



## "WHY SCHOOLS?"

by G. F. D. Kierstead

Join me in my study, and share a few of my thoughts. A half finished letter lies before me on my desk. I was writing our Treasurer about Schools, and the reason for the half finished letter was a pose to consider the value of schools to the cause of Missions. Was it really worth what we put into schools each year? Would that money not do more for the cause of Christ, if used for direct Evangelism?

My thoughts were interrupted by a knock at the door. It was Vivian Masko our teacher from Nkokweni. She had come to report the progress of our latest school. She reported as follows: "Attendance 49 pupils; Interest — very good; Average for the First Term 48.5; Devotional period is held daily when a short Gospel message is brought and verses are taught; a number of pupils have accepted Christ as Saviour."

Besides her school work Vivian has a weekly Sunday School with over 600 attending. She collected a box of cards, and a report form so she could make out and send in her half yearly report for the Bantu Alliance. The Youth work at Nkokweni has grown a lot since the opening of the School. After saying "Good-bye", and wishing her God's best, Vivian started back to Nkokweni on her bicycle.

I was left with my thoughts — Were schools worth the cost? I am sure that your conclusion will be the one I reached — Surely they are worth every cent!

The impression and influence that Vivian, a fine Christian girl must have in that largely heathen community? The great benefit that is gained by being able to read and write? The value of Christian influence and teaching at that young age?

I turned to my letter and wrote, "Please send me \$6.00 to pay Vivian Maseko for this month . . . ." So little money for so much accomplished.

## THE SUPREME QUESTION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

by Andrew Murray

How to multiply the number of Christians, who will individually and collectively wield this force of intercession for the conversion and transformation of men, that is the supreme question of Foreign Missions. Every other consideration and plan is secondary to that of wielding the forces of prayer.

That those who love this work, and bear it upon their hearts will follow the Scriptural injunction to pray unceasingly for its triumph, we take for granted. To such, not only the Morning Watch and the hours of stated devotion, but all times and seasons will witness an attitude of intercession that refuses to let God go until He crowns His workers with victory.

Missions have their root in the love of Christ, as that was proved on the cross and now lives in our heart. As men are so earnest in seeking to carry out God's plans for the natural world, so God's children should be at least as whole-hearted in seeking to bring the great redemption within the reach of all.

Pray for the missionaries, that the Christ-life may be clear and strong, that they may be men of prayer and filled with love, in whom the power of the spiritual life is made manifest.

Pray for the native Christians, that they may know the glory of the mystery among the heathen, Christ in them the hope of glory.

Pray for the baptism classes, and all the pupils in schools, that the teaching of God's Word may be in power. Pray specially for the native pastors and evangelists, that the Holy Spirit may fill them to be witnesses for Christ among their fellow-countrymen.

Pray, above all, for the Church of Christ, that it may be lifted out of its indifference, and that every believer may be brought to understand that the one object of this life is to help to make Christ King on the earth.

## GOD CALLS WORKERS

When God wants a man to do important work for His Kingdom, He does not call the idle, but He calls those who are already busily engaged in useful service.

Amos was busy with his herds when God called him.

Elisha was plowing in the field.

Joseph was on a mission for his father.

Moses was keeping the flock in the desert.

Saul was hunting his father's lost asses.

David was tending his father's flock.

Daniel was serving the king.

Peter and James and John were fishing.

Matthew was collecting taxes.

Saul of Tarsus was zealously stamping out what he thought was heresy.

So it has always been. Those who are performing well the lowly tasks of life are those whom God calls to the greater tasks. They have been tried and have not been found wanting.

This truth is one that should bring new courage and inspiration to the one who is of necessity engaged in humble tasks. It is not the big task that counts in God's plan for us, but the doing of our task well, whatever it be, whether great or small. The doing well of the lowly task fits one for the accomplishment of the greater. "Thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things."—W. T. McElroy in *The Christian Advocate*.

## LIVE IN THE "NOW"

Dr. W. E. Sangster asked his congregation recently, "How many of you folk are living now?" After all except the skeptical few had raised their hands, he proceeded to illustrate what he meant. During the preceding week, he had conducted the funeral of a middle-aged lady. The bereaved husband said, "Mr. Sangster, my life has been an utter failure." Feeling he was just overcome with grief, Mr. Sangster tried to console him. He mentioned the fact of his church membership, his interest in the work and service of the church, his good reputation and character. But he said, "No, my life has been a failure. When I was a boy, I looked forward to being a man; when in grade school I wanted to be in high school; when in high school I longed for the time when I would be in college; when in college I wanted to be in business; when our children were young, we wanted them older, then we wanted them through school, through college, married. We had a nice home but it never satisfied us. I lived for the time when I would retire and we would have a little cottage by the sea. Mr. Sangster, next week we were to have moved into that little cottage, but my wife is gone. I have nothing to which I can look forward. My life has been a failure, for I have always looked forward to the future and never found any joy or satisfaction in the NOW." Are you living NOW?—M. C. Miller.