

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland P. O.,
Natal, So. Africa,
Feb. 24th, 1928

Dear Homeland Friends:

We are still at Hartland in the will of God and these are very precious days to my soul. It has been a wonderful summer in receiving many answers to prayer for which I do praise the dear Lord. We have had many cool days during this hot season and refreshing rains abundantly, although at present we are having dry weather. It is creeping on to the cooler months of March; before long winter will be here and we trust to take the advance step into the Transvaal again. We still believe this to be the will of God and unless He closes the way before us we expect to start our dwelling over there when the rains have ceased. Though we have longed to be among these people this summer, we have found it a comfort to be in our home during the heavy rains, winds and heat, and we recognize the dear Lord's tender care of us, and in so many ways see His wisdom in our being here for the present.

It has been a precious time of waiting on the Lord during these weeks and a gracious anointing has come upon my soul as I have tarried before God calling upon His name for the outpouring of His Spirit which is so needed in our work here. When the Lord spoke to our hearts about going to live in that needy land of the Transvaal, we began to ask Him to prepare us for that new step. We felt a great need of the renewing of the Holy Ghost as we faced the new and blessed opportunities ahead. He answered prayer in His own wise and gracious way, but in the way we did not expect. Our plans for getting over there this summer came to a standstill as we have written you. Our hearts said "Amen" to this and we could look up and praise Him, knowing that "all things work together for good to those who love God."

We laid a greater burden on our hearts for conditions here and a greater hunger and cry in our souls for true holiness and the power of the Holy Ghost. For a number of weeks it seemed that only prayer with fasting was acceptable to God and I gave myself to Him, gladly, for this service, with a willingness to die if need be for the sake of His cause in this dear land of Africa. Oh, dear friends, in these days of apostasy we need to stir ourselves as never before to lay hold upon God if we would see His cause moving onward in the power of the Holy Ghost. The devil would like to say, "Peace, peace, where there is no peace." May God deliver holiness churches from such a state and give us power to pray through the lethargy and darkness of sin and unbelief, and to walk before Him in humility, with the fire of holy love burning in our souls.

He has done wonderful things for me as I have gone before Him these days. The fire from heaven has fallen upon my own soul and my faith is reaching out for the "floods upon the dry ground." There is a price for God's children to pay if we would see the outpouring of His Spirit in saving and sanctifying power, and I purpose by His grace to pay that price for the sake of souls and the cause of holiness in Africa. He has promised me souls in a way I have never known before

and my soul rejoices in Him with joy unspeakable and full of glory. "Not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

Isaya was here this week and it was indeed good to see him and hear about matters at Altona. We had precious fellowship in the Lord. It always refreshes my soul to talk with Isaya. He brought the names of nine new seekers since we have seen him last. Some places he can reach only once in two or three weeks. His horse also died from horse sickness so now he has to take these long trips on foot. He is very cheerful and glad to do it for Jesus' sake. We hope next year to have a stable built to help protect the poor horses.

Helen is in Durban at present with Paulina and our good native girl, Miss Johnston (who gave us the tent) and another missionary lady offered to pay all expenses if we would do this. Paulina went to Durban in January for her health. Miss Johnston kindly looked after her welfare in every way until her school opened, and seeing she needed a longer rest, these ladies arranged this plan and we are very grateful indeed, for it is a boon to these native girls and Helen needed dental work done, but was not expecting to go away, but the dear Lord provided for her very wonderfully. They have spent some of the time at Malvern, ten miles from Durban, where there is a native training school. Paulina is much benefited by the change and they are coming back next week. We do thank the Lord for this kind provision. His care is most wonderful. "The very hairs of your head are all numbered," Jesus said, and it is certainly true that our dear Saviour loves us with a very tender love. It seems to me that no native girl could deserve this privilege more than faithful Paulina, and our own good girl would never have had this wonderful opportunity had Miss Johnston not been so kind and generous. Paulina writes that "the ocean speaks to her heart of the greatness of God and her soul is wonderfully blest."

We are so pleased to hear of Faith's engagement and will gladly welcome the new missionary to the work in Africa. We do praise God for this very much. The natives, too, are very pleased to think she will return with an "indoda" (man), and they hope she will "hurry back so they can see him."

Paulos Mhlope is going on with the Lord, shining for Jesus wherever he goes. Sunday my heart was so blest in talking with him. It is beautiful to see how dead he is to the world. Jesus is his all in all. He met his new landlord one day who said, "I hear that you are a Christian?" "Yes, boss." Well, I do not want any Christians around here; they just lie and steal I want the men who wear heathen dress and beads to work for me." This of course was a mild threat to discard his Christian dress. Paulos replied, "Boss, I do not know how to lie and steal, I am a Christian, but you are a white man and I cannot argue with you, but I know I am a Christian." Later he sees the wife of his landlord who said much the same, and also that he was trying to imitate the white people by putting on Christian apparel. "On my father's farm we do not have any Christians, and we like that," she said. "We do not want any one around us dressed like a Christian." Paulos again replied, "You are a white person and I cannot argue with you, but I know Jesus died for me and I trust in Him, and I

do not understand how you can feel this way," but she only made light of it and Paulos little knows what is ahead of him when he is called into service.

I trust that you will remember this dear child of God in your prayers that his life may bring conviction to hearts. I know it does. His face shines with the light and love of God, and may he be used in a special way is the prayer of our hearts.

How I do praise the dear Lord for calling me to Africa to live among these dear black people and tell of His wonderful love. My heart yearns over them with an unspeakable longing for their souls and I believe we are going to see many come through to victory—if we will pay the price.

We know that it is by your loving support and prayers that this work is carried on, and thank God for you all and for every sacrifice you have made for us in far off Africa. We do appreciate it more than I can express. God bless you all.

Yours for precious souls,
ALICE F. STERRITT

Hartland P. O.,
Natal, So. Africa.

Dear Friends:

In Ps. 34 are many wonderful words that seem to just fit me at various times in my life.

I especially understand David when he says, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Also "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." And then how fine an expression of victory obtained and a praise meeting begun, in the soul in that burst of praise in verse one. "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad."

When I look back over the 20 years we have spent in this place—we have spent more than that in Africa—and recall some of the trials, troubles, real downright heart breaking, discouraging things and how the Lord has brought us through, victors through Jesus, I am filled with praise and thanksgiving. He can do the impossible and turn our darkest night into day. He can turn things upside down that he may plant them right side up and carry out His plan for the salvation of souls.

Now in 1903 He sent us here to establish a holiness church and He means to stand right by us to accomplish just that simple thing.

It has many times looked impossible and we have suffered many disappointments. We have trusted some would be such helps but they never got anywhere where one could depend upon them—broken reeds.

Others have left us and taken many with them—we have had 3 such cases at 3 different times and their influence tended to weakness over those who remained—one case has returned to his church.

Some we had dug out of rank heathenism, backslid and went away back into sin—glad to say 2 of these have returned but never will be the men they might have been.

Many have died and gone to Heaven, so we have them no more to help us.

We have always had other churches coming up against our work and sometimes they have lured some of ours away to them. One of these was one of our young evangelists.