

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

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

Dear Highway Friends:

Once again I greet you and continue my reports of our work. Last Saturday George and I went to Alfred Matula's section, "Grootsproit," for the week-end. We had a very satisfactory time. The Lord blessed us with fine weather and a good attendance in our meetings. Sunday we had about eighty in our meeting, which was held in the open air, for the hut would not hold them. The Lord blessed in the message and the testimonies were generally victorious. The attendance was unusually good for an open air service.

There were eight children given to the Church and a number of seekers give promise of real seeking for deliverance from their sins. Alfred Matula's meeting was one of the finest native outpost meetings I have attended since coming here. It was marked by reverence and decorum which is uncommon for natives. The singing was good. Alfred led and he "gave out the lines," for few can read or have books. This giving out lines is an art few can master. Any one that has visited the Church of Scotland will understand giving out lines. The leader sings on until the last word, then reads quickly the next line and again leads the congregation. When this is done well, it is quite interesting. Alfred has the respect of the natives and Europeans as well.

Alfred has a large section of country which is unevangelized and we have arranged with his white man to have him freed from service on the farm in order that he can devote his entire time to the ministry. This we believe will enable him to reach many more, and also prepare the way for compound work.

Alfred must have a church and we have instructed him to build, with the assurance that we will help by providing doors and windows and any other necessary material for the building. The white man gave us land for building, giving us the choice of any part of his farm we desired, with the assurance that he was glad to have our church on his land, saying "he would send all his natives to Church." This man owns a very large tract of land, and upon the land near where our work is established, there is soon to open a coal mine and native compound of about four hundred. Our aim is to have Alfred free so that he can properly man the field now and get into the compound when it opens. With the friendly feeling that this land owner has towards our work we believe this will be possible and profitable. Pray for us in regard to this section of our work.

Monday we spent looking over the sight and getting general information of existing conditions. Tuesday we picked our church site and then went to another outpost for a meeting, calling the people together as we came to the kraal. We succeeded in getting eight for a meeting, all but one "raw heathen." After the meeting one old woman gave herself as a seeker. After a talk with this seeker we returned home.

This field is promising, but needs help, but owing to the fact that there are no large rivers to cross, we can visit it during the week soon. The farmer told us he will be glad to have us come often and will entertain us free of charge. In order that he should not cause dissatisfaction among the natives and white for Alfred's freedom he charges us six pounds a year for this freedom.

Who of you, my readers, wants to pay for his freedom and thus help this work? Six pounds a year is reasonable for he cannot get another to do his work for one pound a month.

Just a few words as to our methods. When we go to an outpost for the first time, before going we procure all the names of the church members and seekers; get all the information about each we can and have this written down below each name with space for any further information we may wish to write. Then each is named by the worker and a record taken of their testimony if one is a seeker, and his special difficulty we enquire about this and encourage them as much as we can. Our testimony is much like the Old Methodist class meeting and we believe a very important part of this work.

Getting all this information takes time, but I believe it is the only way to be in a position to help them. My wife spends hours in daily interviews with native workers and seekers, but we believe it is time well spent.

Now, dear folk, keep on praying for this work and for us that we may mean all that we should to these needy natives and whites as well. We get calls from the whites when sick and in trouble. These years of faithful work of Dr. and Mrs. Sanders, have broken down the wall of prejudice which these white folk had towards missionaries and missionary work, and now they look to us for help as they have been doing when the Doctor was here. The medical work is no small part of our work.

With Christian love,
D. M. MacDONALD

A DECAYING CHURCH

Some one tells a story of an artist who was once asked to paint a picture of a decaying church. To the astonishment of many, instead of putting on the canvas an old, tottering ruin, the artist painted a stately edifice of modern grandeur. Through the open portals could be seen the richly carved pulpit, the magnificent organ, and the beautiful stained glass windows.

Within the grand entrance was an offering plate of elaborate design for the offerings of fashionable worshippers. But—and there the artist's conception of a decaying church was made known—right above the offering plate, suspended from a nail in the wall there hung a square box, bearing the legend,

"For Foreign Missions"

but right over the slot through which contributions ought to have gone, he had painted a huge cobweb!

Dr. Josiah Strong, the noted Bible scholar, asks pertinently: "What are the churches for but to make missionaries? What is education for but to train them? What is commerce for but to carry them? What is money for but to send them? What is life itself for but to fulfill the purpose of foreign missions, enthroning Jesus Christ in the hearts of men?"

WHY DISTURB THE HEATHEN?

A foreign missionary writes to "The Christian Work:"

"Out here we come in contact with the other religions of the world: Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, and even Mohammedanism. Most of them are filled with good platitudes, and tell men what they ought to do to win merit for themselves, but they so pitifully

lack the power which will enable their devotees really to do the thing which they dictate should be done.

"And then, too, these false religions are so fearfully self-centred. That is the thing which has struck me so forcibly here—each man so eager to save his own soul and to win some merit for himself that he is selfishly ignorant and criminally careless of the welfare of his fellowmen; the coolies laboring and straining at their work, the streets filthy and unsanitary to a terrible degree, beggars in indescribable filth and disease roaming the streets, while in every city there is a wealthy class which considers itself too good to help by **stopping to assist in any way and too selfish to give anything of their wealth, much less of their time to improving the conditions of their cities.**

"The officials are so corrupt in most places that all they care for is to squeeze every cent they can out of their office before their sins are found out and they have to resign. All this is the result of their religion, or rather the lack of one live religion. And then you hear people at home sometimes says, 'Why disturb the heathen and try to get him to accept another religion? Isn't his own good enough for him?'

"I would like to have these people who say such things here with me for about one hour while I take them through some of our streets and show them what 'his own religion' has done for the Chinese; and then take them and show to them some of the results of Christian missions.

"There is no religion but Christianity; there is no God but the God of the Bible; there is no Saviour but Jesus Christ."

EVIL THOUGHTS

Every evil thought leaves its trace. When these become habitual, all loveliness dies out from the countenance, no matter how symmetrical the features. There are faces from which the pure and noble instinctively shrink, though the speech may be as fair as Mr. Flatterwell's.

Cultivate all that is good and noble in your heart, and your life will correspond with it. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he," and so are his looks.—SEL.

IF I BE LIFTED UP

"If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me." So spoke the lowly Nazarene. Jesus has placed Himself in the hands of His people. All about them the world is lying buried in the quagmire of sin. There is only one way to lift a darkened, blighted world from its sin. Jesus Christ is the Divine Magnet which can draw every soul from sin. But He must be lifted up by the hands of His people before He can lift up the world. Can we lift Him up with that which we do not need? Can we lift Him up by giving up a few pleasures of luxuries? Can we lift Him up by an occasional "big lift"? Jesus Christ will be lifted up and draw the heathen when He is exalted to the place of pre-eminence in our affections, in our thoughts, and in our life programs. When He is lifted to that place of pre-eminence, His program will receive first place in our time, our energy, and our money, and the heathen will be drawn unto Him.—C. H. Wiman, *Herald of Holiness*.

True revival work is hard work. It calls on a man for the exercise and investment of all his resources, body, mind and spirit.—*Herald of Holiness*.