

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Natal, So. Africa,
May 2nd, 1935

Dear Praying Friends:

Greetings from "Sunny South Africa," which nevertheless is Darkest Africa.

Those of you who have followed this work closely and heard me speak in the Homeland may remember some accounts which have been written from time to time of a section across the Pevaan called "Emholoko," an old battle field where hundreds of Zulu warriors fell in a bloody battle. This was the home of our worker Jesina, who afterwards moved to Hibberdeene and started the work there. Her life-story is well worth writing up, and would make one of the most interesting books you ever read.

In 1925 the Lord gave me the privilege of spending ten days with Jesina in her field at "Emholoko," and it was one of the most wonderful ten days of my life. We saw twenty remarkable cases of conversion, some, Jesina included, were led into the experience of entire sanctification; one poor old woman was delivered from demon possession, and today is among the choice saints on earth, holding daily communion with her Saviour. In my heart was born during those ten days a burden and a prayer for that region of "Emholoko" that has never ceased.

Ten years have rolled by. Jesina moved away, and a false shepherd crept in and by deceit and guile, stole her flock. Being a false shepherd he left them to the wolves and many backslid, some have died and those that remain are uncared for and neglected.

Now Jesina has moved back from Hibberdeene. Her husband, then a hard heathen, now in answer to her earnest prayer, is beautifully saved, and newly appointed as a Native preacher. Coming back to their relatives and friends at "Emholoko" they find a hungry flock very happy to see the faithful worker who first brought them the light, and in spite of the belated activity of their false shepherd, ready almost as a body, to return. Fourteen have declared themselves openly and many others have confessed their desire.

Jesina and Angus Zikalala, her husband, have been visiting in this section for two trips now of about a week each, and besides the original flock, which with the interested attendants, seekers and church members in 1925 were sixty names, they find a great section near her girlhood home, still among relatives and friends, and where the fame of her former ministry has gone before and prepared a favourable reception a section further west, up the Pevaan from her first post, where there are scores of big kraals, and hundreds of hungry hearts. The greater per cent of these people are heathen, some are backsliders, some are Christians, but neglected, and many so called Christians are no more than dressed heathen, and they and their neighbors know it. There is an Ethiopian movement which receives the heathen with all his sins and a "Ragged Zionist," Zionists, backslidden even from Zionism, beer drinking, snuffing and polygamous. The Roman Catholics are trying to establish a work here too, but it seems that the majority of real evangelical bodies are leaving them alone.

When they come to these kraals and ask for permission to have prayers with them

the people welcome them gladly. But they say, "We are hard, others have tried and failed and gone on to easier fields. You may come and preach to us and welcome, but if you think to turn us you will have to work.

They found a man sick with malaria, treated, prayed with him and cured him. His kraal built right by the road side appealed to them as being a suitable center from which to work this field so they asked his permission, which he readily granted. Later they found that he is the local "Induna" or chieftain, and that the people are delighted with their choice. Three Sunday services have been held there now and the interest is growing. Angus and Jesina asked us to start a school there, and his daughter Selina, a beautiful Christian girl who taught at Hibberdeene, and also helped there in the work, is coming tomorrow to start a school on Monday, D. V.

Jesina's own sister, Jostina Mtshali, was one of her converts and lives near here. She is a fine bright Christian, very anxious to learn to read, and testifies like a preacher . . . she may become the worker to hold this section while they are elsewhere. Another, a sister of Jesina's father, is a witch doctor. Not only a common witch, but a professor with a college right in her home where young witch doctors are trained. Hers is a big kraal, a very strong-hold of darkness, but now she wants to be a Christian, and has given the whole kraal.

They tell of a Nkosi man with three kraals under him . . . two younger brothers and his. He is a devil doctor . . . another fort of darkness, and he has given all three of these kraals for them to come and have prayers and the folk are free to seek the Lord and he himself is hungry for God. Jesina tells of her visit to one of these kraals, her talk with the woman who had lived in Louwsburg district and belonged to a "Melika" church there. She professed to belong still and gave Jesina permission to have prayer with her this one day and pass on, never to return. When they had prayers, she began, "Oh, you must come back, don't even fold up your mat, for fear you never return, do come back often," and she gladly followed them to their Sunday meeting at the "Induna's" kraal and explained that she really does not have any "Home" now and wants to come with us. These are typical cases. I could tell of dozens more, and feel that this is something new in the history of our work. We have never seen it in this wise before. A whole district glad to turn in a day. It seems like a real revival, and our hearts are greatly stirred. We want your earnest prayers that we may follow as He leads, and take possession as He gives us the Land. Angus has very poor health and we covet your prayers on his behalf as he has a rare and powerful gift and with his wife we have a couple hard to match in the whole work.

Last Sunday George and my husband were at this new outpost, and had a good service and we are to be present this Sunday, D. V., and are looking forward to a real campaign over the whole district this winter.

May we count on your prayer help in this battle.

Yours, greatly longing to see these needy souls won for Christ,

FAITH MacDONALD

Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God.—Carey.

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

LIQUOR LIABILITIES STILL MOUNT

During the first half of 1934, the Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., reports that eighty-one persons were killed each day, and 1,900 were injured each day in automobile accidents. This was an increase of 21 per cent in fatal accidents over the corresponding period of 1933. Drunkenness at the wheel vies with drunkenness on the part of pedestrians to produce this appalling massacre. Less than 100,000 American soldiers died in France, and only about half of them died of shell fire. The automobile (plus liquor) is becoming as terrible a disaster as the Great War. It has often been stated that man with the things which his cleverness can invent can easily reach the place where he can destroy himself. It looks as though some such possibility were not far away. What with armaments and liquor, and all the rest, man has built for himself a material world which is just ready at all times to blow up and wipe him from the earth.—The Presbyterian.

"SOCIALLY SOBER" BUT "MECHANICALLY DRUNK"

Persons driving motor cars may be "socially sober," while at the same time they are "mechanically drunk," is the way that Canon R. B. S. Hammond, of Australia, describes those drivers who after a "few drinks" cannot adjust themselves to a driving emergency, even though they are able to walk reasonably straight and carry on a fairly lucid conversation.

"In five years 3,421 people were killed and 55,518 injured in motor accidents in Australia," said Canon Hammond, in a recent address before the International Congress on Alcoholism. "Drink played a part in those accidents, as it was frequently overlooked that drivers who were socially sober were mechanically drunk."

The chaotic liquor laws in various Australian states were caused by the fact that the liquor interests were the largest subscribers to party funds asserted the canon.—The Union Signal.

YES, WHO?

A recent issue of the New York Times carried three hundred inches of liquor advertisements. A Times page has eight columns, each twenty-one inches long. Figure out how much space the fifty-three liquor sellers paid for in a single issue. The same paper carried eight full columns of cigarette advertising.

Query: Who has prosperity these days?—Exchange.

Much of what a man tells you in the hour of affliction, in sudden anger, or in any outpouring of his heart, should be sacred. In his craving for sympathy he has spoken to you as to his own soul.

All is not lost that is delayed. Better late than never. A promise delayed is justice deferred. Hope long deferred maketh the heart sick. Delay is better than disaster.