



African Diary

by Dr. W. H. Mullen

My last Diary was written in Swaziland, a country which I enjoyed very much. It is a High Commission Territory, like Basutoland and Bechuanaland, where the British flag still flies.

Rev. Glendon Kierstead came over to Manzini, Swaziland, to meet me where I had been entertained in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Hynd. I stopped at Altona long enough to stow some of my belongings and took off again with Rev. Karl Gorman for a brief visit to the area of his responsibility around Paulpietersburg. The next day, after a good night's sleep, we drove out to Hartland where Dr. and Mrs. Sanders established the first Reformed Baptist Mission. As a child at Beulah I remember Dr. Sanders describing the farm at Hartland. I was certainly glad for the opportunity to visit this station. While there I met Rev. Alfred Methula the local R.B. pastor. The same day Bro. Gorman took me way out across the veld to Calvary outpost where Rev. Johannisi Nkosi is the pastor.

Late that afternoon Bro. Gorman took me down to Vryheid where I connected with Rev. William Morgan at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Titlestad. It was a pleasure to meet Mrs. Titlestad again (Grace Sanders), also to make the acquaintance of her husband. It was a 40 mile drive to Louwsburg which is the center of Bro. Morgan's missionary activities. It had been a long day and I was glad to go to bed that night. The next day Bro. Morgan showed me the church in the location, and pointed out other places of interest in the general area.

On Sunday morning I had the privilege of bringing the message with Bro. Morgan interpreting. Usually there are no Sunday evening services, but that night there was a service of singing as a special greeting for the visitor from over seas. Some of the other mission groups in the location shared in the service. The church was full. I brought a brief message.

The next morning we were up early for the long ride to Altona where the workers and people were gathering in for the Bantu Alliance, the Africa equivalent of Beulah. The conference lasted from July 9-15. It was a great opportunity for me to see the African R.B. Church in united action. All the ordained pastors of the R.B. Church in South Africa were there. I had already been to each of the stations and visited with the missionaries, but it was nice to see them all together in one place. By this time I had met four of the five African ordained pastors, so I was glad for the opportunity of meeting the fifth one, Rev. Paulos Malaza, from the Johannesburg area of the work. I attended several business sessions and was quite impressed with the relevancy of the general debate and the overall efficiency. Rev. Amos Mbogazi presided with dignity, poise, and goodwill. During one session the secretary read a telegram of greeting from the Alliance at Beulah. It was very thankfully received by the conference, and it was interesting to me, way down here in Africa, that it was signed by Rev. L. K. Mullen.

The other services were times of blessing, even

The King's Highway

though I had to receive sermons and testimonies by way of a translator. The congregational singing was always a delight for me, and the special singing by different groups of young people was always appropriate and beautifully rendered. The conference honored me by asking that I conduct the Bible Study Hour every morning. I based my study on the Gospel of John, a book that I am always delighted to talk about. The whole conference was well-organized. Bro. Blendon Kierstead and his local workers found food to eat and places to sleep for all the missionaries, African pastors, and people.

I was deeply moved by the generous and thoughtful gifts which were presented to me at the conference. I will treasure these symbols of love and gratitude from the African R.B. people.

Sunday, the last day of the conference, began with a very beautiful baptismal service conducted by Rev. Absalom Sibiya who baptized 15 candidates. It was a very colorful and impressive sight to see a great crowd of singing, reverent people moving as one unit toward the baptismal water. The "morning" service in the church lasted about three and one-half hours, well into the afternoon.

After a quick meal, my next stop was Vryheid where all the missionaries gathered for the organization of the first "European" R.B. Church in South Africa under the energetic leadership of Rev. Karl Gorman. When I came to Africa I never expected that I would be present at a service with such possible significance for the R.B. work.

That night I was entertained in the home of Rev. Eugene Kierstead. I had been here once before in May. Bro. Kierstead has been very kind in helping to make my stay in Africa meaningful and pleasant.

Monday morning I set out with Rev. and Mrs. Paul Sanders for Boksburg in the famous Reef area. This is the great gold mining district in and about Johannesburg. I am writing this in their home. My visit here is giving me the chance to see this section of the R.B. work with its tremendous opportunities in the crowded locations and townships of the Jo'burg area.

This is my last stop in South Africa. From where I sit I can hear the whine of the jets at the nearby Jan Smuts airport. On Sunday I fly to London. In retrospect, I want to say that everywhere among the R.B. missionaries I have been received with the greatest of courtesy and the warmest of welcome. Each missionary has gone "all out" to show me around without regard to time or cost. I also wish to express my gratitude for the missionary wives—Myra Sanders, Betty Kierstead, Helene Gorman, Elsie Morgan, Mary Sanders—who have been so very thoughtful in their entertainment and their desire to make me comfortable.

I feel that the Reformed Baptist missionary enterprise is well worthy of the support of the people in the homeland. I count it a high privilege to have had this opportunity to visit the R.B. area and to understand a bit better both the joys and sorrows of the missionary work.

This will be my last "Diary." I have enjoyed doing it, and I wish to thank the editor for giving me the assignment. I hope that some of my observations have been interesting as well as helpful in providing a few insights into the modes and thought of South Africa.

OUR PASTORS SPEAK

(Continued from Page 1)

ones who have laid aside the weapons of this warfare are gathering over yonder. What a glorious reunion will be ours in the "city where they need no sun." Then we shall "know as we are known", and partings shall be no more. Hallelujah!