

DIMENSION

NOVEMBER 1977

NEWSPAPER FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

VOL. VIII No. 10

'PEACEFUL' CONFERENCE PACKED DECEPTIVE PUNCH

The calm exterior of the Conference of 1977 was a deceptive one. More peaceful by far than that of 1976 and with a remarkable consensus in most debates, the decisions taken at Benoni packed a considerable punch both in the social and domestic spheres.

In his Induction address the President abandoned formalities and made it clear that enfranchised Methodists ought to reject the "sinfulness and dangers of apartheid" on November 30. He welcomed the changes in S.W.A. and pointed to the inconsistencies of such moves there while apartheid remained entrenched in the Republic.

He was no less specific in addressing his fellow ministers challenging the materialism and "character assassination" that sometimes wounded their body.

Resignation

In dealing with social questions the Conference called unanimously for the resignation of the Minister of Justice because of his handling of the Biko affair and in more than 20 resolutions reaffirmed Methodism's opposition to wide areas of Government policy.

On the emotional issue of Military Chaplaincy, which produced the only lengthy debate of the Conference, it was decided to press ahead with the renegotiation of the status of Chaplains, although it was made clear that

no final decision would be taken at this stage.

The Conference launched into new acts of faith in spite of the difficult financial situation with the opening up of hospital work in Lesotho and approval for a more extensive communication policy with a full-time appointment.

There were historic and poignant moments too: yet another great Methodist Mission Institution bowed to the times as the sale of Healdtown was approved. Conference also bid farewell to the Rev E.E. Mahabane and the rev L.G.E. Griffiths, who were at their last Conference.

The new Constitution of Conference was accepted, doing away forever with any racial representation, and another happy moment of history was the recognition of the first English Bible printed in this country, an edition of "Today's English Version" produced by the Bible Society.

The sight of the President and members on the platform dancing hand in hand for at least 30 seconds before the solemnity of Conference reasserted itself is

Ministers of Word and Sacrament



another moment that will not be forgotten.

The largest Methodist Church in the land failed by half to accommodate the congregation at the Ordination service. It turned into a mighty celebration of the multiracial witness of the Methodist Church in this country.

A new departure — daily bible studies read by Dr Charles Villavicencio at 8.30 each morning, was warmly welcomed and could become a regular feature of future Conference. The conversation on the work of God was also more of a genuine sharing than in the past and made its contribution to the spiritual tone of the Conference.

The overall summing up in the Resolution on the Work of God characterised Conference of Benoni 1977 to be one in which members of the church were reaching out to each other in search to find the Will of God. "This bears testimony to our desire to be one and undivided in a world that does not accept the reconciling power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" it said.

'Miracles still happen' New Constitution through

"Now I really believe in miracles!" These were the words of the Secretary of Conference, the Rev Cyril Wilkins when he saw years of painstaking preparation come into fruition as Conference agreed to a new constitution which significantly reduced its numbers and swept away the last racial references in its representation.

The miracle was not merely the passing of this new legislation but the fact that after Mr Wilkins insisted on a counted vote, there was not a single vote in the Conference against it.

The new mini-Conference which will assemble officially for the first time next year, has an on paper membership of 51 ministers and 45 laymen. In fact

however, the ratio will more probably be 46 ministers to 45 laymen because a number of the positions preserved for ministers are held by men who have a seat already as Chairmen of Districts. It is also possible for the ratio of laymen to ministers to alter if at any time laymen are appointed as Heads of major Departments as has been the case with the CEYD in recent years.

While a major consideration in the reduction of Conference members has been the high cost of Conference in recent years, the most significant fact about the new-style Conference is the total lack of reference to race.

Whereas in the past the Conference has always been multi-racial, it now becomes non-racial. Synod representation, whether of ministers or laymen is simply by vote instead of the "two white, two black" of the past. Provision is made for 12 lay elected delegates who will hold their seats for 3 years each and again it is simply a list which is voted for regardless of race.

'I read each issue of Dimension from cover to cover'



Joe Hale

General Secretary, World Methodist Council



Seen on the platform are: Revs: Vivian Harris, Charles Stephenson (ex President), Abel Hendricks (President), Cyril Wilkins (Secretary), Isron Tiholwe, Michael Basel (Secretaries).

KILMORY EXECUTIVE

- * Nine Colours
- * Matching envelopes
- * Matching Kilmory Text and Cover

Match letterhead with heavier stock for business cards
Colour key the cover of brochures or booklets to letterhead

- * Kilmory watermark
- * Laid finish
- * Clarity of reproduction of fine type
- * Ability of sheet to emboss beautifully due to the long fibres
- * Ability of sheet to take engraving

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT



The President-Elect and his wife, Pam, photographed immediately after the vote.

Prepared by a wide Ministry

The Reverend Dr Donald Clifford Veysie was voted President-Elect of the Methodist Conference on the first ballot by an overwhelming majority.

Instead of trying to report 'an interview' with Dr Veysie, recorded soon after his election, what follows is rather the witness of a man, called and guided by God and a witness to the strengths he will bring to bear on the task to

which his Church has called him in one year's time:

Donald Veysie's commitment to God, and indeed to the Methodist Church, began at Harefield near Graaff-Reinet where he was baptised. The only child of his widowed mother, he learnt early in life the necessity to earn a living. His school days included assisting his mother in her home industry, baking rusks. He speaks warmly and proudly of his mother — "She was a woman of tremen-

dous integrity and faithfulness. She always used to say 'you need to keep your head above water'".

A woman of many talents, she was also assistant organist at Graaff-Reinet and Harefield. Her own commitment to the Church brought Don into contact with ministers at an early age and "the Rev A. Garrett and Rev Stanley Le Grove Smith had a formative influence on my life during my school days".

"I was converted on the night

of my confirmation service. Wesley talks of the evangelistic element of the Sacrament. Something happened to me as I took Communion and I knew that night that Christ had died for me. And then in the search for what to do after matric, came this call which I tried to put off. One night as I looked out of my window, I was struck by the moon shining down on me and thousands of others who didn't know Him".

Rhodes

After various attempts to still the voice inside him, Don Veysie finally, on the advice of the Rev Le Grove Smith, enrolled at Rhodes University for a course which could later be converted into a teaching diploma.

There followed many months of wrestling with God's will. Dr Veysie remembers Rhodes for the fellowship he experienced with others from the wider world, others who had heard the call; the influence of his lectures; the SCA; Monica Wilson and the late Rev Seth Mokitimi (and boxing!).

As a young man straight from College, Dr Veysie was stationed at the Wits Mission which stretched from Randfontein in the West Rand to Springs in the East Rand.

This appointment consisted of overseeing Sunday School work, 26 day schools and youth work — an emphasis which was to continue through most of his later appointments. "My super, the Rev Albert Cowgill, didn't believe in motorised transport so I had a bike and used public transport. The Sunday School Council included Evaton and Kilmerton and there "C.K." Storey had an influence on my life and was later one of my presbyters".

After two years at Cambridge studying the New Testament, hearing the 'greats' — Soper and Sangster preach (and playing rugby), Dr Veysie served a period in Swaziland at Mahamba, and in Nelspruit. It was during this time

that he gained his first experience in hospital administration which has stood him in good stead for his present responsibilities for two hospitals.

It was also during this time that Mr Veysie married Pam whom he met during his days with the Wits Mission and whose parents were deeply involved in Sunday School work. Today the Veysies have three sons — Michael (20 years), Ian (18 years) and Peter (15 years).

As if to complement his experience of work amongst the African and English-speaking white people of our Church, Dr Veysie's next appointment in 1960 was to Klerksdorp which included work amongst the coloured community and Afrikaans-speaking people who joined the Methodist Church.

Mr Veysie also started on his thesis, 'The History of Methodism in the Transvaal', which was to occupy him for 7 years.

There followed 5 years at Benoni Central "where I learnt much about counselling and lay training" and this too included administering the East Rand work among the coloured community.

With such a wide experience with youth, Mr Veysie was suited for the additional responsibilities which accompanied his move to Manning Road, Durban. Not only did he become involved with the Christian Education and Youth Department and Methodist Connexional Office, but he also became Chairman of the Natal Coastal District, and completed his Doctorate.

Issues

"It was at this stage of my ministry that the issues facing us as a Church became sharpened for me". Not many Methodist ministers today are able to claim the opportunities Dr Veysie has had to minister to the broad spectrum of the people called Methodists! "A lot of white ministers, for example, today are isolated

from the whole Church".

And perhaps because of this richness of experience, Dr Veysie is able to believe so firmly in the principles for which he stands. "It is easier to nurture a belief for non-racial circuits," he said, "because I know they have worked".

To complete the picture, Dr Veysie is at present Superintendent of the Durban North West Circuit and minister of Lorne Street Methodist Church. "I do a lot of visiting. I've always believed in getting to people in their homes. The Indian people don't believe you know them until you've 'come home' — for a meal. I have learnt here the credibility of the Gospel amongst people of other religions — Hindu and Muslim. The level of acceptance from the people is tremendous".

As Chairman of the Natal Coastal District, Dr Veysie bears responsibility for two hospitals, the MCO and CEYD. One of his emphases during his year of office in 1978-79 will be on the need for training in youth work.

Don Veysie strikes immediately as a man who cares for people; for our Church and who feels deeply the need for change.

It is not difficult to understand, therefore, why this man has been called to follow our present President, the Rev Abel Hendricks. And Pam? Despite her own portfolios in the society, including that of Church Secretary and District C.C.D. Secretary, she will most probably be found at the side of her husband, giving unobtrusive support and strength to him out of her own real commitment to the Church and deep concern for change.

For Donald Veysie, his last words were about the Church: "I thank the Church for being the caring fellowship it is to me as the concerned people of God. For wherever I find this, it is meaningful".

Thank YOU, Donald Veysie — our congratulations and prayers are with you as you prepare yourself for what lies ahead.

"What Christ means to me" — Conversation on the Work of God

The Rev John Borman opened this year's 'conversation' which centered on the theme of evangelism.

Mr Borman linked evangelism with the life of the local congregation: "The genius and value of the World Methodist Council's call is the emphasis on the local congregation as the basic unit for an evangelistic endeavour. This is where it all works out" he said. "John Stott said 'evangelism is the spontaneous overflow of a church on fire for God' — the stress is on the church rather than a man".

Mr Borman questioned the fashion of viewing evangelism as a special campaign, 'a special thing or a stunt' we stage or put on. Such campaigns are rather a preparation for the local church's task. The 'stunt' approach creates frequently a discontinuity between the ongoing church programme and the evangelistic outreach. The real question is what is

God doing in us, for us and through us to other people?".

Evangelism is therefore, primarily, the ongoing work of the local congregation. It is also "the touch of God through the man in the pew".

"There are resources God is waiting to unlock sitting silently in the pews". He suggested lay witness missions, home groups and lay witness services for 'the simplicity and direct approach enabling the Holy Spirit to speak heart to heart. This was the genius of early Methodism and I believe is the most effective agent of evangelism".

Referring back to the President's address, Mr Borman said he believed it was the minister who would decide the shape of evangelism "and whether there would be any evangelism".

The Rev Jeremiah Mbentse said he felt the problem of evangelism as that "we don't wait on

God to work through us — we do it on our own".

The President then invited members of Conference "to say, in one sentence, what Christ means to you".

Mr K.C. James: "I am a convert from Hinduism. I haven't yet heard that children can play a part in evangelism — that is how I came into the Church. The children in our neighbourhood didn't know who was Methodist or Presbyterian — they just knew I didn't go to Sunday School so they invited me. They were so gracious and kind.

My family heard I was going to Sunday School and they ostracised me for 4 years. At the end of 4 years my parents invited the heads of the family and the Methodist Minister to a meeting. They locked me out and afterwards my father came out and hugged and kissed me and said I had set a good example. At the age of 83 he entered the Church.

It was the talking point whenever the people gathered — in the factories, restaurants, perhaps even the tattersalls. We have a large family and now three quarters of my family have become Christian. Cousins by the dozen have joined the Church".

Rev Brian Hazell: "God touched my life at the Renewal Conference, in the healing relationships of the body. People across race barriers discovered they can find one another".

Rev Austen Massey: "In 1969 I experienced the 2nd blessing. This has changed the whole direction of my ministry. Previously I had had a very limited view of the Gospel. I have found that the

Gospel demands of me that I reach out to people from all backgrounds. I thank God for the privilege the Church has given me to be an evangelist in totality".

Rev Napoleon Kok: "The time has come that we must evangelise not only the world outside but also the Church. People come on a Sunday to be led through a conducted tour of the Holy Land and then return to their homelands of heathenism and sin. We must get to the point where people can say proudly 'I've been born again'. But this is not enough — we must also inspire people to grow up in Christ. Commitment is not only to Christ's person but also to His programme".

Dr Len Hulley: "It was at the mission stations that I discovered the black man was my brother and I work with them, warts and all.

Mr Gerald Braam: "There is a word I continually hear God speaking to me in different ways — 'be a reconciler at this time'. We must stand still, turn aside from the many things that influence us so we can regain our identity".

Rev Dr E.E. Mahabane: "This will be my last Conference and I am very thankful to God and my Church for what they have done for me. The time has come when we must evangelise or perish".

Mr Derek Kotze: "Christ has taught me to hold in tension, liberation and commitment. I heard His call firstly through my family where I learnt to grapple with the challenges of Jesus and the challenges of the world in which we live; and secondly, I hear the call from the disinherited. For me it was difficult to hear it in some of the white suburbs in which I've lived. Two books which influenced me greatly are "Jesus and the Disinherited" and a book by Colin Morris, and two verses from Scripture, Matthew 10:8. You have received without paying, so give without being paid"; vs 16 and 17: "Listen! I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. Watch out for there will be men who will arrest you and take you to court, and

they will whip you in the synagogues".

Rev Maurice Fearn: "It is 24 years since I came to South Africa but I sometimes feel I'm standing on the sidelines: on one side is the radical with whom I sympathise fully but one feels ostracised. On the other hand is the movement of renewal and one feels not of that either. I want to say "stop and let me get off" but the gravitational pull of Christ through the Sacraments and fellowship keeps me".

Jack Scholtz: "Listening to the 4 ordinands at the witness service and their very different emphases, I realise the wide and glorious spectrum of the Gospel and how much we need one another. And yet for all these men, so different in approach, the whole thing started with a simple act of commitment to Jesus Christ and I was reminded of the word that challenged and changed my life. "He died for me and now I must live for Him."

DIMENSION

NEWSPAPER OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

EDITOR: REV. PETER STOREY

Assistant Editors: John B. Gardener, Stanley M. Mogoba.
Editorial Assistant: Helen Muller
Business Manager: Brian Heymans.

Board of Management: The President of Conference, the President Elect, the Secretary of Conference, the Chairmen of the South Western Transvaal and South Eastern Transvaal and Swaziland Districts, the Book Steward, the Revs. N. Hudson, E. Baartman and A. Massey (or their alternates), M.S. Mogoba, Dr. A.L. Boraine, Messrs. J. Rees, N. Jackson, J.B. Gardener, H. Rhoda, T.W. Kambule, Dr. M. Nyembezi, and the Rev. P. Storey (Convenor).

The views expressed in editorials and special columns are not necessarily those of the Methodist Church of South Africa.

All correspondence to be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 10376, Johannesburg 2000.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES R2,00 per year Overseas R4,00 per year

BULK: 10-99 copies, 10c per copy, 100 copies upwards: 7c per copy. ADVERTISING: Rate card supplied on request.

Spend a relaxing Holiday at

LINCOLN HAVEN

P.O. Eston. Tel. 2431
Richmond, Natal 3740

Homely and Christian atmosphere, filtered swimming-pool, tennis court, bowls, etc. Only 55 miles from Durban.

Write for Brochure now.

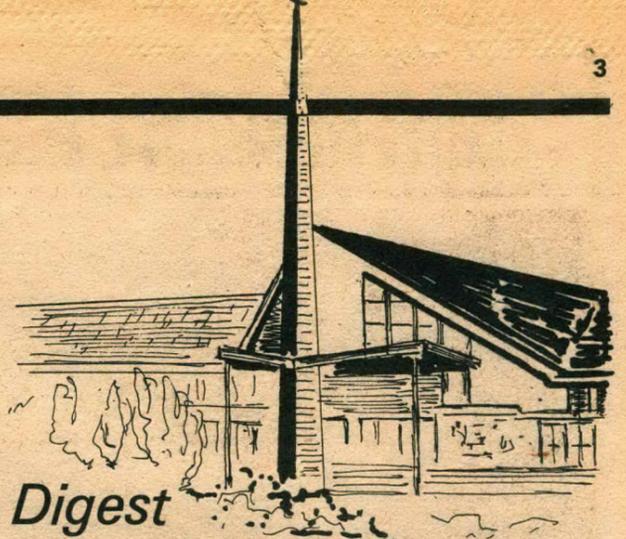


Going out and coming in — Ex-President Charles Stephenson in conversation with Dr Donald Veysie, President-Elect.

BENONI, 1977

The 95th Annual Conference
Rev. Abel E. Hendricks, President

Dimension's Conference News Digest



Rev Brian Brown



Rev Theo Kotze

Strong Protest on Bannings

The Wave of Bannings and Dedications which swept the country on Wednesday, 19 October took place just one day before the opening of the Ministerial Session and the first notice of motion in this session was one which called upon the Conference to deprecate in the strongest terms the bannings which had been served on two Methodist Ministers, the Revs. Theo Kotze and Brian Brown, both working in the Christian Institute.

Speaking to the resolution, the Rev. Dr. Charles Villa-Vicencio said that the Methodist Church and its Presidents had expressed the strongest possible opposition to the kind of legislation which had led to these bannings and now two Methodist ministers had suffered.

"We as a ministerial session are obliged to affirm what we believe to be the body of Christ: we need to learn again to suffer with those who suffer and to weep

with those who weep". Dr. Villa-Vicencio said that in identifying themselves with their brethren the ministerial session would need to also think of ways and means in which Mr. Brown and Mr. Kotze could be supported. He suggested that the Methodist Connexional Office be instructed to deduct from Ministers' stipends an amount sufficient to support those who would now be deprived of a livelihood. All C.I. funds were now in the hands of the state.

The Conference then resolved by unopposed motion the following:

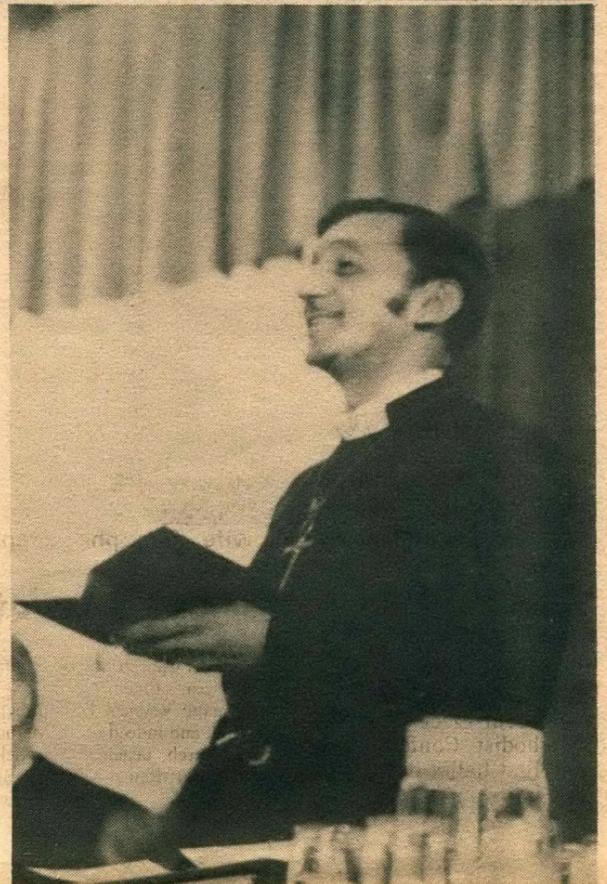
"The Ministerial Session deprecates in the strongest terms the banning orders served on two ordained ministers of our Church, the Revs. Brian Brown and Theo Kotze.

In affirming our brethren we: a) acknowledge them as fellow-ministers with a call of God to continue to proclaim the Gospel

in all its dimensions, and the right to administer the Sacraments. Over this call the Government has no jurisdiction; b) We recognise our responsibility to support financially any of our brethren and their families whose livelihood may be affected by such action."

During the worship on the following day of the ministerial session an offering was taken on behalf of the banned men and their families. The Methodist Connexional Office agreed to work out a way in which the suggestion of stipend deductions could be implemented.

Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Kotze were contacted and their circumstances brought to the attention of Conference. In both cases there was a very warm expression of appreciation for the solidarity and support which had come from Conference at this time.



With the Rev Abel Hendricks in the chair the Benoni Conference had a particular verve.

Representative Session

Hospital Compensation

The Government take-over of the Mount Coke and Moroka Mission Hospitals had a sequel in the Conference when it was told that R125 000 had been received for Mount Coke and R100 000 for Moroka.

Because the Mount Coke Church was in the grounds of that Hospital and had been included in the Government take-over, the Conference agreed that R40 000 be made available for the building of a new Church nearby.

The balance of the funds received and those expected from other take-overs would be invested with the Methodist Connexional Office and the interest only would be used.

Bearing in mind the purpose of the original donations, the Conference decided that the funds be used for "missionary work".

Two major schemes were immediately placed before the Conference: a children's home at Old Bunting in the Transkei and the new hospital planned for Semonkong in Lesotho.

It was decided that the fund would meet the Interest and Sinking Fund repayment on a loan of R25 000 for additional buildings for the children's home and that the income on R150 000 of the fund would be made available towards the running costs of the Lestho hospital provided that it remained under the control of the Conference and until it was considered that such financing would no longer be required.

Speaking to the Lesotho situation, the Rev Lloyd Griffiths, Chairman of that District, said that it had been our own missionary doctors who had asked the Church to look for new fields of medical witness and that this had been encouraged by the Lesotho Government.

Through the energies of the Rev Hedley Sleath, sufficient money was now in hand for a vocational school and the next

step was the hospital. The limited circulation of a brochure had brought some R10 000 and the W.A. had expressed sympathy with this scheme. The hospital committee was authorised to circulate their brochure and to solicit financial support across the Connexion.

Missionary Fund

Contributions to the Missionary Fund during 1977 totalled R297 726.

Amounts from the Districts were as follows: Cape R41 868, Grahamstown R24 845, Queenstown R21 687, Clarkebury R30 268, Kimberley and Bloemfontein R16 942, Northern Free State and Lesotho R19 176, Natal Coastal R27 114, Natal West R15 771, South Western Transvaal (the only District which makes no calls upon the Missionary Fund) R59 209, South Eastern Transvaal and Swaziland R27 114, Northern Transvaal, Botswana and Mozambique R13 732.

Referring to the grants, the Secretary of Conference, the Rev Cyril Wilkins said that although the total was an advance on the 1976 amount of R282 106, the rate of inflation during the last year indicated that simply to keep pace with the devaluation of money, an amount of R320 000 should have been collected. Notwithstanding this, the increase of R15 620 was a very creditable effort on the part of the Connexion. He made special mention of the fact that the Clarkebury District had more than kept pace with the inflationary spiral and called upon other Districts to follow their example.

Pointing out that there was an expected surplus of R24 795 after normal grants would have been

dealt with, Mr Wilkins said that the Missionary Fund did not aim to have a credit balance and suggested that R10 000 be offered to the Lesotho Hospital and R10 000 to the Old Bunting Children's Home. Conference agreed.

Parallels Meet

Setting a pattern which would be followed by each major Department of the Church during the Conference, the Missionary Department nominated only one General Secretary instead of the traditional parallel pair.

Recognising that the appointment of two secretaries had in the past been largely to meet the needs of a parallel-type Church, and that the traditional 'one black — one white' pattern had already fallen away with the appointment of two black General Secretaries to the Department in 1976, it was resolved that there would from now on be only one General Secretary and the Rev Andrew Losaba was named.

It was decided that an Assistant Secretary could be appointed and the sub-committee commissioned with the task of finding a man reported that an approach had been made to Mr John Rees, ex-General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. Mr Rees, who arrived back from Germany during the first day of the Representative Session, later reported that he would have to withdraw from any consideration and later in the Conference it was announced that no appointment would be made at this time.

Youth Money

The Rev Andrew Losaba, Missionary Secretary, once more thanked those Sunday Schools which had contributed to the "Youth Ministering to Youth" scheme. This scheme had brought in a total of R6 214 and at this stage there was still R5 214 in credit. He said that whereas in the past appeals had been made direct to the Missionary Department for the renovation of hostels, money was now placed into the hands of the Chairman of the District in the Transkei for this purpose.

Mr Losaba pointed out that 99,9% of the Sunday Schools who

had contributed to the scheme were from the white sector. He challenged black Sunday Schools to become involved in the project.

Target Date Reaffirmed

The Representative Session was launched in the traditional way with the Missionary Report followed by a re-affirmation of the statement made at the Pietermaritzburg Conference concerning geographical boundaries for circuits.

The Conference noted that progress was being made toward geographical circuits and re-affirmed the target date of 1980.

Good News in Africa

History was made when the first English Bible printed on the African continent was presented to the President by the Rev Paul Kluge on behalf of the Bible Society.

Mr Kluge said that copies of this "Good News" Bible (Today's English Version) were now on sale. The fact that they could be printed in South Africa at last had made a great difference to the economics of printing.

Another "first" took place when the first pulpit Bible ever printed in South Africa was presented as a personal gift from Mr

Kluge to the Church. Because the Bible was in Xhosa language, it was decided that it should be handed for custody and use in the Clarkebury District and the Rev Ferrier Fikeni was called to the platform to receive it on behalf of his people. An illuminated scroll on the fly-leaf indicated that the Bible had been presented in recognition of the contribution of the Xhosa language in the life of the Church.

Presenting the Bible to Mr Fikeni, the President made reference to the Transkei and said that "unless that country was built upon the rock which was the Word of God, it would have no future". It was agreed by the Conference that a target of 10c per member per annum be accepted by all Methodist people on behalf of the Bible Society and commended the new South African Good News Bible to the people.

1978 Conference

The 1978 Conference will be held in East London. The Ministerial Session will begin on Thursday 19 October and the Representative Session on Saturday 21 October 1978.

Much normal news has had to be held over in order to accommodate the Conference digest. Watch for your news in the December issue of DIMENSION.

Mahabane bows out

Rev E.E. Mahabane who has been a member of Conference for 43 years and has never missed a session, bowed out to a standing ovation at this, his last Conference.

"I have been very well preserved by the Grace of God", he said. "I am naive enough, and hope to stay that way, to believe that in Conference we have all been seeking God's Will. This is God's Church and I rejoice in the spirit of this year's Conference".

"You get what you prefer."



METHODIST BOOKSHOP

CAPE TOWN	52 Burg St.
JOHANNESBURG	79 Pritchard St.
DURBAN	74 Atteridge St.
CLAREMONT	Vineyard Rd.
PINETOWN	Pine City Centre
KIMBERLEY	12 Church St.

CONFERENCE



Rev Fremont Louw, Chairman of the Northern Transvaal, Botswana and Mocambique District.

Strategy to be examined

It was agreed on the request of the Rev. Fremont Louw, Chairman of the Northern Transvaal, Botswana and Mozambique District to look into the strategy of the Missionary and Extension Fund. Mr. Louw reported "increasing unhappiness in my District that the Missionary Fund money is used for funding certain organisations".

He read a letter from one of his circuits which this year had allocated R4 500 of its mission money contributions directly to the Zululand Mission instead of channeling it through the Missionary Department. The letter was critical of the rate of "black power" growth in the Church and of the recent black consultations which it said were "holding Conference to ransom". It also criticised the fact that Conference had broken with the practice of representing "both major race groups" in appointments to the General Secretaryship.

Mr. Louw said he had "unhappily been charged with bringing this letter to Conference" and by reading it to the Conference he felt he had discharged his duty. The matter was not taken any further.

Robinson Re-appointed

Mr. W.L.S. Robinson was appointed for a further period of three years as lay officer of the Missionary and Extension Fund. Standing orders were suspended and his appointment was carried by acclamation.

CEYD Kotze Steps Down

Mr. Derek Kotze, General Secretary of the Christian Education and Youth Department, has vacated this office.

Mr. Kotze said that he felt it would be very difficult to think of doing anything else. He had decided to move to Cape Town in 1978 and in the light of the week's events which included the banning of his father, the Rev. Theo Kotze he said that there seemed to be some guidance behind this move, because he would be with his parents.

The Conference paid warm tribute to the commitment which Mr. Kotze had given in the Department and expressed its regret that he would have to step down.

As in the case of the Missionary Department, Conference resolved that there should be only one General Secretary in the future and a vote was taken in which the Rev. Alison Mazibuko was elected with a majority of 98 votes to 17 votes for the Rev. Wesley Mabuza.

It was decided that the General Secretary would fill either a portfolio in the Youth Ministry or Christian Education and that an assistant secretary would be found who would fill the third portfolio.

The Rev. Otto Mbangula was appointed to the directorship of the National Youth Leadership Training Programme for a period of three years.

Mr. Derek Kotze was appointed Assistant General Secretary in a part-time capacity.

In the debate on the Christian Education and Youth Department, a new general policy was laid down to guide its affairs in the future.

It was resolved that it would continue to cater for Christian education in its wider conception and not be simply a Youth Department and that it would do so in consultation with the Department of Education for Ministry.

Priority would nevertheless be given to youth ministry at all levels with particular emphasis on evangelism and leadership training. All Societies, Circuits and Districts were urged to give greater priority to these areas by raising and allocating additional funds for CEYD work.

Theological Education

In the report on Livingstone House at Rhodes University, Rev. Dr. Donald Cragg emphasised the deep involvement in pastoral work which was required of all students. Each of the men had



The Rev Paul Kluge, Methodist minister seconded to the Bible Society holds the first pulpit Bible printed in South Africa — in the Xhosa language — which he presented as a personal gift to the Methodist Church of South Africa.



Dr Donald Cragg presenting the Livingstone House report.

local responsibilities and it was hoped that during 1978 the College would be involved in District plans for lay training. Replying to the criticism that there was a lack of Methodist emphasis in the Divinity staff at Rhodes, Dr. Cragg said that this was the "fruit of Conference's own policy". There had been a lack of foresight and as a result when appointments had been made no suitable candidates had been available from the Methodist Church. He rejoiced that the attitude seemed to be different now and he assured the Conference that the lack of Methodist staff members did not mean that there was an absence of Methodist emphasis on the campus.

Dr. Cragg paid tribute to the Rev. Gerald Hawkes of the Divinity Department for the work that he had done in assisting the establishment of the internship training scheme and for the standard at which this scheme had operated in its first year.

Conference appointed Dr. Cragg as Warden of Livingstone House for a further five years.

Triumph for Fedsem

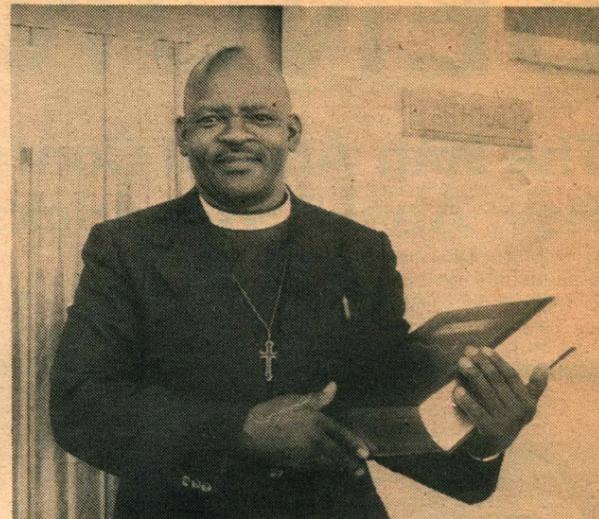
In the report on John Wesley College the Rev. Simon Gqubule reported that the Federal Theological Seminary (AFTS) would be affiliated to Rhodes University as from the beginning of 1978. With this development the wheel had come full circle since the days when black theological students had been trained at Fort Hare University and had received Rhodes University Degrees.

The new development which was received with applause resulted from letters to English-speaking universities seeking the possibilities of a degree course recognition for Federal Seminary Students.

With the new affiliation the Associate of the Federal Theological Seminary (AFTS) Award would be phased out and students registering next year would only be admitted to the Rhodes first year course.

Referring to the building of a permanent new Federal Theological Seminary, Mr. Gqubule said that discussion with the Department of Bantu Administration and Education had been long and protracted but that a new agreement was in the offing.

Because the land in Edendale belonged to the S.A. Bantu Trust it was impossible to buy it and therefore a lease had had to be negotiated. The longest lease possible without an Act of Parliament was for 9 years and 11 months and it was likely that this would be accepted with the condition that if there was any ex-



The decision of the Conference was that the Bible should be handed to the Chairman of the Clarkebury District for safe keeping and use. Here the Rev Ferrier Fikeni poses with the Bible which will find its home in his Xhosa speaking district.

propriation the Government would pay compensation.

An interesting aspect of the lease was that it seemed that "all non-Bantu will also be allowed to reside on the campus". Mr. Gqubule refused to be drawn on the full implications of this but said he would leave it to the imagination of Conference.

Final compensation for the Federal Theological Seminary property at Alice had been R285 000. If extra monies were needed for the rebuilding programme at Edendale, various donor agencies would be approached.

Education for Ministry

In his report on the new Department of Education for Ministry the Rev Vivian Harris indicated that the major priority had remained that of in-service training — with two centres this year — at Germiston and Parys.

The Germiston group consisted of nine persons (seven probationers and two probationer deaconesses) and the Parys group of eight probationers and one prospective candidate, all of whom were drawn from the two O.F.S. Districts.

In an evaluation of in-service training Mr Harris said that it had proved to be a feasible form of probationer training and that those who had been in I.S.T. since 1974 had without doubt become a group of very high quality.

Fellowship within the groups had been of great depth and this had been particularly beneficial from the point of view of interracial contact.

Areas of failure which he identified were: that not enough had been done for wives and that contact with the laity had been most inadequate.

Financial costs had been low — R619 for the Germiston group and R1 039 for the Parys group over the first eight months of this year.

The Department had maintained close contact with the internship training of ex-collegiate men in the final year of their Th.B. Degree. There had also been involvement in the training of Biblewomen in consultation with the Women's Auxiliary.

Another important task had been the reviewing of progress of each probationer with consequent recommendations through the Board of Examiners.

The Conference resolved to continue the internship training group presently meeting on the Reef and on the recommendation of Mr Harris resolved to become a sponsoring body of "Theological Education by Extension College". This college offers three qualifications: a Diploma, a Certificate and an Award for people with a minimum education of Senior Certificate, Junior Certificate and Standard V respectively. Mr Harris said that it would have value for probationers, deaconesses, Biblewomen, local preachers, evangelists and the laity of the Church and that the



Mrs Ann Kluge newly inducted General President of the W.A.

standard of its Senior Diploma was the same as that offered by the Federal Theological Seminary or the Rhodes University Diploma.

Manyano 'Involved'

Mrs. W.K. Sefothelo, President of the Women's Manyano spoke of the unrest in the black community and said that the Manyano had been prepared to be involved where there was need.

"Our husbands and brothers and sons are involved and we have made a donation of R500 to those who are in need because of detention". In addition to this food and clothing had been provided on a large scale by many Manyano branches.

Referring to the education crisis, Mrs. Sefothelo said that without education the future was doomed and she led the Conference in a prayer based on Psalm 123.

After Mrs Claire McKernan had presented the report of the Women's Auxiliary, the Conference received the incoming General President, Mrs. Anne Kluge who was accompanied by Mrs. J. Bailey, the new General Secretary. Among other things Mrs. McKernan announced that as of next year the Deaconess Order had been added to the W.A.'s 'Sponsor Fund' and that an immediate gift of R1 000 would be forthcoming. A similar amount of R1 000 was donated to the Christian Citizenship Department. There were now 428 branches of the Women's Auxiliary in the Connexion.

After Mrs. F. van Heerden had presented the report of the Women's Association, the President of the Conference expressed his thanks but also added: "I pray for the day when you will not do what you have done today but go and represent one Methodist Church — finished and kla!" He was referring to the continued existence of three women's organisations in Methodism.

Go on holiday — to your holiday

The moment you step into the train, your holiday starts! Relax while other people fuss about the details. Without the tension of driving, the train will take you comfortably to stage two of your holiday.

En route you can enjoy delicious, satisfying, tasty food, expertly served, with a choice of excellent wines. You can sit back and watch South Africa's magnificent scenery passing by, while the rhythmic sound of train wheels lulls you, eases you into a feeling of happy security.

Why not make the best of your holiday from the moment you start your journey?

Go on holiday — to your holiday.

Children travel free

Children under 7, accompanied by adults, travel free.

CONCESSION TIME IS BONANZA TIME!

When you travel during concession periods you pay up to 25% less for your ticket. And this saving can add to your contribution to the fight against inflation.

Full particulars obtainable from any station master, your nearest SAR Travel Bureau or by simply completing this coupon and posting it to us.

The Manager, Publicity and Travel Department, P.O. Box 1111, Johannesburg 2000.

Please send me full particulars on concessions by return post.

Name:

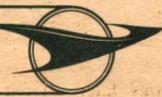
Address:

Tel. DIM

WE ACCEPT



SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS



ENJOYING DIMENSION? Pass this copy to a friend and help Dimension grow

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.