Light for the Line,
THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION MAGAZINE.

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South African Church Railway Mission.

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PLEASE NOTE:
The Head of the Church Railway Mission is now the
REVEREND H. P. ROLFE, B.A., and all communications concerning the Mission should be addressed to him at
BOX 1131, JOHANNESBURG.

With great regret the S.A. Church Railway Mission has parted with its Head and friend, Canon R. Thornely Jones. After eight years it is a very sorrowful experience to say goodbye and to know that that delightful feeling that "the Head" might "blow in" at any moment, at least as far as Canon Jones is concerned, now belongs to the past. His workers (past and present) as a parting gift presented him with a clock with Westminster chimes, a constant reminder we hope of the many friendships which still exist.

It is impossible adequately to realize or express our indebtedness to Canon Jones, but we all feel we could not let him leave us without placing on record our appreciation of his devoted services.

THE EDITOR, AND WORKERS OF THE S.A. CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

P.O. Box 1131,
Johannesburg,
September 20th, 1923.

Dear Friends,

I have been told that it is the duty of the Head of the Mission to write a letter every quarter for the Light for the Line. I was feeling very nervous about this, when Canon Jones, with the kindness that is characteristic of him, said he would write a letter with all the news in if I would write a short note. Well, my great hope is that my letter will be short, which will be more than my sermons are, I believe.

I began my new duties officially as Head on September 1st, although about the middle of August I visited Grahamstown and spent a busy week with Canon Jones "taking over." Then we went on to Port Elizabeth, and there we parted—the old Head to take over his new work at Knysna and the new Head to take his first service as Head at Rosmead. My thanks are due to Mr. Smith, who piloted me round so ably, and gave me my first insight into the work of the Mission. I received such a kind welcome from everyone at Rosmead that I went away feeling I already had many friends on the line.

I came straight on to Johannesburg to fix up Headquarters and arrange the details of the office work. With the consent of the Archbishop, I have brought the Headquarters to Johannesburg, partly because I have lived here all the time I have been in the country, some three and a half years, and partly because I felt it might be more convenient from the travelling point of view, as the Mission takes in Rhodesia and the north as well as the Union of South Africa. So please note the new address. It isn't really new, as Mr. Rogers had his Headquarters here in 1916. At the present
moment I am engaged in moving my own abode from Parktown to Booysens. I was told that the Railway Mission meant living in suit cases, but that is preferable to living in petrol cases and wooden boxes as I seem to be doing to-day. No doubt many of you have been through the same experience and know how nice it is. The worst part is I shall not have time to unpack the other end as I have to go off on my travels in a few days. So if you see me minus any necessary article of attire you will know it is packed deep in a box and cannot be got at.

Enough about myself, however. Let me give you some news of the Mission. Miss Porter and Miss Barker arrived on the Ceramic this month, both looking very well. We welcome them back to South Africa. Miss Porter has gone to Queenstown and is now on her old section, where she will be welcomed by many old friends. Miss Barker is at Pretoria, and will work on the Transvaal lines. She has many friends there who know of her work in the past and will be pleased to see her again. Miss Batcham returns by the Walmer Castle on October 15th, and will go to her old section in the Free State, where she is eagerly awaited.

Mr. Stenson, having entered the bonds of matrimony, feels he ought to find some settled work; and as his period of service with the Mission is more than completed, he has accepted the living of Ermelo in the Diocese of Johannesburg. He has worked long and faithfully for the Mission and we wish him every happiness in his new sphere of usefulness. The sad part of his going is that I have no one to take his place at present.

We shall all be sorry to lose Mr. Thorne from the Alicedale section, as he goes at the end of this month to take charge of the parish of Heilbron in the Free State. I hope the change will benefit his health, as he has been far from well for some time, and has carried on with considerable difficulty. His place will be taken by the Reverend P. Beresford, who arrives at Capetown on October 4th.

Mr. Smith will be visiting the New Cape Central section again in November, and during his absence I hope to have the pleasure of taking the services on his section.

I feel sure I ought to say a word about Canon Jones before I finish my letter. What he has done for the Mission you know better than I do, but I do know this, that the Mission has lost a great Head. His whole heart and soul was in the Mission and he laboured as few other men can hope to do. His extraordinary energy and power were freely given to the work, and his continual cheerfulness under all circumstances is known up and down the whole of South Africa. I feel he has set a standard which it will be very difficult for me to follow, and had he not promised me his help and advice at all times I should have felt even more deficient in accepting the Headship than I did. I only hope he will be able to leave his retreat at Knysna occasionally and come and see his old friends once more.

H. P. Rolfe.
LETTER FROM CANON THORNELY JONES.

The Rectory,
Knysna, C.G.H.,
September 10th, 1923.

Dear Friends,

As you will see from the address, this is a letter of goodbye. I handed over the control of the Mission to our new Head, the Reverend H. P. Rolfe, at the end of last month, and I was instituted in the charge of this parish on the second by the Bishop of George. It is a big change after traveling close on 50,000 miles a year to be living and working 52 miles off the Line; there is no fear that I shall forget and just get into a train, as of old, for a motor drive of four hours to get to a train saves one from that. It has been no easy task to leave you all and to give up a work which had become a very real part of one's life, and I felt when the time came that I could not face a long series of farewells, so I just disappeared. It was because you and the Mission meant so much to me that I did this, and not that I was unmindful of you all or of the very great kindness I have received from you during these eight years; I feel sure you will not think me ungrateful for your many kindnesses and unstinted hospitality to me while I was Head of the Mission and that you will understand the position—if I did not care it would have been quite an easy matter.

We have every cause for thankfulness that God has given us such a first-rate man to carry on the work, and I have every confidence that the Mission will go ahead with Mr. Rolfe as the leader, and I look with confidence to you to respond to his lead and support him as you did me: if the Mission does not prosper it will not be the fault of Mr. Rolfe, but I feel sure it will prosper, for it is some of God's work, and I know some of the good qualities of the Head He has sent us to take charge of it. I would ask your prayers on his behalf, for it is a heavy task he has undertaken at the request of the Bishops, and he will need all the sympathetic help you can give him. I would also ask your patience while he is finding his feet; it took me eight years to get to know you and the work, as I do, and you cannot possibly expect my successor, who has been in the country only three years, to be able to pick up and carry on just where I left off: but unless I am making a big mistake, it will not take him nearly so long to pick things up as it did me. Please help him all you can.

I should like here to take the opportunity to thank those of the Staff who have worked with me during these years; it is not given to everyone to have had such loyal fellow-workers as I have had, and I am very deeply indebted to them for all they have done, and now they have put me under another debt, for they gave me a very beautiful clock with Westminster chimes, and as it chimes even the quarters, I am forever being reminded how much I owe them all. Then last week I received a very fine case of gold mounted Loewe pipes with Machadodorp engraved on them, accompanied with the kindest of notes—both will keep, for the pipes are much too good and too nice to spoil with dirty smoke; I am wondering.
how they know I smoke. I am also very much indebted to Canon Wyche, Miss Blundell and Miss Walker of the Grahamstown Diocesan Office, for while the Office undertook to keep our accounts for us, they did very much more which could not possibly be included in that and which greatly relieved me while travelling and helped the Mission. Our good friends at Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Yeoville and Pretoria have stood with us right nobly, and the only way I can express my gratitude is to ask that they will continue their efforts, for they mean so much to the stability of the Mission.

Mr. Rolfe has moved the Office of the Mission from Grahamstown to Johannesburg, as he knows them better up there, and he will continue to live there for the present; so will you please note that both Mr. Rolfe's and the Mission address in future will be P.O. Box 1131, Johannesburg, and to that address all communications for the Mission and Mr. Rolfe should be sent and not, as in the past, to Grahamstown.

It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome our old Head, Mr. Rogers, just before I left Grahamstown (he is for the time being acting Chaplain to the Training College there), and on the last Sunday he, Mr. Rolfe and I were together at the Chapel Altar for the early Eucharist, so we had the "past, the present and the future."

Those of you who know them will join in our congratulations and with our good wishes to the Reverend O. W. L. Skey and Canon Urquhart on the special mark of confidence which the Bishop of Johannesburg has bestowed on them.

Miss Porter is due to land to-morrow, and she is bringing with her Miss Barker, who will be with Mr. Herbert on the Eastern Transvaal Section; as both of them are so well known there is no need to ask for a hearty welcome for them as that is secured already. Then, too, we are looking forward to Miss Batcham's return, and she ought to be with us again by the end of October. The Reverend Paul Beresford is due to sail this month, so it looks as if we are getting busy again. Unfortunately for us Mr. Herbert's time, and Miss Short's time too, is fast drawing to a close; both are feeling the strain which almost always comes at the end of the term of work if it is conscientiously done, as it has been, but I suppose we ought to thank God for having sent them to us for these three years rather than have thoughts of regret that the three years are nearly up.

Mr. Thorne has found the conditions and the climate of the Alicedale Section too much for his not too robust constitution and he has felt compelled to accept other work under the Bishop of Bloemfontein at the end of this month: he will go with our best wishes and our gratitude for the unsparing way he tackled his work in spite of physical drawbacks, and we trust that God's blessing and help will go with him.

Once more let me thank you all for the way you accepted my leadership and for your many kindnesses during the time I held the office as Head of the Church Railway Mission. If ever and whenever any of you come down this way, don't forget that you have an old friend at the Rectory and that he will be very glad to see you.

Yours gratefully,

R. THORNELY JONES.
DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

The Parsonage,
Naauwpoort,
Sept. 13th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

Since we last went to press a good deal of water has flown under London Bridge and very little has fallen on the Karroo. But of spiritual blessings there has been no end: the chief of which were the Missionary Conference and the Diocesan Synod, both held in Queenstown. These gatherings of Clergy and Laity are a tremendous uplift to our corporate life, helping us, as they do, by their reunions, kindness and hospitality of hosts and hostesses, municipal greetings, and by the deliberations which take place, to realise the solidarity of our Church life in the Diocese.

The deliberations of Synod are ably summed in the Newsletter in a letter from “A Rector to His People,” from which I quote:

“The main subject discussed both in the Conference and Synod was to devise a sound and thoroughly workable scheme whereby a sufficient income might be secured to the ordained ministers and priests of Christ’s Church in the Diocese of Grahamstown. Several amendments were put forward in Synod to the Final Report of the Synodical Commission, which on the one hand preferred to utilise and increase the existing Diocesan Ministry Endowment Fund for increasing the stipends, and on the other wished to extend and broaden the basis of the terms of reference, so that the whole subject might be reconsidered with a view to unanimous acceptance by next year’s Synod. The latter plan was agreed, and to this end the Reverend Frank Sutton, Principal of Dale College, K.W.T., and Canon Hanley, chairman and convener of the Synodical Commission, collaborated, with the result above mentioned, so that additional members were elected on the Commission, as also an active propaganda advocated, starting this year, so that every parish will know what exactly is expected from each when the new regulations (which will mean that every parish must raise its quota towards the Central Fund) come into force.”

The Bishop has appointed Canon Wyche to this work and under the heading “Central Fund Development” Canon Wyche writes as follows:

“The first step of the Central Fund Development Committee is the circulation of special prayers authorized by the Bishop for use in the public services, as well as in private. Copies can be obtained from the Clergy.

“The Central Fund Committee and the St. George’s, Grahamstown Centenary Committee are combining their efforts. The Synod decided that to mark the centenary the chapel and porch should be built. Therefore the Committee is charged with raising £55,000, in order that this diocese be able “

i. To meet the requirements of the Central Fund for the payment of stipends.

ii. To mark the Centenary by building the Chapel.

iii. To extend the Missionary and Educational Work.

iv. To develop Church Hostels in connection with the education of European and Coloured Children.

“It is a huge sum. We cannot hope to get it all in one year, we may do so in five, but get it we must. Next month we shall give the detailed list.

“The Augmentation of Stipends will require more than half of the total sum. The extension of Missionary and Educational includes work at St. Matthew’s, the Diocesan share of the building of Fort Hare Hostel, and the Diocesan Hostel for Boys at East London.

“The development of Church Hostels for boys and for girls is of great importance. . . . ”

Now to turn from the larger Diocesan view to the smaller particular work of our own along the Line. Canon Thornely Jones has now definitely left the Mission and has
taken up his duties as Rector of Knysna, and we wish him “Good luck in the Name of the Lord.”

The new Head of the Mission, the Reverend H. P. Rolfe, took over the reins on Friday, August 24th, and had his first services on “the Line” at Rosmead Junction on the following Sunday. Later on he hopes to visit this section. In the meantime let us remember him and Canon Jones in our prayers.

NAAUWPOORT. With the coming of spring we have been getting busy gathering material for the new Parsonage—the Elise Astley Memorial House—and hope to begin very shortly to lay the foundations.

The raising of the financial means is a very considerable difficulty, and we want a great deal more support in the way of regular and systematic contributions.

We have had two local efforts. The first a very enjoyable dance arranged by Mr. Tunbridge and the “Loco” Staff. The Church Council is grateful and has recorded its appreciation of their efforts, which brought in £13: 7: 9.

The second was a War Bridge evening, arranged by Mrs. Comley on Friday last. Unfortunately my duties took me elsewhere, so I could not be present. But I am informed it was a successful evening in every way, and to Mrs. Comley we tender our thanks.

Our next big effort is the Bazaar on Friday, October 5th, and in the words of a friend in Canada, we hope “to make it a record.”

COOKHOUSE. Canon Jones took the services on Sunday, June 10th, during my absence on the N.C.C.R. and Station-master Hubbard supplied my place for Matins and Evensong on Synod Sunday.

In our next number we shall have to record the details of the Bazaar which is fixed for October 5th. The proceeds are for the Church Railway Mission.

During the quarter services have been held at Rosmead, Cyphergat, Stormberg, Sherborne, Norvals Pont, Arundel, and we have noticed many transfers. Station-masters Barns law, Otty, Botha and McGregor are now at Tafelberg, Norvals Pont, Arundel and Stormberg respectively. Foreman Brin we understand has left Carlton for the relief staff. Electrician Gray from P.E. and Driver Waites from Klipplaat have gone to Cookhouse.

The following have been united in Holy Matrimony: Mr. Jackson and Miss M. A. Deacon, and Mr. Seach and Miss Muller. We wish them every happiness and blessing.

N.C.C.R. In the early part of June I had the pleasure of working over the whole of the New Cape Central Railway; and thanks to the kindness of the General Manager and his staff and the able assistance of the Traffic Manager and his staff, and in no little measure helped by the driver of the motor trolley, managed to get in a few words with almost every gang and group of cottages between Worcester and Mossel Bay.

Just one last word in conclusion, and that is to wish you all a very merry Christmas, and may you all find peace and abide in the peace and good-will of Him Who is the Prince of Peace.

Yours sincerely,

EDMUND D. SMITH.

Alicedale, Sept. 11th, 1923.

Dear Friends,

The Mission has lost one head but got another! We all offer the new Head a most hearty welcome, and trust that he may have before him many years of happy and successful service to the Master. The work is new to him, so I ask you all to help him in every way you can. I am sure he will be most pleased if you will make yourselves known to him. And don't forget this—while there is only one Head for you all to get to know, there are many hundreds of you, for him to get to know. So don't be surprised if it takes him time to remember your names and faces, and to connect these two. It's a long way from Port Elizabeth
to Elisabethville, and he has got the job of getting to know you all, who live along those many hundreds of miles.

I am sure that you won't forget the old Head, and all he has done for you these many years past. No distance or trouble was too great for him, not even to help just one soul. That is the spirit of the Master. I know that along this section there is many a one who will miss his cheery smile. Personally I have many things to be grateful to him for, including the way he relieved me after my recent illness. (I must not forget to mention the kind help Canon C. J. Wyche also gave me at that time.)

They say imagination can do a lot; can you imagine the Canon sitting back and taking his ease, after all the years of travel? (Take care you don't overtax your brains in the effort!)

Just one more word about the past and present Heads; pray for them both: for the old Head that he may be blessed for the work he has done, and prospered in the work he is now doing: for the new Head that by the Holy Ghost he may be endued with those gifts which are needed for the work.

We had a visit from the Bishop of Grahamstown on the fourth Sunday in August at Addo, where he held a service of Confirmation. For various reasons several candidates were not then confirmed, and will be confirmed elsewhere. It is a pity there were so few; and there might have been more in church that day. We are very grateful to the Bishop for his visit, which has already borne fruit, and we trust will bear yet more.

And now I must say goodbye. The illness to which I referred above was the deciding factor. I only came for a year, and at the end of this month (September) shall have put in an extra four months. I had thought of doing a second year, but illness has prevented me. As the Canon remarked in last quarter's number, the climate here is not quite what I anticipated. So on the 1st October I start (D.V.) for the Free State, to take over Heilbron. I hope that my health and efficiency will improve.

So, goodbye, friends! Thank you all very much for your many kindnesses. I have met with much help and encouragement: the spell on the line has done me good in several ways; I can only hope it has been of help to some others. On the 4th October, Mr. Beresford, the new chaplain, is due to land. Back him up no less than you have backed me. Perhaps he needs your backing more than I did (I don't know anything about him). Probably he is younger than I, and has not had so much experience of the rough side of life, and he is (I believe) new to the country. Please show your friendship for me by making him most heartily welcome, and doing all you can to give him a leg up in all the novel experiences which lie before him. By those means I hope he will be able to do much more and much better than I have done. My health has prevented my doing much that I could have wished.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Short for the splendid work she has done. On her side has been youth, with its health and vigour; but had she not been filled with zeal and earnestness, the other would have been of no avail.

Miss Blundell has left the Diocesan Registry, but I feel I must take this opportunity of thanking her, through this paper with which she has been so much associated, for her unfailing kindness and good humour.

What a lot of changes! a dear friend said to me the other day; “everywhere there is change and decay.” Yes, but there is just One who never changes; and whoever is Head, whoever is your chaplain or lady worker, He abides with you; and in that most Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood, you may find Him, always, and the same.

May the blessing of our Lord be with you all forever.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. Thorne.
My dear Friends,

So we have all lost our Head. I do not mean that we have all gone dotty, but simply that Canon Jones has left us. We are sad indeed to say goodbye to him. We have called him for years "the Head" of the Mission, but indeed a better title for him would have been "the Soul" of it, because that's what he has been. But fancy writing letters to him "My dear soul"! We'd soon have got something back, asking us who we were talking to, telling us to quit our sentiment and to get into business. You know those very trying epitaphs we sometimes see on tombstones in which all the virtues of the deceased are piled up one on top of the other. I hope that if you have anything to do with writing your own, you'll not have anything like that inscribed to your memory. "Jesu, mercy," are the two best words to be placed on any grave. That little bit of advice is just by the way; I am really talking still about Canon Jones, whom we are glad to have with us still to help the poor old world, and South Africa in particular. As he is still with us then, he mustn't mind an epitaph, and just such a one as I have warned you against; here it is—

"A noble Head, a tireless worker,
A kindly leader, a thoughtful master,
A self-forgetting servant, a precious friend,
(and an awkward enemy)."

Something like that sums him up. Really and truly only those who have worked under him as we missionaries have can tell what a kind-hearted friend they have had for their master. We shall be for ever grateful to him. I only add the last word of the epitaph, not because I have ever had the unpleasant experience of him as an enemy, but just because I know he's such a game-cock that he'd always get in the last knock! However, he'd be the very first to pick you up again once he had you down. I am looking forward to taking part of my holiday before the end of the year, and a few days of this are to be spent with him in his new abode at Knysna, where in a recent letter with his usual kindness he has offered me hospitality in his stable! So I shall be able to bring along the latest news of him to his friends along the line. The only thing I dread for him is that he may be "run in" any day for travelling without a ticket—after eight years' travelling on a pass, it will be jolly hard for him to pay for a ticket. Probably the history of the proverbial lady at the booking-office will repeat itself in his case.

"A return ticket, please."
"Where to, sir?"
"Why, back here, of course. Where do you think?"

How we shall miss his delightful stories amongst other things. We must really try and get a little inset of them put into this publication occasionally. "Comic Cuts from the Canon." How it would increase our circulation.

Then as regards our new Head, Mr. Rolfe. He must be anxious to know what sort of welcome awaits him from us, his fellow-workers, and from you all to whose interests and eternal welfare he is now surrendering himself. Well, let him know this for a certainty. We simply open our hearts to him straight away. The weight of welcome which we offer him is exactly the same as the weight of regret with which we part with the Canon, and that is good weight to say the least of it. It is a hard task that he is shouldering, but we shall do our level best not to let him feel it. Wherever he goes, from the very first, he will be conscious of the warm-hearted affection of the people up and down this country, the affection which must go out from true hearts to one who is giving himself for others. I am quite sure I speak for you all when I say that. I have never seen him yet; neither have you. But
what matter? God has given him to us, and we are thankful, and we shall let him know it.

We often hear of parents in out-of-the-way places who have to wait a long time for the Baptism of their children. Let me say a word about this. Waiting in this sense, that is waiting upon God, is quite a blessed attitude, so don't let it fret you. But here is a very important fact which is often unknown, and which ought to be proclaimed far and wide. And that is, that in the case of serious emergency, danger of death, the Church allows anyone to baptize, lay-man or woman. If that is known, and acted upon, no child need pass from the world without the saving grace of the Sacrament of Regeneration. You just procure a vessel of water, say the Lord's Prayer, or any of the prayers in the Baptismal service you have time for, and then, giving the name, pour the water three times on the head so that it flows upon the flesh, saying as you do, “I baptize thee in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.” That is the only essential part, and that is true and valid Baptism, and cannot be repeated. If the child lives, and no doubt this holy Sacrament has effects for body as well as soul, you just tell the priest of your action next time he comes along. He would probably inquire carefully as to how the Sacrament was administered, and satisfying himself that it was validly done, he would just receive the child with the signing of the cross. Would all readers of this kindly take that fact into mind, and do what they can to let others know. Perhaps you might yourself have the chance of coming to the rescue of some infant in that way. Remember, though, that it should only be thus done in a case of grave emergency.

Then communicants, who have a sincere desire to receive our Lord in the Holy Sacrament more often than your scant opportunities provide—remember that there is such a thing as spiritual communion, when the Sacrament cannot be had. And a very real thing it can be made in the lives of lonely Christians. It is really just an intensified form of prayer. Prepare yourself just as if you were going to the Altar, then in prayer tell our Lord that you would be there if you could, and that you heartily desire His Presence to be granted to you. It is a good idea to picture yourself as at the Altar, to be present as it were in spirit, though you can't be in the body, at the offering of the Holy Sacrifice. Tell our Lord that you desire to unite yourself with the faithful throughout the world, and join with the unseen multitudes of Catholic Christians in the pleading of His death. Wouldn't that be a great antidote to our spiritual loneliness! Then, as I say, invite Him passionately to come and make His abode with you. If you could get to the Sacrament and wouldn't, this would obviously be no substitute for the Sacrament is the appointed means. But if you can't get, and yet desire to, please remember this. The other day I was attending a dying man. He made his confession, and received Holy Unction (S. James x, 14), but could not physically receive Holy Communion owing to his state. Did he die without his Lord? Not a bit of it. He had spiritual communion with Him.

Well, goodbye, for the present. Without an aeroplane I am sorry I cannot see you more often, while I am trying to run the two-sections. But with air-flight we would cease to be a Railway Mission, and that would never do!

Your affectionate friend and priest,
A. C. Hobson.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Bulawayo, Sept. 8th, 1923.
My dear Friends,
I have been indulging in a little retrospection: viewing the last three and a half
years that I have been on the Church Railway Mission in Rhodesia.

Through them all I can honestly say I have spent happy days in travelling up and down this section. I am glad I came to Africa—and I'm not going to leave it yet. I owe a tremendous deal to this land of sunshine. You, too, to whom it has been given me to minister, have helped me to love this country, Rhodesia—with its deep, mysterious spaces, its silent granite kopjes, its wonderful sunsets—a land of great possibilities—a land of great promise! My friends, my thoughts will often turn back to the days when Service Coach 89599 or 89002 was put off at such a siding or such a place—when we met together in worship and prayer to the Great Father of us all. I pray that "He which has begun a good work in you will perform unto the day of the Coming of Jesus Christ."

There have been great changes on the staff. This is bound to happen with time. We wish God-speed to Canon Thornely Jones and every happiness and blessing in his work at Knysna. We welcome the new Head, the Rev. H. P. Rolfe: doubtless before long he will be known to you all.

I would just like to thank all who have made my work among you happy and delightful. To all those kind friends who have given me hospitality on my visits. To guards, engine-drivers, who have shunted the "pill-box" or 89002! I'm sure I've been a dreadful nuisance at times! I do value all this kind help. I could mention dozens of names, if space would permit.

Shall I say goodbye? No; let me leave you these words of Oxenham's:
"Lord, give us faith—to live from day to day,
With tranquil heart to do my simple part,
And with my hand in Thine, just go Thy way:
"Lord, give me faith!—to trust, yet not to know;
With quiet mind in all things Thee to find,
And child-like, go where Thou would'st have me go."

Yours sincerely,
C. W. S. Stenson.

WOMEN'S WORK.

Diocese of Grahamstown.

2 Cuyler Crescent,
Port Elizabeth, C.P.,
15th September, 1923.

Dear Friends,

You are all very sad, I know, at losing Mr. Thorne from the Section, but it isn't my fault and you have largely yourselves to blame since you would persist in calling him Mr. "Short"! He has borne it wonderfully well for some time, but there is a limit to human endurance—however, if he doesn't get called anything longer than that he will be lucky! We all wish him great joy in his new work and a greater abundance of health and strength to carry it through.

August 26th was a very happy day at Addo when the Bishop visited us and held a Confirmation in St. Luke's Church. Six candidates presented themselves for the laying-on of hands, the two others who were prevented from attending have since been confirmed at Port Elizabeth. Four other candidates from Addo expect to go to Uitenhage on the 16th inst.

There is to be a Bazaar and Sale of Work at Addo on October 13th to clear off the debt on the church; any gifts to help the stalls will be greatly appreciated, and we hope that all who live within reasonable distance will come and do their Saturday marketing at the Bazaar.

In my last letter I remarked that the children at Addo wanted to form themselves into a Girl Guide Company, but that we could not find a Captain. Almost before the letter appeared in print, I had a very kind offer from Mrs. Shuttleworth to form...
a Company and to act herself as Captain. We shall not be a large body, but the fifteen recruits are some of the keenest you can want and they have already shown proof of their enthusiasm. A kind friend has lent the ground for a Guide tennis court, but the expense of fittings and other etceteras had to be met. The question of uniform and equipment was also a problem. However, it did not remain so long. The recruits got busy and sewed and stitched and baked—and talked a great deal too—and on August 4th they held a little sale of needlework, cakes, produce and refreshments. The sale opened at 10 a.m., and I believe they were sold out at 12.30, having raised about £32. I thoroughly recommend Addo Guides as clever saleswomen—it's no use hoping to dodge them—the only thing you can do is to resign yourself into their hands and hope for the best. There won't be any Guides at the Church Bazaar, but I am afraid you will meet the same alert small people in the guise of Sunday School scholars!

The first ceremony of Enrolment of the Guides will be held early in October; it would have been held sooner, but the Valley is now such a bustling thoroughfare that it is hard to fit in all the social functions!

The Klipplaat Guide Company and Brownie Pack are giving an Entertainment on September 22nd, the proceeds of which are to be divided between their own Company Funds and the Church Railway Mission. Brownie work in the camp is increasing, and Guide F. Minnie now assists D. Huxham. We were so glad that the latter was able to go to the Natal Patron Leaders' Camp at Howick in June. She brought back a glowing countenance and a plentiful supply of enthusiasm—and did somebody say a stone?—but we won't inquire further into that! Now we all want to go to camp; hurry up, Miss Heath, and get your Camper's Badge and take us all! We had our combined Service for Guides and Brownies at Klipplaat in July.

I was very glad to see the Cookhouse Guides in July and to enrol four recruits, and also to pay a visit to the Sunday School. I believe some of the scholars are starting the Victoria Bible Reading questions. That reminds me that quite a number of new students are starting these questions, and I would urge them to be sure and stick to them all the year through. There are nearly ninety competitors now. I hope they will see to it that there are ninety names in the "Total Marks" list next July. To get your name into that list you must have answered each quarter's questions.

We have had Lantern Services at Barkly Bridge, Cookhouse, Bellevue, Ripon, Saltaire, Sheldon, Middleton, Le Roux, Vlakteplaats, Miller, Wolvefontein, Bluecliff and Kareiga during the quarter, and I have also visited Sandflats, Mimosa, Bushman's River, Longhope, Glenconnor and Bethesda Road. Klipplaat and Addo have had several visits. While at Cookhouse, I managed to get to Somerset East to see our old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, and there was a good deal to talk about as you may imagine! S.M. and Mrs. Barnshaw, with Miss Philburn and the "Brownie" have left Mimosa for Tafelberg, and we welcome Mr. and Mrs. Palmer at Mimosa.

It is a bit early for Christmas—though it will be January before the next magazine is out—so here is a thought to end up the year. It is a good time to rearrange things, and there are some matters that want sorting occasionally. What about our sense of values? I am inclined to think that it is sometimes a bit out of proportion. In plain words, what stands first in our lives? What are the big things that make up life? Money, position, power, education, pleasure are all important things, but they are inclined to get a little out of focus at times. There is a tremendous amount of restlessness and dissatisfaction among us, and it is probably because we are not putting first things first. "Oh," says someone, "I suppose she means religion." Well, I do, because religion might be called the science of the things of first importance, because it is the science of everlasting things. Then you say, "Oh, but I'm not religious." I beg your pardon, but you are, to the extent of
having a craving for religion in you in greater or lesser degree. And, after all, what is the use of striving at all, if we are not reaching out towards eternity, and if we are not counting first those things which are going to last?

Life is not worth living if God does not come first, yet when it comes to a question of standing well in God's sight, or in the eyes of our fellow-men, how many will sacrifice the latter? Again, how many parents will make tremendous sacrifices to give their children a good general education "that they may get on well in the world," and hardly give a thought to their training in the knowledge of God. These are a few things to think upon as we ask ourselves: "Where does my Christianity come in?" It should come first.

To those of you who are a bit "down and out," here is a word from Charles Kingsley: "Let us go forward; God leads us: Tho' blind, shall we be afraid to follow? I do not see my way: I do not care to: But I know that He sees His way, and that I see Him.

He lives, He loves, He reigns, and all is well For we are His, and He is ours."

Some of us are feeling tired and puzzled and we do not "understand." Remember, God does not ask for our understanding, He asks for our love and trust.

Yours sincerely,
Nora W. Short.

Queenstown,
September 16th, 1923.

My dear Friends,

After a splendid holiday and a good voyage I am back again and am looking forward to seeing you all again. Never have I seen Table Mountain look so beautiful as last Tuesday afternoon when the Ceramic came slowly into the dock at Capetown. The atmosphere was very clear and so it was possible to see right into the crevasses of the mountains. Miss Barker was with me, and when we were travelling along up the Hex River valley she said it seemed to have put new life into her getting back after fifteen years. She has gone up to the Transvaal as her work will be on that section of the line.

As I came along yesterday I heard of a great deal of sickness and sorrow along the line. All who are in sickness or sadness have my sincere sympathy; if there is anything I can do to help, please write to me at the old address. After finding a suitable resting place for my goods and myself I shall begin my journeyings. There seems to be a lot of work waiting for me, and I do hope that we may all pull together and do all in our power to raise our corner of God's wonderful world above the gloom of sin which is caused by selfish and godless lives. It is through following the Great Example of our Elder Brother alone that this can be done, and it is in the daily trivialities of life that we can find the opportunities of working for Him by the help of the Holy Spirit. All good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Millicent Porter.

Diocese of Bloemfontein.

Castleford, Yorks, 30th August, 1923.

My dear Friends,

Just a greeting, that is all. I shall soon be on the sea, and with you all before you have read this, I expect.

I have managed to get a good lot of town and country visits into this holiday—had a fair amount of the sun's rays, and all the rain that has rained, I think.

Yesterday, I hopped out (by mistake) at the station three miles from my destination; the train was well round the corner before I realised it: so there was nothing to do but wait two hours or walk three miles!

So I left my luggage to follow me, and started to walk with a small suit-case, which a friendly collier suggested might
travel to town on his load of coal, whilst I
trudged beside it for the three miles in
rain.

This morning I got my first glimpse of
a harvest field, and the sheaves of corn all
ready to be gathered in.

A holiday is a glorious thing, and reunion
with friends a great tonic, and I am more
than ready for "work"; and it is most in-
spiring to see and hear of keenness in
Church life, and to see how huge tasks are
being tackled single-handed in this country.

It is odd to have to wish you a very
happy Christmas Festival now, but I do.

Our best wishes will go with Canon Jones
as he settles down at Knysna, and we can
thank God for what he is, and what he has
been along the line.

My next move is over the Cambrian range
of mountains to see the beauties of Barrow-
in-Furness! And then south to pack and
sail.

So goodbye, and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,
J. Batcham.

----------------:o:----------------

LIGHT FOR THE LINE.

Subscriptions, 2/- per annum, 2/6 post
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the Mission Staff or Local Agents, or sent to
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Local Agents are asked to send names and
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Box 1131, Johannesburg, also to apply at once
to the Editor if the Magazines do not reach
them duly.

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.

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

Aliwal North,
September, 1923.

My dear Children,

I am delighted to welcome a number of
new members. Our numbers at present are
about 88. If we go on getting friends at
this rate we will soon have 100. Won't it
be splendid?

Last quarter we said goodbye (very un-
willingly) to our old Head Canon Thornley
Jones; this quarter we must welcome our
new Head, the Reverend H. P. Rolfe. Mr.
Rolfe gave up his work in the Transvaal to
take over this very strenuous work of being
the Head of the Church Railway Mission.
I hope you will all remember to pray for
him and ask God to give him health and
strength and courage, for I am sure he will
need them.

I hope those who got prizes are pleased
with them, and that those who did not, mean
to get them next year.

Just one or two little hints before I stop:

1. (Very important.) Children must do
their papers alone. How can the Secretary
judge work when ten children give exactly
the same answers in exactly the same
words? If this happens again, the marks
will be halved and I shall seriously have to
consider printing the names of the schools
whose pupils do it.

2. Children who have been doing junior
papers and have passed into Standard V
must now do the senior papers.

3. Write only on one side of the paper,
and leave a margin for marks and remarks!
4. Try and do all the questions and don't leave half of a question undone.

I hope you will all have a very happy Christmas.

Your affectionate friend.

THE EDITOR.

Etta McFarlane. Thank you very much for your nice letter. I enjoyed the jokes. You have a pretty handwriting; take care not to spoil it. I hope your Mother is better again. By all means put your answers with your brother's, but don't let the letter be over-weight. You must ask your teacher next April to apply to the Editor for the yearly examination paper; then all who are at present doing the papers can enter for the examination.

Eileen Slabbert. I am glad you passed your standard. Where are you going to boarding school? I hope your Mother is quite well again.

Elma Wright and Charles McFarlane. Thank you for your letters.

— VICTORIA BIBLE READING.

QUESTIONS.

October, 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 December 10th, to The Children's Secretary, St. Monica's Home, Queenstown.

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.

I want you to try and learn as you answer these questions that although Jesus was the Son of God He really came on the earth to live as a man and to set us an example of how we should live. He was baptised with water and the Holy Spirit of God came to strengthen Him. Then He was tempted to do wrong things, but because He trusted in the Holy Spirit he was able to resist the temptations, and we know that we too can always resist doing the wrong things if we, like our Elder Brother, trust in the strength and guidance of the same Holy Spirit. Remember that the devil will always be tempting us, especially if he sees we are trying to be true to our Christian faith, but the sin is when we give way to the temptation and do the wrong thing. When we feel inclined to be cross and disobedient or too lazy to say our prayers it is the devil tempting us, but if we turn to our Father and ask Him to keep us from doing what is wrong, He will not fail us, for He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us to fight the good fight against sin, the world and the devil. It is so beautiful to have an Elder Brother Who never forgets us and is always wanting us to work with Him and for Him.

Results of Victoria Bible Reading Quarterly Examination.

JULY QUARTER.

SENIORS. (Maximum of marks 50.)


Juniors. (Maximum marks 50.)


Seniors (Standard 5 and over).

   After reading carefully, write in your own words an account of all that happened.
   (a) What question was Jesus asked by His Mother?
   (b) Of whom did Jesus speak when He said “My Father”?
   (a) What work did St. John the Baptist do?
   (b) What message did he give to the people?
   (c) Who had told beforehand of his work?
   (a) Where did the people come from to meet St. John the Baptist?
   (b) What happened when they reached the river Jordan?
5. St. Mark 1, v. 9-11.
   (a) Why did Jesus come from Nazareth to the Jordan?
   (b) Write in your own words an account of the Baptism of Jesus.
   (a) Immediately after Jesus had been baptised, who tried very hard to make Him sin?
   (b) How long was Jesus in the wilderness without food?
   (a) The devil knew Jesus was hungry, so in what way did he first tempt Him?
   (b) How did Jesus answer this temptation?
   (a) How did the devil tempt Jesus to show His power as the Son of God?
   (b) What answer did Jesus give?
   (a) How did the devil try to tempt Jesus to fall down and worship him?
   (b) What answer did Jesus give showing that earthly power is not the most important thing to have?
   (c) When the devil saw it was no use trying to make Jesus fall into temptation, what did he do and who took his place?
    (a) Who is our Great High Priest?
    (b) How do we know that Jesus understands all about our temptations?
    How old was Jesus when He began to teach?
    What was the first lesson Jesus taught the people?
Juniors (under Standard 5).

   (a) Where did Jesus come from?
   (b) Where did Jesus come to?
   (c) Why did Jesus come?

   (a) What happened as soon as Jesus had been baptised with water?
   (b) What words were heard?

   (a) Just after Jesus had been baptised and the Holy Spirit was with Him, who tried to make Him do what was wrong?
   (b) How long had Jesus been without food?

   (a) The devil knew Jesus was very hungry, so in what way did he tempt Him to do wrong?
   (b) What answer did Jesus give?

   (a) What did the devil want Jesus to do to show His power as the Son of God?
   (b) What answer did Jesus give?

   (a) What did the devil promise Jesus if only He would worship him?
   (b) What answer did Jesus give?
   (c) When the devil found that it was no good trying to make Jesus sin because He was trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit, what did he do? Who took his place?

   (a) What work did Jesus begin to do?
   (b) What was His first message to the people?

   How old was Jesus when He began to teach?

   What did Jesus do when He returned to Nazareth.

    Write out these words which are the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who foretold what Jesus would do.

HOLY BAPTISM.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort:
June 3. Olive Constance van Nieuwenhuizen.
29. Sheila Allwin Lemon.


At Norval's Pont:
       Willem Steinekamp.
       Annie Martha Malgas.
       Emma Sant.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY.

At Fourteen Streams:
George Walter Futcher.
At Dronfield:
Johannes Jacobus Marais.
At Palapye:
Alice Magdalena Norman.
At Warrenton:
Benjamin James McGee.
At Mochudi:
Mildred Johanna Smith.
At Palapye:
Ralph Osborne Rundle.
At Shashi:
Maria Magdalena Bonthuys.
Reggie Louis Bonthuys.
Louie Phyllis Bonthuys.

DIOCESE OF N. RHODESIA.

At Lusaka:
John Gordon Roper Tyndall.
Maureen Hinds.
At Elisabethville:
Sarah Johanna Jocks.
HOLY MATRIMONY.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort, June 25:
Edwin James Seach and Hendrina Cornelia Muller.

BURIALS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort
June 26. Jeremiah Santi, aged 8 months.
July 20. Charles Majola, aged 2 years 7 months.
Aug. 21. (George) James, aged 3 days.
At Cookhouse:

COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY.

June: Kalomo, £2/7/3; Kafue, 32/-; Choma, 24/-; Pemba, 20/-; Lusaka, £2/7/-. Per Father Deacon, 13/-; donation, 20/-. July: Broken Hill, £4/17/3; Panda, £4/12/8; Elisabethville, £2/10/9; Star Mine, 8/-; Lubumashi, 7/6; Zimba, 11/9. Offerings, etc., £2/11/-. Remainder of Panda Church Fund paid into Bank, £8/12/-. Per the Bishop of N. Rhodesia, £9/4/3.

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  - Black Velvet: 14/6.
  - Black Patent: 35/-.
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- **No. LL18.** Soft Black Box Calf Lace Shoes, Patent caps. Shape as sketch.
  - All sizes 21/- pair.

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- **No. LL14.** 4 to 6; 7 to 10; 11 to 1.
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- **No. LL15.** Black Box Calf Elastic-Side Shoes. Wide fitting with solid leather soles.
  - Women's sizes: 21/6 pair.
  - Men's sizes: 27/6 pair.