



THINK ON THESE THINGS

Nina Haywood*

I. Who can be a missionary?

Every Christian man, woman, or child can be a missionary. Christ's commission to us was "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This does not necessarily mean that you must go to a strange land, to a new language or to race other than your own. Your world may be your home, your family, your church, your neighbourhood. We are not all called to go out to darkened lands. Your place may be to stand behind those that go out, with your prayers and offerings. By doing your very best as a missionary at home you will help those who have gone.

Stop and think of what will happen if you fail in your duty as a missionary. Let us be missionaries whether home or abroad. It is our duty as Christians, to the church and to the world.

II. Why send missionaries to other lands?

It is Christ's plan that the whole world should hear before the end of time. How can those who have not heard, hear, unless some one goes? We read in Romans 10:13. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:14. "How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?"

This is our answer, remember Christ's commission, and Paul's words, "How shall they preach except they be sent?"

These following questions have been asked many times. "Why send out missionaries? There are many in the homeland who need the gospel" Matthew 24:14 gives us the answer, and Christ's command to His people. Why should we question Christ's word to His people? Missionaries do not leave the homeland for thrills or adventures. They go because they have felt God's hand upon them and know that it is God's plan for their lives. Neither do they feel that they have made any great sacrifice, they are doing their duty to God. In time of war men are called to the army. They answer the call as a duty to their country. The missionary is but doing his duty as a soldier of Jesus Christ.

III. Why do we need churches?

We need churches in the homeland. Why? We answer "as places of worship, of course". When a new church is started in the homeland, how long is it before there is talk of needing a building to worship in? The same need is seen in the mission work. The trouble in mission work, especially in this land, is that the people cannot finance the building of their own churches. Who can finance it if the native people cannot? Church buildings are places where people can gather together to worship out of the sun and rain, but mainly to hear the word of God. Let us ask, "Is a church a luxury or a necessity?" Isn't this a question we ask ourselves if we want to buy something special? A mission church can be built at a cost of between one-tenth of one-twentieth of the cost of a church

in the homeland.

IV. Why do we need schools?

Schools are needed for educating of children, to give them a higher standard of living. Would you want your children to grow up without any schooling? The native schools in Rhodesia not only help the children but also the parents. The school children are in Sunday School on Sunday and many attend the regular services. The parents many times follow the children to the regular services and thus hear the gospel. Missionaries who are teachers, can teach in native schools and receive government salaries once a school becomes government aided. The children receive scripture lessons as part of their school curriculum. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it".

Now what are our obligations towards native schools? This is a question for you to answer yourself.

V. Why do we need hospitals?

Jesus when here on earth healed the sick. So why shouldn't we help in the physical as well as the spiritual needs?

The medical care for natives in some places is not always the best. We as Christians, can show them a Christ-like spirit in our daily work among them. The way we live tells more than what we speak. We will come in contact with more people in hospital work than any other way.

VI. Do we need homes for our missionaries?

Now what about it? Do the missionaries need houses to live in? This seems to be a forgotten item in most missions. Where are the missionaries to live? Do they need suitable dwelling places to live in? These are questions for you to answer yourself.

Listen again.

"How can they hear without a preacher?"

"How can they worship without a building?"

"How can they be discovered without organized concern?"

"How can they be won without you and me?"

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THE CALL OF DURBAN

By Lic. Reginal Kierstead

As some of you have heard, due to financial strain, and the call of God, I left the full-time missionary service field to serve God as a self-supporting missionary. How graciously God led me here, and how wonderfully He has provided for me since my arrival!

Durban is a city of beautiful parks, lovely beaches, beautiful trees and gardens. It is warm here all year long, including the winter time. To this tourist Mecca, many thousands flock from inland and all over the world, especially in July, our winter time. In Durban are to be seen more tourists than in any other place in South Africa, 200,000 coming each year. Yes, nature has bountifully blessed Durban.

But the need for God is so great! Here, in this large sea-port city, are millions of people, passing through, living here, or on holiday, who need to be won for God.

Many avenues of service are open to the one who would enter. One could work in the locations for the Zulu's, in the European area, in the Indian area, or in the coloured area (those of mixed blood.) Do other christians work among all these people? Yes, many, but not half are really reached yet. Thousands in this beautiful city await the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here also the missionary can greet weary missionaries about to go for furlough, and those coming from Canada.

Preaching, singing, playing music, praying—they all have their place here in Durban.

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