

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland,
Paulpietersburg,
Natal, So. Africa,
Jan. 4, 1925

Beloved in the Lord:

"Let all the people praise Thee!" This is the language of my heart as I write you this morning. Keep on praying. God is answering prayer and I expect, one of these days, you will hear of a mighty revival sweeping all over this district. It is true, just like Rom. 10:14 states: "How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Light cometh to those who were born in heathen darkness, by the Word of God. "Through the foolishness of preaching." When they have been enlightened they are ready for convictions and this must come by the Spirit.

To enlighten the heathen mind takes much time and patience. Often many times the same message must be repeated over and over again. When conviction comes upon sinners, it is usually the result of somebody's praying. It may be more than one, but it must be real praying. Then souls under conviction must be helped through. If they have been well taught, as most of our people in the home land are, they know how to get saved and many pray through for themselves. Here the people are so ignorant, usually, they need help and some one else to pray with them before they can get through.

Often we, as workers, ask why do these people take so long to get saved? Seekers from two to three years before they say they know their sins are forgiven. It seems to me the secret lies here in their never having had the light when young. Now they are grown up it takes time for their darkened minds to be aware of what sin really is.

I think, too, many have become church members who have waked up to what light they had received and left off sins, but may not have had that keen conviction for sin which the sinner get when "sin becomes exceedingly sinful."

We had a case just now. Nice young girl brought up in a home where they have had family prayer since she was a baby, sister a Christian, father and mother seekers. Reading of the Word has enlightened her and we find a good case of following Jesus, getting saved about three months after she had her first desire to be a Christian.

God is working in our midst. We are having stronger converts of late and a real deep hunger is upon the community to become saved.

Much sickness, many deaths of young children has had a good effect upon the people and some who have been seekers for a long time are now coming forward and saying they mean to go through.

I shall soon write up the case of Cetwa and how God saved him, appeared to him and gave him a glorious entrance to Heaven—seeker twenty years.

Faith has had the joy of helping two souls through into the kingdom this week.

Great conviction, could not sleep nights, etc., was the experience of one.

Last Sunday was Communion Sunday here and the Spirit of God rested upon the meetings of the whole day. Some splendid testimonies. Thirteen men baptized and taken into the church and they are a promising lot of believers. Pray they be kept true and go on to sanctification and fullness of the Spirit. There are a number more who will likely follow in a few weeks. But how our hearts ache and long to see the many who wait and continue to wait not being willing to separate with sin. Then there are such hard, defiant cases. Shall we give these up or shall we go deeper in prayer that God may be glorified by their salvation. Some seem they never will get saved. They have souls and God loves them. But they are so very disobedient, trying to our patience and indifferent, how can we ever reach their hardened hearts? "All things are possible with God."

Oh! It is good to look back over the past twelve months and see what God has done. The many wonderful answers to prayer He has given us. How He has delivered from discouragement, and we have advanced with Him. I think every one of your workers here, including the evangelists too, have advanced in their souls. I know I have. God is deepening and widening my experience. He has given me to understand a few things that were a bit difficult of understanding. One was these natives are like children, have the child's mind in so many things, we cannot think of them as understanding or seeing many things as we understand and see because we have had greater teaching, have had godly parents, had greater light so as one must have great patience in the teaching and training of children so we must have with young Christians here. It is good to see how some of our evangelists are going on from strength to strength and leading others to Jesus, becoming not simply preachers but soul-winners as well.

Then it is very encouraging when souls come to die. They die well, God is with them, fear of death is taken away and they leave such bright testimonies behind them. It has been a successful year and we praise God. He shall have all the glory. Then every one of the missionaries say they want to do more for Jesus. Our own younger children are among these, and it does our hearts good as we listen and thank God for capturing their hearts so young. Beloved, as we face this year of 1925 we ask you all to continue to be faithful in praying for us each one and all and especially for the revival which we are praying for and expecting to come here all over our section of the country.

Yours in Jesus,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS.

Balmoral Mission Station,

Paulpietersburg,

Natal, Jan. 10th, 1925

Dear Children:

The Christmas feast across the Pongola is always held a week later than on this side, so I may be present at both. You would be interested to see the activities that began early Monday morning. Goats

were lead up from all directions until we had eleven.

In the meantime loads of dry branches were being gathered from the distant hillsides where alone trees grow; everywhere else having only grass. So, soon after sun rise, our company of workers were all astir. Great native made, earthen pots, holding more than half a barrel, were brought from far away kraals, together with many small, three legged iron pots.

In slaughtering the goats, the blood was saved to be cooked for the heathen, the Christians never eat blood. All the intestines were emptied of their contents, and cooked with the stomach or tripe. Another pot held the heads and feet, which were cooked without removing any of the skin or hair. This dish must have been considered especially good as it was served to the older men during the feast.

The ears, however, and pieces of the thickest skin were given to the smallest boys. I was wondering if they would not take away part of the hair. But the little fellows divided the scraps around from hand to hand, and seemed to relish what looked to be much more hair than meat.

Just then I recalled the breakfast that was cooked for me. New potatoes had been brought in one tiny iron pot and a piece of breast meat in another. No knife or fork, but they gave me a mug, a plate and a spoon; the best they had. The meat had been nicely washed and salted, but I found myself picking off two or three stray goat hairs. Had I grown up as one of these Zulus, I would not have noticed those hairs, nor missed the absent fork and knife.

During the serving, all the little boys were in one circular group, the girls in another. According to age and sex, all the groups were formed, heathen and Christian together—whereas at our central station a sharp line of demarkation, separates the heathen from the dressed natives, as they always eat in separate groups.

Perhaps the most laughable incident I witnessed, was that of a young man eating porridge. When I happened along, he was sitting with open mouth, and being fed by a maiden. She was using her hand as a spoon, and dipping as fast as she could, about half a cup at a time. He swallowed so rapidly that she always found his mouth open wide, waiting for the next dose. When the pot was empty, he provoked further merriment by putting his face down and wiping it back and forth on the grass, to remove the porridge that had missed his mouth and was plastered around it.

I had planned to return Monday afternoon, but was informed that the "Snake" or Pongola River forbade. The water was "far above a man's head," as they expressed it.

Tuesday, our Evangelist, Samuel, guided me by a round about way so we could cross at a wide and shallow ford. This took two hours longer, so, when I reached home, where an appointment awaited me to marry two couples, I found them just about despairing of my return.

Yours in Jesus, H. C. SANDERS.

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