

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S. Transvaal, S. A.

Dear Highway Friends:

A few lines at this time to say, that we are now living in the new mission house at Altona, the building consists of one room 16 x 24 ft. and a kitchen 9 x 12 ft.

The bricks are unburned and the roof is of grass (thatched) the floors are cement which is the cheapest kind. We are using the big room as a bedroom dining-room and pantry combined. We have the bedroom curtained off, and by careful thinking and planning our home is quite cosy even if we are crowded, and with the furniture which the dear home people gave us, makes us very comfortable indeed. We are thankful for all our blessings.

We are now having a stable built, the walls are stone, and the roof will be thatched. We are so glad to have our stove, and to be living like white people once again. We want to thank the Lord for His care over us these months, surely He has cared for us in a very special way.

Of course our household goods, had to go by train from Paulpietersburg to Moolman Station which is thirty-five miles from this place. We have had several delays along the way which is quite a natural thing in Africa.

I want to praise the Lord once again for His plain leadings to this needy field. There are many, many open doors, and heathen all around us, and our hearts are full of praise as the days go by for the privilege of being here. The Lord is deepening the burden on our hearts for the church here, and the heathen and our cry is before God—Souls even if we die. We must have the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in this dry and thirsty land. We cannot be satisfied without seeing the desire of our hearts fulfilled. We find the same spirit on this side the river, as in Hartland, among the young people of the church, the great need of them going through all the way with Jesus. They lack one thing like the rich young man of old, of selling all they have. Of laying aside all worldly ambitions for Jesus' sake. The biggest drawback among the young people is the matter of becoming engaged and keeping the customs of the heathen rather than the rules of the church, and the Word of God. Even the young boys and girls are full of the vile habits of the heathen. These young people surely lack the one thing needful. Beloved, prayer is the only thing that will save them and God is able. Praise Him!

I would not forget to praise the Lord for the ones who are faithful and our dear native workers who are so true and good. Yes, dear friends, their lights do shine here in dark Africa. our native church could not get along without them. Isaya is a wonderful native, always so humble, and is surely used of God among His people, he is also very wise in the matter of the church. Yesterday (Sunday) he went to a large heathen kraal to have a meeting and had a good service. Alice went to another outpost where many heathen are, and had the service in the open, the Lord blessed His word. I stayed at the mission station where the Lord blessed us, twenty-six present, two gave themselves to the Lord. We had about fifteen to the Sunday School. The children seem to enjoy this hour very much, and the native teacher is interested also, and is a great help to us. Our kraal visits are always a great blessing to us, we find so many hungry hearts among the people. Pray for them and us, I am looking to Jesus and praying for His blessing upon us. Our Thursday classes are always a blessing and some heathen usually come to the service. We have had over a hundred calls for medicine and a good

number have come to have teeth extracted.

Agnes, Isaya's wife, came to us a few weeks ago with this question, "What did the prophets of the Spirit prophesy?" We told her one of the things they prophesied about was the coming of the Saviour, and how her face did lighten up, she was so glad to know this, it really was a blessing to her. Since that time she has been coming to us in her spare time and we have been reading to her from the old testament, and she is so pleased, as she cannot read herself.

Yes, dear leaders, it is a joy to be in Africa and how good the Lord was to us to call us to dark Africa. Today I love her hills and valleys and rivers and cliffs and people. Praise the Lord.

I trust you all will have a good winter. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, I am

Yours in Christian love,

HELEN M. STERRITT

Altona M. S. P. O. Berbice

Via Piet Retief, Transvaal, So. Africa.

Dear Homeland Friends:

Just a few lines this Monday morning to let you know that God's blessing is upon us in this new field of labor. He is answering prayer and the Holy Spirit is moving upon hearts and we are daily encouraged by some fresh token of His precious love. Truly, dear ones, God has done marvelous things for us, and our souls are full of praise and joy unspeakable. Everyday this joy grows deeper, for we see so clearly that He has led us definitely to this corner of His vineyard and we are so conscious of being in His will here, a sweet, blessed, consciousness of the favor of God and His special blessing. He is laying the burden for souls upon us in a greater measure and increasing our faith for their salvation. It is so sweet to be in Africa for Jesus' sake and to feel this love burning in our souls deeper day by day as we come in contact with the needy souls around us. Surely we are here in obedience to the call of God. Our call to Africa is being fulfilled in the service He has given us here as it never has been before. We give Him all the praise and glory for what He has done and will do in answer to prayer. We do appreciate all the prayers that have daily ascended to the Father above, since we left the dear homeland, and we ask for a continuance of prayer for the work in Africa. Good words in answer to prayer and prayer is the greatest work we can do for God.

Helen had a good congregation here yesterday, and one gave herself to the Lord. Sabete Ndos, who was very, very ill for three weeks, was present and gave a burning testimony for Jesus and the burden for the unsaved is deepening on her heart. She had a very gracious revelation of God's special will for her during her sickness. She seemed to be taken to the very gates of heaven and the angels were singing to welcome her arrival, but a voice spoke from within the house of many mansions that she must return to earth, and reminded her of her unsaved husband whose heart is so wicked, "how patient she must be with him for even his sorrows were felt in heaven. She must not get offended with his wickedness but lean upon Jesus for constant cleansing and victory."

Mleke-epi, the young chief came just before the service closed. Please pray for this young man. He is a really bright, and intelligent native with a real desire to be a Christian, but it is so hard to lay aside his earthly position as chief of the people. All his people would be so against him and he is really sadly tied up with the wonderful (?) rules and customs of the Zulus, but the hunger of his soul is so manifest when he is listening to the Word of God. One day he said,

"I do try to be a Christian but I fail to really give myself to Him. I know it is the best way and the right way." Our hearts do yearn over this "rich young ruler" for we know "Jesus beholding him, loves him." I think of that case so often when I see poor Mbeke-epi. We place him before the dear Lord who alone can deliver him.

I went to Klip Vaal where Joeli comes from Hartland for a service each Sunday. Yesterday was Big Sunday at Hartland and Joeli remained there. It was very hot and we sat among great rocks for the service, as they have not a suitable hut and lack a church. The Lord blest His word and my own soul was refreshed with the love of Jesus. Our young native boy Mpendu, who accompanied me, was specially touched by the Spirit and uttered a fervent prayer for God to help him to be an overcomer. He also was given a testimony which was helpful to all. I praise God for this token of God's special presence, for we are praying for this boy. Satan greatly desires his young life. He is enlightened and desires to be a strong Christian, but the customs among the Zulus are a great snare to the young.

Isaya went to Bodaza, near the Swaziland border and has not yet returned. A thunder storm came up last evening to prevent his coming home. We had a nice shower which was greatly needed, we trust for more.

Last Tuesday was such a hot day, and the thunder clouds piled up with sharp lightning, but no rain. A young halfcaste girl and her grandmother, living quite near us were struck and knocked down by lightning. The girl's body was slightly burned in some places. They sent to us for medicine. I went next day to see her and found the grandmother all broken up over this narrow escape from death. She poured out her heart to God with tears confessing her sinfulness before Him. She has been quite an opposer to Isaya during these years. He has endured some very hard things from many members of other churches who oppose Bible truth. This woman has been one of them. I felt the presence of the Lord very near in that season of prayer Tuesday. May the Lord completely soften their hearts toward His truth we pray.

Thursday we had a very blessed class here. Conviction was deeply felt, also the week before when 35 were present, not so many last week, but a very good service.

Dear friends, the people's hearts are softening towards this church, prejudice is giving way and they are looking favorably to us. Isaya has stood here alone for God and holiness, facing opposition, persecution and discouragements of many kind. God is rewarding him. The spirit of praise came upon him in the meeting Thursday and he expressed his joy and gratitude to God for bringing us here. He referred to his past difficulties (which he seldom does) and how God gave him a submissive will to all that came into his life and he was willing to have his name cast out as evil for Jesus' sake.

Since God has brought us here to live the tide is turning, the presence of resident missionaries has given the church a recognition among the people that it has never had before. Prejudice is giving way to respect, so you see dear people God wanted us in this place for the glory of His name.

Isaya says wherever he goes the people are asking for prayer and he feels that the work is going forward in a special way. We see that God is indeed "fulfilling the desire of them that fear Him," Isaya's straight life and preaching has not been in vain. The devil was quite stirred up when we first came here and the enemies of the truth started several false stories about the teaching of the "white people," but God has over-ruled and His Word is having effect and we are looking