

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, May 6th, 1918.

Dear Friends:

This past year has been one of great blessing to us in our work and in our family.

Dr. Sanders has given you the numbers who have been won from heathendom and those who have been added to our church by letter or experience. These numbers are good; they give us courage and gladden our hearts, but there is another very encouraging sign among our churches, that is, the increasing number of heathen about us who are becoming interested and attending the service more regularly. For them to do this means they are thinking, are getting hungry for God and will eventually become saved. Our school is still going on even in the busy watching and reaping season, and though the numbers are few they are gradually learning to read.

The evangelists and Bible women are all very earnest. Those on this side the Pongola get more spiritual help as they get to our weekly class. Also I have a Bible class about four evenings each week and they are of great benefit to those who come. At present only two come, but I am in hopes more will later on. Our influence among these people increases as the years go by and we are able to help all who come to us who are in trouble.

A missionary must be qualified to do a great many other things outside of preaching and praying, and often the helping in temporal and secular things is more to the front than the spiritual, but it often is through some temporal help we draw them to seek the spiritual. The medical is well to the fore in this respect and many cases out of the ordinary are treated.

For myself, my work this past year has been among these black people. I must teach them or otherwise help them on Sunday or there would be no chance for them to be taught in the things of God. We are making a specialty of training them all for missionaries and we rejoice to report all have no other aim in life from the eldest down to the youngest. The whole eight children are serving Jesus. Often one or two of them are teaching some native a few minutes or helping one with English. They are always interested in the new converts and some are very earnest in praying for the heathen.

"Lest while I teach others (my own), I myself should become a castaway." These words of Paul are often in my mind concerning myself and stir me up to greater effort. We are beginning to see the truth of this prophet, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Our two eldest children have been bent Godward and we find now that they have grown up, they are inclined to go that way. "As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined."

Both Faith and Paul are splendid young missionaries and are busy at work as they have opportunity. Now these others need watching, training, restraining, encouraging and otherwise helping while they are growing up, and this we are trying to do.

These are such evil days I fear for my own young people to leave home to be ex-

posed to the cunning deceivableness of Satan. I believe I am more afraid of that than I am of open wickedness, so as fast as some new form of false doctrine appears we talk about it, see wherein it is wrong from God's word and take warning.

I am trying also to show them how much of prophecy is being fulfilled in our own day. I want them all to be on the watch for our Lord when He comes for I believe it is very near.

I am also finding some way to help the men at the front a little. It is small but will be of service. Tonight I have a bundle to send to the Patriotic League, work we have done for the boys. My boys and girls have made about 80 little tea bags all themselves.

My dear friends, it would be a joy to see you all at Beulah this year, but I do not long for it for I feel there is still so much to be done here. Never have we had larger opportunities in our work among the heathen than now. Pray that we be faithful and do not get carried away by anything that would be a hinderance to us. Pray for our work and workers and don't forget to pray for our children that each one may grow up in the knowledge of God and serve him.

Yours in Jesus,  
MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

P. O. Hartland, P. P Burg,  
Natal, May 2, 1918.

To the Missionary Society of the Reformed Baptist Denomination:

Dear Friends: I wish you could have seen the three "Church Babies" who were present at the Sunday Morning Covenant meeting—Grace, Eva and Johabeta. Their mothers, Marta, Joana and Anna, gave on their behalf the following testimony: "They pray every morning and evening, and give thanks whenever they partake of food. Even when on a journey we ate our little lunch, Eva said, "You didn't thank! I will anyway." And when their mothers neglect or delay bedtime prayers they are reminded by their babies, and even when waking in the night they say, "Rise and pray, mother."

It is wonderful, how much these little ones understand of the things of God, even before they can speak plainly. As I know from experience, a child thus consecrated to the Lord in babyhood and trained for God from earliest infancy has the greatest spiritual advantage all through life. Consecration, obedience and closer acquaintance with God come so much easier. And, best of all, we who are saved so young, or rather kept from being lost, have our whole lives to give to Him—a fairer and better thing than one, the best years of which have been spent in the Devil's service. Such a one has to bring a poor sin-spiled remnant for God to fix up and use, if he can.

Words cannot express the deep gratitude of my heart for this rich blessing and rare advantage given me through Christian parents who know the importance of bending the twig as the tree is to grow.

There are now 63 of these dedicated babies on the book, and this year several of those first presented have come forward with a clear testimony of conversion to be baptised and taken into the church.

I believe that in God's sight these consecrated babies are just as precious and just as much his own as the best church member or worker we have. This year there are more of these "God's Babies" to come to the years of understanding, when they ask to be baptised and taken into the church than ever before, and if things go on as they are now every year will see their number increasing.

On "Big Sunday," April 28th, there were considerably over 100 people present including several whom we have never had at any but a Christmas or "Prayer of rain" service. Instead of the usual attitude of such outsiders, "Si zo bukela" (We have come to look on) they all seemed more or less hungry for God and to count themselves as one with us in His worship.

As you will see from the figures of the report, God is really blessing us wonderfully, and giving us the long prayed for revival.

Lately God has been impressing this truth upon my heart. The true missionary is all on fire for souls. Not alone for those yet unreached around us, and in the regions beyond for which our hearts burn, as did Paul's of old, but for God's children whom he has already saved and given into our keeping. Paul's constant and unceasing prayer night and day was for the Church of Christ that in them God might fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power. This became such a passion with him that we read in I. Thess. 2:3, "We were willing to have imparted unto you our own souls. Would to God that he would impart to us also that true spirit of the shepherd of his flock."

The great cause of thanksgiving in his work this year is the manner in which His Spirit has been and is working in the church itself. Twenty-six backsliders have entered the church, and the majority of members in good standing are in a far better spiritual condition than last year this time, and are waking up to a growing hunger for God and a deeper experience.

One thing which grieves us all is that there are so few who know sanctification and all this means of cleansing and power.

Lydia enjoys this experience in a richness and depth that very few even in the homeland attain. It has been taught faithfully and clearly from the first, and I do not understand why more do not get it. The majority do not seem to be in a spiritual condition to seek yet. These heathen take such a long time to learn even the way of salvation. But I know of at least seven who are really hungry for the power and cleansing, and there are several more who have requested prayer that they may receive this.

I know that God cannot work here among the heathen as he plans and desires until his church is sanctified—cleansed and empowered, knit together in the body of Christ, each a member of the others, all one in heart love, desire and absolute surrender to his control. Then, and not till then, we may look for an outpouring of His Spirit and power that will shake the kingdom of darkness to its foundations, and souls will be born into

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