

5925 Indiana Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois,
U. S. A.
August 11, 1932.

The Rev. H. M. Phiri,
Kasungu, Nyasaland,
British Central Africa.

Dear Sir:

I am very much surprised. In March of this year, I sent you a letter, enclosing a little money. Up to this writing, I have not heard from you. I am uneasy, as I do not know whether you received both the money and letter or not. I am writing this letter in an effort to find out whether or not you received either the letter or the money.

I am very sorry to inform you that Bishop Vernon is no longer a bishop now. The General Conference of last May suspended him on the ground of misuse of Church money.

It is really very discouraging. Since I have been in this country, I have heard many bad things about Bishop Vernon, but I did not tell you, because as you know, in Chewa we say "Za mthengo siwanena zose". But I feel forced to tell you this now. It is far too serious for me to conceal it.

Since Bishop Vernon and his wife organized the Nyasaland Foundation, the people here told me that he was using the money for his own personal use. I did not believe it because I had faith in him. He told me many things about his great plans for Nyasaland. And naturally, I believed them. But now, I am greatly disappointed. There is no money for the Foundation. Where it went to, I do not know. But since Bishop Vernon admitted in the General Conference that he used the Church money, I am forced to believe that he used the Foundation money also. According to the laws of this country, I cannot say that, because I did not see him actually using the money. I have no evidence to show. Therefore, I cannot say anything about it. There are many other things that I can tell you about the A. M. E. Church here, but I shall have to wait till next time.

However, I want you to know that I am really disappointed with it. The bishops and the general officers use all the missionary money. The ministers in the field do not get the money. That is why you are all suffering without support there. I am thinking of resigning from the Church seriously. If you allow me to do so, I will do so as soon as I hear from you. If I resign from the A. M. E. Church, I will help^{you} still, but as an independent person. In fact I can help you even more if I resign and do it as an independent person. The white people as well as the black people in this country are very fond of me. But now all the money I raise goes to Bishop Vernon, and yet you do not get anything. I have to send you the little I make for myself. I have to pay my own school fees in school. I did not tell you this before, but I am compelled to tell you now, because I have been patient enough with the A. M. Church.

I plan to go to Scotland where I want to spend a year or two either at the University of Edinburgh or at the School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges. Then after finishing in Scotland, I shall be ready to return to Nyasaland. I do not know how things ^{will be} when I return, but I do plan to devote my whole time to education and the health of the people, even if I have to do ⁱⁿ the government service. My whole aim is to help my country.

I wrote Bishop Gregg about your condition, but as ~~(I have)~~ I have told you, he has nothing to send you to pay for your steamship fare. He is a very good man, but his hands are tied, financially. He has no money of his own, and cannot get any from the church.

Tell the people, particularly, Chief Mwase, that I shall soon be returning home. My people have been writing me for some financial aid, but I am not able even to keep myself in school. ~~(S)~~ So I cannot do anything for them.

I hope this will find you feeling very well. Give my ~~(reg)~~ regards to Chief Mwase, and Mrs. Phiri.

Very respectfully yours,

Hastings K. Banda

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