South African Church Railway Mission.


STAFF.

The Rev. Canon R. Thornely Jones, M.A. P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown.

Reverend C. W. Stenson-Stenson... Poste Restante, Bulawayo.

Reverend A. C. Hobson, M.A. S. Augustine's Vicarage, Kimberley.

Reverend E. D. Smith The Parsonage, Naauwpoort.
Reverend G. H. Thorne Alick River.
Miss M. Porter St. Monica's Home, Queenstown.
Miss Norah Short 2, Cuyler Crescent, Port Elizabeth.

Miss J. Batcham 78, Douglas Street, Bloemfontein.

Reverend E. Herbert Waterfall Boven, Transvaal.

Native Catechist: David Mjezu.

Hon. Editor and Children's Secretary: Miss Muriel Blundell, Box 133, Grahamstown.

London Office: South African Room, Church House, Westminster, S.W.
Hon. Secretary in England: Miss Mary B. Attlee, Westcott, Twyford, Winchester.
LIGHT FOR THE LINE.

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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.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

P.O. Box 133,
Grahamstown,
March 8th, 1923.

Dear Friends,

This year is one of many changes in the members of the Mission Staff: we are all very glad indeed to have Miss Short back with us and I know that she has received a warm welcome from her many friends along her section of the Line. During the war those who were working with us held on till it was possible to get other workers out, and when that time came the old ones were all worked out and had to be relieved: in consequence of this, those who took their places are now, all in a bunch, unfortunately, at the end of their term of service. Miss Porter sailed in January, but it is a pleasure to know that her going is only for a rest and that she hopes to come back about September to carry on the good work she has been doing. Miss Gardner was not due away till the end of May, but she has really not been well since her holiday trip to Portuguese Africa, where she went to visit our old friend Miss Fuller. While there she got a very heavy attack of malaria fever: she has been struggling bravely to get into stride again, but the work is of too exacting a nature to allow anyone who is not really well and strong to do justice either to the worker or the work, so when at last the doctor said she really ought to go Home for a trip, with complete rest, Home she went, sailing on March 2nd, not entirely agreeing with the doctor's decision. I often wonder why ladies call in the doctor for his opinion and advice and then, as soon as his back is turned, do, or want to do, just the opposite; I am still wondering. However, with me doctor's orders are orders, so she had to go: she will be greatly missed by her many friends along the Eastern Transvaal section, and our regret is that she is not physically strong enough to return; if her body were as strong as her desire there would not be very much wrong. Mr. Peppercorn, who has been doing real good work in Northern Rhodesia and the Congo, finds it impossible to stay with us longer and to our regret he
sails on the 30th. Miss Stenson, who has been doing useful work in Southern Rhodesia, will sail early in April, by the East Coast route: it was an entirely new venture to have a woman worker on that section and Miss Stenson has certainly made good, but the doing it has taken a full toll of her strength. Mr. Stenson was due Home this month, but he most kindly agreed to stay on for a few months longer in the hope that a new Chaplain might be found to take over from him: as I am writing this a cable arrives from Mr. Rogers to say Mr. Berresford hopes to sail for the Bulawayo section in August. We are grateful to Mr. Stenson for standing by us in this way and it seems as if he too is now very pleased that he agreed to do so; if you see him you can ask him why, but I shall not give the reason in print. Miss Batcham has done her best to work herself out in the Free State and has very nearly succeeded: she is due to sail on April 27; we are looking forward to her return early in October. I am not absolutely sure that she is strong enough for the amount of work she feels compelled to do, but she is quite certain she is, and as the Bishop and people have pressed for it, I have given in—as I usually have to do. She will receive a hearty welcome back. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are due Home in May, but have very kindly agreed to stay on for another year as there are now so many changes taking place, and then, after a trip they hope to come back for two more years on the section. This means that with Mr. Smith, we shall have, for the time being, only Miss Short, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Herbert and Mr. Thorne; Miss Porter and Miss Batcham hope to come back to us, and two Chaplains and a new woman worker hope to join us in the spring. For the time being I have asked Mr. Hobson to make occasional visits to Northern Rhodesia and the Congo, so his friends in the Diocese of Kimberley will have to spare him for part of his time. I have written fully about the changes so that you may know the actual state of things, and thus you understand the difficulties with which we are at present faced, and understanding, I look to you to hold together as well as you may till other workers come, and we have once more a full staff.

People sometimes jump to conclusions without knowing the facts, like the doctor who found a man waiting to see him one day: the doctor noticed something wrong with the man’s ear and, without waiting to be told what was wrong, he asked, “Is it this ear that is troubling you?” And the man replied, “This ’ere what?” They are doing the best they can for us in England, I know: during the war those who would have been training for the ministry and who would now be ready to come out to such work as ours were doing their duty with the Forces, so we shall have to wait possibly for a little. One sometimes hears it said, “I should like a nice easy job like that,” but when the offer is made for the training and ultimate work there are, of course, quite good excuses but certainly nothing doing. It is a very real joy to us all to know that one lad whose family has had the ministrations of our Chaplains for the past eight or ten years has determined that there shall be something doing, and has offered himself
for the ministry of the Church; he has already begun his training, which will probably take five years. It needs thinking about, for it is not often the lot of a Priest to get the experience of a Scotsman who found his way to London and (unlike most others) found his way back almost immediately. He reported, to the astonishment of his friends, that he thought London a most “economical place.” He went into a shop and had a meal which cost him only fivepence, and he found under the plate sixpence, with which he paid for it.

The church at Essexvale is beginning to look quite nice now: the altar furniture so kindly given by Mrs. Seacome is in its place, and the new font, quite a beauty, which was ordered as a memorial to Mr. Seacome, has been made and placed in the church, and now some nice benches, of good solid pattern, are being made from local wood. At Figtree the folk are getting busy and want to have a building of their own for services, and they have made a beginning with the collection of funds. Archdeacon Griffiths (as the Bishop of Pretoria was away in England) very kindly went down to Machadodorp for the dedication of the church on December 15th; it was the completion of a ten days’ trip round with Mr. Herbert, which proved to be something of an eye-opener—and a very happy time we had. The church is a good solid building of stone with tiled roof: there were practically none of the proper fittings except the altar frontal and three of the seats, but friends came from all over the countryside, and so together we had not only a dedication but also a real thanksgiving service. We are now impatiently waiting for the Sanctuary fittings, which are on the water—the seats have been finished—and which are being sent out by the Winstanley Guild as a memorial to Miss Winstanley, their founder.

The Elise Astley Memorial House at Nauwpoort has not made very much progress, but we have bought the ground and the bricks are nearly finished: for such a work many things have to be thought of and provided for—“safety first,” you know—but I hope it will not be long before a start has been made with the actual building. In the meantime we are getting encouragement: it seems we are to have one of the rooms furnished by friends in England; Miss Glasier has very kindly offered to lend the Church Council £400 on easy terms, and by this post our old friend Mr. Hands sends £10/10/- for “something special”—which will probably be furniture for the study—and his greetings to his old friends there, where he left such a large part of his heart.

The Sale at Bulawayo which Miss Stenson arranged, with the help of many friends, was a real success, and the funds of the Mission have gained to the extent of £42, for which we are grateful, especially as the money arrived just before we closed our books, and in consequence we were down on last year’s working only £49 odd instead of £82.

On February 28th our friends at Bloemfontein, so ably led by Mrs. P. E. Potter, and inoculated with some of Miss Batcham’s enthusiasm, had a Produce Sale at the Town Hall, which really looked A.1, and no wonder, for there was a fine band of helpers
and all out to make a success of the undertaking. Quite apart from the very material help which our funds have received, as a result, to share in the goodwill and fine spirit so generally manifest right through the day really did one good. How they all worked and laughed as they worked! One of the helpers at the end of the day remarked, "My! but I am tired; but that does not matter, for I shall soon get over that"; such was the spirit right through. The Bishop most kindly made time to come for the opening and introduced the Mayoress, who graciously performed the ceremony, and they both said some very nice things about the Mission and the work it is trying to do. On behalf of the Mission and for myself I should like to thank Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Dawson and all their willing helpers, as well as those friends who sent in produce so liberally, and those who came to buy, for their most kindly help so ungrudgingly given. At the close of the Sale I was handed some papers: it appears that quite a number of those present decided to have a guessing competition to see who would guess the nearest to the amount taken: they had to pay to guess, and the prize for the winner was the honour of being nearest. Quite a number of papers were handed to me, and I was asked to publish the name of the successful one in this issue: well, when Mrs. Potter's first letter arrived W. G. Phillips was nearest as he guessed £149/11/6, and Mrs. Potter reported the takings as £148/18/9; but before we could bank the money £2/1/6 more was received, so the total takings amounted to £151/0/3, and consequently W. G. Phillips' nose is put out of joint and W. Westley, with £150 guess, takes the honour. The expenses amounted to £16/5/6, so the amount received by the Mission is £134/14/9. Well done, Mrs. Potter and her gang.

I must not go wandering on but close, and will do so with the best of good wishes to you for the happiest and brightest Easter you have enjoyed.

Yours sincerely,

R. THORNELY JONES.

DIocese of GRAHAMSTOWN.

Naauwpoort.

The Parsonage,
Naauwpoort,
12th March, 1923.

My dear Friends,

I must first of all wish you a very glad and joyous Easter in the realization of the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord. For the joy of Easter is nothing else but the strong conviction that Jesus is living; was dead and is alive again: has conquered death and all its powers and ever liveth to make intercession for us. That is the work which He is doing in Heaven for us now. And we ourselves must not be idle in our Easter joy. There is a great work to be done for Him. Writing in mid-Lent, our thoughts naturally turn to the work to be done within ourselves. The resurrection life must be lived by each of us. One purpose of Lent is that we may quicken our souls by self-examination. How much then do I love Jesus Christ? What does He mean to me today? Once I heard His voice speaking plainly; once I was prepared to do and die for Him: But now? Is my love greater or less? Have I grown colder or warmer with the lapse of time? Do I really set myself to do Him service?

Some such thoughts as these arise at this
time; and whatever the answer to them may be: whether on the one hand we acknowledge with shame that our love has grown cold; or on the other hand we are conscious of a growing love for Him, there still remains the sad confession that even at our best we are unprofitable servants. We might have done. It is true, is it not, of our private prayers! We might have prayed more regularly, more earnestly. It is true of our church-going! We might have gone oftener. We did not, however. Was it indifference, or love of ease or self-indulgence? And there have been occasions when we have permitted the very blessings of God to hinder our public worship. We have been so glad to have good rains this season, but we have not always been so willing to offer our thanks at public worship. Our presence or absence may seem a little thing. But it is the little things that matter in this life. And each individual counts with God. It is sometimes said that the masses are seeking after God. Generalities take us a very little way. We must get down to the particular and personal. God concerns me as an individual. The Saviour knows each of His sheep by name. Therefore individual private worship is tremendously important. And so too is our public worship. If we are not there we are missed and the service is incomplete. We cannot worship by proxy. There is then a work to be done in ourselves. There is a work for us to do for others. There is a tremendous need for us to bring our friends to church. So often we allow them to keep us or take us away from church. Don’t forget Sunday is the Lord’s Day, and every Sunday is a little Easter. Sunday is the only day that we have for God—our best Friend. I want to emphasise this particularly. Opportunities along the Line for worship are none too frequent. Therefore keep free that Sunday in your camp which is “our” Sunday.

Services have been held as usual at Naauwpoort, Cookhouse and Rosmead, and occasional services held at Sherborne, Carlton, Witmoss, Cyphergat and Stormberg.

There is very little to report of the work along the Line. We have just been going along steadily. Now that the cooler weather is approaching I do hope we shall all set to work with a will.

At Naauwpoort the Astley Memorial House is not making much progress at the moment. The preliminaries are taking longer than we anticipated. We have not, however, been idle, and hope soon to lay the foundations. One of our own Mission workers has very kindly offered us a loan at a low rate of interest. We have gratefully accepted it and are still asking for more from our old (and, of course, new) friends.

With all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

EDMUND D. SMITH.

Alicedale, C.P.,
Feb. 22nd, 1923.

Dear Friends,

You will see by the address above that I am shifting my quarters. At the moment of writing I am still at Addo, but before this appears in print, I hope to be well settled in at Alicedale. At last you have Miss Short back amongst you, and most will have seen her before this reaches you. Now that you have got her back, you must take care to keep her, else she might be clearing off again. It will be a great relief to me when she has seen you all; at present I’m like a gramophone, reeling off an explanation of her doing, past and prospective, at every station and siding. The usual question is, “Oh, Mr. Short, where is Miss Thorne?” But why? “Short” is even less suitable to me than to her; and I certainly don’t think she looks as thorny as I do. Do you?

On Saturday, the 10th (February), we had Sunday School sports at Sandflats, organised by Mrs. Walker. Mr. Plumbridge and Mr. Kirkup acted as starters, etc., Miss Short distributed the prizes, and others helped in a variety of ways—including the children. They helped by thoroughly enjoying themselves; and if they hadn’t done that, the whole thing would have been a
failure. The chaplain of course dropped in for something: had to say some words at the end—no one else would do it! (Strange how useful some people find us sometimes.) It was a most enjoyable afternoon; and I think the grown-ups enjoyed it almost as much as the children. I had almost forgotten to mention that there was an “extra”—a dog race—prize, a piece of bread and butter. One of Mr. Plumbridge’s dogs was the winner: Mr. Richards’ dog absolutely refused to enter. The pace would probably have been better had not the winner and another kept up an argument nearly all the way down the course; the third entrant wasted valuable time and energy in running round and round the disputants. The prize was much appreciated. I also tried to get up a “three-legged race” amongst the grown-ups (mixed couples); I’m sure it would have afforded the children intense amusement—but could not get entries. Such a pity.

On the Sunday, the Sunday School prizes were distributed in church; and very nice prizes they were.

Confirmation classes are now being held at a number of places, but the date of the Bishop’s visit has not yet been fixed.

We have three Prayer Circles in connection with the Spiritual Healing movement, and one isolated intercessor. Sandflats has the largest circle, and they have had three answers already. I do hope others will join. Why not you? If you will, please just drop me a line, and I will have you enrolled. Miss Katy Lovemore, Sandflats, is now our Secretary, and you can write to her direct, instead of to me. And I do sincerely hope that folk along the line will avail themselves of the opportunity of this blessing. This is the work of the Church, to heal in body, soul and spirit—carrying on the merciful work which “Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up...” (A.I. 1-2.) You and I have got to carry on, with that which He began, “until His coming again.” If we do, we shall then receive His benediction. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord”: otherwise—well, I leave you to read it for yourselves in your Bibles—Mat. xxv, 24-30.

Yours very sincerely,

G. H. Thorne.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.

S. Augustine’s Rectory,
Kimberley,
Feb. 27th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

I got back here to my headquarters yesterday, after three and a half weeks on the move. I find that is just about long enough for living in a suit-case, then comes the necessity of repacking and rearranging things for a few days before starting another trek. The dentist had to be interviewed too this time, and I have stitched on a few buttons, and I am trying to write a few letters—so the days pass. But what I’d do without those kind friends along the line who assist me in the suit-case life I don’t know; I deposit a bundle here or there one day, and another day passing through find a good Christian on the station with a parcel, and everything inside so nice and clean. What an amount of homely friendship we do find in you. Yes, what lavishness. The other day I turned up at a cottage, not knowing what things awaited me there, and behold! no less than three chickens slaughtered in my honour. Yes, what courtesy too; at another cottage the letter warning of my approach failed in its delivery, but so simple and natural was the welcome that I’d never have known I was unexpected. Well, let’s go on ahead with our kindnesses, and extend them as widely as we can to all sorts and conditions of men. We Christians have a magnificent motive for all such acts of which we should never lose sight, the supernatural one; all that we do for others our Lord takes as done to Himself. For mercy’s sake, don’t forget that, for it makes everything golden which
otherwise would be of no more value than tin, eternally speaking.

This month I was able to send up to Grahamstown from you a larger sum of money than I have ever sent before—some of you have been giving very generously, in spite of hard times; it is chiefly those places which pay in a monthly sustentation offering that bring up our collections to such a decent size. Of course some might give more than they do, but after all it comes down to this, that we can’t help giving when we appreciate the priceless riches of Christ. I must try and present Him to you so that you can see Him clearly—I only wish I could do it better—then you must always be looking in His direction, ready to see Him when He appears.

I know we can’t expect people to give towards our work if they do not really believe in those truths for which the Mission stands. And yet sometimes I wonder they don’t offer us something, just in the same spirit of pity in which you would try to support the mentally-afflicted! Because indeed we must be suffering from a gigantic delusion if these things are not true; there seem, in fact, to be only two possibilities about our holy Faith; it is the most glorious Truth, or the most disastrous lie.

I was preaching the other night at the Dedication Festival of this beautiful little church, St. Augustine’s, trying to impress upon them how thankful they should be for such a “goodly heritage,” and contrasting their lot with ours out on the line. One day we have a most annoyingly converted kitten at Mass, chucked out several times at one window it comes in by the other, and always makes straight for the altar, climbing about at the back of the frontal until I wonder if it will pull over the whole concern. At another time we are in a schoolroom for the Holy Mysteries. I lift up my eyes from the altar, and they strike the blackboard with an inscription which brings back agonies of youth. “If Tommy has 2/6 and Nellie has 3/-, how much have they both got?” Yes, our worship is rough in this sense. Yet, it may all be turned to our good. It should teach us most forcibly that our Lord desires to enter in our daily life and to lift up the whole thing into the heavenly sphere. We must not let it degrade our religion to the level of earth, but rather elevate our earth to the heights of glory. If anyone can think of any little things which might be made or procured to increase the dignity of our worship at any places, let him speak. At several places diligent hands have made hassocks, which are a great help to our knees, and which I hope make us think more of our prayers than the hardness of the floor.

I must transport myself now from Lent to Easter, as that Queen of Festivals will be with you by the time you read this. Our missioner on the far-northern section returns home this month, which means that I shall probably be making an expedition to N. Rhodesia and the Congo about that time. But I will get back to you as soon as I can, and we shall look forward to that great event in the Christian’s year, our Easter Communion. The Easter message is one of victory, and it is based upon the fact, the biggest fact in the world’s history, “the Empty Tomb.” There is a great desire now to make the truths of religion compatible to the so-called “modern mind.” We must guard against the snare, and try to do exactly the opposite—make our minds compatible to the truths of religion. So we must not rob our Lord’s victory over death of all its wonder, by saying that His doctrine lived on after Him. That’s equally true of Mahomet. Or that His Spirit survived the grave. That’s equally true of my dead uncle. No, He rose again. He never saw corruption, and He lives now with the wounds of His passion and our Redemption all-glorious in the light of Heaven. And His victory is the pledge of ours. May we feel its wondrous power circulating in us, as we day by day tread down in His strength all that savours of death, “all that is not holy, all that is not true.”

Your affectionate friend and pastor,

A. C. Hobson.
Dear Friends along the Line,

I am so sorry to keep some of you waiting so long a time for a service, but Railway Missioners, like all other people, require a holiday occasionally, and I had mine during February. I visited several coastal places and had an extremely interesting and happy holiday. Returning to my section, I hardly knew where to begin as several letters were waiting for me asking if I had forgotten the existence of certain places along the line. No! I have not forgotten and will have paid them all a visit before the magazine is printed.

The rainy months of the year are the best I think for me to take a rest, for it so often happens that rain prevents services being held. One can hardly expect congregations to assemble when they have to wade through mud five and six inches thick as, for instance, has to be done in Trichardts, Kinross and Leslie. Services there were poorly attended in January on account of the rain and mud. I hope on my next visit better conditions will prevail.

The news is going round quietly of the departure of Miss Gardner for England. I know you all sincerely regret losing Miss Gardner, but you all know also that it is the best thing that could happen to her. For some considerable time past she has shown signs of failing health, and now she had got to that stage when the doctor has ordered her home. The whole section, from Boven to Pretoria, Witbank to Eloff and Trichardts to Bethel, will miss her greatly, for she has worked for the good of the Mission and with little consideration of self during the two years and eight months that she has been on the Mission Staff. Probably she would have had better health if she had thought more of herself and given herself a little more rest. But the needs of her people were always uppermost in her mind and she felt that it was first of all necessary to supply those needs to the exclusion of self. There is no doubt that she has been of immense help and assistance to all. Her kindly manner, her devotion and earnestness, together with her ready sympathy quickly won for her many friends who will sincerely regret her departure. Her loss will be felt most by the children. For the children to hear that Miss Gardner was coming was a happy event, and on arriving at the station a band of children would be there waiting to welcome and assist her in any way they could. This affection of the children gave her the opportunity to instil the lessons she had to teach into their minds and hearts. Her influence will live long in the lives of our children. I am sure all friends along the line will join with me in wishing Miss Gardner a speedy return to her former health and also a happy future amongst her family in England.

Before leaving, Waterval Boven people, although they had only a few days' notice, gave Miss Gardner a token of appreciation in the form of a purse filled with notes. Mr. and Mrs. Charlwood started the lists going and they were taken round by our two stalwart collectors, Miss Mason and Mrs. Taylor. A social was arranged in the church grounds, and there the friends of Miss Gardner together with the children presented her with their token of appreciation and friendship. At the present time she is on the high seas, probably trying to find a cool spot on board the Windsor Castle from the hot, burning sun of the tropics.

Speaking of Waterval Boven reminds me of the effort being made to raise some money to meet our dues to the Diocese as well as to the Mission. As you know, we have to pay £40 to the Diocese each year in return for the £100 grant towards the expenses of this section. The work of collecting is always arduous and falls on a couple of people, so it has been suggested to meet this by a bazaar or sale of work. As a preliminary towards getting funds, Mr. and Mrs. Charlwood organised a Bridge Drive, which proved to be a very happy and successful
event. The Sale of Work is fixed for May 5th, and we shall be grateful to any who can help us in any way. Anything which you feel you can send will be gratefully accepted. Parcels should be sent to Mrs. Charwood, P.O. Waterval Boven, who is the convener and leader in this sale of work. I should like the whole section to realize its responsibility in supporting this effort for our assessment of £40 to the Diocese does not concern Boven alone, but every station on my section.

I think I should also mention here that the Diocese is in dire need of funds. Those of you who are interested in the church probably know that we have a debt of £3,000 to meet. A scheme has been suggested to raise this by getting 100 promises to raise £30. I have been asked to promise £30. I have not committed myself, but I feel sure that the Church Railway Mission will do what it can to help forward the work of the church. I hope all of you will make an effort by some self-sacrifice to render financial assistance to the Diocese at this most critical period.

At our service in Erasmus at Christmastide the organ broke down and Mrs. Kidd, our organist, had great difficulty in leading the musical part of the service. Since then, however, Mrs. Goodrich and Miss Acutt have been busy collecting £5 to pay for the repair of the organ. Our best thanks are due to them for the work they have done.

I am afraid this letter is getting rather long, and so I will draw it to a close by wishing you all a very happy Eastertide.

Yours sincerely,
E. Herbert.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Bulawayo,
March 5th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

I have only just returned from a most delightful holiday spent at Knysna. Though I have been there once before, yet the glories of that wonderful spot never cease to charm. The sea and the forests, which afford such a glorious contrast with the veld, with its open spaces and sense of bigness, bring a great consoling influence and freshness to bear upon one's mentality, and so coming away one feels rested and revivified.

I called in on the Rand to see a few old Cornish friends, and so everything went to make the most perfect holiday I have had for many a long year.

I am now back at work, and hope to be with you still for a few months to come.

My first place of call was Figtree, and there I found the good Church folk have started in a quiet way to raise the necessary means for the building of a church. I like the spirit of keenness which prevails, and sincerely hope that the efforts of the Committee will receive all the support they deserve. It will of course be some considerable time before building can possibly hope to be started.

After this I went to West Nicholson, and there baptised the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rogers. I was just in time, too, to wish bon voyage to Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Rogers, who have taken a six months' trip to England.

After this I went to Gwanda, where I had the usual services.

I came back and went to the Matopos, but owing to the torrential rains which are now the order of the day, we naturally had very poor services.

Belle Vue, Sawmills, Umgusa and Gwaii have likewise been visited and services held.

Two of the Staff up here are leaving for Home this month—my sister and Mr. Peppercorn. It brings a sense of loneliness and an alarming feeling of "What is to be done to keep going the work?"

We must pray to the Lord of the Harvest, also we can rest assured that the Head with the Home Committee are doing all they possibly can to procure other priests and workers.

I would particularly draw your attention to Mr. Peppercorn's clearly, logically and
concisely written article (which is concluded in this number) on “Church Finance.” It is really appalling the way in which people who should realise how the Church in this country is supported, fail to do so. Recently I have baptised three babies; in each case it has been, “Do you mind if I send a cheque?” after I have explained that the Mission is supported by the freewill offerings of those to whom she ministers. The Mission is still waiting for those cheques!

The Confirmation is to be at St. John’s on Ascension Day; we have a few candidates from the line. Please pray that they may be loyal members of the Church.

To you all may Easter be a time of great joy and happiness; complete satisfaction in the personal knowledge of “being risen with Christ, and seeking the things which are above.”

“So it is still: to holy tears, In lonely hours, Christ risen appears: In social hours who Christ shall see Must turn all tasks to Charity.”

Yours sincerely,
C. W. S. Stenson.

NORTHERN RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

CHURCH FINANCE
(continued).

HOW IS THE MONEY RAISED?

The figures below will show us that we, as a whole, are not self-supporting and independent. Very few of the places visited by the Chaplain can claim that they fully pay the expenses connected with his visit. However, one is thankful to know that neither the South African Church Mission as a whole, nor any of its component parts, is run on the credit system. If then any place, or this section generally, is not paying the Chaplain’s expenses:

How is it that there is no credit? and, consequently, no debt, and the Chaplain’s services are still supplied? The answer must be:

Someone else is paying.

In some cases this can be looked upon as a disgrace; in others it may be justifiable. If a place is big and rich enough to pay and does not, it is a disgrace: but, if a place is small and poor, but is proportionately doing its duty, we may look upon it as the privilege and duty of the strong to help the weak. The Chaplain will thus be enabled to visit that small and poor place without the people feeling pauperised and dependent upon others for that which they ought and would, if possible, provide for themselves. Where then does the money come from which keeps the Mission solvent?

1. From those to whom the Mission ministers.

2. From others interested in Mission but who do not—at any rate directly—receive the Chaplain’s services.

At least two motives may prompt those included in (2) to help:

(a) Their strong belief in the services of the Mission.

(b) Their conviction that the white British people in Africa generally are anxious to have these services, but are neither financially nor numerically strong enough to fully pay for them themselves. The question which you, on this section particularly, must ask yourselves, is:

Are we obtaining money by false pretences? Can you pay but don’t: or, Can’t you pay? “We want to pay,” say some; “we want to maintain a Chaplain on this section so that, when we are able and when the opportunity is given, we may go to Holy Communion, Matins or Evensong, and send our children to a children’s service. We like to feel that there is a chance of obtaining his services for a baptism, marriage or funeral, but it so often happens that we are ill; away, on holiday—on tour—out on the veld; or that our business or occupation or the weather or our own inclinations prevent us attending the services when he comes and no one brings ‘the bag’ to us for the collection.” It is, therefore, quite clear that
"collections" at services must be a very unreliable way of raising the wherewithal. As a matter of fact they were never really intended to do so. You might as well contend that each employee, in a business firm, should go round to all the purchasers of the goods produced by that firm, and collect from each a small portion of his wages and should cancel the payment due when the purchaser was "not at home"!

"Now," you say, "you have shown that 'collections' are unreliable, but still you have them. Why have them, what are they for and, most important of all, what other means are there apart from 'collections'?"

Well, look at the sources of and actual income.

Collections are taken during the services. They are really the donations, of his electors, to the churchwarden to enable him to meet the expenses involved in the fulfilment of his office. These expenses would include such matters as: repairs to the fabric of the church (or part of it); the church furniture; its lighting, cleaning, etc., etc. In the Mission, however, due to the fact that there is no fully organised church life and one place only, on this section, where there is a church and, also, to the fact that other means of raising money are not adopted, the collections go towards the payment of the Chaplain's expenses.

Fees are those fixed charges which are legally made for performing, witnessing, reporting and recording some function connected with the administration of the law of the land, e.g., the legal enactments as regards marriages and the issuing of certificates.

Offerings are those gifts which are so often thankfully presented — e.g., at a Churching, Baptism, Marriage—as a material token of the gratitude felt in the receipt of spiritual and material benefits. There is no fixed amount, each gives according to his means and inclinations. They are not, in any way, compulsory.

Contributions are definite (though varying in amount) wages which everyone, for whose benefit the Chaplain is appointed, should feel morally bound to pay. "If thou hast much, give plenteously: if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little." They should be paid regularly and systematically. This is effected in many ways. Some keep a box in which they place a definite amount each day or week and, when the Chaplain comes, take out the contents and put them in the collection bag at one of the services since they know that the collections are taken as contributions towards the Chaplain's expenses. Others give their banker authority to deduct each month, quarter, half-year or annually, a fixed sum from their deposits and pay it into the S.A.C.R.M. account at Grahamstown. Yet others, in order to insure a continuity of contributors, appoint a secretary or secretary and committee for their neighbourhood and request him, her or them to kindly receive their prearranged definite payments at definitely appointed times and, should they forget to pay, to remind them. The secretary is registered at the Headquarters at Grahamstown and makes payment, in bulk, to the Treasurer there. This last method is really what is known as "The Sustentation Fund," and a specimen payment card and further information can be obtained through the Chaplain of the section or direct from Headquarters. The chief points in any of the above are regularity and a fixed sum.

Donations are a present of money to the funds given once or occasionally, without any promise of repetition or any obligation for such, by those who receive none of the Chaplain's services or by those who do, over and above the wages which they pay regularly.

Now let us look at figures:

Collections.
Below are tabulated the places visited; number of services held; the number of those attending; the amount collected; the average amount per service and per person; during the six months March to August (inclusive), 1922.
N. RHODESIA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>No. of Services</th>
<th>Att'end'ce</th>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Average per Service</th>
<th>Average per Person</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Kalomo</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>3 12 0</td>
<td>18 0 £ s. d.</td>
<td>0 3 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choma</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11 6</td>
<td>9 7 3 s. d.</td>
<td>1 0 3 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pemba</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19 3</td>
<td>9 7 3 s. d.</td>
<td>4 1 3 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monze</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 16 0</td>
<td>18 0 £ s. d.</td>
<td>1 0 3 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magoye</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>14 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mazatuka</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>3 1 9</td>
<td>1 7 3 s. d.</td>
<td>7 4 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kafue</td>
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<td>6 4 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chilanga</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2 6 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lusaka</td>
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<td>107</td>
<td>5 0 0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18 17 5</td>
<td>13 11 4 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bwana M'Kubwa</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>18 6</td>
<td>1 6 3 s. d.</td>
<td>6 3 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ndolo</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>2 0 2</td>
<td>10 0 2 s. d.</td>
<td>4 1 2 s. d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals, etc.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12 116</td>
<td>41 16 4</td>
<td>14 11 5 s. d.</td>
<td>5 1 2 s. d.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Includes Children.

BELGIAN CONGO.

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>No. of Services</th>
<th>Att'end'ce</th>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Average per Service</th>
<th>Average per Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sakania</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2 6</td>
<td>6 5 £ s. d.</td>
<td>6 0 3 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elisabethville</td>
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<td>142</td>
<td>19 2 5</td>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>4 3 4 s. d.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals, etc.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>381 8 5</td>
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<td>4 2 4 s. d.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

WOMEN'S WORK.

Diocese of Grahamstown.

Grahamstown,
January 25th, 1923.

Mr dear Friends,

How useless it is, sometimes, to make plans for work a month in advance! I had just made a rather strenuous time-table for myself when a wire came from the Head asking me to be ready to sail from Capetown for Home on February 2nd. I am now on my way to Capetown, from where I expect to sail next Wednesday on the White Star liner Ceramic. Since the last number of the magazine appeared great things have been happening. On December 20th Dohne was all agog with excitement from early morning to midnight. Mrs. Jessiman had been busy for some time beforehand, and all her unselfish work for the children was crowned with success. First of all there was a splendid entertainment given by the children. Girl Guides and Brownies, having
grown in numbers this last year, gave a really good little play, "Guides to the Rescue," and at the end, while sitting round the camp fire, their friends joined them and each contributed an item to the concert. All were really splendid, the selections were well chosen and the children thoroughly happy. The second part of the programme was provided by friends of Mr. Jessiman, to whom we were very grateful. The proposed Dohne Town Hall and the S.A. Church Railway Mission both benefited, and I have handed £23 to the Mission Funds. Many thanks to all. The children had been waiting patiently for the end of the concert as many of them were to see a Christmas-tree for the first time. It was laden with toys, but in a remarkably short time they seemed to vanish and the happy evening came to an end, and we all felt ready for sleep so that we could be fresh for the next effort. Somehow I did not seem to have any night, as at 4 o'clock in the morning I had to go to Amabele, the "goods" were cancelled! The good folk at Amabele were making a great effort to help the Mission Funds and also to establish their new tennis court. At 3 o'clock on December 21st, Canon Brown Ellis declared the Bazaar open. He said a good deal in praise of sport, for he is a keen sportsman, and also spoke in warm appreciation of the Church Railway Mission and the Railway Staff generally. All the hard work of the committee and the many friends who had sent gifts for the Bazaar were well repaid, for the afternoon was far more successful than anyone had thought possible. The passenger train brought the Dohne concert party down, and they repeated most of the programme of the previous evening, which was much appreciated. The total result of the Bazaar, Concert and refreshments was £30, and I have been able to hand £14/14/8 to the Mission funds. Heart thanks to each and all who helped in any way to make the day such a success. The Tennis Committee were just as delighted with the result, and when I left Amabele the other day the secretary said they would have a tennis afternoon for me when I return. I shall not forget and I hope they won't!

There is still another "thank you" to say and this is to Mr. Watson of Queenstown, who has given a most handsome present, which will delight many folk, old and young—a Pathescope! I can hardly believe it is true even yet, though he has already instructed me how to use it. Well, children, you will be very pleased to see the bioscope, and I am hoping to get some films while at home. Six months soon pass and so you will have something to which to look forward.

Well, I must say "Au revoir." We have had many happy times together during these years, and I hope the friendships made and lessons learnt may be lasting. I look forward to my holiday and also to the time when I shall be on the Line again. It was a most delightful kind of ending to this term of service to have our Head once more on the section. We had very happy services at Dohne and Waku. I do not think most of you, my friends, realise what a tremendous debt of gratitude we owe to Canon Thornely Jones, who never spares himself. It is due to him that you are able to benefit so much by the work of the Mission. He is, to many of you, an unknown friend, but, take it from me, he is a true friend, and I consider it has been a tremendous privilege to have worked under him these three years. They have been three of the happiest years of my life.

With good wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

Millicent Porter.

2 Cuyler Crescent,
Port Elizabeth, C.P.,
10th March, 1923.

Dear Friends,

This letter must bring you my best wishes for Easter. I hope it will be a very happy time for you all since it is perhaps the most joyous of all our Festivals, bringing as it does the message of Life, free, abounding and overflowing. And that is just what we want, and what the young man in the
Gospel wanted, *eternal life*, something that will last for *always* and will go on rising like a fresh spring, when all else seems dead and cold and worn out, invigorating and re-vitalising us into a glow once more. It is just this Life that our Lord died and rose again to give us, and it is through His triumph over death and sin that we can claim it for our own, *only* we must make the full surrender to Him of our own little bits of lives first, so that He may fill them with Himself, for He is our Life.

It has been very nice seeing old friends again after being away, and I think I have seen almost everybody since my return; if not, I shall have done so, I hope, by the time this letter is in print. I was very glad to be back in time for the Sunday School sports and prize-giving at Sandflats, and we really *did* have an afternoon, big people, little people and animals! I wish I could send you all a drawing of the dog-race—it was an item not to be missed!

We had Lantern Services at Bluecliff, Kareiga, Klipplaat, Glenconnor, Wolvefontein, Barroe, Aberdeen Road, Kendrew and Barkly Bridge last month. There seem to have been the usual number of transfers and I find old friends at most unexpected places.

*Girl Guides.* Girl Guiding goes on very slowly but steadily, and it was nice to come back and feel that things had not been standing still. Several Guides at Klipplaat had prepared for Proficiency Badges and there was a new second-class Guide. We have suffered much from transfers, having lost seven Guides from Klipplaat almost at once, and of course, some of our best are gone. At the same time we are proud that they should have been our best. We transferred to the Beaufort West Company, two second-class Guides and a newly-enrolled Tenderfoot, and one of the former two holds a Proficiency badge. Two Patrol Leaders have gone away to school, but wherever they are we know they will be Guides. Miss Heath is doing splendid work for the Guides at Klipplaat and we wish her every blessing on this year's labours.

One of the happiest times I have had this quarter was at Klipplaat, enrolling fifteen Brownies. The small people had been prepared for some months by Mrs. Delport, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude, for she has held the Brownie meetings at some inconvenience to herself. Miss Doreen Huxham is now acting Tawny Owl; she is one of our leading Guides and is most keen on the work. Guide work is intensely interesting, but if anyone wants to taste the real joy of the work, let them spend half an hour in a Brownie ring, with fifteen pairs of bright eyes shining with enthusiasm, and fifteen serious baby faces taking in all that is said.

The Sandflats Guides are now working for their Cook's badges. L. Badderly has left us for the Collegiate Company in Port Elizabeth, but we welcome Jean Suttie from Cookhouse to fill the gap. M. Fletcher, one of our loneliest "Lones," is ready for her Cook's test, and she has also done a good piece of work by rounding up a slack Tenderfoot whom she discovered in her part of the world.

Coach 8070 still seems to be much of a mystery to many of the small people; they are not clear whether it is a church or a house or a school—it *has* been described as a *truck*! About a week ago a small party of us travelled up the line together, spending the day in the coach. When preparations began for our midday repast, the youngest member of the party, aged four, exclaimed in shocked tones, "Oh, Mother, are we really going to have dinner in church?"

About twenty new members have joined the Guild of the Good Shepherd on this section since the beginning of the year, and many of them are beginning the quarterly questions in the Children's Page. I hope all parents and teachers will do their utmost to help these young folk to be faithful to their promises. It is far better not to make a promise at all than to make it and break it. Slackness of that sort spoils character, and our characters are the only permanent part of us. When we are finished with life here, everything else will be left behind, but our
characters live on with our spiritual selves for ever. Let the children learn to "stick it," as the men stuck it in the war, and not grow up with weak and anaemic characters with no moral backbone.

I was glad to find our old friend, Mrs. Forget, at Graaff-Reinet. Needless to say, there was much to talk about. S.M. and Mrs. Irving hope to sail for their long looked-for leave in England on the 31st. Our best wishes go with them for a very enjoyable time. Two old friends are beginning their nursing career at the Provincial Hospital, Port Elizabeth, this month. They are Mavis King (Sandflats) and Kathleen Fairbanks (Alicedale). The best of luck go with them!

We offer our real sympathy to Ganger and Mrs. Ferreira and their family in their bereavement. They are old friends of the Mission and Gertrude has been known to most of us from a child. It is not easy to understand why they must leave us, these dear ones, while they are yet so young, but we do know that it is so much better and happier for them and they would never want us to wish them back again. Ours is the loss and the miss, but where there is real love there is no separation.

Yours sincerely,

Norah W. Short.

Diocese of Bloemfontein.

78 Douglas Street,
Bloemfontein,
March 5th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

I am just planning a series of Lenten Lantern Lectures to places where they have not had them, and start for Van Reenan to-night.

This quarter so far has been full of activity. Much the same ground has been travelled, and in spite of the heavy rains I have not been held up.

On the Koffiefontein line, I spent a Sunday at Fauresmith, and had a children's class and cottage service in the evening.

At PHILIPPOLIS ROAD I put in a night with Mr. and Mrs. Caswell; they are keen to have their promised visit from the Padre, being both Church communicants.

On the Senekal line, S.M. and Mrs. Gay have both been ill at Senekal, but otherwise thrive.

Lindley Road has had sad days. Foreman Brummer died suddenly, and Mrs. Petersen, Senr., was badly burned and died a hospital a week later. Our sympathy goes to those who are bereft. The Sunday School for the English children is now in the hands of Miss McArthur, so I hope it will go strong; parents must back up the teacher, please.

TWEESPRUIT is going strong; all the children had a book as a present, not as a prize—thanks to the kindness of Miss Jansen in providing the £.s.d. It was not sufficient for a bun-fight, but all good things come to those who wait.

The Station-garden is a picture, one blaze of colour; arches spring up weekly—rockeries and running streams at every side. I believe in future "trespassers will be persecuted." One poor human got somewhat rough handling for trying to take a short cut through the fence—and that a lady too, and a frail one. So beware of Tweespruit garden, and the S.M.!

February has been a bumper month of sorrow and joy! I think as one reads the story of the Passion of our Lord, as we have done in some of our classes, we can note the following: prejudice, personal dislike and misunderstanding, malicious gossip, injustice, false witness, unjust condemnation, and finally crucifixion, crowned by the triumph of good over evil on Easter Day. Somehow, I believe all these things have to be lived out and down in the life of a Christian. I do want to write a little about "gossip." Some is idle talk with nothing at the bottom; some is malicious and spoken in a vindictive spirit—those who set about "spreading tales" cannot stop to think; if they do think and go on in spite of this, they must be rotten to the core,
Again and again one finds keen little centres paralysed because of the unkind comments made about one another.

After a good deal of prayer, we started our working party at VILJOEN'S DRIFT. We have done the work and consecrated it through our prayer and Bible study. Each month a happy dozen met, and we have tried to keep to the motto of the meeting—"no unkind gossip inside or outside"—and it has meant a united crowd, all different but keen to carry on.

The results of work were seen on February 10th. The Reverend W. H. Boyd opened our sale, and though not crowded, we had a jolly time. The proceeds are as follows:

Mrs. Pearson: Work .................. £3 7 6
Mrs. Nye and Mrs. McDonald: Refreshments .............. 14 9
Mrs. Richardson: Produce .................. 19 3
Mrs. Miles and Mrs. Beavage: Cakes and Sweets .............. 3 2 6
Mrs. Mc Ainsh: Dips .................. 3 1 9
Lamb (Mrs. Davis) .................. 1 8 3
Tickets ......................! 3 6 0

£16 0 0

Of this, £10 has been sent to the Mission, £3 to the Orphanage, S.A.R., and £3 to the Reverend W. H. Boyd, to cheer him on his way. He is doing a great deal for us; the monthly services are established at the Drift, and responded to.

On Sunday, February 4th, he very kindly presented Mr. and Mrs. Holmes (Kopjes), Miss van Heerden (Wolvehoek) and Mr. MacGregor (Viljoen's Drift) for Confirmation by the Lord Bishop of Johannesburg, at Vereeniging, having previously tripped down the line to interview them—by the request of Archdeacon Hulme.

Before Easter three candidates from Petrus will probably be confirmed at Bloemfontein; so the work grows.

Last, but not least—our Bazaar in Bloemfontein, (my head is still fuzzled). In December we decided to have a Bazaar in February—in January circulars were sent along the line—and the results have been splendid; we have £132/15/- so far paid into the Mission, and I am more than grateful for the way stations along the line have helped, by sending work and produce. I feel sure those who have not sent in are holding back to hand on later. I have just had a wire from the Head, "Well done, result splendid." The financial result is far more than we anticipated with the Fête week and Show following. Both at Viljoen's Drift and in Bloemfontein the personal service put into the work has been red-hot, so happy and keen and joyful, without exaggeration. One cannot say nice things of anyone especially, for all our committee members are so keen.

But I want you to know our Hon. Sec., Mrs. Potter. Whilst subscriptions were coming in, she was individually visiting in the town and Railway Camp, getting into touch and inspanning friends and foes into work for the Mission—and the weekly "at homes" bring folk more and more together—and those who meet there know something of the meaning of personal service and enthusiasm for those who have busy lives.

Mrs. Dawson has put her back into it—her love for the Mission is keen and genuine, she talks little and works for the cause and in every way is an assistant secretary, a tired one to-night, no doubt.

I shall be away from the section from April to November. If I get the chance to say anything at home, I shall let them know what a keen centre Bloemfontein is. This keenness at the centre is what I most longed for; now we have it, and it must be a joy to those who have worked before.

I would like to thank the staff at the Bureau, the Goods and Passenger Offices for their interest, help and care of parcels, etc.

The statement of accounts is appended, and a Thanksgiving and Intercessions, which I hope you will use.

Thanksgiving. For the work done at Viljoen's Drift, Wolvehoek, Tweespruit and
Bloemfontein to help the Mission financially, and for personal service given.

Intercession. That all work begun may be continued and sustained, especially amongst the children.

Yours sincerely,

JULIENNE BATCHAM.

STALL HOLDERS.

Miscellaneous: Mes. Potter and Coter £19 1 3

Produce: Mes. Bevan, Westley, Koeleman, Butler and helpers 20 8 0

Smokes, Flowers, Dips: Mes. Dawson and Pickles, and young ladies from Bureau 34 15 0

St. Michael's C.O.V.s: Miss Averay 7 14 3

Sweets: Mrs. Jessop and helpers 5 15 10

Ices and Cakes: Mr. Havenga, Miss Glasier and Mrs. Havenga 7 6 8

Refreshments: Mes. Griffiths-Berry and Horrocks 7 0 3

Fortune-Tent: Mrs. Pakeman 3 2 6

Donations to date sent to:

Mrs. Potter 16 18 0

Mrs. Dawson 20 19 6

Miss Batcham 8 2 0

151 3 3

Less expenses 16 5 6

Balance £134 17 9

LIST OF DONATIONS.

To Mrs. Potter: Hon. Mrs. Greville £5, Mr. James Butler £2 2/-, Sergeant King £1, Mr. Koeleman 5/-, Mr. P. E. Potter £2 2/-, Mrs. Evans 10/-, Mrs. Manning 10/-, per Mrs. Johnson, Wolfehoek Station £1 14/-, per S.M. Lowndes 13/-, Mrs. Holmes (Kopjes).—Total £16 18/-.

To Mrs. Dawson: Mr. J. Fraser £5, Cuthbert £1 1/-, Levisseur £2 2/-, Mr. Hansen 5/-, Mr. Block 5/-, Mr. Johnson 5/-, Mr. Hardy 5/-, Mr. Goldes £1 1/-, Milling Co. £2 2/-, J. Roderick £5, Wool Market £2 2/-, Viljoen Bros. 10/-, Lambon £1 1/-.—Total £20 19/6.

To Miss Batcham: Mrs. Bishoff 5/-, Mr. Baxter 2 6, S.M. Brown £1, Mr. Bishop £1 1/-, Capt. Dorkin £1 1/-, Mrs. Cooper 2/-, Mr. Canny 10/-, Mr. Gell 5/-, Mr. Holmes 2/-, Mr. Vermark 2/-, Mr. Lane 5/-, Miss Foster 10/-, S.M. Kerr 10/-, Canon Smith 10/-, S.M. Worrall £1 1/-, S.M. Sansom 5/-, Mrs. Walker 2 6, Mrs. Hill 2 6, Miss Marshall 5/-.—£3 2/6.

Diocese of Pretoria.

March 2nd, 1923.

My dear Friends,

In this letter I must say goodbye for a time; I have had suddenly to arrange to go to England, but hope in six months to be quite fit to return to my section, and expect to do so, unless my place has been taken by another worker. At any rate, the best for the section will happen, and if you are as good to the new worker as you have been to me, her time in Africa will be remembered with much happiness. True friendship is one of God's best gifts to us, and I have many true friends in this country, and want to thank you all for your gift of friendship.

Since the last magazine came out, Christ Church, Machadodorp, was dedicated by Archdeacon Griffiths on December 16th. The church was packed to overflowing, and we are proud and glad of our beautiful little building, which will become still more beautiful when the Sanctuary furniture is finished. It has already made much difference to our sense of completeness, and will become a centre of life and unity to us all.

On the 17th, Hatherley Sunday School had its picnic; all arrangements for a most happy day at Bavian's Poort were successfully made and carried out by Mrs. Higgins and our Sunday School teachers, Misses
Higgins and Miss Coleman. At Christmas we had some very happy days; the children made a crèche for Waterval Boven and Machadodorp churches, building the stables, thatching them, and cutting out the figures themselves; big boys "built" the pole-work, others cut Nelson's pictures on wood, with fretsaws, and younger children thatched walls and roof, while babies made the hay, so that it was in a very real sense their own production, and at the children's service each child brought and arranged his and her own bunch of flowers to put in the empty water pots provided for them. It was to me a real joy to see the reverence and awe with which these little children brought and arranged their flowers before the image of the Infant Jesus—to them it meant a real gift of love to Him in return for His Love.

On January 30th I was invited to the merriest Christmas-tree and Sunday School party I have ever seen! At Trichardts Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Weir determined the children should have their first Christmas-tree—the idea grew from the Sunday School children's treat into a combined Church of England tree, and most beautiful toys were bought for each child (given by subscription). The afternoon began with games, then tea in a large marquee—followed by Sunday School prize-giving for attendance; the prizes were presented by Mrs. Anderson, and Mr. Anderson made a happy little speech—then at the crowning moment Father Christmas arrived "by aeroplane," and much merriment was caused.

Since Christmas I have not been well; fever caught during my holiday, and your African summer combined with it, have been rather too much for me. I hate to leave in a hurry and without seeing everyone, but the doctor has ordered me home at once, and to keep out of the trains which have been my "home" for the last three years almost! it is quite sad to say goodbye to them! Please regard this as a letter of farewell; I have at present no time to write to each of my friends—and may I leave this wish to you all?

God cherish and bless thee,
Guide and possess thee—
Help thee fulfil
With joysous will--
All He foresaw for thee
E'en in creating thee—
So all thy life shall be
Growing in harmony
Here and eternally.

With love to the children and all best wishes to others,

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Gardner.

Diocese of Southern Rhodesia.

Bulawayo,
S. Rhodesia,
March 7th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

This really will be my last letter to you as my three years of service are now completed. I leave Bulawayo for Beira on April 4th and sail for England on the 10th by Llanstephan Castle; after I have got over my farewells I shall then look forward immensely to the trip, for I feel sure it will be most interesting. So far I have had little or no time to think of it all, as my time has been so full, and I have been pretty well occupied this year going up and down upon my last trips. I do wish I could fly away in the night without any goodbyes; one has always to be cheerful whatever is the feeling inside, and you have all, always been so kind and good to me.

I have visited Plumtree, Nyamandlovu, Mahalapye, Palapye Road, Khami, Matopos, Marula, Figtree, Belle Vue, West Nicholson and Gwanda. At the last spot I unfortunately developed fever rather badly and had to be taken to hospital; however, with great care and attention I am now back again and quite my usual self. This is a bad year for malaria subjects, owing to the exceedingly heavy rains.

I went down to Balla Balla on February 12th and enrolled Peggy and Madge Coulson
as Lone Guides; they are just delighted to belong, and I know will ever remain Guides in the real sense of the word. So many Lone Guides get slack, and it is so disappointing. You know, once a Girl Guide, always a Girl Guide.

The St. Gabriel's concert, by the "Wee Brownies," is to be on Easter Tuesday, at 4.30 p.m., by invitation only. The programme will include Brownie revels, songs, dances, recitations, games, signalling, and the play, "The Fairy Messenger." It promises to be a success.

I am so glad that this pack will go on as usual when I have gone. Mrs. F. W. Bain will take on as Brown Owl, assisted by Miss E. Ralph as Tawny Owl. Miss Elaine Townsend, I am glad to say, will remain on as Pack Leader.

I am going to Foxlease Park, near Southampton, to take a month's training at the Guiders' School provided by Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles. Miss A. Behrens, who is the Principal, is a great reader of Light for the Line, and in a letter to me she says, "I feel as if I know you so well, and I am so looking forward to your arrival." I hope to take one or two courses of training also while upon my holiday, in preparation for my next post, which I hope will be Girls' Club work.

I have still one or two places to visit. Don't think I shall ever forget my time spent with the Mission, or any of you my friends up and down the section. I send my very best wishes and thoughts to you all, for always, from

Your friend,
OLIVE STENSON STENSON.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE.

My dear Children,

A happy Easter to you all! To all who love our Lord, Easter must be a very happy time since our Lord lived and all down the ages Easter has been called the "Queen of Festivals," for on this day we commemorate Jesus Christ's rising from the dead, and triumphing over death. We have learnt how Jesus had many disciples who loved Him. How very sad they must have felt on Good Friday when Christ had been crucified and they thought Him lost for ever; yet on Easter Day Christ rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples in the flesh, not only this, He spoke with them and continued to teach them. When you come to be confirmed and make your solemn promise to serve God more faithfully, you will learn that each communicant must receive the Holy Communion at least three times of which EASTER must be one.

This is the last quarter before you write the yearly examination, and I hope you will all read very carefully the portions of scripture to be revised. I shall look forward to some good papers; don't disappoint me.

I think a large number of juniors must have lately passed into the higher standards because the senior papers were not good compared with the juniors; work up, seniors; don't be beaten by the juniors.

THEUNIS HAGGARD, I am sorry to say that your paper must have got lost in the post. Would you like to do the paper again? If you haven't got a copy of the questions, let me know. To you and FREDA MARION CAWOOD many thanks for your New Year wishes. I am glad you have passed into Standard V. I hope you like your new work.

ELSIE JONES, thank you for your letter. I expect you are very busy with so much homework. I hope you will pass your examination; write and tell me if you do.

MADGE EWING, I am very glad you like your prize book so much. I hope your little brother is quite well again.

FRANCES, FLORENCE and HARRIET KILLIAN, I am very glad you like your certificates so much. I chose them when I was in London, and the S.P.C.K. had the S.A. Church Railway Mission printed on them.

With love to all my little friends,

Your affectionate friend,

THE EDITOR.
VICTORIA BIBLE READING.

QUESTIONS.

Rules for Victoria Bible Reading.

APRIL, 1923.

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 June 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.

There are other duties of the Children of the Church-Kingdom besides Prayer. There is Fasting or self-denial which makes us really strong members of the Family, for by self-denial we learn to think God first, others next and ourselves last. We become unselfish and learn to value the best things most. Then there is almsgiving, that means giving back to God part of the money or good things He has given us, “give alms.” Children can always help on the work of the Church-Kingdom by giving some of their pennies to God’s work; self-denial to be able to give alms. It is not the amount we give that God looks at, but our Father loves to see His children ready and willing to help Him, and it is our duty to give to Him so that His Work may be carried on.

SENIORS.

   What does our Lord teach us about almsgiving?

   (a) What made it difficult for this man to follow Christ?
   (b) What does our Lord say about money if it is used selfishly or wrongly?

3. S. Mark 12, v. 41-44.
   Why was the Widow’s offering more acceptable in God’s sight than the offerings of the rich men?

   What does our Lord teach about the duty of Fasting?

   (a) How long did Jesus fast?
   (b) What was His first temptation?
   (c) What was His answer to the Tempter?

   (a) What did this man ask Jesus to do?
   (b) Why did Jesus rebuke the man? (verse 17).
   (c) What did Jesus do for the lunatic?
   (d) Why could not the disciples cure the boy?
   (e) What did Jesus say was necessary to be able to do this great work in His Name?

   Put into your own words the clear teaching Jesus gives all members of the Church-Kingdom in this passage.

   (a) What kind of life will the true members of the Church-Kingdom live?
   (b) How shall we be judged when we have to give an account of our lives?
   (c) How must we look upon self-denial and suffering for the Cross of Christ?
   (d) Which part of us is the most important, Body or Soul? Give your reason.
   (a) Who did Jesus send to help the children of the Church-Kingdom?
   (b) How does the Holy Spirit help us?

JUNIORS.

   (a) What does Jesus teach us about giving part of our possessions to Him?
   (b) Who will reward us if we obey the command of Jesus?

2. S. Mark 12, v. 41-44.
   (a) What were the people doing as Jesus watched them?
   (b) Who were putting money into the treasury?
   (c) Why was Jesus pleased with the widow's offering?

   What does Jesus teach us about the duty of Fasting?

   (a) How long did Jesus fast?
   (b) Who tempted Him?
   (c) What was His first temptation?
   (d) How did Jesus answer the tempter?

   (a) What was Jesus asked to do?
   (b) What had the man done before going to Jesus?
   (c) Why did Jesus rebuke him?
   (d) What did Jesus do for the lunatic boy?
   (e) Why could not the disciples cure the boy?
   (f) What did Jesus say was necessary to be able to do such great work?

   (a) What does Jesus say about obedient members of the Church-Kingdom?
   (b) What does Jesus say about the careless and disobedient?

   (a) What must we do to follow Jesus?
   (b) Which part of us is the most important, Body or Soul?
   (c) What will Jesus do when He comes again?

   (a) Write out this Beatitude.
   (b) What does it teach us about suffering for Jesus' sake?

   (a) How must we show our love for Jesus?
   (b) What did Jesus say He would do for us?
   (c) How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Results of Victoria Bible Reading Quarterly Examination.

SENIORS.


JUNIORS.


Passages in Scripture to be Revised.

St. John 1, v. 14-17.
Romans 8, v. 34.
Galatians 5, v. 22, 23.
Phil. 4, v. 6, 7.
I Thess. 1, v. 2.
Hebrews 7, v. 24-25.
I St. John 1, v. 5-10.
Psalms 122, v. 6.

BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Nauwpoort:

Cookhouse:
Feb. 11. Edith Cavell Rowan.
Mar. 11. Walter James Behrmann.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY.

Dec., 1922, at Warrenton:
Alfred Delville Lewarne.
At Mochudi:
Alice Joyce Thelma Harbor.
Jan., 1923, at Magagong:
Albertus Johannes Jacobus Labuschagne.
At Wirsing:
Pietrus Johannes Halahan.
At Taungs:
Arthur Denis Dyason.
At Lobatsi:
Johannes Cornelius Gerhardius Duplessis.
At Foley:
Johanna Doris Kaunu.
At Macloutsie:
Miriam Rose Petersen.
At Warrenton:
Benjamin Claude Turner.
February, 1923, at Warrenton:
Johannes Gerhardus Potgieter.
At Lobatsi:
Gertrude Jacoba Phaal.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Dec. 20, at Tsamaea:
Eleanor Katie Grey.
Dec. 17, at Khama:
Richard Ernest Cock.
Dec. 23, at Bulawayo:
Joan Berenice Gisborne.
Feb. 15, at West Nicholson:
Edward Capper Rogers.
Feb. 25, at Matopos:
Florence Mary Fryer.

HOLY MATRIMONY.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Nauwpoort:
Jan. 22. Shadrach Honco and Elsie Boto-
man.

BURIALS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Nauwpoort:
COLLECTIONS, &c.

Lantern Services. February:
- Diocese of Grahamstown: Bluecliff 9/-, Kareigu 6/6, Glenconnor 8/-.
- Diocese of George: Klipplaat 4/7, Wolvefontein 8/3, Barroe 5/6, Aberdeen Road 8/-, Kendrew 13/-.

DIocese OF KIMBERLEY.

Collections:
- December, 1922: Taungs 6/9, Warrenton 9/-, Grange 5/9, Belmont 16/-, Modder River 14/-, Content 28/7, Windsorton Road 6/-, Fourteen Streams 11/-, Lobatsi 42/11, Palla Road 15/-, Pitsani 12/6, Palla Farm £3/0/6, Mahalapye 32/6, Gaberones 14/-, Notwani 14/-, Mochudi 7/6, Palapye 28/3.

January, 1923: Fourteen Streams 20/3, Warrenton 19/2, Mochudi 14/6, Grange 5/9, Belmont 12/2.

Febrary: Warrenton 6/1, Mochudi 9/9, Artsesia 4/-, Mahalapye 32/6, Bonapitsi 10/-, Gaberones 32/-, Notwani 8/-, Palapye 29/-, Dikabi 5/-, Lobatsi 51/10, Pitsani 8/6, Ramathlabama 2/6, Kraaiapin 10/-, Doornbult 14/6, Grange 5/9, Belmont 12/2.

Offerings: December 12/6, January 44/6.


NORTHERN RHODESIA AND BELGIAN CONGO.

Contributions:
- N. Rhodesia: Mazabuka £1, Broken Hill (special fund) £48, Railway Cottages £1/18/6.
- Belgian Congo: Elisabethville £1/2/10, £1/17/4 from old Church Council account, £4/10/- from English Church Fund at Bank; Panda £3/10/- from English Church Fund.

Fees: Broken Hill 7/6.

Offerings:
- N. Rhodesia: Kalomo 15/-, Monze 22/2/-, Mazabuka £2, Kaffee £1/11/-, Broken Hill £1/10/-, Bwana, Mkubwa £2, Ndola £5.

Donations: Broken Hill 10/- (by a visitor to an hotel).

Local Agents “Light for the Line.”

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- Cookhouse: Mrs. Wise, Dove Cote.
- Cradock: Mrs. Tavlor, The Railway Camp.
- Namaqua: Reverend E. D. Smith.
- Conway: Mrs. Blewitt, Station House.
- Port Elizabeth: Miss Hannah, Trinder Square.
- Queenstown: Miss Porter, St. Monica’s Home.
- Rosmead: Miss L. Brown.
- Sandflats: Mrs. Walker.

GEORGE DIOCESE.
- Klipplaat: Mrs. Dam, Refreshment Room.
- PRETORIA DIOCESE.
- Volksrust: Mrs. Milton.
- Silverton: Mrs. Schuch.
- Waterfall: The Reverend E. Herbert, Waterfall Boven.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.
- Bloemfontein: Mrs. Griffiths, 62 Exton Road.
- Bethlehem: Mrs. Jones, Cambridge Street.

ST. JOHN’S DIOCESE.
- Butterworth: Mrs. Davis, c/o Stationmaster.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.
- The Reverend A. C. Hobson, St. Augustine’s Vicarage.

DIOCESE OF N. RHODESIA.
- Broken Hill:
  - Bulawayo: The Reverend C. W. S. Stenson.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.
- P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown.

Local Representatives in S. Africa.
- Pretoria: Lady Wessels.
- Port Elizabeth: Miss Keith, King Edward’s Mansions.

Children of the Veld.

Secretaries for South Africa.
- General Secretary: Miss Blundell, Grahamstown.
- Johannesburg: Mrs. Beckingham, 70 Muller Street, Yeoville.
- Bloemfontein: Miss Avery, St. Michael’s School.
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