

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,  
Paulpietersburg, Natal,  
So. Africa, June 24, 1921.

Dear Highway Readers:

It has been almost two months since our arrival at the mission station. We are both well and happy in the Lord. We do thank the Lord for what he is doing for us. I thank the Lord for the love he has given me for these dark skinned people; I do love them indeed, and I thank the Lord for it.

The Lord is also helping us in studying Zulu for which we praise him. Surely his "banner over us is love."

We are praying for Beulah Camp Meeting. Trust all the dear home people will be greatly strengthened and encouraged in the Lord. We believe you are praying for us as well. We are glad to read the home news in the Highway and we do appreciate and thank the many kind friends for their ready response for our support, and indeed we have not forgotten your past tokens of love, and we truly feel greatly favored in being so well provided for, which means so much to us in a foreign land. May the dear Lord richly bless you in return.

It is so blessed to see some of these natives who are all on the Lord's side; it is lovely to see their shining faces and to know they have been brought from darkness to the light of the gospel.

We had another big Sunday about two weeks ago, possibly about seventy-five or more gathered here. Dr. and Mrs. Saunders being in Durban. Paul and Faith had charge of the services. The Lord's supper was administered and a baby brought to the Lord. The natives give good testimonies. One thing I notice is, they are humble and are not too proud to confess if they feel a lack in their souls. This is very noticeable among them all.

The nights at present are very chilly, also the mornings, but when one gets out in the sunshine it is very nice and warm; this is really a lovely time of year. The fruits are ripening on the trees. There are lots of lemons and oranges and bananas. We had a very heavy wind a short time ago, which did quite a little damage in different places; it felled three large trees to the ground right near the house. I guess it had been some time since they had such a wind.

Trusting this letter will find you all well and praying God's blessing upon you all, I am,

Yours in Christian love,  
HELEN M. STERRITT.

P. O. Hartland,  
Via Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, So. Africa,  
26th June, 1921

Dear Friends:

The "Missionary Boxes" with their numberless gifts of love and care arrived, and you should have been here to see us open them! I am sure it would have been a great pleasure to all who took part in their sending could they have witnessed our "mid-year Christmas"—(for it was like a double Christmas). Each one who sent a gift ought to receive a letter of

thanks and know how their love and thoughtfulness were appreciated. We wish we could do this. Sooner or later (I am afraid it will be later in most cases) I would like to write personally to the kind friends who remembered me. But now I take the opportunity to say "Thank you, every one who sent gifts in the boxes to every one of us, and to the natives." (You know the natives have a custom of thanking for others, as well as for themselves. They say, "Ngiya bongela" ("I thank for others.") So do I.

You will never know how much it means for us missionaries, far from home and friends, to receive such tokens of loving remembrance. It makes it real to us how you are thinking of and praying for your representatives and gives us fresh courage to go forward and claim more from our Master and yours. There were some gifts in that box which came to me as from my Heavenly Father as a personal token of his love. He gave me back things I had gladly given up for his sake and seemed to say, "My child, see how I love you." I've been thinking about you all the time. I planned this and put it in their hearts. Can you doubt my love for you now, or that I know the little desires upon which you turned your back for me? Oh, the tender personal touch of my Father's love! It swept over my heart in a fresh tender light which made it clearer to my soul than ever before. So I have much more to thank you for than the presents themselves, which were numerous and beautiful.

It must be a very long time since my last letter to you, for the Sterritt Sisters have been with us nearly two months, and I think it was just before their arrival. It was a case of love—soul love—at first sight for me. The Lord is good to give us such co-workers. We have had such seasons of refreshment and fellowship in Him! When we begin to talk about the Lord and all he has done and is doing for us, how our souls do get blessed! They are a great help and encouragement to us already. The Zulu language is very hard to learn, but they are getting on so well that last Sunday Sister Helen gave her testimony partly in Zulu (three words) and every evening this week she has had prayers in the kitchen. The first night she came to me with her face shining and her eyes full of "joy tears." "I've had prayers with them and it was so nice I could have kept on for an hour!" she said. "I chose 'Showers of blessing' to sing as the words are so easy. I read a few verses in Peter, and 'Sala' sat beside me and read with me. I asked Julina to pray and she prayed and prayed! When we were done they all thanked me, and oh I had such a lovely time!" Any one could see in her face how the Lord had blessed her in this her first independent missionary work.

It was their coming and willingness to sacrifice and take on burdens that made it possible for Papa and Mamma to get away for the much needed rest. We all wish the rest could have been longer as they are still weary and not very strong.

Again during their absence the Lord especially blessed and protected us. Time and space forbid me telling you all, but three instances stand out as almost miraculous.

In our Saturday afternoon prayer service soon after Papa and Mamma left, we were lead out to pray very strongly, for Mateu and Elisabeta and their outpost at "Gwebus." After meeting we found out why. Lydia said, "A Zionist prophet came there and told them to leave us and join the Zionists, if they want God to give them children. I am afraid they will go. Josefa says if Mateu leaves he will follow." Instantly it flashed over me: "If Mateu leaves, at least six of our members up there will follow and that great door of opportunity with so many heathen up there will be shut to us. If Josefa goes many of those up at Metulas will go with him and where will the split end?" We began to pray especially and very earnestly for the Lord to undertake and avert this great danger. A few days later Mateu, his mother, Elisabeta and a sister-in-law came with a sick baby. Mateu and Elisabeta asked for special prayer. The "Sisters," Judson and I went up to the church with them, and the Lord drew very near. We could tell he was working. Later Elisabeta asked for an interview in which she told me her side, said that she had no desire to leave us and feared for Mateu. That evening there was a special service at the Zionist Church. Mateu came to me late in the afternoon, asking for an interview. When he was through I could understand how much it looked to him as if it could be the Lord who had sent this man with the message. But he clearly expressed himself as wanting the Lord's will more than he wanted any thing else. He said he would be perfectly willing to remain childless till the end of his days if the Lord wanted him to, and he wanted the Lord himself to lead him. It would be very hard for him to leave us, and he had no intention of doing so for a mere man's say so. He felt himself willing to do what the Lord wanted him to and believed that if the Lord willed him to leave us he would not only make it plain to him but also to us.

When Mateu asked for this interview I was conscious of my own insufficiency, and afraid that one word of mine might go to tip the scales. I was trembling all over and praying in my heart. When he began he seemed to be trying to get me to decide for him what the Lord wanted him to do. But as I silently listened and prayed the Lord worked, and toward the last he came out so clear for the Lord and his will. Just after Elisabeta came to me and asked where Mateu was. He had just gone over to spend the evening with Joseph. She was so pleased and praised the Lord as she had feared he would go to the Zionist meeting. The Lord has continued to undertake for them and Mateu has since been lead much as the Apostle Paul was to the "regions beyond" over across the Pevaan where there is quite an unevangelized strip peopled by many heathen.

The second instance of our Father's care was concerning Mpelelapi, one of our kitchen girls who was taken so sick that in spite of all we could do her folks carried her home "to die," they thought. Sister Alice and I went down to pray with her the next day and were lead to definitely pray that she might so far recover as

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