

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Balmoral Mission Station,

Natal, December 20th, 1921.

Dear Children:

Did you ever think how much Jesus loved the children and stood up for them? The Disciples wished to drive them away, but Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." But mind you, He says "little children," because some of the big ones get farther and farther away from God.

Christ tells us a very wonderful thing concerning their angels. I think He means that you all have a special angel sent to take care of you, amid dangers seen and unseen, so you will live to grow up and work for God. And this is not all Jesus said about children. Anyone who stops a little child from getting to heaven is to be punished with a punishment worse than drowning. Again, Jesus thanked the Father that children can understand the things of God that are hidden from the great and wise. And did you ever notice that children were the ones who shouted His praises when He came riding into Jerusalem on the colt of an ass? It is today as it was then: little children know and love their Saviour, if they can only have a good chance.

Some preachers and S. S. teachers understand God's plan, to have the little ones brought to Christ, while others like the disciples, think they should wait until they cease to be children. The parents have the best chance and therefore the greatest responsibility. We think of Moses as almost the greatest man that ever lived, but are apt to overlook the time when he was a baby. One can imagine him on his mother's knee listening, wide eyed, to the tale of his own rescue. She tells how wonderfully God revealed to her that he was to live and become a great and useful man. Therefore she dared to disobey the command of King Pharaoh. First laong he is interested more in his basket-boat and the actual scene on the bank of the river. But before he goes to be "called the Son of Pharaoh's daughter," he has understood the deeper truth that God planned the whole scheme, and brought him back to his own parents, that they might teach him of the true God. One is reminded of the text, "Bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

I fear that you children are not thankful enough for godly parents. Samuel was a great and good man, but read how he was asked of the Lord, and then given back to the Lord. He was taught first by godly parents, and later, introduced to the voice of the Lord by the old priest, Eli.

And how did he happen to become so great and good? Notice what Paul says to him in his second letter, Ch. 1 and verse 5, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." "And (Ch. 3:15) that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make these wise unto salvation, though faith which is in Christ Jesus."

I wish now to add a word more, especially for the parents and others concerned in child training. Notice Christ's unique word to Peter, "Lovest thou me? . . . Feed my lambs." So Christ today beseeches you by your love for Him, to bring the lambs into the fold of the Good Shepherd, who wishes to carry them in His bosom. One need not remind truly Christian parents that the child which God has given them, should be given back to Him for his service. He says to you, "Take this child away and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages," and promises that "all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaac was another asked-for baby and one so literally given to God that we marvel at the faith of his father. Abraham offered up his only son, Isaac, and today the children of that son are as stars of heaven for multitude. Think you not that God will so bless our boys and girls, dedicated to Him, that their spiritual children will be multitudes?

I shrink from speaking of my own family, but it will illustrate the point. Both Mrs. Sanders and I thank God for Godly parents who gave us back to God for his service the day we were born. Our children, in turn, enjoyed the same heritage. We have striven to keep them, as lambs of the good Shepherd, from wandering from the fold. So today I question them as to when they were saved, with results as follows: Charley remembers his mother leading him to Jesus in the privacy of her room. Faith recalls that before she was five, on her way to Africa, her father introduced her to the Good Shepherd. The others cannot remember any definite time. To them it seems that they always loved Jesus and considered themselves as belonging to Him. Judson was about five years old when he said to me, "Papa, do you want me to tell you how I got into a Christian?" When I said "yes," he continued, "It was that Jesus got into my heart." From about five to six years was the ages they all seemd first to show evidence of conversion.

Another question I have just put to them: "What do you anticipate doing with your life?" They all reply, "Mission work."

Think not, that the responsibility of their parents is yet ended. Jesus still says, "Lovest thou me? . . . Feed my lambs." It is the nature of lambs, when not cared for, to stray from the fold and the good Shepherd. To lead them to the fold is but a very small work in comparison to the after shepherding and feeding. Let us, therefore, who are the Lord's under-shepherds, hear His voice, "Lovest thou me? . . . Feed my lambs."

Ever yours to feed His lambs,
H. C. SANDERS.

Hartland, Paulpietersburg,

Natal, So. Africa, Dec. 28, 1921.

Dear Friends:

The last you heard from me was I believe that I had gone to Durban for a short holiday. I wish I had time to tell you of the Lord's presence and protection that was with me all the way, and what feasts of fellowship He gave us there and

how he blessed me daily in prayer till the little room I occupied became a very Bethel to my soul. So thanks to a very loving Heavenly Father I had a very nice holiday and returned strong enough to help once more with His work here.

One thing I wanted very much to tell you about. Mr. and Mrs. Burns, with whom I stayed in Durban, are self-supporting missionaries to the Indians; thousands of whom live in and near Durban. They took me with them to their open air services in the barracks and to a little church and the Lord opened the way for, and very greatly blessed a number of services. The Lord gave me such a love for these poor Indians and a desire to see them saved and blessed as he did long ago for the natives, and oh, how I wish I had another life to offer him—how gladly would I welcome the chance to serve among these "other sheep." Just now, all I can do is to pray earnestly and constantly for them and be their intercessory missionary. I am so glad that we can reach them thus when so limited in other ways. I saw their heathen temples and hideous idols, and devil worship, and as I looked I seemed to sense a heathenism stronger, darger and more subtle far than that of the Zulu among whom we are stationed. Their women are ignorant and far more degraded than even the native women about us. And Jesus loves these poor Indians and longs to see them saved just as much as he loves the natives. There are very few missionaries to them as they are harder to win than natives, and people don't all know the need. Please join me in praying that the Lord will send forth more labourers into this part of his vineyard and bless and strengthen those already engaged.

Others will be writing of our "Big Sunday" and Christmas Feast, so I can give you a report in general of how the battle goes.

Lydia is holding regular services at Ndebele's where Martha and Philimon were engaged before they left us. In spite of Philimon's underhanded efforts to steal them away they are holding true (save one of his own little sisters who was a "seeker" and has now joined him) and she reports unusually good attendance and interest there. The head man of the kraal has given himself, wife and children to God and is real earnest. The death of his wife, Jostina, a few months ago made a great impression on him and on his other wife who is also "seeking" now.

Filita has just been through another severe illness and Paul is taking her outpost, which is one of the most important on this side of the Pongola. The owner of the farm on which these services are held has recently granted permission for us to use a small house which is very conveniently situated, and thus is supplied a great need and a great obstacle removed, for the woman in whose hut the meetings were formerly held, was not willing for them to continue there, and no other conveniently central spot offered. There are a large number of "seekers in this part of the field who need very special prayer as they are holding back and delay is almost certain loss—either death claims them before they are prepared or they