

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

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Dear Homeland Friends:

Today as I was riding over the hills, how grateful I felt to the dear homeland friends for the new horses. I just wish you could really know what a blessing and comfort it is to visit the kraals and ride a good comfortable horse. Helen did quite a lot of walking, before we got them, but I find it finishes my strength to go on foot over these hills except to near-by kraals, so I am very, very thankful for good horses once more and we both appreciate them more than I can express. May the dear Lord greatly bless those who made this provision, we pray!

Today I visited Ana Zita, who has been a member of the Transvaal branch of this Church for years and is now growing quite old. She is one of the wives of the old chief Mtshegula, whose son Bheke-ipi now rules in his stead.

About two months ago Ana become sick with a nervous disorder which was very difficult to treat. She could not sleep or enjoy food and became very restless and morbid. I visited her at Kipa Nyawo some weeks ago and advised her to come here where we could look after her better and she could have daily prayer. She was pleased to do this and stayed for a week with Isaya's mother, who is her sister-in-law. Though she appreciated all that was done for her she seemed spiritually unhappy and could not rest in the Lord. She wanted prayer but was eager to go to a native doctor who had treated her a few years ago. We felt that she needed the help of the Lord more than anything else and committed her unto Him when she left us. She found the native doctor away from home for some time and when he did come back he said he had no more of the medicine she needed, but they saw this was only to deceive them for he had been overpaid when he treated her before and he knew this treatment would not bring him in any profit, so he had no interest in her. But the dear Lord was interested and specially undertaking for her. We visited her several times and the native workers also, and though she seemed to be growing worse, it was only to help her to forsake earthly help and cast herself upon His unfailing mercy, and He has done marvellous things for that dear old soul. Today she greeted me with a beaming face and I saw at once that she was like a new person. "Why Ana," I said, "you are better." Yes indeed, my child, I am better; the Lord has answered prayers and my heart is so happy for He has delivered me from sin. I cannot praise Him enough for what He has done for me. I had gone astray, but I just came to Him with all my wickedness and asked Him to take it all away and He has, and now I sleep so well and feel so happy in my heart, because the blood of Jesus has washed away my sin."

The look of peace and sweet content in that dear old face was such a blessing to my heart, and it was such a refreshing to hear her prayer of praise and to see how restful and happy she was. She spoke of how the Lord prevented her from being doctored by the native man purposely to turn her heart from seeking earthly help and how He showed her that she had gone astray from Him in many ways, but now she had returned unto Him with all her heart, and He had abun-

dantly pardoned and also delivered her from the physical affliction. We do praise Him so much for this dear soul, it had been plain to see for a long time that she was not happy in the Lord and He has graciously helped her, spiritually and physically. We do praise Him!

Yesterday I went with Eliasi Sibuja, Tulina Dhlamini and Sabeta Nkosi to have prayer in the home of a mother whose oldest child, a boy of four years, had died this week. The kraal is about two miles from here on the next farm—a big kraal with many heathen people hard and indifferent to the gospel message. One young woman is a Christian and was baptized recently. Another, the bereaved woman, is a seeker, but has never made much progress—we pray that this sorrow will soften her heart. As we drew near the kraal several old women were coming to weep with them and their wailing could be heard at a great distance. After they had united with the people of the kraal in lamentation and weeping in the hut, where the poor mother was seated, Regina, the young Christian, made ready a place for us among them and there was given us such a beautiful opportunity to tell of what Jesus could do in such times of sorrow, for both Tulina and Sabeta had lost beautiful baby boys and their words were given with the spirit and the "understanding" also.

Tulina told of her grief and sadness when her first child was taken away, and after she became a Christian the Lord gave her a vision of children in the gloryland and her own little one was among them so happy and well—smiling at her but with no desire to return to her loving care. She saw he was not lonesome, but perfectly happy and her sorrow finished. If you could have seen her beaming face and radiant smile as she told this to those sorrowful people you would have felt as I did—what a wonderful thing is it to see heathen people so marvellously changed and comforted by the love of God.

Sabete is a widow and has lost two little boys, but in her testimony that day she declared that she is "rich in the Lord" and does not need to be looked upon as one who is afflicted for the Lord has turned all her sorrow into joy and He has indeed given her "the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." When she lost her first child she was almost beside herself with grief and despair, but she was pointed to Jesus by Simon Msibi (who is now in glory) and began to attend services. Later, after she had become a Christian she had another boy, and in her testimony yesterday she said, "I loved that child so much, I really worshipped him, and God had to take him from me because I loved him more than I should." Her heart was brought into full surrender to His will and she lived many years without any children, but in answer to prayer she had two more sons (and also a nice young daughter), and both have been dedicated to the Lord. She has laid all at His feet and had the joy of seeing her heathen husband give himself to the Lord last January. He had been a hard, indifferent man all his life and through the wickedness of the second wife, Sabete's life had been made very hard. During a severe illness several years ago the Lord gave her a beautiful vision of the shining city. She was taken to the very gates, saw the white robed throng and heard the wonderful songs of praises to the Lamb who was slain and longed so much to enter, but was

told she must return to earth for the sake of her husband for "though his heart was so wicked even his sorrows were felt in heaven."

Thes was a great blessing to her soul and comforted her amidst all her sad circumstances. When her husband was stricken with consumption the other wife enticed him away to the Apostolic Zionists to be prayed for, but after several months he sent for Sabete to come to him and in a short time wanted to be returned home. When we visited him he was very tender; wept and prayed and asked for a special meeting for his soul that he might "see the way." The others had prayed only for his body but now he wanted to be saved. Some of the workers went to his home one evening and he gave himself to Jesus and from that day he was a new creature. The light came to his poor dark soul; he called his heathen brothers and made right some difficulties that had been between them and had rest and peace in his soul. On the morning of the day of his death he said to Sabete, "Today I am going and I want to go. I do not want to stay any longer. In that land to which I am going all is beautiful and bright. You need not cry for me, for I have something in my soul that surpasses all earthly joys. I am so glad to go. I am happy, so happy to go," and his last words were, "My Jesus."

So yesterday Sabete with a happy face told the heathen people of her rich inheritance. Her own salvation which keeps her happy and blest and the bright hope of meeting her children and husband in the "Father's house of many mansions." It was very sweet and I do pray that some of those poor heathen souls were made hungry by the testimony of these dear Zulu Christian women.

If ever we needed to pray we do these days, for it seems sometimes that all the powers of darkness are arrayed in full force to deceive and allure souls from the truth. But Jesus is able to open blind eyes and to break down the strongholds of Satan, and we are looking unto Him who is rich in mercy to those that call upon Him.

Last Big Sunday (July 17) George and Mr. MacDonald were both here for the service. Mr. MacDonald came over early Saturday morning to be here for any special business, but returned home in the afternoon, on account of sickness among the children, and came back for the meeting Sunday again. We had a full house and a good service. Two women from Klip Vaal were baptized. A young couple stood up to "tembisana" before the church. That is to "promsie one another," or make public their engagement and their determination to follow Christian rules instead of heathen customs and have a Christian marriage. The girl Joanna Msibi, is one of our own who has endeavored to obey Christian teaching always, gave up one or two young men because they were not willing to do so. This young man is a member of the Independent church. His preacher and quite a number from his church came with him to witness this little ceremony. We do pray that this young couple will be true to their vows.

With Christian love to all.

Yours in His service,

ALICE F. STERRITT

The measure of our joy depends not on how much God is willing to give, but on how much our soul is willing and able to receive.—*Lyman Abbott.*