

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Balmoral Miss. Station,
Natal, South Africa,

Dear Friends: June 18th, 1825.

They have come and gone, like birds of flight. Mrs. Marshall and Miss Cole left here early yesterday morning on furlough. As our natives say, "They have remembered their home across the ocean, in America." Again like birds (of spring) they are the kind who carry cheer and blessing wherever they go; reminding me of Paul's saying, "I am sure that when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."

They told us of their farewell in Swaziland, where their fellow workers, and the Native Christians shed tears in abundance at their departure.

Mrs. Marshall came over five years ago, as teacher for the children of their Swaziland superintendent. Now she is taking three of them home for further education. I first met her in the Missionary Training School, where she was my classmate. God had called her to Africa, but somehow she missed His first choice for her life, and remained in the homeland until the eleventh hour. One marvels at what she has accomplished during her short stay in this country. In addition to her regular school duties she has become proficient in the native language; and in addition to other ministries, translated many hymns which she hopes to get published as a new Swazi Hymn Book. There are only slight differences between the Swazi language and the Zulu. She will probably return again to work among the Swazies.

Miss Cole is a trained nurse, and hopes to return to Africa, and take part in a large hospital where, among other duties, she will be able to train European girls to become nurses. If asked what about her impresses me most, I should say, her consecration. No sacrifice seems to daunt her, but rather she glorifies in toil, necessities and the hardest places for Christ's sake.

Last Sunday was our communion service, when all the outpost worshippers make a special effort to be at the central station. The Church was full, and great blessing was upon us all.

Of the fourteen asking for baptism, some were not ready, so the others consented to wait for them until next big Sunday. Five seekers from the outposts arose, saying, "I give myself to the church." This is their usual formula, when they have fully decided to follow the Lord. Another who had formerly left us for the Zionists, and one who has been away for years, repeated the same formula: "Ngi ya zi nikela ebandhleni." Then all the congregation, saints and sinners respond amen."

Seven children were dedicated to the Lord, and given Christian names; the parents faking suitable vows. We have come to value this ordinance, and look forward with assurance that when old enough to choose for themselves, all these children will ask for Christian baptism.

During the recess, between meetings, a harvest offering was brought into the church: 500 lbs. corn, 9 pumpkins, 5 citrons, 10 lbs. cow peas, ten lbs. of a kind

of native potato, 1 native broom and 5 grass mats. Then, at the close of the last service, the cash offering was \$5, the largest we ever had as an ordinary collection. A woman earns from 10c to 25c a day, and puts 25c in as her offering. Our Bible women do this, while Lydia gave 100 of 500 lbs of corn, as well as her shilling. She is our most spiritual worker, and they seem to measure up to the light of giving their tenth, in proportion to their spiritual life.

Among our Bible women, Jostina comes next. In her testimony she said the Lord had sanctified her and given her great blessing. So now she was determined to trust Him, even though she was passing through severe trials. One of these is that news had just arrived that her eldest son was in jail for riding a stolen bicycle.

Last Monday a dying consumptive was carried to his home. He came here last week to see if our medicines could cure him. He had but a few more days to live, but seems ready to "depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

Thus, you see, the gospel of our Lord and Saviour comforts the dying; and those in the deepest trials. God is giving you (and us) the heathen for our inheritance, so let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap; and in the harvest offering over there, shall come rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us.

Yours in His harvest fields,
H. C. SANDERS.

Hartland P. O.,

Paulpietersburg, June 22nd, 1925
Dear Highway Friends:

This date shows me that Beulah time is nearing, with the changes of the past year; the loved ones who have gone, will indeed be missed very much.

I trust the blessing of the Lord will be upon you all in a very wonderful way, and that many souls will be helped and encouraged in the Lord. He is able. I praise the Lord because His blessing is upon us here in many different ways.

Souls here and there are turning to the Lord, and forsaking their sins. Am so glad God is no respecter of persons. And that whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

We have all been much encouraged lately in seeing a woman on this mission farm saved. She has been very hard at heart and many prayers have gone up for her. She has had a wonderful experience. She came here sick and one night in the hospital the Lord revealed himself to her. She told Alice in the morning about the wonderful vision she had in the night.

She said she had a demon, and as she cried to God to save her, for she feared the demon would have her life, the dear Lord revealed himself to her. He was so beautiful. He washed away her sins, she says. She knows her heart is white now, and all the desire for beer and snuff is now gone. She knows she is a new woman, and truly her face does shine. She also had a vision of her three children. She said they were so happy with the Lord that she could not wish them back on earth again. I think I write you about her baby of three years who died last sum-

mer very suddenly which was a great blow to her and husband. She sees now very plainly that God's ways are best. She is rejoicing in the Lord daily, and is very eager to be baptised. Her husband is seeking the Lord now with great earnestness, and the two remaining children are rejoicing over their mother's joy in the Lord. Truly, God has wrought a great change in this home, and it is a real blessing to visit them. Pray that more may come through like this. We have asked your prayers for Linden's kraal—the place where Alice and I have been having Sunday services for two years.

This has been a hard place, as they were all so hard, all heathen except one girl.

About a month ago this girl's father, Mhlope by name, a man nearing seventy years, was taken sick, the married son came to tell us his father was very sick. Alice went right over to see him, found him in a dying condition; he knew her, but soon was unable to speak. His people said he had prayed during the night and told them he had been called to go with many people, and he was going to the Lord; he died the next day. The married son wanted his father to have a Christian burial. Dr. Sanders, Grace, Alice and I attended the funeral, as well as some of the native workers who had been superintending the digging of the grave and other necessary things. I might add that these native workers are very faithful and sympathetic at these times of sickness and death, they surely know how to show sympathy.

This old man was the head man of the kraal, and had always been very kind to us, so on the following Sunday, as I started to the kraal for the service the devil whispered in my ear that perhaps now the rest of the people would not want any more services. Of course the devil is a liar, and at this service the married son gave himself to the Lord. The hut was full of people, and the dear Lord wonderfully blessed us during the services; this son has made a very definite stand for the Lord, has family prayer, and has got a real bright experience.

The next Sunday a heathen sister gave herself to the Lord and three or four women are nearing this point of surrender as well. We do praise God for this break in this hard heathen kraal, and trust that they may all come through to victory. We need prayer, continue to pray for us, dear ones.

We are having some cold weather now, have had frost three or four nights. We have had also some of our winter winds, which are not very pleasant, as we see and feel too much dust at these times. One day not long ago I noticed our hens gathered together, looking very earnestly and quietly at an object. I went to see what was the matter and found what I expected to see: A snake curled up trying to keep warm. I called a native woman, who soon killed it for me.

The school children have again started coming to school, the reaping is about finished now, so many of the children are free for study.

Trusting you are all quite well, I will close now.

Yours under the precious blood and glad to be in Africa.

HELEN M. STERRITT.

Sept 15 '23
Nov 30 '23
Feb 24
Apr 24
May 31 '25
Nov 15 '25