

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Balmoral Mission Station,
Paulpietersburg, Natal, Aug. 21, 1914.
To the Mission Board.

Dear Brethren and Sisters,—I am enclosing a rough drawing of our house, showing the new rooms, now just nearing completion. In addition to these everything is now ready for building the church. On the site are the burned brick, the sand for plastering the inside walls, and the "ant heap" recently hauled for making the mud floor. For the roof I shall use iron, and have a lining of grass beneath to keep out the extreme heat; 20 ft. by 20 ft. is its size, as this is sufficient for the present. It will be easy to enlarge if circumstances ever demand. Also I have annexed a room 15 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. to our stable, which is to be used as carpenter shop, printing room and store room. This will be a great convenience, as well as an absolute necessity. Its three walls are of burned brick, so it will stand.

The native built hut used for our church for the last two years, is now ready to fall; it may go with the next big storm.

Thus far the "white labor" used has cost but \$1.25 per day; it was rather unskilled, but greatly superior to native help.

The native labor, including some allowed me from kraals not paying rent, has all been at one-half price. That is, their work per month or per day has cost only half what is allowed the same men for work on railroad construction or other road building in our vicinity. The natives, because they are near their homes, are willing to work for me at this reduced wage.

The supplement to my salary by the way, has been a great help in many ways. The men have plowed for me and girls have worked in our kitchen, working out their rent. For this supplement we are very grateful.

There, too, we wish to express our thanks for the new rooms which give us comfortable and healthful sleeping and living accommodation. Further, we wish to express our gratitude in a more tangible way, and thus make it easier for the ones who are denying themselves especially during these hard war times to help along the foreign work. We inclose an order on our treasurer for one hundred dollars, to be deducted from our salary and paid into the Foreign Mission funds. This, of course, is from our "tenth" but we have felt for some time that it should go in this way.

I am doing my best to get cash for hut rent and grazing, and am succeeding fairly well; but there is a new law recently put in force that all natives moving on farms from date 1912 must work out their hut rent and may not pay money. Three huts have just come on this month, and two have moved off Balmoral. Thus now the huts paying cash at \$7.50 per year are ten, while I get for grass \$85.00, giving a deficit of \$60 per year on rent of the farm. The huts now supposed to give labor are fifteen, worth \$112.00. Though of course I have not had help from the three which have just moved on, my help has been worth for the last year at \$7.50 per hut, \$90; but I may not be able to utilize all the labor, as I expect to plant only small gardens this year.

In every way possible I am trying to cut out all work that is not strictly evangelical or medical, or absolutely necessary. The building now so near done will make the work lighter, as everything is more convenient. I call it my office—no one at home can imagine what a boon this will be. Such inconvenience and disadvantage I have always labored under that

now I know how to appreciate suitable quarters. I have had a hard pull, worked continually beyond my strength, and let everything go that I thought I could. Harder than ever, it has been this last month, as my help-meet has been laid aside with a felon and malaria. Faith and the others have let studies go and have helped all they could; but they are all only children and the remembering to do things falls on me.

The spiritual side of our mission work is progressing splendidly. Only once before in my life in Africa have I felt satisfied that I was accomplishing enough to warrant my being here. At that time I wrote Brother Baker stating this sentiment, and very soon after I suffered my breakdown. For the last two years (nearly) there has been a struggling along of our church, until recently the work is going much better. Nearly every week some new seekers begin to attend our meetings. Other societies about us are active, but do not seem to have so much real success as God grants us.

This letter is long and rambling, as I am writing while I think over the matters you should know. Late evening or night is my only time for writing, as the days are filled with work and constant interruptions that forbid even a few minutes quiet. For this reason, and to avoid a second break-down, I have built a little \$15 hut on the corner of this farm, by the river Intombi. None of this expense has been charged to the Mission Society. Here our children go for an occasional holiday. In the hut they are sheltered from the burning hot rays of the sun or the pelting storms that may suddenly arise. Or they can here change their clothing after a swim in the pool near by. A small waterfall is in sight and its music is soothing to tired nerves—not the children's, of course, but here I go once in a great while to get a little quiet or to find a chance to write a bit. I don't expect you to understand the need of such a hut, but were you here one week and heard the natives who come with "upi mfundisi" (where is the teacher), perhaps fifty different persons say that at our station in one day; then they bolt for the "mfundisi," who must listen patiently to all they have to say. Today Judson did business with more than thirty people. A regular crowd of noisy negroes around one's ears all the time gets on one's nerves after a few years.

We try to remember that we are here to win them to Christ. So the more we can get to come to our station and learn to know us the better. Like people at home, they are drawn as much by the preacher (his personality) as by the preaching. This statement may seem too strong, but there is much truth in it, as all observers have noted. I must not forget to thank you for the \$300 on salary just received. I don't know that we ever were in greater need of money since coming to Africa. Food has gone up in price, owing to the war, and the merchants refuse to give credit; but we have always felt sure God would care for us and you would stand by us.

We have more native workers now than ever before—three across the Pongolo and five on this side—for which we are truly thankful to the Good Shepherd.

Trusting that this letter will give you what information you would like at this time, I remain,
Yours in His service,

H. C. SANDERS.

NOTE.—This letter was written to the Mission Board, but it contains information which will be of special interest to our missionary societies and many of our readers, so we decided to publish it.—Ed.

Paulpietersburg, Natal, Aug. 27, 1914.

Dear Highway,—Just a few lines to let you know we are still plodding onward. So much work is my only excuse for a long silence. You will be glad to learn that we now have eight native workers, three laboring across the Pongolo and five on this side. Owing to increased competition, these workers manage only ten outposts. Generally a native preacher will hold meetings at but one place on Sunday. David, who is now studying at the station, has two places where he preaches each Sunday. By the way, he has no regular supporter at home, as he has not been with us long enough to be well known. Our Paul has gone to be with his "white man" for a year, but his elder brother Johan takes his place. He, too, has no supporter. Aaron holds services at an important outpost on the "Big Hill" every Sunday. Several there are beginning to seek the Lord.

Simone, with no home supporter, is doing good work across the Pivaan river. Several there are "seekers."

An entirely new and untried one is Thomas, who will work near us where a few desire salvation. Samuel has been sick lately, and not doing much work. One near his field, Johan Sukazi, is working with him in that important part of our field where seekers are continually coming forward. Of the other Johan (Melula) I should have said he holds Sunday services and also an evening school. About a dozen girls and boys are being taught by him to read. We hope they will be ready for baptism a few months hence. Each week brings news of fresh recruits in our ranks of seekers. God is especially blessing our work. You will be glad to join us in praise and prayer.

Ever yours in His service.

H. C. SANDERS.

MISSIONS.

E. B. Jewett, Memorial Fund	\$20.00
Mrs. D. H. Nixon	5.00
Mrs. Sadie Nixon	5.00
Mrs. Manning Mullin	5.00
Mrs. Herbert Jones	2.00
Wood Island	60.00
Upper Hainesville89
Millville	10.51
Mrs. Chas. Hoyt	1.00
Rev. E. W. Lester	2.00
Mapleton81
Maple Ridge	1.77
Woodstock	5.00
Gray's Mills	20.20
Norton	6.25
Moncton	3.10
Upper Millstream	8.12
St. John	45.00
Mrs. Woodworth Cann	2.00
Collection at Riverside	36.06
E. Jones and daughter	5.00
Brazil Lake	1.20
Port Maitland	2.37
Sandford	12.55
Cedar Lake	7.77
New Tusket	5.00
Wood Island	9.92
Seal Cove	14.41
North Head	18.54
Rev. H. C. Sanders	100.00

H. C. ARCHER, Treas.

In hard times, should the work of the Lord be allowed to decline financially?

"If you are unhappy, it is probably because you have so many thoughts about yourself and so few about the happiness of others."