

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S., Natal, So. Africa,
October 15th, 1935

Dear Highway Folk:

Just another of these delayed letters to let you know how things are going with us. Despite sickness and other difficulties the work is going on. Since I last wrote, fourteen have been baptized and received into the church, our quarterly is history. We had splendid meetings and good crowds. The controlling tone of all the services would be if placed in a few words, deeper piety and a greater vision than ever before.

We were greatly disappointed that the Misses Sterritt were not able to be with us at this quarterly owing to the fact that Miss Alice had to have a serious operation on her eyes which may necessitate her staying in the Hospital for three months. Miss Helen stayed with her, as it was very necessary for her to be near her, at least during the first part of her illness. There was a very real danger had she not had this operation at once, of her being totally blind for life. This operation may avert blindness, though it is not always successful. We do trust that this may be a successful case, and if she has the operation on both eyes at this time for six weeks she must lie perfectly still, and for the first part of the time have a nurse constantly with her to see that her head does not move one way or the other, whether asleep or awake. Imagine what it would mean to a person to lie for six weeks on one's back, perfectly still; she surely needs our prayers at this time. We hardly dare to think of the expense. Three months in the Hospital—for six weeks it will cost at least three dollars per day in addition to the doctor bill, which is fifty. Owing to the fact that she is a nurse, her hospital bill was halved and the doctor, because she is a missionary, cut down his bill from two hundred and fifty dollars to fifty. Surely there is someone in the homeland upon whose heart the Lord will put the call to help in this time of need. We thank you for helping them to have this vacation which they both so badly needed. You know that they are putting into this work every cent they receive, and have no bank account to draw from, and they will need financial assistance at this time, and we are just placing this matter before you as one of the very urgent needs.

A second very very urgent need is reinforcements on this field. If all the Sanders family cannot come back now, why not sent two or three of them? Personally I believe that one of the boys would be willing to come and be self supporting like George is now, help in the work here and give George a needed change. We need more help here; you can see by reports that the work is growing, but at what a cost. At the time of their leaving for their holiday the Miss Sterritts were very tired. We are carrying on here and are just on the verge of a break. Our all is in the work; we cannot meet the constant demand on time and strength. For the last six months we have averaged a thousand cases per month in the medical work, besides the other countless duties of the daily round, ministering to the scores who come daily to our doors right here on the Station, in addition to the fact that I am out almost every Sunday and two or three days of the week as well. It means that Faith has this thousand medicals a month to manage alone besides the superintending of

the daily work of the Mission Station and many times two or three meetings per day. Maryella is six and a half now and there is no school for her to go to, no teacher, and she should have both. Now if we were to do what we should do and remain blameless before the Lord, we must have a teacher for Maryella. Her mother could teach her were she like the average pastor's wife, having her home and children alone to look after. But she is not just a pastor's wife. She is in this work from early morning to late at night, preaching, teaching, giving out medicines, listening to the difficulties of the church members and seekers, taking weekly reports from the majority of the native workers, and keeping the books, etc., in connection with all this work. All of these duties mentioned above increase with the growth of the work, and if this work is going on as we believe it is, the only prospect is that these burdens are to increase rather than lessen. Now if she is going to teach her child, that means that a lot of this other work must be left undone. Since coming here we have practically all the time carried three native workers, and an average of three teachers per year. I am making this urgent appeal, not to consume upon our own lusts. I mentioned a few of the items, not all the demands we have for our money, but just a few. Now unless we have help soon it will only be the matter of a very short time when we will all have to go home, physical wrecks. From the standpoint of business is it not cheaper for you to send out two or three to reinforce us than in a few months to have to send all new workers. I am making this public appeal for the sake of the souls here.

In closing let me say this to the Churches: Why do you not write in to the Board or the Highway at once regarding the matter of sending two of the boys and one of the girls, or two of the girls and one of the boys, at once and more help as early as possible. You who are not members of our church, but who are our friends, who may be interested in one part of this work, and not all, why not write in and say: "Well, I'll take the support of one of these three workers that the MacDonalds are carrying, or the support of one or more of the teachers that they are paying, which would mean a hundred dollars a year for either of the men workers and sixty dollars a year for the woman or any one of the three teachers, but above all do not forget the Miss Sterritts Hospital crying need. Or, if you do not want to designate, mark it for us to use as you think best, and be sure that we will put it in the Lord's work.

We believe that there is lots of the Lord's money which people would be glad to send if they only knew how much it would mean to souls. Some of you people may be thinking of large memorials for your departed friends. Why not take a living memorial with eternal issues, support one of these mentioned, or whatever the Lord may direct.

Yours for the salvation of souls,

D. M. MacDONALD

Note.—I am sure that after reading this interesting letter with its very earnest appeal from our missionaries, that all our readers will appreciate the good work that they are doing, as well as the sacrifices our missionaries are making for souls in Africa. We will also understand their very pressing need of help which Brother MacDonald urges us to send out at once.

It is true, beloved, that seven of the Sanders family, who came home from Africa a few years ago on furlough, are still with us. Dr. and Mrs. Sanders and two girls and three boys. These are all qualified to do good work among the natives of Africa. They all have the language. Some of them were born in Africa. Since coming home the young people have furthered their education which will also be a help to them. They all say they are ready to go back to Africa if the Lord so leads. No doubt some of them, perhaps all, would have returned before this time if we could have raised the money for passage funds and equipment, etc. Last year our treasurer's report showed that we were already paying out more than we were receiving to support missionaries and native workers already on the field. Those of us in the homeland who know our people, know how most of them have worked hard and sacrificed and given of their small earnings to support our work, both home and foreign, through this time of depression and scarcity of money. Our pastors have laboured for very small salaries, glad to share the burdens with their people, without complaining. We are hoping that the end of this depression may soon come so we can have more money for the Lord's work; but Jesus may come first, before there is any great change for the better. If He does I wonder if He will find any of us with money in our possession that we might have used to garner souls in Africa. We would be glad to respond to Brother MacDonald's appeal and send some or all of our Sanders family out, if some who read these lines, and have money would write to us and say, I will pay the passage fund for one or two of these missionaries to Africa. What better way could we invest our money than in the salvation of souls for whom Christ died? Reader, if you have money, write to our treasurer, Rev. L. T. Sabine, Woodstock, N. B., or to us, and tell us how much you will invest in this very important and needy field—Africa.

The Lord bless you.

We have just received a very encouraging letter from Sister Helen Sterritt written Nov. 5th, saying that her sister had the operation on her eye, and it was very successful; that she sees better from it than before and it is very comfortable. They are greatly rested and refreshed by their vacation which the Mission Board ordered for them, and very thankful to the good people at home who made it possible. They are returning to their field of labour again on Nov. 7th, greatly strengthened for their work. Sister Sterritt's hospital expense was \$125.00, which she is trusting will be met by the generosity of the good people in the homeland.

H. S. DOW, Editor

Rutherford: "I urge upon you communion with Christ, a growing communion. There are curtains to be drawn aside in Christ that we never saw, and new foldings of love in Him. I despair that I shall ever win to the far end of that love, there are so many plies of it. Therefore, dig deep and sweat and labor, and take pains for Him, and set by as much time in the day for Him as you can. He will be won in the labor."

"To the end he may stablish your heart unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, with all His saints." 1 Thess. 3:13.