

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

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Via Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, S. Africa,  
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Dear Friends and Co-Workers:

Greetings in Jesus' name. I am sure that when you think of us you must wonder what we are doing. So I will try to tell you a little of some of our activities.

I have two duties which are especially mine. These are "Daily Prayers" with the native girls and boys who work for us, and Sunday School. The time I have chosen for "Prayers" is 8.30 a. m. I feel we are all fresh at this time of day and so able to learn better. The children have learned the Zulu translation of "There's Power in the Blood." They have learned this perfectly and I hope that when they go back to their homes the beautiful words may come to their minds and be a very real blessing. I just get blessed every time we sing it. The words certainly are wonderful. First of all I taught them Psalm 23; then followed Psalm 32. Now we are busy with Psalm 90 and Matt. 5. Last Friday I examined them and the one who knew the most verses got a prize of a new Zulu Testament. Sometimes we have visitors into prayers. We are always glad of any who can share this time with us.

The Sunday School we have every Sunday except Communion Sunday, which comes every six weeks. The time set for Sunday School is 10 to 11 a. m. We have learned eleven choruses. The children enjoy these. They have the advantage of being short and easy to remember. The natives love singing. Many of them have a very good ear for music. When still very young they are taught heathen dancing and songs, and it is really surprising how well they know these. Please pray with us that these choruses telling of Jesus and His love may be sung by them for His glory in their homes. At present we are busy on the Zulu of "When the Roll is called up Yonder." My experience is that native children have to be told over and over a great many times if they are to remember the Bible stories permanently. Just now we are working on the story of Cain and Abel. We have had it three Sundays now and it is a very marvelous story and well worth spending time over.

Our experience has been that even the older natives sorely need to be really taught—just preaching is not enough. Speaking of them as a whole, they enjoy a sermon while they are hearing it but when outside the building the majority forget everything that has been said. But if one treats them like Sunday School children, making them repeat verses and asking them questions as you go along, you keep their attention and impress the lesson on their minds. We find they appreciate this.

Mr. Sanders goes out every Sunday except Communion Sunday, often starting early and getting home late. The following are a few notes on some of the places he has visited.

The Misses Sterritt have told you of Mr. McDonald and Mr. Sanders going to Entungwini together. Mr. Sanders spent a night at the same place some weeks later. This portion of the field is worked by Samuel. They hope to build a new Church there soon. The old one is collapsing and I hear the farm owner needs that particular site for a certain purpose. For some weeks now Samuel has been

a prisoner at home. For about two years he has had a very sore foot. It is so sore that it is impossible for him to walk on it. Till about two months ago he rode a horse wherever he went. Samuel was riding home from a trip across the Pongola River. On the way up a steep hill on this side, he suddenly saw a huge black mamba writhing under his horse's legs. He was unable to do anything, and soon saw the snake gliding down the hill. He felt a great thankfulness to God that he had not been bitten. (The black mamba is Africa's most deadly snake. A person bitten by this dreadful reptile may die within five minutes, but may suffer untold agonies one-half hour before death brings release. Those who recover suffer terribly for days). With a sigh of relief he urged his horse up the hill. Then he noticed it began to weaken. It had been bitten. The Lord graciously undertook, for the horse managed to reach a kraal. Samuel asked at once for an antidote, which the natives have on hand. Unfortunately they had none. Samuel took the saddle off the horse, and soon the faithful beast fell and died. We are told that two or three cows, two goats and a dog have been bitten by the same snake since and have died.

As a result of Samuel's horse having died, he can't get out. He is one of our most faithful and worthy cvangelists and all the people appreciate and respect him. It is very encouraging as well as touching that the people across the river are raising money to buy Samuel another horse. We are hoping enough will be raised to meet this need.

Altona has been visited four times and it refreshes us to see the Sterritt Sisters' loving spirit. The work there is growing. It is good to see how many heathen attend church there.

One Sunday Mr. Sanders went to visit Badaza. Here a nice little church has been built. There was a little group gathered together. Among them were those earnestly seeking to please Jesus; others hungry for strength to live for Him.

Hipvaal, an outpost across the Pongola River, was visited with our evangelist Joeli. We are hoping to put up a church in this vicinity during the spring.

Another day an outpost by the Pivaan River was visited. Here our evangelist, Johaan, is holding the post with the enemy all around him. But in spite of opposing fires he is courageously going forward. In telling some of his experiences he said, "When I was asked to take this work, I was asked if I would be able to stand even when people were against me and spoke evil of me. I said I would, and today I see these tests upon me, but God is helping me.

A visit was paid to the kraal of a man who, when we left here five years ago seemed a hopeless case. He was exceedingly fond of native beer; often drinking great quantities of it. It was a great joy to find this man a new creature in Christ Jesus. He has given up his old way and has been baptized. He told Mr. Sanders that the day before he visited him a great burden of prayer had been upon him. He had prayed a long time and among the other things told the Lord that he was willing to live or die. If it were the latter he knew he would be going home. It greatly blessed him to be visited by the missionary the very next day. This man suffers a great deal and needs prayer.

Mr. Sanders has also visited both of Filamon's outposts. To get to them one has to go over some of the worst country it is pos-

sible to tread over. Filamon is a very earnest worker and his work for God is being blessed. He and the people greatly appreciated being visited. When Mr. Sanders went to the second place he left on Saturday. A short time after his arrival at the kraal where he slept he was presented with a native sheep (These sheep have a very thick tail composed almost entirely of fat.) According to native custom the sheep was brought right into the hut. It was killed and enjoyed by all. During one of the services a great wind storm blew up. A man went out and found the thatch off the huts. He called loudly to the people and a good many rushed out to tie the grass, but the service went on in spite of the interruption and souls were blessed.

A very pleasant day was spent in Aloni's section, both during the meeting and riding to and from the place with Aloni and talking over the work with him. He has the interest of the work very much at heart. The services are held at old Mqumbi's kraal. He is rather a pompous old man, very self centred and a genuine old-fashioned heathen. It was a very great surprise to Europeans and natives when a while back this case gave himself to the Lord. However, it will take a great deal of Heavenly Grace for him to be really saved. His wife is very much like him and though she gave herself to the Lord quite a long time ago, she is finding it more difficult than most to give up all for Jesus. She says frankly that beer is her chief stumbling block.

A woman stood up during the meeting and told of how she had once lived near the Lord, but had wandered away from Him. She knew of nothing hindering her coming to Him, but somehow she kept on putting it off. So Mr. Sanders asked her if she would come right back in that meeting as nothing would be gained by delay and now is the day of salvation. After considering she decided that was the thing she ought to do so they knelt down and cried to the Saviour to forgive her and take her back and she found joy right there, for the Friend of Sinners never turns anyone away.

Bucu's place has also been visited. This is where Paulina holds services. They have a nice building. It was a pleasant surprise to find sixty gathered together. Pauline said that had they known the missionary was going to pay them a visit, there would have been many more present. Mr. Sanders feels he gets to know as much, if not more of the work by going to the different meeting places when not expected, for then he sees things as they regularly are. Of course at the present time he is getting re-acquainted with the work. They had a very helpful service. One point that might interest some is that the singing was very slow and the words long drawn out. Mr. Sanders says it is most interesting to notice the singing at the different places. When the evangelist is a good singer the congregation follows the good example, where the evangelist is a poor singer the congregation is often likewise.

Filita's outpost, where a large number of the young people of our church attend services was among the first to be visited. This Bible woman needs very much prayer support. She is a widow and her three sons and one daughter are living for the world and won't listen to their mother's warnings. This makes her have a continual fight against great discouragement.

Where Mr. George Sanders holds regular Sunday services there was a very nice meet-