

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,  
Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, So. Africa

Dear Highway Friends:

Some time ago I tried to give you a word-picture of things as I found them in Hartland, and promised to continue this method when visiting other places. Tonight I will try to give a description of the Altona section.

We held our Big Sunday over there during June. We had a large crowd to meeting, the most of them "raw heathen," therefore we had a harder time than we usually do when there are numbers of native Christians in the meeting. Another thing which contributed towards making it a hard meeting was the fact that we were compelled to hold our meeting outdoors.

The small church could not hold the crowds that gathered there. The Church is not large enough to hold the crowds that come for Big Sunday—it would hold about one hundred and fifty when every inch of space would be used.

The sight of the mission station is very nice. One can see the wonderful hills on every side and yet it is high enough not to be in a valley. Water must be carried to the house from a spring about a quarter of a mile away. The house is not as nice or comfortable as the old mission station, or the one that we live in, but I believe it cost a great deal more than either, but living is much higher over there than it is on this side of the river.

The scenery on every hand is wonderful, so I can not say that Altona is nicer than Hartland, for Africa is all wonderful for scenery.

We held our meeting in the open and had fairly good attention. One woman declared herself as a seeker, and a number of children were presented to the Lord and then we held our communion service. While we were holding the communion service a heathen engagement party passed by singing and shouting, yet our people remained quiet and generally reverent during the service. Isaiah has done wonderful work over there.

The Sisters have plenty of opportunity to do evangelistic work as well as medical; both white and black come for their tooth extractions, etc.

Now, dear friends, do not forget to pray for the work. We need you prayers. There are many opportunities for service, yet many hard places. We can say like Paul: "A great door and effectual is open unto us, and there are many adversaries," yet we believe God is able to give victory.

Yours in His service,  
D. M. MacDONALD

Altona M. S.  
Bebice P. O.  
Via Piet Retief,  
Transvaal

Dear Homeland Friends:

It has been some time since I have written. I am glad to report that the heathen are still giving themselves to the Lord. Among the number is Isaya's mother. She has been very hard in past days, and made it very unpleasant for Isaya and wife for many years. Now she is repenting and they are rejoicing.

Our Sunday services are almost doubled at this place. New ones keep coming. We do praise the Lord for what He has done this year and we thank Him daily for leading us here to this needy place.

We are daily seeing results from our kraal visiting. Last Wednesday we went some distance away to visit an old man who wants to be a Christian. We had about fifteen present; had a good meeting and a nice talk with the old man. He seems much in earnest and we felt well paid for going.

Thursday is our regular class day here at the mission station, which is usually well attended.

Friday we went in another direction to have a service; it also was quite a distance away, arriving at home after sunset tired but very happy, having had a very nice meeting with the dear people at that place.

These last two Sunday I have had the meetings at Joeli's outpost. These dear people are getting along nicely, especially the women. Today Alice had a meeting about six miles away. She is planning on going up to visit the people at Entungwini this week. She will take the tent and stay for a couple of weeks.

This month of July is the vacation time for the school children. We had a very nice school closing. A number of the parents attended—the children have done very good work.

The last Big Sunday on this side of the river we were delighted to have Faith and her husband and baby and Paul and wife and family to visit us for two or three days. They came by the Comondale bridge by auto, Paul coming on horseback across the river. It was a real treat for the people of this place to see so many of their white teachers, and to hear them preach the Word.

We have had some frost and also some rain, which is quite unusual for this time of year.

Beloved, continue to pray for us, and the work here. The Lord is working in the hearts of the people. We are finding plenty to do.

Yours in Christian love,

HELEN M. STERRITT

P. O. Hartland M. S.  
Natal, S. Africa

Dear Friends of the King's Highway:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Here we are back in the work at Hartland Mission Station after almost five years of absence. These have not been idle years. From Hartland we went first to Swaziland, where we held the fort for missionaries on furlough. On their return we went to a very needy field in Zululand, where we spent three years and 8 months. During these years the work made good progress, with God's blessing. Many professed to leave the world to follow Jesus. It was very hard to leave our little flock. The Mission could promise us no one to take our place. This was one of the reasons we were slow to answer the call to come back here. We were not perfectly sure that it was God's will for us to come to this work till a few days after the MacDonalds arrived in Durban. This was the second week in March and we left Zululand the third week in April. We had a terrible rush getting all the affairs of the mission station fixed up and packing. No one coming to take over the work made our departure so much more difficult. Our farewell Sunday was a very sad day for us and our people, for we almost felt as though we were leaving a child behind, so many to whom we said good-bye were our spiritual children. But "where He leads we will follow," and we are very happy today to be here in God's sweet will.

We are glad of the privilege of having such whole-hearted co-workers as Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, George Sanders and Helen and Alice Sterritt.

We feel it is a real loss to us not to be personally acquainted with all of you, but know there is a very helpful and sweet spiritual communion we can enjoy. Because of your love for God's work and your support, especially by prayer, and because of us being your representatives, as it were, we feel we are not strangers.

About three weeks ago we hired a motor-car, and by some riding horse-back, all of us, except George Sanders, were able to visit Altona Mission Station together. We were very thankful for this opportunity because in the ordinary course of events the missionary's wife and children have to stay at home. We were charged \$20.00 for the hire of the car so we fear it will be impossible to take such a trip again soon. Of course if we had our own it would be a much cheaper matter.

On Sunday, at Altona, the natives started arriving a little before noon, and it wasn't long before there were so many that it was impossible to get into the little church. (I don't think it would be out of place right here to say that Altona Mission Station is badly in need of a new church building). In spite of there being an unpleasant wind, the meeting was held outside, the greater majority of the natives sitting on mats or skins. The Lord certainly fed us with the Living Bread through several of His servants. One old woman gave herself to Jesus. Praise His name! Several dear little black children and babies were dedicated to the Lord. Then followed the Communion Service when six of we European workers partook with our native brethren of our Lord's Supper. It was late afternoon when we separated. After a very short while it began to rain and during the night rained quite heavily, which is very unusual for this time of the year, but welcome.

On Tuesday afternoon the Sisters had a visit from the native chief of the district. He wanted to hear the organ as last time he had visited it hadn't reached Altona. He had two lovely hymns sung to him. He listened with wrapt attention and said they were beautiful. These Zulu chiefs are very much like the rich young ruler who came to Jesus. They have a desire to follow Him but turn away sorrowful for they find out they will have to leave most of the old customs so dear to their proud hearts, many of these customs being part and parcel of their position as chief or ruler of the people.

The Sisters spent much time away from home among the kraals. Their testimony concerning this side of the work is the same as that of many other successful missionaries and i. e., that this personal work in the people's home is exceedingly fruitful, being especially owned and blessed of the Lord.

We are all just as busy as we can be, and we need your prayers that all we do may be well pleasing in God's sight and for His glory.

Yours in the Master's service,

PAUL AND RUTH SANDERS

Whatever the place allotted to us by Providence, that for us is the post of honor and duty. God estimates us not by the position we are in, but by the way in which we fill it.—Tryon Edwards, *Free Methodist*.