

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland, M. S.
via Paulpietersburg,
Natal, South Africa.

Dear Homeland Friends:

We were asked to write an account of the quarterly meeting which was held here the first week of September, running over until Wednesday the 12th. This may seem a quarterly meeting of long duration but it was not too long for the good of the mission work and we believe that definite helpful results will follow.

Every native worker was present with the exception of Jesina Mshali, who is now living outside of Durban. Helen and I came on September 2nd. From the first day the dear Lord's blessing attended the meeting and a spirit of harmony prevailed.

Brother MacDonald gave a Bible reading every morning which was doctrinal, edifying and refreshing to our souls and a blessing to the native workers. We praise the Lord for Brother MacDonald's straight fearless preaching and for the blessing he has already been to the work. The Lord blesses his earnest messages through an interpreter, and is using him in the ministry of the Word. We appreciate him and for what God is helping him to accomplish as a new man on the mission field. It is a great strain many times in working among a new people with a strange language and customs, and he needs your prayers and ours.

In the business sessions which daily followed the Bible reading the dear Lord graciously led giving unity and we realized His presence in our midst. We have great reason to praise God for Paul's presence among us, and are thankful for such a wise young man in native church affairs. His experiences in Swaziland and Zululand have been of great benefit and both he and George have such a thorough knowledge of the Zulus and each his particular gifts and influence among them which makes them of great value to the work. We do praise the Lord for each one and also for these dear Zulu men and women who love God and desire to follow Jesus all the way. We believe they received new light which will call for greater courage and a more separate walk in the life of holiness. They are a loyal band and we believe they will never turn back from the truth of God for they love it. Remember them in prayer.

We feel that a definite forward step was taken all along the line during this quarterly meeting and our souls were refreshed and comforted in the fellowship we had together. Continue to pray for us that His whole will be done among us, and a gracious outpouring of the Spirit upon the church. Each afternoon a preaching service was held by a native worker or one of the missionaries, and another business meeting followed. The time was well taken up daily.

The service on Friday afternoon was especially gracious. Our hearts were melted with praise and gratitude to God as we listened to Aloni Mkanza relate in a most uplifting manner the dealings of God with his soul in translating him from the Kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God. It was a most refreshing hour and a spirit of praise came upon the service followed by a burden of prayer—All were conscious of the dear Holy Spirit's special presence. We praise Him.

The next quarterly meeting will be held the week before Christmas. Join us in prayer that it will be a very gracious time of blessing and salvation. The need is so great—many are walking in their own ways and rejecting the mercy of God. We need a visitation of God to put souls under great conviction, and we need to pray much.

You will see by the heading of this letter

that I am again at Hartland. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald having to go to Durban it was suggested that I stay here during their absence to help out. It seems quite natural to be here giving out medicines again and seeing familiar faces. I expect to return to Altona next week. We are having heavy rains and the Pongolo River is filling up. It promises to be a good rainy season which will be such a blessing to the natives. They depend on the summer rains for their yearly food.

George had an attack of acute indigestion a few nights ago and was greatly prostrated with weakness. We do thank the Lord that it ended favorably and he is now much better. Remember George in your prayers for he is carrying much responsibility and is not strong. The rest of us are well. Paul has a very dear little family.

I do praise the Lord for the privilege of being in Africa today in His precious will. May He bless you in the homeland. We are ever grateful for your prayers and loving support. It means so much to each of us in this far off land.

Yours in His happy service,
ALICE F. STERRITT

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING

Having a desire to help the people to an intelligent understanding on the above mentioned "Ministry of Healing," I have copied from an article in a prominent magazine on theology the following article on healing which appeals to me, on first reading, as it leads men and women to have faith in Christ, the Great Physician, who has power to heal soul and body and to make a perfect cure. One good result of the publicity given to healing movements is that Christian people are learning to distinguish between healing by mere auto-suggestion and healing by an opening of the whole personality to Divine influences.

There can be no doubt that healing by a process of auto-suggestion such as M. Coue advocates is fraught with danger just in proportion to its success. If often results either in the suppression of painful symptoms where these symptoms are a danger signal, and their suppression means that help is not sought and death often supervenes when least expected. Or the cure may be genuine and radical, but the effect upon the personality, the soul, is the fostering of egotism and sometimes of megalomania.

Over against this, Christian healing goes to the root of the matter and recognizes as the primary condition of a cure not the assertion of self but an attitude of penitence, trust and whole-hearted concurrence in the will of God.

It is significant that so well authenticated a healer as Dr. Pakenham-Walsh, Bishop or Assam, whose healing ministry is one of the most remarkable spiritual phenomena of the day, insists upon resignation as a condition of being cured.

In his experience a feverish grasp upon life and an unchecked assertion of the will to live so far from promoting a cure either prevent it entirely or make it a cure of the body only, with detrimental effects upon the personality. In every case in which he has cured people—and his cures extend to most serious organic diseases—it has been when they have ceased to count life a thing to be grasped at and quietly acquiesced, not in slavish submission, but in free and virile concurrence in the unknown will of God for them.

Among Christian healers, Mr. J. M. Hickson occupies a unique place. A loyal and devoted Anglican, he repudiates the cult of mere physical well-being. Mental healing, he contends, shows the power of mind over matter; Christian healing, on the other hand, reveals the power of the Spirit—and specifically the power of the Spirit

of Christ—over both mind and matter. Mr. Hickson does not want the people to think of him as one endowed with the gift of healing, for he has no power at all to heal the body. All he is prepared to do is to lay hands on the sick in the name of Christ and pray to Him to have mercy and help them, first in soul, and then in body. That may sound elementary to some, but the results of Mr. Hickson's healing missions, results which are claimed to have included restoring sight to the blind and healing of lepers, have given occasions for serious thought to some of the best minds in the church.

Mr. Hickson demands faith from his clients—but it is not faith in his power to heal, or belief in a certainty of a cure, but personal faith in Christ, faith which involves penitence—a genuine desire for the amendment of life and for freedom from all that is known to be sin.

His recent mission in Aberdeen bore testimony to a deep and widespread desire for such comprehensive Christian healing. Thousands came to the altar rails for the laying on of hands, and among the first to kneel there was the Bishop of Aberdeen and many of the leading clergy, both Anglican and Presbyterian.—George Chambers in *The Holiness Era*.

HOLINESS

Holiness is well defined by Mr. Wesley as "that habitual disposition of soul that directly implies the being cleansed from all sin; from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit and in consequence, the being endued with those virtues which were also in Christ Jesus, and being so renewed in the spirit of your mind as to be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

That is a wonderful state of grace, and is only brought about in the soul of the believer who has become so absorbed with God and so possessed with an utter loathing and abhorring of everything unlike God, that his entire inward being has become actuated with an unutterable longing to be made altogether like God, to be purged from everything not of His right hand planting and filled with the fullness of His wonderful love, and Spirit.

The word says, speaking of Jehovah, "He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness," and again, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Dr. Adam Clark, speaking on that wonderful verse in the third of Ephesians, says, "To be filled with God is a great thing; to be filled with the fullness of God utterly bewilders the sense, and confounds the understanding." Such experiences can only be known by revelation.

God purges the heart from all the remains of self and sin as soon as the believer, realizing his need of this, goes to God with all his heart in faith for this blessed transformation. Do you feel an inward yearning to be made altogether like Jesus? Does your whole soul want God in his fullness above everything else? Do you want to be entirely dead to all of self and sin and entirely devoted and consecrated to the services of Jehovah? Then be assured that every such desire has been implanted in your heart by God, for the very purpose that God may be glorified in perfectly satisfying all that inward longing.

He will purge you from all unrighteousness, and fill you to overflowing with His perfect love, and so flood your whole soul with all the fullness of God that the normal state of your heart and life will be "Holiness unto the Lord." May the Blessed Spirit lead you into the blessed experience for His glory.—S. J. Shields in *Holiness Era*.