South African Church Railway Mission.

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PRAYER FOR THE MISSION.

O Lord Jesus Christ, whose love is never failing, make this day to be the day of Thy tender mercy towards this Mission. Listen to the prayers of all Thy children; be the Shepherd of the lost, the Guide and the Light of unbelievers, the Teacher of the simple, the Father of the fatherless, the Protector of the oppressed, the Physician of the suffering, the Comforter of the dying, and bring us all at last to Thee, our Refuge and eternal Rest, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

On the Road,

December 13th, 1922.

Dear Friends,

I've lost the toss, and although I am very, very busy and have piles of letters and other things awaiting attention and I am being abused all round for seeming neglect on my part, yet the Editor is to be feared most of all; so I've got to write for our next issue and leave other things till it is done. But possibly you don't know that story about losing the toss: Two boys were invited by an austere aunt to spend a holiday. When Dick arrived at the farm and was asked by his relative why he and not Tom had come, he explained that the matter had been settled by "tossing." "And you won?" enquired his aunt. "No," replied the boy, "I lost." Well, I've lost the toss: if only the Editor were a man, but the Editor isn't a man, she's a lady," and most of you know what a lady is like. If you don't, the following illustration may serve as an example. A lady had lost her husband and was most anxious to do the thing properly: a tombstone was ordered and the inscription arranged for was "Rest in peace," but thinking something more was needed she added "till I come." And that is how I feel about our Editor if I don't get this off: it's all right till I get back to the Office, and then——. But I'm doing my best. And when one does one's best too often many of you don't read what I actually write but fancy I have written something else and I "catch it." Not long ago I wrote that I would say nothing about my treat­ment at a certain place, and a month or two later—dear me! yes, they had been keeping it warm for me all the time, and when next I got there, I was attacked from every quarter, not forgetting two of our workers, who, needless to say, ought to have stood up for me—and when at last I was able to get in a word I asked for Light for the Line to be produced. Yes, of course, everybody had a copy and went to get it, but they
all came back without it, for nobody could find their particular copy: however, I began to get bold and declined to proceed with the discussion till one was produced, and it soon came then, but to their dismay they found I had said nothing about my treatment—what logic—so they all turned round and abused me for not saying anything about it. But I must be careful for I’m on my way there now. Poor old Head of the Mission; he is very much like a man of whom a friend wrote: “Poor Mr. X is dead: he was a most kindly man and a great help to us in many ways. Of course, poor dear, he was quite vulgar, so we could not know him in London, but we shall meet in Heaven no doubt.” Let us hope so. But this is not intended for a “Christmas Number” in any way—far too late for that—though I trust you have all had a very, very happy Christmas, but it’s not too late for the New Year, so I send with it my greetings and good wishes to you all for a happier and brighter year than those which have immediately preceded it.

The best news this time is that Mr. Hobson has at last come out and now is hard at it on his old Section, receiving a very hearty welcome from his old friends there and from newcomers, who will soon have the same affection for him as his old friends. Possibly in his letter he may tell you something about his journey out, via the East Coast, so I’ll leave that to him: we met and journeyed together from Lobatsi to Mafeking one day and that is all I have been able to see of him so far. I wanted him to tell me everything about everybody out here: what a thing it is always to have to do what everyone else tells you to do. But never mind, we hope to meet him later on.

Then we have the cheering news from our old friend Mr. Rogers to say that he has secured for us another priest: he will not be able to join up till after July, but the good thing is that he is coming.

At the end of September I went up to Essexvale for the opening of the new church there: it does not make any pretensions to architecture but it certainly does provide us with a meeting place for our services, and looks well too: it is a testimony of what one or two can do when they are really set on doing it, and we are grateful to those who have brought it about, and also to those who supported them in the undertaking. With the help of relations, and other friends in England, of the Essexvale folk and a very generous gift from the Winstanley Guild, added to the result of their own efforts, the church was opened for service free of debt—and “great” value for the money has been obtained. I have ordered a font, which will be placed in the Essexvale church, in memory of one who was devoted to the place and to those who live there, Ralph Southey Seacome, our Chaplain in Southern Rhodesia: the font will be paid for out of the balance of the Memorial Fund. It must be a great joy to him that we have this building where formerly we had no public place whatever in which to meet. It was a very happy time: service was held in the afternoon and a Eucharist next morning, St. Michael and All Angels’ Day. Everybody who possibly
could did come to join with us in thanksgiving to Almighty God for enabling us to offer Him this gift. Among the congregation was Mrs. Adam Bell, one of God's good women, who, although over 80 years of age, was never missing at any service there, early or late, although it involved travelling by donkey cart over a more or less rough road some four miles. It was a joy to her to come for the early service, go back and come again for 10.30: to her it was well worth while. I had hardly got back to Grahamstown when I received a most kind letter from her, enclosing a postal order for the Sustentation Fund, and stating that it was her intention to send one each month: two days after receiving that letter I received a telegram to say she had passed beyond the veil; so she is now able to join in that fuller worship for which she had prepared so faithfully, while she was with us here.—R.I.P.

On Friday I hope to be at Machadodorp for the dedication of the church there—a real beauty I hear—but as I am only a Priest and not a Prophet, an account of this must remain till the Editor begins to worry me for the next issue. Writing of church building makes me think of Rosmead: the old ugly wreck is now out of the way; what about something really nice in its place? But we must get over Christmas and the New Year, then we ought really to think hard about it.

Now a word about Naauwpoort. Not long after Father Hill had abused me so roundly about our not having built a Clergy House at Naauwpoort, I met the church officers, and together we talked of the possibility of moving in the matter: It seemed possible that we might get the piece of land behind the church for the house, and I offered to pay the interest on £1,000 to be borrowed for the purpose if they would undertake to pay off so much capital each year. Mr. Smith and his helpers had been busy with their bazaar and had got in something over £100 and things looked promising, though nothing of this sort could be done without first consulting the congregation. The stumbling block in the way seemed to be to find somebody kind or foolish enough to lend us the whole of the money wanted, as what we had in hand would all be needed for the land and other necessary expenses. Plans for the house were prepared by Mr. Tait, of Grahamstown, and, after two or three alterations had been made, were accepted by the Church Council: but the estimate for building was roughly £1,150. So, when I had duly arrived for the meeting with the congregation, I was not surprised that Mr. Smith and his flock found it impossible to raise a smile: for in addition to the impossibility of finding someone to lend the money there were difficulties connected with the purchase of the ground. But my experience is that difficulties are not "blocks" but things to get over—especially if you have something up your sleeve. The goodwill which I found prevailing at the time of the Bazaar convinced me that with a little help Naauwpoort could get over any difficulties which came in the way: let that goodwill continue and Naauwpoort will pull through. We had a splendid representative meeting—more than twenty men being present—and
first I was able to report that Mr. Hitchcock, the owner of the land, had been most kind and generous and had met us splendidly. But then I had to say I must withdraw the Mission's guarantee for the interest on any money borrowed as I could not say the Mission would be able to fulfil the promise. Then faces got longer than any three fiddles I have ever seen: but they soon brightened up for I was able to tell them that the London Committee had wired me to say they accepted my suggestion to place £400 at our disposal, for this purpose, if the house is built as a memorial to our late Secretary—Miss Elise Astley—who for twenty-one years had devoted her life, in England, to helping us out here. Her friends, soon after her death, sent in contributions to a fund which was created to place some memorial to her memory in South Africa, and the London Committee had been waiting for a suggestion from me as to the form it was to take. Well, when the offer was made smiles soon began to appear, and we had to have a cup of tea to enable us to get on with the work. At the meeting those present, entirely on their own account, offered to increase their contributions to the Sustentation Fund to provide for the interest on the balance of the money we shall have to borrow, so that any other money which may come in, from bazaars and the like, can be entirely devoted to paying off the borrowed capital. But I must get on: to make a long, if interesting, story short, the bricks are being made and we hope to begin building with the New Year. Some swank: well done, Naauwpoort; keep that goodwill and you will pull through.

There are lots of things I wanted to write about, but I've gone on too long already. I must just mention how very grateful we are for the very generous help from Coerney. The sale, organised by Mrs. Clack, produced £14:5:11, and as the expenses were only 2/2, the Mission benefits by £14:3:9. We had a very jolly meeting at Port Elizabeth and another at Bloemfontein, but accounts of these must stand over. I wanted to tell you some of our experiences with the Christian Healing Mission and Mr. Hickson—perhaps Miss Short will do that: she will now soon be back on her Section, she would be there now if she had her own way, and she has got a bit out of hand just lately, but I had to put my foot down and dare her to set foot on her Section till she had some rest which she is very badly needing. So if anyone is to be blamed, blame me; I hope she will be rested very soon and by the New Year she will be at it again.

Yours sincerely,

R. THORNELY JONES.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

The Parsonage,
Naauwpoort,
9th December, 1922.

My dear Friends,

I am writing from the seaside, whither we have escaped from Naauwpoort after a somewhat strenuous three months of hard work which has not been without its blessings. At Naauwpoort we have had our Intercession Services for the Christian
Healing Mission and 18 people from Naauwpoort and along the line went to Bloemfontein or Beaufort West. While we have nothing startling to report in the way of cures, we can report some improvements—and in my own case my hearing is much better—and we have all received a spiritual blessing. We have seen a vision of the love and power of Jesus Christ the Healer. Our hopes have been raised. These hopes can and must be maintained. We shall do it best by keeping close to our Lord in prayer and Sacrament and Bible-reading. I hope to re-start our Services of Intercession for Healing in January; but meanwhile we must continue our private prayers. Prayer Circles—that is, the gathering together in our homes of a few faithful for earnest prayer—would do much to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and afflicted. I shall be very pleased to receive the names (1) of those who will undertake to pray every day for at least one sick person and (2) the names of any who desire our prayers.

Elsewhere will be found the names of those confirmed by the Bishop on Friday, December 1st. A goodly congregation assembled for the Service of Laying on of Hands and many were moved by the simplicity and directness of the addresses which we hope will be long remembered.

Since our last issue we have gone a long way towards the erection of a Parsonage House at Naauwpoort. A site has been secured adjoining the plot on which the church and Parish Hall stand; the bricks are in the making; plans drawn up; and last, but not least, the London Committee has given us £400 to start us on our way. And we are grateful that the permanent memorial will be erected at Naauwpoort and that the Parsonage House will be known as the Astley Memorial House.

We have then £500 to begin with, £400 from London and £100 from the Bazaar. An excellent start. The adoption of the scheme does not mean our work is complete, and there is a lot of hard work in store for us to raise the remaining £500 or so required. It is a lot of money for a small place, but not an impossible sum if we all work with a will and united purposeful prayer.

I see I have omitted to record that a well-attended meeting of parishioners was held on Tuesday, October 17th, with Canon R. Thornely Jones in the chair. It was a good meeting in spite of the fact that the Canon first dashed our hopes to the ground. But finally he raised them beyond our wildest dreams with the London Committee's offer, and the scheme was accepted and we pledged ourselves to hard work.

COOKHOUSE. The usual services have been held at Cookhouse and the work continues to go ahead. We are working up a congregational choir which practises on the Friday evening before the Sunday services. The singing is generally good, and we feel sure the choir practices will make it heartier than ever.

Mrs. Bosch continues in Sunday School and has the assistance of Miss Hubbard. The attendance is fair. Will parents please see that children come every Sunday? Stamps are given to the children who attend, and albums have been provided in which they can be stuck week by week in the space provided for them; thus providing a record of attendances for the year.

ROSMEAD. The old iron church, which did service for so many years, and was formerly the garrison church at Middelburg, C.P., has gone at last. The site stands bare, ready for the erection of a permanent building sooner or later. We are glad of the schoolroom kindly placed at our disposal; but a little church with the usual conveniences and associations of public worship would be a real help to us if we would get a move on—and some of us are feeling the need.

HOFMEYR. October 24th found us at Hofmeyr again. The numbers were not quite as large as usual as some of our friends were away and there had been removals. Mr. Hugo (C.C. and R.M.) and his wife have been transferred, but we were glad to find in his successor, Mr.
Munschied, an old friend from Namaqua-
land.

Thebus and Sherborne have had services
and visits paid to Rensburg and Riet.
Cyphergat and Stormberg have not been
forgotten, although we have not been able
to get to them.

In wishing you all a very happy and pros­
perous New Year, let me add my thanks for
hospitality and many kindnesses all along
the line.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

EDMUND D. SMITH.

Dear Friends,

The Editor reminds me that soon my
letter for Light for the Line must be in
her hands. So as I see a busy time ahead,
I had better write at once. That does not
mean that I am not busy now; but editors
(or at least our Editor) won't accept ex­
cuses such as "overwork," "not a moment
to spare," or any other such trivial grounds.

Since last I wrote several new services
have been started, and we now have service
once each month (barring accidents) at
Coerney, Mimosa, Bellevue, Ripon, Long­
hope, Barkly Bridge and Coega. These are
of course in addition to the fixed Sunday
services at Alicedale, Sandflats and Addo.
Also I was able to get round to Kareiga, but
not to Aberdeen Road. At Kareiga I
dropped in for a particularly cordial recep­
tion, and was pressed to stay on longer, but
could not. I rather gather that if I don't
stay longer next time, I shall drop in for a
reception a good deal more than cordial.
When at Coega last time, I held services,
also at "Limehurst" at the kind invitation
of the people there. On the first occasion
at Longhope there were five baptisms, and
one on the next visit; in addition to these,
there have been two at Alicedale.

All along the line I have met with the
utmost kindness, not only from railway
folk, but also all others. I have now been
six months amongst you (though it does not
seem half that time), and I wish to take
this opportunity of thanking you all for the
most cordial reception you have given me,
as also for the many kind words spoken and
couragements given in a variety of ways:
You have made me feel that you are glad to
see me, and to do whatever you can for me:
thank you! But don't let it end that way:
I have not been sent amongst you so that
you should get to know and like me, but
that you may get to know and love The
Supreme Head of the Mission—the only
wise God, our Saviour. Which reminds me
of a story I heard some years ago: In a
parish they had been preparing for a
parochial mission, and the vicar arranged
that the workers should meet the missioner
in the vestry on the evening of his arrival
amongst them. After the workers had been
all introduced to the missioner, the vicar
suggested, they should kneel down and pray
for our Lord's blessing on the mission;
whereupon one earnest and enthusiastic soul
burst out, "O Lord, we thank Thee that
Thou hast sent Thy servant amongst us:
and now, O Lord, we pray Thee blot him
out, and reveal Thyself!" And that, dear
friends, is exactly what we want; the
realisation of the abiding presence of the
Master.

Before closing this letter, I must very
briefly tell you that I had the good fortune
of seeing both Mr. Hickson and Miss Short
in Bloemfontein. I should like to tell you a
lot about the Mission, but time, space and
the Editor (can't get away from her) for­
bid. You will all be very glad to hear, that
Miss Short will soon be back amongst us.
She will need looking after closely: she has
been on the run for so many months now,
that we'll have to keep our eyes lifting, lest
like Charley's Aunt she keeps on running,
and we not see her for dust.

Yours very sincerely,

G. H. THORNE.
My dear Friends,

I must say first how very glad I am to have been able to return to my section. When I left it three years ago I had little idea as to what the future might hold in store. Then the Hand of God, in the shape of death, was laid upon certain members of my family, my section was still vacant as regards a priest, and other things combining seemed to point the way to my return. My thanks are specially due in several directions; to my late Vicar with whom I was working in a big London parish with 18,000 population—he gladly consented to be left entirely alone in his charge, so that I might come to those who had so few chances of religion. Then there is my mother, left now all by herself in the world, who yet felt that the call of the spiritually lonely should not be neglected for her sake. Then too, I must thank, and many of you must also, Mr. Stenson for so generously stretching himself out beyond his own immense limits of work so as to help the Northern Protectorate, and our good Head, Canon Jones, who has done so much to keep the flag flying in these parts. Indeed, one of the joys of coming back is to find the flag of religion not only flying, but fluttering quite a strong breeze of spiritual life.

I have been experiencing lately a most curious sensation as I go up and down the line and visit the old haunts—the sensation that I have never really been away at all and that it is only a few weeks since I have been in each place I visit. I think it shows that when I worked amongst you before you must have made a very deep and lasting impression on my mind!

May I offer my hearty congratulations to those who have received any sort of promotion during my absence, and to those of you who are in the same position now as you were, may I say that I am with you, being in exactly the same position as I was! We will try to show a cheerful face to the world, being content to be where we are as long as we are called to be there. For myself I just feel that I am a long man in a long hole and that nothing suits me better than pottering up and down among you and contributing some little bit I hope to your eternal welfare.

I want this magazine, *Light for the Line*, to be well known, read, and appreciated up and down the section. And as there must be always risks in business, I am taking a risk here, namely, asking that this copy should be sent free, gratis, and for nothing to a few persons here and there. And would those said persons be so good as to see that the circulation continues? If, say, three of you on a station joined together for a copy, it would work out at 10d. a year, or if two took it at 1/3, and I'm sure that it would take several more straws beyond that to break the camel's back, even in these hard days! These letters give us a chance of having a word with you, which we don't too often get, and they give you an idea of the work of the Church up and down the country which prevents narrowness of outlook. Besides, you can see the receipts for the money you give at services. How do you know I don't spend it all on baccy? Look in *Light for the Line*!

Further still, I will try to give a little word of exhortation, or instruction or explanation in some point of the Catholic faith and religion, in these letters; and you don't get much chance of this type of reading, do you? It will help me to write if I know you will read. Just one such word then before closing time—our holy religion presents us with a Person to be loved, our Divine Lord. “The Church is not a research society for the discovery of truth, nor a debating society for discussing deep problems,” it is the Body of Christ into which we have been gathered so that we may learn how to love Him and serve Him, so that in all droughts and depressions we may find a peace which the world cannot
give and which all the vagaries of nature cannot destroy. Let everything centre round Him, the Living, Loving, and most beautiful Jesus. Come to our services to sing His praises, to hear His invitations, and to learn His requirements. Use His Sacraments so that you may feel His strong life pulsing in your veins. Never get far from Him in thought—let the picture of His Crucifixion or His glory captivate your imagination, speak to Him frequently not only at special times of prayer, but wherever you are and whatever you are doing. Living this sort of life you will act as a magnet and draw others to Him. People can’t help noticing the “always merry and bright” attitude of a person whose heart is fixed in the right place. At Zanzibar, where I spent a fortnight on the way out, the Cathedral stands on the site of the old slave-market, the Christian Altar on the very spot which the whipping-post used to occupy. Yes, our Christ is the Victor over all that is base and inhuman, all that makes men unhappy. May you have a happy Christmas, may His Nativity mean more to you this year than ever before, may He be born again in your hearts, especially through your Christmas Communion. 

Your affectionate priest and friend,

A. C. Hobson.

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DIOCESE OF NORTHERN RHODESIA.

CHURCH FINANCE.

WHAT IT MEANS.

“Why should I pay for a thing I don’t want?” Such is the question which is sometimes asked in reference to religion and every sort of governing and controlling power. There is one simple answer:

“To prevent you being a cursed nuisance to yourself and other people.”

“If, then, these things are of such immense importance, shouldn’t I receive them free of charge?”

In a way you can and you do, though, on closer examination, it is probably absolutely true that “we acquire nothing free of charge.” We exert an effort—some natural necessity or instinct; some thought, application, experience or desire compels us to do so. Even then, we become consciously aware that we do not possess all we might, all we would and all we could have. We, therefore, employ others to supply us—to exert his efforts on our behalf—and we recompense him with money which is the medium of exchange in this finite and material world. God, being infinite and immaterial, cannot have His efforts recompensed with money, but, still, we want to exert an effort in order to acquire “the good” which He supplies.

An article on “Four Immoralities of the Church” was written for the Century Magazine of August, 1921, by Frank Crane, who has been a minister of the American Church for over thirty years. The four immoralities are: first, that it is exclusive; second, that it is respectable; third, that it is free; and fourth, that it is militant. In dealing with the third, that it is free, he writes: “There are only two ways to get anything at all in heaven or in earth. One is to pay for it; the other is—any other way. The first is honest, the second is not. Every proposal to give something for nothing is directly, or, by implication and consequence, immoral. All giving is suspicious. It promotes vanity in the giver and subserviency in the recipient. The Church ought to assume that humanity wants its service sufficiently to pay for it. Men need bread, but nobody purposes to give them free bread. Men need music and art, but it is understood that they must buy a ticket if they want to hear the concert or visit the museum. The Church would be on a sounder basis ethically if it sold its services like an honest merchant, and did not claim to be offering it to people for nothing.... To many, the proposal that the Church sell and not give away what it has to offer will sound little short of blasphemous. And it would be so, if the Church made a mer-
chandise of religion. But it is not religion, not the Spirit of God nor the Gospel of Jesus, which the Church has either to give away or to sell. It is service."

How often have I heard clergy and laity (more particularly clergy) contend that "the Church" cannot be run on business lines. If "the Church" cannot be, her finances can and should be. To such an extent has the service and business side been neglected that it is now, with some, a commonly accepted idea that a parson’s bread is produced by the spiritual forces which are germinated by his love for his services. Martyrdom “for the cause,” involving bodily starvation, deprivation of pleasure, neglect of his highest duty to the state, etc., is extolled as a crowning virtue. This is to deny the sacramental idea of physical life as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace and as as blasphemous as to contend that, in a case when bread and wine are gratuitously presented for use at the altar, the symbols are endued with the benefit of “the strengthening and refreshing of our souls.” The Church is, I’m convinced, a sound and good investment, but it is unbusinesslike to expect the rate of interest to be—a parson per tickie invested! All the above is general, but now I wish to particularly examine the finances of this N. Rhodesian and Belgian Congolese section of the S.A.C.R.M.

THE SYSTEM.

The Chaplain receives a fixed stipend per annum and his working expenses are paid. These expenses include food (at hotels, on the train, etc.); housekeeping (wages, stores, utensils, etc.); travelling (passage money, train, cabs, cycle repairs, tips, etc.); Church expenses (wine, wafers, etc.); printing, literature and stationery; general charges (postage, telegrams, freightage, bank charges, etc.), and other expenses which may arise in connection with his duties. To cover (if possible) his stipend, his expenses and a quota towards the maintenance of the head office at Grahamstown, he receives collections; fees and offerings; contributions; donations; the sums contributed to the Sustentation Funds and any other receipts. Each month a statement of receipts and expenditure is made out and, together with a cheque for all receipts, is sent to the head office. The chaplain receives in return a cheque which covers his month’s stipend and the amount of his expenses. I started working on a different system so, for the sake of uniformity, I examine six inclusive months from March to August. It is well to include August because that month was spent in doing the trolley trip over the greater part of the section.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS.

Hospitality. About this I wrote last quarter, but I feel I cannot drive home too deeply or emphasize too strongly its value. Throughout this article (and especially when dealing with figures), I would ask you to bear in mind that board and lodging, at an hotel or in a restaurant car, would cost at least 12/- to 14/- a day, and one cannot presume that it’ll never cost the Chaplain as much as that. I think I forgot to mention that I’m often given “a lift” in a motor-car and, in the Congo, that often means the paying of a train fare.

Divisions. The section is, by force of circumstance, divided and differences occur. On the N. Rhodesian part, the Chaplain is provided with a free railway pass and a caboose, but beyond Sakania he travels as an ordinary passenger. This, of course, adds to his expenses in the Congo. His receipts there are in francs and subject to the fluctuations in the rate of exchange. Again, Panda, Elisabethville, Lubumbashi and Broken Hill are mining centres and have comparatively large communities in a small area, whereas, all the places south of Broken Hill are agricultural centres and have comparatively small communities scattered over a very large area. Needless to say, in the Congo the number of Belgians is greater than that of Britishers. These facts should be borne in mind when com-
paring the number attending the services
and the amounts contributed to the support
of the Mission.

GUARANTEED CONTRIBUTIONS.

In every place an attempt should be made
to raise a definite sum, annually, for the
maintenance of the Mission. Two places—
Broken Hill and Elisabethville—in the past,
decided to do this and asked, in return, for
a visit of the Chaplain regularly each
month. Panda, in a similar way, asked for
a visit every second month. Up to the pre­
sent, Broken Hill has contributed £8, each
month, from a fund which has been ad­
ministered by the Church Council. That
fund is now nearly exhausted and some
other way of raising "the necessary"—
such as a Sustentation Fund—will have to
be adopted and put into operation. (Later:
I hear the Council are considering the mat­
ter.) Elisabethville had a similar Council
which used to raise £10 a month. That
Council ceased to exist and their accounts
were closed some time ago. A "Sustenta­
tion Fund" is now kept in operation through
the branch of the Standard Bank there.
The Manager is authorised, by a signed slip
from the contributor, to automatically
transfer, from the contributor's deposits,
so much each month to the English Church
Fund. When last enquiry was made, the
contributions, for twelve months, amounted
to 1,760 francs (about £25-£30, according
to the rate of exchange).

Panda, at one time, had a finance com­
mittee, but I have never heard that they
had any definite agreement with the head
office. The committee no longer exists, but
sums are still received by Mr. Stuart, who
had in hand, in September, 860 francs.
That amount represents the gradual accu­
mulation since February, 1921. Just lately,
several men spoke of forming themselves
into a committee in order to go thoroughly
into the matter.

A visit to Elisabethville unavoidably takes
about nine days and one on to Panda about
seven days more.

To be concluded.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Waterval Boven,
Dec. 11th, 1922.

My dear Friends,

There are sure signs along the line that
the Mission of Healing conducted by Mr.
Hickson did much towards deepening the
spiritual life of many of our people. One
of the wonderful sides of the Mission lies in
the fresh revelation of the fulness of Chris­
tianity to meet the needs of the whole Man,
Body, Soul and Spirit. We have often heard
the cry from the man in the street, "Give
us something for our bodies and do not
push so much down our throats about the
soul. Help us along a little more in this
life and not talk so much about the Here­
after." Those who have lived in close touch
with God have realised that by attending to
the needs of the soul the good for the body
has naturally followed, but those who have
been indifferent or half-hearted where God
is concerned have gone on seeing very little
in religion except that it is a good thing
for children. To all, the power of Christ
to heal the whole man in his three-fold
capacity has been revealed afresh and we
realise more fully to-day that Christ is
"the same yesterday, to-day and forever."
In Christ, the soul of man finds that peace
which passeth understanding: in Christ the
mind finds the eternal source of pure and
uplifting thought: in Christ the body finds
that stream of spiritual power which can
and does infuse new life to those suffering
and which casts out disease.

Most of those who went to the Mission
have returned with blessings, some to body
and soul and practically all with spiritual
blessings. We trust that the impressions
made will be lasting and that further bless­
ings will be received through the power
gained by prayer. With this end in view
Prayer Circles have been formed with the
express purpose of praying for the sick and
afflicted. Any who would like to be mem­
bers of a prayer circle should notify Miss
Gardner or me. We have a long list of
people desiring your prayers. This is one of the chief means we have of keeping up the great work of healing begun through Mr. Hickson.

By the time you get this our little church at Machadodorp will have been dedicated by the Archdeacon of Pretoria. In addition to coming to Machadodorp the Archdeacon is going to pay a visit to the low veld part of our section. It is necessary, I think, for the dignitaries of our diocese to see the work of the Church Railway Mission as well as to hear about it. Christ's Church, the name we have chosen for our little church, will be opened on the 15th December. The keenness of the people has not diminished one iota. We still want about £30 or £40, but I do not think we shall want it for very long.

We are very grateful to those outside the dorp who have helped us. Help has come from Boven and Elands Hoek and a few other places, and of course from the Head of the Mission. He has shown a very keen interest in a very practical manner, but I think he would rather I did not go into details and tell you all he has done. But I can say that his kindly help and advice are fully appreciated.

At Waterval Boven our people are getting anxious to do something for the Church and especially the Mission, so those who have little time to spare might take this as a preliminary notice and fill in some spare moments making something for a sale of work.

Services along the line have been well attended. At Rayton we are having excellent attendances and there seems to be some really solid and lasting work going on. Our people there pressed me for a service each Sunday, and being fortunate enough to have so splendid and able a man as Mr. Oakley, it was easy to arrange to satisfy their demand. For the last few months Mr. Oakley has conducted services on Sunday evenings, and I know his work is very fully appreciated. Quite large numbers have attended the services. Oh! how I wish we had laymen in all our dorps and small places to do similar work. But to find the man willing and suitable to do this work is by no means easy.

Hatherley has turned out large crowds to our services. Miss Higgins and Miss Coleman are doing good work in the Sunday School, and on the 16th December they are having a picnic. It will certainly be very jolly.

Trichardts has come up to the mark again this year by giving a cheque for £10 to the Mission. The finances of the church there are in the hands of Mr. F. Foster. The way he gets the money in for his church is exemplary. We thank him for his aid financially, but also for the assistance given by sending out notices of services and his care of the Church Hall. Most often the Railway Missioner has to make arrangements for the services, provide lights, music, altar, etc., etc., but there everything is done by Mr. Foster. This reminds me of one other place where this work is done quietly. Waterval Boven has a staunch worker in Mrs. Taylor. For years she has been looking after our church, and I should like, as we are drawing near to the end of another year, to express our thanks to her for the devoted manner in which she has worked for Boven church.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Yours very sincerely,

E. Herbert.
of healing the bodies, minds, and the souls of men. From that wonderful, helpful time, we go forward renewed, strengthened in the whole, with a keener grasp, a brighter vision, of things spiritual and a greater knowledge of prayer, of what it means; a personal talk with God. We all are happy to know of those who were healed and helped from Gwanda, Essexvale, Figtree, Marula, Mahalapye, Palapye Road, etc., etc. Thank God for it.

And now what are we going to do? I want you all to do something practical. Where it is at all possible I am trying to form a Healing Prayer Circle; at present two places have started. The object is that members shall meet together once a week or fortnight, for united prayer to remember sick, in that place, and elsewhere, and ask God to heal them.

People who cannot form a circle (there are 10 or more in a circle) can still join, and be a member. The prayers can be said at home in private devotion.

If any have not heard, please write to me about it. Do please remember that the “prayers of the faithful” do matter; they have their responsibility to the sick and afflicted. Each member of the body of Christ has work to do; here’s yours.

So the little church at Essexvale is finished; of course there are lots of improvements to be made, and lots of additions wanted. We are grateful to all who have helped in its building, not only those at Essexvale, but many others who are friends of the Mission, both at Home and elsewhere. We had very bright services at the opening at Michaelmastide and were glad to have the Head with us and to take the services.

Visits have been made and services have been taken at Gwanda, Essexvale, Marula, Tsessebe, Wankie, Falls, Dett, Sawmills, etc.

I met Fr. Hobson recently; it was a great pleasure to me. It is a happy thought that he has returned to his old section, and we know he has a warm welcome back.

A very pretty wedding took place at Mahalapye on December 6th, when Miss Ellen Olive Hoare was married to Mr. Henry Clarke Allman. Both parties were well known and so a great number of people came both to the service and the reception afterwards. We all wish Mr. and Mrs. Allman every happiness.

It was very pleasing to see Chief Khama at the “Church,” and uniting his prayers and wishes with ours.

By the time you get the Light for the Line Christmas will be over. Still its message will be lingering with you, “Emmanuel, God with us.” May it have been a truly happy, yes, a merry, time. A true Christian knows, or should do, the proper spirit of merriment. Keep the spirit of Christmas with you right through this New Year. “God with us”—get that stupendous fact right down in the home of your heart. Don’t talk of “chance,” “good luck,” or “bad luck,” it’s all so silly.

Get the truth, that Jesus Christ is with us all the time. Cultivate cheerfulness, a merry heart; they are wanted so much today. See, know, and tell, that it is only Christ Who can heal the wounds of the world.

Get the spirit of the glorious adventure of Life; get down to it, live every moment of each day; don’t be apathetic; then you’ll be talked about, oh, quite nicely...... “there’s something in a Christian after all!”

God bless you each one through this year.

Yours sincerely,

C. W. S. Stenson.

WOMEN’S WORK.

Diocese of Grahamstown.

Amabele, November, 1922.

My dear Friends,

Another year has passed with all its sunshine and shadow, and Advent Sunday was the Church’s New Year’s Day. All of us
have so many things for which to thank God, not only for blessings received, though if you try to count them "it will surprise you what the Lord hath done," but also for grace and strength to fight against sin and be victorious. The call of the New Year is to make still more effort to "fight the good fight" and to live in closer daily communion with our Great Friend and Saviour. Keep in constant touch with Him Who alone can guide and teach us and let us follow Him from the cradle to the grave. Christmas has passed with all its joys both in family and Church life, and the lesson this Festival teaches is surely never old because each year God gives us the power to understand a little more of the wondrous Love and Sacrifice. It is most inspiring to think of all the new opportunities before us, let us be up and doing.

During the last three months, visits have been paid from East London to Maclear and Umtata. The time spent on the Branch Lines was very interesting. At 19 and 20 Cottages, Mr. and Mrs. Jefferies and Mr. and Mrs. Campbell gave me a royal welcome and we had great times. Some of us are apt to grumble when living in a small place, but it is really lonely in these cottages in the Transkei.

The Farm School at Mr. W. McCune's farm Navar is to be closed after this year. We have had some very enjoyable lantern evenings there and owe many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. McCune for all their kindness. I was very sorry to find Mrs. Engels at Ida still very far from well. In spite of all obstacles Mrs. Engels had sent out notices of the lantern entertainment all over the district, and the result was that, on a beautiful moonlight night, over 200 people turned up so that the goods' shed was not large enough and we had to dodge the moon and have the lantern outside. Mrs. Engels, when feeling better, had made a beautiful cake, which was sold for the Mission, and in the evening tea, coffee and cakes were sold. The total amount realised for the Mission was £5:1:8. Splendid! Many thanks, S.M. and Mrs. Engels.

At Maclear I was asked to go up to the school and arrange to show the lantern there as so many more children would be able to enjoy it. From the clapping and expressions of joy there was no reason to doubt the children's enjoyment, and I am very grateful to Mr. Truter and the Reverend Mr. Ellison for all their kindness and help. Guide and Scout work took up most of my time at Elliot, and I am glad to know that before long, if all goes well, the Elliot Guides will have a Captain.

The children at Dohne were very disappointed that I could not give them a lantern evening during my October visit, but they made the very best of it and invited their elders to the waiting-room to be entertained. The little people gave us a very good programme showing what can be done in a very little time. They presented the Mission with 3/11. Well done!

The Tylden boys are really having a splendid time as the S.M., Mr. Saunders, has taken their Scout work in hand. Mr. Saunders has obtained permission to use an empty room at the Station Cottage as the club-room, and there the boys meet, having cleaned it up themselves. On the 15th of this month six boys passed their Tenderfoot Test very well. It is one of the most encouraging things, I think, to find someone ready to help on the necessarily inadequate work the Church Railway Missioner tries to do. There is too much ground to be covered to enable much time to be spent in any one place. Next year I am hoping to have six months' leave, and it will add considerably to the joy of my holiday to know that at least in one place the work is going ahead far better than I could do it. Then Imvani is fixed up because during my last visit I was delighted to find Mr. and Mrs. Sims had decided to stay and so the weekly Sunday School will flourish. Good again!

Dohne and Amabele are very busy, at least the people are, getting up concerts and bazaars to be given during December.

Just a word about the Sustentation Fund. The year is almost finished, and up to date this part of the Section has contributed
It is a help to have the regular support of a few, but couldn’t the Section do better if the many spared 6d. a month regularly? Some grumble terribly I hear about giving the 6d.—please do not feel bound to give, but, before withdrawing, think what a little it means to you and how much all the offerings mean towards this work, which is out to help both socially and spiritually those who are otherwise neglected. “Let every man do according as he is disposed in his heart, not grudging or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

A happy and prosperous New Year to you all.

Yours sincerely,

M. PORTER.

George, C.P.,
11th December, 1922.

Dear Friends,

A very happy New Year to you all! May it be the happiest you have yet known and bring you peace and prosperity in the highest and best sense of the word.

I wrote to you last from Johannesburg while the Healing Mission was in full swing there. It seems long since then for life has been very full of wonderful things and enough experiences have crowded into one month to fill years.

After the Johannesburg Mission, Mr. Hickson went on to Krugersdorp and Germiston and then to Benoni, which had been the scene of so much riot and bloodshed seven months previously. Only those who have visited the scene and have talked with people who were in Benoni during that terrible time, can have any sort of idea of what they went through or of the long-drawn-out agony of horror and suspense as they waited, expecting death every minute. In vivid contrast came the Mission, with its message of hope and encouragement, and no one who was there will ever forget the happy peacefulness of the scene in Curtis Park on those two days. There was no noise, no crowd, no crush, but just sunshine, and God’s Peace. One woman said to me, “I was there from eight till twelve and I was in the very last row of seats so I couldn’t hear as I am partly deaf, but I just rested, as I have never rested before.”

From Benoni, we motored to Pretoria, where the Mission started on September 28th and lasted a week. For three days, the great Cathedral was full, and when it came to the day for the Natives, the Healing Service had to be held on the Racecourse, no building would hold the thousands who streamed in. What a scene it was, with Mr. Hickson in the judge’s box and below him on tables within earshot of their own people, the three interpreters, interpreting into Dutch, Sesuto and Zulu, simultaneously!

The two-days’ Mission at Grace Dieu, a Native Training College 20 miles outside Pietersburg came next, and to my mind it was one of the most wonderful and outstanding Missions of the whole tour. About 5,000 Natives turned up on the first day from far-away Native villages, tramping for days to get there. Seventy-five per cent. of them were raw heathen. The students at the College had the arduous work of organisation, and it was splendidly carried out. On the second day there were 10,000 people, and soon the rumours of cures crept about. By the evening, 86 instantaneous healings of blindness were authenticated, besides numerous other cures, two of the thirty-six having been born blind. I chanced to remark on the good looks of one of the College boys, a lad of about 17, and the Principal laughed and said, “That boy, why he was our College horror two days ago!” Then I learnt that he had been very deaf, and that he had a bad squint and was very wrinkled. Now he could hear, his eyes were perfectly straight, and there wasn’t room for wrinkles on his face because of the smiles!

And what of the physical healings compared with the spiritual uplift? As they went away, the heathen snatched their charms off their necks and threw them down, saying they wanted to become Christians, and missionaries could have their children and everything they had, but they
wanted to serve God Who did these wonderful things. They have a wonderful discernment of the things of God, these simple folk, an “understanding” that is so often hid from “the wise and prudent.” There was one old blind man, whose friend was sympathising with him because he was not one of the immediate cures, but he replied gently, with a smile that lit up the old worn features, “It is true, I cannot see with the eyes yet, but I have the Light in the heart.”

After a two-days’ Mission at Pietersburg, we went up to Rhodesia, and at each of the centres, Bulawayo, Salisbury and Umtali, there were the same crowds, the same hopeful people coming, the same happy people going, for whether the blessing was physical or spiritual, all were conscious of having been in the Presence of God and they went away knowing that He loved them. Some curious folk ask, “Why don’t we hear more of what has happened?” It is not easy to talk of the things that go deepest; they are too sacred.

Of course, travelling wasn’t easy. Everywhere the people wanted Mr. Hickson, and quite naturally too. But the anecdotes of his evasions of crowds would fill a letter by themselves and make rather a humorous one too! When it was possible the Missioner saw the sufferers. There was one rather beautiful incident on our journey from Salisbury to Umtali. We left Salisbury at noon and reached Gwelo Station about 6 p.m. The Rector of Gwelo was on the train with us and it had been arranged that Mr. Hickson should see two or three children in his compartment at that station, as the train stayed about twenty minutes. As the train pulled in, we found that the platform was packed with people; they stood like sardines from the offices at the back right to the edge of the platform. How were we ever going to find the children? After some difficulty we did get them, about a dozen in all, and Mr. Hickson saw them individually. But the crowd wanted him too, and there were only ten more minutes! So the spectators were asked to stand back and those who had come for healing formed in single file and walked past the coach steps, pausing there for the Missioner to lay his hands on them. There were well over a hundred of them, and the station-master kindly delayed the train. The Rector gave the Church’s Blessing from the coach steps, and as we moved out the whole throng sang the Doxology, and one felt it was one of the great moments of one’s life. Later came the news of blessings received during that very brief service, and the work at Gwelo is being carried on enthusiastically by the Rector.

A few days’ respite at the Falls gave me the opportunity of meeting Mr. and Miss Stenson, whom I had not met before, and we had a very happy time together. It was also nice to see Mr. Peppercorn again. During the tour, I think I saw all my fellow-workers on the Railway Mission, as Miss Batcham and Miss Porter were at the Bloemfontein Mission, also Mr. Hobson and Mr. Thorne, and I met Mr. Herbert and Miss Gardner in Pretoria. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and the babies came to see us at Nauwpoort Station.

The Bloemfontein Mission lasted from November 7th to 10th, and it was a very strenuous time. Then came the four centres in the George Diocese: Beaufort West, Oudtshoorn, George and Heidelberg. It was so nice to be back on my own section again and delightful to see so many friends at Oudtshoorn. I was so very glad that Miss Heath was able to bring some of the Guides from Klipplaat and I am very anxious to get news of their progress.

The last Mission was at Robertson, where near 1,000 patients gathered in the great Dutch Reformed Church. We were very busy at Capetown during Mr. Hickson’s last few days, and he sailed on November 29th for the Mission in Australia. One heard of interesting cases of cure in and around Capetown, one being the case of a woman who had had three operations for cancer, and who suffered greatly; she is now quite well and very happy, and what is very wonderful is that the scars of the previous operations are disappearing! We ask so
timidly and with such little faith and God gives so generously.

The Missioner has gone, and what has he left behind? Many blessings of physical healing but a universal feeling of spiritual uplift. Christ has become real to many who knew Him not before. It is as one said, “I feel as though I had been let out of a prison, and life is so wonderful!” The Missioner has gone, but the work must be carried on. The Mission has been one of the fiercest attacks ever made upon the strongholds of Satan, and, as Mr. Hickson has often told us himself, “the Devil isn’t likely to take it lying down!” No, he is hard at work. There are many people who have been much helped by the laying-on of hands, and in whom the healing has begun, but they are not fully cured and they want firm, strong hands to clasp theirs and to draw them on and help them over the steep places of doubt and difficulty. The Devil’s greatest weapon is fear, and he will even use our own friends to ask, “Will is last?” “Do you think you were so very ill before?” The sufferers get tortured with doubt, fear creeps in and faith gets weak. Are we all seeing to it that our part is being fulfilled in cheering and encouraging and strengthening? A great way of carrying on the work is through Prayer Circles, and these form the artillery under cover of which the fighters can advance to victory. People are asking, “Who’s going to carry it on?” and the answer is “You must carry it on.” It is a work of prayer. Someone says, “What about Healing Services?” Yes, there will be Healing Services, there are in many places already—that is the work of the clergy—but the main work is that of prayer, and that is the work of the people. If there is a Prayer Circle where you live (and you can find out from your clergyman), have you joined it and undertaken to pray daily for the sick and suffering? If there is not a Prayer Circle, are you each day bringing the sick folk you know to Christ in prayer, just holding them there in His Presence, trustfully and confidently, and asking Him to pour His healing Life into their stricken bodies and weary souls? These are questions we must answer before we have any right to ask what someone else is doing.

Let us thank God for the Mission, and let us also remember the Missioner and his work in Australia during the next six months. Then let us go forward joyfully ourselves. It will not be easy, there will be scoffing and criticism—the world cannot understand—but we are not alone, our Master and Friend is with us and He has said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Yours sincerely,
NORAH W. SHORT.

Diocese of Bloemfontein.

Ficksburg,
December 6th.

My dear Friends,

I have managed to find a peaceful corner to get on with this. For 1923, the best of good wishes.

The Christian Healing Mission has left its mark on our Section. I am constantly meeting people, and hearing of people, who have received tremendous help spiritually and physically—and many are being helped through the prayers of those who have a clearer vision.

Just now, there seems to be great scope for spiritual work, and people are feeling more their need for prayer and making time for it.

In September the Coach was sent down, and wondrous to relate, there was not one rough shunt, and not one breakage of crockery during the whole trip, and the spirit of gratitude goes out to guards and shunters for their gentle treatment! I managed to do the Wepener Line, and had cottage services with and without the lantern, at Jammerdrift, and Meadows Siding. I called at the other stations for visits.

One Sunday I put in at Paardeberg; it was a full day with Confirmation class, talks, and evening services. On Monday the Ganger trolleyed me as far as the bal-
last pit; we started at 6 a.m. with a strong east wind against us, and a bridge with no sides to get over; the next three miles I walked and arrived at the cottage at 10.30, visited all round and caught train to the next siding.

Paardeberg, Kaallaagte, Ladybrand, Vierfontein, Milner Bridge, Emmaus, Sepani, Fourniesburg, Maseru, Trompsburg, Coalbrook, Jammerdrift, etc., have had ordinary visits.

I am specially happy to know that Archdeacon Hulme is ministering to the communicants along the line. He was at Paardeberg last Sunday, and Wolvehoek, Dover, Kopjes will have their Christmas Communion, and arrangements are being made for other places.

I have just heard that Ganger Thompson of Meadows and Mrs. Wilde have passed into rest, both after much suffering; also Mrs. Terbrugge.

At Bethlehem I had to spend two or three hours waiting for connections, so visited a few old friends. Last visit, Mrs. Mechim kindly put me up. I had a jolly as well as useful time.

BLOEMFONTEIN, if not the hub of the universe, is at present the hub of the Church Mission on the Section. We have our Association going strong. Canon Jones was able to come up for our last committee meeting, and advise us what was wanted, etc. Miss Celliers has been assistant secretary since the Association was formed, and keen in helping in every way. Our best wishes go out to her for a long and happy married life. Mrs. Dawson was elected in her place on the committee. Amongst other things we have planned to have a bazaar in February—as a thankoffering for the work of the Church Mission throughout S. Africa. The committee are working to help us, and I am looking to everyone along the line who has been in touch with the Mission to help us by sending some contribution, little or much as they can. The work of the Mission is God's work, and whatever gift a worker may have for the work is God's gift, and whatever response is made is through the work of God's Spirit. I am sending out circulars to each station and to friends.

The following stalls and holders are arranged:—Produce: Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Westleigh, Mrs. Dawson; Cake Stall: Mrs. Havenga, Miss Glasier; Sweets: Mrs. Jes sop; Tea: Mrs. Griffiths; Work: Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Coster, Miss Batcham; Fancy Work: Mrs. Kerr; Children's Stall: Miss Avery. Donations of money please send to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. P. E. Potter, 77 King Edward Road, Bloemfontein. Contributions for Stalls to Miss Batcham, c/o Station Master, Bloemfontein, not later than February 27th.

All I need say is, a little help from everybody is better than a lot from a few, and nothing from many!

I shall have to end soon. Several places are giving especial encouragement.

1. Viljoen's Drift. Our working party is going strong and is generous, and our short Bible Study and intercessions are giving the needed impetus. The Rev. L. H. Boyd came down and talked to us about the effects of the Healing Mission one afternoon, and we had Evensong, and next morning Holy Communion at 7.30. Now it is arranged that Evensong will be on the first Thursday in the month, and Holy Communion the first Friday in the month at 7.30 a.m. at Viljoens Drift.

2. Wolvehoek. Two new families, P.W.I. Gardner and Ganger van Heerden, have arrived, and Archdeacon Hulme will be there after Christmas for service. We have started a short evening service when I am able to get up; it is encouraging to see that people do some.

3. At Brandfort the Sunday School has ebbed and flowed since Mr. Shallcross discontinued his work there. The Guild of the Good Shepherd has been started again, and is extending its work to include prayers for those who have been to the Healing Mission and those who are sick. We had a jolly meeting of those children who have been, and are, preparing for Confirmation. Mrs. Webb gave us a surprise party, of tea and
cakes, and for the time Florrie Webb is acting secretary for the Guild—and keeping it going.

4. **Tweespruit** is keen and helpful. We are all sorry to lose Miss Jansen, who has been on the Public School staff for three years. She has given part of the proceeds (£4:12:6) of the children's concert to be used for the Sunday School; it is splendid to have the £ s.d. for our children's presents this year. Several from the district have received help through the Healing Mission, and we are continuing our Intercession Services. We shall miss Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas, but the world being small, one often meets old friends.

**Confirmation Candidates.** Before Easter all those preparing now will have been confirmed—and again I would say: It is not merely a matter of learning by heart the Church Catechism, but preparation of heart for work in the service of God, strengthened through His Holy Spirit.

Mrs. Wadmore has been very ill at Lovat, but the latest news is better. She seemed to think me a dragon for refusing to give her anything to "eat" for five days, but all is well that ends well.

Thanks to Canon Carleton, I have the loan of a new set of slides, and to Miss Littlewood for enabling me to have a travelling library—please pass books on to other stations or farms.

By the way, I have just balanced up collections, etc., and find that one quarter's takings have not covered one month's expenses. To make it a bit clear—collections and offerings made at services conducted by Archdeacon Hulme are paid into the Diocesan Fund. Collections, etc., paid in to me are paid into the Church Railway Mission—so you will understand better the appeal at the beginning of my letter.

A few outstanding Light for the Line subscriptions are still unpaid for 1922. Mrs. Griffiths, 62 Eaton Road, is local agent; they can be sent to her, to me, or to the office.

May the New Year bring blessings—happiness, and greater desire to help on our work along the line to you all, for God needs the love and service of every soul.

Yours sincerely,

J. Batcham.

**Diocese of Pretoria.**

Waterval Boven,
Transvaal,
Dec. 8th, 1922.

My dear Friends,

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. It is good to be back on the Section though, as I have so lately returned to it, I have very little Section news; so I want to ask you to read and think over the following—and see what you can do—everyone can help if they will—the children have their own little list, and I have often enquiries about their little Section friends for whom they pray, in Sunday School—and in several cases at home as well. You will all know about the Prayer Circles we are anxious to start—one outcome of the wonderful Christian Healing Mission which has taught us all so much—but how few have joined one! And so many asked at first, that I can only wonder whether some of us have already forgotten those great experiences. It was said the other day—"the people here take more pleasure in pulling their friends to pieces than in mending them"—that is not my experience of South Africa, but a sad truth lies behind it for some—so let's get to the mending!

We have been given a great trust, the care of, and the power to help our sick and suffering friends by prayer. It means a little giving of self, perseverance, a great deal of love, and the setting aside of a few temporary comforts and pleasures sometimes. Why? Just that we may together carry on the work of our Master, and we have the promise of His Presence in our midst, and where He is, is healing, life and peace. We have between thirty and forty requests for prayer, the prayers of the people of our Section. Please do think about it.
There are busy times ahead, Sunday School picnics in various places, with Christmas fun—and Waterval Boven is talking of an English Church Bazaar—so the next letter will probably contain more Section news. Machadodorp Church is to be dedicated on December 15th and will be known as Christ Church. We look forward to that day. £50 have yet to be found, I understand—I still have "bricks" for sale—almost enough to build a church!—at 3d. each! I hope some who read this will ask for a few cards of "bricks"—3/- a card—to help the fund.

I had a lovely holiday last August at Massyene, a Mission Station in the wilds of Portuguese East, where I was invited by Miss Fuller, formerly a nurse on the Church Railway Mission. There I saw work amongst the primitive natives—a preparation before they face civilisation and all that it means to them. It was a great experience. We had lovely donkey rides in bush country and to the sea—but coming back I was reminded of the riddle, "I went to the woods and got it, the more I looked at it the less I liked it, I brought it home because I could not help it"—only not a thorn but malaria!—and since then I have had a few minor calamities, just bad enough to keep me off the Section. I hope now to keep fit to the end—my home leave is due in 1923. One misses too much by having to keep off the Section.

Wishing everyone all the best happiness,
Your sincere friend,
KATHLEEN GARDNER.

Diocese of Southern Rhodesia.

Bulawayo, S.R.,
December 5th.

My dear Friends,

So many things have happened since the last Quarterly, but the greatest and the freshest is the Healing Mission recently held in Bulawayo. What it has meant to hundreds we know not, but we do know of numbers and numbers helped mentally, spiritually and physically, and we know the wonder of it all and what it has meant to our individual selves. We do earnestly thank God for the gift of healing revived in His Church and for the blessings given in this recent Mission.

Within the last month we have (both my brother and I) made the acquaintance of two more members of the Staff, Miss Short and Mr. Hobson. One always feels after these meetings, what it pity we don't all get a chance to meet once or twice a year, and discuss things—it would be so great and helpful.

My much-thought-of Mission Bazaar is to take place on the 18th of this month, in the town. I am so hoping for a successful time. There will be a curio stall, fancy goods, ices, teas, sweets, cakes, a Christmas Tree, and a real Santa Claus for the children! Between 5 and 6 p.m. there will be a concert, and in the evening a little dance from 8 to 12 p.m. Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Birney and their little daughter have returned and Mrs. Birney has kindly consented to open the Bazaar at 2.30 p.m.

On the 21st of December we are to have a little Tea-party for the children of St. Cyril's, and a prize distribution. We must all thank Mrs. Spencer for collecting sufficient funds to make giving prizes possible.

The St. Gabriel's Brownie Concert will not be able to take place until the New Year. Unfortunately, we cannot get it in during December, for the children leave for their holidays as soon as the school term ends.

I am soon beginning my round of visits for the last time on my Section, for I am leaving for England some time about March (D.V.) via the East Coast. I shall not be returning to this country for some time at least; I feel I need a good spell in the Home Country. I hope to take up Girls' Club work as soon as I am sufficiently rested—but I will let you all know more in my next letter. I shall always look back upon my time in this country as one of the wonderful times in my life, and always remember you
all with deep gratitude and joy for all your many goodnesses to me.

Christmas will be over by the time this is in print, but although late, I do wish you all every good wish for this season and the New Year. May the Christ Child be really present in our hearts, as we worship in humility at His altar on His Birthday morn.

I have visited Essexvale, Gwanda, Balla Balla, Cement Siding, Bellevue, Marula and Tsessebe since my last letter, but just lately owing to illness, etc., several trips have had to be postponed.

I leave to-morrow for Kennedy Halt, but owing to the nearness of the Bazaar I dare not go too far away.

This is rather a shorter letter than usual, but possibly the next magazine will contain more news.

Your friend,

OLIVE STENSON STENSON.

CHILDREN’S PAGE.

My dear Children,

I don’t want to write a letter this quarter because I want you to read the letters from the Missioners; I specially want you to read Miss Short’s, because she has been helping Mr. Hickson with his correspondence in connection with the Healing Mission, about which I asked you to pray last quarter, and I still want you to go on praying for sick people.

Just one or two remarks about the papers: Seniors, please read the questions carefully and answer all the questions, not only (a), (b) or (c), but (a), (b) and (c), and the reason why our Lord taught us to say “our” Father was to remind us that God is the Father of us all, and all baptised persons are members of one great family; so we must pray for all brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Juniors, please notice that Roman figures are not used. If the passage read does not seem to give the right answer, look again to make sure that you have found the right reference.

Thank you, Elma Wright, for your pretty card and good wishes. A kind little boy member sent me a blotter! As I don’t know to whom to return it, I shall keep it as I know it will be useful. I was glad, Esmé and E.... Anderson, to see the hankies you made for your mother; I hope she was pleased with them. Elsie Jones, I was glad to have your nice long letter; I hope you did well in your examinations.

Your affectionate friend,

THE EDITOR.

VICTORIA BIBLE READING.

QUESTIONS.

JANUARY, 1923.

Rules for Victoria Bible Reading.

1. Write clearly your name and address at the top right-hand corner of the page.
2. Below your name give your age, date of your birthday, and the standard you are in at school.
3. In the left-hand corner of the page give the name of your school.
4. Send in your answers before March 10th, to The Children’s Secretary, Box 133, Grahamstown.

Notice.—Marks will be taken off if there are signs of carelessness in the reading of the questions. Untidy writing and insufficient postage on the envelope (which you must address yourself) will also lose marks. Bibles and Prayer Books may be used when answering questions.

This quarter’s questions are intended to help us to learn more about the work which we can do for God, and His Church, through our own prayers. The children of the Church-Kingdom have many people and things about which to ask their Father, and the Bible very clearly tells us about the different kinds of prayer we need to use to learn to know these things.
 SENIORS. Standard 5 and over.

   What great gift do Christians receive through the Incarnation or birth of Jesus?

   What must we do in order to receive the grace or strength our Father is willing to give us?

   What does our Lord teach us in these passages?

   What encouragement have we to meet together for the worship of God?

   What should be the motive of our prayers and how should we show our gratitude to God for answering them?

6. There are different kinds of prayer.
   What do we learn from each of the following passages? Use your own words to explain them.
   (a) St. Luke 17, v. 11-19; Philippians 4, v. 6.
   (b) St. Luke 23, v. 34; Rom. 8, v. 34; 1 Thess. 1, v. 2.
   (c) St. Matt. 6, v. 10; 9, v. 35-38.

7. St. Matt. 5, v. 43-44; Ps. 122, v. 6; Rom. 12, v. 9-21.
   How can we best help the world at large and the place in which we live?

8. 1 St. John 1, v. 5-10; St. Matt. 6, v. 12.
    When we have sinned what must we do and what will our Father do for us?

   How is it that we can pray to God our Father?

    What example did the early Church set us?

    What do we learn from Jesus is often the cause of our bodily sickness?

    What does this parable teach us about repentance and forgiveness of sin?

JUNIORS. Under Standard 5.

   (a) Where did St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary live?
   (b) How was it that Jesus was born in Bethlehem?

   (a) What did the Angels do on the first Christmas Day?
   (b) How did the Shepherds thank God for the birth of Jesus?
   (c) How can we say “thank you” to our Father for the birth of Jesus?

   What gift came to us through the birth of Jesus?

   (a) Who was brought to Jesus?
   (b) By whom was he brought and why?
   (c) How do we know the friends of the man had great faith in Jesus and that they were unselfish?
   (d) What did Jesus say to the man?
   (e) What does this teach us about sin and our bodily sickness?

   Leprosy is a disease of the body and sin a disease of the soul.
   (a) What did the lepers cry out to Jesus?
   (b) What happened to the lepers?
   (c) What must we do to be cleansed from our sins?
   (d) Why did Jesus say “were there not ten cleansed; but where are the nine”?

6. 1 St. John 1, v. 8-10; St. Matt. 6, v. 14.
   If we tell Jesus our sins, what will He do for us?

   For whom must we, as members of the Church-Kingdom, pray and work?
8. St. Matt. 5, v. 44; St. Luke 23, v. 34; Romans 8, v. 34.
   (a) What does Jesus tell us to do when people are not kind to us?
   (b) How did He set us an example?
   (c) What is He always doing for us?
   What does St. Paul teach us about prayer and our daily life?
    Why did Jesus say we must pray?
    What encouragement does Jesus give us to meet together for prayer and worship?

Results of Victoria Bible Reading Quarterly Examination.

SENIORS.

JUNIORS.

Buried names of animals and birds. Not as many post-cards came as I would have liked, but some were good. Other members, I am afraid, did not quite understand the game. I didn't dare judge the cards myself, so I got someone else to judge for me; he gives the prize to Madge Ewing of Trappes Valley School, and these are her buried animals:
1. The farmer planted mealies in the land. Eland.
2. It was a dark night, the horse took fright at the bush, bucked the man off, and then ran away. Bush-buck.

I am sending Madge a book for a prize. The next best were from (2) Mavis Harper, (3) Etheleen Harper, both Trappes Valley children.

BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.
At Naauwpoort:
Nov. 4.— William Ignatius Gouws (privately).
Nov. 11.— Alfred Santi (privately).
Nov. 19.— Kathleen Catherine Huebsch.
At Ludlow:
Oct. 9.— Bernard de Bold Sangster Harris.
DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.
At Sandown, October 6:
Denzil Richard de Wet.
At Bellevue, Oct. 15:
Alexander John Dunkley.
At Dett, Nov. 5:
Thomas William Anderson Hopp.
At Wankie, Nov. 26:
Norman Percival Link.
At Bulawayo, Dec. 2:
Roger Evans Borris.
DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY & KURUMAN.
At Lobatsi:
Violet Matilda Odendaal.
At Mochudi:
Ronald Arthur Jameson.
CONFIRMATION.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort, Dec. 1:
Walter Johnson.
Sidney Morey.
Raymond Charles Clench.
French Powell Roberts.
Karl John Campbell.
Edward Gerald Phelan.
Edwin James Seach.
Susan Ada Winifred van Rensburg.
Elizabeth Beryl Silvia van Rensburg.
Muriel Constance Harris.
Martha Emilia Lamb.
Florence Ida Comley.

HOLY MATRIMONY.

DIOCESE OF S. RHODESIA.

December 6th, at Mahalapye: Henry Clarke Allman to Ellen Olive Hoare.

BURIALS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort:
Nov. 12— Alfred Santi.
Nov. 26— Mavis Joyce McHenry.

COLLECTIONS, &c.

DIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

September-December.

Services: Tweespruit, £1/0/6; Maseru, 5/-;
Kaallaagte, 9/10; Lovat, 4/9; Wolvehoek, 4/4,
7/6; Fourniers, 17/9; S.S., Tweespruit,
£1/10/3. Total, £4/19/11.
Donations: Mrs. Thompson, 5/-; Mrs. Webb,
2/6. Total 7/6.
Signal Boxes: Miss Dixon, 7/-; Miss Glasier,
3/-; Sarah Hartsief 5/6. Total, 15/6.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY & KURUMAN.

Lohatsi, £3/12/-; Mochudi, 10/-; Artesia,
4/6; Palapye, £1/7/1; Mahalapye, £2/11/1;
Gaberones, 16/6; Notwani, £1/4/6; Maritzani,
6/3; Fourteen Streams, 13/-; Riverton Road,
14/9.

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Rosmead: Miss L. Brown.
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Klipplaat: Mrs. Dam, Refreshment Room.

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Volksrust: Mrs. Milton.
Silverton: Mrs. Schuch.
Wartervl Boven: The Reverend E. Herbert,
Wartervl Boven.
Johannesburg: Miss K. Gardner, Wartervl
Boven.

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Butterworth: Mrs. Davis, c/o Stationmaster.

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Vicarage.

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Bulawayo: The Reverend C. W. S. Stenson.

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