

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Paulpietersburg.

Natal, June 16, 1926

Dear Homeland Friends:

Seven native workers have reported this week very favourably. Isaya tells of three seekers at Emozana. Moses, who works with him, says that, at Emozana, the Christians now far outnumber the heathen, and they all are with us. Recently a petty chief, Emloyeni, of that place, gave himself to our church, as they express it. The next Sunday one of his wives followed.

There is a fast growing movement in South Africa, called Etheopianism. Their motto, "Africa for the Black Man," is being preached everywhere, and even among many of the Christian denominations. As a result, the Natives are gradually severing their connection with the European and American Missionaries.

Thus purely African churches are being formed. Then, because they can not agree among themselves, there are new names constantly arising—new demoniations.

Their policy is mostly to prosylite. So they have many ingenious lines of argument, which are more or less successful in influencing members of our church, and all churches under white supervision, to join them. Their teaching, though often absurd, has a strong appeal to the more ignorant native Christians.

Every little while there comes to this district some preacher representing a new church and a new line of teaching.

The latest development, on this line, is the returning of two young men who have been away for years. One, Daniel, son of Swartboy, holds a higher position than his cousin, Isaya. Both are preachers and purpose to remain and build with Swartboy, their father.

He, by the way, is now called "Abraham," having entered our church recently. These two sons of his (one the son of his sister) were both our members. Now they are Zionists but have found out that God created two Adams. One black and the other white. The wife of Cain was a descendant of the black Adam. Therefore all the Native christians should separate from white supervision and join them.

Isaya and Moses, our preachers in the Transvaal, tell these Etheopian teachers that they have not time for such discussion, they prefer to pray. Further, they have the "Witness" within and fail to see any advantage in joining them. One woman, sick, requested an "Etheopian" preacher to pray for her. He took out his book and pencil and asked her name. "What do you want to do with my name?" "Well," replied the preacher, "if I pray with you, as you have asked, you must join us." This she refused to do, so he left her without offering prayer. This and many other strange incidents come from our native workers.

At Altona we are helping Isaya build his dwelling house, so he may have more time for visiting during the week. The head man of a large kraal near by recently asked, "How soon will you begin a school? We want to send our children.

And I, myself, intend to join your church."

Beyond Altona, down the Pongola Valley, the natives are mostly unreached. About eight miles down, they have asked us to build a small church, and hold regular services. We hope to see this go through this winter.

Calls come from all directions, so that our work is now extending faster than ever before.

At a place a few miles beyond Paulpietersburg, where two families from our church moved, we now have seven baptized members and thirteen seekers.

One of our best drawing cards is, we do not tax our church members. We teach tithing and freewill offering; and find little difficulty in raising the needed funds. Whereas most of the other bodies have a system of taxation, to which the native mind has a peculiar and radical dislike. So we frequently hear reports from our native workers, thus: "So and so asked me, 'What must I pay per month, if I join you?' When I told him 'We give only what we wish to,' he replied, 'You are the people that I shall join.'"

So, in the midst of all manner of false teaching, your work stands here as a true lighthouse on a reefstone lee-shore. God gives us favour with the heathen who are pressing into His Kingdom, and being transformed into the Divine image.

Continue to unite with us in "prayer and supplication," not forgetting the "thanksgiving" for prospering His work in our midst.

Yours abiding in Him,

H. C. SANDERS.

Hartland P. O.,

Paulpietersburg,

June 22nd, 1926

Dear Highway Friends:

By this time I expect Faith has about reached the homeland and will soon be at Beulah, with many of the home friends. May the Lord's blessing be on you all is my prayer.

At the present time we are having quite cold weather, the reaping is about finished now and the school opened yesterday. About twenty-one scholars have arrived so far. We have a native teacher to help this year—a girl who has been educated in a big training school, Free Church of Scotland I believe is the name of the mission. She is in Standard four and should be a great help to the school children. She says she has been teaching six years.

I feel this change in the school is of the Lord and trust that His blessing may be upon it. This leaves me free now to do some winter kraal visiting. The winter is really the time to visit the people, as they have time then to spare, and they really appreciate these visits.

This last Sunday was Big Sunday. There were many people there and we had a good day.

Jostina and Aloni's new baby girl, Grace was given to the Lord. Also their eldest son, Jeremiah, and his young lady stood before the Church, as an engaged couple and promised to walk before the Lord and church, according to the rules of the church.

This boy has been such a wild boy, but seemed to repent, and is doing better, for which his parents are so thankful. On Saturday I went to visit a little woman at

my outpost, who had lost her baby of a few months old. This dear little woman is a weak seeker. She has given up her snuff long ago, but is bound very strongly by beer. She says now she does indeed want to leave all things for Christ. She has put on a black waist for mourning and her heart is really softened, for which I praise God. I had expected to have prayer with her only, but was very glad to see fifteen come in to hear the word, so we really had quite a nice service. Two heathen men of this kraal were also present, which was encouraging to my heart. A few days ago I went to visit a young girl, who is dying with consumption. She is trusting the Lord, and has been a very bright girl. Now as one looks at her they see the marks of this deadly disease. She is so thin and wasted, says there is nothing on earth for her now. I would like to see her with a real "Know so" in her soul. We are praying for her. I had a very nice time at her kraal. I had about ten or twelve at this service.

After leaving this home I went to another kraal, where I had heard was a sick man, but on arriving found he was not there, but found to my surprise a heathen wedding party. I wished for our camera. The girls were all dressed with their beaded adornments, also the men. They were all sitting in one hut with the bride, drinking beer, expecting soon to all start for the bride's home, which was quite a distance away. On seeing me they were surprised, and said "the sick man is not here—but we would like to have prayers. It is all right to come in; we need prayer." They seemed somewhat awed at the Word coming to them at the beginning of a heathen wedding. I thanked the Lord for this opportunity of giving them the bread of life and gladly entered, starting the service with this beautiful Zulu hymn:

When I see the Saviour,  
Dying on the cross  
I throw away all riches  
And all my pride.

I will not persist in anything  
Which is contrary to Him  
All things which I love  
I do forsake for Him.

Oh, behold His side  
And His hands and feet.  
Behold the love and sorrow  
Which is so great.

I cannot bring anything to him  
Which is worthy to praise Him  
I have nothing which is worthy  
But I do give Him myself.

I read to them about the great harvest field of God and of the angels who will be sent to reap in this field, gathering the righteous ones for God, and casting the wicked into outer darkness. The Lord blessed his word and I left them in His hands, trusting Him to work.

Dear homeland friends, it is a wonderful privilege to tell these people about Jesus and His love. The Lord is blessing. Continue to pray for us.

Yours glad to be in Africa,

HELEN STERRITT.

June 23: Mr. and Mrs. Sanders received Faith's cablegram tonight, saying: "Arrived safely." We were all glad to hear it.