



THE CHALLENGE OF GROWTH

Rev. Charles Sanders*

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

We take this opportunity to say "Thank you" for the way you brightened up our Christmas with the pretty cards and the lovely presents you sent us. It is good to be remembered. We had a real happy time at Christmas and the children enjoyed much excitement opening their presents, and so did we.

After working on the Paulpietersburg field for three years and a little more, we have moved to Ermelo, about 105 miles from this first mentioned field. We enjoyed our work at Paulpietersburg and saw many battles and some wonderful victories. May God bless the Gormans who have taken over the work of that field.

Just think of the process of growth that has happened to this Missionary work. From one Mission station at Hartland we have now grown to occupy two fields, the South African and the Rhodesian fields. On these two fields we have five Mission stations in the Union and two in the Rhodesias, and are in the process of establishing the sixth Mission Station for the Union, here at Ermelo. From that early beginning in 1904 when less than 10 charter members were organized into our first Reformed Baptist church in Africa, we have grown till now we have more than 600 members. At the beginning there were only two, and a little later four Missionaries, now we have 17. Instead of three or four National workers we now have 50 or more, with 5 ordained elders of the Native church. Each of these 8 Mission stations holds great possibilities as it forms a centre surrounded by outposts, those outposts are continuing to increase and go farther afield. Since we have come here to Ermelo, the Breyten National workers have opened up a new outpost in Swaziland, about 70 miles from Breyten. And so the Gospel continues to spread.

Besides this natural spread of the Gospel we are now being looked to by sister churches and denominations who wish to associate with, or join us. If this does take place it will mean a growing responsibility for the Reformed Baptist denomination. There are two kinds of response to such a challenge and such growth: (a) We may congratulate ourselves for these achievements, sit down and take it easy, (b) The other response is to consider that God is calling us to assume greater responsibility, to meet a new situation. To do this satisfactorily we need to examine our foundations to ensure that we shall be morally and spiritually equal to such a challenge.

Such a challenge as we are faced with out here on the foreign field, with the awakening nationalism of Africa in the background, demands immediate action, and sustained action. The growing responsibility mentioned above, and added to this is that similar growing responsibility in the Homeland. What does all this add up to? It seems to me that it demands a denomination-wide, individual, personal going down before the Lord in humility, asking for the resources of God in each of our inner experiences. If we are to continue to build a higher and broader superstructure we must dig deeper and make the foundation that much stronger. If we follow the first course suggested above, then history will record our dismal failure in the face of the greatest challenge of our denominational life.

However if we follow the second and more realistic

course time will gradually uncover the fact that we have pleased our God and He has found pleasure in us and used us to His glory and to the further advancement of His kingdom. I fear the consequences of the first, but pray and hope for the results of the latter. There are seeds and signs aplenty to produce the first, and there are happier implications to be found in the lives and experiences of many of our people on both sides of the Atlantic ocean.

We deeply appreciate the prayers of our fellow Christians in the homeland. We feel the need of these prayers more than ever, since moving from Paulpietersburg to this larger town, and less developed Mission field. Our three girls need your prayers as they attend three separate schools in Ermelo. Myra and I need your prayers as we seek to bring these children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We rejoice in the fact that Pamela has followed her Lord in water baptism, and has become a church member. Four Africans were baptized at the same service, also young people, and they too joined the church. Our hope for the future is in our young people. May God bless them, and keep them, and use them.

The Post Master at Paulpietersburg has much of our mail to re-direct to Ermelo, but I am sure that his task will continually diminish on this line, as our friends learn our new address.

Wishing you God's rich blessing for 1960.

Greetings from the African Church.

*78 de Jager St.

Ermelo, Transvaal, South Africa.

GRADUATION AT E. H. B. S.

Reports by Rev. Glendon Kierstead

Another year of history was completed on November 15th, 1959, when three graduates, and seventeen undergraduates marched into the Altona Reformed Baptist Church for the fourth Graduation of Evangelical Holiness Bible School.

The procession was headed by the Principal, followed by the African staff, and then the students. A good number were gathered in the large church inspite of heavy rain. Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead was present, representing the School Board, and also the Mission. Rev. O. I. Lehman of the Africa Evangelistic Mission was the speaker.

The Valedictory address was brought by Robert Mdlalose, a student who had been supported by the "TORCH STAFF" of Bethany Bible College. Bro. Lehman brought a message of challenge to the students, suggesting that this was just the start of much that they would have to learn. Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead presented the diplomas to the graduates with words of encouragement to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Saviour Jesus Christ!"

A good spirit prevailed, and the Lord was near. It is our hope and prayer that God will use the students of E. H. M. S. to really futher His cause. The Evangelization of Africans by Africans is vital to our growth, and the progress of the Kingdom.

MISSIONARY NEWS ITEMS

A very fine African Conference was held at Altona over the New Year Season. A record number were in attendance.

Following the African Conference the Missionaries stayed on at Altona Mission Station for a Missionary Conference.

(Continued on Page 6)