

25th. June, 1940.

My dear Friends,

The interval between the last letter and this one has been much longer than usual, owing to the fact that Miss Witting, who very kindly used to do the duplicating for me, left Nylstroom. However, I have now managed to obtain the use of a duplicator, so am able to write once more.

The thought uppermost in all our minds at present is the War. So much has happened during the last six weeks to make us feel sad, and people are beginning to wonder whether Great Britain can stand up to a nation which has managed to ride rough-shod over such a large part of Europe. Personally I am convinced that she can and will, but that is merely my own conviction and it is not the purpose of this letter to prophesy. But it is more than likely that, before the War comes to an end, we are in for a very trying time and our faith in God is going to be put to a very strong test. When that time comes, let it not find us lacking. However evil a thing may be, God can use it in working out His purpose; and it is at a time like this that we realise how very ineffective a 'comfortable' religion is. We want the consolations of religion, but find that we have pushed them away from us by refusing to make the sacrifices which Christianity demands. We have only to read carefully through the Old Testament to discover that, when things were going smoothly, the Israelites slipped back into a formal and comfortable religion; and that it required some great upheaval to bring them face to face with God and make them realise how helpless they were without Him.

So let us make up our minds, in this time of trial, that we are going to re-dedicate ourselves, and that we are going to re-arm spiritually. We are all anxious to do all in our power to help in winning this war, and most people are making great sacrifices and doing it cheerfully. But we are not really doing all in our power if we leave out Him in Whose power it is to help us. And one of our first, and most solemn, duties is prayer.

The Bishop will be visiting the Parish at the beginning of August, and will be at Warmbaths on Friday 2nd. for Evensong at 7.30 p.m., and in Nylstroom for a Confirmation on Saturday 3rd. at 7.30 p.m. On the Sunday the services will be Holy Communion in Nylstroom at 8 a.m., Matins at Rietbokspruit at 10.45 a.m.; and on Monday Holy Communion at 24Rivers at 7 a.m. Later on I shall send out reminders of these services.

The Sunday School at Settlers is now well under way, thanks to Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Cleverdon and those who are helping them. It is a great tie and takes up a lot of their time, but without their help it would have been impossible to have a Sunday School, and I am most grateful to them.