

The latest from our mission¹

Our **mission board** convened several times in 1950. Our chairman is **superintendent J. Böttcher** (Molzen). The goal was to expand the mission of the Hanoverian Evangelical-Lutheran Free Churches to a joint-venture of Evangelical-Lutheran Free Churches and to prepare an updated constitution of missions too...

A call from South Africa: Come over and help us! This is the heading of our flyer for Epiphany to be distributed in all congregations tied to our mission.

Books for a library serving our missionaries were raised by the Hessian diocese of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church and sent to South Africa. That's the beginning of a service to our brother missionaries on the mission front, that they had requested urgently. In one of the letters from our missionaries it reads: "We need books and writings of the most prominent theologians. Important books on contemporary missions, theology and church work are discussed regularly and at depth during our conferences, yet most pastors and missionaries can hardly afford to purchase a single book. Such a mission library serves this purpose well as our brothers can borrow a book for a while from such a well-stocked source. If somebody in Germany queries this in any way, please remind him of that solitary brother on the Botswana border out in the Kalahari desert, where he is cut off from all cultural settings and is thirsting for quality literature, which he cannot afford." – The only question to be asked: Who is willing to help us answer this request and provide this much needed service?

A Lutheran conference on missions in Durban. This happened on the 12th and 13th September 1950. It was the annual meeting of the General Lutheran Conference, which was led by the director of Hermannsburg Missions **W. Wickert** and convened the different Lutheran Missions active in South Africa to deal with common matters. Even if our mission of Free Churches can not be part of the partnership of the Cooperation Lutheran Missions incorporating 5 different bodies, still our representatives gladly participate in these instructive conventions. This time around our **missionary Karl Meister** held a paper on "The Lutheran Church on questions of Race". Other themes were "Church and mission", "The Church on native education", "Lutherans and Calvinists", "Practical Advice on the formation of a native church", "How can we respond successfully against the onslaught of the sects?" Two further directors of missions **D. Elfers** (Hermannsburg) and **Brennecke** (Berlin) were also part of these expansive consultations.

¹ These excerpts are from "Missionsblatt" 43(1951)1 Page 12