

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

P. O. Hartland,  
Via Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, South Africa,  
May 10th, 1920.

Dear Highway:

Sunday, May 9th, about 100 met at our church across the Pongola for communion. Papa says it is remarkable how many of these are young people. The meetings were extra good, though the church is saddened by the recent loss of the two workers, Johan Sukazi and Josefa Msibi. Two women who gave very clear testimonies to conversion were baptized and one baby was presented to the Lord.

May 2nd was our big Sunday at Balmoral. We had our usual large congregation and splendid meetings. A promising young man was baptized besides a woman not long out of heathenism; four babies were presented, and a young couple took vows of betrothal before the church (this takes the place of an impressive heathen ceremony).

It is twenty years or more since we have had such a bad malaria season in this district; it has carried off more people than the "Flu" did and is still unabated. We have appointed Wednesday as a day of prayer that God may end this epidemic, as new ones are daily sickening and dying.

We have had wonderful success in curing the cases that they bring to us. In one month have discharged cured twenty-four, while the eight who are still here are past the fever stage and can all go home before the end of the week. Some of these when brought here were very near death's door, and to God belongs the praise that they have been pulled through. I have never before seen so many and so wonderful answers to prayer in so short a time. Every one of us have had to work very hard and faithfully to bring about this result, but it is plain to us all that God's power and blessing has been remarkably manifested in this work. Nothing so softens the heart and turns the thoughts of the heathen to God as does sickness and death. With the sick ones, those who come to care for them and their friends who come to see how they are getting on, we have had prayers, meetings, and numerous personal interviews, and only eternity will reveal the full scope of the influence and blessing thus given. Several have already declared themselves as desiring to be Christians, and some have come to meetings afterwards.

We have managed all these years without a hospital building; and I just wish you could see how we have to do this "managing." Fortunately the weather has been fine and warm, so our patients lie around out of doors in the day time; otherwise there must have been a great deal of discomfort and real suffering on account of this lack. Long ago the kitchen became too small to hold them all at night, and we have to let some sleep in the church. Even when this fever season is over we are going to have more patients than we have had other years, for, because of these successes, they will bring us their sick from every side.

The time has come, therefore, when

we can no longer do without a hospital building.

Paul says there is a fellow here now negotiating to bring three more patients. These three are from "Mqumbi's," the outpost where Aloni Mkonza preaches. His supporters, Mrs. Hale, Kiersteads and "Friends," will be interested to know that he made a quick recovery and is launching out, being especially zealous in praying with the sick.

We had a visit from three of our converts at Lembe, near Utrecht, and one was baptized. They say that Timote Mkonza (representing Miss Nellie Foster and Mrs. Belle S. Foster, is doing good work, and the Church up there is in good spiritual health. Papa and Mamma have longed planned to pay them a visit, but have so far been prevented.

Josefa Ngoza, the Wood Island man, recently gave in his report as twenty Christians and eight seekers. One family in his part moved away beyond Paulpietersburg, but some of them come occasionally to visit the Church. Jonson Metula, who holds services for them in their new home, reports seven Christians and four seekers.

In Jostina Nkosi the Hartland Church has a faithful and earnest worker. Jakobina, the woman who was baptized on Sunday, comes from her post, and recently a man died there, who, though not on the church books, we believe will meet us in heaven. I have the names of seven seekers at this place.

Filita Hadebe, Mrs. Carson's Bible woman has gone through deep waters this past month. She herself has had two severe attacks of malaria with complications; three of her brother's orphaned children, and her own daughter, she brought there sick and helped nurse till they recovered. She helped care for and bury two of the mothers of her girlhood home, and her own mother has been very near death's door. But her faith is steady, and she is praying that she may speedily regain sufficient strength to go on with the work of the Lord.

Befa Kunene is here sick for the second time in six weeks; she has never been very strong since she had the "Flu" but her spiritual progress has been simply astonishing. Papa is planning on visiting her outpost on Sunday next. The Beals, Me., Sunday School will be glad to hear that "Nqola Mota," the head man of one of the kraals where she has been holding services, gave himself to the Lord on Sunday. He represents a class we seldom win, and therefore the greater triumph. He lost a wife and child last year, and it may be Befa's faithfulness in praying with the remaining wife, during a recent very severe illness, which helped him finally to come over. There is a witch doctor there also who is very earnestly seeking to be delivered from the awful bondage of demon possession, and needs your constant prayer.

Martha Mdiniso, Mrs. D. H. Nixon's helper, has been somewhat hindered by home cares lately, and missed three Sundays last month; when the reaping is over she hopes to be free again. Three people from her "Fort" were here, with malaria, and greatly helped spiritually.

Filimon Nkosi, Mrs. Bullock's evangelist, though young in the faith and work,

has got hold of the rudiments better than some much older, and has real answers to prayer and success in his work. His is a very large and promising field.

Elizabeth Twala (Mrs. Geo. True and others) is our senior Bible woman, and a "Mother in Israel." She left her gardens in the busiest part of the year, and went away beyond Paulpietersburg to visit that branch, and remind them of the "Big Sunday," and succeeded in getting them so interested that they have come nicely since then.

There are several other workers for whom I have not room to report in this letter. Two are supported by this family, and five have no supporters yet, but are 'helped' from the general fund.

Perhaps these "Report" letters do not give a true impression of the mission work as it really is here. Like most missionaries we give you the bright side, and leave you to infer that here is the other side—of trial, testing and heartbreaking labour. Also in reporting about the workers we have kept ourselves in the background, till it looks as if they do it all.

I can say simply this, we are each one working to the limit of our strength all the time, and glad to do it for Jesus sake. You, in the homeland, have no idea of the infinite power, prayer, wisdom, tact, talking, planning and managing it takes to keep our twenty-five workers anywhere near the standard of going faithfully and willingly about their business.

Their ignorance, wilfulness, high-mindedness, etc., makes them such a handful that it comprises over half of our burden and labour. So you have her a little glimpse of how we need your instant and earnest prayers. I hope next time to write you a more interesting letter.

Yours in the Master's service,  
FAITH A. SANDERS.

## WOMEN AND TOBACCO.

According to the Board of Temperance, Prohibition, and Morals of the Methodist church the increase of the use of tobacco among women in 1919 was "appalling," and a clarion appeal is made by this board for reform by women in this matter. It is alarming to notice the decline of a delicate moral sense among women of the nation on this and on the matter of immodest dress and other things. The statement made public by the board referred to included the following:

No nation can maintain the vigor that has been characteristic of the American people after its women begin the use of cigarettes. The sedentary life of women tends to an excess in the use of tobacco and produces more serious results than is caused by its use among men. The effect of tobacco upon women is similar to its effect on immature youths.—Herald of Holiness.

If you would divide the large gifts given to evangelists with some of our pastors on hard-scrabble circuits, it would be an act well pleasing to the Master. Some of our pastors work a whole year for the amount we pay an evangelist for a ten days' meeting. We have known of people giving impulsively and afterward wished they had acted with a bit of consideration.