

ST. ANDREW'S TIDE

1943.

Pastoral Letter from the Most Reverend the Archbishop

(to be read in the Churches of the Diocese on Sundays, November 21 and 28).

Once again I call Church people to remember the work of missions in their private devotions and in the concerted acts of intercession which have rightly become the traditional observance of St. Andrew's Tide.

In this connection I feel I cannot do better than remind you of the part now being played by our missionaries, and challenge your recognition of the essential contribution they are fitted in a unique way to make to the reconstruction of the post-war world.

In the Diocese of Central Tanganyika war years have seen the Consecration of an Assistant Bishop, in the person of the Right Rev. W. Wynn Jones, well known and much loved by a wide circle of friends who knew him as a young man in Sydney. These years have also seen the recognition by the Government of the part Tanganyika is expected to play in the war effort, when African clergy of the Diocese were appointed as Chaplains to the East African Forces.

After the outbreak of war the London "Times" paid the following tribute to a veteran missionary:-

"In these fifty years he (Canon Tyndale-Biscoe) has made an unrivalled contribution to the development of the great Himalayan state by providing the basis of leadership and administration.... It is not too much in fact to say that in this half-century of unremitting service Canon Tyndale-Biscoe has transformed the outlook and character of the youth of Kashmir by his mingling of self-sacrifice, faith, enterprise, originality, and unquenchable humour".

The contribution of missions to China is reflected to no small degree in the calm courage and unselfish leadership of General Chiang Kai Shek, and his gifted consort.

In the Pacific praise of the Christian Papuan has been sounded far and wide. A medical officer of the A.I.F. in New Guinea, writing to one of our Chaplains, said:-

"I, and everyone else, have been very impressed with the Fuzzy Wuzzies. All in this area are mission boys, and form a most impressive indicator of the amazing work the missions have done. We are in a Church of England area, and I have visited a couple of missions with the Padre. The boys are clean, cheerful, well-behaved, friendly, excellent and intelligent workers, and seem very happy and contented. Last week we visited a mission in the

hills, where the white women killed by the Japs are buried. It is a glorious spot; to come along the jungle road and suddenly see it is a delight. There are extensive lawns (buffalo) with mission buildings on one side. The Church and hospital were destroyed by Japs, but the Church is nearly re-built, and on the other side the Missionaries' quarters surrounded by beautiful gardens and flowering shrubs and trees. We met a couple of native teachers and saw some of the children. They were quite happy and friendly and unspoilt. It was certainly an education and a delightful experience".

Looking into the future, we can have no hope without the assurance of some influence which will overcome the hatred and suspicions and bitterness bred in war. Human experience has demonstrated the power of the Gospel to do this, but we are far from finding a wide acceptance of the fact in our midst.

Some years ago in Uganda, men of Toro who were Christians visited their age-long foes of Bunyoro. They rose one after another and told the crowd what the message of love had meant to them. The miracle of transformation was recorded in these words:--

"The last time we came to you here in this country we came with spears and shields in our hands and hatred in our hearts; now we stand before you with God's Word in our hands and His Love in our hearts". Tribal wars ceased and a new basis to life was discovered in the message of Christ to mankind.

Recently the C.M.S. shared in organising the successful China Day, when nearly £60,000 was given as a good-will offering to our stricken but unconquerable allies. The same Society has also organised a Mission of Help to the Netherlands East Indies, the full value of which will be realised when war conditions make possible an approach to those areas. Meanwhile supplies of food and other necessities have been sent to a number of the native pastors, whose gratitude has been expressed.

Along these lines our future problems will best be met, not only when dealing with our Allies, but also with those whom we have called "the enemy".

May I commend to your consideration the list of special services which will no doubt be made available to you by your Rector.

Howard Sydney