

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Concord, 95 Windermere Rd.,  
Durban, Jan. 6th, 1930.

Dear Homeland Friends: When we met for the Quarterly Meeting at Hartland the week of December 16, missionaries and native workers were of one mind that Samuel Mavimbelo should come to Durban to Dr. McCord's native hospital. Brother MacDonald had been treating him for three months, but it was very evident that medical treatment, though relieving pain, could not effect a cure, and his foot was in such a condition, amputation seemed necessary. In answer to prayer his condition improved sufficiently to wait until after Quarterly Meetings and the Christian services at Hartland and Altona.

It was decided that I should accompany him, and as George is greatly in need of a rest and change, he has come to Durban also at this time. We were fortunate to secure tickets at reduced rates at this season.

Helen will write of the Christmas services at Altona. Brother MacDonald and Paul were with us from Saturday until Tuesday, December 31, leaving then for Bucu's for another Christmas service and feast, while I left early that same morning, riding first to Hartland, where a motor car took us at noon to Paulpietersburg. Samuel was running a high temperature and it seemed quite an undertaking, but the dear Lord had so definitely led and we were assured that we were in His will as we started forth. Even with the aid of stimulants he was greatly prostrated on the train, but the cry of our heart was heard and answered by the dear Father above, and He wonderfully undertook for him. After a time I could see a decided improvement, and how my heart did praise the dear Lord for answered prayer.

Jesima and her husband were returning to Durban from the Quarterly Meeting, which was another favor of the Lord, for her husband could remain with Samuel during the night. The guard was very kind and allowed me to place them in a private compartment, which was truly a boon to Samuel and a great comfort to my heart. How good the Lord is to His children!

By noon next day (New Year's Day) he was safely admitted to the hospital, which is certainly a fine institution for the poor natives. I shall write more of it later. Samuel is very happy and contented there. I visit him frequently and it blesses my soul to see his peaceful, trusting countenance. He is being prepared for the operation, which will be next week. Dr. McCord's assistant is returning on Sunday from his furlough in America. We are praying that God will bring our dear faithful Samuel safely through this ordeal and will be so glad when it is over.

Durban is indeed beautiful and we are enjoying the change. George is looking better and I hope the salt water and ocean breezes will greatly benefit him. I wish my sister could be here, too, but it could not be, so we are content in His will. I know she is happy at home in her work for Him.

Now I shall give a rather brief account of the Quarterly Meeting which we were privileged to attend at Hartland. It was a good meeting, and I think every native worker was present. I believe Sister MacDonald has written about some of the outstanding events of those days, which I know will interest you.

We do praise the Lord for every step taken in the name of Jesus against the powers of darkness in Africa. The devil does not like it, but we do know that God does, so we are of good courage and trusting Jesus to bring victory out of conflict. The Lord of Hosts is with us and

is leading us on, and we praise Him for some advance steps on holiness lines which will make our natives stronger and better Christians.

The Bible readings given by Brother MacDonald at 10 o'clock every morning were helpful. The dear native workers are truly a loyal band, and they do want to live up to God's Word, for they love the truth. It often brings the tears to my eyes when I see the devotion of these dear souls, and they do desire to be faithful to Him who had called them out of darkness into His marvellous Light. Faith has told you of dear Johane Kunene, whose face shines with the love of God. He is really beautiful to me, and each dear black face has its own special mark of beauty by the Spirit of God who dwells within the heart, which makes them lovely in our sight. Often times, dear friends, I wish that you could see these precious Zulus to whom God has called us.

After the Bible reading a business meeting was held each morning, and on some days business sessions were held after the preaching service in the afternoon. The days were very full and busy, but the grace of God was present in our hearts and in our midst, clearing the way before us, and we believe His will was done.

The candidates for baptism gave definite testimonies of salvation. I think there were eight. Among them was the little girl of whom I wrote you several years ago, an orphan child who came to live with us a heathen, but who desired to be a Christian. When we asked her what it meant to be a Christian she replied, "It means to give up lying and stealing and everything that is bad," and she gave herself to the Lord. She is a remarkably bright girl and we did rejoice to see how she had now become confidently happy in Jesus and desired baptism. She had spent a long time of service in her landlord's employ, and we had not seen her for several years. She lives in Aloni's section and has grown spiritually under his ministry, and her heart had been drawn to the Lord, especially by the trial she had experienced in her long term of service away from home.

Another dear soul told of a long widowhood, her husband had died during the English-Boer war when she was still young. She had never married again, but has become a happy Christian during recent years. We do thank the Lord for each converted soul.

I greatly praise the Lord for the Quarterly Meeting of December, 1929. It was a very precious time to my own soul, for Jesus sweetly manifested Himself to my heart. We do pray for a grand new year by the power of His Holy Spirit within us and among us. May it be the best year of our lives in His service.

When Jesina was preaching from John 15, the day before Christmas, I received my promise for the new year: "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you"—John 15:7. The Holy Spirit applied those words to my heart in a very special and blessed way. "Abiding," then "asking" and "receiving what we ask for," and it depends on the little word "if." In obedience to these precious words we can expect a spiritual awakening and times of refreshing from the presence of God; we can ask for many precious souls and believe for them.

On Sunday we had a truly blessed day. The morning service was one of power and blessing. Bro. MacDonald spoke from Acts 17:22-32, the Holy Spirit applying the truth to the hearts of all present. There were some grand testimonies and Paul brought a fitting message also from the same lesson in closing. The baptismal

service followed, and in the afternoon George spoke from Numbers 22, which was a very timely message. God's presence was sweetly felt in each service, and we praise the dear Lord.

The meetings closed on Wednesday, December 25, with a Christmas service and feast. As usual it was held out-of-doors, owing to the extra large crowd, and there was good attention. After the service Brother MacDonald distributed match boxes, each person receiving as they passed in single file. I think 500 were given.

The feast was in Paul's charge, and it was well looked after, the natives carrying out his instructions promptly and cheerfully, and it was certainly a fine native feast. There were many goats and an ox was bought with the money donated by the people, so there was a generous amount of food and it was well distributed and greatly enjoyed, without confusion or discord.

Brother MacDonald had his first sight of native feasting and will probably tell you how it impressed him. It is certainly interesting to see how quickly the food is disposed of.

We were so grateful to the dear Lord for cool weather, and all His goodness and love during the Christmas season. Though weary in body we were glad in heart, and we praise God for Jesus the Saviour of the world who is so precious to our hearts.

Helen had to return to Altona the day before Christmas to begin preparation for the Big Sunday services and feast on Monday, while I remained at Hartland until it was fully decided about the date of going to Durban with Samuel. I was able to return on Friday and be home for the Christmas services at Altona, for which I was very grateful to Him who doeth all things well.

And now I will close. The rain is pouring down and it is beautifully cool after a very hot day. We are comfortably situated in the missionary home. There were twenty-five present in the dining room tonight and nine had to find accommodations elsewhere. It is a busy season at the Home, so many schools are closed, and the missionaries are here for a rest and change. This Home is truly a great blessing to all missionaries.

I will write again after Samuel's operation.

Yours, happy in His service,  
ALICE F. STERRITT

P. O. Hartland M. S.,  
Via Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, South Africa

Dear Faraway Friends:

I expect you will be wondering what kind of a Christmas we had here, so I will try to tell you about it.

Christmas Eve was a little cloudy, and we wondered if it would be a rainy day for our visitors, but the Lord granted us a lovely day. Word had been given out that the women were to bring their pots to cook the food in, so early Christmas morning, about five o'clock, pots began to arrive, also flocks of goats. An ox had been killed the day before, and this was soon in the process of being cut up and put in the pots. Eleven goats were killed and a quantity of corn was crushed and put on to cook. Three men and some women helped us splendidly, and the work went on smoothly. By now people were coming from all directions, and when a good number had arrived, we assembled under the shade of the gum-trees and had a lovely meeting. The attention was very good, and the message beautiful. After the service, Mr. McDonald gave each one a box of matches. A fellow worker gave him a splendid suggestion, whereby the people all filed past and it was easy to keep them from coming the second time. To these