

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
Paulpietersburg,
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Dear Homeland Friends:

The days fly past so swiftly, it hardly seems possible that more than three years have gone since our return. In spite of many discouraging and hard things which He has led us through, they have been three good years of fruitfulness and progress in His work. The congregations both on Wednesdays and Sundays are on the increase and keep up even in busy seasons. Our Sunday school is growing, and the children are showing an interest that is really very encouraging. There is a steady stream of new seekers coming forward in the various outposts and those who started before are now asking for baptism.

The famine is a little better now for we have had good rains and some have little gardens of green corn, enough so the danger of actual starvation is over for the time, though for many it is only a little breathing spell till they will be facing the wolf again for many long hard months.

Our own corn finished on Friday and we are faced with the question of feeding about ten natives beside our own family. The Lord does give such sweet little tokens of His thought and care in times like this. No corn in the house or field, no money to buy corn—hungry mouths to feed. We bring our need to Him in confidence. In our store room we found a few pounds of ground beans. A young woman brought a little corn to buy matches. George spared us a few pounds from his own scant store; Jostina, hearing of our need, sent a basket of green corn from her precious little field; Lucy sent a gallon pail spared from the one bag they have recently been able to buy, saying, "You gave me corn when I was hungry." Dear souls, how our hearts are touched with their loving thoughtfulness for we know it comes as a real sacrifice for they will soon be in real want again, and Lucy's folk have gone to bed hungry for many a night lately.

We were sending Johanisi over with some much needed medicines and supplies to the Sterritt Sisters and Jostina said, "I will get him some lunch, you have nothing for him." So another need was supplied.

I could multiply such instances and many like stories of the past months. The famine conditions and loss on our salary through the "Gold Standard," though serious, has not been an unmixed evil, for it causes us to have to trust Him for more, and puts us in a position where little "helps" mean much.

The readiness with which some of these native Christians receive and wake up to new light is very encouraging. A beautiful instance of this came to our notice last week. In the course of a certain conversation Johan Kunene told us this story:

"It was Sunday morning, and I do not know what Lena and the girls had been thinking about on Saturday, but we had no meal ground. "Father," asked Lena, "What shall we do? There is no meal for breakfast." "Well," I answered, "I don't know that it is right, but I see nothing else to do but go ahead and grind it now." So Lena and the children began to grind, and I sat down to read the Bible. It opened right up at Isaiah 58, and my eyes fell on verse 13: "If thou turn thy foot from the Sabbath from doing

thy pleasure on my holy day . . . Here it was as plain as if God had spoken from Heaven and I was filled with fear. "Lena! Lena! Run!" I called. "She came running in, startled at the tone of my voice. "Look," I said, passing her the open book (you know my wife can read well). "Read that." She read and was struck as forcibly as I had been. We hastened to take the corn out of the little mill, and no grinding has ever been done in our home on Sunday since that day."

Do you wonder, friends, that we have sweet fellowship with such?

We have a fine band of bright young people around the Mission Station these days, and in Sunday School meet many more. In my heart is a special burden and prayer for these dear Zulu boys and girls. They are the hope of the future and there are so many snares and pitfalls for their eager young feet. Pray with me, dear friends, that we may see them established in grace and saved from the dangers of their heathen environment. God is working and we are looking to see yet more of His power. Praise His name!

We send our love and think of you so often and are banking on your prayers.

Yours for more of His power's mighty working,

FAITH MacDONALD

A WORLD-WIDE HOLINESS MOVEMENT

Joseph H. Smith

Events that are passing, present and pending on the earth make a loud call for the Christians to attend to their own business.

Despite the entrance of churches into the activities, agitations and politics of the world's governmental affairs, the world's problems and perplexities are augmenting rather than diminishing; and neither church nor state—nor both combined—seems able to grapple with the sin and crime conditions as well as when the church and her ministry gave themselves wholly to the simple Gospel propagation of Christianity. The effort to serve God and mammon is as dismal a failure in the institution as in the individual. Neither the Lord nor His apostles set us any precedent for the fusion of church and state, or for our mixing and meddling in the world's business.

Laws and principles of Christ's kingdom among men were held in direct contrast with the course of the nations. These, our Lord reminded us, make chief pursuit of things to "eat and wear," and of material gain; we are to seek first "the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." "They seek to have rule: but it shall not be so among you; but he that would be greatest, let him be your servant," etc.

Now we estimate that as "the carnal mind (in the individual) is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be," so likewise, as the spirit of the world at large is "enmity against God," this world and Christ's kingdom can never be amalgamated. Neither the education nor the reformation nor the civilization of the nations is the true and lofty aim of the Church and of the Gospel, and its ministry. While as leaven it may raise the whole lump, yet it can never transmute it into itself. The world of unregenerate men will ever remain the world. The grain of mustard seed must grow a great tree of its own. There is nothing left in the unregenerated world that may evolve itself or that can be cultured into true Christianity "Re-

ligious education"—even Christian education can never alone make Christians out of men. And in so far as churches have turned from the man to "mankind;" from the soul of a man to the "solidarity of humnaity," from the practice of evangelism to discussions of the world's political problem here, they have been diverted from the great problems of the hereafter, and have been carried away from the Gospel's emphasis upon man's inner life. And it is upon this inner life rather than upon all that is outward that a man's eternal destiny rests.

It is an indisputable fact that when personal Holiness is majored upon, good citizenship, right social conditions, and proper stand on the right side of public moral questions are assured; but when, upon the other hand, the ministry is diverted from this "one thing" and the Church majors upon (even the right side of) the political, industrial, and social interests of the world, due attention to heart purity is neglected, personal piety is assigned to a secondary place, family worship is forsaken, topical discussions displace the preaching of the Word, and spirituality is sacrificed for publicity and popularity. Ministers and congregations become so absorbed in the current civic issues as to think less of the Holy City, and to lose sight of the coming of the Lord.

These are not theories; but here are two facts before our eyes:

(1) That the turning of the churches from the souls of men to the problems of society has not solved these problems.

(2) That this leaving of the Word of God to serve tables has famished the flock of God, and has left not only the outside world without the light of life, but many that are "masters in Israel," and experts in religious politics "know not these things" that are essential for entrance into the kingdom of God.

In a word, many churches are defaulting on what they were sent to do, and are miserable failures in what they are attempting to do.

Our just relation to the world is that of "strangers and pilgrims." "As he is, so are we in this world." "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world." "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

Absorption of the world's interests, activities and concerns into the program of the Church is, like conformity to the world's fashions in the walk of the Christian, inconsistent with that crucifixion unto the world, and the world's crucifixion unto him, of which Paul testified. Our song should ever be: "Let worldly minds the world pursue."

As electricity's sure and safe service to us is through wires that are insulated, so the Church's rightful service to the world requires separateness. And the seriousness of the world's present condition demands our attention, if we would squarely face our duty of the hour. Passing, present and pending events in the affairs of the nations of earth make a loud call for the Church's arousing to her true and legitimate work; and this, too, in a concentrated and intensified and persistent effort that will surpass all that Christian history has hitherto recorded.

It would seem that Satan, the arch-enemy of God and man, the "prince of this world," is aroused and is arousing his forces as though aware that "his time is short." Also in the ears of saints who are attentive to the