

CORRESPONDENCE.

PAULPIETERSBURG, Natal,
South Africa, Nov. 27th 1904.

Dear Friend,—It occurred to me you might like to know how we spend our Sundays, out here in this wilderness. We get up as early as any other day in the week, and after breakfast and prayers there is always much to do to get a place ready to accommodate the people, so the dining table is put out of doors chairs placed on top of beds and other things moved back out of the way so as to give as much room as possible. The organ and our chairs are put in place and perhaps we have a little time of singing the dear songs found in "joy and gladness" or songs of praise and salvation, or some other English hymn book we have. Often a few minutes for Bible stories for our children before the people gather but more often this is deferred till after service. Before ten o'clock the people begin to come and from then to eleven some one wants to be taught a little so this half hour or more is filled in thus. Then we have the two services of the day with from half to three quarters of an hour's intermission while we have lunch.

What are our meetings like? Perhaps no two are conducted alike. For instance today I had the first meeting using these two pictures John the Baptist preaching and John the Baptist beheaded, bringing out the two points to really follow Jesus means repenting and forsaking sin and when we become his disciples we meet trouble and opposition but have great joy and peace such as Satan's disciples never have.

Today was a close warm day just such as one as makes us sleepy and some seemed to feel that way but we got on very well indeed. The 2nd meeting took a different turn. Dr. Sanders after the opening exercises taught them this text "Ye shall seek for me and find me when ye search for me with all your heart." After speaking for a few minutes on the importance of seeking with all the heart he sat down and taking each one in turn inquired how they stood before God at the present time. It was most satisfactory as they answered just as they really have, either settled the matter and received the assurance or they were seeking. Some told the exact time when the joy of sins forgiven came, others had not yet forsaken the pet sins viz. beer, snuff etc. and all said their hearts condemned these self same sins. Still others have only been for a little time seeking and have not found yet. This gave such grand opportunities to read the texts that helped them all to see the importance of forsaking sin and seeking whole heartedly and showed sin to be the hinderance to peace and joy. There was no hiding nor excusing and there are several new ones out clear. This kind of a meeting was much easier to day than usual as only those were present who are either christians or desirous to be. I think before another week the several who are so near will have obtained the witness.

You see we are slow and very particular as to whom we baptize. This, to us, is most important. There are far too many dressed heathen already in South Africa and we feel God would have us deal straight, teach carefully, give the whole truth that this little band may be saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

Dec. 2nd.

Sunday night, just as we were preparing for bed, a terrific thunder storm with small hail came upon us. Everything had been done that we could do to make things secure and covering up the children with extra blankets or oiled cotton to keep off the rain that came driving in through the canvass, we stood praying for protection from the tempest that threatened to engulf us. Dr. Sanders clad in rubber boots, mackintosh and helmet was ready to rush out should a peg be pulled up or a rope break, when the corner pole, next the storm, broke off like a pipe stem. Still the storm increased in fury with hail beating down, a torrent of rain and the wind a very hurricane. We stood waiting for what we both saw was coming but dared not speak "the tent must go, it can never stand up under this awful tempest." Yes, it did go, all of a sudden first the side came pressing in upon us, then one of the two middle poles and we were all under the heavy wet canvass with the rain literally pouring i

upon us. When it first gave way I tried to rush in the bed room to catch up baby who-e bed is an old zinc bath-tub that if filled with water could have drowned him or should the net canvass get down on his face smother him. But the sewing machine etc., that we had pulled into the middle of the dining room made the entrance to the bed room small while worse than all the wet canvass pressed in and down upon us by the wind both hindered—yes, almost cut off our efforts for the time being. It was an awful moment to us both especially to me with thoughts for the safety of my baby who might drown before I could get to him. I cannot describe my feelings but God was with us and in a much shorter time than it has taken me to tell you we both were with them. Poor little baby was standing up as best he could and crying with fright. He was drenched to the skin as well as I. O! It was a relief to gather him up, bedding and all and hug him close to me again. We told Faith and Paul to lie still, pull the clothes over their heads and Dr. and I crouched down between the beds till the worst was over. Then he crawled out, lantern in hand to seek a shelter in the hut, serving for kitchen. It was all right, a few coals still alive in the store and in a few minutes we had the children lying snugly tucked up in some extra rugs etc., that I have always had to keep piled up on the foot of one bed for an emergency.

It was 8.10 o'clock when the tent went down and half an hour after the storm had swept past, so Dr. Sanders went back and all alone succeeded in righting it again. One big middle pole stood the shock thus keeping up the best part of one end, but the bed-room end was a wreck and everything drenched. On the floor and on one bed was fully a peck of coarse snow like hail. By 12 o'clock we had made things fit to come back too and I had found a box of dry blankets and quilts so taking off the soaked mattresses we made up beds on the springs, went to bed and slept soundly till 5 o'clock Monday morning. Today we are none the worse for our seeking not even a cold, which shows how God protected us and fulfilled this sweet promise. "No evil shall befall thee nor any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

Monday was a rainy day so Tuesday and Wednesday were simply crowded full with unpacking and drying things that were wet through the rain. I know now, better than ever before the real literal meaning of this text, "When thou passest through waters I will be with thee, and the rivers they shall not overflow thee etc." It was blessedly sweet to feel and know God was with us. The children were very brave and good, no crying, no climbing out of bed, they did just what we told them even staying all alone for a few minutes while we were up to the kitchen, about 150ft away from the tent, leaving them in the dark save for the flashing of the lightning. It was sweet to hear them praying. Paul said "Lord we thank you that you did not kill us. Please don't let us have fever from getting wet etc. "Poor child! He knows what fever means as he has had slight attacks several times.

It was an awful storm, we have not heard full reports yet but many goats were swept into the deep dongs and rivers and lost. Our Boer neighbour lost five and in the same flock ten more were also drowned, owned by a native. You will remember the storm we had last year on December 1st, with hail large as pullet's eggs. This one had more rain and a heavier wind but the hail was finer. It has injured our garden considerably but not like the one of last year.

Beloved we have not felt a murmur but believe this could not have come without Father's permission and he will work even this out for our good and his glory.

We hope to get in the house before Christmas. It has been six months since we came in the tent. It is now getting rather weak in places by the heat of the sun, the winds and rain but will stand a good lot yet. The rain continues to fall every day with an exception or two. We shall appreciate a house more than ever. Many, I fear, will think "it might have been finished long ago." We thought so too, but there have been many hinderances beyond our control so we must trust on and leave the rest with God. This is his work not ours.

Cattle sickness has broken out in another place near us so we had it on three sides till one place has been stamped out by killing all affected and suspected cattle. At the two remaining places they are being quarantined and dipped regularly so the Government hopes to keep it from spreading further. The cattle on our farm are safe so far and, we trust God will keep them from this disease. There are between 50 and 60 head on this farm. We have been able to get a little plowing done by some of the oxen and hope to get more. It is not so satisfactory as having our own, as these natives are very independent and want to do just as they like. They are not obliging in the least and many of them simply hate us, we suppose because of our teaching. Sometimes we feel that our friends here are few indeed, they are all across the water but we have never failing God and in him is our trust.

Ever yours in Him,

E. SANDERS.

PAULPIETERSBURG, Natal, Dec. 1904.

Dear Highway,—Here are some notes on last Wednesday's class.

This was the second drying day since the storm of Sunday evening, and as heavy clouds were now gathering it was necessary to bring in the many articles we had spread out to dry. This was just completed and the tent made secure when the rain began to fall. It was not class time so we called the people in and opened by singing and prayer. The rain came in large drops sifting through the canvass on our heads, but natives do not fear rain much and sang on just the same. I put on my mackintosh to keep me dry and began to teach them Ezek. 18-3. "Behold all souls are mine, etc." By this time the wind had so increased that I gave Ella the Zulu bible while I put on rubber boots to be ready to attend to a broken rope, peg or pole, or a falling tent.

The noise of rain and wind against the tent made it difficult to be heard twelve feet away.

The above text was exceedingly fitting at this time for the following reason. Just the day before class a man came saying he wished to speak to me. He opened his purse and, handing me a slip of paper asked me to read it for him. I read, "Husband's name, u Lukivembe. Wife's name, u Zondela. Wife's number, 4 etc."

When he told what I already only too well knew, namely, that this girl, u Zondela, his fourth living wife, and young enough to be his grand-daughter, he had bought from her father with the regular number of cows. And further that he was not willing for her to become a christian.

We have already spoken in the Highway of u Zondela. She had expressed her desire to follow Christ, and had just begun to learn how to read when she was hurriedly married away to the heathen man who had previously paid the cows. They were none too soon for even then she withstood them some time even running away from home.

Soon after the marriage however, she returned to the services coming regularly as before. She said that at the wedding festivities she drank beer and danced with the others but found no joy in these things as hitherto. How the case will come out remains to be seen. Probably her husband will beat her if she continues to come to meetings.

When he came last Tuesday with his message I replied, "I have not the power to make people repent and believe against their wills; neither have you the right to say to anyone, 'you may not become christian and serve God.' Did you buy u Zondela's soul with ten cows?" "I bought all there is of her," was his answer. Thus you see the text in Ezek. 18.4 was readily received by our class. God put his seal upon his message and all were deeply impressed.

The tent did not fall, and our meeting went on. The roll was called and inquiry made regarding personal work. During the last week u Lidia has spoken to twenty eight about their souls, salvation and u Martha to nineteen; the others much fewer. u Somkanda, a young man, had spoken to one man who replied that he would stab him with a spear if he ever dared to speak to him again on the subject of religion. But u Somkanda replied "I am not afraid to die, I shall give you God's word."

Yours in Jesus,

H. C. SANDERS.

CHURCH REPORTS.

Millville church—Dear Brethren,—The Lord has dealt bountifully with us, our number is not large, but there is a few faithful ones, who are holding on to God by faith that we will see better things by his blessing. The Spiritual interest is good. Brother Coy has done the best he could, but there has been no special results, and yet our meetings are interesting.

A. J. HOYT, Clerk.

Port Maitland church.—This church is in a fairly good standing and by holding on to God one more has been led on to sanctification, of which we have great reason to rejoice, and still trust in the "One" that is able to deliver.

MRS. WARREN SOLLOWES, Clerk.

Calais church.—Our church has been kept open the past year. We have held two services on Sunday besides the Sunday school, also a prayer meeting one evening in the week. The mission work has been kept up. As we have had no pastor the past year Bro. McMillan has been our leader, but he will not be able to act as leader the coming year.

The Quarterly meeting of the 3rd district convened with us in January, and some very helpful meetings were held. We feel that God has blessed us in many ways.

MISS GERTRUDE YOUNG, Clerk.

Maple Ridge church—Dear Brothers and Sisters,—We are glad to report again at our yearly meeting and pray that the Holy Spirit will bless you all. We are enjoying the presence of the pastor in our preaching, and prayer meetings. Brother Coy has laboured with us the past year, and has given us good spiritual sermons and we feel encouraged to press onward; praying that the Lord will greatly bless you in all your deliberations.

HENRY HOYT, Clerk.

Lutz Mountain church—Dear Brethren of the Alliance,—We have much reason to thank God, and take courage. As God has wonderfully blessed us during the year. Many precious ones have been reclaimed, a number have been converted, and others have been sanctified, and the good work is still going forward. We are looking to God for much victory. Others are to go forward in baptism.

We all highly appreciate our Pastor, Bro. Z. B. Grass, who has faithfully laboured with us a part of his time during the year, and we have given him a unanimous call for another year, and are praying that the coming year may be one of much victory.

L. Berry, Clerk.

Middle Southampton church—This church suffered a loss of its working force through the removal from the place of seven of the membership. This together with the severity of the winter was materially felt, nevertheless the weekly prayer meetings which were held from house to house on account of the roughness of the winter were seasons of strength and profit to all who attended. The sabbath services which were a good deal interrupted on account of storm and cold through the winter were as a rule well attended, and of a spiritual character. We feel that our aged pastor, Rev. J. Gravinor, has acquitted himself faithfully and well, and that he has labored carefully and prayerfully to promote the interest of true holiness in our church. Thus, despite the drawbacks, as mentioned before, we feel we have great cause, to thank God for his gracious goodness, and unremitted blessings.

J. C. MAXON, clerk.

Lower Haynesville church—Rev. J. H. Coy, pastor. The spiritual condition of the church is not all we would desire it to be. We have a few members who are true and are walking with God. Our pastor has faithfully discharged his duties and his labours have been highly esteemed by the church.

ROBERT HAINES, clerk.

Upper Hainesville church.—Our pastor for the year has been the Rev. J. H. Coy he preaches the second and 4th Sunday in each month at 3 p. m. We have social service after preaching. Our members are few as you see by report. And living at quite a distance apart, we have no prayer meetings, no conference meetings, no Sunday school. We send some mission money. There has not been any special meeting held during the year. Our church is getting less in number 4 having

moved away having got their dismission to unite with Woodstock church. We intend to be faithful by the help of the Lord to do his will and walk in his ways. We thank him for his mercies to us and hope the Lord may have greater blessings for us in the near future, that we may see his blessings in the conversion of the unsaved and sanctification of believers.

MRS. CHARLES KNOX, clerk.

Amherst church—Dear Brethren of the Alliance,—By the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Ghost we are standing true to that which Jesus our precious Saviour died to purchase for us, namely a present full and perfect salvation from all sin. Praise His name.

In the month of December 1903, we were organized into a band by Rev. Z. B. Grass of Moncton, with a membership of sixteen. Since that time God has used Bro. Grass as a channel through which rich blessings came to us as a people, as he and Sister Grass came to us from time to time with their spirit filled heart of love and sympathy and words of counsel, giving out the precious words of truth and life. Our meetings are well attended, the interest is steadily increasing. Believers are being sanctified and many are hungering and thirsting after the blessing of heart cleansing. The blessed Holy Ghost is carrying the truth home to men and women and we are rejoicing seeing precious souls weeping their way to Calvary cross and by faith applying the Blood.

On Sunday June 19th Bro. Grass was with us and in the presence of over two thousand people, baptised twelve 12 persons who decided to follow Jesus every step of the way. On Tuesday 21st two others were baptised.

On June 21st, 1904, we were organized into a Reformed Baptist church by Rev's. Z. B. Grass and M. S. Trafton, with a membership of 19. Elected officers and engaged Brother Grass as pastor for coming year. With Jesus the captain of our salvation, the Holy Ghost as our teacher, guide and comforter, we step on the promises of God into the future conflicts assured that we shall win, for we go forth in the strength of our king. We unite our prayers with all the saints for the spread of the precious faith and the extension of the kingdom of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

F. H. LOCKE, Clerk.

REST FOR THE WEARY.

Moody said, "What! rest, ease here, in the ministry, or in Christian work? There is no rest here. Now is the time for battle, for work! Heaven will be our rest; now is the time for steady, prayerful, unflinching work." Outside of soul rest Christians should not look for a good easy time here. If duties press upon us, and we feel tired and would like to have it easy like others around us, never mind, our resting time is coming. Our great Sabbath rest is not now. Let us keep at it, and look forward to the time when we shall "enter into our rest," and cease from our labors.—Gospel Banner.

We should not magnify personal experience above the thought of what Christ is to us, nor should we value faith above the fact that it is God that worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure, although we stand by faith.

Some preachers think they are brave by declaring, "I am going to preach the truth if you do get mad," when the empty platitudes that follow will hardly keep the hearers awake.—Sel.

There is danger in being so cautious in guarding against fanaticism that we rule out the supernatural entirely.—Sel.