

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,  
Paulpietersburg,  
Dec. 8, 1926

Dear Home Friends:

We are thanking the Lord these last few days for rain and cooler weather.

Of course the natives are all rejoicing as this will help to hasten the ripening of the corn, which means so much to them. Alice and I have just returned from a kraal about four miles away, where we have been dressing three severe wounds in a man's head—the result of another native man hitting him with his "induku" or stick, and it seems he intended to kill him, as he had a grudge against him, and came upon him at this time unawares. This is of course a court case, so the government doctor at Paulpietersburg is in attendance, and has requested us to visit him occasionally. His hut is always full of anxious neighbors, so this gives us an opportunity after the dressing to have a service with these people. Most of them are hard old men who never go to hear the Word, so we thank the Lord for this chance of giving them the Word of Life. There are many of this class who never enter a service to hear the Word of God, and their hearts are hard indeed. Also there are many young men and girls who need the cleansing Blood applied to their hearts. They have been saved from beer and snuff, and have put on Christian dress, but are still serving the lusts of the flesh, which means the destruction of their souls if they don't repent. At the present time I feel this is a very serious matter right here in our midst my heart is very much burdened over this. Pray for them, dear ones. My heart yearns to see the young people thoroughly saved. Beloved, it means much to have a Zulu boy or girl really saved from all sin, but God is able. Praise His name; and there are some who have left all.

On November 25, Alice and I, Lydia and Josepha, Paulina and a number of others went across the Pongola River to the dedication of the new church at Entungwini. Five of us left early in the morning on horseback, arriving at Entungwini at ten o'clock—the Lord having given us a nice cool day, for which we were thankful. Our faithful Samueli was already there, having left this side at a very early hour, the other native workers from that side arriving soon after.

The first service commenced at two o'clock the church was well filled, and for three and a half hours we had sweet fellowship together. Beloved, this was a very sweet time to my soul. As we all praised the name of the Lord together, truly we were all of one heart and spirit.

Dear ones, as I looked upon each one of our native workers, I wished that you dear home folks could have stepped in and seen for yourselves what your money, prayers and sacrifice are doing. It is blessed to see them so wonderfully saved and used of God.

We had a table offering of over two pounds. This money will probably be used in buying new seats for the church. After this meeting was dismissed the people gathered in different groups and enjoyed the feast of goats and "stamp" or ground corn.

In the evening we had another service which many of them thought better than the afternoon service. It was a very blessed and sweet time, and many were greatly helped and strengthened in the Lord. This meeting lasted until after midnight. It truly was a sweet time to us all. The next morning after having a hasty cup of tea, we left for home, feeling very happy and praising God for this love. We arrived home safely, tired but happy, at ten o'clock, feeling it was good to be in Africa for the sake of the Gospel. Continue to pray for the work here. Your prayers are not in vain.

Yours glad to be in Africa,  
HELEN M. STERRITT.

P. O. Hartland,  
via Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, So. Africa,  
Dec. 29th, 1926

Dear Highway:

This afternoon, between four and five o'clock, Papa performed the ceremony of Layina Nzima's wedding.

She wore a white veil which came to her waist, and covered her nicely arranged hair, on top of which was fixed a wreath of artificial orange blossoms. The dress she wore was very becoming and at the back was fastened a train held at the other end by two bridesmaids. Beside her walked one of her sisters, who shaded her from the hot sun by an umbrella. The girls followed her. Behind them came the bridegroom and the boys, one of whom carried a big white flag. They sang as they walked very slowly to the Church led by Aloni, who held a horsewhip in his hand and seemed to be pointing out the road with it (but I suppose he was only keeping time to the tune).

There is a deep ditch a little way below the church, made to carry the floods of water away which would otherwise come rushing down from the hill to the house. When she tried to climb up the steep side she found she could not because she kept slipping back and then stepped on her dress, her shiny black shoes being new and slippery. So she held out her hands to two girls who were on either side of her, and they helped her up while a third picked up the front of her dress.

When they got to the Church steps Jostina came forward, said something about shoes being new and therefore slippery, and helped her up, so that problem was solved.

The bride and groom were then seated on two chairs placed side by side and partly facing the congregation. The best man stood at the back of the bridegroom, brushing imaginary specks here and there and smoothing out a crease or wrinkle. Then brushing the dust from his shoes.

After the ceremony and during the closing hymn, the best man took a handkerchief and tenderly wiped his forehead and smoothed out his eyebrows.

It was a very nice wedding and they both looked very nice.

I guess the groom ought to appreciate her more for having had to wait for her so long—her father was not willing to give her away as she was his best boy (he has 8 daughters but no son, much to his grief), doing a good deal of the plowing, cattle watching, etc., besides being her mother's right hand as well.

7-12-23

The next day was to be the feast, the giving away of the bride to the bridegroom, etc. The Sterritt Sisters went in the morning at 11 o'clock. But we followed after dinner arriving there perhaps half past 2 o'clock. It was such a hot day, and we felt a little tired after the walk there (about a mile). We were not a bit too late because the bridegroom and his crowd were nearly half a mile away and walking so slowly. Miss Alice asked for a mat to sit on as she and Miss Helen were tired from waiting and standing so long; but they had seen Layina's pretty clothes, etc., and visited her a little while. Quite a crowd were about us now. Presently her father came out, greeted us and said how pleased he was to see us, then squatted down and began sobbing. Then said, "Oh! You must pray for me, that the Lord will help me. They are taking away my son and now I shall be driven from the farm because no one will work for my white man." Then he wept still more and went away.

Suddenly three heathen girls came running up the hill and through the kraal, shouting: "We have come to take the bird from her nest which is on the cliffs. It takes men to do this and a strong one at that!" Then they were joined by an old drunk woman and a young one and began taking long strides then suddenly dancing on tip toes—a queer little dance—and then long steps again. They walked down and joined the bridegroom and crowd again and just as they went out of sight, two Christian women came running up, holding a branch between them and the sun, and shouted, as they ran through the kraal, "We are coming." As they again joined the crowd two more rushed out just as the others had and said about the same words. This was repeated several times. In the meantime the bridegroom was drawing nearer. Then the flag-bearer, with another boy, came running up the same as the women had done, and back again. When they were just a little way off two more messengers came running past, saying, "Here we are! We have arrived! Oh! (pointing towards the bridegroom who was carefully hidden amongst the boys so no one could see him) "Just see him! Is he not beautiful?"

They had really arrived at last! The big crowd walked slowly through the kraal, singing a hymn; and presently separated, forming little groups here and there.

In the meantime the beef and stampf was being dished up and carried to the groups seated on the grass. We were quite surprised, but pleased to see a woman bring us a nice sized piece of beef on a clean, small wooden platter. The Sterritt Sisters were the most pleased of us all because they were faint, having taken no lunch. We enjoyed it very much. The bridegroom ate in the same hut with his bride.

When the feast was over, we were told that the bride was going to be given away. The crowd gathered together as before and walked around and through the kraal singing, "Come out, Bride, let us go." You are keeping us waiting," or "Come out, Bride, let us go. It is far where we are going." Then they would pause below her hut, waiting for her to