

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

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Dear Highway:

Saturday, May 4th, 1918, was indeed a happy day for Faith and myself as we started off for a meeting across the Pongola River, which is about six miles away, not including the mountains. The ride itself was rather tiresome, but we did not care about that. God's promise, "As thy days so shall thy strength be," was claimed, and we were abundantly blessed. It was and is the souls of the heathen we are anxious for, and we were very pleased to be among them for a season.

We started off at about 10 o'clock with our two best donkeys, "Snowball" and "White Beauty." As you all know, donkeys are not too keen about going any where away from home, but these did splendidly, and really surprised us. One could really see that the hand of the dear Lord was upon us. We had with us one of our believers, Jelenia Xulu by name, who drove our donkeys and carried our load. We reached the river at about 1.30.

Brother Sanders, in the meantime, did not get off till about 12 o'clock, but as he rode a good horse, expected to catch up before we reached the river. What was his surprise then upon enquiring from the Natives in the kraals along the way to "Suzaki's crossing," no one seemed to have seen us pass that way. But sure in his own mind that we had gone that way he pressed on down the steep stony hill only to find when he reached the river's bank no signs of girls, donkeys or even the tracks of our having passed that way. Suddenly the solution dawned upon him. Of course they have gone the Emfeni way! I thought Faith at least knew that I always go this way to Entungwini! So there was nothing for him to do but turn right round and climb up that steep hill again, and travel on to Ndongande's, and all the way down that long steep hill to where we were waiting him at the Emfeni crossing.

In the meantime, along the way we had several privileges of testifying for the one who died for our sins, the blessed Redeemer, and they certainly became aware of the fact, and were desirous of serving Him. "My word. . . shall not return unto me void."

We off saddled, and both we and our donkeys had a good rest and feed before Brother Sanders reached us at last at 3 o'clock, thoroughly hot and tired out. We were sorry he had such a hard time, and found it hard to understand how such a mistake had been made, but knowing that God's hand was guiding, we kept the joyful assurance that all things would work out for His glory.

After resting one short half hour, we decided to start off again as it was getting late. The recent floods have changed all the crossings, making some unsafe. Here we did not know what to expect. What could we do? Well, praise God, He had thought all planned out for us. Two men, one of whom is our evangelist, Jona Myena, were sitting on the bank on the other side just as if they were expecting us. Surely God's hand was in all this. We

beckoned them to come over and help us, which they gladly did. The water came up beyond their waists, so of course we knew the donkeys could not carry us across dry. Thus Gwen, the horse, had to make three trips to get us all across, so it took quite a while.

By the time we were once more on our way the sun was slowly setting. But Jona, knowing the people, quickly went in search for a lodging place for that night. We were just passing a kraal when suddenly Brother Sanders beckoned for us to come back. We found that preparation had been made for our entertainment in this kraal, just in the hope that we might be persuaded to stop there, even though it be just to hold a short service. So we found a royal welcome.

Julina Mavimbela, a young girl of about 16 whom we baptized about three months ago, was staying at this kraal, and had a very sad tale to tell us. Her brother's betrothed was going to leave him because he had not paid the cattle for her. So in order to get these, he bargained with a heathen man, promising him this poor motherless girl. When she refused to marry this heathen man they threatened to kill her, driving her from home, and hunting her with assagais.

For several days she was out in the wilds without food or shelter. Finally she gave in and came to this man's home. He has a very nice young bride who treats her very kindly. Her case is not so bad as some, as this is a young man with only one wife yet, and he is willing for all of his people to become Christians, and intends to himself some day. Julina and the bride are just like sisters. The latter is very anxious to be a Christian, and Julina is teaching, not only her, but several little children too, and has prayers with them every evening. She has a great influence over them all as she is such a jolly little soul that she brings sunshine wherever she goes.

The people in this kraal seemed to know that we would be wanting to stay with them during the night, so "sindad" (scrubbed in native style) the "Llawu" (best hut) and got it ready while we were still down by the river's edge. When they saw that we were going by they called to us (though we did not hear them) to come, even if it were but for a moment of prayer. Thus their hearts were filled with joy when they saw us turn to come to them, for they knew that God had heard their prayer and was leading us to stay with them according to their desire. Truly His ways are perfect!

In the evening we had them gather as many people as they could and had a nice prayer meeting.

Sunday, after morning prayers, we started for "Entungwini," where the meeting was to take place. As the mountains were so tremendously steep we decided to leave the donkeys and take only the horse. Just as we were on the way one of the little ones "Ntete (grass hopper) by name, who is about four years of age, ran after me and gave me a native bracelet which she evidently had picked up. I of course appreciated it greatly and thanked it tenderly. She seemed to be so tickled about it. The natives as a whole

are very generous.

Sister Faith mounted first but she could not ride far as the mountain was so steep. In some places it was almost perpendicular, and in order to rest a person had to hold on to the adjacent trees. We had to travel about five miles over these precipitous mountains before we reached our destination. On our way Faith was riding, when the path which wound round the hill gave way beneath the horse, and its two hind feet went from under it. If it had not been for the angels who protected both Faith and the horse they would have rolled down that awful place. Somehow or other the Saviour's arms were about Faith and she slid off the horse's back quite gently and safely, allowing the horse to recover its balance in time.

We reached our destination at 12.30 and found the people all ready for the message. They all seemed happy and were very pleased indeed to see the "Amakosazan" (Princesses) and "Umfundisi". When we arrived there were about ten teeth to be extracted. Brother Sanders took this to hand while Faith and I started the meeting. It was so nice to see them all trying to get around you. It reminded me of the time when Jesus preached on the Mount and the people gathered round Him to hear the word. Brother Sanders had a strong message on the text, "Strive to enter in." How good it was to see them drink in the word. About 60 were present, most of whom were believers. At the end of the meeting four seekers got up and gave themselves to God. Praise God. They gave such clear testimonies. Two little children were dedicated to the dear Lord.

One of these is the child of our evangelist, Simone Myeni. The latter, sad to say, has gone through a great test these last few months. As you all know, Simone Myeni is a native doctor. In this office he was called to attend a young native girl, and through his ministrations she was raised from the gates of death to perfect health. Because he saved her life her heart went out to him in passionate love, and she asked him to marry her. He reciprocated her love the more as his own wife is a heathen while this is an educated Christian girl. He desired to be allowed to take this second wife, even though he had to be set aside from the church and cease his evangelistic work, though he would still be a child of God he said.

During a serious talk which Brother Sanders had with him on the way, he confessed that this circumstance was causing him to drift away from God, and professed himself willing to obey the decision of the church as the voice of God. When we put this matter before the church the opinion was unanimous that he should give up all thought of a second wife and remain true to God and his calling as an evangelist. In his testimony he stated his acceptance of this as from God, and his willingness to obey, but confessing to an utter lack of the power and ability to do so in his own strength, and requests our earnest prayers that he may gain the victory and glorify God.

The meeting ended at 3.30 and we started back for Enfeni according to our promise of the morning, extracted by

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