

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Balmoral Mission Station,
Paulpietersburg,
Natal, July 14, 1923

Dear Highway:

The Sisters and Faith have gone to attend a Camp Meeting in Swaziland that will be, I believe, a grand spiritual success. The same train that took them away, brought me home from the Natal Missionary Conference, held at Maritzburg, which is not noted for its spirituality. To the contrary, the two days are spent mostly in discussing the Mission work among the Zulus, and other kindred problems, all of vital importance to the Native.

During the few days in Durban, I met many missionaries at the "Mission Home," from all parts of South Africa. This "Home" is a growing institution, enabling the Missionary to find a spiritual, congenial and home-like atmosphere, while he makes arrangements to proceed up country to his station, or, perchance, to his home on furlough; or, again, it may be but to rest for a few weeks by the glorious, old ocean and in this most beautiful city of South Africa.

One is impressed with the sharpness of the line of demarkation between true spiritual life and worldliness in this Port of Natal. The town is filled with pleasure seekers, from Maritzburg, Johannesburg, and all the high veld towns and country, who annually spend a month or so at the sea shore. During July Durban is always "full up," while hotels, boarding houses, furnished rooms and restaurants do a flourishing business in spite of prices unbelievably high. West street, where the large stores are located, swarms with people, mostly women, looking for the "great sales" and the "bargain counter."

What of the churches? The attendance at theatres is multiplied while the chief attraction, the "Beach," claims its thousands even on the Lord's Day.

Those at the Mission Home who know conditions, point to only a few churches, saying, "there, you can get soul food;" or "that pastor preaches the whole gospel." One church is even having some revival.

Maritzburg we found more or less deserted, as so many were in Durban for the winter season. What most impressed me there was the neglected condition of the Indian. One European lady missionary is doing what she can, but fails to reach more than a few. Indian evangelists find their hands full to care for the little flock converted to Christianity. Mr. Tomlinson, a very spiritual man, who lives near Maritzburg and works among the Indians below Durban, on the large sugar estates, told me of some of his experience. Twice, in preaching near Maritzburg, Indians, after the service, have accosted him thus: "How long have you been in this country? . . . Then why have you never told us this before?"

One of the problems brought up at our conference was the spread of Mohammedanism in South Africa, and the best means to combat this evil. The chief speaker was a Syrian who is raising

money in this land to help his countrymen. These christian Syrians have been since 1914, systematically persecuted and martyred by the Mohammedan Turks. All their church buildings and school houses have been destroyed. The Koran teaches that the killing of five infidels (who do not accept Mohamet as God's chief prophet) ensures entrance into Paradise, while much blessedness hereafter rewards the man who marries an infidel maiden and forces her to accept his faith.

The speaker told of 400 school girls who chose death rather than such marriage, leaping from a precipice. Others, including fifteen of his own relatives, were taken by force and allowed no option. Eleven thousand children under ten years of age (it is difficult to believe this) were taken to a large river, beheaded and thrown in. One man was asked to accept Mohammedanism, then his son was killed before his eyes. Upon a second refusal, his daughter. Upon the third (and last allowed according to the Koran) his wife was slain, and then he burned alive. A band of sixty christian ministers were taken out and questioned three times and then shot down one only escaping alive. And so he went on describing the campaign of Mohammedan extermination of the Syrian Christians.

This religion is gaining ground rapidly in South Africa among the ignorant natives, who accept the Koran, without leaving their polygamy or other sins.

And yet, in the Mohammedan countries, and among the educated and enlightened peoples, few converts are being won to the crescent. Thus we see our weapons are the enlightenment of the people before the Missionaries of the Koran can get in their teaching.

O the need of prayer and workers! "Tithes and offerings," too, are a power. No one's life need be lived in vain. There is no excuse for the one who may meet the Master empty handed. A wasted life! Think of it, in a world of such crying need! Jesus suffered providing salvation for all, and hath committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation. The old testament prophets were given spiritual power to deliver their messages but needed foreheads of "adamant" because they were commanded to preach whether the congregations would "hear or forbear." Not so with us, for we are to "go" to the ones willing to hear and have the unspeakable joy of seeing souls born into the Kingdom. How I thank God for this "passion for souls," the "ministry of reconciliation," the "love of Christ" constraining one. How one's heart yearns to bring the lost to Christ.

Yesterday I was speaking with Peter, one of our first Native evangelists, who is now a backslider. I asked him when he was happier, now, or at the time he was preaching, 18 years ago? "Then," was his hungry reply. But, he said, "the Dutchmen make us work all the time." "Will you give that as your excuse when you meet Jesus," I asked him. "No," was his reply. And so our conversation went on.

May we constantly have our eyes enlightened to see the daily opportunities

that come to us. Otherwise we shall have lived in vain.

In Maritzburg, I had the great privilege of preaching Christ to the Christian Indians. All the way during my eleven days from home there was the guiding star—the certainty that He had planned it all. It is such a privilege to be His and be just in the work and place He chooses. It's better than any position the world can offer, even than being an earthly king for are we not "kings and priests unto God?"

Day before yesterday was our Wednesday class, when I reported to the eager Christians, my visit to the Conference, etc. After this the Evangelists brought in their reports—truly encouraging. Three new seekers and others that show interest, while hearts everywhere are soft. One woman just now beginning to dress, was an "isangoma," a medium able to get messages from the spirit world. I remember her about eighteen years ago, dressed in all her distinguishing finery, running, with uplifted spear and singing, "I am called by a bird." Since which time she has persisted in resisting the gospel until now sickness and death have become very near, and she has heard the call of the Man of Calvary.

Let us then pray without ceasing and not become weary in well doing for in due season we "shall reap if we faint not."

Yours in Jesus,

H. C. SANDERS.

Balmoral Mission Station,
Paulpietersburg,

Natal, July 20th, 1923.

Dear Highway:

Last week's reports were very encouraging. Aloni spoke of Mandundu, the man who nearly died of malaria and whom Paul went to treat; remained with him four days and left him convalescent. He has been one of the hard cases.

Now that he is well and strong again he has gone about proclaiming that the "Amadhlosi" or ancestral spirits raised him up. But his three wives and two other women of the kraal, all new seekers, took him to task saying, "get out! you were healed by the power of the Lord, and not by the "Amadhlosi." This they repeated and kept at him until he became convinced and ashamed of his former attitude. So when Aloni, asked him, last Sunday, to attend the service, held at his kraal, he consented, telling the above story and adding, "yes, now since I see that it was not the "Amadhlosi" that saved me, I wish to break with the old life and seek the Lord." You should have seen Aloni's face as he gave this report and notice how greatly encouraged he is.

The next Sunday he preaches at another out-post, to the people where he lived as a boy. There, too, new ones are beginning to seek the Lord.

Lydia has done much kraal visiting of late near her out-post and reports new interested ones who are expected soon to announce themselves as seekers. One seeker was a witch with power to consult the spirits. And now is greatly troubled by her spirit who resists her whenever