

Our New Missionaries for South Africa

Misses Alice F. and Helen M. Sterritt.



MISS ALICE F. STERRITT

Miss Alice F. Sterritt was born and lived her girlhood days at Grey's Mills, Kings County, N. B., on the east side of the beautiful St. John River, one of the many little communities on its banks where the people are thrifty and happy, where the people have the type of salvation that is real, so real that they can dwell together in unity, even if they are not all members of one church.

The editor asked Sister Sterritt for a sketch of her experience and call to missionary work, and she kindly responded as follows:

I was converted March 8, 1904, in the village of Kingston, four miles from home, in the home of my brother-in-law, J. Wesley Cosman. It was during special services conducted by Brother Richardson (Ref. Baptist) in the Free Baptist Church. I had wanted to be a Christian since my mother's death, eight years before, but never definitely sought the Lord, until my sister, Helen, was converted, and the change in her life made me hungry for salvation from sin. I walked in the light of God and was led into the experience of entire sanctification at once. On March 23rd my sisters, Helen and Mrs. Cosman, and myself were baptized by Rev. Samuel Perry, -Free Baptist minister, and in June of that year Helen and I united with the Reformed Baptist Church in St. John. My experience was one of continued victory for three years, but during a winter spent in Boston I lost the fulness of the blessing. I believe the Lord was trying to lead me into special work, but I failed to understand His leadings, and to step out fully on His word, and for several years my experience was a varied one.

In August, 1911, while at prayer with Brother Springer Cosman's family and Brother Whelpley, the Lord sanctified my soul and showed me the foreign field as clearly as I see this writing. I supposed they would send me at once, but prayed for definite leading for I feared to go before Him, it seemed so great an undertaking. I was willing to go with Dr. and Mrs. Sanders, who were home on furlough, but God did not permit it, and opened the way for my hospital course. After graduating I did private nursing

and waited on God for clear leadings, and he led me to a Rescue Home in Swampscott, Mass., where I had charge of a small maternity hospital for two years. Then he spoke definitely to me about coming to this school which was located in No. Scituate, R. I., at that time. I did private nursing for a number of months and entered the school September, 1918. I felt sure that the Lord was going to make Africa very plain to me from that time. He assured my heart that he would, for I was longing for the time to come when I could see more clearly the way before me. In a few months (February, 1919) I received a letter from Dr. Sanders, asking me if I had ever thought of coming to them. My heart cry was answered. Thank the Lord and since that he has been wonderfully working out his will and even called my dear sister, from whom I had found it so hard to part. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

He is all in all to me,
And my song shall ever be
Hallelujah, oh, my Saviour,
I am trusting only Thee.

I can see His word of promise
Through clouds and trials deep
I can hear His voice like music
That lulls my care to sleep.

ALICE F. STERRITT.

Sister (Alice F.) Sterritt is taking up the most practical studies that will be of the greatest value in her work in Africa, and will be of the greatest immediate value as soon as she reaches the station, and of practical use while she is getting a working knowledge of the Zulu language.

In a recent letter she says: I am taking up type writing, for I know it will be of use, and you will be glad to learn that a dentist, whom we know, has offered to give some instructions in first-aid dentistry. We have with us at the school now Dr. Julia Gibson, a returned missionary from India, and I am taking a study with her of diseases peculiar to tropical climates.

Both of these sisters are graduate nurses, and our people have great reason for thanksgiving to our heavenly Father for the gift of such excellent, consecrated, loyal and competent and thoroughly fitted missionaries, which is very rich in blessing from every point of view, and should stir our people, and our friends in the holiness work, to a spontaneous overflow of thanksgiving to God, and a spontaneous and generous giving of their means, for outfit, passage and salaries. The Sterritt sisters will be with us (D. V.) at Beulah and Riverside Camp Meetings, and at the meeting of the Alliance.—Editor.

Sister Helen M. Sterritt is the eldest of the two sisters, and professed conversion a short time before her sister Alice. The three sisters, Mrs. J. W. Cosman and Misses Helen and Alice, were baptized by Rev. Samuel Perry at the same time at Kingston, N. B. Sister Sterritt is still engaged in her profession as nurse in Lynn, Mass., but will be at the meeting of the



MISS HELEN M. STERRITT.

Alliance and Beulah and Riverside Camp Meetings, after which she and her sister will make a tour of our churches to become acquainted with our people, preparatory to going to South Africa.

In a recent letter to the editor, Sister Sterritt says: I certainly realize the importance of my sister and myself meeting and mingling with the Reformed Baptist people before our leaving for South Africa. While in touch with them last year while home on my vacation, I surely was blessed in my soul, and the brethren and sisters which we met showed the true missionary spirit, and we strongly felt the real fellowship of Christian love wherever we went. The people surely gave us their confidence in our call to dark Africa, which we did appreciate.

I am very happy in the Lord here at my work, and never fail to speak for Jesus, and tell of my call to his service, and of the saving grace of God.

I just had the privilege of spending two weeks in a Catholic home, which I praise God for, as it was a means of opening their eyes to see that protestants had religion. My patient told me she had never met a religious protestant before, and said our sincerity put her to shame, which is quite a confession for a staunch Catholic to make to us.

I praise God for the blessings along the way.

It is really sweet to me when I look back and see how the Lord has led me on and at last has made my call so clear, to work for him, who died for me. Truly, he is the fairest of ten thousand to my soul, and I have found in him the bright and morning star. All glory to his name.

In response to a question by the editor, Sister Sterritt says: I have surely counted the cost of what is involved in taking up missionary work in Africa, and I have no question as to the call of God to this special place, and fully expect to meet all its requirements. It is my intention to attend Alliance and Beulah Camp Meeting, June 29 to July 11, and after the meeting to place myself under the direction of the R. B. Missionary Board, to visit the churches, in order to become acquainted with the people of the denomination. HELEN M. STERRITT.