

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland P. O.,
Natal, So. Africa

Dear Friends:

Am enclosing a clipping from a missionary paper, thinking it very timely.

The missionary and his work is in Swaziland and we know this written by him must be true.

Here we find the Dutch influence is difficult to go against. They are very dressy, but most of our women folks dress very nicely, but they can so easily ape anything they see that it is a wonder they do not follow European fashions more. So far all our women folks still believe in the long length skirt and quite full. We have some young girls who think they must have them different.

Pray much for us. Weeding season has made harder work than for some years. All are so tired they say "as soon as we sit still or kneel to pray we fall asleep." Now they feel this is of the devil and some are dreadfully tried over it.

Quite a few are ill and some of the cases seem to be malaria, but it is a bit early for it to set in yet.

The heavy and long rainy season has made all grass growths heavy and such conditions often produce a bad time of fever, especially with so much heat. However, we trust in the Lord and will do our best.

One young woman, a back-slider, died recently and made a big impression on all others.

She left the Lord to get a man. The man is a heathen. She left very little hope behind her and her mother grieves deeply over this. Some harden their hearts and seem to laugh at God but the reckoning day is coming, then they lament over their folly. Truly God's word is true, "Fools make a mock at sin."

We are trusting God to send us the long expected revival and keep praying and working to that end. Do you keep on praying? Our God fulfills His promises.

Yours in Him,
MRS. H. C. SANDERS

LIGHT FROM DARK AFRICA

By M. F. Schmelzenbach

Once this part of Africa was in gross darkness indeed, but many years ago the missionaries came, and hundreds of natives are now clothed in modest dress. Owing to the work being in the far-removed districts our native Christians very rarely see any other white women than our missionary ladies. Owing to the good example set by our women workers, there has been but very little change along the line of dress. However, since I have been travelling by motor car I have been able to take our leading native evangelist with me. In fact, it came about like this: For years he has been confined to Swaziland with no opportunity to see the changing fashions of the world. When starting to Sabie, Transvaal, to visit our work, Brother Penn asked me to bring Joseph with me, for the blessing he would be in the services. We took the road, and after two days' travelling, arrived at our destination. During our few days there this native evangelist, Joseph, went up town often, and, native-like, saw almost everything there was to see. However, he said little about the things that surprised him. The Lord blessed in the meetings, and many

came to the altar, and numbers, we believe, found definite help. The following Monday we started for home, praising the Lord for the work going on at Sabie.

The first Sunday after arriving home it fell to Joseph to take the second service at Peniel. With the trip to the proud European town still lingering in his mind he arose before the congregation and read his appropriate Scripture. He took as his theme, "The Coming of the Lord." Everything was silent, and all eyes were upon the servant of the church.

The Spirit of the Lord fell upon the listening congregation, and the missionaries were convinced that the Lord was working and blessing the truth which come from this black man's lips. His firstly and secondly rang out in the native way in that little stone church with a force which would put to shame many of the homeland half-hearted preachers. Thirdly and lastly, the black preacher cried out, with earnestness which fairly stormed the fort: "My last proof that Jesus is soon coming back to earth again is that the white race, which first received Jesus and Christianity, is now backslidden and going naked, and knows it not." There and then, with the brightness of countenance and flashing eyes which proved God's presence, he set out to tell his hearers about his walk through the streets at Sabie. He said: "I, a religious, God-fearing black man, wanting to be modest, started to walk up the streets. To my surprise I met a white lady, and, at one glance, I saw her knees, her bare arms, and her low neck. Thinking that she would be grieved at me for finding her unclotherd, I turned and went up a side street, believing that she had appeared before putting on all her clothes. To my surprise, when seeking to escape from my first predicament, I met others, their hair cut just like men, flesh colored stockings with limbs showing through, arms bare, and necks low, and shadow cloth for a dress. As I came close to them they looked at me with so much courage, that I was convinced that they counted themselves clothed. Think of it, naked, and know it not! Congregation, Jesus' coming draweth nigh! I believe it, for the once God-fearing white people are backslidden and are today going unclotherd. They are fast turning to be heathen." Addressing the congregation he turned to two of our workers and said: "These are still clothed. You would not realize in looking at them what I saw of the fashion in the town with my own eyes. I declare that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

Far be it from me, this preacher's missionary, to make any further comments.

Just a few lines to accompany this article of Brother Schmelzenbach's. It seems to me that this is very timely. It came about most naturally, as nothing was said to this preacher either way; in fact nothing was known about his feelings until the day this sermon was preached. Because of this fact, the article has much more force. This will show some of our American Christians what an African preacher, who has been out of heathenism but a short time, thinks of the modern fashions.—C. S. Jenkins.

Hartland P. O.,
Natal, So. Africa

Dear Friends:

In the years gone by, on first coming into this district to work among this part of Old

Zululand, I have often wondered why God did not fulfill the burning desire of our hearts and set us down in a larger area of raw heathen than this district has been.

As the years have come and gone they have given the answer.

Our hearts were burning with such an intense desire to reach thousands of the raw heathen and carry them the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ that though we could have settled in Paulpietersburg, now a town, but we said, "No, let us get right down among the real heathen. Many workers choose the towns to work in compared to those who go and work among the heathen." God gave us this desire of our hearts and this place was a darkness so dense that one who had travelled far north and south said he "never met any place that needed a missionary more than here."

Other churches have come in among us or right up against us, have sought and are still seeking to take members from us, and several groups of members have left with the one who was their leader.

Now what is the answer? God put us here to plant a holiness church and means to help us, work in and through us, until such an one is established.

The devil is determined we shall not accomplish this for God, but, we believe, this is His mind, His promises are sure and we expect Him to fulfill them.

The Reformed Baptists have never been a large denomination nor a very popular one, nevertheless, they have lifted up the standard of Holiness and been the means of helping every other denomination they have come in contact with. Think of the thousands who have been sanctified or restored from backsliding through going to our camp-meetings or holiness conventions! They never left their own church either but remained and became greater help to them.

It is very similar with our work here. We are set down in the midst of other work but no other church teaches holiness as we do.

It is said as one meets their converts to hear them say: "Yes, I am a Christian but I am living with my sins." Their native preachers drink beer with them, snuff too, and do many other wrong things until their heathen neighbors says: "When we become Christians we do not want to go to their church. We want to be saved from our sins." Our preaching and teaching appeals to those hungering for righteousness even though they do not seem to take the "Bread of Life" held out to them.

It is most difficult to put the extent of our work in miles or to number our people we minister to by hundreds but we are the only resident missionaries this side of Paulpietersburg and for many miles across Pongola covering many miles across. Not only that but no European missionary visits anywhere within this large area, save your missionaries. As near as I could find out I have estimated our strip of territory across the Pongola to be 60 miles long and likely more, by 20 miles wide and plenty of people. Bucu, Entungwini, Patata and Altona are centres of more or less importance each with few or many outposts, though Entungwini is the oldest and largest. But all over that country are various natives who belong to others and are great prosyliters to catch those we have visited oft and dug out of heathenism. However, as I have said, they see a difference between those who know their sins forgiven,