

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,
Via Paulpietersburg
Natal, South Africa,
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Dear Homeland Friends:

A few lines tonight from Africa. We are endeavoring to keep cool, and hoping for one of the refreshing showers that change the atmosphere so quickly and makes us feel like different persons. How grateful we are when they come. The Lord has answered prayer and sent the greatly needed rain about three weeks ago and the change in the country is wonderful. Probably some of the others have written of the drought and what a loss it has meant to the people by the death of their cattle and sheep. But the rains came and where it was so brown, dry and dead looking, we now see beautiful green fields and it is so refreshing. After the first real heavy showers we could set the wonderful effect in the soft appearance of the earth and it was so typical of our hearts when the showers of blessing fall upon us. The Lord is so good and does grant us these refreshings all along the way, and it is surely the great need of our lives. I praise Him for what He is doing in my heart and feel that "the end is not yet. Praise the Lord."

The people are very busy now in their gardens; they have talked of starvation, for they are very late in starting their food for the year. Poor souls; it is very hard on them when they do not have corn, for it is their chief food, though they raise quite large quantities of squash, pumpkin and "amabele," a grain, which makes very nice porridge. They use it for making beer as well, which is really a great waste.

The children have to work at home now, instead of attending school. They have quite a busy time, and it is quite touching to see how small some of the children are who have to keep the cattle and horses from the gardens during the summer days, as well as many other chores. Horse sickness has already begun its work, much earlier than usual. Faith and I lost ours as well as some of our neighbors. Of course we are very sorry, and I certainly do miss him very much, but "all things work together for good to those who love the Lord," and I hope the Lord will provide another just as kind in his own time. I miss the joy of getting out to the people, but as this is the season when it is not nearly so convenient to visit the kraals owing to their much work, I feel very thankful that I had him during the winter. They sicken and die in less than twenty-four hours. It is a fatal disease. A number of the natives have come to "Kalela" or sympathize and it has been quite comforting to hear their expressions of regret. It is a custom among the natives to walk for miles to "kalela" with people who have been honored. We are thankful that we still have one horse left, and hope all three now on the station will be spared as horses are so necessary. Sometimes we are called to go quite long distances to attend the sick. Not long ago we had two cases six or eight miles distant

which needed special attention and the heat was so great it would have been more than our physical strength could stand to walk to them. The only way we can get to the distant kraals is on horseback. We have had some very interesting experiences and the Lord has blest us. On one occasion it was necessary to remain away one night without food, and it was quite touching to see their concern. One dear old soul decided that they must kill a hen, so I could have meat and broth, and also cook some pumpkin for me. When they had cooked the food, I was called and to my surprise it was served very nicely on a wooden tray in a neat little hut. I was about hungry enough to eat what was "set before me asking no questions." The man of the kraal had sent to his white man about two miles distant for bread and had made coffee; a little girl with smiling face waited on me and I felt that I was indeed among very kind friends, and was happy to be there.

Sometimes we have experiences not so pleasant, but we praise the Lord for them all and rejoice to know that in His sight each small service is acceptable if rendered in love to Him. This is most comforting.

One day we returned to visit a kraal where there had been a very sick woman. The beaming face that greeted us and the rapt attention with which she listened to the Word of God I shall never forget. It was really wonderful. How these things lift our souls. Her real home is near Paulpietersburg, and she asked that we come to see her there for she was returning next day. We sincerely hope to do so when the Lord permits.

We are all well, but feel the trying effects of the heat, especially Mrs. Sanders. If it were not for the showers that come and the cool day that the Lord sends us when He sees we must have it, we would be much worse off. The Lord is certainly good to us.

Now I must close. Remember us in prayer that we may know His will in all things. We can see the workings of His Spirit in our midst and our hearts are refreshed. The Lord bless you all.

Yours in Christian love,

ALICE F. STERRITT.

P. S.—We send Christmas Greetings. I suppose this will reach you at that time.

"I WILL GIVE HIM THE MORNING STAR."

Not long since, during morning prayers with the children, we read Rev. 2. I explained passages, but said of verse 28, "I do not know what this means but the Lord will shew me some day." Then, yesterday morning, upon coming across this verse, it was impressed upon me as containing my portion of manna for the day. Truly it was sweet to my taste and gave me strength and encouragement that will help me, I think, all the rest of my life.

The meaning is so simple that I only wonder that I did not always see it. Christ is the Morning Star (Rev. 22:16) and gives Himself to us in this glorious metaphor: that which ushers in a coming day.

Notice that in Rev. 2:7, Christ gives himself as "The Tree of Life," to the

overcomers. So "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life." Again, in verse 17, Christ as "The Hidden manna," gives Himself to the overcomer. For John 6:31-35 shews that He is the "true bread from Heaven." Thus these figures shew different phases of our relationship to the blessed Son of God. Thus in Rev. 2:7 He "is made unto us" life, while in verse 17, He becomes the sustainer of that life.

Again "The Bright and Morning Star" sets forth still another phase of the same relationship existing between Christ and the overcomer. The morning star they receive is simply their commission to do the works that Christ did. "As the Father hath sent me, so send you." "The works that I do, shall ye do also." How accurately this idea is carried out in Rev. 2:26-28, "He that . . . keepeth my works unto the end . . . I will give him the morning star." Therefore we see the same metaphor in Rev. 1:16 and 20, "The seven stars are the angels (or ministers) of the seven churches."

On the surface of the text is the truth that Christ is "the light of the world," and that He makes His disciples "the light of the world." Next, underneath, is the lesson that He, as the Morning Star ushered in the day of Grace; will introduce a still brighter day, the millenium; and, finally, is the harbinger of a perfect and endless day. And in all this, He works in partnership with the overcomers.

Still deeper down lies the truth that impressed me most: that of Kingship. The Coming Christ was announced by a Star that appeared to the wise men. They understood that it would lead them to a divine King. Where is He that is born King of the Jews for we . . . are come to worship Him.

This accords with the prophecy in Num. 24:17, "There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel." But, without this prophecy it is indisputable that the "Morning Star" of Rev. 2:26-28 refers to ruling the nations and signifies the same phase of relationship between Christ and the overcomers as does Rev. 1:6: "Hath made us Kings and priests unto God." Surely the meaning is becoming plain. There is a fellowship and co-operation in our commission that is most beautifully expressed in these words: "I will give him the Morning Star."

It begins in this life where we are "workers together with Him" and have "received the ministry of reconciliation." Christ, the Morning Star, ushered in this day of Grace when "all that call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

And yet the primary teaching of our text refers to a brighter day, the time when Satan shall be bound while we "live and reign with Christ a thousand years." The apostles are promised that they shall then sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Thus the overcomers have the Morning Star in the sense that they sit with him in His throne and share with Him as "Priests and Kings," the glorious ministry of enlightening and ruling the nations.

Bible students see in prophecy a worldwide revival which shall follow the coming