

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Balmoral Mission Station,
Natal, South Africa,
April 20th, 1924

Dear Highway:

We missionaries are thrice blessed: A local Christmas, a large Christmas box and postal packages from the homeland; and now, in April, another splendid Christmas box. We all were remembered, made glad, and desire to thank the kind friends for these tokens of interest and love.

If you all could have been with us today! Among the nine baptized was a very old woman, one young one, two boys and five girls. All gave clear, ringing testimonies to justification.

We make much of bringing the little children to Jesus, and find them a few years later with almost no exception, asking for baptism and full church membership. One boy was presented today, taking the name of "Frank."

After the baptism an old woman hurried to catch up with me, as I was returning to the house. "Teacher," she said, kindly give me some little old rags to wrap about my bones." Upon her head was a black handkerchief, showing that she had made a start to leave heathenism. Some of these very old women fail to secure Christian clothing, so wear their cow-hide skirt, blanket and the inevitable headdress, which is to them the badge of Christianity. If you ask one such if she is a Christian, she will point to the "iduku" upon her head, and wonder at your stupidity in not observing it.

So we gave this old begging woman a blanket, the thing she had in mind when she asked for "little old rags."

There is an old, old man who lives on this farm and attends all our services very faithfully. At first he wore only his loin skin, and a goat skin for a coat. This covered only one side of his body at a time and needed to be shifted frequently during cold weather. Today he had on a warm overcoat, a present, for which he is very grateful. During the testimony meeting a wife of one of the preachers showed a coat she had just received as a gift, and asked, as is their custom, that the whole assembly thank the donor for her. They all responded in unison, "We do thank."

It was good to see fifty-three partake of the communion and great blessing crowned the whole day. The final act was a marriage ceremony. Our evangelist, Aaron, was married to his wife, Jostina. They have lived together for about twenty years, but wished their heathen marriage ratified by Christian rites. We all count this a victory as now Aaron cannot lawfully take a second wife during the lifetime of Jostina, whereas all natives married by heathen rites have no law to bar them from polygamy. The prayer offered for the bride and Aaron craved blessing also for their family of six children.

We praise God for this truly saved couple. Jostina's testimony today was so good. It told of salvation from all known sin, of assurance, joy and a personal knowledge of her Saviour. Such ones as these, and many others of our African Church, show forth the praises of Him

who has called them out of darkness into His marvellous light. They are our joy and crown, showing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord, and that foreign missions pay.

Yours in Jesus,

H. C. SANDERS.

SHUT THE DOOR

A man was standing in a telephone booth trying to talk, but could not make out the message. He kept saying, "I can't hear, I can't hear." The other man by and by said sharply, "If you'll shut the door you can hear."

His door was not shut, and he could hear not only the man's voice, but the street and store noises too. Some folk have gotten their hearing badly confused because their doors have not been closed tightly. Man's voice and God's voice have become mixed in their ears. They cannot distinguish between them. The trouble is partly with the door. If you'll shut that door you can hear.—S. D. Gordon.

CHRIST'S EARTHLY LIFE NOT A GOSPEL.

What is the Gospel? The earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ was not a Gospel. Indeed, if Christ had simply come from heaven to earth to be incarnated, as he was, and had grown up and lived in sinlessness and perfection, as he did, and then had returned to heaven without dying (as, praise God, he did not) his life not only would not have been the cruellest mockery God could have devised for a lost race. For the human race, left to itself, is a dead, lost, hell-deserving and hell-doomed race. And for God to bring into the midst of this lost human race his own perfect, sinless, righteous, holy Son, as a Man, and parade him as it were before the helpless, paralytic human race for thirty-three years as an exhibition of the kind of human life they ought to live but that which we never could be, and then sending us to hell because we were not like his Son. No, Christ's life could never be a Gospel. **The Gospel is the death of Christ in our stead, as our substitute.** He paid the wages of our sin, which is death, in order that as we believe on him we need not pay those wages. And then, wonder of wonders, all who thus accept the death penalty, and believe that God raised him from the dead for their justification, receive Christ as their own actual life and righteousness and holiness, without cost to us, by his grace. **That is the Gospel.** Have you made this good News your own?—Selected.

"It pays to follow the Lord fully. It pays in our own souls. It pays in the work that He has called us to do. The way He leads sometimes seems to human wisdom the way of foolishness. But God's ways are not our ways. They are so much higher and their orbits so different, that they seem to us sometimes to be erratic. But those who follow where God leads, have no need that sympathy should be squandered upon them. The manifest Divine Presence, the open heavens, the sweeping glory of salvation, have far more than made up for all else."

JOHN WESLEY ON DIVINE INSPIRATION

I beg leave to propose a short, clear, and strong argument to prove the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

1. It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying: "Thus saith the Lord," when it was their own invention.

2. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they could not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sins, and condemns their own souls to hell for all eternity.

3. Therefore, draw the conclusion that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.

"A certain man carried a sack under which he groaned and complained unceasingly. From none could he take help or comfort.

As he slowly journeyed on, toiling under his heavy burden, an Angel spoke to him, saying, "What carriest thou?"

And the man made answer, "My worries."

Then the angel smiled and said, "Let us look into thy bundle and examine thy worries."

And so they looked in, but lo! the pack was empty.

"Surely," cried the man, "there were two great worries, too heavy for man to bear. But ah yes, I had forgotten—one was the worry of yesterday, and so it is gone."

"And the other?"

"That—that was the worry of tomorrow, and it not here yet."

Then the angel smiled and said, "Listen! He who bows himself down under the worries of yesterday and of tomorrow wears himself out for naught. But if thou wilt give all thy strength and cheer and courage to the things of today, real misfortune can never overcome thee."

The man did as was suggested, and went swiftly on. His heart and hands were free to relieve many other wayfarers of their burdens, and to pluck for himself sweet fruits and flowers along the wayside. And when he came at last to the setting of the sun, it was with smiles and a song."

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."—Sel.

I seek two things in this world—truth and love; whoever assists me in this search is a friend indeed.—John Wesley.

"The devil's biggest desire is not to break up the church, but to have a hand in running it."

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and being forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance, self-control, diligence, strength of will, content, and a hundred virtues that the idel will never know.—Charles Kingsley.