

CIRCULAR No. 408.

TO THE MEMORY OF  
ALEXIS JACOB

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A Recent Photograph.

WESTCOTT HALL  
RAILWAY ROAD  
OLDHAM

**CIRCULAR No. 408.**

**ISSUED ABOUT SIX TIMES A YEAR**

**SEPTEMBER, 1959.**

This Circular, though printed, is private, and those who receive it are asked to preserve its private character. Its object is to give those, whose sympathy and prayers in connection with the Lord's interests can be counted on, some information as to the progress of His work abroad, and the circumstances under which His servants have to carry on their ministry.

Those who wish to receive the Circular, or to discontinue the same, are requested to write to Mr. Stanley Hurle, 62 Heddon Court Avenue, Cockfosters, Herts, to whom also change of address should be made known. This Circular is free, as all expenses are paid out of a fund specially provided for the purpose.

Inquiries have been made as to the best means of sending help to the Lord's servants in the foreign field. For many years past sums have been received for this purpose by Mr. A. Jacob. It was his wish, and he made arrangements accordingly, that after his death the fund should be carried on by his sister, Mrs. Allen, and his nieces Mrs. P. J. Broomhall and Mrs. L. E. Perry. Contributors may indicate the special purpose intended, or send for the general fund. Address: 30, RADCLIFFE ROAD, EAST CROYDON, SURREY.

Sums sent for the Lord's servants will continue to be sent to them in full without any deduction for expenses.

Although the late administrator of the Fund has been called Home, the needs of the Missionaries are as pressing as ever before and cry out for prayer and practical remembrance.

**KINDLY NOTE**

Usually, on the last Saturday of every month, holiday times expected, at 3-30 p.m., some missionary speaks about the Lord's work at 68 Hamilton Park, N. quite close to Highbury Hill. Any of our readers will be heartily welcome. Nearest Tube Stations: Arsenal and Drayton Park.

## EDITOR

It has been thought fitting to make this issue of the Circular a memorial number to our beloved brother, Mr. Alexis Jacob. Not that Mr. Jacob would wish us to speak of him, but it is felt that his devoted life, his constant witness for Christ and his spiritual influence on the lives of so many have called forth such expressions of gratitude and praise to God, that by printing extracts from some of the letters and certain incidents from his life's story it will surely warm each reader's heart and redound to the Glory of God.

## OBITUARY

### MR. ALEXIS JACOB

Mr. Alexis Jacob, who died on Whit Monday, would have been 77 today. The younger son of Colonel S. L. Jacob, R.E., he came of a family whose service in India as soldiers and administrators covers 150 years. After leaving school he was articled to the late Sir Harry Peat and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1905. Until 1928 he was with the Wolseley Motor Company in Birmingham, resigning the secretaryship when the company was taken over by the Morris Group.

He then started in practice as a chartered accountant in London and Birmingham and founded the firm of Jacob, Cavenagh and Skeet, of which he was senior partner when he died. A director of many companies, he will be greatly missed on the boards where his sound judgment on finance was invaluable. As an adviser to trusts in the investment of their funds, he proved particularly successful.

His holidays were spent whenever possible in the mountains of Switzerland and Austria with his sister, who was as enthusiastic a climber as he was. At the age of 18 he felt the call of God to devote his life to Christian work, and while he excelled in all his business pursuits his heart was in the many missionary activities with which his name is connected. Throughout his life he managed the Panahpur Charitable Trust, established by his father for the relief of famine orphans in India. For many years he was chairman of the Mildmay Mission Hospital at Bethnal Green. He supported missionary work in India, the Congo, South America, Portugal, and Palestine, and was instru-



mental in helping many Jewish refugees from Hitler's régime.

A great student of the Scriptures, of which he had made an intensive study, his *Book Without Seam* is a scholarly exposition of one of his favourite themes.

*Reprinted from The Times of May 27th, 1959.*

## AN APPRECIATION OF MR. JACOB'S LIFE

*by one who knew him intimately*

To have a due appreciation of that very great Christian gentleman, Mr. Alexis Jacob, one would need to have access to the records written in heaven, but in order that we may continue to thank God for him and that we might be stirred to follow his example, a few facts are here set down.

Alexis Jacob, the youngest son of Col. S. L. Jacob, R.E., C.I.E., was born at Villeneuve, in Switzerland on 27th May, 1882.

While quite a young boy he was sent, with his older brother, as a boarder to a school in Clevedon, Somerset. Of his time there he sometimes spoke, recalling his keen zest for outdoor games — a zest which remained with him to the last day of his life here.

On leaving school he took a training, under articles with a leading firm of Chartered Accountants in London, obtaining first place in the Intermediate exam., and third in the Final; the latter after six weeks illness, during which time his studies were interrupted.

Those whose work brought them into touch with him were soon aware of his quick grasp of a situation, and of his equally quickly devised plan of action and his outstanding skill in handling anything entrusted to him.

It is not, however, his business abilities, as secretary to Wolseley Motors Ltd., and from 1927 onwards in practice as a chartered accountant, that we wish particularly to draw the reader's attention to, but rather to his life as a Christian.

He used to say that he did not forget that God put him here as a man, in the true sense of the word, and we who knew him can testify how truly he lived a manly life, while exhibiting the character of God. This did not come about all at once. It was when he was about 18 years of age, that he realised that God was speaking to him, and calling him to yield his will to His. Here, then, was a crisis in his life — and there were others — but none of us can ever know the tremendous battle that raged in his soul on such occasions, we only see the results of the victory, the strength, the peace, that came as evidence of self-will having been set aside, that God's will might be done.

Neither was his exceedingly comprehensive knowledge of the Scriptures, leading to his unique but always logical presentation of them, obtained without study, much of which was undertaken during his early days in Birmingham; here also his quick perception and ready grasp of facts enabled him to progress with greater speed than most of us could have done.

It must not be assumed he had endless time for study; he always made a point of attending the week-night meeting in Birmingham, and there were always the week-ends, the missionary meetings each month on Saturdays, the weekly Bible Class and many other Christian activities for which preparation had to be made.

It was, too, during his early days in Birmingham that his father asked him: "What are you doing for Christ in Birmingham?", that he set about active Christian work; first in a room of the factory premises, then in a house rented for

the purpose and later in the Hall built through the generosity of himself and his sister, Mrs. Allen.

He used to tell the story how he stood on a patch of land in the Alum Rock district and, baring his head, he prayed that if God willed it, he should have that land on which to build a hall, and how, almost at once came the answer with the direction as to the sum that was to be paid. On enquiry it was found that the price was far in excess of the sum indicated, but with characteristic patience Mr. A. Jacob waited, praying meantime, and often making fresh approaches. Then came a message from the agent who quoted a price only about £100 above Mr. Jacob's offer and he was much tempted to accept, but, again came the voice which seemed to say: "my child, I told you the price you were to pay", with the result that his faith was honoured. A further message came soon after accepting his original offer.

And so, in 1924 the Hall was built and where once was bare land, now there is a building from which the voices of children and adults may be heard praising God.

In the days of trade depression Mr. A. Jacob arranged for teas to be given to many unemployed men, to whom he spoke; this work also bore fruit.

Recently due to Mr. A. Jacob's wise administration, the surplus land has been sold, and with the proceeds a Recreation Hall and caretaker's house have been built adjoining the original building.

His efforts for missionary enterprise may be known to most readers of this Circular, but the

amount of money available is very largely due to his personal gifts over many years, as well as to his wise handling of the funds.

Many were the missionaries who in the days before the war, found periods of rest and recuperation at "71" Highbury Hill, where he and his sister Miss E. M. Jacob lived.

Mention should be made here of the Jewish couple, Dr. and Mrs. Eisenstein whom he had met on one of his holidays some years before. About the beginning of the last war these two wrote to Mr. and Miss Jacob asking them if they could give them hospitality until such time as they could obtain a visa to the United States. During the time they lived at No. 71 they used to attend family prayers (though they were never pressed to do this, or to attend the Bible Classes on Sunday). Months went by and still no permit came, but one day they both quietly announced their faith in Christ. This faith was so obviously genuine that they were received into Fellowship and it was soon after this that the permit came and they went to America with an introduction to some believers there. During the war they wrote regularly and sent parcels to their host and hostess, as a mark of their gratitude.

Not so long ago they visited this country and Mr. A. Jacob had the pleasure of meeting them. The reality of their faith was evidenced by their going on to Israel and testifying there in private conversation.

His Home-call came suddenly at his home in Croydon, on 18th May, 1959. He had risen as usual, had his time of devotion, and after break-

fast, family prayers; and then shortly after, God took him.

If a reminder of him is needed it can be found in his "*Book without Seam*" published shortly before his home-call. This book is the result of some of his own unique studies in the Scriptures. It is hoped to publish his presentation of the teaching of the Tabernacle which will serve as a further reminder to us who have heard his talks on this subject.

A great deal more could be written, but a personal note will suffice to shew how wise, and how considerate he was in our home, where, following one of his many visits, my wife voiced what I had often felt, when she said: "It is like having God in the house". And so it was. We thank God on every remembrance of him.



THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW EXTRACTS  
FROM SOME OF THE LETTERS RECEIVED

*FROM MISSION AND MISSIONARY  
FRIENDS*

I have just received a message concerning the sudden Home-call of our beloved friend, Mr. Jacob. What a glorious translation into the presence of his Lord Whom he loved so devotedly and served so faithfully. I am sure it is just as he would have wished it to be.

Nevertheless, though all the glorious promises of God's Holy Word for the believer are precious and joyous, we who are here for a little time longer greatly miss those who have been our strength and help by the way.

I have more recently been thinking of those who have enriched my own life through the past half century and for whose example I shall be most grateful to the Lord and to them, to the end of the journey. Among such stands high the name of dear Mr. Jacob. I loved him deeply, as everyone did, for he had the capacity to engender devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ and "love to all saints". I am numbered among those who ever gave thanks and shall do so upon every remembrance of a man of God and a beloved friend.

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How can one express what that loving, consistent, helpful life meant to all of us!

How can we ever say how much his unselfish care for us has meant? Using any little well-earned leisure to answer contributors for us, always urging others to remember the needs in other lands. Truly, the grace of God was amazingly manifest in his life!

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I don't think anybody will ever be able to estimate correctly how much we missionaries owe to Mr. Jacob for his untiring efforts on behalf of the missionary cause. Writing as one who has known him for a good many years now, I know all the service was done as unto the LORD, and he will therefore receive his reward from the Master he served so faithfully.

I don't think there is any need to multiply words in a letter of this kind, but I would like to add a little personal word. Every remembrance of Mr. Jacob calls for praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. I can hardly believe that nine months have passed since we last saw him at 68 Hamilton Park in September of 1958, some of the things he said on that occasion will always remain with me.

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I have sat under him as a member of the House Committee of the Mildmay Mission Hospital and we shall very sadly miss him there. His wisdom and wit and his charming and courteous manner were a constant joy and inspiration. His inspiration will last and his works do follow him.

*A Harley Street Doctor.*



I was very shocked to hear of the passing away of our very beloved Chairman, Mr. Jacob. He was a tremendous help and encouragement to me when I took over this post in the Hospital, and we shall miss him very sorely. So often at the Committee Meeting, and at other meetings he brought a beautiful fragrance of a sweet savour of Jesus Christ. Sometimes when problems were being talked over and we were getting rather earth bound he would make a remark that would lift our eyes off the present problem up to the Lord Jesus. As a Hospital we owe a tremendous lot to him for all these many years of faithful, selfless and devoted service that he has rendered unstintingly.

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The Trustees wish to place on record their deep sense of loss at the passing of Mr. Alexis Jacob and their great appreciation of all he has done for and meant to the Guest House Society during the 29 years during which he has been connected with it. When he assumed the position of Secretary to the Foreign Mission Club in 1930 the financial position of the Club was, for various reasons, in an unsatisfactory condition and it is almost entirely due to Mr. Jacob's keen interest, unflagging zeal and acute business ability that the Society is in the flourishing and healthy financial position in which it now finds itself. When the Club's original property in Highbury New Park was requisitioned by the London County Council it was Mr. Jacob who was largely responsible for the finding of the present premises and carrying out the long and difficult negotiations both with the County Council and the sellers of this property

whereby the satisfactory exchange of premises was concluded. The Committee thank God for Mr. Jacob's humble and Christlike life and his devotion to the wellbeing and usefulness of this organisation which provides accommodation in London for God's missionary servants from many lands, and in this way furthering a cause which was always very close to his heart.

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*From Members of the Bible Class which Mr. Jacob held for a great many years at Highbury Hill, and latterly at 68 Hamilton Park.*

To his Bible Class at "68" Hamilton Park, Mr. Jacob has been a tower of spiritual strength. To us, throughout the 12 years of our married life, Mr. Jacob has been as a beloved father, and his loss is felt as such.

His love of the Lord has always been active and not hidden away in a corner, and through him we have been born again and our lives changed.

From a life without meaning to a life full of the love of Christ — how can we ever express the debt we owe him?

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I think I can truthfully say that I owe more to your Mr. and Miss Jacob than to any other two people whom I have known. If it is that those whom we win for the Lord become jewels in our crown—maybe I shall be a jewel in theirs.

Our dear Mr. Jacob was always seeking to impress on us all at the class to have "a Great God", *One who will fulfill all He has said He will*, and do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think. (Eph. 3: 20).

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Earth is the poorer, and oh how much the dear Highbury folk will miss their beloved teacher. How much we have learnt of the Word of God from his lips — but heaven is the richer — and we have the joy of knowing that one day we shall see him again.

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*Extracts from letters from Personal Friends:*

Then how we enjoyed his word about the Lord at the breaking of bread last Lord's Day. How real it was to him to speak so simply and yet so touchingly, of seeing His lovely face and of the glory of God shining in it. My wife and I remarked after the meeting how his dear face reflected the pure and unalloyed joy of that which he spoke. We thought then how near to Himself the Lord had drawn our dear brother, but we little thought how near he was to entering His presence.

We praise God for every remembrance of Him — I know he would be the last to understand any eulogistic reference to himself, but we *do* honour the Lord's faithful servants and his was a life of service which found its spring and centre in His Master's love.

He was the most devoted, constant and faithful Christian we have ever known, and he has been a source of spiritual help and encouragement to me over the past 26 years and to countless others, and to my dear wife and the children since they first knew him. We have all loved him.

His departure to be with Christ whom he loved and served so wonderfully has made a deep impression upon all of us and we would fain desire that some portion of his spirit may pass on to us who remain.

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I am writing as one who owes perhaps more than anyone else does to your brother.

His kindness and courage 52 years ago in engaging me, untrained, as his assistant and helping me to make good; 20 years later offering me a partnership in starting his proposed practice, which enabled me to qualify as a chartered accountant; and his unvarying kindness and friendship all through the years — these things do indeed call for love and gratitude.

I am very glad to say that three days before his death, I was led by a sudden impulse, in our conversation, to remind him of these facts and to tell him what they had meant to me, and to express the affection and gratitude and admiration I have always had for him. As I left his room he put his arm round my shoulder and said "I know it. I know it. But it was my sister — she *made* me do it."

It was his generous nature coming out — always thinking of others, and not of himself.

How great a man your brother was, and how great a Christian! I thank God, as many others must, for the honour of knowing him, and, too, for the immeasurable good he has done my father and myself over so many, many years.

Were it not that your brother and we know the Lord, we might indeed sorrow hopelessly. Humanly speaking, the loss of such a *un'que* man must be an irreparable one. But as believers, we know that the Lord takes His saints to Himself when the moment has come and that the testimony of Christ moves ever majestically forward.

Not even the death of a great servant can interrupt what God is doing. What a glorious *end* it will be!

I have in mind the Scripture "He being dead yet speaketh". Mr. Jacob's voice, in this way, might well be heard and listened to by *all* of us who remain. His life spoke volumes, and has much to say to us.

To us he was always a very dear counsellor, and wonderful inspiration, and always seeking God's will first and shewing such integrity, in all his ways. We owe him so much.

He was always faithful to his high principles and absolutely fearless in following them. We need to pray that those who follow him may be equally faithful in all their dealings and decisions.

I personally shall miss so much the talks we had in his office, or in mine at Hospital, when we

shared together problems and decisions and often prayed together.

I cannot say that I was surprised because one felt as he spoke at the Hall on Sunday morning that he was already on the threshold.

We shall continue to think of him, as we have always done, as the greatest and dearest man we know, and the one most like his Lord.

He was a second father to me, and I owe him more than any other man for his fatherly wisdom and kindness ever since 1939, and I know he was the same to many others. I count it one of the greatest privileges of my life to have known his friendship and "sat at his feet".

Dear Mr. Jacob, what a radiant person he was. I shall never forget him or his understanding, and the help he was to me the week mother died.

*Extracts from letters of business friends:*

His personal integrity raised him far above the level of his contemporaries and it can have been given to few to leave such a record of selfless devotion to their Master.



He was always extremely kind and gracious to me, and I learned, like so many others who had the high privilege of working with him and under his leadership, to hold him in the highest honour and affection. Indeed, I hope you will not think it presumptuous on my part to say that I came to regard him almost as a father. His name will be a hallowed memory for years to come and will remain a lasting challenge and inspiration.

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He was not only a good man in the ordinary sense of the word, helping others, but must have inspired thousands who came in contact with him by his deeply religious and exemplary life. He was a Christian in the highest sense.

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It is quite impossible for me to express our feelings of loss with the death of Mr. Jacob, but think these were best stated for me yesterday by a colleague when he said "we have lost the hub of the wheel". It is now for us to try to carry on and maintain his fine principles and ideals.

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Although I have seen very little of Mr. Jacob in recent years, he has had a great influence upon my life. I was a young Christian when I went into his office, and became his secretary within a year, and in the nine years that I worked for him I can truthfully say that I never saw in him anything that was not consistent with his Christian

testimony. In the office, where he met many connected with the motor industry, who were of the 'horsey' type, he seemed to know how to handle them and I think he never missed an opportunity of speaking to them of the Lord. I know that many of them had a tremendous respect for him, and so had the Directors, who were, in those days, men of culture and standing.

In his Gospel and teaching ministry he mixed with a very different class—mostly working people and some living in the slums. He was always wise in all these relationships, and always gracious.

One thing I have never before mentioned and it was that he bore the physical imprint of his early morning quiet times for quite a time each day. When he arrived in the office at 9 a.m. his forehead bore the imprint of his fingers as his head had been bowed in prayer and I sometimes wondered how long would be needed in that attitude to produce that effect! He had already crossed the city and taken a train journey to Adderley Park and the impressions were still clearly to be seen.

The world is a poorer place for his going.

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*Extract from a Chairman's Speech to the  
Shareholders:*

By his sound judgment and wise counsel, Mr. Jacob rendered valuable service to the Company. By his integrity and kindliness, born of a deep religious faith combined with a stimulating breadth of outlook, he inspired the respect and affection



of all those who had the privilege of working with him. He will be greatly missed as well on personal as on business grounds, and the Directors express their sincere sympathy both to his relatives and to his professional associates in their grievous loss.

*News letters from the Mission Field:*

## ENGLAND

THE GOSPEL VAN,

June 19th, 1959.

*Our brother Mr. A. Dockerty writes:—*

The Home-call of dear Alexis Jacob came as a shock to me, as seeing him so well last year when I called and so bright and cheerful as usual, I could hardly believe it.

Yes indeed many of us who serve the Lord are going to miss him for his encouraging letters and also his ability to handle the funds, however, we are glad to read of the work being carried on in the meantime by your two daughters, Mrs. Broomhall and also Mrs. Perry.

Your prayers will be valued as I am feeling the strain of working alone with the Gospel Van, and not getting any younger, but still He giveth more Grace.

The Lord set the seal of his approval on the work at Blyth, Northumberland, from the outset this year by saving FOUR precious souls, one man was a real drunk, in fact he had drink in him when he was saved. A sister in the meeting who knew the family said, if he gets converted it will be a miracle. The miracle happened. I can tell you we made that hall ring with singing Happy Day when Jesus washed my Sins away, amidst tears of joy, and commended him to the Lord.

## FRANCE

June 21st, 1959.

*Our sister and brother Lottie and Frank Reece write:—*

We have received the Circular since 1924/5, and I do not think that I have been able to be at any of the monthly prayer meetings since then, as we never stop in London when on our short visits to England, but contact was kept through the little Circular.

We have been in Le Havre since 1945 and are seeking to raise a testimony to the Name of our Lord and Saviour, but there is very little interest for spiritual things. We shall value prayer this next week for a Bible Stand for which permission has been granted, to be held on one of the main centre squares here. Many different sectarian bodies are propagating their false doctrines here, but the True Way is unknown and no one ever comes to preach Christ as such. We also seek to make the Gospel known by the printed page and by booklets for young Christians. God has blessed this work in the past, and although on a faith basis, has supplied every need. The 2nd edition of the French Bible Dictionary is in the hands of the printer at present. This is our 68th book.

I must close now with our kind thoughts, knowing that the Lord giveth every needed grace and strength for every circumstance.

## BRAZIL

CARANGOLA.

*Our brother Mr. W. Anglin writes:—*

When I was ten years old I read one of Ballentyne's books for boys entitled "MARTIN RATLER," which gives an account of two British sailors wandering in the wilds of Brasil. They met an elderly Brazilian who could talk English. The book was written a little over a hundred years ago, and describes some of the customs of the country at that time. The old man said to the sailors "Brasil needs the Bible". Have just been requested to furnish accounts of conversions in Brasil through the reading of the Scriptures. I know of quite a few, and will narrate one of the stories for your Circular, shewing what miracles the Bible will perform. I feel that such stories might encourage readers to help more the Bible Society and the Scripture Gift Mission. Mr. Storrie, not long ago, wrote for the Circular a story of a New Testament: "ONE IN A MILLION". I expect there were many more "ONES" out of that same "Million" that were used to conversions in this country. *Here is my story.*

In the year 1931, Mr. Storrie and I resolved to make our annual journey to the Campo de Minas by horse with the veteran Pedro Rezende as our guide. After the fourth day's ride we stayed for the night at the house of a Christian tropeiro (muleteer) near the town of Teixeiras. In the evening he went with us to the house of a Christian lady named Dona Celuta Vargas, where a few believers had assembled for the week-night meet-

ing. This lady gained her living by sewing, though somewhat crippled by rheumatism. She was an elderly dame but very intelligent and devoted to the Lord. We had a nice meeting and had another on our return journey in the same house. This was the only gathering-place for believers in the town or neighbourhood, and not connected with any other group of Christians. A few years later I heard that Dona Celuta had moved to Rio de Janeiro in order to live in a Christian Home for elderly women-folk which was founded by a Baptist pastor on the lines of Muller's Orphanages, he being a great admirer of that movement and of its founder. When I was printing the music-book for our hymn-book in Rio, I had occasion to visit that city several times, and always took the opportunity to visit the Home and have a chat with Dona Celuta. She told me of her past history, and I requested her to write it down and send it to me. This she did, and I will give a resumé of her biography. I also corresponded with her and sent her Christ'an literature which she much appreciated. For some years I sent her at Christmas-time a present to divide with her companions in the Home. After the last occasion I received a letter from the pastor saying that Dona Celuta had gone to her heavenly Home, and he remarked that I was the only person that had ever corresponded with her whilst in the Home. Here now is her story.

Dona Celuta belonged to a strict Catholic family. When she was yet young, her father and eldest brother died. Her elder sister married, and Celuta was left to care for her mother. She provided for herself and her mother by sewing and teaching children. The two went to live in

Teixeiras where her uncle, that is her mother's brother, was padre. This man disliked them both for some unknown reason and persecuted them. Celuta was attacked by rheumatism and had to go to a hospital in a city some distance away. She returned somewhat deformed, but resolved to commit suicide as she thought her mother, whom she dearly loved, would get on better without the burden of keeping her. She went to the river in order to drown herself, but a friend prevented her and persuaded her to go home. She herself also became possessed with a great horror and repentance for having contemplated such a crime. With tears she implored God to forgive her, and to teach her to be rightly religious. Ever after she continued to pray to God to teach her real religion. She could neither sew nor write for some time, but probably this was due to her state of nerves rather than rheumatism. One day in desperation she tried to cut out a wedding dress and complete it, and found she could do it perfectly. Then she tried writing with the same result. It appeared to be almost a miracle. She then opened a private school in Teixeira, but her uncle, the padre, made propaganda against her, saying she was leprous, so her pupils all left her, and shortly after, she received notice to quit the house. She looked out for another house, but no one wanted a leprous tenant so they could not get anything. They were about to set out as wanderers on the face of the earth, and sleep anywhere they could find shelter, when a cousin visited them. Hearing of their desperate plight, this good woman went off to the padre, and talked to him in such a way that he promised to find an abode for his sister and niece. He put them into a sort of cavern in the side of a



cliff which had only a wooden fence in front. The place was known as "Padre's Hole". Big snakes used to creep up the walls of this "residence" which filled them with horror. In her biography Dona Celuta says: "Who can understand the ways of God? There it was that I received the greatest blessing and happiness, I received the answer to my daily prayer. It happened in this way. One afternoon a lady visited us, and whilst there 'it so happened' that a man known to this lady was passing and began a religious conversation with her. Dona Celuta became interested in the conversation and invited the man to enter. This he did and the following conversation took place.

The man: 'You ladies will not like my religious convictions for one of you is a sister of the padre and the other is his niece, whereas I am not a Roman Catholic, for God has shewn me the true religion. Do you ladies know it?'

D. Celuta: 'No Sir, but I am anxious to know it.'

Man: 'The Gospel of Christ is true.'

Dona Celuta: 'Where is that?'

Man: 'In the Holy Bible.'

D. Celuta: 'How can I obtain it?'

Man: 'I can lend you it.'

D. Celuta: 'Today?'

Man: 'Yes, today. I will go and get it now.'

He went out and in a short time returned with the Book and said: 'This contains the Old

and New Testament. The New is what you must read. It is the teaching of Jesus Christ.' The biography continues: 'I began the same day to read. How marvellous! I was so dumbfounded that I could not stop reading. I took my two meals at the same time with the open book at the side of my plate. I did not tire and read the New Testament to the end. I became convinced that Jesus was my Saviour. I then told my mother the story of my intended suicide, which I had not before told her. From that time everything assumed a new aspect to me. People brought me sewing and did not credit the padre's stories.'

Dona Celuta then fell ill and the doctor came and ordered them both to leave the "Padre's Hole." They went to a neighbouring town, and there attended the Methodist's meetings. The mother was converted and both were baptised. The believers (Methodists) there helped them to obtain a house in Teixeira, where Dona Celuta commenced a day school. When the Government Inspector came to the town to examine all the schools in the neighbourhood, the padre visited him and informed him that there was one school which ought to be closed as the teacher was leprous. Fortunately, D. Celuta's doctor also met the Inspector, and told him that the padre's information was religious persecution, and that she and her mother depended on the school for their living. He said he would give him a certificate of health for D. Celuta. The Inspector duly visited the school, was very eulogistic and gave a good report of it. Her mother died leaving her alone in the world. Dona Celuta opened her house for meetings, and this was the only evangelical work in the town, and it was there that Mr. Storrie and I attended.



After her removal to the Home in Rio, she always continued to pray for the conversion of her uncle, the padre, who persecuted them so cruelly. Now Dona Celuta has reached her heavenly Home. She was a testimony to what a Bible in Brasil can do in the way of transforming a life of misery into one of peace, happiness and usefulness in the service of the Lord, for the "Word of God is quick and powerful . . ."

#### CONSELHEIRO LAFAIETE.

*Our sister Miss Elsie Ainsworth writes:—*

In April I continued journeyings and visits and meetings for women and children. We made 200 bamboo knitting needles to distribute amongst them in Carangola district and out in the country where the Storrie's used to work. One continually met old faces with their grand-children. At Conceicas there were 200 at the Sunday School. Mr. Anglin still lives there. I was able to revisit Divisorio and Muriahe where the McNair's worked at times. Here, as in many country places, the Christians have moved into other districts and to the towns where other meetings have been formed. One man who was visiting at the Muriahe meeting said I remember you when I was a boy in Divisorio. Later I accepted Christ as my Saviour. I noticed on his card that he is a magistrate in Miradouro.

So one sees how the Lord has worked through the missionaries.

Many have been the journeyings on foot and by horse or ox cart and over 40,000 visits that Ivy and I know of have been made in the Campo.

etc. Here too the Christians have been prepared in the Campo and they have spread to the districts even as far as the capitals of Rio and Minas. Mr. Storrie has been here and in the Campo a few weeks, having meetings almost every night. The great anniversary gatherings were: Campo May 17th and Conselheiro Lafaiete 7th of June, when 600 to 700 gathered at each in the country and town. Buses and lorries came in from as far as Belo and even a car from Rio with one of our Campo Christians, who preached. We gave out a thousand invitations. We had a lovely morning meeting and the Lord Jesus was very precious to us as we remembered Him in His death.

10th July, 1959.

*Our sister Miss Elsie Ainsworth writes again:—*

Yesterday I received your letter. God's kindness over so many years continues.

May the Lord help and encourage you in continuing this great work for Him.

What a wonderful source of comfort and blessing and sustenance this has been. These days are full of house to house visitings as the Lord leads and gives strength. Slowly the Gospel spreads where a few seek to tell of His love.

I have visited amongst others these days two who were greatly impressed by the Gospel preached here on June 7th at the anniversary meetings. I will return to one house next week, D.V., to speak to one man's family.

We also sold five Bibles, one to an agent in the post office. On Thursday I had an R.C. visitor who asked such a lot of questions, and promises to return with a friend, so new doors are open. May the Lord bring many into blessing and send out more labourers.

My sister, who has worked with me 22 years here, is at present looking after mother in England.

TERESOPOLIS,  
23rd July, 1959.

*Our sister Miss Edith Cooke writes:—*

We were so glad to know that Miss McNair's fare had been paid in London before she sailed for home at the beginning of the week.

I 'phoned David Glass yesterday to ask him if Miss McNair's relations will be meeting her on arrival in England. He says that she has received a letter from her brother assuring her that he will be meeting her. Miss McNair seemed to be very comfortable on board the "Highland Monarch". She had a good cabin and the stewardess was kind and attentive. Although somewhat sorry to leave Brazil after so many years, she was looking forward to her voyage to England.

CARANGOLA,  
2nd July, 1959.

*Our brother Mr. A. H. Storrie writes:—*

My first itinerary of six weeks being over, friends may be glad to have their prayerful interest stimulated by hearing of it.

After our big local annual Gospel effort on May 3rd—reported elsewhere—I set off for my first objective several hundred miles distant. The first twelve miles have to be done by buggy to the Carangola railway station, where one entrains for Lafaiète, doing the long journey in four stages to avoid over-fatigue. Early on the Lord's Day morning, 17th May, the Lafaiète party, including Miss Ainsworth, moved off in two big motor lorries for the Campo proper, some 40 miles away. The Campo is very open, undulating country, 3,500 feet above sea level, but not mountainous. A more healthy climate could hardly be imagined; and the nights during the dry season—the Brazilian winter—are often very cold.

It was no small pleasure to find that our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hughes, workers who have settled in the district, were expecting me as their guest. At the 2-0 p.m. Gospel meeting it was also good to see 600 hearers trying to pack into a Hall made to seat half as many. Three visiting native brethren were the speakers. Serving coffee and buns to such a crowd took a long time, but it was methodically done. In the evening meeting I was paired with a coloured brother from Rio. Next day, being Whit Monday, the preaching programme was repeated. The meetings were not altogether without veiled opposition. The local "padre" held a special meeting for the faithful during the day, but some of his hearers attended our meeting at night.

The other visitors having left, I stayed on for a fortnight of evening meetings, the good numbers and interest being maintained to the end, even though the moon was on the wane. It is the full



moon that fixes the date for the beginning of these meetings in the Campo.

In comfortable Britain we have recently heard it said that we go to the foreign field to have an easy time. My horse-riding days being over, all the much visiting in the Campo had to be done on foot over very rough ground. The farmhouses are very scattered, and the daily visits involved walking in the heat about eight miles per day. All the houses are totally devoid of comfort and the meals most unappetizing. Much greater discomforts and fatigue were to follow en route to Lafaiète . . . . After getting over a three-day migraine, I was able to enjoy being the guest of the leading brother, in a fairly comfortable hotel.

Preceding the special annual Lafaiète meetings on Lord's Day, 7th June, we had a few week-night meetings. The work here is small, but makes progress in spite of open opposition. Miss Ainsworth's evangelistical spirit enables her to maintain her daily visiting in spite of her lameness. The special meetings were on the same lines as the Campo but on a smaller scale. The Hall was crowded out.

Two days by rail got me to a fairly new centre on the Carangola line. Here I had three happy days, with the little Hall filled each night. The city of Nuriáé came next for a week-end visit. Here they have a fine, new Hall, which filled up nicely for the Gospel at night. Divisorio, an older centre, is eight miles away, in the country. Here I spent a full week for meetings every night in their big Hall, all well-attended, the men being in the majority. There would be a good 200 present for the Gospel on the Lord's Day evening.

(Question by a sister 'in fellowship': "Was our Lord born before the deluge or after?"). Mr. McNair and his sister are fondly remembered at Divisorio, for they had a fruitful period of service there before transferring themselves to Teresopolis. Mr. Anglin and I are invited to be the speakers at the special annual Gospel meetings at Divisorio in November. We shall have to "cry aloud and spare not" to make our audience of 500 hear for such will be the number present if the weather is favourable. We hope to set out together in a few days for a month's work amongst six or seven of the smaller centres in the state of Espirito Santo, if the Lord will.

Highest honour 'tis to serve Him,  
But a better part and sweet  
Is, when all the toil is ended,  
Just to sit down at His feet,  
There to learn His peerless teaching,  
Know the love that fills His heart,  
Hear His Word and taste the blessing,  
Which alone He can impart.

PATI-DO-ALFERES,  
June 16th, 1959.

*Our sister Mrs. Clayton writes:—*

Before your letter of June 8th reached us, we had received the news of the sudden "Home-call" of your beloved brother through Mr. Anglin. He will be greatly missed, not only in the family circle, but by so many missionaries whom he lovingly served so devotedly. While you sorrow at his loss from your midst you will rejoice to know he suffered no pain and is now with the Lord he loved

and served so faithfully. Please accept our sympathy in your sorrow at this parting, though blessed be the Lord we do not sorrow as those without hope, but look forward to the reunion with our beloved brethren "to be together with the Lord" for ever and to see His Glory.

Regarding Miss McNair, we hear she is making good progress in the hospital at Anapol's, among Christian, English-speaking doctors and nurses and a good climate.

My husband joins in Christian greetings.

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### BELGIAN CONGO

LUSAMBO,

July 7th, 1959.

*Our brother Mr. W. Simpson writes:—*

We are plodding along as usual here. Our schoolboys have left for the long holiday, so we are busy getting some of the many jobs done, which have to await such a time, when we are free to devote ourselves to them. One matter which is causing me some exercise is the interviewing of candidates for baptism. It is so difficult to find out just where they stand as to salvation. Many wish to be baptised *in order to be saved*, not because they are already saved thro' faith in Christ. We have accepted 42, mostly elderly people, and these shall be baptised here on Lord's Day, D.V.

We had the sad news some time ago concerning one of our American missionary friends, who had been attacked and seriously wounded by

a group of natives! One arm was almost completely severed, and he also had a spear wound through his chest. This attack had no political significance, but was carried out by some converts? or Jehovah's witnesses!! A state official who went to Mr. Hobson's assistance was also severely wounded by machettes and spears and lies in a serious condition in the State Hospital at Lulua-bourg! We also hear of four murders which have taken place in our district in the past few weeks. This condition of things reflects the state of mind of the natives these days. Any little excuse serves for an outbreak of violence. One feels that very little would serve to "spark off" a general uprising.

I don't wish to give the impression that we live in fear of our lives — far from it. Our work goes on from day to day and there are no signs among our local population of any dissatisfaction apart from the usual "malcontents", who, like the "poor", are always with us! We know that we are in the Lord's hands and seek to continue in His service just as long as He pleases to leave us here.

We would value your continued prayers for God's blessing on our work, that whether our stay here be long or short, may He use us for His glory and the blessing of all among whom we live and labour.

June 13th, 1959.

*Our brother Mr. W. Simpson writes again:—*

Our thoughts have been much with you recently since the news reached us of the sudden Home-call of our "Brother beloved", Mr. Jacob.



Knowing how large a place he had in the hearts of all who gather in Hargrave, we realise a little our dear brother in my mind's-eye as I write, as he stood that last Lord's Day morning he was with you, his word so simple yet so profound, with the tears coursing down his cheeks: how he loved his Lord! He is now with Christ, whom he loved and served so faithfully and so long. We on the Mission field feel a personal loss in the passing of dear Mr. Jacob. He has done so much for us throughout the years.

Our work here still goes on apace, in spite of a great deal of political unrest and agitation. We had a visit last Saturday from one of Congo's potential "leaders". He rode in a large American car from Luluabourg for a meeting in Lusambo and as his grandparents live here at Inkongo, he came down to pay them a visit. I mentioned to someone recently (it may have been to you) that the chief difficulty facing the new political parties is not that of freeing their country from white domination, but the great difficulty of uniting their own peoples. If the Congo were given Independence tomorrow there would be an immediate return to inter-Tribal warfare. In spite of that general belief there is a call from a few "Hot-heads" for immediate Independence. Please continue to pray for us. We need divine and special guidance as we enter this new era, that we may truly help our African brethren as they face the new and complicated problems of a new day. May we, and they, be true to Christ. Please ask for definite prayer for those Christian men who are being chosen to fill posts of power and authority. A high percentage of those chosen to fill

posts in the rural councils are Mission-trained and Christians. It will be a great test of their faith.

We continue to have good news from our girls. We are sorry they are so far away, as my wife and I hope to celebrate our "Silver Wedding" on the 9th of July. How lovely it would be to have our dear girls with us at such a time.

We were encouraged recently to hear of the success of the conference held in Newcastle. We hope and pray that one result may be an increase in our numbers here in the Congo. It is quite possible that my wife and I will be left alone here in the next few months, as the Hill's leave for home in December and Miss Isaac goes early in 1960. Miss Thompson, our nurse, is not yet allowed to practice alone, but must work with someone who is recognised by the State. So, when Mrs. Hill leaves in December, Miss Thompson will require to move to another station where there is a State-recognised nurse.

#### LULUABOURG,

20th June, 1959.

*Our sister Miss Violet Ransom writes:—*

All of us here received word from our respective families in the same mail of the Home-call of our good friend Mr. Jacob. We were all greatly shocked at this news, and how much more must you his family be so. We all desire to express our deepest sympathy with you all in this sudden and sad bereavement. The news brought to my mind

the words Mr. Jacob spoke last October when he visited Newcas le-upon-Tyne, he told us not to mourn for him when the Lord took him home. He was full of the joy of the Lord as he told us of how the Lord had given the increase when seeds had been sown in His Name. The joy he was then anticipating is now his happy experience. We shall certainly miss him, however; he has been a wonderful example to us all and we thank our God for every remembrance of him.

We have had a busy three months here at Loto. The day begins with a prayer meeting at 6-15 a.m. for the menfolk and there is also a meeting held for the women in one of the school rooms. All of us have a short time of prayer then we divide into groups. Those who can read, read a portion of the Scriptures, and others who are learning to read have little books and they repeat the letters over and over till they remember them. Some of them have a great sense of humour and if I happen to meet them during the day instead of greeting me they repeat some of the letters we have been going over in the morning! This work is of special concern to me as I long that more of these dear women may be able to avail themselves of the "comfort of the Scriptures".

At 7-0 a.m. each morning the boys and girls hear the gospel before their day's work begins. Again at 9-0 a.m. one can hear the sound of singing on the Station and one is reminded that the gospel is about to be proclaimed at the dispensary. It is with joy that one can tell you that three people have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour during the weeks we have been here.

On some Sunday mornings Dr. Ross visits the assemblies in the neighbouring villages. These

visits are very much appreciated and on the occasions I have been present the gospel meetings have been very well attended. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes go out to the villages on Sunday afternoons and last Sunday I went with them to the nearby factory village. The Belgians have built a very nice village of concrete houses with metal roofs and the Africans have very nice gardens round their houses. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and we went up and down the streets inviting the people to come along to hear the gospel. At one house there was a crowd of people sitting round a table drinking beer. I was rather surprised that some of them got up and walked out the back door as we passed the front door. They did not seem to like us seeing them do this, while others were not in the least concerned. When Mrs. Barnes and I got back to the place of meeting, there was a good crowd gathered and Mr. Barnes was leading them in some singing. There were 150 people who sat and listened with great interest while Mr. Barnes spoke from the 5th Mark. We did not hear of any actual conversions, but we did what our dear brother Mr. Jacob was always exhorting us to do — we sowed the precious seed.

#### LUSAMBO NEWS LETTER

Jan.-July, 1959.

*Our sister Miss Wade writes:—*

The year began with the surprise visit of an elder who was active in the work here long ago. He had much to tell of the faithfulness of God through the years, and rejoiced in the telling. News



of his large family, children and grandchildren, was full of interest. All the sons and daughters are Christians and walking with him in the WAY. Mrs. Moyes remembers going to their home when the children were small; the father was away on a journey and she heard the mother praying with the children in his absence. Some of the sons have fine positions of trust and we hope they may continue to be used of God in the present changing conditions in this land.

So the father has lived among others of the Baluba people and is now grey haired, a tall, well-built man, still on active service, like Caleb of old. His ministry had many words in season and his knowledge of the Scriptures was a delight to hear. Young and old realised that it was his daily food as he exalted and taught of the Lord Jesus. Words to stir any who were sleeping and not alive to the opportunities of these days. Fwamba Henri remembers early morning journeys with him to villages across the Sankuru river for the preaching of the Gospel.

F.H. himself continues with the same purpose and zeal here, especially at the military camp in Lusambo. Bukasa Stephen has taken his place now at the meetings in the native cité, with other young people sharing. Others of the young men and girls accompany Mr. Moyes for meetings at the prison, where there are usually large gatherings.

There are many women attending the cité meetings. I think some of them may have histories like the woman of Samaria. How wonderful if others should say, "Come, see — Is not this the

Christ?" One of the Lusambo women recently come into fellowship has told us that she wants to teach others around her there of the Sav'our. She has a big house on the main road and many neighbours. Actually there is much wickedness and depravity all around, as in most of the big centres and towns. So we ask you to remember these lights shining in the darkness. Some are babes in Christ and need our prayers specially.

Then there is a little colony of Bena Inkongo among the thousands of the cité and old friends among them whom I visit from time to time. Some have good jobs in the town but have become rather nominal Christians these days, I am afraid.

A little group of Christian women here at Dibatai meet to pray for the restoration of those who "Once ran well", and for others active in the Lord's work here. This is a little private gathering apart from their usual time with Mrs. Moyes on Thursday evenings. So will you pray especially for these on active service, and that the prayer warriors may be increased.

The opportunities have surely increased here through the years, and though the enemy is busy and would hinder much that goes on, the Lord sets the seal of His approval. So as we think of what may lie ahead of these African Christians in a turbulent world we remember those "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight" — and pray that there may be many here of like precious faith. We look on to His coming and the joy it will bring.

I have very much enjoyed the school and other Christian activities among the young folk during



the recent months. There are occasional scraps and palavers with rebels to try our patience, and amusing things also, with all ages, but it is one big field of opportunity continually.

This has been an especially hot rainy season, and we all feel somewhat "Faint yet pursuing" at times here, near the Sankuru river, where the humidity seems higher. Though the river itself is always beautiful, songs rising from the canoes, merry chatter from the Akela fishermen's village down near the water, shouts from those splashing in their bathing and clothes washing, schoolboys singing in harmony in the moonlight, another one trying out hymn tunes on a penny whistle — all are part of the background of our lives.

There is much drumming and firing of guns at mournings at villages across river, and places on this side from time to time. It goes on for days and on through the nights sometimes, so we realise again how much of heathenism still remains.

Another mourning, earlier, which brought together a mixed company was for an old man in fellowship here. He has left a large family, intent on a big mourning for him, many of them not Christians. He had left word that his wife was not to remain indoors mourning for him, as is their custom and she was out to the meetings immediately after his death, and has continued; which is a rare occurrence. The Christians here in the village went along to sing hymns among the mourners until he was buried, as is their custom. This takes the place of the usual wailing, with its heathen associations. Many have no voice left after a night of singing, but the testimony to the

One Who has "Triumphed Gloriously" over death has gone out again.

I had brought coffee from Bena Tshadi and they had some of this at the mourning — I was told afterwards that it had made *buckets* of refreshment through the night watches! They come for tea and coffee like this, and we know that it checks the flow of palm wine—the usual beverage at mournings, during the time that the Christians are there.

Just now we are looking forward to Miss Flett's return from furlough. You will be remembering her in her journeyings to this land again, we know. How gladly we should welcome others also. **THE WORK IS GREAT — THE LABOURERS FEW.**

*Our brother Henry Moyes writes:—*

Our old school building which is in ruins, is a constant reminder to us of the dreadful storm which, in 1957, cleared the roofs off over one hundred houses and the new State hospital which had been opened only about four months. It was pathetic to go the three kilometres between here and the town and see sheets of galvanised roofing everywhere and the walls of houses cracked or blown down. However, within a month or so, these houses were practically all rebuilt — not necessarily paid for, but rebuilt just the same. Alas, for us it is not so and we have had to be content, during these last two years, with a very ordinary grass shed with mud and stick walls.

*Our sister Miss D. H. Isaac writes:—*

We read, this morning, of John's wonderful vision of the Lord Jesus, written for us in Rev. 1. What a marvellous steadying effect these verses give! He is in control and He says "FEAR NOT".

From time to time, we have sent a request for prayer, that the Lord would raise up leaders amongst His people here. That prayer is, in some measure, being answered! We are seeing some, here at Inkongo, taking up more responsibility. So please do pray on! In the light of present events, how greatly spirit-filled leaders of God's people are needed in this land.

Then the request for workers—**THAT** seems to us as urgent as ever! Is it so to our friends—those who read the Circular, and so often remember us in prayer, and give of their substance for the work here? We would again bring this request "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth labourers into His harvest." Again we ask prayer for the many believers who live in out-lying districts, and get very few visitors to encourage and help them in the things of the Lord. A number have been turned aside by new cults, and we are distressed to hear of one assembly which was quite a bright light in the darkness around, having some of the older ones caught in the delusion. We hear, too, of more ground gained in a place much nearer here.

Will you give thanks with us, for some who are definitely making progress in the adult reading

class, and for the present interest among the young people, in witnessing to others.

Thank you all for your continued loving interest and support. What a beautiful example of Chris-like service and devotion was shewn in Miss Ada Trench's life. How one's heart thrills in praise, to remember what the Lord did through her!

With greetings in His Name.

31.7.59.

*Our sister Miss Dorothy Isaac writes again:—*

Beloved Friends and Fellow Helpers,

It is strange to be writing, and realise that Mr. Jacob is not at the other end, receiving letters for the Circular! His constant labour of love in connection with the Circular has always been a real inspiration. I know that we have all greatly valued the Editorials, and what a challenge there is in those words which he wrote, in the March Circular:—

"The Living Word — even Jesus,

The Written Word — even the Scriptures, has captivated my heart. No-one shall speak ill of either in my presence without provoking a passionate outburst of loyal distress."

Words from us can only be inadequate, yet from the depths of our hearts we thank God for His beloved servant, and for the triumph of his life for Christ. Our very grateful thanks go to Mr. Hurle at this time, and we would say to all our friends, **LET US GO ON** in the strength of the Lord, for only He is sufficient.

On July 11th, a tornado struck us, here at Inkongo, removing a good deal of roofing and tearing huge branches from trees. Praise with us that no-one was hurt! At a village a little distance away, a hut caught fire, the burning thatch falling on a school boy. He was terribly burned and is now in Lusambo Hospital. Pray for him.

Some who have been learning to read and showing definite interest were baptised on July 12th. One or two had been on the way for many years, and it is good to know they have taken a definite step at last.

Pray for us! What privilege and responsibility is ours at this time, when Africa is undergoing such tremendous changes. Pray that we each may be a help in guiding and encouraging those around us. There are so many with whom we are in contact every day.

We remember you all in prayer — and our fellow-workers in Brazil, Spain, Portugal and India.

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## PORTUGAL

LISBON,

June 17th, 1959.

*Our brother Snr. José Freire writes:—*

Many thanks for your kind letter and Circular and I praise the Lord for having put in your heart to carry on the missionary work of our beloved brother and friend, Mr. Alexis Jacob. May the Lord help you in all this work and give you all

grace and wisdom for this great task! He is faithful and He is able!

I have just come back from the North where I had the privilege of organising our Beirn-Vonga Convention (a kind of a very small Keswick). The Lord has helped me to do this work for Him for over 30 years. The three-days Convention took place in a Methodist Church at RAMILOS in the mountains, a most beautiful place. We had with us workers from five cities: Oporto, Lisbon, Aveiro, Coimbra and Visen and Christians from many country places around. Our dear brethren Eric Barker and Frank Smith were among the speakers and we felt the presence of the Lord in a most remarkable way. There were Christians from 25 Churches. It was a fine opportunity to minister and to gospel preaching and we had a loud-speaker to transmit the messages to the outsiders around the hall. The small congregation of Ramilos is surrounded by much romanism and superstition and were cheered greatly, as you can imagine, by our Convention.

Our AMOREIRAS HALL is still under repairs and we are holding our meetings at Campolide.

LISBON,

July 14th, 1959.

*Our brother Snr. José Freire writes again:—*

Many thanks for the remittances received towards the repairs in the Amoreiras Hall, the village work and for myself. I praise the Lord for these precious tokens of fellowship and we are very thankful to you and to all those who sent their gifts to the Jacob Missionary Fund.



We hope to have all the repairs in the Amoreiras building ready by the end of this month and ask your prayers for the special meetings we intend to hold with different speakers for one or two weeks. The season is not the best for a special effort as it is Summer time and many people go away from Lisbon, but we look to the Lord for grace, wisdom and power, and hope strangers will come in and be blessed.

Perhaps you have heard of a couple of English missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. Colin Bowker, both of them medical doctors, who came to serve the Lord in Portuguese East Africa about 20 years ago. After they learned Portuguese in Lisbon and Dr. Bowker repeated his medical course in the Medical School of Lisbon, they were refused visas to enter Mozambique, so they decided to stay in Lisbon to serve the Lord in Portugal. The Lord blessed them and they opened up quite a number of places for the Gospel around Lisbon and some time ago they went to the Beira Baixa Province where there was no Gospel work and where the people are very strong R.C., and opened up Gospel Halls at Covilha, Castelo Branco, Fundao, Souto da Casa and Aldeia do Carvalho. That devoted couple of missionaries have worked in the midst of much opposition and persecution but they are still holding fast and the Lord has blessed their labours in a most remarkable way converting precious souls in all these places. Their old "Austin", 11 years old and with 187,000 miles has been stoned twice, one of the tyres cut with a knife, and our brother has even been beaten by the fanatical mob excited by the priests. They have suffered everything with much love and patience and have been very brave indeed. Just

lately they invited me to visit them and I spent 5 happy days preaching in the five places. As the people are very much afraid of the priests the meetings are small and I never had more than 30 people, and that was in the city of Covilha, the place where they first lived. They live now at Castelo Branco, another city. Mrs. Bowker's father was the late Rev. Chalmers Lyon, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in England, and one of the Keswick speakers a few years ago. The Bowkers have one daughter studying in England and two boys here with them. I commend them to your prayers.

My brother Nascimento who works as a missionary in Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa) is still finding much opposition from the local authorities in some parts in the interior to his work with the natives. A little time ago he went from Beira inland to visit 10 native churches and the local administrator of that region refused him permission to visit those isolated groups of Christians. He came back home very sad indeed.

#### PORTUGAL,

21st July, 1959.

*Our brother Mr. Eric Barker writes:—*

We are very grateful indeed for your fellowship and continuance of the link with our very dear old friend, Mr. Jacob, now at Home with his beloved Lord, Whom he served so faithfully.

I am reading with the greatest interest his book, "*The Book without Seam*" and am sorry I am not able to tell him personally how much I enjoy it. I certainly agree with the thoughts which he brings out in this book.

This week I am taking a special series of meetings each night at Vila do Conde and others. Mr. Ingleby and Mr. Poland and a Portuguese brother, are taking the meetings at the other places where I am usually taking Bible readings.

We are looking forward to the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jacob next month, D.V., their first visit to Oporto.

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### PALESTINE

*Our sister Miss Bernstein writes:—*

Some time ago a British diplomat in Israel, lectured in fluent colloquial Hebrew on the English Bible. He explained that the important part played by the regular study of the Bible in English schools was responsible for his life-long interest in Biblical Research. In a highly informative address he surveyed the English Bible translations from the first Anglo-Saxon fragments to the Authorised Version and contemporary attempts. A lively discussion followed which was accompanied by readings in Hebrew and English, of selected chapters from the Old and New Testaments. (Thank God for such opportunities readily taken by our diplomats).

One of Mr. Ben Gurion's nine points in his programme for the next ten years is "We must continue our standards of education with twin accents on the teachings of our ancient Hebrew prophets and the knowledge of modern science." Speaking at the World Jewish Youth Conference held in Jerusalem last year, Mr. Ben Gurion stres-

sed that if Israel succeeded in exploiting solar and atomic energy for the fructification of the desert, she would be helping not only the ingathering of the exiles, but in the solution of the hunger problem of millions of people in Asia and Africa. To the rabbinical students he said, "Israel is the bearer of the historic and spiritual ideals with which the Jewish people have been imbued since its beginnings, ideals which have been given supreme and eternal expression in the Book of Books, in the immortal message of Israel's prophets."

Ceylon seeks Israel's guidance in reviving their ancient language. A request for assistance in introducing Sinhalese as a language of instruction in Ceylon universities and research institutions to take the place of English, was recently received by the Ministry of Education and Culture from the university of Colombo.

Mrs. Marcinkowsky, of Mt. Carmel, wrote: "We look back on our conference at Whitsun with great thankfulness to the Lord. It was especially well attended on both days, with quite a number of workers from other missions in Haifa present. Dr. Shelley came from Jerusalem and opened up with a very searching message about the days of Noah, and the gist of the subject radiated through all that was said later. A very serious tone of warning ran through the whole conference, intermixed with the blessed hope of the Lord's return. We shall never forget the last hymn which my husband gave out at the end: 'It may be at morn.' All stood and sang it, each in his own tongue, and so mighty was the singing, and so real became the words, that had it pleased the Lord to come at



that moment, it would have been just natural to be taken up to be for ever with the Lord, but as this did not happen we went next day to perform the planned baptism. Bro. Morris, who again came over from Cyprus, gave an encouraging word at the end. Our two candidates, both from Haifa, looked so happy and quiet. They had both waited a whole year, and have been coming to our meetings for two years. A sad experience in the past has taught us to be more careful and slow with baptisms. One of them is a middle-aged Jewess and the other an Arab young man who has been helping in the Sunday School.

Miss Annie Thierstein of Jerusalem, wrote: "Your lovely gift came as a precious and unexpected surprise. Thank you so much for it. I thank the Lord for all His goodness and loving kindness. I shall use the money as indicated. We hope to have another Daily Vacation Bible School this summer, D.V., and your gift will enable me to get the prizes for this and for Christmas, if the Lord tarry. I have ordered the Jungle Doctor books for our youths. They are excellent for children, and I shall be glad to have some in stock. I received some Hebrew Bibles from abroad and am very thankful. I was able to give one away on the very day they arrived. Did I tell you that one of our 'old' schoolgirls of the Bucharest Mission School, where I taught for twelve years, is now translating the Scripture Union Notes into the Roumanian language? She is a precious child of God from j. origine.

Mrs. Shelley just now came into my room to send her loving greetings to you. She esteems you very much and said, "Dear Miss Bernstein

does some wonderful, unobtrusive work." I had to ask her for the meaning of that word as I cannot find it in my dictionary and my English is far from perfect, as you know. Sad to tell you that Dr. Shelley has been very ill, but has now recovered somewhat. His mother is wonderful. In her prayer she said to the Lord that His perfect will be done, whether He heals or takes her son. Now we thank the Lord that he is improving. The Lord needs him still. As you know, he and his mother are real testimonies here."

The Medrows of Nazareth wrote: "It is some weeks since your very good parcel arrived. Many many thanks for each item. You do have such a nice assortment. God bless you, dear sister. Dr. Shelley was here two weeks ago for meetings on his mother's chart, 'Crises.' Crowds came to the meetings. He was very interesting and gave much food for thought. No doubt many were blessed. Then on May 16-17, we had our yearly conference in Haifa. Bro. Morris, of Cyprus, was here for it as well as Dr. Shelley. The Ostrovsky's also were here. There was the usual crowd. On Monday a Jewess and an Arab young man of 25 years were baptised. Both of them are taking Emmaus courses. We have known both of them for some years.