

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hartland P. O.,
Via Paulpietersburg,
Natal, So. Africa,
Feb. 17th, 1927

Dear Homeland Friends:

Probably most of you are looking out upon a snow-white landscape glittering in the winter sunshine, or perhaps a big snow storm is shutting you in this February morning, while we in Africa are living with wide open doors and windows, eager for every breath of air we can get. We are grateful for some cool days which we have had lately, but today is burning hot. The gardens are dry and withering and the poor natives are all about discouraged—no prospect of corn, pumpkins, melons and "amabele" for their winter food, and the outlook is really serious. We can only look to the Lord. I believe the government supplies native food in times of real famine. We read of rain in some places and thank the Lord for that.

The prayer of our heart is that the people will turn to the Lord in this time of need and distress.

Yesterday (Wednesday) we had a very nice class. About 80 were present. Jostina had her blessing from John 10:1-12, and emphasized the point of obeying the voice of the Shepherd. Lydia is without doubt a strong holiness preacher. She does not fear to declare the whole truth of God. Her messages are always heart searching and unctious.

Yesterday the burden of her heart was that God's people should know that real death to self which destroys love of position and self-exaltation in any form which she said "is so destructive to the Word of God."

She can portray the self-life so clearly and touches all those fine lines in a life of holiness which no one can do except by the Holy Ghost. It is a beautiful thing to see this Zulu woman stand up before a congregation and preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Surely we "perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him." She is really a benediction to our souls.

Paulina's testimony was so clear and definite: "I do not doubt, I know that all my sins are forgiven, and I do not doubt, I know that the old man is crucified," and then praises God for such a wonderful Saviour who sustains her in every hour of trial and comforts her heart and causes her to glory in the Cross of Christ. Her life surely corresponds with her testimony, for she is a beautiful character. Last night my heart was much blest in a conversation with her. She said: "It is so wonderful to me what Jesus does. Sometimes I am so weary and pressed with temptation I don't know what to do with myself, but I go out into the wattle grove and tell Jesus all about it and He just seems to stroke me with his loving hand and say, 'Yes my child, I know all about it,' and oh, I am so comforted I come back from prayer with a laughing face. Then sometimes I feel so dry and it is so hard to pray I cannot seem to find words with which to talk to Him, but after a while in some surprising way He just fills me with so much joy and happiness. I don't know what to do with myself."

She told us of a young girl who came to her meeting last Sunday across the Pongola, in heathen array, but with a Christian heart.

The father has never been willing for the girl to be a Christian, but this hungry soul gave herself to God and has joy in her soul. She testified with tears running down her face as she told of her love for Jesus, and how she wants to follow Him all the way.

This is very interesting and beautiful for usually we see the natives begin first, outwardly by putting on clothing and giving their hearts last. Probably this girl will meet much persecution in her family when she assumes Christian attire which I believe she will have to do soon.

I do praise the Lord for the gracious privilege of being in Africa among these precious "Other sheep." Dear friends, I am so happy to be here, and love the work which He gives me to do for Him whether great or small, it matters not, for we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. What a sweet comfort.

It is evening now and so much cooler. We have had thunder and the sky is full of clouds. We trust it will rain.

Helen joins in Christian love to the dear homeland friends. We do appreciate your prayers and loving support so much. May the Lord give us all the desire of our hearts in the salvation of precious souls.

Yours under the precious blood of Jesus,
ALICE F. STERRITT.
Hartland Mission Station,
Natal, Feb. 21st, 1927

Dear Highway:

This is what he said, "Aloni went with us to the hill-top where we prayed, asking for rain, and God gave us stones." His name is Qumbi, and all his garden crops have been entirely destroyed by hail stones, and no food in his house. His wife was with him and carried home a loan of corn and a gift of peaches.

Another man from across the Pivaan River came reporting that all his crops are dead from drought. He is trying to get work and take corn as pay. From the same place a native preacher comes with a letter from his European missionary asking for a loan of food. Aloni and Joeli have finished their food and need more.

Good years all these people have food in plenty and begin eating from their gardens soon after Christmas.

In Zululand there are hundreds of men deserting their farms and seeking work anywhere it may be found, that they may obtain clothes to wear and food to eat. They started with not less than \$5,000 each, and high hopes of making a fortune by raising sugarcane and cotton. But droughts have reduced them to poverty and dire want. The Government proposes to help them, but its wheels revolve slowly.

This year cattle and sheep have died in some districts by the thousands. Then, again, other districts have had rain and expect good crops. So the famine is, fortunately, not general, and the price of corn, the staple native food, will likely be as usual next winter.

This has been such a busy day—long interviews with five native workers, a lot of dispensary cases, helping different ones on varied lines. Judson went several miles, on horseback, to relieve a sufferer from toothache, as the man was unable to come here.

Returning to Qumbi's "stones," we can see a large area on the "Big Hill," four

miles away, where the severe hail storm passed, changing the colour from green to dirty brown, by pulverizing the grass and pelting the reddish earth.

Last post brought word from home of one who has for years supported a native worker. Now she is asking for a second one to support. One woman, with whom I had a long talk today, will most likely become our Bible woman and school teacher. She is brought here by marriage, and came from a Church fifty miles distant.

We have been able to do much for her and her husband, a seeker. In short, she was snatched from a horrible death.

The reports from the workers interviewed were encouraging. There are new seekers and some others just beginning to attend the services, all during the last week.

Yours in Jesus,
H. C. SANDERS.

Hartland Mission Station,
Natal, So. Africa,
Feb. 2nd, 1927

Dear Homeland Friends:

I presume she will not mind if I quote here from her letter to Faith that was sent on to us: "Although," she says, "I am not a member of the Reformed Baptist Church, through their teaching I found years ago the secret of the Lord, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Further she says, "I have always taken the Highway and kept in touch with your African work."

All these years she has been helping in prayer and has supported one of our native workers—our first one, Samuel—and now she asks for a second to represent her in darkest Africa.

Let me quote another paragraph: "I am an old woman now, in my 82nd year, and lately am entirely deaf. But I am not old in spirit . . . and my heart is set on seeing you before you go back to Africa."

This letter is very encouraging to us, especially at this time of need, when our expenses are so increased by new native workers, and paid native school teachers.

Her expression, "I found the secret of the Lord," wonderfully appeals to me. Though she has children and grandchildren, yet her love to Christ is supreme, and her treasure is being "laid up above."

Missions today are not keeping pace with the natural increase of the heathen nations, so that each year there are more heathen in the world than there were the year before. This is because the Church of Christ is only playing at foreign missions. Would all Christians "learn the secret of the Lord," as did our sister above quoted, this would be changed.

Jesus said to Peter, "Lovest thou Me more than these?" The man who gives only his "tenth," to "preach the gospel to every creature," has not, in our opinion, fully learned the secret of the Lord.

If you will bear with me I will give briefly some of the thoughts that have come to me this morning on this subject of "the secret of the Lord."

First of all, "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of the Lord, neither can he know them for they are spiritually discerned." "It is given unto you," Christ said to his disciples, "to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven." Then again Jesus "rejoiced in spirit," saying "I thank thee, Father,

that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Therefore all unconverted people have yet to learn the A B C of "the secret of the Lord."

Then there is a second step in learning this secret, "the anointing that teacheth." This experience is what our sister referred to in her letter. Another sister, in trying to explain this same pentecostal blessing, said, "I was like a chicken still in the shell, with just a little breathing hole. I had life and could peep, but had no liberty or full light. But now I am fully hatched, free and enlightened."

It may be difficult to explain, but there is a going on or advancement in this second experience. Some who enter in remain so near the entrance that they never learn the secrets of the interior, while others press on, "counting all things but dross," that they may dwell in "the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Even in heaven this distinction is perpetuated, for "no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

Then there is a "secret of the Lord," sometimes given to individuals that may not be shared with others. John, in Revelation heard the voice of the seven thunders, and was not permitted to write the words. While Paul, when caught up to the third heaven, saw and heard what was unlawful to utter: It was for him alone.

There is the white stone experience, meaning heart purity; but going with it is the secret new name, which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it. This "new name" includes the individual commission, or the sealed orders for future service. "Abraham," "Sarah," "Isaac" are all "new" names, illustrating this truth. When Saul of Tarsus received his commission, it was to him a secret of the Lord, and he "conferred not with flesh and blood," for there was a secret understanding between him and his Lord.

This dear old lady, we began with, has a precious secret understanding with her Lord that most of her friends can not share. Therefore she says to Faith, "My heart is set on seeing you before you go back to Africa." And she adds, "Then what a heart to heart talk we will have, even if I am so old." It is plain to see that in Faith she hopes to find one who can understand her treasured secret. For in her white stone with the new name, was a commission to work, by proxy, in Africa just where Faith has spent eighteen years of her life. How beautiful to grow old with "the secret of the Lord." "Even down to her hair," the white stone and new name experience remains, glowing "brighter and brighter unto the perfect day."

Another secret is that this same new name sets its possessor as a precious stone in the City of God. For I will write on him that overcometh the name of the City.

There are others in the home-land. I recall, as I write, whose forms are bent and feeble, but whose spirits are still eager to continue their commission received together the "white stone." For many years they have been "laying up treasure above, for their heart is there, and their life is there, 'hid with Christ in God.'"

Their precious "secret of the Lord" is the thing in life; it is their meat and their drink; for this they live, with this they are passing on to higher service and closer fellowship,

where as His "jewels," they shall adorn that holy white city, known as the "Bride of the Lamb," who shall in that glad day, so soon to come, be presented to our Lord with exceeding great joy.

No, beloved, when God's redeemed ones shall have fully learned "the secret of the Lord," there will be no further difficulty in raising money or workers for foreign missions.

Yours hungering to know Him more fully,
H. C. SANDERS.

THE KIND OF MEN AND WOMEN THE GRACE OF GOD IS INTENDED TO PRODUCE.

"The grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men hath appeared, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works." Tit. 2:11-14.

"Grace" is said to bring "salvation." What a great word "salvation" is. It means extraction—a taking out of. If you know the Scotch metrical version of the Psalms you will recall how David puts it:

"He took me from the fearful pit
And from the miry clay,
And on a rock He set my feet
Establishing my way."

We must not limit salvation to one isolated act. It is a very wide and comprehensive word, including our past, present and future. Salvation includes deliverance, preservation and final presentation. For the past there is forgiveness, for the present there is protection, and for the future there is glory. We have been saved. We are being saved. We shall be saved. Let us yield ourselves to this grace so that it may work in us all the good pleasure of God's will. Put yourself into His hands and trust Him to do for you that which He is pledged to do.

Grace has appeared. Glory will appear. There has been one appearance in the past for the salvation of men, there will be another appearing in glory when He shall come forth unto salvation. I wonder are we giving this glorious hope its proper place in our lives?

Now the grace that appeared in the historic past and the glory that shall appear in prophetic future are focussed upon this one thing, the producing of a certain type of man in this present age. Many people have a Christ of history, some have a Christ of Prophecy, and while we do not belittle either the one or the other, we want a Christ of the present hour. Christ appeared in grace, Christ will appear in glory, but Christ wants to appear here and now in godly men and godly women. He wants to make us what we should be—sober, righteous and godly. "Oh," says somebody, "that is going to destroy all that I count dear in life." My dear friend, it is going to give you all that is

dear in life. To be amputated from ungodliness and worldly lusts is a glorious thing, and to have imparted sobriety, righteousness and godliness, that is something worth while. Grace and glory are combined to bring about such a condition here and now, and to enable you to live a godly, righteous and sober life. The Christian faith is an intensely practical thing. We never find any New Testament writer divorcing practice from doctrine. Creed and conduct go hand in hand. The gospel of the grace and glory of Christ is intended to change people, and if the grace that we have received, or profess to have received, and the glory that is yet to be revealed, which constitutes our hope have not created in us that kind of living that is mentioned here, then we have received the grace of God in vain. God help us to allow His grace and glory so to operate upon our souls as to produce in us Christ-likeness.—Sel.

Mr. Ghandi, when asked what advice he would give the missionary for the Christianizing of India, replied: "I would suggest to you four things: First, that all Christians, missionaries and all, live more like Christ. If you come to us in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, then we cannot resist you. Second, do not adulterate Christianity; give it to us in its rugged simplicity and its high demands, and live out the life; then we cannot resist you. Third, I would suggest that you put your emphasis upon love, for love is a central thing in Christianity. Fourth, I would suggest that you study the non-Christian religion more sympathetically, to have a sympathetic approach to the people." (If by this Mr. Ghandi means a tenderly tactful handling of the sincerely held and deeply rooted errors of others—as much oil as knife—we do not demur).—Sel.

If we thought of God's glory first—as in the Lord's prayer—and gave the second place to our needs, we should please God and gain out petitions better than we do.—Fausset.

When it came to John Wesley's knowledge that one of his preachers was in very needy circumstances, he sent him the following letter: "Dear Tommy: Trust in the Lord and do right. So shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." He enclosed in the letter a five-pound note. When Tommy "returned thanks," Wesley was greatly delighted with his reply. It ran thus: "Reverend and Dear Sir: I have often been struck with the beauty of the passage you quote, and I am bound to say that I have never found such a useful expository note on it before."—Sel.

"Christ is all, and in all. Ye are complete in Him." Col. 3:11 2:10. Your body is His temple, your daily life the sphere for glorifying Him; it is to Him a matter of deep interest that all your earthly concerns should be guided aright. Only trust His sympathy, believe His love, and wait for His guidance—it will be given. Abiding in Him, the mind will be calmed and freed from passion, the judgment cleared and strengthened, the light of heaven will shine on earthly things, and your prayer for wisdom, like Solomon's, will be fulfilled above what you ask or think. And so especially in any work you do for God, abide in Jesus as your wisdom.

Work hard for God, and let not pride blow upon it, when you have done. It is difficult for a man to do much, and not value himself too much for it.—Flavel.