewest."

MISSION WORK STARTED IN RHODESIA

Dear Friends:

Here we are in Rhodesia and a new chapter has been opened in our church. We have started Mission work in Rhodesia. We had a very good trip up from the Union in spite of much rain, and we thank all those who have been praying for us during the past few weeks. The Lord has heard and answered.

We were very sorry to leave Paulpietersburg after only 2½ years but we are happy in the knowledge that our Lord knows best what He would have us do.

Tomorrow I will be starting regular services at our outpost over in Southern Rhodesia and we are looking forward to the Lord's blessing so that souls may find Him.

A big thank you for all the Christmas parcels and gifts that we received at Christmas time.

This is just a short note to let you know we are here in one piece! As soon as possible we will send you a proper letter.

Until then,

Yours for Him,

The Rhodesian Kiersteads

REV. H. KIERSTEAD'S NEW ADDRESS

Box 447,
Livingstone,
Northern Rhodesia

THE BIG JOB

And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I have it, and come down to you?" (Neh.6:3).

There is a well-known story about a Christian missionary, working for a salary of \$600 a year, who refused a position as manager of the foreign office of a large oil company at almost any salary he would name. When asked why he so promptly rejected the attractive offer, he replied, "I would rather have a big job at a small salary than a small job at a big salary."

What makes a job big? The fame of the employer's name or the publicity which attends the work? Is it the amount of remuneration received or the degree of responsibility involved?

Thoughtful people must realize that it is not a place in the spotlight, or the drawing of a handsome salary that gives the true measure of a task. Everyone who strives to know and do God's will can be sure that his place is important. It is kingdom work whether it is at the front line in Africa or behind the scenes in America.

A Christian educator is multiplying himself in the scores of lives he has helped and influenced for good. A homemaker may know that she is working with God in the building of men and women. A father who labors to support a family, and who realizes his responsibility to God and society, is doing a great work. Nothing is small that is done for God and men and eternity.—S. S. Herald

IT IS NO SACRIFICE

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God, which we never can repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter?

Away with such a word, such a view, and such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger now and then, with a foregoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver and sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which he made who left his Father's throne on high to give himself for us.—David Livingstone.

MRS. H. C. SANDERS ILL GRACE SANDERS SAILING DEFERRED

Mrs. H. C. Sanders, 136 Victoria Street, Amherst, N. S. has been quite ill. She has been suffering from nervous fatigue and related disorders. However, we are happy to report that after a few weeks of rest she seems to be improving and, with characteristic ambition writes: "I shall resume my usual duties soon. I have not suffered any pain and have been able to eat and sleep as well as usual. Perhaps I am growing old?"

She writes her testimony as follows: "Though laid aside, my soul is happy in the Lord and His presence is very real to me. I have no complaints to make, only praise for many answers to prayer for our foreign missionary work. May we, as God's people, be willing to sacrifice and give as God has prospered us. Grace is another precious gift that I am glad to give for His work in Africa. Black diamonds are precious. We shall rejoice together when we meet in glory those who have been saved from heathendom through the sacrificial giving of the Lord's people."

Because of Sister Sanders illness, our Foreign Mission Board arranged with the steamship company and the South African government to have Grace's sailing set ahead a month. She is now scheduled to leave Montreal for South Africa on April 25th.

A SECRET OF EVANGELISM

"I preached at Bradford, where the people are all alive. Many here have lately experienced the great salvation, and their zeal has been a general blessing. Indeed, this I always observe, wherever a work of sanctification breaks out, the whole work of God prospers. Some are convinced of sin; others justified, and all stirred up to greater earnestness for salvation."

—John Wesley's Journal, August 4, 1775

The King's Highway

Spirituality and Television

Rev. R. H. Nicholson*

Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of their ideas on T. V., this much discussed "newcomer" which has appeared out of a puff of dust on the horizon, and is now established as a guest in many of our homes, "It seemed good to me also," having observed enough, I feel, to project my conclusions as a possible help.

Due to the extreme positions taken, by and far, for and against, one feels as he touches this subject like one who ventures to stroke an untamed tiger. However, as with all obstacles which loom up in our spiritual pathway, there is a right way to surmount this one also. Suggestions that do not solve the problem cannot always be regarded as complete failures, but may be regarded as experiments which could provoke deeper thought and better solutions by more capable minds. It is with this hope in mind we seek to share the rest of this article.

To regard the marvelous invention of television as something produced by Satan is to place one in the position of holding that all progress in the discovery of God's laws is evil, and not for the benefit of humanity. On the other hand to regard television as something invented for our good and fail to be on guard against the devil's use of this medium, is to lay ourselves open to the enemy's invasion. The latter is the alarming danger.

The first endeavor of the devil is to surround us with evil that familiarity erases his fingerprints. The second is to dress corruption in the garments of apparent human advancement until the slippery paths of sin appear as ascending steps to success. This is what the enemy of our souls is seeking to do through television. Not all are blind to this danger, but many are sincerely inquiring as to the safe path to follow.

As in all things, the only safe way to defeat the designs of Satan is to absolutely rule out the wrong and accept only the good. If the practice of elimination is carried out with Christian sincerity and determination only the beneficial will remain. The problem arises, what must be cast out? To determine this could we use three familiar Bible rules for conduct:

"For if I build again the things I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Across the years the holiness people, as well as the stricter non-holiness evangelicals, have condemned theater attendance, because such practice has been considered as a definite hindrance to spirituality and was ranked in the list of the worldly, which the Bible speaks against. To attend the theater on Sunday has caused exclamations of horror from God-loving people, and has only been tolerated by the loosest worldlings. Yet in spite of our rigid stand in the past many are accepting T. V. programmes, which are simply movies in miniature with all the evils attached, spewing the corruption of Hollywood into the homes that for years have been free from such defilement. To attend a show once after becoming a member of one of our churches was enough to place one on the "slipping list," yet, hours are being spent daily viewing the same evils on private screens. And could it be possible in some homes, Sunday T. V. is included?

Are we building forbidden altars through a different medium?

The King's Highway

"— Nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

Some argue the 'harmlessness' of television and stoutly defend their stand by claiming to be just as spiritual in their intemperate indulgence as those who are more careful. Should we go so far as to allow that this is so, still it must be admitted that some are affected, and continued exposure to the influence of worldliness robs them of their spiritual tone. Perhaps the effect of this influence is not too noticeable at first, but who knows the final depths of the degrading force? Especially do we think of the children who crowd eagerly around the TV sets and view the drinking, smoking, gambling, fighting, and even killing, as something acceptable since it is being done by the leading actors. If it is possible for us to be as spiritual, what about our spiritual obligation to those who are liable to be weakened?

"Redeeming the time because the days are evil." Most all will agree that we are living in the evil days; that time is short and none should be wasted. Unless strict discipline is practised, television is the greatest thief of time in our day. Is the good we gain worth the good we lose? This appears to be a very weak point of consideration, but not so when we sum up what it involves. Does the Sunday night programme enrich one spiritually more than the evangelistic service? Some ministers are finding it hard to carry on their Sunday evening services, even by combining congregations, because their people have become TV fans. Is the television movie worth more than the pastor's call? Pastors in some areas are considering calling a useless effort, since, if not boldly ignored, they are merely politely tolerated. Are the wrestling matches stealing the time we should be using to wrestle with "principalities and powers and the rulers of darkness in high places?" Could we venture to say Satan is very successful in using this medium to steal the time God would have us use to accomplish some task for Him?

In conclusion, can we not get our balance by facing the challenge before us, and by letting God rule in our lives, find ourselves, not only capable of coping with this problem, but be stronger Christians because of its presence? Is television here to stay? No doubt it is. Will there be enough good programmes on TV in the future to make it an influence for good? Let us pray to that end.

However, after eliminating the bad, is there enough good left for me, as a holiness person, to invest in a TV set at the present time? Or could I put that money to a greater use by supporting the efforts to spread the message of holiness both at home and abroad? May God help us to make the right decision before Him so we will not be ashamed at His coming!

* Pastor, Sussex, N. B.

THE SILENT MESSENGER

A brilliant young actor, on his way to the theater, was handed a tract by a humble old woman. He pushed it into his pocket and forgot all about it until he pulled it out at the hotel that night. He casually read it and then re-read it. It so arrested him that the next morning he paid a visit to a minister, who pointed him to the Saviour.

Five months later, he gave up the stage and entered a theological college. That man became Dr. George C. Lorrimer, the famous pastor of Tremont Temple in Boston.—Sel.

THE SACREDNESS OF THE MARRIAGE VOW

Rev. H. C. Mullen

There is no relationship in all human society more sacred than the estate of Matrimony. One does not have to think deeply to see the truth of this assertion. The prologue to a certain marriage ceremony puts it in this way: "Marriage is an institution of God, ordained in the time of man's innocence, before he had sinned against his Maker and been yet banished from Paradise. It was given in wisdom and in kindness, to repress irregular affection, to support social order, and to provide that through well-ordered families, truth and holiness might be transmitted from one age to another. Earlier, therefore, than all laws of merely human origin, it lies at the basis of all human legislation and civil government, and the peace and well-being of the nation and land."

"We learn from the history of our Saviour, that He honored a marriage festival with His presence, and wrought there the beginning of His miracles. And by His Holy Spirit, speaking through His apostle, He has selected the union thus formed, as an apt emblem of the union endeared and indissoluble, that binds together Himself and His own ransomed Church."

If these words be true—and who would dare to say that they are not—then the disregarding of the sacredness and binding nature of the marriage vow can result only in the disfavor of God, the breaking down of morals, and the overthrow of the most vital principles in all human relations.

We shudder when we read that in some places the divorce rate almost equals the marriages. What the future result will be is sad to contemplate. The home is by far the most important factor in the welfare of the nation. As is the home, so is the country. What breaks up home life is the greatest enemy to the church and state.

To disregard the sacredness of the marriage vow is to open the flood-gates for all manner of evil. If marriage vows are lightly regarded, or are taken with mental reservations, it is not to be wondered at that separations and divorce will soon be the result. That the marriage vows are taken altogether too lightly is too evident. When we see the vows so readily broken, it argues that they were not too seriously taken to begin with. When we behold such cases as a comparatively young woman living with her fourth husband after divorcing three, within a few years, it looks as though marriage contracts were not taken very seriously. Once a girl whom we knew made her boast that when she married if she did not like her husband she would divorce him and marry another. In a very few years she did just that, thus breaking up two happy homes. This thing has become popular and is considered quite the smart thing to do. The fact that divorces are easily obtained makes the adventure attractive. The easier it is made for people to get divorces the more there will be.

If people thinking of marriage entertained no expectations of ever getting a divorce they would be less hasty in entering into the contract, and when married, would seek to adjust difficulties without rushing to a divorce court. When divorces are easily obtainable for almost any pretext, with some places furnishing twelve definite grounds, and about anything

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