

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,  
Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, South Africa,

February 6th, 1924

Dear Friends:

This day is delightful, but very warm. It has been, so far, a hot, dry summer and the crops are feeling it all over the country. Some places there will be little, if any food to reap. Others, blessed with some rain, will get fair crops, but here, as far as I can learn, we will have one much below the average. One woman estimated they might reap half a crop of corn (mealies). This will mean hard times for all and with some famine.

It is too early to form an estimate—as all depends upon the next few days' rains, but it will be very short in here, our section of the country.

Mealies are very difficult to buy now as they are scarce and high in price. For about two weeks we have not been able to let anyone person buy a whole bag at a time. If we did, the few we had would have gone in two or three days; then what would the other poor, hungry ones who came later do? So we have limited them first to four shillings, then later to two shillings worth at a time. This has called forth thanks from so many people, as they realized they would have had no food had the "Umfundisi" not been willing to break a sack and sell in little lots to all who came wanting food.

Now the long looked for Christmas box came and, as soon as possible, Dr. Sanders sent his small wagon and donkeys to bring it in with as many bags of mealies as they could with it. While they were gone, so many came, our mealies were finishing so we had to cut from four shillings to two each, who wanted to buy. When the team returned what was our surprise to find the box was left but several bags of mealies had been brought in its place. Well, we did not seem to mind the leaving of the box in the least, we all were so glad to have the extra food for the hungry people.

Often they come from far distances and one or two would faint, they said things went black before their eyes. Of course something was given them to eat, if we had it, or they had the privilege of grinding meal at our mill, and we lent them pots, wood, etc., to cook for themselves.

One of our girls told me she only remembers once of food being scarce, years ago, and then it was nothing like now. I fear we are in for a famine, as newspapers speak of shortage all over the country.

Another calamity is locusts. For over a year now they have been giving farmers in Cape Colony and Orange Free State much trouble. The government has been helping with spray pumps and poison. Yes, they even had a tank fixed up on the engine of trains in certain places, and sprayed as far as possible as the train slowly went amidst the millions that had chosen the roadbed and on the side of the embankment, for their resting place. We have heard that trains were held up by these in the hopper stage, until the hands had to get off and sweep a way for the train to pass through. Thousands of

pounds sterling have been lost by the locust eating up the wheat, oats, etc. Also by great loss of sheep and cattle as the locusts ate up every vestige of pasture.

Then the drought of last winter was not broken in some parts of the land until lately and farmers on high veldt have either not been able to plant at all or only a little, chancing the crops ripening before frost comes.

Last week a "Locust Officer" appointed by the government came in here with pumps and poison. The magistrate appoints responsible Europeans as commandants all over the country, dividing the land between them for supervision over the native population. No pay, but each does his best for his country.

Dr. Sanders' area is very large, but not more so than our other neighbors, as we are only two families now, about four miles apart, with the nearest other eight miles nearer town than we are.

We are asking the Lord to keep this pest from us if it be his dear will. Our people are so poor, have so little food this year and little of stock to sell for food. Pray for them and us.

The Government has the locusts under control in many places, having destroyed thousands of swarms. But they fear another infestation after rains from the Kalaharri desert where there are so many great stretches of country without inhabitants or few who care. The Karvo district has been the place where most of those first came from.

It might be interesting to note that locusts, cured and dried, make excellent food for fowls and all stock, when feed is poor or exhausted, and one can buy them by the hundred weight, etc.

They are only from forty to sixty miles from us now and could easily fly here in a day or so.

Last Sunday was communion Sunday with us and a blessed day. Over two hundred here, excellent meetings and orderly crowds, but best of all one could feel the Spirit of the Lord resting upon the people and could by testimony find the people are hungry for God and seeking him. Many heathen were there and some very earnest. God has given us the hearts of these people and now as we serve them in this famine time, as we try to help them in their troubles, they are brought into a different attitude and will listen as we preach unto them Jesus. Pray much for us, each and every one, that we may have eyes to see our opportunities and wisdom to choose what to say or how to help them.

We expect the team in tonight or tomorrow with your gifts. Wish you could take the gifts out and give each one his or hers. Anyway you all have all of our most heartfelt thanks. I tell you we appreciate our home folks.

Two young men dying with consumption, and one old woman too. One has gotten saved since he became sick; we hope the others do too. To send them little delicacies in food or fruit, to visit and pray with or other ways help them, make the people realize that Christians do care while heathen do not.

I hear heavy thunder and pray we may get rain, it is so needed.

A wedding and the weekly prayer meeting take place now within an hour.

Ever yours in Jesus,  
MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

Hartland P. O.,  
Via Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, South Africa,  
Feb. 12th, 1924.

Dear Homeland Friends:

It has been a long time since I have written, but the days and weeks pass swiftly by here in Africa, and during the intense heat it seems almost impossible to get letters written. We have had several days of much needed rain and the coolness of the atmosphere has revived us greatly. We do praise the Lord for all his benefits. This rain has saved the food for the people and we are so thankful. They have been crying for corn for weeks, drought in the spring having made the crops very late. It looked as though another drought was on us, which would prevent the ripening of the grain, but the dear Lord has been merciful and we praise him. It is very hard to see the people hungry because the food is so scarce. Dr. Sanders has been able to keep a limited supply of corn in the store and the people have come to buy from every direction and many have gone to Paulpietersburg for a supply. Some have brought wild fruit and various other things to sell that they might get food, and now that the corn will soon be ripe we do rejoice. Today Helen picked four nice ears from our own garden.

Well, dear people, the Christmas box arrived from Paulpietersburg last Wednesday night, Feb. 6th, and Thursday morning we all gathered on Mrs. Sanders verandah to celebrate its arrival and enjoy its contents. Words fail to express the gratitude of our hearts for all the beautiful tokens of love received. Truly we were almost overwhelmed for we were graciously remembered, and I take this opportunity to extend a hearty thank you to all who so kindly remembered us and hope in the near future to send out personal letters. Everything was so useful and truly appreciated. May the dear Lord reward you all abundantly.

We feel unworthy of all that has been done for us, and can only pray that God will make us real missionaries and grant us power to win souls.

To dwell among a people of strange language and understand their joys and sorrows and desires is no small task. To have grown up among them and know them as these children do is a wide open door to their hearts and a wonderful privilege.

Sunday the Lord granted us His presence in the little service we held. About two dozen present including six or eight children. I ask that you remember this kraal in your prayers, for it has been a hard kraal to reach. Sunday services have been held there at different times and discontinued because of their seeming indifference. Then again they get interested and desire meetings. There are two old men with wives and sons and daughters married and unmarried.

I trust that some of you dear people will pray definitely for this Lindeni kraal. We do miss our horses so much, for