

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,
P. O. Berbice,
via Piet Retief,
Transvaal, So. A.

Dear Homeland Friends:

It has been some time since I have written. We are well and looking unto Jesus and He is answering prayer.

Recently I rode to Badaza, one of the distant outposts, for a Sunday service. The Lord gave a very specially lovely day for riding, for which I did praise Him from a very grateful heart. As one of us need to be here for service, our native boy rode with me. We left home early, riding on the main road for seven or eight miles, then followed a footpath over the hills toward Swaziland. The place is called Badaza, from the name of the river flowing through that section of country, but the church is built on Berbice, the post office farm where our post comes. It is just on the border of Swaziland and a truly beautiful place, and the ride was through very lovely country. How my heart did praise the dear Lord as we rode along. I was very conscious that He was with us.

It was 12 o'clock when we reached the home of Mr. Kuhn, the German storekeeper and postmaster. He and his kind wife made me feel very welcome, and I was refreshed with lunch and ready for the service at one o'clock.

Tulina Dhlamini, who has service there alternately with Isaya, had arrived—the congregation was not large but we had a profitable service. One young man from a distant place was present and desires to become a seeker in this church. Another young man asked for prayer that he might humble himself before the Lord, having seen that he has not the Spirit of Christ and can never be saved until he is willing to become like a child before the Lord. He has been a very important man in his own sight and the Lord has been talking to his heart about it.

The old man who was baptized Christmas gave a very definite, happy testimony, and his face was beaming.

Tulina is a truly sanctified soul and gave a beautiful unctious exhortation which was truly a blessing to many hearts. She is such a precious child of God and a great help in the work.

Some of the others have not yet come into a real definite experience—we pray that they may soon.

It was four o'clock when the meeting was closed and too late to return to Altona. I had expected to remain all night for it is too long a ride for one day. I was very kindly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn for the night and told that we would be welcome to stay there any time. We appreciate this very much. We have promised the people to spend several days in special services among the kraals when their reaping is finished, and they are very pleased at the prospect. Please pray for the little band there and for the meetings we expect to have in that section. Tulina reported this week that several more have expressed a desire to become Christians who live on the Swaziland side. We do look forward to this winter for it is the golden opportunity for extensive kraal visiting. Remember us in prayer, dear friends.

The Lord has been specially talking to Isaya's heart and we praise the Lord so much that Zulus can hear and recognize the voice

of God even as we do, and we can have fellowship with these precious black people.

We are expecting to have an all day meeting on good Friday, and are looking to the Lord for His blessing.

You will hear from Hartland the sad news of Joeli Mahlaba's death. This is indeed a real sorrow to our hearts and we can hardly realize that he is really gone from earth. We have ever welcomed and looked eagerly for his coming to his outpost over here and we feel a great vacancy and loss, but the dear Lord's ways are not our ways, and we pray that his passing away will mean the salvation of some souls, for his death is very keenly felt. There are many truly sorrowing hearts. He was born and grew up at Emozane and was widely known here.

Isaya went to his outpost with the sad news Sunday, and Helen went to the home of his sick brother at Emozane and had service there. There was a good congregation here and many genuine tears were shed and testimonies given which showed the respect and love of the people for this Christian man. We praise the Lord for his victory in the hour of death and truly sympathize with his sorrowing widow and five little girls who will so sadly miss a loving husband and father.

We do pray that the Lord will raise up more workers for the needy harvest field.

Joeli was here for the last time on Big Sunday and expected to come back in a few days again, but his work on earth is finished and we shall see him no more.

I am translating the words of the beautiful Zulu hymn which he chose for the closing of his last service with us on that Sunday.

"Behold Jerusalem the shining city!
I cannot tell the beauty which is over there.
It does not yet appear; it surpasses all else,
That city is sweet—the Lord is there.
The song of rejoicing is heard

And many saints are praising over there.
They testify of Jesus—of His blood and death.
It is He who has built and He also is there.
Those who are troubled, rest
And are healed by the Lord over there.
He prepares a feast for them—they are robed

in white—
They sing always, saying "The Lord be
praised."

The chosen ones in that band above
Stay with rejoicing, saying—"This is home."
We, too, desire that home of the saints.
May we be with you there, our Father and
Lord."

Joeli Mahlaba is now with that happy throng in the New Jerusalem.

Yours in Jesus,

ALICE F. STERRITT

Dear Highway Friends:

Once again I greet you in the name of our precious Lord and Master whose I am and whom I love. We want to thank God for His wonderful love and keeping power which has been ours during these years. More especially would I thank him for the year which has just closed of our African life. Many new and trying experiences have been ours during the year but the Lord has safely kept us all along the way and we are glad to be here in His will.

There have been many new difficulties coming up from time to time which required all the grace and grit one could muster to keep from shrinking when the conflict was the hottest. There have been times in the past year when the only thing that could give courage

was the definiteness with which the Lord showed me He had called me for such an honor as this and that He would go before me. How oft He has brought the high place down and given light when the earthly wisdom failed us.

I have had many things to praise God for, but the one who has meant most to me, and also to the work was my wife. She has had to be ears and mouth to me. Few missionaries, if any, have been so blessed when coming to a new land for my wife not only knows the language perfectly, but has been in the work as her father's assistant for more than fifteen years, and knows the work and the people, and is known and loved by them all.

Many are not aware of the responsibility which rests on the "only ordained" man in such a work as ours, and few know how I endeavoured to have other ordained men with me in the work. When I was left alone (and a new comer) the Lord assured me He would be with me and strengthen my hands, and I praise Him for what He has meant to me during the year. We praise God for all that has been accomplished during the year and trust He will continue to bless the work during the coming years.

I want to thank God for my predecessors, Dr. Sanders and family, and Rev. and Mr. Kierstead. The work here is the best testimony of their worth and only the ones that follow up what they have been doing can have a true estimate of their worth. Daily I have had cause to thank God for their work, when we call to remembrance the fact that this was a new territory, untouched by the gospel, when the Sanders came, and out of this material under God they have hewn our church. True it is not ideal yet, but are any of our American ideal? They have laid the foundation for a fine church and have gathered in many of the finest Christians out of the mass of dark men. We have much to thank God for. Eternity alone will reveal what they and you have done, for without your loyalty and constant aid this would have been impossible.

We have gathered in from their labors and our constant prayer is Lord help us to build so that others coming after us may find fruit if we are not permitted to see it all. We thank God for a fruitful year here, but trust what has been done will make it easier for more the coming years.

Friends, we find it requires the same death route in Africa that it does in America if we are to be where God can bless us. We are so glad we died out to friends and loved ones for Christ's sake and intend to "mind the same rule." Friends, let us keep true; have no alliance with the world or with cooled off church members. Keep true; it won't be long—"it may be soon" when we shuffle off this robe of clay and then receive according to the deeds done in the body and recorded in the Book.

Over a year has gone since we started here. We do not know what change will take place in the next year, but we do know that all things work together for good to those that are called according to His purpose, or in other words, are in His will. We purpose to keep in "Divine Order," come what may. We have sweet peace in our souls assured of victory through the blood. Then come loss or gain we shall not be moved. We want to testify once again to the glory of God.

His blood cleanseth from all sin. The Holy Ghost abides and we are happy in His sweet