



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE MISSION FIELD

As reported by the President of Foreign Mission Board

From correspondence with the Superintendent of our Foreign Mission work, Rev. Eugene Kierstead, and meetings of our Foreign Mission Board, held at Moncton, N. B., Tuesday, Jan. 27th., we want to communicate to all who are interested in our missionary work the following vital information. Two groups engaged in missionary work in Southern Africa, the Free Baptists, and the Africa Evangelistic Mission, have been in communication with Brother Kierstead and our missionaries in Africa respecting the possibility of their

Affiliating or Uniting with the Reformed Baptist Church

The Government of South Africa made a ruling recently that all churches and missions which had not registered with the Department of Native Affairs before a certain date, were not eligible for government recognition, sites in locations and native areas, grants, etc. In other words, such groups were barred from doing missionary work. (We Reformed Baptists may be very thankful for the foresight of Brother Kierstead in having this vital matter attended to for us.) The two Groups mentioned above were not registered and therefore cut off from missionary work among the natives unless they could establish affiliation with a registered Group and work under its name. Since the Free Baptists and the A. E. M. held in common with us a very important doctrinal emphasis and goal of Christian service . . .

To Spread Scriptural Holiness

. . . they sought out our missionary leaders and consulted with them on the matter. Various meetings, business and devotional, were held, and the proposal was advanced that an Alliance be formed which would enable all three groups, and any other with similar desires and aims, to work together for the spread of the Gospel through Southern African among the Natives and the Europeans (whites). If such an affiliation or union were consummated, it would enlarge our area of missionary work and interest to include every province of South Africa as well as Portuguese East Africa. Our Missionary Field Council recommends our consideration of the reorganization of our work under the name . . .

Reformed Baptist Church of Southern Africa

The rising spirit of nationalism in Africa has created resentment toward foreign missions, foreign "interference", and foreign policies. The result of such a reorganization would be a move toward making our missionary work more national and indigenous. It is the feeling of our F. M. Board that developments within the country may force some such change, and, if we could make a move on our own, we might be able to establish ourselves in a way quite acceptable to the S. A. government and ourselves.

The name "Reformed Baptist Church of Southern (rather than South) Africa" would take in all the area in which the other Groups and our Group are now working, including the Rhodesias.

The Action of our F. M. Board

. . . has been to approve, in principle, a working agreement between our Group, and the others seeking co-operation with us. This action will allow the R. B.'s, and the F. B.'s, and the A. E. M. to assist one another and become better acquainted. In the meantime, we shall seek to arrive at some conclusion concerning a recommendation to our Alliance at its 1959 Session. This recommendation could be one proposing some sort of affiliation of the Groups referred to with our Church, it could mean presentation of a request of the other Groups for full union with the Reformed Baptists, but it does not mean that either or any recommendation will be brought to the Alliance. We propose to move carefully and prayerfully, giving no consideration to any major development without the action of the Alliance. We call upon our people to pray earnestly that Divine help and guidance be given in this vitally important matter.

We Would Like All Concerned to Be Fully Informed

. . . so we are prepared to supply additional information, or clarify anything already dealt with in this report, if interested pastors or lay people will write to us.

Reported in behalf of the R. B. F. M. Board,
B. C. Cochrane, President.

FRIENDS OF MISSIONS

This, I believe, is my first appeal to you during this church year. Read the statement and ask God what He would have you do.

In the last few years our missionary work has made great advances, indicating that this is the day of our harvest in Africa. The number of staff, buildings, and converts has been doubled and in some cases tripled. Plainly enough our financial needs have doubled and tripled also. Eight years ago our program could operate on eight to ten thousand dollars. Now — thank God — we need approximately thirty thousand a year. I say "thank God" because we all desired an aggressive outreach for lost souls. Did we, however, count on this — such a program requires multiplied giving and that New Testament experience called sacrifice.

In the next month, by March 15, our Board needs four thousand dollars — the greatest monthly need we ever faced. We only ask you to do what you are prayerfully led to do and can do. As Charles Sanders so forcefully said to us a few years ago: "I (that is, God) will work and who shall let (in present-day meaning, prevent) it?" (Isaiah 43:13) Yes, God will work and who shall prevent Him? or His work?

Yours for a ripened harvest,
C. E. Stairs, Treasurer
Foreign Mission Board
Truro, N. S.

MISSIONARY NEWS ITEMS

The enrollment of our Bible School in Africa has gained from 8 or 10 in 1957, to more than 32 for the present term! There is urgent need of living accommodations for the enlarging student body, and plans for erection of a two-room building have been approved by the F. M. Board. Thank God for this progress.

The Women's Missionary Auxiliary is promoting a plan to support a student in the Africa Bible School and seeking the co-operation of local auxiliaries in the effort.

The Mission Board has approved plans for the return to Africa this Fall of Bill and Elsie Morgan. The Morgans have been pastoring at Black's Harbour but are feeling

The King's Highway