

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S., Natal, So. Africa,
March, 28, 1931.

Dear Friend:

We are in the midst of a great revival here in South Africa and are trusting God for greater things. The meeting which started at Hartland January 24th, continued daily for about five weeks at the Mission Station then moved out to several of the nearest outposts. Everywhere the meetings have been marked with deep conviction and almost all meetings saw souls praying through. Even where special meetings were not held the reports of the regular meetings have been good.

The Big Sunday here was one of the best I have seen since coming to Africa, also the one last week at Altona. We have had larger crowds here and at Altona on one or two occasions but never had a more earnest and interested crowd for the entire day, then we had on the last two big Sundays. The interest is growing in every out station, we believe, and we trust to be able to put special meetings on in most of the out stations if not all during this winter D. V.

We do not measure our success by the numbers that attend any given service or altar call, but by the numbers who really pray through and give evidence of deliverance, yet we are glad for large crowds and altars lined with seekers. We have abundant evidence of God's wonder working power in the hearts and lives of these natives. Only today a man who had left us when Josefa split off, (and later backslid) stated in his testimony how God had been convicting him until he was afraid to come into the church, afraid God would strike him dead. Today he is rejoicing in God again for He has healed all his back-sliding and given him the witness that he is ready for Heaven. Both he and his wife have come back to God during this revival and are returning to our church again having had enough of following a teacher who is himself a backslider and leading others away from God rather than to Him.

Conviction is necessary before you see any true repentance and restitution such as we have been witnessing during the last few months. We have had some who had to make restitution to their own heathen relatives.

Some who had much to forsake but were so deeply convicted that they were willing to pay the price and go through at any cost just as any truly penitent, white or black, must do if God is going to hear their cry.

The meetings in the Altona section are well attended and the workers there give good reports. I trust the Sterritt sisters will write about Big Sunday there, so I will not say more regarding the work only to ask you to continue to pray for us all that God will enable us to reach the most possible in this season with this glorious gospel. We are praying for the work in the home land and are expecting to hear good reports in the Highway from the special meetings now being held in the various sections of the Home base.

Yours with Christian love,

D. M. MacDONALD

Altona, M. S., P. O. Berbice,
via Piet Retief, Transvaal, So. Africa.
April, 8th, 1931.

Dear Homeland Friends:

We have had ten days Easter holidays and today all the children returned bright and happy. They certainly do enjoy school life and there is

a very happy spirit in their work and we do thank God for the good teacher He has provided.

Befa Kunene's little hunback daughter from Natal is staying with us to attend school this term, and she is like a little ray of sunshine, such a sweet spirit and so happy all the day long. She has never stayed away from her parents before, so it is a new era in her little life to mingle with strangers, and she is thoroughly enjoying the change and we are so glad to have her. She is studying with the Standard I children and doing very nicely for she is a very clever little girl.

On Good Friday we had a special meeting which was very helpful and uplifting to all our souls. About 70 were present and we had a good altar service at the close of the meeting. On Sunday the Lord gave special blessing—a smaller congregation, for only the Altona people were present. Two heathen men were here and one wants to become a Christian. We do praise the Lord for answering prayer on behalf of the heathen men.

At Klip Vaal Helen had a gracious service and a heathen young man who has attended services there for a long time, gave himself to the Lord. She is going back on Friday for another service.

On "Big" Sunday we had a full house and a very fine service—one heathen man gave himself to the Lord and another dear old heathen man who lives not far from us came forward to be prayed for, and the old heathen doctor who lives just across the fields from us attended the meeting also. Two old men at Klip Vaal have recently given themselves also to the Lord. This does so encourage our hearts for we began special prayer a few months ago for the heathen men in this vicinity—it is so sad to see how few Christian men there are.

Several of the Native Workers (women) from Hartland came over when Mr. MacDonald came for "Big" Sunday and on Monday we went to Klip Vaal where Mr. MacDonald administered baptism to a woman who has greatly desired to become a church member, but she was too weak to come here being well advanced in consumption. She gives a beautiful testimony and was so grateful to have this special service and we are so glad also, for that very week her people came to take her to her father's home which is quite distant and she will be cared for by them now.

About 35 people were present at the meeting there and all appreciated it very much.

The women remained for another day and we had a very convicting meeting at the home of our little boy who stayed with us last year. There are so many hard hearts in that section but two old women are earnest seekers there, one dear soul will be ready for baptism at our next Communion service. Her dear old face is so changed and tender, after the service she said: "I am so glad that this is my church I do love it." The heathen father says he is going to let his little boy come back and attend school soon—so we are very glad. Yesterday he sent him back to stay a few days to have his ear treated and he is so delighted to be here. He is certainly a lovely child and the cry of our heart is that he shall grow in the knowledge of Jesus. He lives among a crowd of children who are growing up in heathendom, so his surroundings are not helpful. His father is very kind but a real heathen.

Two of our church members have been bereft of babies this week and Isaya has gone to have prayers at their homes today. The father of one baby is in Johannesburg and we do feel

for him for he was so delighted when this baby came—the only child they have. The parents are not very spiritual so we do pray that this sorrow will soften their hearts.

On Monday we went to the Emozane section where about 25 meet for the meeting. Talida Nzima, a dear sanctified woman and so zealous for souls, lives there and shines for Jesus. She was appointed publicly on Big Sunday as a helper in the work and please remember her in prayer that the Lord may give her many souls. We had a really very helpful service and two asked for special prayer. There are a number of young girls in that section and Talida is doing a good work among them, and their hearts were greatly touched in the service Monday. One woman desires to be baptized and her face is shining.

Six were baptized on last Big Sunday here. Two of these have been waiting sometime for baptism and one of the two had been very sick. She told us how sorry she felt for her husband when she was lying seemingly at the point of death, and as she committed all into the Lord's hands for His will to be done He touched her body and greatly blest her soul and she began to recover. She was sanctified last winter when they were driven from the farm adjoining Altona. It was a great trial to her and she went to prayer, giving herself unreservedly to Jesus, committing her whole life unto Him and He graciously met her hungry heart. Her face is beautiful.

And now I must close. This is one side of life in Africa and it blesses and comforts our souls. We know you will thank God and continue to pray for us and for souls here. There are other very amusing experiences and others that sadden our hearts until they ache but "thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory", and we are happy in the love of Jesus. Praise His Name!

Yours in His will,

ALICE F. STERRITT

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

April 6th, 1931.

Dear Friends:

Some of you may remember when I was home I told you of a poor blind man here in Africa. With some of our Native Christians I had a meeting at the home of two of our converts. After our service as we left the Kraal I looked across a little valley and saw a heathen man sitting on a big stone in his yard. I asked the folk why he had not come to the meeting and their answer was, "Because he is blind." So I rode over to see him. After greeting which was returned rather coldly for a Zulu, I began to tell him about Jesus, and Heaven and God's love. "God does not love me—no God does not love me," he kept repeating, in spite of my pleading and telling of God sending His only Son, still he repeated "God does not love a thing like me." We sang and read and prayed without welcome, invitation or thanks. Another day I came again, and this time he welcomed us and invited us into his hut and spread mats for us, seemed real interested and thanked us for coming and told us to be sure and come again. I pleaded with the nearby Christians—who seemed earnest and interested—to go often and pray with him. A few days after that visit my health broke, and later I went home. Six years passed before I heard of my poor old blind man again.

On Sunday, Jan. 25th, when the demoniacs