

Kermit in Africa

— Jim McNelly

(attend)

People often joke about the size of the city of Los Angeles claiming to see city limits signs everywhere from Japan to Mansonia number one but Kermit Anderson, a loyal member of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles, extended the boundaries of the city of the angels to Zaire, Africa. Zaire, you may recall, is the place where Muhamed Ali regained his heavyweight title and Simon Zealotes ended up after leaving his fellow apostles and heading off to the heart of Africa.

Kermit tells us that he too first went to Zaire thinking of himself as a missionary to test the ideals of living as a citizen of the planet URANTIA going into a foreign environment, not being content to be ignorant of his fellow men. He was given the opportunity to travel with the Peace Corps and the Teacher Corps in order to be a science teacher in a primitive area high school where no one else spoke English. Being open to new experiences and seeking to free his soul, Kermit had that singular religious zeal that could only lead to disappointment.

He tells us that his isolation and absence of fellowship with persons of his own kind brought out frustrations and lower emotions showing him the wisdom of Jesus' practice of sending out his ambassadors in groups of two. Only once was he able to discuss the God concept openly with the children of evolutionary and superstitious religion

but that this one experience greatly affected the young truth seeker who had learned the teachings about Jesus from the Christian missionaries but found the teachings of Jesus only after contact with Kermit. From this and other experiences, Kermit saw also the wisdom of bringing the leaders of primitive countries to learn and study in the progressive countries instead of sending foreigners to spread the truths of eternal life to people with very short life spans.

His role, this idealistic volunteer realized, was as a science teacher more than as a religious leader and found experience goals that were more easily attainable. Satisfied with a sense of adventure and energized with a lone English speaking visitor, Kermit lived in service for an entire year with only letters and copies of the "Agondonter" to keep him company.

He taught in French, his second language and his students third, and ten subjects even though he was prepared only in physics, math and chemistry. He became painfully aware of the consequences of Caligastia's rebellion and the default of Adam and Eve in the misery of ignorance, disease and deformity. He saw the dangers of mixing technical revelation without the time governor of experiential adjustment. He did find much nobility of spirit and a profound hospitality by the tribesmen and villagers. Something was the same in both the stone age and the twentieth century as they converged before his eyes.

The development of a unified international language and a development of the service motive in association with technical advances are keys to the progress of emerging nations, according to Kermit. The people

are eager for knowledge and crave fellowship with the rest of the world.

Isolation, according to Kermit, brought the URANTIA Book alive to him and like a Jonah in darkness, brought him ashore, back to the duties of living he had left for far-off enticements. B.F.

His growth, he reports, was ^{wholly} unconscious and that God takes care of all of his children when they are in need. ~~His sole regret, the thing he misses most is the fine African beer, but that he wouldn't trade his experience for anything.~~ Coming back to the United States was made twice the homecoming for he was able by coincidence to attend last summer's URANTIA Convention in Chicago. To go from total isolation into the arms of over three hundred Urantians was quite an experience. Through all of this, Kermit sees much good to have come out of his travels and has brought him in his own assesment, to be more aware of his dependence upon God and the importance of socializing his spiritual brotherhood experience. He says that he misses the fine African beer but it is not enough to get him to go back to live. The adventure, in his final analysis, was so valuable that he wouldn't trade it for anything. The "Agondonter" welcomes Kermit back home and thanks him for sharing his personal experiences with our readership.