

Bantu Men's
Social Centre

ANNUAL
REPORT

1929



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1930

Bantu Men's Social Centre.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Mr. Walter S. Webber.

Vice-Chairmen :

Major H. S. Cooke, Mr. R. V. S. Thema.

Treasurer :

Mr. Howard Pim.

Secretary :

Mr. Allen C. Davis.

Rev. S. Bovet, Mr. Herbert Dhlomo,
Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, Mr. Harold Kumalo,
Coun. E. O. Leake, Rev. R. Mackintosh,
Mr. R. W. Msimang, Mr. E. J. Martin,
Mr. J. S. Mokoena, Rev. W. S. Ndawonde,
Rev. Canon W. Parker, Coun. Alf Law Palmer,
Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, Mr. H. M. Taberer, Mr. S. S. Tema,
Dr. A. B. Xuma.

Bantu Men's Social Centre.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1929.

The Bantu Men's Social Centre has just concluded its fifth year of service among the Bantu men of Johannesburg and the vicinity. Although it has been quiet at times it has proved to be a year of reconstruction. The building has been used by many Natives who feel the need of such a place to spend their spare time while they are not at work, and can be found here most any day or evening. Many others who because of the distance that they live from the building cannot be here everyday are here for the weekly bioscope shows and also the Guest Nights and other special functions. All of these value the work that is being done for them along social, religious and educational lines, which leads to a better brotherly feeling toward one another.

The Guest Book shows that we have had 255 visitors during the year who have gone away with a firmer belief in the work that is being done here for the Natives. Our visitors have included many from other countries, missionaries from other missions, and local Europeans interested in the work and many others.

During 1929 the maximum membership was 305. At the present time the membership is 220, the difference being, that we have received 7 resignations and 85 have failed to renew. Of this latter number many will probably be renewing within a couple of months. Of this total number, 114 are new members taken in during the year. The total membership is a little smaller than that reported last year but this is due to the fact that only paid up memberships have been counted.

The following is a brief report of activities during the year :—

Athletics :—

The Witwatersrand Non-European Saturday Football Association played again for the trophy that the Municipality gave in 1928, and although the "Olympics" won again this year, the Social Centre teams made a good showing. One of the football teams played a two day match in Bloemfontein. The other team made plans to play in Natal but owing to lack of funds it had to be abandoned.

A Tennis Tournament was held in which all members could compete for cups in singles, mens doubles and mixed doubles. The cups were bought by the Secretary from donations left him for this purpose.

Volley-Ball, Paddle Tennis, Hand-Ball and other games have been enjoyed by the members in the Gymnasium. Boxing has also been very popular this year as well as regular training in running and jumping.

On October 7th the Municipality held a Sports Day for the Natives on the Wemmer Grounds, which was open to all Natives along the Reef. The Social Centre members made a very good showing this day by carrying away 16 of the total number of prizes. This fact shows what a little training will do to help a person develop along athletic lines.

The year 1929 has seen here at the Centre the first Boxing Tournament for Non-Europeans that has ever been held in South Africa. There were six bouts held that were greatly enjoyed by an audience of about one thousand. The officials were officers of the Transvaal Amateur Boxing Association. This is a big step along lines that will lead to better sportsmanship among all who are interested in boxing.

Education :—

The Night School classes have been held as usual under the supervision of Rev. E. W. Grant, the upper standards and the Junior Certificate classes being held

at the B.M.S.C. with about 50 in attendance. One other member of the B.M.S.C. is taking shorthand and business English.

The regular Bookkeeping classes have been held again this year, Mr. Albert Gray taking the classes the first part of the year. Since Mr. Gray had to give up the classes, Mr. E. G. Taylor has been taking the Junior Class and two young fellows from the Technical High School have taken the two upper classes. Several members of these classes were successful in passing the Government examinations in June, and several others took the examinations in November.

Mr. J. D. Rheinalt Jones has continued his study circle on Native Law and Customs, known as the "Tuesday Club."

Several members are still taking piano lessons and are using our piano for practicing. We have also secured a European to direct the Glee Club, which is making good progress and will soon be able to put on some good concerts.

The Gamma Sigma Club has had a varied programme this year consisting of debates with other societies, debates amongst the members and also some very fine lectures. One of the visiting debating societies was the young people from the Germiston High School, who fully enjoyed the evening debating here and who have come to a better understanding between the two. The following are some of the speakers and their subjects : Mr. Grimshaw, from the League of Nations Office at Geneva; Rev. A. A. Kidwell, who spoke on "Sunday Sports;" Mr. W. G. A. Mears, who spoke on "Native History;" Dr. K. Butterfield, visiting professor under the Carnegie Foundation, U.S.A., who spoke on "Agriculture;" Dr. Orenstein, who spoke on "Venereal Diseases;" Rev. R. Mackintosh, who spoke on the "Better Life;" Dr. J. Dextor Taylor, who spoke on the "Higher Criticism of the Bible;" Mr. W. G. Ballinger, who spoke on "Trade Unionism;" and other economic subjects, and other equally fine speakers.

The Social Centre has also had meetings with different European groups at which times Rev. Ray E. Phillips has shown films of Native conditions at the present time, and several of our members have spoken. These meetings have proven very helpful in the creating of better inter-racial feeling and have been educational to all concerned.

Religion :—

The Social Centre places its main emphasis on practical manifestations of the spirit of Christian Brotherhood. It encourages the attendance of members at their own churches. Meetings have been held for the last few months each Sunday afternoon, on "Personal Religion in our Everyday Life." These meetings are held so that we can get to know each other better and to find a way to know God better in our everyday life.

General :—

The Bantu Men's Social Centre as in other years has been the meeting place of several Native Organisations. Some of these are; The Native Teachers' Association (Rand Branch), the Native Ministers Association, the N.R.C. Cricket Club, and the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives. During the Annual Assembly of the Congregational Union of South Africa, the Native delegates were provided for at the Social Centre on account of the difficulty of securing suitable accommodations in the city. The South African Federation of Native Teachers Associations, held its meeting at the Social Centre this year. This association is composed of Native Teachers representing schools from all over South Africa.

Draughts and chess are still very popular amongst the members and two matches have been played between the members and others teams, which have been enjoyed by all.

Tennis has been very popular and the Tennis Club has played matches with teams from Modder "B," Klerksdorp, and the African Darkies from Boksburg.

Matches were arranged between Bloemfontein and Lovedale, but both teams failed to put in an appearance.

Five "Guest Nights" have been held during the year. One evening the programme was arranged by the Rotary Club, consisting of singing and a conjurer who mystified all, and another was arranged by Miss Christobel Edwards. The others have been evenings of games and music with dancing at the close. Dancing was tried for the first time this year as part of our "Guest Night" programmes and has been greatly appreciated by all members. So far as our present experience goes along these lines, it has added to the programmes and has been free from all objectional features.

Three schools have held their closing concerts in the B.M.S.C. Hall.

Children's Work :—

Although the Secretary has not been doing the Pathfinder work, he has helped out in any possible way that he could. The Secretary has also helped with the School Football and also one school with its closing concert.

Bioscope entertainments for the children have been held each Friday evening in the Gymnasium. Hundreds of children who wouldn't otherwise have this sort of entertainment, have come from all parts of Johannesburg to see good clean pictures that are enjoyed as only children can enjoy them.

The Secretary in this first annual report since taking over the work, heartily joins with the Bantu Men's Social Centre Committee and its members in thanking all who have helped during this year with their gifts, subscriptions and services.

WALTER S. WEBBER,
Chairman.

ALLEN C. DAVIS,
Secretary.

Bantu Men's

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR DR.

1928.

£566 15 0	To Salaries and Wages ...	£566 5 0
122 17 7	„ Municipal Rates and Charges	136 2 6
-----	„ Maintenance of Buildings	31 13 0
23 16 9	„ Games	29 18 8
41 6 9	„ Insurance	41 6 9
5 0 11	„ Loss on Kitchen A/c.	3 19 11
99 6 1	Expenditure	£94 13 10
94 5 2	Revenue	90 13 11
-----	„ Clerical Assistance ...	28 9 3
213 1 2	„ Postages, Stationery, Telephones, Banks Charges and Sundry Expenses	244 5 1
73 10 0	„ Disbursements in respect of Night Schools	17 19 6
31 19 1	„ Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment	106 16 5
-----		-----
£1,078 7 3		£1,206 16 1
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JOHANNESBURG,

29th January, 1930.

Social Centre.

THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

CR.

1928.

£62 16 6	By Membership Fees	£103 10 4
719 2 6	„ Subscriptions and Donations (including Native Recruiting Cor- poration Ltd. £300)	873 2 9
200 11 3	„ Board of Control, Deferred Pay Interest Fund £1 per £1	208 13 6
73 10 0	„ Night School Fees	17 19 6
22 7 0	„ Sundry Revenue (Hire of Hall) ...	3 10 0

£1,078 7 3

£1,206 16 1

Certified correct,

HOWARD PIM.

Hon. Treasurer.

Bantu Men's

BALANCE SHEET

DR.

1928.

£44 13 7	To Creditors	£55 6 3
44 13 7	On Open Account ...	£34 9 0
— — —	On Kitchen Account	20 17 3
— — —	„ Subscriptions and Donations in Advance	59 12 0
7932 6 10	„ Accumulated Funds	7932 6 10
	Balance at 31/12/28	7932 6 10
— — —	Add Expenditure & Revenue Account	— — —

£7,977 0 5

£8,047 5 1

JOHANNESBURG,

29th January, 1930.

Social Centre.

31st DECEMBER, 1929.

CR.

1928.

£7095 5 10	By Buildings	£7095 5 10
586 13 1	„ Furniture and Equip- ment	706 8 5
574 6 8	Balance 31/12/28 ...	586 13 1
44 5 6	Add Additions dur- ing the year ...	226 11 9
<hr/>		<hr/>
618 12 2		813 4 10
31 19 1	Less Depreciation ...	106 16 5
<hr/>		<hr/>
4 0 0	„ Municipal Deposits ...	19 0 0
— — —	„ Payments in Advance	23 10 0
	Salary	10 0 0
	Telephone Rent ...	9 6 0
	Singing Lessons ...	4 4 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
46 11 0	„ Debtors	24 13 0
	Joint Council ...	20 0 0
	Kitchen	4 13 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
244 10 6	„ Cash	178 7 10
242 8 1	Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd.	155 16 2
2 2 5	Petty Cash	8 13 8
— — —	Kitchen Cash ...	13 18 0
<hr/>		<hr/>
£7,977 0 5		£8,047 5 1
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Certified correct,

HOWARD PIM,

Hon. Treasurer.

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