

30.8.1946.

MEMORANDUM BY REV. P.G. GORDON, MINISTER OF
ST. MARKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

I have two interests in the African work.

First of all, an African day school at Alexander Township with an enrolment of nearly 600 children. I am superintendent of that school.

We have four class-rooms built in accordance with departmental regulations and are allowed four teachers paid by the Department. We have four other teachers paid by my Church's Mission Committee. We have to provide school in connection with our African work, meeting in a little church hall which we hire and which belongs to the Apostolic Church.

We are badly in need of accommodation. If we had funds we could purchase a piece of land adjoining ours.

My second interest in African work arose out of a gift of £1000 given to me anonymously, with a request that the money form the nucleus of a fund to provide a Training College for African teachers and evangelists in the Transvaal. This is very much needed as we have to send our students to the colleges of one of the other churches or else to Lovedale.

Since receiving this £1000 we have had additional gifts and the sum now totals £1150. Next year the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church of S.A. celebrates the jubilee of the Assembly, and the innovation is to raise a Jubilee Fund. I am hoping, as Moderator of the Assembly to have this second scheme put of the list of the beneficiaries from the Church fund, but I cannot hope to get enough for my purpose. I estimate that £20,000 at least would be required. I would like to point out that I am a voluntary worker among the African people and have the consent of my own congregation to undertake this work, and I shall be grateful for whatever help the Trust can give me to help rear both my babies.

Y.M.C.A. CENTENARY APPEAL.

P.O. Box 7716,

JOHANNESBURG.

Col. J. Adamson,
A.B.C. Chambers.

Dear Col. Donaldson,

It is hardly necessary to remind you of the magnitude and the value of the War Work of the South African Y.M.C.A. Into that work the organisation threw all its resources, and the Welfare services which it provided or helped to provide for our troops wherever they went was a most important contribution to our war effort.

To provide for that work on the financial side it was necessary to ask for support from the public as a whole. The response was most generous. The assistance rendered is most deeply appreciated.

But the Y.M.C.A. now faces a new challenge. It is not just a matter of resuming its pre-war activities. A situation of great difficulty and opportunity has been created by the fact that discharge from military services and other post-war factors have created a state of unsesttlement, especially among the younger members of the community. The Y.M.C.A. can do much to meet that situation.

It is very conscious of its obligation to measure up to the challenge and to assist in the solution of our many post-war problems.

To make possible the fulfilment of its programme, the Y.M.C.A. is now making a Centenary Appeal for funds throughout Johannesburg, with the minimum target of £150,000.

The enclosed brochure briefly outlines the main services which it is proposed to develop.

With confidence and assurance I ask you to give this Appeal your most sympathetic consideration and generous support.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Jan H. Hofmeyr.

PAUL R. NOSAKA, B.A.

Member Native Representative Council,
Transvaal and Orange Free State.

1889, Buchan Street,
Pimville,
JOHANNESBURG.

Wednesday, 17th July, 1946.

MEMORANDUM FOR SUBMISSION TO THE BANTU WELFARE TRUST.

I wish to set out below in the broadest outline some of the tasks which a financial foundation like the BANTU WELFARE TRUST could and should to my mind undertake and thereby more appropriately fulfil its purpose to enable Africans to overcome their disabilities.

1. **EDUCATION:** The Trust has spent and continues to spend a large proportion of its funds in assisting educational institutions and enterprises throughout the Union. In addition, by way of grants and loans assistance is given to many who wish to further their studies in various ways. All this huge expenditure of money is to good purpose. But in my opinion it would be better spent if it were used in one big educational project - viz. the establishment of a NON-EUROPEAN COLLEGE. The present move by the Dutch Reformed Church to establish such a college is in my opinion a move in the right direction though unhappily under unpopular auspices. Such a College in the northern provinces and near the industrial hub of the Union is one that would speed up the acquisition of knowledge and technical skill which would make their influence felt much sooner on the industrial and economic life of South Africa. The task of establishing such a college is one of some magnitude, but one which should not deter the trustees of the Bantu Welfare Trust and one that is not beyond its resources especially when Government assistance can be relied on in such a venture.
2. **COMMERCE:** In this field the Trust has as yet made no significant contribution. The role of commerce in the civilisation of the West can hardly be over-estimated. Indeed the motives which led to the so-called "Age of Discovery" in modern history were predominantly commercial. Yet strange enough commercial training is the most neglected subject in Native education and these among the Africans who take up a commercial career, drift into it from sheer force of circumstances. Everywhere there are signs of an awakening interest in business by men and women who learn from the school of hard experience. No doubt commercial subjects will in due course receive increasing attention in our schools in response to this new interest in commerce. There are possibly other ways in which assistance and encouragement could be given in this matter, but I wish to suggest that one of the most obvious and practical means of giving this help is through an African Commercial Bank - which would assist the African business man with advice and where necessary with loans, and generally advise him about where to buy and how to indent goods. African staff should as far as possible be employed, but the highly technical offices should be reserved for qualified European advisers who in time would give way to Africans as they become qualified.

Such a bank with Capital of say £10,000 would be launched in Johannesburg by the Trust. The shares to be held initially by the Trust. Shares to the value of £1,000 to be sold each year to suitable Africans, until in ten years time the whole bank is owned and controlled by Africans.

If you help the Africans to learn to use and to control money, you have virtually put a new weapon in their hands whereby they will forge their way to freedom.

3. **POLITICS:** There is no doubt that in the mind of the donor of the Bantu Welfare Trust, the removal of the disabilities of the African involves participation in politics and that it is one of the

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prime duties of the Trust to support African political organisations to achieve the purpose for which they stand. Political freedom is the grand objective to which we as a subject and an oppressed people are making every effort to attain whether those efforts are in the field of education, religion commerce or in any other walk of life. Indeed in the early stages of our fight for political freedom, outflanking manoeuvres are dictated by expediency as - the search for education and commerce. Opportunities in these directions rightly seized constitute preparation for the proper struggle which political freedom inevitably entails. Therefore the Trust by allocating the major part of its funds towards Educational and Commercial enterprises, is properly discharging its function to prepare the Africans to overcome their disabilities and ultimately to achieve political freedom.

Nevertheless it would be a grievous mistake if the Trust did not give immediate help where it is urgently needed in the political struggle of the African people to-day. Such help is needed mostly in the form of A BUILDING^o HOUSE THE AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS scattered in various parts of the town and for various political organisations which are unable to find suitable offices in town. In such a building, an African Trade Hall - the African Trade Unions would flourish better, the leaders could be better guided and instructed and a hall for public meetings and conferences would stimulate political activities.

I suggest that the Trust consider the advisability of acquiring a site for the erection of a suitable building for the purpose mentioned above and that if possible this proposal be considered together with that of establishing an African Bank. The rentals accruing from such a building to be paid to the Trust.

CONCLUSION: I have set out above what I consider to be the three paramount needs of the African people to-day. I have not elaborated these proposals or mentioned a number of subsidiary projects in which time, money and energy could be dissipated with little results, but rather have I selected projects which I consider eminently practical and practicable, urgently necessary and nationally important. In my opinion it is in some such direction as these proposals indicate that I would prefer to see the funds of the Trust used.

Perhaps I should add a word about the health needs of the African people. The trust has shown a growing concern for the health of my people and indeed disbursements amounting to thousands of pounds have been made in this connection. My own humble opinion is, that the need in this field is much beyond the resources of the Trust and that only a token contribution need be made by the Trust. The Government moreover is increasingly shouldering its responsibility in the matter.

The purpose of the Trust should be less that of a charitable Institution, and more of an enterprising organisation prepared to spend its funds on undertaking of its own initiation (like the Donaldson's Community Centre) and the projects mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Paul P. Mosaka.

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