



ASK A QUESTION

Question:

Could you explain the following statements from section 7 of our Church Covenant: "We will refrain from all unchaste and profane conversation, all foolish talking and jesting which are not befitting, vain disputing about words and things which gender strife . . ."; also ". . . we will refrain from vain and unnecessary conversation of the Lord's Day . . .".

Answers:

Since it is not possible to question those who framed our Church Covenant concerning what they meant by certain statements and words contained in this important document, our next best procedure is to examine the meaning of the words used. In this instance, definitions are enlightening. Unchaste is designated as "unchristian, of loose character, dissolute". Synonyms, listed in Roget's Thesaurus, include "coarse, indecent, obscene".

The word "profane", is sometimes mistakenly thought of as applying only to taking the name of the Lord in vain. But the word has much broader connotations. It is defined as "irreverent, unholy, unclean". It would seem quite certain that this is the meaning of the word as used in our Covenant. If we are children of God, we will

most surely have done with profanity, but we may be in danger of engaging in conversation that is irreverent or unclean.

Commenting on Ephesians 5:4, from which the vow against "foolish talking and jesting" is taken, Dr. Daniel Steele, the great Methodist theologian of the last century comments: "From the connection we infer that jesting is here used in a bad sense, as scurrility, ribaldry, and low wit. There is a good sense which is not forbidden—pleasantry, humour, and factiousness".

The words "unchaste, profane, foolish talking, and jesting", are all related, in varying degrees, to conversation trends and exchanges which are improper and unbecoming for the Christian. Our Covenant commitment on this particular point is very timely in this day of low thinking and loose talk.

The pledge to "refrain from vain and unnecessary conversation on the Lord's Day", would apply to abstinence from discussions that might be in order on other days of the week, but are not in keeping with a careful observance of the sanctity and spiritual purposes of this day which is dedicated to God, and designed to provide rest for the body and renewing for the soul.

THANKSGIVING AND SUPPLICATION IN FOREIGN MISSIONS

THANKSGIVING

1. For Rev. and Mrs. Glendon Kierstead and the good work done in missionary rallies. The color slides and film of "Missions in Action," reflect potential of youth for missions.

2. Acceptance in principle of giving a tithe of our tithe to foreign missions. That is, for nine dollars spent at home at least one dollar for overseas.

3. For the response of our African church to the principles of indigenization, namely, self-governing, self-propagating and self-supporting.

4. For past achievements and our present African church which totals over 1000 members and 1,500 associate members; Sunday School enrolment over 2,500 and 54 national pastors.

SUPPLICATION

1. For Dr. Storer Emmett who is in the hospital in Montreal for back surgery. For Dr. Emmett's family and the staff in Bethesda hospital who labor in the Doctor's absence.

2. For Rev. Karl Gorman whose physical condition makes missionary work difficult. Pray that God will give our Brother renewed strength.

3. For missionary children, especially those of Rev. and Mrs. William Morgan who have to be away to boarding school.

4. For an evangelistic thrust in our African church. A sick and dying world must be reached now. Pray for a total response to the command, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ."

PRAYER FOR TODAY

"God grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things which need to be changed; and wisdom to know the difference."

Altona Mission

Dear Highway Friends:

This is Sunday Morning at Altona Mission. The winter is past and the warmth of spring is drawing out the leaves on the trees and peach trees are in blossom and the mulberries are ripe.

We have just dismissed Sunday School and since this is communion Sunday here on the Mission I am writing this while awaiting the hour of the mid-day service. Some of the Bible School students are practicing a special song for the service while another has been playing the old dilapidated organ which sits in the church.

This is our first letter to the Highway since moving here from Louwsburg. After four months here we are beginning to get a bit of the 'feeling' of the area. Being one of our older areas we sense an awareness of establishment in our work here, which was absent in Louwsburg where our work is comparatively young.

With the combination of administering the mission work in the area, directing, teaching, preparing courses for the Bible School and keeping an eye on the clinic work including travelling an average of at least 2000 miles a month in ambulance work, editing and publishing our African church paper the 'Ikhwezi', and settling ourselves in we have not lacked for something to do.

Our annual denominational conference convened here in July. We were favored with fine weather, though cold, an attendance equal to (some said exceeding) the best ever recorded and above all, God's blessing. Business sessions were conducted in an orderly manner presided over by Rev. A. Mbokazi and an atmosphere of spiritual harmony pervaded the sessions. Many testified to blessing and help received through the services which were conducted by chosen members of the African leaders and the missionaries.

One of the highlights of the conference was the ordination on Sunday morning of Rev. Jeremiah Mabena. Of significance is

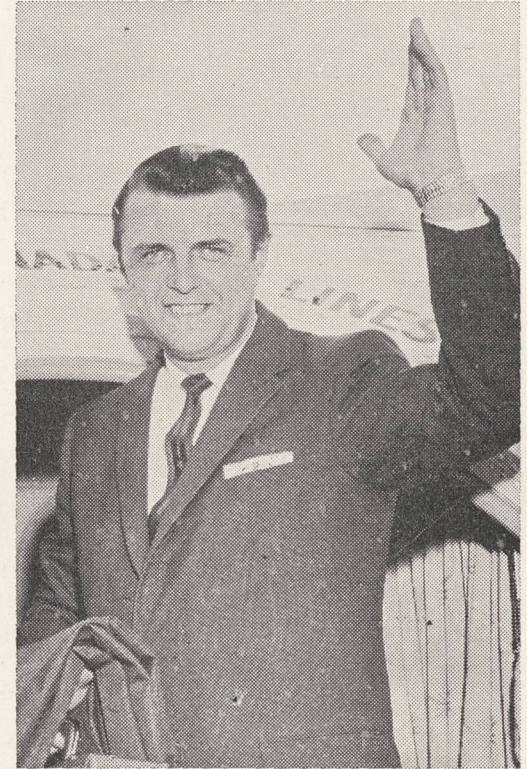
SUPERINTENDENT TO AFRICA IN 1965

The Young Peoples' Association, in cooperation with the Foreign Mission Board is making plans to send Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, Alliance Superintendent, to Africa in March, 1965 to tour the Reformed Baptist Mission fields.

Our Young Peoples' Societies are being asked to take special offerings during the week of November 23-29, 1964 to help finance this project.

We have already received \$350.00 from previous offerings toward this project. Young Peoples' Societies and individuals interested in giving financial assistance to this great cause are asked to send their donations to Miss Beth Cann, 704 Charlotte Street, Fredericton, N. B.

Merle Smith, President



Rev. H. R. Ingersoll

Help send Rev. H. R. Ingersoll
to Africa in March, 1965

Give generously through your
Y.P. Society during the week of
Nov. 23-29, 1964

Send all offerings to:

Miss Beth Cann
704 Charlotte St.
Fredericton, N. B.

the fact that he is originally of the tribe amongst whom our Rhodesian missionaries are working. He came to Johannesburg and there found salvation and also came into contact with our church through Rev. and Mrs. Paul Sanders. He has completed 2 years training in our E.H.B. School. At present he is replacing Rev. A. Mbokazi in the Altona Area (Rev. Mbokazi moved to the Hartland area in July) but will as the Lord leads return to Rhodesia.

For the closing service on Sunday approximately 250 people crowded into the church and of those 130 remained after the main service to partake of the Emblems of the Lord's Supper before the final meal was served and our visitors were conveyed away and we were left in the silence of memories of the excitement, the rush and the blessings of the hallowed week now a fact of history.

Sincerely in His Service
Bill, Elsie, Suzanne & Murray Morgan