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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

P.O. Box 1176,
Johannesburg.

August 21st, 1933.

To Members of the Medical Committee of the South African
General Missionary Conference

As the Medical Congress will be meeting in Cape Town during the week commencing September 25th next and the Standing Committee of this Institute on the Training and Employment of Non-European Nurses is to meet at Cape Town on October 2nd, it may be a convenient opportunity to call together the members of the Committee on Medical Work of the South African General Missionary Conference. Members of the Committee are asked to let me know whether or not they could attend if a meeting of the Committee were called for SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, say, at 10 a.m., at Cape Town, when not only questions concerning the training and employment of Native nurses could be discussed but also other matters concerning medical missions, e.g. Possible sources of financial aid for medical missions. I shall also be glad to have suggestions for the agenda of the proposed meeting.

An early reply will be much appreciated.

J.D. Rheinallt Jones

Goodville,
Sibasa,
N. Transvaal
5. 9. 33.

Dear Mr. Jones,

I think that you will be interested to hear that we are hoping to get a hospital established up here in the near future, and I am venturing to ask for your assistance in the matter.

The position is that the Government has agreed to make a contribution of £500 provided a like contribution is forthcoming from other sources. We are therefore applying to the Deferred Pay Board for assistance, and I am wondering whether you can do anything to help us in that direction. I don't think I need go into details as to the need in this area with a population of 150,000 people, for the great majority of whom I am the only doctor available. Unfortunately it is not a very good recruiting area, but since March of this year I have examined over 130 men for the N.R.C. Further our Assistant Native Commissioner is of opinion that "there is evidence that mine labour is becoming more attractive". I shall be very grateful to you if you can do anything to secure a sympathetic consideration for our application.

Our Assistant Commissioner has also asked me to find out for him the names of the members of the Deferred Pay Board, particularly the Chamber of Mines and N.R.C. representatives. I wonder whether you can supply this information.

I know that you must be a very busy man with little time to spare, and I hesitate to ask for your help, but our need here is so great that I feel I must use every possible endeavour to secure the funds necessary for our advance.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

R. J. Aitken.

Dr.N.Tilander,

Mnene, Belingwe, S.Rhodesia 2nd Sept.1933.

J.D.Rheinallt Jones Esq.,

P.O.Box 1176,

Johannesburg.

Dear Mr.Jones,

Long ago I should have written to thank you for letters and papers sent to me but I have been so hunted by work that I havent been able to clear all correspondence as I should have done.I also feel extremely sorry that I missed the opportunity to have a conversation with Mrs.Jones when she was so kind as to call here on her trip to Fort Victoria.I had an urgent call to a woman in distress and I was disappointed on my return that Mrs.Jones had already left.

Now I must thank you for having mentioned my name in connection with your work with interracial matters.I need not assure you that I am most interested in the great problems originating from the race relations in this vast continent of S.Africa,and I would regard it as a great gift if I would able to contribute to discussion of these problems only.But even if I can expect little easier time in the near future I fear I can do very little being so far away from the centre of the work.It is also difficult to leave the hospital for more than one week or mostly 10 days at a time.

I would like to attend the meeting at Cape Town on the 30th Sept.,if I could be back in 8 or 10 days.This would be possible if I take the Express on the 27th down and the same train back on Monday the 2nd Oct.provided the meeting does not take more than two days.

J.D.Rheinallt Jones Esq. 2.9.33.

But another question is how to finance^{n/} the trip. Unfortunately my position as a missionary does not allow me to take it out of my own pocket. My Society as all mission bodies is fighting hard to get both ends to meet and I have no hope to receive contribution from that source. I fear I will not be able to do that trip for only £ 25, as the car cost £ 6-10- 0 to Bulawayo and back, 130 miles each way.

As I am unable to clear that obstacle out of my way I shall have to look forward to the next meeting, hoping that members will meet in Johannesburg or another town in the Union not so far away as Cape Town. I will then have some few more days at my disposal and need not be in such a hurry as if I now go down to the Cape.

Hoping the day is not too remote when I may have the pleasure of meeting you

Yours sincerely

A. T. Jones

~~United Free~~ Church of Scotland.

RESIDENT MEDICAL MISSIONARY:

G. W. GALE, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H.

GORDON MEMORIAL MEDICAL MISSION,

P.O. ~~POMEROY~~, Tugela Ferry,
NATAL.

Sept. 7, 1933.

F.D. Cheswall Jones Esq.
Convener Medical Committee
S.A. General Missionary Conference.

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your note concerning the possibility of a meeting at Capetown. I am not myself attending the Medical Congress, but I hope that you will manage to get a Committee meeting. If so, will you kindly convey my apologies for absence.

I have one suggestion which might be discussed. - A survey of Native Rural Areas with a view to selection of most needy areas and most favourable points at which to establish medical missions & hospitals. Medical missions, like so many other branches of missionary effort in S. Africa, have often been planted haphazard, sometimes in relatively not very needy areas; while to this day there are wide stretches still neglected. I know one Society which has 2 or 3 medical missions in various places, and none at all in another part of its own field, which to my certain knowledge is far more needy. I think this is simply due to lack of knowledge on the part of central committees.

Another point, failure to note which has in some cases resulted in discouragement to and even abandonment of work, is that sites should be chosen not merely from

United Free Church of Scotland.

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The census facts - I mean population in relation to geographical area. Other factors should be considered: to name a few which occur to me as I write: -

- ① primitiveness or otherwise of the population
 - if primitive, essential to send a man who will quickly learn the language; and who is a good surgeon, as surgical cures are more dramatic.
- ② prevalent diseases
 - in areas where indigeneity is badly needed, more chances of winning confidence of people ~~than~~ ^{than} in areas where, say, tuberculosis is prevalent, as this disease is not readily amenable to treatment in the stage at which it usually comes for treatment. ~~It~~ ^{It} like leprosy & to a less extent syphilis cannot adequately be tackled by missions ^{except with considerable exp.} ^{backing.}
- ③ Topography of the area -
accumbancy - roads - rivers (floods) - mountains.

This is all very sketchy, but is just to indicate some of the points which might be taken up in such a survey. Results, summarised, could be passed on to heads of missions & even Public Health Dept. for their humble guidance. The Hospital Survey Commission scheme of hospitals is in my opinion very poor, being obviously drawn up by men sitting over a map, and with little regard to practical points which in practice make all the difference. Kind regards
Yours sincerely
G. W. Gale.

Goodville,
Libasa,
N. Transvaal.
5.9.33.

J. D. Rheinallt. Jones Esq.,
S. Afr. Institute of Race Relations
Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Jones,

Your notice concerning a meeting of the Medical Committee of the S. African. General Missionary Conference reached me a few days ago. It had been addressed to Shawbury, Ounbu, E. Griqualand, hence the delay. Will you please use my address as above. I am very sorry that I cannot attend the meeting at Cape Town on Sept. 30th. Please pass on my apologies for my absence.

I understand from Dr. Gale who attended the last Missionary Conference that I was appointed to this Committee as a representative of the Methodist Church. Now, I am no longer connected with that church, but am working under the Church of Scotland, and it has occurred to me that I ought to stand aside, and let the Committee co-opt a Methodist representative in my place. This I am quite prepared

to do, and I simply leave the matter in the hands
of the Committee.

I am

Yours sincerely

R. D. Aitken.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL WORK
of
The S.A. General Missionary Conference

To Members of the Committee

Being to the inability of several members of the Committee to come to Johannesburg at the end of this month, I have decided not to proceed with the proposal to hold a meeting of the Medical Work Committee on the 29th instant.

J. D. Rheinallt Jones

CONVENOR

P. O. Box 1176,
JOHANNESBURG.

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