

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona, Berbice, P. O.
Via Piet Retief, Transvaal,
August 7, 1930.

Dear Highway Friends:

Just a few lines to let you know, how we are getting along. We are having an extra cold, long winter. The High Veldt farmers are down again with their sheep and families for the winter months. The white man's farm adjoining Altona is completely destitute as far as natives are concerned. Trouble arose months ago between them and their white man, the natives reporting the white man to the court. After a long trial both parties were proved guilty. The result is thirty Kraals have left his farm, and are seeking another place to live. The natives on this farm and other places are giving the refugees shelter. Their food and lodgings have been brought by wagons, and by native women on their heads, they could be seen day after day coming in numbers down the road with their burdens on their heads, it was really touching to see them so homeless. All the homes around here are filled with these people while they are waiting for a chance to move elsewhere; it is unusual to see so many natives leave a farm at once. However they are taking life easy and are not crying over their lot.

Among these people there are only about seven which belong to our church. Many of the others are heathens and others belong to other churches.

We are having an extra busy winter as there is a lot of superintending to be done in connection with the new church building. The bricks are all made and dried and have been brought in wagons to the mission acre. The stones for foundation have also been brought. The white man is now here building, he has learned his trade, so we know the building will be done properly; for this we are very glad.

We had a special meeting called for the natives to contribute towards the expenses of the church. They raised five pounds. It was real touching to see some of the old women who are not yet baptized, come up to the table with their half crowns. May the Lord bless these dear old women. Pray for them.

I am much encouraged in the Kraal visiting this winter, as I go to the heathen homes I find hearts real tender, that two years ago were so hard. I praise the Lord for this so much, surely it takes time to awaken the hearts of these people. At first their hearts seem so dense, but nothing is too hard for Him for which we praise Him.

Beloved continue to pray for us and the work here in South Africa.

Yours ever glad to be here,
HELEN M. STERRITT.

A LETTER FROM AFRICA

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

Some time ago Mrs. Daniel McDonald (then Miss Faith Sanders) held a successful revival meeting in the First Evangelical Church of Lowell. The first of this year the pastor, Rev. E. Wayne Stahl, asked her to write a letter to his congregation, which he could read from the pulpit. She sent the following message. So helpful is it that it has been thought that readers of the King's Highway would like to read her beautiful counsels:

In waiting on the Lord he reminds me of a

lesson which is brought home to my own heart recently. You will find the scripture in Eph. 4:1-16. (The remainder of the chapter is the practical application). The key words are found in verse 7. "The measure of the gift of Christ" (see John 1:16.)

1. Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Verse 8-10 tell when and how Christ procured this gift for us. Verse 11 gives a catalogue of the positions for which these gifts fit us. Verses 11 and 12 tell of His purpose in bestowing these gifts. Verse 16 describes the way this purpose works.

Friends, there is a truth here which comes home to my heart with a power that solemnizes me. Christ, through His death and resurrection has purchased for me a special "measure of the gift of Christ". Each of us, no matter how small or young or inexperienced, have a special gift, without which the church cannot fully prosper. These gifts Christ bestows not just for our personal edification, but "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Each of us have a special part in this work which no one else can do. See how wonderfully He brings this out in verse 16. Christ the head—"from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth according to the effectual working in the measure of every part maketh increase of the body into the edifying of itself in love. Notice "By that which every joint supplieth". Also "In the measure of every part." Think of some person you have seen with some limb or organ not "effectually working," how handicapped they are (and many die.) Think now: how is the joint which is I in the body of Christ, how is that working? Is it supplying what He intends it to supply? Is it working effectually in its "measure"? Is it making increase of the body into the edifying of itself in love? Is my presence in my church causing it to be more "fitly joined together and compacted by that which (I) supply?" Am I an asset or a liability to this part of the body of Christ? If I am failing to function or only partly functioning the body of Christ suffers. Can I then be free from blood guiltiness? I tell you friends, none of us are too small or too unimportant to count in here seriously. If we have been born into His family we are a part of His body. Eph. 5:30. "For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones." Our failure causes suffering to Him we love. We simply can't afford to fail, or to weaken and be only half efficient. We must be 100 per cent active and healthy, spiritually if we are not to grieve and pain Him.

This is one of the great reasons why we cannot afford to struggle along with carnality in our hearts. If we are born again we do not commit sin. We may have some awful struggles with this inward corruption but as His justified children we do have victory. But praise His holy name He has made provision whereby "the old man" of sin may be "put off" (verse 22), and we may "put on" "the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Only when our heart has thus been cleansed from carnal corruption can we hope for "effectual working of that which every joint supplieth." Even then we need to be on the watch and keep close to Him and responsive to His voice or at times we will fail to function.

If we allow tests and trials and burdens to weigh us down till we are so busy with our own sorrows and battles we cannot hear the sigh of

our own heartsick brother beside us, or so busy clinging to the rock with both hands we have no helping hand to extend to another, perhaps even worse buffeted than we are—we are not effectually working." 1 Cor. 10:13. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which ye are able but will with the temptation, make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it."

I can give this testimony from my own heart. There is a place in the experience of Holiness where though we may be in "heaviness through manifold temptations" yet our victory be so constant and complete that the joy unspeakable and full of glory remains untouched and the peace which passeth understanding continually garrisons our hearts. I thank God that we can continue to function though pressed down by home cares, and the burden of His work, and physical infirmities and constant pain—just be carried on in perfect peace and moment by moment victory just where the fight is thickest. Praise God He has constant victory for us, and maketh us "more than conquerors through Him that loved us". Rom. 8:37. We can have the shine and the glory right in the thick of the fight.

God grant to give each one of us a vision of the measure of the gift of Christ "bestowed upon us, a vision of what He purposes we should be to "His body the church" and a determination by His Grace that "this joint anyway is going to function properly." Then we shall see the church increased and built up in love, and as individuals as well as a unit, attain unto "a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (verse 13).

Dear friends, it is the prayer of my heart that He grant you this and the peace and joy that goes with it. May I ask a very special interest in your prayers for the next few months? We are facing a great need and a great opportunity and believe God waits to send a sweeping revival to this field at this time.

Trusting to meet you before His throne and that not empty-handed, with love to you all,
Yours for blood washed souls from Africa's night.

FAITH MacDONALD.

THE NATURE OF HOLINESS

I would have you attend to the full significance and extent of the term "holy." It is not abstinence from outward deeds of profligacy alone; it is not a mere recoil from impurity in thought. It is that quick and sensitive delicacy to which even the very conception of evil is offensive. It is a virtue which has its residence within; which takes guardianship of the heart, as of a citadel or inviolate sanctuary, in which no wrong or worthless imagination is permitted to dwell. It is not purity of action that we contend for. It is exalted purity of heart, the ethereal purity of the third heaven; and, if it is at once settled in the heart, it brings the peace, the triumph, and the untroubled serenity of heaven along with it. I had almost said, the pride of a great moral victory over the infirmities of an earthly and accursed nature. There is a healthful harmony in the soul—a beauty which, though it effloresces in the countenance and the outward path, is itself so thoroughly internal as to make purity of heart the most distinctive evidence of a work of grace in time, the most distinctive guidance of a character that is ripening and expanding for the glories of eternity.—Chalmers. *The Wesleyan Methodist.*