

South African Missionary

VOL. III.

CAPE TOWN, MARCH, 1905.

No. 3

The Week of Prayer

As it has been previously announced, the annual week of prayer will be held from March 25 to April 1. The object of these meetings is that we may have a few days each year set apart for specially seeking the Lord. In the rush of business we do not take the time we ought to commune with the Lord; hence coldness and backsliding follow.

We will get out of the week all that we have faith to claim. If we are truly thirsty, He will give us of the water of life. Jesus is soon coming, and He longs to see His people getting on the Wedding garments which He has prepared for them.

We hope that each church will plan to have daily meetings. Many of our churches in America received a rich blessing as they studied the needs of God's cause, and reviewed their own cases before the Lord. We pray earnestly that you may so relate yourselves to God that He may give to you all that He sees you need.

We call upon our church elders to take up this matter and earnestly seek to make it a successful season. We are sending to you an extra copy of the *Review* containing the readings. This issue of the *MISSIONARY* contains a few articles which we hope may be read during the meetings, as they deal with the work and its needs in this field. As soon as the week is passed, please report to Brother O. O. Fortner the results of the meetings and the amount donated. Send the offerings to your respective Conference officers. Your

offerings will be used in spreading the truth among the tribes of Africa. May God give his people liberal hearts.

W. S. HYATT.

The Call From Ethiopia

(For Week of Prayer.)

"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God." Ps. 68:31. Long years ago the Lord saw the darkness of the African race, and He inspired His servant to prophesy of a time when this poor, despised people would reach out after the Lord. In the book "Education" the Lord sends us this message: "Ethiopia is stretching out her hands unto God." The time has come for God's truth to go to a hungry people. With outstretched hands Ethiopia stands begging for the Bread of Life. Shall we give it? or shall we treat this appeal the same as many do the ordinary beggar when asking for bread?

Listen, brethren. Listen to the sound of the going in the tops of the mulberry trees. Nearly one hundred years ago the missionaries began work in this country. The native listened, heard, and received some of the things taught. For a long time he was contented, satisfied with what he had. But after a time he began to read the Bible for himself. The Spirit began to enlighten the dark mind, and then he became dissatisfied. Independent churches were organised. The light shone clearer, and some saw the truth on baptism. More light from the open sanctuary revealed the truth of feet washing. A Zulu in Natal

received a few Bible readings, and then started up the country through Zululand, returning by a different route. Everywhere he went he preached the Sabbath truth. In Cape Colony our brethren found an old native who had kept the Sabbath for many years. He had learned of it from his Bible. In Brother Shone's article we see how wonderfully God is at work in Kafirland. The light of truth is shining, and this people whom we have passed by so long are beginning to feel its power and to respond. Ethiopia is stretching out her hands unto God. My brethren, do you hear the sound of the "going"? Is it not time for us to bestir ourselves as never before? God is no respecter of persons. We all know the story of Philip, and his going down to preach the good tidings to the city of Samaria. Many heard and accepted the things he preached. Although hundreds of people continued to listen, the Lord knew of one hungry soul from Ethiopia, and Philip was called to go and meet him and preach unto him Jesus. All this proves that God loved that man even though his mind and skin were dark. I wonder if God is not calling many more the same as he did Philip, desiring to use them to do a similar work? Our experience the last few months shows to us clearly that the Lord can send His truth among the native tribes like the spread of wild fire. Who will consecrate his all to this grand cause, and join in the work of soul-saving?

The last generation is almost finished. Its work will close suddenly. The sealing work will soon be over. Brethren, is your work well done? Are you ready for these things to come? Ah, but there are many who are expecting to join the working band before that great day shall come. To-day they are just waiting—waiting for a more favourable time to invest in the salvation of souls.

The gifts and offerings which we gave to spread the truth among the natives of Africa during 1903 amounted to £875 - 9 - 6; and during 1904 we gave £837 - 1 - 1, or nearly £40 less than the previous year. I find that there was a falling off in weekly offerings of

£50. We are sorry this is so, and hope that our interest in this work will revive and that the streams flowing into the treasury will gradually increase. Now is the time to save our pennies, and to deny ourselves for the sake of those who need the light of truth.

Last year our Sabbath-school offerings to the missions amounted to £173 - 8 - 6. For this amount we are very thankful. Truly the Lord has given liberal hearts to many of our people, but if all were faithful in this matter much more would flow into the treasury. All our Sabbath-school mission funds for 1905 will be used to open a mission in Kafirland. Already there are several intelligent natives who have accepted the truth and desire a little training so that they can go to their people. We must have a place for this work very soon. I am glad that all of us may have a part in this grand work.

The third angel's message is onward, and nothing can stop it. Victorously it is marching through the earth. Of every nation it will gather a few as trophies of His redeeming grace. The bearing of this wonderful message to the world has been entrusted to this people. What a privilege is granted to us! The work of Noah does not compare with it in greatness. Lot, Jonah, and John the Baptist each did a great work; but the message that closes the destiny of all men is the greatest of all. To us in Africa is granted the privilege of standing in the front ranks of the workers. My brethren, let me exhort you to be faithful. May this week of prayer prove a real feast to all your souls. And as you return your gifts and thank offerings according as He hath prospered you, may the blessings of His grace flow to you in an abundant measure.

W. S. HYATT.

Our Time to Work

(For Week of Prayer)

"Ethiopia is stretching out her hands to God." Most of those who read these words

will recognise them as the message of the Lord through His servant. But only those who are coming in direct contact with the people to whom this statement applies can comprehend the import of these inspired words. They contain a solemn message for the people of God for this time, and seem to be twofold in their significance. They tell us that now—right now—is our opportunity to work for the black races. If we do not recognise this to be so, we shall miss the opportunity which will never be ours again; and the work we neglect to do now will have to be done under the most adverse circumstances. They tell us that “delay shall be no longer,” for the Lord is about to cut short His work in righteousness. The Lord is about to do a quick work in the earth, and are we, who profess to be looking for His coming, prepared for it? Many who are looking too far ahead, reasoning from their finite human standpoint of view, will be among the number who wail, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

As an example of how the black races are reaching out after the truth here in the Cape Colony, the Ama Xosa (kafirs) are calling for us to come to them without delay and teach them these wonderful truths contained in the Word of God. We have been holding open air meetings in the native location here (East London). The word of the Lord was with power, and the people are anxious for the pure teaching of the Word. Two headmen, representing two different tribes in the Transkei, have begged of us to go to them and teach their people these things which they have heard us preach from the Word of God. One of them, who is himself a lay preacher and has a number of schools under his supervision, after listening to the preaching of the Word said: “I don't know anything about my Bible, and I am a preacher.” (This he said speaking of himself.) These tribes living in the Cape Colony have been in contact with civilisation and Christianity for the past two centuries, but are now waking up to the fact

that they have been feeding on chaff, and they are reaching out after something better. As in the beginning, so now, the Spirit of God is brooding upon the waters (these people), and God says, “Let there be light.” Shall we respond? Think how long these people have been passed by. The moment anyone from another country sets foot in South Africa he treads upon soil taken from these Kafir tribes, and yet in all these years that the truth has been preached in this country, nothing definite has been done for the Cape Colony Kafirs. But thanks be to God, this year is to see a beginning made, and the beginning of the end, too.

Just one example to illustrate how this message will go among the natives here, and how the hearts of the people are ready to respond. A young married Kafir who was employed at the post office in East London, accepted the truth. He gave notice to leave, and then returned to Kafirland where his relatives are living, also his wife and children. He began to live the truth in earnest, working on Sunday in his field. Soon his whole family united with him. His father is one of the oldest preachers there. He was associated with the missionary, Mr. Lang, whose widow (Sister Lang) is well known to most of us. The old man rejoices in the truth, saying that God has sent him the truth through his son. The whole country is astir, and the people want the truth preached to them. One man, hearing of this young man keeping the Sabbath, but not having even seen him to speak to him about it, has also begun keeping the Sabbath. These things are being noised abroad among the tribes, and now is the time to work for them. Who this day will consecrate themselves or their means to assist in carrying forward and finishing this grand closing work.

We thank the Lord for a humble part in this long neglected portion of his vineyard, and by our lives will say, “Come Lord Jesus, come quickly,” by giving this last message of mercy to the natives of this country.

G. W. SHONE.

SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONARY

Natal-Transvaal Annual Conference

The second annual meeting of the Natal-Transvaal Conference was held in connection with the camp-meeting at Dundee, Natal, February 16-26. The attendance was not large, but very good when we consider the size of the Conference. This is one of the smallest, if not the smallest, Conference ever organised among Seventh Day Adventists. At present they have three churches with a membership of about one hundred, but at the time of organisation there were two churches, and the membership considerably less than it now is. The burden of sustaining a Conference falls heavily upon the few faithful brethren and sisters in this field, but they have done nobly. One of the mistakes that has been made in South Africa from the beginning of our work was to build up institutions and organisations faster than the constituency would warrant, hence it has been very difficult to support the work in all departments.

I believe I am safe in saying that this is our first camp-meeting held in accordance with the plan given us by the Lord. Dundee had previously been canvassed for books, but otherwise, it was new territory. At the beginning of the meeting the camp was organised for work, and several times during the meeting the town was worked from house to house by this company. They distributed invitations, sold papers and tracts, and in various ways endeavoured to reach the people. Considerable rain fell during the meeting, which caused the attendance from the town to be much smaller than it otherwise would have been, still a goodly number came, and some interest was shown in the truths presented.

The preaching was done by Elders Edmed, Altman, and the writer. Daily Bible studies were held. The message, "get ready," was sounded forth to our people from the beginning of the meeting. Day by day the message came closer and closer. Again and again the meeting was taken out of our hands by the Holy Spirit and conducted to suit Himself. Hearts were convicted, and deep

repentance followed. All of our meetings were free from the spirit of distrust, and the determination to have its own way, so common in South Africa. Love and unity was manifested by all who constantly sought for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I can truthfully say that He did for us all that we expected, yes and much more.

But the last Sabbath was the great day of the feast. The sin of Achan in coveting a goodly Babylonish garment and golden wedge was clearly portrayed, and then came a solemn call to come clear out of Babylon. This caused a hard struggle with some and tears followed freely. In the afternoon the work was again taken up, and one by one victories were gained. Rings, chains, feathers, and various other ornaments were brought and laid upon the altar as gifts to the cause of God. We trust that this was true Godly sorrow that "worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of."

As might be expected, several consecrated themselves to the work and the prospects are good that the Conference will have all the help that it can use to profit. It was decided to spend three weeks in a training class in connection with the tent-meetings which follow the camp-meeting. Last year several young men were sent out into the canvassing field who had little or no training, with the result that three became discouraged and gave up the work and later on the truth. We hope our brethren will know how to use the young men given them by God so as to make successful workers out of them.

Elder Edmed was again chosen as the president of the Conference. Plans were laid so as to reduce the running expenses of the conference machinery. The funds are low, and it may be necessary to assist this little Conference in order that the work may prosper as it should in this large field. Our brethren have been faithful in their tithes and liberal in their offerings to the general work. During the past year they paid £768 - 10 - 0 tithe into the treasury, or £7 - 5 - 1 per capita. They gave £46 - 10 - 9 week-

ly offerings, £52 - 10 - 6 Sabbath-school offerings, and £17 - 6 - 0 annual offerings. Besides this, large demands have been made upon them for the local work in their field.

Before the meeting closed plans were laid for aggressive work. In Maritzburg, they are building a comfortable brick church with Tract Society office and school room in connection. The brethren closed the meeting with courage and confidence, and we feel sure that the spirit of unity manifested will result in accomplishing much during 1905. This is the first camp-meeting held in this Conference, and it was a great blessing to the little flock. They go forth to the work, hoping to sing the Jubilee song ere long.

W. S. HYATT.

Among the Dutch People

I feel very glad to tell our people through our good paper, the MISSIONARY, about our precious experiences and God's blessing in the work since last camp-meeting.

Just before we left East London, Chief Khama came there to see Pastors Hyatt, Tarr, and Shone about a piece of land in his country for a mission and training school to be conducted by our people. As he had not been feeling well for some time, at the suggestion of Pastor Hyatt I gave the chief a thorough treatment which lasted more than one hour. The Lord so blessed the simple effort that the chief felt very much better and very grateful. A few days later, on our way to our field of labour, we met him again on the train from Fort White to Middle-drift, and had a very pleasant visit with him. He spoke very cordially about our people and the cause we represent, and longs all the more for the time to come when we shall have a flourishing mission among his people.

We stopped over one day at Uitenhage and had a very pleasant visit with our people at that place. On February 8 Brother Francis met us at Haarpontein Station with his cart to take us to Brother Vermaak's farm, where

we had a very cordial reception. We were very happily surprised to find this whole family of twelve, and all the other brethren in that neighbourhood, thoroughly established in all points of the truth, faithful in paying tithes and offerings, and very conscientious in living out the health reform. Brother Francis has done faithful and thorough work for these people.

We had very interesting visits and readings with the people until Sabbath, February 11, when three dear and devoted souls, viz., Brother Matthew Rudman, from Klipplaat Junction, Brother Leadman, from a farm adjoining Brother Vermaak's, and Bennie Vermaak, were buried with their Lord in baptism. In the afternoon eleven of us took part in the ordinances. The Lord came very near us, making it a most blessed Sabbath for us all, and leaving a deep impression upon the visitors present.

The following day we left for Warm Water, in the district of Oudtshoorn, where we arrived on the 13th of February. Here we met Brother Trytsman, from Swellendam District. Our people at this place are also very earnest and devoted, and are thirsting for the truth. We held meetings here almost every evening for two weeks. Although some of the people had to walk from one to one and a half hours to get to the place of meeting, yet after the meeting was over at ten o'clock, they would sit and ask questions and talk about the truth till eleven o'clock or later.

On Sabbath, February 25, we had another baptismal service, when four brethren, with their wives, and two other married sisters put on Christ by baptism. There were about twenty spectators, besides our own people, to witness this solemn rite. Later in the day the ordinances were celebrated, sixteen of us taking part. Fifteen outsiders were present. There was much rejoicing this day because of the goodness of God, and several of the visitors were deeply impressed. A good influence has been left behind, and some became interested, so that there are good prospects of others taking their stand when we return

there to hold meetings. There are now twelve adult Sabbath-keepers at that place. Church schools are very much needed at Brother Vermaak's farm and at Warm Water. My wife's services were greatly appreciated by the sisters in the homes, and she has been a great help to me.

D. H. GROENEWALD.

Rejoicing in the Truth

We give to our readers the privilege of reading the following letter which we lately received. This furnishes another instance to show what may result from the distribution of our literature and other rightly directed missionary work. During the late war we sent out to the refugee camps and prisoners' camps thousands of papers, tracts, and small books, and we firmly believe that the distribution of that literature will yet turn many into the paths of righteousness. Brother Van Rensburg came across a copy of the little book "Glorious Appearing" which first arrested his attention, and when Brother Dumini came along he and his family were prepared to receive the whole truth. The following is the letter which has been translated from the Dutch:—

MR. O. O. FORTNER,

My Dear Friend.—

Be good enough to send me the price list of your books. During the war I found a book named "His Glorious Appearing," and about a year ago I began to read the same. To my great astonishment and conviction, I learned from the same that the teaching of our church with reference to the second coming of the Lord was wrong, together with many other doctrines.

A few months ago a friend of mine, named H. Dumine, arrived from Bermuda. He taught me many things, among others the (true) Sabbath. I also met another brother named DeLange, of Bethlehem, O. R. C.

It is pleasant to me that the love of the Lord convinces my wife also to follow the

Saviour in all things in the blessed hope. We keep the Sabbath of the Lord with joy, although it was a terrible conflict. Dear brother, remember us in your prayers, that we may be steadfast and endure to the end in the truth. I feel myself of no account, to think that I must join a church which expects the Lord and keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Let me know how I can obtain the Sabbath-school lessons, since I want them very much.

I trust soon to meet Elder Freeman for the first time.

TOBIAS J. J. VAN RENSBURG.

Readings for the Week of Prayer

We hope that all subscribers to the *Review* preserved the number dated November 24, 1904, which contains the readings for the week of prayer. As we have a good supply of them here, we will furnish the Cape Town and Maritzburg offices with a sufficient number to supply all the church leaders and isolated members with a copy. We are also sending a copy to each of the mission stations. We trust that each church and company will take up this work in earnest. Each reading should be assigned to some one to read, and those who read should be prepared to read distinctly, and to give the sense, and cause the people to understand the reading, as Ezra and the priests read the law. Neh. 8:8

In this number of the *MISSIONARY* are articles from Elders Hyatt and Shone which are intended to supplement the readings in the *Review*. The article entitled "The Call from Ethiopia" is intended to be read in connection with the service when the offerings are made.

The isolated members may enjoy this week of prayer just as much as those who have church privileges, and can send in their offerings to the conference treasurer. O. O. F.

—Don't forget that the address of the Union Conference is now Kenilworth, Cape.

An Earnest Appeal

Will the brethren and sisters kindly assist our missionary work in Bloemfontein by sending to the address of Mrs. A. Wocke, Myrtle Cottage 76, Bloemfontein, O. R. C., all second-hand copies of the following papers: *The Review, Sentinel, Signs of the Times, Present Truth, Youth's Instructor, Little Friend*, and any other English or Dutch papers that may be spared. These are made up every week into neat bundles, and given or posted to homes where their warnings and instructions are appreciated. It is much better to send these papers where they can help those in darkness and ignorance, than to put them away on your shelves. Let us throw out the life-line; we may save some. We trust that kind friends will let us have a supply of papers soon.

MRS. A. WOCKE AND CHILDREN.

—We have been looking for a good article from Elder Edmed for this issue, but as this paper must go out in time for the week of prayer, we have to close our forms without the promised article. It will help to make the next number interesting.

—As Elder Armitage has been unable to look after the work at the Somabula Mission, owing to illness, Brother Albert White went from Bulawayo to his assistance. Brother White will remain at the mission until after the recovery of Elder Armitage.

—Brother Chaney writes that he has traded the old horses and the cart at the Basuto Mission for a team of good horses. He is now negotiating for a spring wagon.

—Sister Van der Poel, Sen., of the Cape Town church, has been suffering for several weeks from a serious illness. We are thankful to see her walking about again, and trust that her recovery will prove to be permanent.

—Since returning from East London to the Somabula Mission, Elder Armitage has suffered the most severe attack of fever that he has known since coming to Africa. We are glad to say he is now improving. We trust that the life of this servant of God may be spared for future work in the vineyard.

—Elder Edmed writes of their recent camp-meeting in Natal that they “enjoyed a blessed experience in the most united and spiritual camp-meeting and conference that it has ever been my lot to attend. I regret very much that you were not with us: for we enjoyed a taste of what it means to have a conference without one discordant note.”

—On Wednesday evening, March 15, Brother Claude Tarr and wife, with Brother Tarr's brother and sister, left Cape Town for Rokeby Park. After a visit of a few weeks, Brother Tarr, wife, and sister will proceed to the Solusi Mission, near Bulawayo. Brother Tarr has had experience at this mission before, and his labour will be much appreciated by Elder Sturdevant.

Cape Colony Canvassing Report, February, 1905

AGENT	TERRITORY	Book	Hours	Ord	Misc	Total	VALUE	Deliv'd	VALUE
I. B. Burton	Ceres	Great Controversy	100	14	.....	14	£ 9 6 0	6	4 8 0
Mrs. Chaney	Plumstead	M. B.	.....	85	.....	85	10 12 6	48	6 0 0
B. P. De Beer	Paarl	Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 1 0	.....	3 1 0
John De Beer	.....	Great Controversy	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
S. W. DeLange	Heilbron	Miscellaneous	82	18	28	46	14 10 0	41	10 0 6
Mrs. E. George	Camps Bay	Story of Redemp'n	153	.....	93	93	7 3 9	93	7 3 8
Chas. Haupt	Mulzenberg	Daniel and Rev. ..	4	5	6	11	1 5 6	6	6 0 0
Wm. Haupt	Graaf Reenet	Great Controversy	182	27	127	154	45 19 0	9	4 8 0
D. Sparrow	Grahamstown	Miscellaneous	30	24	9	33	13 10 6	.....	.....
R. Sutherland	Newlands	Great Controversy	3	.....	14	14	1 14 0	14	1 14 0
A. Tickton	Salt River	Miscellaneous	77	14	12	26	9 17 6	16	3 16 6
Mrs. P. J. Van der Poel	Cape Town	Christ our Saviour	53	53	7 7 0	53	7 7 0
			35	35	6 2 6	35	6 2 6
12 Agents			631	222	342	564	130 8 9	321	£54 7 3

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SOUTH AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE

Office: Kenilworth, Cape.

PRESIDENT, W. S. Hyatt.

VICE PRESIDENT, I. J. Hankins.

SECRETARY and TREASURER, O. O. Fortner.

SABBATH SCHOOL SEC., Mrs. I. J. Hankins.

CAPE COLONY CONFERENCE

Office: 56 Roeland Street, Cape Town.

PRESIDENT, I. J. Hankins.

SECRETARY and TREASURER, T. J. Gibson

SECRETARY INT. TRACT SOCIETY, T. J. Gibson.

GENERAL CANVASSING AGENT, Q. H. Jubber.

SABBATH SCHOOL SEC., Mrs. I. J. Hankins.

—The week of prayer will be held March 25 to April 1.

—Brother Jubber has gone to East London in the interests of the canvassing work. He expects to enlist some new recruits.

—After the camp-meeting at Dundee a canvassers' school was held in the same place, which was a great help to the canvassers. The workers up there are of good courage, and they hope to do a good work this year.

—Brother W. H. Anderson has been appealing for funds in America to establish a mission in Barotseland. He will soon return to this field and, with his wife, will go beyond the Zambesi to raise the banner of truth in that darkened land.

—After reading the articles from Elders Hyatt and Shone in this paper, do you not think the Sabbath-school offerings for this year will be used to a good purpose? They will be used to establish the mission and to spread the message amongst the Kafir people of the Eastern Province. There are wonderful openings. Shall we respond with liberal offerings?

—We hope that the week of prayer will be observed and richly enjoyed by all of our people in South Africa.

—No new site has yet been found for the Sanitarium. Several farms in various localities have been under consideration, none of which, however, have been found to be in all respects desirable.

—On the 29th inst. Elder Hyatt will take passage on the S. S. Walmer Castle for America, where he will attend the General Conference at Washington. It is to be hoped that he will return to South Africa, and not be removed to some other field.

Notice! Change of Address

By the time this paper reaches its readers in the most distant parts of this field, the office of the South African Union Conference will have been moved from Cape Town to Kenilworth. This is not the move recommended at the East London meeting, but a temporary arrangement to last until the other is carried out. Our publishing work is located at Kenilworth in connection with the College. As the writer is to have charge of the Union Conference office, and of the editing, proof-reading, and mailing of the papers, we think it would be much better to have the work together, so we decided to move the Union Conference office out to the College.

Please take note that the writer's address, and Elder Hyatt's address, until further notice, will be Kenilworth, Cape. All communications intended for the Union Conference, or in connection with the papers, should be addressed accordingly. Now we don't want anybody to make the mistake that the Cape Conference or Tract Society office is moved out here. The Cape office will remain at the good old stand in Roeland Street. Send all orders for books and supplies to the Cape Town office as usual, but send subscriptions to papers to Kenilworth, Cape.

O. O. F.