

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
Paulpietersburg,
Natal, So. Africa,
Aug. 22nd, 1931

Dear Friends:

We may well say with Paul, I. Cor. 16:9: "A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." We find it so here. Thank God for that "door which no man can shut."

There are three very encouraging incidents which I am sure you would like to hear.

Rebeka Lukele, a woman over in Filita's section, has for years "had a name" that she was alive, but in reality been "dead" to spirituality. She went so far as to become a demon doctor and wear the demon paraphernalia over her Christian dress. In this year's revival she has returned wholly to the Lord. A few weeks ago she called for the Christians to come for a very special service in her heathen home where the whole devil outfit was burned.

She is much concerned regarding the condition of her unsaved neighbors and loved ones, saying: "What shall I say when I come before God, he asks me about them, and I have to report them still unsaved after all these years? Can I deny that my life has kept them back?" She is rejoicing that her children have all started to seek the Lord and is always on hand to go with Peter Shelemba's wife, Elizabeth, to pray with the sick. God is certainly undertaking for that section of the field. Within the year the usual congregations have doubled and the interest is increasing. Peter is doing good work.

Gustav Mtambo, a young heathen whose hard heathen father is unusually strong in his opposition to Christianity, worked here at the Mission Station for five months. He has been a keen and interested listener at evening prayers, meeting and Sunday school, and in Mr. Purvis' evening school for the boys. Recently he has been to the altar several times. He left suddenly, a month earlier than he had expected, but when saying good-bye, said very plainly that he has made his choice, and his father cannot prevent him from following Jesus. He is an exceptionally nice boy, with real character, and we are earnestly praying that he may be kept true in his distant heathen home. He promised to come back to the services occasionally in spite of being so far away.

Johanisi Mhlanga came from a three weeks visit to his distant outpost at Moleman's Sid-ling, bringing us some very good news. From his pocket he drew a little slip of paper on which was written:

"This is to certify that I have no objection that the Reformed Baptist denomination of Canada builds a church on my farm, 'Mar-riannal.' C. H. F. Kohrs., P. O. Wittenberg Dist., Pietretief., and told the following story:

"When I was up there some months ago I passed this white man, who was building a stone wall with his natives. He called me to him and earnestly requested that I come and preach to his people and teach them not to drink beer and not to steal sheep. The man is a German and has a farm so big it would easily make two big farms. He has many natives living on his farm. The majority are heathen. He now says he wants us to come and build a church and start a work there, in this way to show them that he wants them there. They can still give George Sang-

"Not just a little church, big as a sparrow's nest, but a real house of God." He says for us to hurry and build it now and he will furnish the timber for the roof, as he is chopping his wattle grove. If we delay the timber will be gone." The only church which has a work near this place is the Lutheran church. I asked Johanisi why this German wants our church instead of his own to build on his farm.

"He says his people are always drinking beer and that makes them meat hungry and they steal his sheep. When he urges them to leave beer they say they need a missionary who will teach them to give it up. He promised them he would find such a one, and that is why he is urging us to come and work on his farm.

"He also urges me to come and live on his farm and teach the people every day and start a school.

"Later he sent me a nice fat sheep leg, saying he knew my host was not at home and there would be no meat for me.

Paulina Maseko, you will remember, started the work at Mbucu's. She is married now to a fine young man, Philip Lukele. They are continuing the Mbucu work, and for about a year had been living here on the mission station. Paulina and her baby had one sick spell after another till she almost despaired of poor little Charlie's life. At last they decided that for their health's sake they would have to live somewhere else. Philip has a married sister living in Moleman district who has long been urging him to come and live with them, and Paulina with Charlie are staying there now. Philip and Paulina tried first to get a place at Mbucu's, but no white man would accept rent—all demanding service from them both, and this would tie them down too much for the Lord's work.

We are wondering if perhaps the Lord saw this needy place at Moleman and is taking the help he needs at Mbucu's, and be right on hand to open up this new work. Johanisi is quite happy at that prospect for he is living here now and not especially anxious to move. We feel he needs the training he is getting here now and Paulina is far better fitted for the other post.

Our two schools, Hartland and Mbucu's have made a good start, and are doing good work. George Sangweni was here yesterday and is quite enthusiastic.

Dear ones, join us in prayer for these openings that God may lead on and many souls be saved, and the necessary finances be provided for these new needs.

Yours, longing to see more Zulus find the complete deliverance of full salvation.

FAITH MacDONALD

ONLY THE POWER THAT CREATED CHRISTIANITY WILL PRESERVE IT.

In vain have unsaved scholars and historians attempted to give a satisfactory explanation for the success of Christianity in saving the Roman Empire from destruction. There is no accounting on natural principles for that great movement which originated by the humble life and disgraceful death of a humble peasant of the despised Jewish nation. There is no human explanation of the rapid progress and great increase of its numbers in a few years. There has been nothing like it in the history of the human race.

The dying declaration of the great Founder of Christianity is the only rational explana-

tion. He said it was because of the presence of the Holy Ghost. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and ye shall be witness unto me." This is the only sane explanation. Christianity is a supernatural religion that does not depend on the things of this world for its spread, neither wealth, education, philosophy, intellectual culture or the power of the Holy Ghost in his church that has made it powerful.

We assert therefore that it will require no less power to preserve Christianity than that produced it. If it requires any other power then it must be a stronger and higher power. And there can be no greater power to preserve it than which created it. How absurd then for the church of today to think of trying to get along without the Holy Ghost. And if the church of today does not cease trying to get along without the Holy Spirit, God will raise up some other institution to take its place. We have been trying almost everything else; or at least we have been putting the emphasis on many other things.

Many are lamenting the decline of the power of the church over a world and are praying for a revival. The revival will never come until we stop avoiding or neglecting the preaching that insists on the Holy Ghost as the great factor in advancing the kingdom of God. Our pitiful efforts to try to carry on spiritual life by the methods that slight the Holy Ghost has got to cease or God will raise up something or some one who will honor his method of carrying on his work by his method—by spirit-filled-men.—The Christian Witness.

PUTTING GOD TO WORK

Listen to the bird philosophers as they reason about the dearth of praise and thanksgiving. as after a good breakfast, they sat upon a limb over the street, where thousands of human beings were passing and anxiously bemoaning and discussing the cause of the world's depression in finance:

"Said the sparrow to the raven:

'I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so?'

"Said the raven to the sparrow,

'Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father,
Such as cares for you and me.'

Said the sparrow: "Certainly it is that you are in serious error, for the Bible says, Luke 12:6, 7, when our Master was looking over the price lists of birds in the market place, 'Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?' He was talking to His discouraged disciples and said to them, 'But even the very hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.'"

"Yes," said the raven, "I now recall that on the same day as the scriptures record, in the market our Master said, in the 24th verse of Luke 12, 'Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than fowls?' "Now I have it," said the raven, "our Master values human beings above sparrows and said they were better than ravens. The trouble with the human beings is that they do not trust their God nor pray to Him as we do; hence they are very miserable because they will not let Him work for them."—H. W. Hodge, in "The Weapon of Prayer," Dr. Bounds' new book on press.