

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland P. O.

Paulpietersburg,

Natal, So. Africa.

May 8th, 1928

Dear Friends:

Aloni Mkanza is the evangelist I wish to tell you about today.

Next to Samuel, he is one of our oldest workers, a small, slight man who now cannot do real hard work without suffering for it. Still, with a horse, he can travel far and also goes long distances when unable to have his horse, by foot.

If I remember rightly, he began work at the time Brother and Sister Keirstead were with us. I remember him helping to prepare some slate-stone slabs for laying a floor in our pantry. One day, as he sat chipping off the roughness of these, I taught him this verse: Rev. 21:4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." It was new to him, and, as I explained these beautiful words to him, he marvelled that these words were true. From then up to the present I am always explaining some Bible texts to him. His wife, Jostina Nkasi—wives keep their maiden name until recently, no woman was called by her husband's name, but Christian marriage I think is introducing the new idea of her taking her husband's name. She is another of our workers, and they have seven children, all living. This is a most unusual thing, as most mothers lose one or more babies, and mostly from bad feeding, but she listened to us, did not give her babies any food at first, but nursed them and all have lived so far.

Aloni has had many keen trials. His eldest son is a very bad young man and this is a great cross to both parents.

For years the Tongues people did all in their power to take him from us. He did imbibed some of their ideas and they have been a source of spiritual weakness. Some of these he dropped. He has given us much pain and sorrow because of his ways and weaknesses—gets the swelled head once in a while too—but God has given us wisdom and patience in dealing with him. Once he was so near joining the Zionists—Tongues people—he stood with his Bible under his arm and actually started over to talk with their leader when a few words spoken to him by Jostina caused him to stop and decide not to go, and he never has gone to them. About the same time I was praying for him to be kept from doing so and my heart was so stressed with it all I cried out to God to stop him somehow. He did. Once years ago he wanted more money than we were able to pay evangelists, so started off to work. He came to bid us good-bye. During the conversation we pointed out he was going to leave off enlightening the people, his neighbors, and who would do his work? He made reply they were so hard, and so on. I asked: "Have you asked God if He wanted you to go? His reply was "No." Then we told him we would be afraid to do such a thing without it. Our talk was too pointed; he resented it very much. Then I said, "Very well, Aloni. I will not say any more; you have spoken very disrespectfully to me when I have only tried to point out to you, as a child of God, what you should do. I will cease to warn you from henceforth. "Oh, no, Nkasikazi, don't say so. I am wrong. I do want you to show me when you see such

things, etc., etc." But he went. In less than a month he met with an accident that was within a hair's breadth to death. He never again has left his work to earn money.

He has been much encouraged at one of his preaching places by several seekers coming forward.

His spiritual life has deepened this past year and we have been helped in the church councils by his words of advice to the others.

Every week he tries to visit and pray with the sick or distressed and is very faithful in this part of his work.

Jostina also has her field of labour apart from her husband.

She is a good woman, well saved and the past year or two came into the experience of sanctification. Her keen heart-breaking trials over her children has, like her husband, driven her closer to Jesus, strengthened her faith and made her lose hold of earthly longings. Jeremiah, their eldest, is at present, in jail serving a term for stealing. Poor parents, this they feel more than many would.

Do pray for these two earnest and tried workers that God would encourage them both and bless their home.

Yours in Jesus,

MRS. H. C. SANDERS

Hartland P. O.

Paulpietersburg,

Natal, So. Africa,

June 3rd, 1928

Dear Friends:

Africa is indeed one of the ends of the earth and you all seem so far away at Beulah time, but then God is as near us here as He is to you there, for which I praise Him. John 4:20-24 brings out this thought clearly. . . . "God is a Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth." We cry from Africa. He hears and answers. It has been a very long time since I had the privilege of visiting the church at Entungwini, but last Sunday George and I left here in the morning and arrived in time for the service.

The hills are beautiful and the river was so clear.

Sister Alice had gone over with some girls the day before, so she met us at the church door and a crowd of folks were just arriving. We were in plenty of time and having just finished eating our lunch on horse-back. Missionaries do lots of odd things in their round of work.

The hearty welcome I received from each and all as I met them fully repaid me for my long ride.

They had come from many of the outposts so I saw several from Pataza—near the Swaziland border, where I visited two years ago. Some of these needed encouragement and help and some four had come to be baptized. My reply was, "Yes, the church has given me power to marry folks and baptize too, but I always feel I am only a woman and had rather they wait till July when the Umfundisi would be over, but, we will have the Communion today."

Sister Alice and George spoke nicely and then after I had given them a few words I called upon several to give their testimonies. Samuel Marinbelo, our first evangelist, as he began over 20 years ago—it is 22 years this winter since I first crossed the Pongola river.

He has had a lame foot for many months, and not been able to go over to this church as often as he usually did. Now it is some

better and he has again been over among them. The Church members carried on the services in his absence, doing very well. There are 3 men and 2 women, members of this church, who are now working at other centres but live near here.

Well, I wish I could let you hear Samuel testify. It would encourage you I am sure, and make you rejoice in the way God can convert, teach and help these who were a little while ago heathen.

He said though he had this trouble so long God had blessed him much. He is happy in Him and has nothing to be sorry for. He thanked God for saving him from the customs of polygamy. He has Elizabetha for his wife; he does not desire another. They are happy together with their three children.

Tomasi Ngomezulu, another evangelist, who helps at Bucu, has had a heavy trial. His sister Violet allowed him to spend \$35.00 on her wedding outfit. Her husband-to-be had pointed out the beast to be slain, the grain to be ground for the feast, and other things for the wedding—lo and behold the bride ran away. She did not want this man, but had loved another all this time and kept it away from them all.

His father died recently and as he is the eldest, all the responsibility fell upon him. To have her, a believer, act so has been a cruel trial to him and is not ended yet. So he testified, very humbly, and begged us to pray for him to know what to do and to get victory over it all.

Isaya Sangweni, Altona Church, told us how glad he was for the salvation God had given him. Saved him from fighting from polygamy and how happy he is in God and what peace and joy he has in his home life.

Jona Myeno, another worker, gave an experience he had passed through and been delivered from demons troubling him in dreams, through him eating some meat that had been offered to these demons. He was innocent of this having been done. It was very real experience to him and the deliverance was too, through prayer.

There were many more who would have loved to testify had there been time. I knew this so gave them a chance to say so, by putting up their hands. There were many. Two young women who had gone wrong, and been set aside for some time, had repented and came asking for forgiveness, and to be received into the Church again.

Two babies were brought forward to be received into the fold as seekers or learners till they should be old enough for baptism. There was a collection in cash of \$1.50 also. The time had been well filled and as we gathered around the table to remember Jesus' death "till I come," it was a very impressive and sweet time.

The church building is a very humble affair, and very few seats, most of the women and girls sat on the floor. The people have black faces but oh, praise the Lord, they had clean hearts and loved Jesus, coming out from the dense darkness of heathenism and now serving Him. There were so many to shake hands with and to speak a word or two of helplessness to, that before we three mounted our horses for home the sun had set behind the mountain and we had at least 16 miles to travel. But we pushed on, as rapidly as possible, over every bit of good ground trying to cross the river before it got too dark. This we failed to do and the walk down the steep mountain bank of the