

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,

Paulpietersburg,

Dec. 22, 1924.

Dear Homeland Friends:

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all. We trust the churches will be greatly helped this coming year.

As for myself I cannot thank the Lord enough. Words are small things to express my gratitude to God these days, for we have heard the wonderful news from friends at home, telling us that our old father has been converted in his old age, and while lying on a bed of sickness, very weak in body, he says, his spirit is strong. He tells his friends of the peace and joy of sins forgiven and his hope of Heaven.

This to us is the best news we could have received here in far off Africa.

I do love the Lord for His faithfulness, love and mercy to a lost world. Truly we love Him today because He loved us enough to die for us.

Mrs. Sanders wrote you not long ago about a native man who had a very painful knee; he had the light of the gospel years ago, but would not give up to God. He went to the Vryheid Hospital for treatment, but grew worse, dropsy set in and soon they sent him home to die. But while in the hospital the Lord talked to him and he at last gave up all his sins. He had learned to smoke a pipe from the white man, and the Lord showed him this sin would keep him out of Heaven, so the pipe was given up. He had a blessed time with the Lord after that. A few days ago Faith and I attended his funeral; he died with a good hope trusting in Jesus. He leaves a wife and seven children. The wife is a Christian. Truly God knows how to lead people to Him. We should sing from our hearts, Crown Him Lord of all.

It is blessed to think that while now some seem to be dull of hearing, that the Holy Spirit can awaken and will do so. These things do cheer and encourage our hearts very much.

Yesterday, Sunday, Alice went to the outpost for the Sunday service, and I went to visit some sick people. First I went to dress the wound of the man with the broken leg, which has been a daily duty for us for six months. After having prayer with him I visited four more homes, giving them the bread of life, and leaving the word with Him to bless. At one kraal I saw an old heathen man whose name is Stone. He is in good health. I tried to impress upon him that time was short and very soon the people would be saying of him, We have laid Old Stone away. He agreed with me, but he still loves his heathen sins very much indeed, but while I was talking to him I thought of the love and mercy and faithfulness of God toward him, and my heart was encouraged for his salvation. Praise the Lord.

We have had lots of sick people here this last four months, especially children with complications of measles, two or three children died; it was a sad sight to

see one father starting off home on horseback with his dead child in his arms, his wife and sister following behind. The parents are always heartbroken when their children are taken from them.

The natives and white people are very busy these last four months ploughing and planting and weeding. This has been an unusual rainy summer so far, and of course thunder and lightning as well. A woman came to us a few days ago telling us their huts containing their food had been struck and burned by lightning; also two or three calves killed, and the people themselves had been stunned. We gave her a dress for Sunday wear, and some matches, salt and corn to grind. She was very grateful indeed and returned home rejoicing. She is seeking the Lord and is a good woman.

Christmas will soon be here, that will be a great and exciting day for these people. It really is a good sight to see them cooking and eating their Christmas feast.

We want to say that we surely received a shock when we heard the sad news of Brother Wiggins' death. He will indeed be greatly missed by all, but it is nice to know that God doeth all things well, and His ways are best. We trust some one else will be raised up to fill his place. We know our loss is his gain. Dear ones pray for us in this far away land.

Yours glad to be in Africa,

HELEN M. STERRITT.

Dear Brother and Sister Baker:

From far off Africa we wish you a very Happy New Year with much of the dear Lord's blessing to fall upon your hearts during the days. I am sorry we did not get a letter off before this. Mrs. Kierstead wrote us that you got along nicely on your way to Grand Manan and we trust you have very much enjoyed seeing the old places and people once again. We loved Grand Manan and the people were so kind to us. If this letter finds you still there please give them our love and tell them we well remember our visit there.

Perhaps you will have gone to Toronto when this letter arrives. I expect you would enjoy being there very much.

We do rejoice to tell you that our dear old father has been beautifully saved, and we are just praising the Lord for it daily. He had a very serious sick spell and while lying there in all his weakness, pain and loneliness the dear Saviour spoke to his heart and said, "While the light holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return." Father thought, "Well my lamp is still burning," and he began to pray earnestly for two or three days and he said to Springer and his wife, "I felt my sins going away and then they all went and I have a good hope of heaven." He also said, "Oh, how glad my children will be."

Mrs. Springer wrote that he was so tender and peaceful and talked so freely to them and wanted them to tell Uncle Elisha Cosman. She says it is beautiful to see him. We simply wept for joy. It was pouring rain, but we had to go right down and tell the Sanders family, and we had a praise meeting, for it was our prayer meeting night. Oh, how good the dear Lord is and so faithful. He has always

assured us that He was able to do it and told Helen to place her "Isaac in His hands and He would care for him." We had hoped for some evidence of his salvation, but this is the "exceeding abundant" answer. He tells everyone who visits him of his bright hope of heaven.

We are just wilted with the heat today, but there will be the merciful showers later on to revive us.

Faith and Norman had a beautiful visit in Durban, a month and two weeks in Moritzburg. They enjoyed it all so much, and it did them much good.

George and Grace went to Vryheid today for a few days and then are going to visit Paul and Ruth. They have been coaxing for a visit from them, and they both need the change. George is real thin. It will do them so much good to get away and have a change.

Miss Lovelace is with us for a few days from Swaziland. Her school is closed for January and she is going on to Durban. I do want Nell to go so much with her, for she needs the change and it is half fare in January. I think she may go, for we are both coaxing and she really needs to get away too. Everyone will have had a change then except Charlie, and he may go to Paul's later. It really seems that a change is so necessary once in a while and certainly braces one up for another year.

The Lord is very gracious and is answering prayer. We had a very pleasant Christmas Day, and three days of nice services afterwards—Saturday, Sunday, and at 3 p. m. Monday. About five hundred natives were present on that day. It began to rain so we had the church packed full where the doctor preached, and Paul's place held about 50 packed in and Faith preached. The native workers also addressed the crowd and it was a good service. Afterwards the people had their annual feast. 23 goats had been killed that morning. The heat was so intense and we had three days, so Mrs. Sanders did not attend the afternoon service or the feast. Too much excitement wears on her heart and she had to rest.

We do hope you are both gaining in health and having a pleasant winter. We think of you so often, and we are so glad to hear from you through Mrs. Kierstead. I am so glad that she could be with you at that time. I know it was a comfort. I tell you, dear Mr. and Mrs. Baker, your missionaries love you and shall miss you so much when you are gone. May the dear Lord spare you to us many years yet. We do love to hear from you and never shall forget your goodness and love to us. You have been true to your missionaries and we do thank you for your loving service. Over yonder we shall meet to part no more. God bless you both.

Helen sends her best love and hopes to write soon. She is doing a little sewing this afternoon.

Our horses are such a comfort. We do praise the dear Lord for His goodness to us in this far off land. We do remember you in prayer and we know you remember us.

There has been much sickness and death which always softens hearts. We are trusting that this will be our very