

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S., P. O. Berlice

Via Piet Retief, Transvaal,

South Africa, January, 4, 1929

Dear Homeland Friends:

We have entered into a new year with praise and gratitude to God for what He has wrought in 1928 and with His "exceeding great and precious promises" for the year before us we look for greater and more blessed victories ahead.

God truly set His seal upon the New Year Services and our hearts are full of praise today for the sweet manifestations of His presence with us.

We rode to Entungwini Sunday morning Dec. 30th, leaving early before the intense heat and had a quite comfortable ride. The dear Lord answered prayer and touched our bodies as well as our souls and we were strengthened along the way.

Dr. Sanders arrived very shortly after we reached the church and we were very glad to see him, the people were looking forward to baptism and communion service and all were so glad.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was sweetly felt in the service and the ten candidates for baptism gave definite testimonies to salvation, several of them speaking with tears of grateful emotion as they gave expression to the joy of their souls. We do praise the Lord for them all. They were from Entungwini, Emfene, Badaza and Altona.

Trifina Msih is praising God for what He is doing in her section. You may remember how her heathen husband was sent from the farm at Entungwini by his landlord. They had lived there for years and it was very hard for her to settle down in an entirely heathen locality away from all the dear associations of the church, but she bravely committed it all to God and we all believed that God was placing her there for the furtherance of the Gospel. At first she found them so hard—no one wanted prayer—and many times her spirit was nearing discouragement, but the Lord kept her patient and she has been faithfully sowing the seed and gradually hearts are softening. One old woman has given herself to the Lord and Sunday she had the joy of bringing eight children from one big heathen kraal, the two heathen fathers having given their consent that these children be placed in her hands for spiritual instruction and they were presented before the Lord as children of the church. Trifina feels this to be a wonderful answer to prayer for that kraal and is greatly encouraged in the Lord. Remember dear faithful Trifina in your prayers. She has many crosses in her heathen home. God gives her grace to live the crucified life—and gives her souls—This is the joy of her life.

An old man of 65 years from an Ethiopian church was also received into the Entungwini church having found Jesus as his Saviour a number of years ago and has been attending services at Badaza.

It was a day of blessing and after 5 p. m. before the second meeting was dismissed, the dear Lord sent refreshing clouds after the intense heat and we were truly grateful to have a cool evening to ride home to Altona. We were glad to have Dr. Sanders come with us for his first visit to the new mission home.

Monday morning preparations for the feast began with Isaya and Joeli in charge. This is indeed a big work. Thirteen goats were killed and dressed, the women coming later with pots and wood on their heads and with fowl also. Natives do love a feast and all was cheerfully looked after.

Isaya was so pleased to have Dr. Sanders here and it certainly added much to the importance of the occasion to have the "Umfundisi" on hand. Many of the people had never seen him before.

About 2:30 p. m. they were called to congregate on the mission acre for service and it was certainly comforting to see how quickly and respectfully the people gathered. Many heathen were present and when the service began nearly 400 people were seated to hear the gospel message.

Our hearts had been calling upon God for His blessing upon this first Christmas gathering at Altona M. S. and surely He did wonderfully answer.

There was not a discordant sound during the whole meeting which lasted at least an hour and a half. It was a beautiful and impressive service and every word spoken fell upon listening ears and, we trust, receptive hearts. Everyone was glad to hear Dr. Sanders speak, many of them for the first time and the Lord was surely with us in a specially beautiful way.

I wish, dear people, you could have heard Samuel's tender appeal as he lifted up Jesus to that audience. Samuel is wonderful—dead to the world and alive unto God—and he speaks as the Spirit gives utterance. His exhortation was given in the power of the Holy Spirit and went home to hearts. Joeli spoke in his usual earnest manner denouncing sin and the heathen customs which drag them down to destruction and God honored his message. He is well known in this place having travelled over these hills in his heathen days drinking and carousing with his fellow companions and his testimony is very effective.

Isaya revelled in the gracious opportunity afforded him that day and the unction of the Holy One rested upon this precious soldier of the Cross as he preached salvation through Jesus the Saviour to that company of people. His was a burning message and our hearts were full of joy and praise as we listened to the gracious words which fell from the anointed lips of these Zulu preachers. There were many people that day who told us "they had heard wonderful words," "words which were sweet" and all were impressed with the fact that we had a gracious meeting.

A heathen man said to me, we have heard a great matter today, he who finished (Isaya) spoke wonderful words, this is a big matter indeed and we have all heard today. Also we have been cared for nicely, a large hand has been over us, we have all eaten and are satisfied, we go away with great thanks." This heathen man was truly sincere in what he said, he felt that they had two feasts—the word of God and a temporal feast.

The next day a heathen man told me that he awoke in the night and thought of the words he had heard that day. We believe that the Holy Spirit will continue to carry on blessed results from that service and we do praise God for it all.

There was a generous amount of meat and stamp (specially prepared corn) and everyone was well served in the usual native style, a large dish full being placed before a company of individuals and it is remarkable how quickly that food is disposed of. Many of the Christians remained for a watch night service, it being the last day of the old year. This was also a good meeting, though many were tired from their long walks, they sang, prayed and testified and were very glad to be together in service at the closing of the year.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon on New Year's Day before the last native visitor left. Dr. Sanders returned to Hartland that day also. My

heart is still praising God for all the blessings of the Christmas season and we ask your prayers that this year we may see many souls brought to Jesus and believers sanctified. This is our prayer before Him who has said "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance."

Yours, so happy in Jesus in this dear land of Africa.

ALICE F. STERRITT

Hartland Mission Station,

Natal. January 16, 1929

Dear Homeland Friends:

You will rejoice with us that the Government of Natal has again given us a grant of \$250 for our medical work. This help enables us to dispense medicines free of charge to some needy cases, and also give them special food. This side of our mission work is steadily increasing, so that during the last half year the treatments have been 1000.

These cases, who receive medicine for the outer man, are ministered to for their spiritual needs; so that no branch of our work yields a richer harvest of souls won for Jesus than this medical.

"Preach the gospel and heal the sick," is still the Divine order for foreign missions, and receives the Divine blessing.

Yours in His glad service

H. C. SANDERS

INTERCESSION—OUR VITAL NEED

By Arthur Jennings Calhoon

We enter a field here, the greatest, broadest, most limitless expanse which ever confronted theologian or scholar. Truly the writer approaches the subject with a consciousness of his supreme inability. We invoke the special presence and anointing of the Divine Omnipotence in the person of the blessed Holy Ghost to rest upon us as we enter this most holy, and most sacred study.

It is an alarming fact, and one which should bring with it a keen sense of shame, that the church of Christ has fallen so far from grace that it has become necessary to prove the pressing need of vital intercession. The Evil One is crafty and cunning. He had succeeded in rocking the church to sleep in the cradle of self-complacency, spiritual laziness and ease; until from every side is coming the question, even from our most dependable church members—"Why the need of such labor in prayer?" The souls who give themselves to prayer, and on whom God can lay burdens, are severely criticized and censured. When God's man exhorts to such a life he is scorned, or entirely ignored. Is there any wonder then that the church is beginning to ask, "Is there such a thing as praying clear through?"

Such church members always wonder why we don't see the outpouring of the Holy Ghost in sweeping revivals. They are blinded by their own sin—yes, their sin of indifference and ease. "Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion." Give us the old-fashioned crying unto God in earnestness, the power of real prayer, genuine intercession, and we shall see old-fashioned results. Show us a church which has no scenes of soul burden, no soul travail, no sacrificing for the lost, no praying through, and we will show you a church which has no scenes of penitent souls crying out in their anguish for deliverance from sin. We will show you a church which knows no refreshings from the Lord, one which has become a veritable "valley of dry bones." Such conditions, whose existence every one of us must acknowledge, speak more eloquently than words can picture of the dire need, the urgent necessity of a deep-flow-