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ANNUAL REPORT 1946.

Letter from the Priest-in-charge
Orlando - Sophiatown Mission

In this, the first report of the Mission since the end of the war, we must begin by giving thanks to God for His great goodness to us during the past six years. In spite of all the difficulties and frustrations imposed on all missionary work as a result of the cataclysm, every succeeding year has seen some fresh advance and some new blessing. There has been no standing-still. This is unquestionably due to the continued prayers and courageous generosity of our friends both in England and in South Africa who have refused to allow "the cares of this world" to be-cloud their labours for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. For all this we would say a heart felt "Deo gratias!"

The various reports included in this leaflet give the details of what has been our work during the past year. From them it will be seen that there have been the inevitable changes on the Staff of the Mission.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have now left us for work in other fields. Sister Rosemary C.S.M.V., who took over as Sister Superior at Ekutuleni in December 1943 has been transferred by her Community to take charge of the work at the Jane Furze Hospital in Sekukuniland. We are deeply grateful to her for all that she has done in Sophiatown to build upon the foundations so firmly laid by Dorothy Maud. More particularly are we grateful for the way in which she maintained the interest and friendship of the many Europeans who had learnt to know and love Ekutuleni from its first days. She will always have a place in our prayers. We are fortunate in having as our new Sister Superior, Sister Esme C.S.M.V. who worked at Sophiatown during the first year of the new regime.

By the time this report is in your hands, Father Downton CR, will also have left the staff of the Mission - he likewise is being transferred to Sekukuniland to help the Community of the Resurrection in the very great task which awaits us there of building up a strong church in the midst of heathenism. It would be difficult to exaggerate the splendid work he has done in Sophiatown since C.R. came here twelve years ago. There must be hundreds of boys - now men - who owe their knowledge of the Faith to his loving and watchful care. All that has been achieved in making the gardens and buildings of the Mission more beautiful has been in large measure due to him. We shall miss him very sorely.

At Orlando, Mary Alexander will also be leaving us for work with Barbara Tredgold (sometime at Ekutuleni) in Salisbury, S. Rhodesia. In the comparatively short time she has been at Leseding she has proved herself a most devoted and competent missionary. Our loss is Salisbury's great gain.

Peg Leeke and Molly Starey are on furlough, enjoying a well-earned rest and change. We are sad to hear, however, that the doctor has advised Molly Starey against returning to work at this high altitude. Although she has not finally made a decision in this regard it seems likely that the Mission will lose her - Once again we shall be losing someone who has given of her very best to the African.

people for the love of God. We are deeply grateful for all that she has done.

The Mission has been strengthened by the arrival of Father S.M. Wood and Father N. Gilmore - the former at Sophiatown the latter at Orlando, and by the coming of an African deacon, the Rev. J Mzamo, to work at Sophiatown. We are now pursuing the policy of sending all our priests to study a native language before they begin their ministry. This must prove to be a very great gain.

In general there seems to be a growth and development in every branch of our work. A new church at Orlando - S. John's - is about to be built - largely due to the generosity of an anonymous donor of £1,000. The foundation stone has been laid and we are only waiting for the final permission to start work. Two new classrooms were opened by the Bishop of Johannesburg at Holy Cross School Orlando early this year. A new school is almost begun on the farther side of Orlando to deal with the growing population there. The Nursery Schools Appeal - as has been reported elsewhere - has realised well over £4,000 and we have plans for expansion in that sphere also. Our next urgent needs are club-rooms both at Sophiatown and in Orlando, but at the moment we are being held up by our failure to obtain the necessary permits.

Along-side all this, ever since our two Teaching Missions, the spiritual life of the faithful seems to be steadily deepening.

This is but a bare out-line of what is happening. I cannot stress too strongly the fact that we are standing at the cross-roads, as far as the African people are concerned. "Undoubtedly" writes a responsible African leader "amongst the urbanised and educated Africans there is a growing spirit of bitterness against the European which is sowing far and wide the seeds of mistrust and suspicion". Many of us fear that unless the Government is prepared radically to alter its present attitude to the advancement, in every sphere, of the African, there will be a crisis of the first magnitude - and that at no distant time.

The church and our Mission as part of the Church - has to face the colossal task of standing for Christian principles of justice and true charity at the same time as shepherding its own flock. For this we need the redoubled prayers and support of all our friends. We are certain that they will not fail us.

EKUTULENI MISSION.

In the year since our last report there has been much development in all departments of the work. There seem to be a multiplicity of matters on which to comment, and they will have perforce to be short.

The Teaching Mission, conducted by Father Semanya in November /45 filled the Church to capacity every evening, and there was a very large number of communicants at 5.30 each morning. The fruits of this Mission are manifest by the number of lapsed who have returned and the increased number of communions and confessions but the following up work must go on and we ask the help of your prayers.

Confirmation Classes. These are very big and new members join every week, necessitating the grading of the classes. Under fourteen years must have two years teaching, over fourteen one year. This is not hard and fast of course, some children are brighter and quicker than others, some know more to start with.

Guilds. We have now in this parish five Guilds. The new Guild of St. Vincent de Paul for men, S. Mary Magdalene's for women, a very big guild started by Sister Editha with some six or eight members which now has over 100. It is helping a large number of women, who did not want to join the Mother's Union, or who were not eligible for it, and had nothing to help their spiritual and social life. These meet monthly for a service in the Church followed by a Social, and a certain number meet weekly for a Work Party, turning out very nice garments, toys and woollies. Then there is the Guild of Christ the King for older girls mostly from High School. The Guild of S. Mary for young communicants, and St. Anthony's Guild for boys mostly Servers. These Guilds are a very important part of the church life here and keep us in close touch with a large number of our people. In Newclare two new Guilds have been started by Sister Eleanor Dorcas and will meet the same need there as here.

Penitent Classes. These classes are growing under Sister Editha, which means that more and more women are desiring to get their very tangled lives straightened out. They bring their men and marriages are arranged, or they leave their men and go out and work for their children. The Fathers have classes for men and do for them what Sister Editha does for the women.

Sunday Schools. Miss E. Lane the Sunday School Superintendant left us in September last for work in Kenya and her place was taken by Miss Christina Hilleary. She carried on till January this year when we asked her to go to All Saints mission in the Transkei to keep the Hostel for over 100 students open there. The Sisters of the Church who were in charge had to leave and the Hostel would have had to close if we could not have sent help. Mrs. Vazeille Hole took over the schools here in her place. They are a big work ~~two~~^{six} or ~~three~~^{seven} hundred children and some 40 Teachers. Language makes some difficulty, and so we have a Zulu school, a Sesuto school and an Afrikaans and so on.

Scouts and Guides. These meet regularly and are a splendid help in occupying the boys and girls in out of school hours. The cubs and sunbeams are particularly flourishing. Sister Olive Irene who runs the Guides is hoping to take them to camp in October if she can arrange accommodation for them.

Day Schools. These flourish as usual and are as usual over full. The sub-standards have always overflowed making an afternoon session necessary, this year Standard 1 has had to have an afternoon session as well. We have between 1800 and 2000 children in school (Miss Chaplin will report on the Nursery Schools).

School Feeding. We can only manage bread and jam and a mug of milk with an apple or orange on the 2d per child per day allowed us. Just now there is a bread shortage and we can only feed half the school each day. The standards getting it one day and the sub-standards and afternoon schools the next. There is a scheme for feeding children in the holidays as the school feeding stops then. Mrs. Robin Stratford, helped most ably by Miss Hannah Bloom and Mrs. Yule, feed hundreds of children all through July and the Christmas holidays. All the year round some 50 out of school children are fed through the kindness of Mrs. Crawford and her band of friends. Mrs. Nixon and her friends also help this hungry crowd.

Poor Relief. We have had a large amount of clothing and food and money given to help the most necessitous of our people, all need help really and it has been difficult to see that the very poorest had the first relief. When we had large quantities of food and clothing for distribution Miss Orlin and Ladies of the Jewish Guild very kindly came out every fortnight and did the sorting and giving out for us - hundreds were helped.

Housing and health. The housing is terribly bad, tiny overcrowded rooms and tin shanties filled to overflowing, and made worse by the large number of people coming up from the country on account of the food shortage. Houses are being built but it is all too slow and whole families live in incredibly awful windowless shanties for which they have to pay £1 and more rent a month. The health is good as far as epidemics are concerned, smallpox was the last epidemic about a year ago, and there has been nothing much since, but Tuberculosis and V.D. are very rife and getting worse, in spite of Clinics and Injections. Since writing this I hear that there is much Enteric from here, in the Non-European Hospitals. The hospital accommodation is quite inadequate, they are all overfull and patients on waiting lists die before they can get a bed (or a space on the floor) the Orthopaedic Clinic has done marvellous things for our very large number of cripples. There has been an increase in the number lately, due partly to the increased number of people coming up from the country; also Johannesburg is the only place which makes artificial limbs, so we get people from Cape Town and Durban and other distant places coming here, and the difficulty is to find accommodation for them for the weeks it takes to make and fit limbs. I feel very great thanks are due to Mrs. Humphries and Mrs. Frost who have brought the cripple ambulance out every week for the last two years to collect up our cases and take them to the clinic and return them.

Recreations. Apart from Scouts and Guides and the Swimming Bath which is always a joy from October to May, there have been Clubs (without a Club Room) for our younger boys on Monday nights and big boys on Thursday nights organised by two old St. John's College boys. These are tremendously popular and most useful in fostering team spirit and happy give and take. Among their activities is Boxing, which the boys practice during the week. When you think you are heroically stopping a fight the combatants smile and say "we are playing!" The girls do Red Cross work and Physical exercises with some of the day school teachers in the afternoons. There is a native Eistedford at which our children perform bringing back in great triumph and much noise two or more silver cups.

There is a great waking up among the Europeans to the necessities of the natives and to their responsibility towards them, due in part to the School Missionary Associations and the Social Welfare Services which are attracting the young people. During the holidays girls and boys from the big European Public Schools have come out to help in whatever way they could, and have been most useful with the feeding of our hungry hundreds, playing with the various classes in the Nursery School, visiting the poor and carrying relief to them. (always with a Mission Staff), making scrap books, sewing and many other useful ways. Miss Naomi Heller who is taking her degree in Social Science at the University came here for the whole of January to do her "Practical" and very efficient she was. We loved having her and hope she will get her Degree at the fall of the year. Space will not permit me to write more, I must leave room for gifts and thanks. Had you been here in Lent, Holy Week and Easter you would have rejoiced with us over the worthwhileness of all this work. The glorious Procession on Palm Sunday. The hundreds and hundreds who packed the Church from door to door and wall to wall (the children in the Sanctuaries), for the Good Friday Services. The lovely making of the New Fire and Lighting of the Candle on Easter Eve, with all the Church's wonderful Ceremony, and the Baptism of 20 adults, men and women, boys and girls, who processed behind the choir, in their white draperies and with lighted candles to their appointed places, at last in the Fold of God's Family. Then the climax of Easter Day; brought to its height at the High Mass. The beauty of the Sanctuary, the dignity of the Sacred Ministers, the reverence of many Acolytes and Server boys, bringing before the thronging multitudes of silent worshippers (except when it was time to sing alleluias), the mystery of the

Resurrection "Behold the Lamb of God!"

We thank greatly all our friends both in England and Africa who have made this work possible for us by their prayers and their alms, by their practical demonstration of their love of God and their neighbour.

Change of Staff. I have been transferred to Jane Furze Memorial Hospital and take up work there in July. Sister Esme who worked here when we took over is taking my place.

Gifts. Many gifts of clothing, food and toys have been received for which we are very grateful especially to the Johannesburg Childrens Hospital for lovely books and toys, Johannesburg Children's Home for quantities of most useful clothing, School or Practical Christianity for regular supplies of vegetables, the Navy League for a large quantity of wool, Y.M.C.A. for chocolate (greatly appreciated by the Boys Clubs), Toc H. for collecting groceries, St. George's Church, Parktown for harvest thanksgiving offerings, St. John's College for the proceeds of the Carol Services. Our thanks are also due to Mrs. Hope, Mrs. Smythe and Mrs. Powell who come regularly twice a month to superintend the School Sewing., and to all generous donors of money, food, clothes and blankets, many of whom give us no name. We also thank Mr. Henry Clarke our grocer, who never fails to respond to our many calls for Christmas Socials and Relief in spite of food difficulties, and Dr. Gross who gives voluntary services to so many of our sick, and all kind friends who have given quantities of flowers at our Festivals.

LESEDING REPORT 1946.

The outstanding feature of the work of the Mission during 1945 has been the arrangements for the provision of daily meals for 7,000 children in the 17 schools belonging to the different Missions in Orlando. As we are privileged to live on the spot, it has fallen to our lot to be responsible for providing 1,101,900 meals, you can imagine that it took up a fair amount of our time! But one feels the time is certainly not wasted when one sees even a little food being given to these terribly under-nourished children. It is not easy to provide a meal on 2d a day per child these days. Labour and transport of food all have to come out of the 2d, so we are only able to give each child about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of milk or sometimes cocoa, one slice of bread and jam, and perhaps a handful of raisins or dried fruit. This is often the only food the children get until the evening when Mother and Father return home from work.

The acute Housing shortage has hit the African hardest of all. During the war Johannesburg has increased in prosperity. With the expansion of industry more labour was needed and so more Africans flocked, to the town, away from the terribly overcrowded Native Reserves. Few houses were built for Africans. So in Orlando we had the deplorable sight of 15,000 Africans living in terribly insanitary conditions under shelters made of Hessian and Cardboard, in what was known as Shanty Town. This went on till August by which time the Johannesburg City Council had managed to rehouse most of these people in shelters 9 ft. by 10 ft. made of Breize blocks, no doors or windows provided, the only ventilation being from one block left out. Nearly 4,000 of these shelters were built, each housing a family. They are said to be temporary but one fears that with the acute housing shortage and the slowness in proceeding with the permanent housing scheme that these hovels will remain for years. It is a constant pull at one's heart to see this vast population of approximately 15,000 living

in conditions where decency and morality are almost impossible. We went on distributing blankets and warm clothing to hundreds of families while they were in the Hessian tents until they were rehoused in the Breize block shelters.

One of our great needs is for a Club Room and Social Centre. The Johannesburg City Council have granted us a bit of ground adjoining the Nursery School. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Oscar Schlimmer we have hopes of starting this when building permits are available. Mr. Schlimmer has been a veritable Fairy Godfather to the Mission. Besides promising to help us build a Club Room he gave £1,500 towards the building of another school in Orlando which we hope to start building when the authorities allow us. It is impossible to thank Mr. Schlimmer adequately for his generous help.

Our four schools are packed to overflowing. The parents of Orlando were so anxious for their children to get education that they held a meeting and undertook to contribute towards an additional class room for Holy Cross School. With this money and also the help from many kind friends we have started to build two extra class rooms which will take a further 100 children.

Poor Holy Cross School suffered this year in the gales which blew off the roof; and so some of the money which we hoped to use for extension had to ^{be used} in replacing the roof.

We have great hopes of soon being able to start building the much needed St. John's church. The members of the congregation collected quite a bit of money, the biggest contributors being the children of our schools who raised nearly £20 in pennies which they brought on a special day to the site of the proposed building. Then a short time ago out of the blue came an anonymous donation of £1,000 for St. John's Church. Blessed be God.

The Sunday Schools, Catechism Classes and Confirmation Classes have gone on steadily, also the Penitents Classes taken by Agatha Carew Hunt who spends much time wandering round Orlando seeking out the lost and bringing them back to Church in a most wonderful way.

In July Don Leach who had been helping us for nearly 2 years left to join her husband who returned from Italy. We are deeply grateful for all the help she gave us. We were lucky to get Mary Alexander who came to us in June for a year before going to Salisbury to join Barbara Tredgold in the work she is starting there. She has done splendid work and we shall be deeply sorry to lose her. Another great loss to the Mission Staff was Charlotte Moor Allen who left us in July to be married. She has done grand work in running the Nursery Schools most efficiently and happily for 4 years. She was married in St. Mary's Church Orlando which was lovely for us and for the parents of the children of the Nursery Schools who flocked to the wedding to wish her well. Luckily for us she is living in Johannesburg so is able to help the Nursery Schools in many ways. Margaret Roberts who was Charlotte's assistant has taken on this very big part of the work of the Mission and is running it beautifully.

I should like to thank individually all the people who have helped us with their prayers, work and money during the last year, but space forbids. There have been so many calls on your generosity and we here in Orlando are so deeply grateful for your help which enables us to carry on with the work. So once more we would say a big THANK YOU.

Margaret Leeke.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

Staff. The African teaching staff have done excellent work during the past year. This has been proved by the fact that all third year students passed their final examination. They have all been placed either in our own schools or in other parts of the Union.

Finance. During the year the financial position of the schools became very critical, owing to the high cost of living the running costs of the schools trebled. An appeal for funds was launched by Mrs. E. Fouche chairman of the Nursery School Committee. This appeal is proving most successful and has met with a wonderful response. It has been greatly helped by Mr. John Schlesinger who arranged for a special film of the Nursery Schools to be made by African Theatres. As a result of seeing this film interest has been created in the work. A large sum of money has also been raised by Mrs. Lakier who apart from approaching individuals arranged two very excellent charity concerts at the Twentieth Century Theatre. Another gratifying result of the appeal has been that Roedean School has adopted the Sophiatown Nursery School, and besides the promise of monetary help for the school, the girls themselves are showing great interest, several of them having spent whole days during their holidays helping with the children. In addition the Social Welfare Department has increased the grant by fifty percent. As a result of this there is every hope that the schools will be able to expand to meet the very great needs of the people.

Education. There has been a marked increase in the number of applications received for Nursery School Training. In 1947 we hope to be able to arrange that students as well as having Nursery School training will be able to continue with their studies as far as Std. 8. This we feel is necessary in order that they may have the same educational standard as Primary School teachers and other professions. At present there are two coloured students in training from St. Joseph's Home, in order that a nursery School may be started at the home for pre-school children.

Health. Except for the usual childish epidemics the children's health has been good. For this we are indebted to Dr. Gross at Sophiatown and Newclare, who still continues to give of his time in caring for the children. At Orlando Drs. Fouche and Leicester were good enough to visit the school regularly. Unfortunately, latterly they have had to give this up, and at present there is no regular medical adviser. There are also no facilities for dental inspection. This need is very urgent.

Accommodation. As in previous years hundreds of children have had to be turned away at all Nursery Schools owing to the lack of accommodation.

Doreen Chaplin.

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