



## THELMA ROSE WRITES:

Dear Highway Friends:

Knowing of the interest many of you have in the troubled country of Haiti I feel the urge to share again with you the most recent report received from missionaries there. One writes as of May 1: "The political situation here is getting worse every day. I stay glued to the radio to get recent news, but all the stations have a different slant and I can't figure which is telling the truth. What a 'mix-up'!"

From another missionary of about the same date: "They tell us the political situation here is the worst it's been in the history of the country. Everybody wants to be 'chef' (chief) and none will let anyone else stay in office long enough to get anything done. The last government was an executive council of 13 members appointed by the presidential candidates, but that has proved a mess too. The U. S. has cut off relationships and does not send in food. Most of the stores are closed. Bakeries have not flour to make bread. We find a little here and there part of the time. Feeling is growing against the 'blancs' (whites). Most of the big stores are run by Italians and Syrians and they are closed. They have been using gas on the 'movements' down town. 'Tomorrow' we hope things will be different."

Previously the missionaries hoped that the presidential election to be held in May would settle the country, but that election date has been postponed to July, and so the confusion is prolonged. These recent reports are enough to make us realize the need of prayer for the country, people and missionaries. The outcome will effect future missionary endeavour in the needy country of Haiti.

The past week I've made effort to attend some of the meetings of the yearly missionary convention held in the Park Street Congregational Church. About twelve or more missions were represented with missionaries, exhibits, literature and speakers. There was much material presented for thought and prayer.

Emphasis was made on the need of preparing indigenous churches on the foreign field which could carry on when the doors close to foreign missions. It is generally believed that foreign mission work is becoming increasingly difficult and the time for such is getting short.

Also was stressed the need of well prepared candidates, as other countries are becoming more educated they are interested only in what the missionary can give that they cannot produce themselves, medically, educationally and materially. They will tolerate the Gospel to receive these. They will receive a linguistic missionary who will translate the tribal languages and thus educate the people. The missionary has the advantage to teach the Word of God by this method, as does the medical missionary by his contribution. Candidates must be prepared to meet government officials and the educated class and be a true witness by word and deed in the offices of police, immigration and customs. (It is equally important to show a right spirit when buying at the market.)

The need is to make true disciples among the educated who can lead their people. One must be a "true" disciple to make disciples who will "teach others also". Rather than put the emphasis on "mass" evangelism, the missionary should train the natives to evangelize after they have been trained and taught the Word by the mis-

sionary. The need is for converts to be spiritually fed and nurtured.

The panel discussion on the problems of mission work was most interesting, and was led by Dr. Clyde Taylor who is a prominent figure in missions. The greatest problem is caused by the increasing population over all the earth and the shortage of missionary candidates. There are problems of national leadership and of missionary-national relationships, the education and selection of leaders, and the translation of tribal languages. He emphasized the need for "empowered" missionaries who have heard the "tarry ye and be endued". In many training schools the students are learning Bible content rather than Bible digestion. We get so accustomed to people "handing us things" that we never use our own pick and shovel. The devotional life is something one can loose in Bible School because of the demand on time for study, etc.

Perhaps many of you know that Park Street Church now supports about 120 missionaries and is on the climb to do better. The missionaries are working among various denominational and undenomination boards and they are scattered over Africa (36), Latin America (27), Asia (31), Europe (4), Near East (4), U. S. and Canada (12), Islands of the Pacific (5). In 1935 the yearly missionary offering was \$18,885. This has steadily increased each year until 1956 it was \$241,870 and this year they have exceeded that. Something to think about!

THELMA ROSE

## TEN YEARS OF MISSION WORK IN TOWNS

Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead

For over forty years our Reformed Baptist Mission work was confined to spreading the Gospel in the rural and backward areas. That was the type of mission work that most of the Faith Missions carried on as pioneer work amongst primitive and backward people and that type of mission work seemed to be the most needy and important at that time. The main native population was located in the rural areas.

Today the picture has changed. The march of industrial and business development has caused an exodus of population from the rural districts to the towns—and it is the most ambitious and mentally alert who have and are leaving those areas, consequently our country churches have been depleted of their potentially best materials for membership and our total membership has shown little or no increase since this movement has set in. The only churches that have benefited are those denominations that were alive to the movement of population and pushed town work. Our lack of funds and the fewness of our missionaries confined our work to marginal areas.

Almost exactly ten years ago we began to follow up our members and adherents who were moving into the towns to find better jobs and higher pay, and so we got our first town foothold in the Native Location (township) of Piet Retief. The financial giving of the missionaries and the native church plus a substantial grant from the Mission Board launched our first town bridgehead. The Piet Retief congregation is not large even yet as it in turn lost some of its best members to still more attractive areas. Piet Retief members formed the nuclei of congregations at Driefontein and Johannesburg.

## ELSIE MORGAN SUFFERS HEART ATTACK

The following cablegram was received from Louwsburg, Natal June 20th. "PRAYER REQUESTED FOR ELSIE MORGAN WHO SUFFERED HEART ATTACK ON JUNE 18."

The King's Highway