

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.

Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, So. Africa

Altona, July 23, 1925

Dear Friends:

Well, praise the Lord! I want to thank Him for giving me this opportunity of today. I have put my feet upon this spot of Africa that Government has given us for a Mission Station. It is only an acre of land, small enough to be sure, when the farm on which it is situated is so large, but, still there is room enough to put up all the buildings we will ever need.

It is situated on a gentle slope of a hill which has plenty of building stone on its crest. A small number of wattle trees of fair size are on one side of it and a good road lies just beyond the wire fence boundary on one side. I have been told this road is good with no bad hills to Moleman's Siding about twenty miles away. This is the nearest railway but not bad considering that wild part of the country.

The soil is dark and splendid for plowing as there is no stone to hinder plowing up the whole piece, and water is near.

Plenty of people within easy distance and they are wanting a school there at once. This same wagon-road leads to Klipraal mines about twelve miles farther, away towards the Bush veldt and, I have been told, no one to hinder us from going on down to that part of the country. Lots of people to be reached and many hungry for salvation. I did not have time nor strength that day to go farther or I should have visited the people near these mines. There is no work there now in these mines as operations have ceased for a time, but I do hope to visit them later on and try to find out more of that district. Altona is a good two hours and more, by horse from Emozaan and there are some three or four European neighbors on the way, the nearest some six or eight miles from this new station of ours.

A wagon and span of donkeys are needed and some oxen for plowing. Pasture and land for what is needed for mealies can be secured with little difficulty. Across a little brook and boggy place are two buildings. One was built as a store a few years ago, but did not pay. The goods were removed and an enterprising half cast bought the building for \$150. His mother lives in the other house which is of stone. She was the wife of a white man who is now dead.

Isaiah Sangmeni has just moved on this place and here is a part of his story. The rest I may tell later on:

His father's kraal is some five or six miles farther back and nearer our church at Emozaan. The father died and Isaiah being the oldest son, fell heir to his father's property, position as head man of the village, etc. Now in a few words this is what that position means. All monies earned by his younger brothers would be his. All business done by the village must have his approval and any faults or crimes was taken up by him to a certain extent. Head-man is a position that most any native man would itch after, but not Isaiah.

God gave him a good conversion a few

years ago and, for some time now, he has been one of our successful evangelists across the Pongola.

When he decided he could not be head-man and a preacher too, he gave up all position, honours, etc., to another and left his home, moving away and incurring much blame and criticism from other members of the village. But God helped him to stand true.

He has a good experience and loves the work.

He has a very large area of country to cover and needs another man to help him.

I was told they would likely have a large school of forty or more pupils as soon as we can get a building ready and a teacher.

Of course there are draw-backs for us here as well as elsewhere. Some other believers of other denominations are there but they teach and practice one can be a believer and go on much the same as before, drinking beer, using snuff, deceiving, lying, etc., etc. The real heathen are awakening to their need and want a salvation that saves them from these things. Here is our opportunity.

We have a greater space of country here across the Pongola than at the mother station on Balmoral and more room for expansion with a large population of heathen people to help.

Everywhere one hears the Europeans here are not in favor of missions, but all I was able to call upon showed only kindness.

They live isolated lives. One woman told me she never saw a white woman for six months at a time and then her friend came down from high-veldt, with her husband for winter grazing for sheep. To such an one a visitor is a break in the monotony of their lives.

When I tell them I understand that kind of loneliness, having been at Hartland about two years one time without seeing a white woman, they see I understand and get interested as I tell them why I am in this country. I think I mentioned the picnic party I met at Hlahlandhla by Pongola river and how the European women asked me "However did you get here? Did you fly down from the sky or what?" Because the surprise was so great they could not, at first, realize how I could come over those mountainous hills.

Now I will tell you of another call I made while at Emozaan which is ten miles from Entumjwini.

The folks had put up a grass house. The frame work was wattle poles with a nice pitch roof and the whole thing, walls and all, just grass. It was delightfully cool and, for the three months of their stay, fairly comfortable. A tent made a bedroom for their boys.

The husband cares for five thousand sheep for the wealthy owner.

This woman seemed pleased to see me and said, as I thanked her for sending me a fresh loaf of bread a week before, "I want to help you." Then I learned of her twenty-three year-old trouble. Her son since three years old had been afflicted with epilepsy, so was odd. Ah! Here was my opportunity to cheer and comfort

by the Word of God. Promise after promise spoken slowly so she could understand—for she could understand English though not able to speak it and I cannot yet speak Dutch though able to understand a little of it. Her face lighted up and the Lord blessed us both.

When I rose to go she gave me a fresh loaf of bread and a shoulder of mutton, and wanted to know if I had sugar, etc. We parted, each had been helped by the other and heart had touched heart by the magic words of Jesus.

I am weary. I have travelled at least twenty-four miles, as I went out of my way to call on the black woman who is the widow of the European I mentioned before. Some said she opposed our word years ago, so I thought she might now, but not so. She received me gladly and seemed so pleased I should come all that way to visit her. The Lord blessed us at prayer and when I left she said, "You will visit me again when you come to see your work here, won't you?"

For years we have been praying much for this section of country and now I can't tell you how happy I am to be here and see the place and the people.

Some fifteen were present at our meeting at Sangwenis and we had a blessed time.

Yours in Him,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

## THE SECRET PLACE.

Just in proportion as the soul is occupied with God, will the distraction of daily life retard or expand the spiritual life. How few, comparatively, of God's children habitually seek the secret place of prayer and communion; who love the "quiet hour" or at least some portion of the day, devoted wholly to Him, to know his will, to hear his voice, to drink more deeply from the fountain of life and love, that they may walk worthy of God. Someone has said, "In one single quiet hour of prayer the soul will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that the dew falls freshest and that the air is purest." Let us learn more perfectly to abide in the presence of God; to be content with doing with calmness and confidence that which is allotted to us in His service day by day—"hid with Christ in God."—Sel.

## TRY IT.

"The man who begins to tithe will have at least six genuine surprises. He will be surprised:

1. At the amount of money he has for the Lord's work.
2. At the deepening of his spiritual life in paying the tithe.
3. At his ease in meeting his own obligations with nine-tenths.
4. At his ease in going on from one-tenth to larger giving.
5. Over the preparation this gives to be a faithful, wise steward over the nine-tenths that remain.
6. At himself in not adopting the plan sooner."—Sel.