

MANCHE'S MOTHER IS BAPTISED

The woman who hated the Church

'INDEED Saul became Paul,' said an old lady on the day of the baptism of Manche Masemola's mother.

Nobody thought she would one day become a Christian because she hated the Church intensely. This hatred was engineered by her daughter Manche becoming a convert 40 years ago.

pilgrimage. She had no good word for the Church.

Consequently, when the baptism took place at her home village at Marishane, in Sekhukhuneland, the big church was packed to capacity. People wanted to witness her baptism.

The old lady crept to the church two hours before the service. After it her friends harangued her for not inviting them to be present on this great occasion. She in reply said: 'When one keeps a tryst with God one needs no company.'

'NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE'

As it is customary with African baptism or confirmation, a group gets to the home of the newly baptised or confirmed individual for feasting and singing. Quite a substantial crowd followed Manche's mother, who had taken the Christian name Magdalene, to her home for tea.

This happy occasion made all of us say: 'Yes, there is nothing impossible with God.'

A WOMAN who flogged her daughter to death 40 years ago for becoming a catechumen and desiring Christian baptism has been baptised herself, and was later confirmed by the Bishop and made her communion.

This account has been specially written for SEEK by Archdeacon John Tsebe, the priest who performed the baptism.

And because Manche insisted on becoming a Christian and being regular in Church-going her mother tried to dissuade her from accepting this crude and foreign religion, as she termed it.

Manche, however, would not heed her mother's persuasion, remained adamant rather than return to the darkness of heathenism.

Her mother, who wielded tremendous power in the family, tried to discourage her by beating her every time she came home from Church.

One day when Manche came home from Church her mother belaboured her with many a blow, and because of this she died, being still a catechumen.

PILGRIMAGE

Every year huge crowds go on pilgrimage to Manche's grave and her mother always expressed intense dislike of these gatherings and the fuss made about her daughter.

As a result Christians feared to come near her because she would swear and use obscene language at those who joined the

They don't like SEEK

THE following resolution has been sent to the Publications Department by the Provincial Worker of the Mothers' Union:

'The Provincial Council of the Mothers' Union wishes to draw the attention of the Publications Board (sic) to the general dissatisfaction felt by its members at the suitability of SEEK as a Provincial magazine. While it may be meeting the needs of the Clergy, something more attractive and relevant to the laity would seem to be needed.'

The resolution was noted.



MRS. MAGDALENE MASEMOLA is seen here (second from right) with Mrs. W. Nkhomo, Miss W. Funnell and Mrs. N. Tsebe.

POET'S MODERN LITURGY JARS

THE MODERN versions of the Anglican chants and canticles recently produced by the poet laureate, Cecil Day-Lewis, have been coolly received.

The Church of England Liturgical Commission, for whom the task was undertaken, draws attention to its magnitude and the difficulties involved, but adds that the new words and music 'should prove easy to absorb.'

Another point of view is typified by 'The Christian Century', which finds the new forms 'certainly not easy to take' and expresses the hope that they 'will soon fall into desuetude'. 'The Christian Century' singles out the Benedictus as a particularly 'banal jingle'.

Its report is published under the heading 'How Not to Give the People Something to Sing'. From 'The Christian Minister'

On Tuesday I wash the Archdeacon

Mrs. H. W. Gwyer, widow of the second Bishop of George, revisited, meeting old friends.

Naturally, she found many changes, one of the most striking was a journey which used to take not less than 10 hours, and which in getting out 47 times to open that number of gates — and close the

Another reminiscence was of visiting Bishop's Lea the day after the for moving in.

There was a heavy knock at the door. It heralded the arrival of who announced: 'I am Matilda, I come to wash Madam'.

When Mrs. Gwyer explained that nothing had yet been settled, the is all right, Madam. I washes them all. On Monday I wash the Bishop, Archdeacon, and on Wednesday I wash the Dean. I washes them all brings them back again.'

Another was of complaining somewhat bitterly of an unexpected wrecked some carefully laid plans, when a soft voice commented: 'In blessing'.