

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S., P. O. Berbice,  
Via Piet Retief, Transvaal So. Af.  
February 4, 1932.

Dear Homeland Friends:

These are strange and perilous days, but "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform". So we are trusting Him to bring His will to pass through all the difficulties. We have never seen such a famine time as there is this year, but God is softening many hearts and we praise Him for it all, though it is very hard to see the need all around us. We received a letter from the Magistrate at Piet Retief yesterday asking if we would take charge of a depot on this mission station for the distribution of corn for the unemployed and needy cases, if the Government decides to send out relief supplies. This will be a great responsibility but we of course are willing to do so and will be so thankful if the natives can receive help in this way. The responsibility will be in having the proper knowledge as to which are the most needy cases, —for we suppose they will be very strict on this point—it will be necessary.

The head men on Altona and Klip Vaal asked us to write to the magistrate about the people getting corn on credit from the Government, and his letter yesterday, states that he is waiting to hear the decision from Pretoria. We do pray that the will of the Lord may be done.

We had a good soaking rain ten days ago—a real downpour, but very slight showers since. The people have never seen such a year and are really being awakened to the fact that the judgments of God are on the earth and fear is coming upon the hearts of the people. God is certainly speaking to many hearts and we do praise Him for this.

The Independent and Ethiopian churches asked to unite with our people in prayer for rain. We had a union meeting last Wednesday—a very profitable service and all wanted to come back again this Wednesday. It was certainly a blessed service—conviction rested upon the people and we know the blessed Holy Spirit is working. The church was crowded both days and all want another meeting next Wednesday. We believe these services are appointed by the dear Lord and are looking to Jesus to break down the prejudice which has been so great a barrier to the salvation of souls. Last Wednesday's meeting was certainly blest of God. He is answering the cry of our hearts, and we do pray for a gracious out-pouring of the Spirit in these days. We want to be humble before Him and see a real revival that will sweep away church prejudices and bring souls to Jesus. He is able to do it and if it needs famine to bring it about, we say "Amen" to the will of God. He does it all in love.

Communion service was to be held at Entungwini last Saturday. Mr. MacDonald was quite sick and unable to come over. George was present and a good congregation—at Joana Myeni's home, when the new church site is. It was a good service and some fine testimonies were given after the preaching.

Helen remained at Altona and Isaya and I rode to Enungwini. On Tuesday we had a letter from Hartland with the good tidings that Mr. MacDonald was able to be around, but was still very weak he said.

The chief sent one of his numerous wives here (his favorite it is said) a few weeks ago. She has had four children but not one lived. This time he wanted her to be in the care of white people, trusting that she might have a living child.

The Lord has granted their desire and they have a lovely baby boy a week old. He came to see it a few days ago and named the child 'Temba Nkosi—(Trust the Lord). He is very pleased indeed, and wants her to stay here several weeks. She is a very pretty, nice mannered woman and gave herself to the Lord during the past year, promising Him that she would serve Him, if He would give her a living child. We pray that she may keep her promise. She attends the Ethiopian church.

Yesterday I rode five miles to see a sick school child. He sent word for us to come and pray with him—and was truly glad to see me. He was in much pain, but we trust the Lord will help and bless the poor child. His older brother rode back with me to get medicine. His half-brother who lives on Altona was very sick at Christmas time and also wanted prayer, appreciated visits and prayer so much, and now is well again. It does encourage our hearts to see these young children looking for help from the Lord.

I have left this letter many times and during these hours, a thunder storm came up, with another downpour of rain, which has done so much good. We do praise the Lord for His mercy. How it will cheer the peoples' hearts, for it saves what little food there is in their fields.

I will close for this time and hope to write again soon. Other duties are calling.

Continue to pray for us. We are resting in the love of Jesus and asking for greater victories.

Yours in Him,

ALICE F. STERRITT

Hartland M. S., Paulpietersburg,  
Natal, So. Africa. Dec. 26, 1931.

Dear Homeland Friends:

The few good rains we had early in November did not take long to dry up, and soon the country began to look as faded and brown as if it were winter instead of mid-summer. The Lord heard prayer again and sent us bountiful showers, and some ploughing has been done; the pastures have resumed a hopeful green; and a grateful moisture and coolness encourages us. But the rains do not seem to be lasting, and soon ploughing will have to be abandoned again on account of drouth, unless we get more rain. Ordinary years the Natives have their first green corn from the river valleys by Christmas time, but this year there are very few such gardens and the best are just beginning to blossom. Folk everywhere are facing famine and we hear sad tales of suffering. But our district is much better off than others. We heard the other day that in a section not one hundred miles from here, over eight-hundred Natives have died of starvation. This is the section in which cattle had been dying by the thousands after having eaten the bark off the trees. If these reports are true, we certainly are better off here for the worst we have heard locally is of some swooning from hunger, and many having to go to bed hungry.

This earth, aggravated by the scarcity of work and low wages and prices, is working on the hearts of the indifferent, and there is a spirit of hunger on the hearts of the people. This we saw on Sunday, when, though there were no candidates for baptism, we had one of the most powerful services we have witnessed since coming here. There was a spirit of conviction on the people from the first, and when the Altar call was given, nearly the whole congregation responded.

In the prayer service which followed there was a soul burden and travail on His own, and

an earnestness and depth to the prayers of the seekers which always brings results. Naturally the Enemy was aroused, and a young demoniac started for the door. She was brought back, brought to Him, and delivered in answer to united prayer. These struggles always bring to our hearts a fresh realization of the mighty power of our great King, and fill our hearts with triumphant joy as we face the awful powers of hell and know they are helpless and must relinquish their prey. Thank God for that Mighty Name, and the Precious blood under which we are safe from this awful foe.

Our Christmas feast and services were well attended by the hungry Natives, and I believe there were more heathen than we had here last year. An offering from Father of £1 coming Christmas Eve, enabled us by adding ours, to present each one of the five hundred guests with a big sized match box. This they appreciated even more than the feast. One big heathen man from across the Pongolo said, "I have travelled all this way for the match box, and when you have given me that, I am satisfied, and filled."

It touched their hearts greatly to think that Father remembered them with this gift toward the Christmas Feast, and many eyes were dim with tears. They long to see their "Baba" and "Mama" back again. Timote said to me, "When is our Umfundisi coming back? We are longing greatly, awfully, to see him. When they get ready to send him back, I want to know so I can contribute towards his passage fund." We know many others of like mind, and who have similarly expressed themselves, and have every reason to believe that when the time comes there would be no difficulty in raising his passage fund among his own loving "Black Children" who, with us, are all praying that that time may be soon.

While I am writing this there comes a knocking on the door and sweet little voices calling "Mamma, Mamma" (Herbert and Maryella want to come and help me type). Baby Daniel (now six weeks old) stirs in the basket beside me. God has put a very real call in my heart "Go and nurse these little ones for Me and I will give thee thy wages." I do covet your prayers that God may continue to keep me true to my Missionary call, keep the fire and passion on my soul, and enable me to be as true to this other call, that these precious lives may be trained for Him. It is too much for poor human strength and wisdom, but thank God, not too much for Him, and His promised "always, in all things, "abounding grace", Praise His name! We trust that if the Lord tarry, when our short term of service is over these young hands may take up the torch when it falls from our grasp, or even as in the case of our parents may light theirs from ours and help spread the fire while we still serve.

A new wave of revival fire is evident in our meetings and we have many encouragements to believe that this New Year holds promise of even a richer harvest than the one that is drawing to a close. Let us unite our prayer, faith and efforts and go up and possess the very rich land which yet remaineth.

Yours to follow wholly our Mighty Leader,

FAITH MACDONALD

NOTE—This letter was misplaced; it should have been printed earlier.—Editor.

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. I. John iii. 18.