

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S., Paulpietersburg
Natal, South Africa. October 26th, 1931.
My Dear Highway Friends One and All:

Once again we greet you in His name. We trust this will find you all well both in soul and body. We are rejoicing in good health, both body and soul, for which we thank God.

Time goes as with "eagle wings" days pass into weeks, and months into years, and one scarcely notices how swiftly the time is going until he looks back and takes stock of time. We thank God for all the landmarks of time and blessing as we look back over the weeks and months of this year which is fast drawing to a close. Hardly a week has passed by without some new token of God's divine smile upon this work, His work; for we truly feel this is a vine of His own planting.

We have been kept going from place to place but almost without an exception found things most encouraging. A few have gone backward, but many more are making wonderful progress.

During the last month we have started work in two new outposts. Already God's blessing is upon these new fields. One reports eight new seekers and much interest; the others gave promise of as good results and as much need of an outpost. We are also rejoicing because of another grant of land given to us by the Government for the Entungwine church. We have had a church in this field almost since the work started in Hartland. The church was regularly organized before Brother and Sister Kierstead returned in 1914, but work really began there in 1904 or 1905. Now while this is true there has been one great disadvantage there, namely the church being on privately owned farms which were constantly changing hands and most of the owners unfriendly to Mission work; for the last few years especially was this the case. We felt we should try to get on the farm adjoining which is government land, and thus end this changing and now this has become a reality for which we thank God.

Last Sunday we had Big Sunday in the Old Church as the New One was only built last year and not quite complete. When the new owner came he refused at first to allow our church to remain, so building was stopped and in the meantime we made application to the government, and although the owner is now quite willing for the church to remain for one year, we feel we should go at once.

We were given an acre of land for our church and given a nice spot where there are about fifteen heathen Kraals or homes within a short distance from the church sight and no one looking after them. Another thing for which we are grateful is a small stone building which is now on this spot. We have bought it from the owner for three pounds. We can use it now and enlarge it later. This was well built by our preacher Jonah, for a school, but he is moving away a short distance and is willing to let us have it. The store alone is worth more than it has cost us.

We expect Samuel will move over and live on this acre. This will mean building a hut for him at once, but when he is once moved over, we believe he can do much better work. At present he requires a man to take him to any of his appointments, but when there he can go alone on his visitation and preaching, for the places will be quite near him.

Now dear folk we want to thank you for your prayers and interest in this work in the past and solicit your continual prayers for the fu-

ture and for us that we may prove true in every test. This is a long letter now, and I must stop. I trust others will find time to write about the meetings, but suffice it to say we felt God's blessing in all the services. Sister Helen may report more of the meeting but they at Altona are finding their hands full and I know their letters are fewer than they wish, but the work demands all there is of us, and we are all gladly giving His work first place in our lives.

We are rejoicing for all the victories in this land, but are equally glad for the reports of God's blessing in the Home land, and particularly on the extension work. May this winter prove a time of much fruit in the Home land.

With Christian love to all.

Yours in Him,

D. M. MacDONALD

Altona M. S., P. O. Berbice,
via Piet Retief, Transvaal, So. Africa.
October, 7th, 1931.

Dear Homeland Friends:

It has been a long time since we have written and I am sorry, but we have been very busy and correspondence has been neglected. There has been much sickness, also abscesses, toothaches, burns, etc., etc., therefore many calls for medicines, poultices, tooth extraction and dressings to be done.

Isaya was laid by with neuralgia and great weakness, but is able to be out again now. He is certainly a fine native. In times of adversity and sickness his anchor firmly holds, in fact those are the times when his light shines most brightly; his patience and submission is beautiful to see. The Sunday he first attended meeting after his sickness, when he arose to testify his voice sounded so weak and weary, but the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he preached a sermon before he got through, which brought blessing and conviction upon the service, and when we knelt in prayer, how he wept and praised God for the precious blood of Jesus. I often wish you could see this Zulu holiness preacher and some of these dear women who are fully consecrated to God, and the other native evangelists.

Tulina Dhlamini, one of our sweetest women, is quite sick at present. Isaya and others have gone to her home to have prayer today. We trust she will soon be better. She was married off to an old man—did not have the privilege of choosing for herself, but she is faithful and the Lord has been gracious in keeping her from the many heartaches that arise from the plurality of wives—for he has never taken a second wife. He was unwilling for a long time for her to become a Christian, but now he lets her have freedom in attending services and obeying the Lord. A few years ago he was thinking of taking another wife but the Lord very wonderfully overruled it. Tulina has many home trials, but she is a shining light in that big kraal. She goes to Badaza alternately with Isaya to hold services, which makes a walk of about 20 miles in one day. Many of the Badaza people are now moving away so there are only about three regular attendants—therefore Alisa Bonga, a good woman who lives there, will meet with them to have prayer on Sundays and Tulina or Isaya will go up for a service less frequently.

Talida Nzima, who was lately appointed as a worker, is another dear saint of God and a faithful one. She has a heathen husband much older than herself, who is very proud of his good wife and is willing for her to help in the Lord's work, which is a great blessing to her and to us as well. We pray that he may be won to Jesus. At present his old father is very sick at their

kraal, having been brought from Swaziland to die at his son's home. This old man is an uncle of the Swazi King "Sobhuza" and has been a great warrior in the days of long ago, has killed many people both white and black, and now in his weakness, his mind wanders and he seems to live over these past experiences and is troubled. He asks the Christians to pray for him that he may see the way to heaven. They have frequent meetings at the kraal and daily prayers and we trust that he will find rest to his soul.

Helen had two weeks in Durban last month. Our friend Miss Johnstone, of whom we have often spoken, was operated on and while in hospital sent money for Helen to come down for a change and be with her when she came out from the hospital, for a few weeks. As her teeth and eyes needed attention we were very grateful for this chance for Helen to get away—the first time since we came to live at Altona, but our kind friend passed away a few days after her arrival in Durban, so her visit was a sad one. Miss Johnstone gave several donations toward Altona Mission which were very helpful and has been very kind to us in many other ways. She lived a self-sacrificing life, devoted to the interests of others and left many friends.

We are having such hot weather and scorching winds that wilt us, and find it hard to get much accomplished, but we trust that the mercy of the Lord will soon cause refreshing showers to come upon the dry and thirsty land.

There are many tokens of God's workings and we are encouraged to see what He is doing, especially when we see how prejudice is breaking down, and the cry of our hearts is that the barriers will be swept away and many be brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus the Saviour.

We ask your prayers always, that God will give us wisdom, strength and an understanding of His will in all things and for these "other sheep" which are outside the fold.

Yours in Him,

ALICE F. STERRITT

WHAT IT MEANS

A little girl was poring over her lesson leaf with a puzzled face. "What does this mean, father?" she asked at last—"Give me thine heart."

After a brief silence Mr. Gordon said: "I will try to explain these words to you very soon, dear; meanwhile you have a purse, I think, have you not? Will you give it to me?"

Unhesitatingly the child produced a purse which contained just two pence half penny, a great treasure in her estimation.

A day or two after this incident, Mr. Gordon called Margaret to him, and said: "My dear, did you not give me your purse the other day?"

"Yes, father!"

"And why do you think I wanted it?"

"I think perhaps," said the little girl smiling, "that you mean to put something into it."

"That is just what I have done," said her father, laying his hand on her curly head "And does my little girl see that when God asks us to give our hearts into His keeping it is because He wants to put something into them? We are empty and poor, having nothing good of our own. Christ wants to make us happy, and holy, too, and He only can make rich in goodness and in love and in all that is most precious and beautiful. We may always trust Him when He asks us to give up anything to Him; it is only that He may restore it to us enriched a thousandfold."—Unknown.