

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S., P. O. Berbice

via Piet Retief, Transvaal, So. Af.

Dear Homeland Friends:

The weeks pass so quickly, it has been longer than it should be since we have written.

It is so beautiful this morning in this far-off land and a chill of autumn is already in the air, which brings a physical refreshing.

The summer has not been as intensely hot as usual; rains have been frequent and the nights mostly cool—for this we do praise our Heavenly Father so much, and now that there seems signs of an early winter, we will not have to languish from the heat much longer unless we get a late hot wave, out of season, as we sometimes do.

Ten days ago a terrible hail storm swept over the place. It lasted only a half hour, then the sun shone forth beautifully upon devastated fields, which such a short time before were so flourishing, giving promise of abundant crops.

Fields of pumpkins and amaselwa were ruined, corn and grain fields greatly injured and many of the people will have very little green food.

On the farm between Klip Vaal and Altona the full vent of the storm fell. We received the lessening fury of the blast, and Isaya's widow's fields practically escaped. We do thank God for this. That very day she had been taken in a waggon to her mother's home very sick, but is now recovering. She was stricken about two weeks before, and was so bad we almost gave up hope of her recovery. We have seen her very ill many times during these seven years, but never saw an attack like this. By some of the symptoms manifested we have reason to fear she had had native poisoning. These gardens of hers are a thorn in the flesh to some of their covetous neighbors. The Lord has very graciously undertaken for her and we hope for a good recovery but must wait to see, for if our fears are correct she may develop other symptoms later, or remain chronically effected.

Her confidence and hope in Jesus keeps her serene in spirit and she has had beautiful revelations by the Spirit until her soul was greatly blest, her face shining and her testimonies a benediction. She may soon be back—we await the Lord's will about her return. She may feel it wise to remain with her mother. We miss her greatly for she is a stable character and so trustworthy in the Lord's work, so courageous and nobly endeavoured to fill her place in His vineyard.

Aloni is here this week. His health seems better, but he is not strong and cannot carry on long at a time. He is glad to go out among the people as ever.

Johanisi Nkosi from across the Bivaan River spent ten days with us after Big Sunday. The Lord very specially blest his visit here and there are many significant reasons that make us feel he may be the chosen of the Lord to remain here in the work with us. We shall certainly praise the Lord to have such a zealous worker, and his wife is very helpful also. We would be glad to have them occupy one of the native rooms here if it can be arranged, and he seems to feel the call, for he sees our need very plainly. It is an unusual I might say, unheard of thing, to see a native mission carried on without a native evangelist to assist, and while we do greatly appreciate

the labours of those who leave their homes and come over to help us, the work sorely needs a permanent native evangelist, and we believe He will soon supply that need for the sake of His cause. For a whole year now, yes, fifteen months, we have had no regular native evangelist, but God must be proving us in thus allowing we two women to remain as we are, without a station evangelist. Those who come to help us are glad to do so, and we love to have them, but they cannot be expected to take on the burden of the work like one who lives among the people daily. How we need a young, strong man to go out and help win the perishing souls for Jesus. Truly God is with us and is wonderfully helping, but we see this need continually and our cry is before Him.

I have left this letter to talk to a heathen man whom I have long prayed for. We have never seen him so tender as he is today. The hail storm has greatly stirred his soul—he lost very much food and God has surely spoken to his heart. I expect to see him yet become a Christian by the mercy of God.

We had a good time over last Big Sunday (February 3). A Christian wedding was held on Saturday afternoon, and was quite an impressive service. Several of the workers spoke after the ceremony and it was like a good meeting. The contracting parties were from Entungwini.

Three from Entungwini were baptized and a young man from the Bivaan side who gave a lovely testimony as did the young man from Entungwini. We had a good service and then went to a kraal about three miles from here where lived a sick woman who earnestly desired to be baptized but was unable to get here. Her face shines with the Light of God and her testimonies as we have visited her from time to time have blest our hearts. She rejoices in the Lord's presence and is not anxious to be restored to health unless it be His pleasure to do so.

About thirty people gathered at the little pool near the kraal to witness the baptism, then the heathen brother conducted us to a nice spot back of his kraal where a short service was held and "Zalina" received her first communion. It was a very sweet service especially when she gave her beautiful testimony of salvation and what the Lord had done for her. Her brother was quite touched during all the service.

It was quite late when we reached home and all were very tired and Agnes' failing condition was a cause of sorrow to us all, but during that night the Lord revealed Himself very beautifully to her and next day there was a slight improvement. Two days later she had a very special touch from the Lord and was greatly improved—then her mother came to take her away for awhile as I have told you.

Mr. MacDonald went home Monday with those from Hartland except Johanisi. We hope he will soon be back again. He is a second Isaya in his forceful way of preaching and the hearts of the people are greatly drawn to him.

Helen and Aloni with a few others went to a kraal on the next farm yesterday to have prayer with a woman who has a sad life and needs the comfort of God. Helen said it was a blessed time and the dear woman was greatly refreshed and so grateful.

We have some dear women in the Church

who are growing spiritually and they do bless our hearts.

Sunday we had a touch from heaven in one meeting here. We do praise Him. One woman who has had a great loss of food by the hail storm gave such a lovely victorious testimony. It was a comfort indeed to hear it. She lives on the next farm where it came so heavily down.

Belina, Tulida, Sabete and Trifina who are our helpers in the Lord live from three to five miles from us so now that Agnes is not with us we are quite alone. We greatly appreciate Aloni being here this week. He has gone to visit sick ones today.

The Lord is working and we want to be instrumental in His hands to bless and help the needy souls around us. Pray for us. We do greatly appreciate your prayers and loving support and want to specially thank each one who has helped so kindly toward the building fund. It was good of you, dear friends, and has helped us so much. God bless you.

Beulah time will be here again before you know it. How fast the years and months pass by! May He help us to live with Eternity's value in view.

With Christian love from us both.

Yours in His care,

ALICE F. STERRITT

Altona M. S.,

Berbice P. O.,

Via Piet Retief

Dear Homeland Friends:

Just a few lines to say we are still trusting the Lord, and we feel we have many things to thank Him for during this last year.

We feel and see in the different outposts many things to encourage our hearts in Him, Who doeth all things well. The Lord is still on the throne, and His power is over all. Praise Him.

Hearts are being softened and some are giving themselves to the Lord, and others are on the verge of doing so, for this we are so grateful to God. Our last Sunday service here was very helpful and encouraging indeed.

Some heathen women on Altona are beginning now to attend services on Sunday and their hearts are very tender. One woman returned to us on Monday and said: "I did have such a wonderful sleep last night," and told how her heart is beginning to open to the Lord. Her face was shining. We have been praying for this widow for over two years, and how our hearts do rejoice now over her. She has not given herself to the Lord publicly yet but we believe she has in her own heart. A heathen man who lives on Altona came to us the other day, and we were so surprised and happy to see how he is going down before the Lord. We are so encouraged; he has long been so full of pride. His three boys come to the school, and his wife died a Christian two years ago, who was a member of this church. He has had a hard time since as he and his boys have to do all the cooking at home. He says he wants a Christian wife. We are praying that he will get salvation, and a Christian wife as well. One of our Christian women who lives a few minutes walk from us is surely being taught of the Lord this last year. She does rejoice our hearts. Her testimony is always a blessing to the Church. We had to send her the other Sunday to fill a service at a small outpost as Sabeta was sick. She cannot read, so we told her to sing and pray and tell them what the