

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,
Paulpietersburg,
Natal, South Africa,
Feb. 10th, 1922.

Dear Friends:

The rain is simply pouring down and one feels as if a bit of a fire would be a comfort:

You see we are almost 4,000 ft. above sea level and live on a broad plateau on which rest other higher planes too. In the mountains all about us and yet friends we have made call this low veldt as they live from 1500 to 3000 ft. higher than we are. So when we get rainy days often we have a cold spell and it is such a wonderment to everybody until we take in the above facts.

This summer has been the hottest we have ever experienced since we came here, and so many violent storms of lightning, often with destructive hail in various sections of the country. In many places people have been killed and much stock by lightning. Crops swept off the face of the earth with the very soil in which they were planted and in its place worthless rubble or boulders. You may imagine a rain storm like that, but one must experience one to really get an idea of the lesson of destruction of one of these dreadful tropical down-pours with hail sweeping all before it. These storms have been everywhere in South Africa this season but of course more severe in some places than others. One of our neighbors had hail to come four different times. Three times his tobacco sprang up but the fourth took it all.

We have had hail—some stones large as small hens' eggs—but as they simply fell from the sky with little or no wind they did not kill anything.

South Africa has its share of pests too. The farmer seems to have much more of this to contend with than those of cooler climes. His flocks and herds as well as his fields and gardens. The latest is locusts, not near us yet, but in the provinces not so far from Natal, in the Transvaal and Cape Colony. It is supposed these swarms have hatched out in some of the barren unoccupied parts of Cape Province, so had increased to many swarms before the government got hold of it. Now thousands of pounds sterling is being spent in trying to eradicate the locusts and save the country. Some of the swarms are from fifteen miles by three to over twenty miles long. No one knows when they may cross over into Natal. Probably next year will see more of them than this.

"Our times are in his hands." We are safe "under His wings." "No evil shall befall thee nor any plague come nigh thy dwelling." What a God we have! Who would not serve him? Praise the Lord for all of our children now "running in his ways and striving to keep his commandments. "No more than others I deserve but God hath given me more." Everyone either doing mission work or trying to be fitted to do it. To be taught of God is blessed and it is the kind of knowledge which lasts, but don't you forget the Devil is busy and continually at it. Probably we

are being tested up to the limit by times I am glad "He was tempted in all points yet without sin." Through Him we conquer and when he hath tried us we shall come forth as gold."

Our hearts go out to Mateu Shabango, whose wife, Elizabetha, died a week ago. She was a deeply spiritual woman and a great help to Mateu, especially as his people are all against him being a Christian, and having but one wife, now to be left alone—do pray for him. It is such a testing time.

Sunday was such a good helpful day. Communion, great crowd, held the services in a new wattle grove near the church. Many stayed to the after service in the church where prayer and help was offered to all who needed it. One woman who has demons has been seeking Jesus for some time. Sunday she got to confessing her sins and crying unto God to save her. Many others were there also and were helped. Please pray for this woman that she may soon be freed from the power of the devil who for years has wanted to make her into a witch doctor.

We have had some stirring times about the mission station among the young people (servants and others).

One day I went into the kitchen and found two of our girls fighting, clawing and striking at each other. My! They just wanted to kill one another. Well I separated them and for the time got them away from one another, but they didn't have much love and it took tact and persuasion to get them to endure each other. But only a few days and then one went home, so it was easier. That was Christmas time.

The girl who remained has only been with us for a short time. Truly, she is a trouble; not many days after the fight she was again in a row. This time three girls came to settle with her for lies she had told and dear me, it was an awful time. These three beat that one till she was sick for days. They meant to have killed her and probably would have done so had we not sent men to separate them.

Now we have been here over eighteen years and never had this kind of trouble before, so you see the devil is angry and trying all the dodges he can to upset and drag back these poor souls who want to serve God.

But souls are getting saved and several are asking for baptism both here and across the Pongola river.

Keep on praying for the work, for the hungry ones, the weak and for each one of us workers that we may be faithful unto Him.

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

"It costs God much to make a man; it costs a man to have God make him. Yet the Lord counts no price too great to pay for a man."

"Fools make a mock of sin," says the Bible. Sin is not a joke; it is a serious matter, dangerous and terrible in its end."

"Simply to strike when the iron is hot, is not enough; one must keep on striking before it cools. Persistency is the key to power."

MONTHLY MISSIONARY MEETING AT ROYALTON.

The missionary meeting for March at Royalton was held last week.

The opening hymn, "We'll work till Jesus comes."

Scripture lesson by Mrs. Keirstead from the First Psalm, followed by hymn, "I'll go where you want me to go."

Prayer service led by Sister Weade. Minutes and roll call read. Two new members joining. Present number 33.

Reading, "Your own"—By Mrs. Silas Burtt.

Rev. I. F. Keirstead gave a report of his work at Gordonsville during the winter, which has not been in vain. We were also glad to hear the good report of the recent quarterly meeting held at Lower Brighton by Mrs. Keirstead, who said it was the best she had attended. Offering taken and hymn "Go tell the sweet story of love."

Sister Keirstead has recently had three invitations to go to Kings County. She is praying over the matter. Should she decide to go the members of the missionary society pledge her our sympathy and prayers. We thank the Lord for such live missionaries. Benediction by pastor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Brother Baker:

I want to report victory in my soul. I am living for God, and enjoying His blessing in my soul. Hallelujah. My prayer to God is that he will make me strong in his service. I can say with David, I delight to do Thy will oh God. I am glad Jesus can save a man and keep him saved at all times. Glory to God. I am glad I have the privilege of enjoying Brother Hilyard's preaching. He is a man of God and preaches the truth.

I mean by the grace of God to be true to Him and follow him all the way and some day I shall see Him as He is, glory Hallelujah.

My address now is 56 Sydney street, St. John, N. B.

Your brother in Jesus,
HAROLD K. INGERSOLL.

COMPARATIVE VALUES.

Family prayers are infinitely more important than French or geometry. The subjects taught in our public schools do not compare in importance with those fundamental religious qualities which our young people so lack today.

It is not more schools that we need today; it is more religion in the schools we already have, and in the homes which form the background of our entire educational system.

We fathers should give our families more time rather than more money. The solution of our investment troubles—so well as of our labor troubles—will come only as we give more of ourselves to our children and our employees.

Both children and wage workers need money; but money alone will neither satisfy nor save either.—Reformed Church Messenger.