

DR. EMMETT'S REPORT

A WITCH DOCTOR PATIENT AT BETHESDA!

An African doctor at Bethesda Hospital! During the first few months after my arrival at Bethesda Hospital, I was confronted on several occasions by the relatives of some extremely ill patients with such similar words, "We know an African doctor...if the patient is not better in a few days..." This immediately called forth a protest from us since we were in a position to realize the gravity of the patient's condition and the unreasonableness of the suggestion. We found ourselves praying for special direction in the care of these difficult cases; in a few days each in question had improved.

Then one rainy Sunday afternoon a few weeks ago, we received a frantic call for the ambulance; an elderly man was sick in a Kraal up in the rocky area toward the Zambezi River (an area adjacent to the one in which we had found Smarty Tshuma about whom I told you last month). We proceeded as far as we could by Land Rover; and then waited for the patient to be brought to us. He was a small elderly man, barely ambulatory, plainly quite ill. The striking thing we noted about him was a necklace of peculiarly carved bones which he was wearing—this was the witch doctor.

Returning to the hospital we found that he was suffering from a severe gastroenteritis; he had been very ill for several weeks, his remedies had failed, and in desperation he had called to us for help. He had been coughing for several months; examination of his chest made us suspect tuberculosis. We found him most cooperative and amenable to our treatment on which he showed marked improvement. Needless to say, his presence at the hospital did much to elevate the esteem of the hospital in the eyes of the natives. Arrangements were made for him to be taken to Livingstone for a chest x-ray which confirmed the diagnosis of advanced pulmonary tuberculosis. We had to leave him at Livingstone since we have no isolation ward or facilities for the care of TB patients at Bethesda.

In order to qualify for government assistance as a TB hospital as well as a general hospital, we must provide the following in addition to our present facilities: (1) an isolation ward, (2) x-ray equipment. There are many advantages which urge us into providing these facilities in the near future: (1) tuberculosis is very prevalent in general bed in \$34 a year, the grant for each bed for tuberculosis is \$128 a year; (2) all anti-TB drugs are issued to us free; (3) these will be long-term patients (6 months to over a year) which will enable us to indoctrinate them with the Scriptures over a period of time; (4) such facilities for the African are badly needed. Our financial outlay will be (1) in the building of the ward and (2) in the purchase of x-ray equipment with electrical generator which will cost in the vicinity of three to four thousand dollars. We have learned that this equipment and building will all be approved for the 50% reimbursement by the government. We are in need of x-ray equipment in every way. Pray that God will help us to realize these facilities in the near future.

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The spectacle of a nation praying is more awe-inspiring than the explosion of an atomic bomb. The force of prayer is greater than any possible combination of man-made or man-controlled powers, because prayer is man's greatest means of tapping the infinite resources of God.

—J. Edgar Hoover

The way to preserve the peace of the church is to preserve the purity of it.

—Matthew Henry

Enemies of the Cross

by R. A. Kerby*

There are Depths of meaning in the Cross of Jesus Christ that have never been plumbed by the mind or heart of man. The transaction which took place between the Father and the Son that dark day on Calvary has such mysterious reaches of meaning that not even the this part of Africa, we will not be wanting for patients; (2) while the government grant for maintenance of each angels in Heaven can fully understand it. The record is that they desire to look into this matter but no where is it stated that their desire has been or can be granted. In our contemplations of this boundless and fathomless act of Redemption, in our efforts to "survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died," two elements can, however, be grasped with certainty by every repentant soul. Those two elements are necessity and sufficiency.

Any just view of the attributes of the Father will lead us to the firm conclusion that if any way could have been devised to redeem a fallen Race without the death of God's dear Son, the cross would never have been erected in the "determinate counsel and fore-knowledge" of the Almighty nor would He have permitted the Roman soldiers to erect it on Calvary's rugged hill. The sufficiency of the cross was demonstrated to a wondering universe by the resurrection of the Sin-bearer and by His enthronement in highest heaven "far above all principality and power." If we but grasp and retain our moral and spiritual hold on these two elements of necessity and sufficiency in the cross, we will have solid ground under our feet while we grow in knowledge of this blessed mystery throughout all time and all eternity.

In the light of the foregoing, it is passing strange that "enemies of the cross" would be found within the pale of religious groups but such was the case in Paul's day and such is the case at the present hour. In his letter to the beloved church at Philippi the Apostle declared, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." These enemies may have been some who professed the Name of Christ but who in works denied Him or they may have been the Judaizing teachers who plagued Paul's footsteps. However this may be, an inspection of the lives these people lived will be of help in determining who is on the Lord's side in our own day.

Whatever may have been the profession of these people, the hard fact remains that they were not worshiping the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ but were rather centering their affections on the things which appealed to their senses. Paul, as a true friend of the cross, "bowed his knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named" while those opposing him declared their enmity to the cross by "worshiping the creature more than the Creator, who is above all God, blessed forever."

These unhappy people were glorying in their shame. Instead of sorrowing that they were so married to this earth and its fading interests, they rather gloried in this shameful fact. The true Christian will always declare, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." There is a dividing line between the friends and the enemies of the cross. Each of us declare by the way we live, walk, talk, dress and give just which side of this dividing line we are on.

The "enemies of the cross of Christ," whatever their profession may or may not be, always have their minds on earthly things. Their affections are set on things on the earth and not on the things which are above "where

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