

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland P. O.,  
Natal, So. Africa

Dear Homeland Friends:

We have had the hottest March we have ever felt in Africa. It was as terrible as in mid-summer and no rains for weeks. The situation was becoming serious, but the dear Lord in answer to prayer sent a good soaking rain last week, lasting all one night, and we do praise Him for the good it has done and for the change it brought in the dry, scorching atmosphere. We have had some lovely cool nights, but it is growing warmer now again. We trust we will get more rain this month to help out the winter grazing.

I have heard from the sheep farmer from whom I bought my horse four years ago. He has another which he thinks will suit me very well and will bring it down from the high veldt when he comes with his sheep, about the second week of May. I do praise the Lord for the prospect of a horse and trust it will prove a suitable one. By that time it will be safe to leave horses out, and also to start brick-making, so we hope to get back to Altona then.

We are glad to be here this month, as Miriam and Grace have gone away for a holiday to Durban and another sea-side place, and we can be of service here during their absence. We do thank the Lord for arranging this trip for them as Miriam especially needs the change very much, and it is lovely for them both. We hope it will be a delightful holiday for them—we know it will be.

I want to express my sincere thanks in this letter to the Editor and those whom I see by the Highway have so kindly contributed toward a new horse for me. This, when there are so many demands for money, has seemed to me so very thoughtful and kind and I do appreciate it so much. It is another of the many tokens of His love to us in this far-off land through the hearts of His dear children in the homeland, and we do thank you and Him with grateful hearts. I do not know all your names, nor where you live, but Jesus does, and I am sure He will bless and reward your loving sacrifice, and I take this opportunity to thank you all.

Through a friend in Durban and a Christmas gift from the Greys' Mills Church, my need is about supplied, and as we are expecting to help Isaya get another horse I feel sure you will be glad to have the surplus money used in this way for it will be a great help to us and we are very thankful indeed.

Today Lydia's lesson in class was I. Cor. 13, and she brought out the difference in the self-life and the life of perfect love in a very striking way. It is very beautiful to see how the Holy Spirit has illuminated this Zulu woman's heart. She is above the average in intelligence and preaches from heart experience with the unction of God upon her. She is a pillar in this African church. God has brought her through many fiery trials and so far she has stood the testings by God's grace. We pray that she may ever be true to God and holiness in these days of apostasy. Our hearts were blest and edified by her message of truth today.

This week my soul has been greatly enriched by that wonderful chapter of Hebrews II. Never has it meant so much to my soul. God is still able to deliver and to fulfil His gracious promises to us as He did to Abraham and the prophets of old. If we are as

willing to suffer for the sake of righteousness as they were we too can have

"A faith that will not shrink though pressed by every foe,

That will not falter on the brink of any earthly foe,

A faith that shines more bright and clear when tempests rage without,

That when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt."

God surely calls us to a holy faith like this and I can praise Him that in these testing days He is strengthening my faith and I do thank Him for all that He permits for the "trial of our faith which is more precious than gold," and I praise Him for "so great a cloud of witnesses" to encourage our souls to endure and believe and trust until we see the desire of our souls in the fulfilment of these precious promises. I can say with Paul, "I am filled with comfort." Praise the dear Lord.

Yours for a deeper faith,

Alice F. STERRITT

Hartland P. O.,  
Natal, So. Africa

Dear Friends:

"He staggered not at the promises but was strong in faith." What a tower of strength is Abraham, the Friend of God! But he was a man too. He is an example for us to follow.

Here are a few cases that will interest you. They came to notice at our Easter meetings.

Salome came on Friday and asked for special prayer. She suffers from asthma and is bad at times. After the little service of prayer she went away strengthened and helped, and reported Sunday she was better.

Jona Myeni, one of our workers across the Pongola, gave a good testimony in Sunday morning meeting, but asked special prayer as he felt ill and weak in body.

He had been given a piece of meat to eat and shortly after he felt sick and parts of his body swelled; he had bad dreams. He is a good Christian and a doctor. The medicine he took did him no good. He continued to dream each night of seeing bad meat and people urging him to eat it. His reply to them was: "No, I eat nothing unclean." "Pray for me, for I know if I eat that meat I will die."

We had an after-meeting, a sweet service of prayer. Today he says he has great victory. He dreamed last night he saw some one sweeping, and believes God has swept all the evil things away.

Beloved, this may read like childishness to you, but it is a real thing to him, and a real victory over superstition.

Filita Hadebe, Befa Kunene and her mother and a man named Job are all being much tested by different cases of witchcraft, and several others also.

In this land if a child dies, some one must have caused its death; the person who did it has bewitched it, etc., etc. To these who are now Christians but not completely overcoming this fear, it takes grace to cling to Jesus alone and not give way to the pressure brought to bear upon them by heathen relations and neighbors. It is a most terrible thing to them to be pointed out as a witch, made to move away from the district they are living in, etc.

Beloved, they have come out from these things and do no longer consult a wizard themselves, but their heathen friends still live in the darkness they came out from and have many ways to terrify believers unless they have gone on with God and been deliver-

ed not only from the dreadful works of evil, but also from the dreadful bondage the fear of these things brings to them.

We stand by them, plead the promises for them, instruct them as to what the word of God says about separating from all these things and His power to deliver them from "all the power of the enemy." Some have gotten great victories, others are seeking and daring to step out on God's promises to deliver them. I believe He will.

Much malaria is abroad in various parts of the land and many deaths have taken place. This causes the living to stop and think.

Our long drought has made such a failure of many gardens that food is scarce. This will give less beer and also make people think how easy it is for God to take away "the staff of life."

"When the judgments of the Lord are in the earth the people will learn righteousness."

There are many opportunities to help Europeans on the way to Heaven.

A gentleman, Church of England man, stayed over night.

In the evening's conversation we found him a hungry soul with a tender conscience and doing faithfully every duty of his church but never had known the experience of conversion. We tried to give him the needed help and light from the Word, loaned him a Bible to read when he went to bed and urged him to follow what he had just seen was his privilege: to confess his sins on Jesus, ask Him to forgive him and then believe He did it.

Next day he said: "I do not know why I should have told you these things—meaning his heart hunger for God—but I do believe He does forgive my sins."

And he went his way rejoicing in the help he had found.

South Africa has had many problems to solve during the past three or four years. Government has passed several laws which, to us, seem very hard on the colored and black races. Giving them no representative in Parliament, cutting them off from doing certain classes of skilled labour and several other things which is very detrimental to the development and uplifting of these negro peoples.

Also it has been heavily smitten by drought in Cape Colony and the Karoo. Thousands of people who a few years ago were prosperous farmers, or were making a good living, have been reduced so in circumstances they are having to receive help from the Government.

Think of a man who three years ago had 3,000 sheep, today only a few tens of them left!

Think of the cattle, sheep, donkeys and horses that have either died or just living bags of skin and bones!

For three years no rains, no grass, no crops and then famine so the Government has to issue rations of food to thousands of these same people who once were well off.

At last the rains came in March and in one storm more rain fell than for a whole year. Dams that had long been dry overflowed and one costing £50,000 was broken so it is a "broken cistern that can hold no water." Rivers became so flooded that the people in the Sundays River valley had to leave their homes and fly to the hills for safety. Latest reports say nine lives have been lost, much