

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Transvaal, South Africa  
Dear Homeland Friends:

I feel very sorry that so long a time has passed since we sent a Highway letter. Please forgive us. I have thought and wanted to do so many times. About every two weeks since the first of May Helen is laid by for a few days with a mild attack of fever. We are grateful that she has it so lightly, but it makes her miserable enough for the time and keeps her from getting around as she would like to. I am feeling much better since our two weeks' holiday in April and am truly grateful for the strength I have to carry on.

We both want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the help we have received financially for the building and new horse. Truly we do appreciate this more than we can express in words and want each one to know that this is to thank you personally for your kind contribution.

During these hard times we know it means much sacrifice on your part to keep the work going and we do pray that God will reward you in some very special way for your sacrifices and extra giving. The horse is a great comfort and blessing and to know that our financial obligation concerning its purchase and the debt on the building is now satisfactorily finished is a great relief indeed. We do thank you all most gratefully, dear friends.

The winter is passing rapidly by—we are sorry, for it is such a beautiful refreshing time of year.

I spent five days at Hartland during the quarterly meeting (June 28-July 3). It was well attended and the service good. A baptism was held on Sunday morning. One of the candidates was an old woman whom we knew well when we lived at Hartland—always laughing at the idea of becoming a Christian and a follower of beer drinks. Her testimony was a great blessing to my heart. There were several other old women and how good it was to see them following the Lord in this service. Several old men attended the Big Sunday service and how our hearts yearn to see these darkened souls come into the gospel light too.

I was very late getting home Wednesday night, for the sun had set when I crossed the Pongolo River in company with a native boy, but we had the light of a new moon and got on well. We waited to see their school closing and did not get away until 3 p. m. I do so much enjoy a school closing, especially the drill and singing exercises, and I am sure you would too. They have a very nice teacher and we do thank the Lord for her and our own good teacher. Surely He has helped us in providing these good Christian, educated, Zulu girls to carry on the school work.

We have had a month's holiday and next week the routine begins again. Mildred has been at her home near Dundee, Natal, and will be returning on Monday. She is really an exceptional girl and is respected by the whole community. Many heathen people come to see what takes place at the school closing and they do enjoy it and look forward to it eagerly. This term there seemed to be a larger crowd than ever and it was a happy time for all.

Sunday I went to "Kipanyawo" with Trifina Msibi to have a meeting at Loisi Nkosi's kraal. She is a widow and has had two daughters-in-law and two grand-children die this year. Three of these deaths were quite recent and she was comforted by the prayers of the church and the sympathy shown in having a service at her home. About fifty were present, among the number

were two heathen men and one woman. Three who have very lately given themselves as seekers in that section attended the meeting. The face of one dear little woman already shows a wonderful change in countenance. She is one of three wives and has tasted the bitterness of jealousy and hatred, now she looks to Jesus for help and comfort and He is indeed helping her. The Lord is touching hearts in that community. Trifina has a class every two weeks with about twenty women. In these classes she questions them about their spiritual progress and they report any matters that trouble them. She also teaches them Scripture to memorize and it is a very profitable class in every way.

Talida Nzima has a class at Emozane. Sibete Nkosi conducts another on Prudentia down toward the Pongola River, a government farm for natives only. It is beautiful how the Lord is working in that kraal where Sebete has her class and meetings. The women have confessed some horrible things—for there is always dark and devilish actions where polygamy exists and the Lord is giving them light and helping them so wonderfully to leave their sins. One woman was baptized here on Big Sunday and gives a definite testimony of sins forgiven and of great joy in the Lord, and of how wonderful He has changed things for her. A few years ago she was brought here by her husband with a very bad finger which had been bitten by her sister wife—it was almost a case of blood poisoning. Today that one is also seeking the Lord and has confessed that for years she desired to kill her step-mother by putting medicine in her food but the Lord has prevented her and now she sees the deep sinfulness of her heart in wanting to do so. The husbands of these women are very pleased to see the change in their wives and are very anxious for them to "go on in this new way." May their hearts become tender and yield to the Lord also is our prayer. One of the men was here yesterday and he has a very nice face and manner. I rode to their Kraal a few weeks ago for a meeting which was a blessed privilege for me. It is a very difficult ride and we have failed to get there before but I did so enjoy being there and saw some very lovely scenery during the ride—I was very tired when I got home, but hope to go again before long. They have a large kraal and there are others near by also.

On the way home I heard a witch doctor performing the magic art of "smelling out" someone who had been guilty of some offence—I drew up the horse and listened a few minutes to the weird sounds floating out on the beautiful Sabbath evening air. It was sad to think of their awful darkness.

Talida has also another class of women at Klip Vaal and Trifina goes to Badaza every three weeks and has a meeting and class there also. A new one was added to the number when she last visited there, a young girl. Sabete has a class of girls at Emozane and has a special gift in getting to their secrets and we feel that God will make her a great blessing to them. Johanise Nhosi, our new evangelist has a large class of women here and a class of men. God has blest his work and it does seem as if on the whole the work is very encouraging. There is nothing more helpful in building up the native church than these classes for the native workers fully know the depth and filth of heathen customs and practices and can help them so much because they have come out from it all. One dear young woman who began to attend class regularly some months ago began to walk in the light and was restored to church fellowship on "Big" Sunday. It was a happy day for her and for us also. She went astray by

choosing a heathen man and has suffered for it. She came to Sunday services very often but carefully avoided classes until her poor heart was broken up by the death of her dear little girl six months ago, then she became hungry to get back to the Lord and she looks like a new woman now. Her husband gave himself as a seeker also, but he is a very unstable character. Is now in Johannesburg working which is sometimes a help morally and sometimes is not.

Two others were baptized on Big Sunday who have been attending class regularly for some months. We have a general class or mid-week prayer meeting here every Thursday in which we receive much blessing. It would have comforted your hearts, as it did ours, had you heard some of the testimonies given this week. Several spoke of how thankful they are to God for sending teachers from across the ocean and how glad they are for the teaching of this church. Though they are scoffed at for following the teaching of these white people, they rejoice because God has given them light through the gospel which is preached unto them. One woman told of a conversation she had with another who told her she had thrown herself away "by believing to these white people" but she replied, "I chose this church by the love of my heart. I rejoice in it and love its teaching and am so happy since I am serving God." One after another gave expression as they so often do to the fact that they feel so grateful for the missionaries who came to them. But the anti-European churches hate to see this—much of it is due to jealousy of course.

We had a full house on "Big" Sunday and a good meeting. A number of native workers from Hartland came over with the MacDonald's and their exhortations were a blessing. A heather woman and a young girl gave themselves at the close of the service. Johanisi had his wife here for three weeks. She is a beautiful looking young woman and a lovely character. We enjoyed having her here and wish she could stay with him all the time, but the father is not yet willing for them to leave the home kraal. We pray that the Lord will bring this to pass Johanisi fits in here so happily and we do appreciate his labours and fellowship. Belina, who is a helper in the work, has a class also at Ematageni. She has a family of five little girls and a husband who is not strong while she herself is frail, but she is a smiling faced brave little woman and the Lord is her helper and strength. Isaiah's widow said goodbye to this church and community on Big Sunday. It was a hard parting for her and her testimony was beautiful and touched many hearts. She has gone to live with her mother in Swaziland for her life was really in danger if she continued here and she could not go to live at her heathen brother-in-law, for in the Zulu eyes she should become his wife. Polygamy is indeed a curse in this fair land. She is near enough our outpost over the Swaziland border to attend and help in the work there so we believe the Lord is leading her away for His glory. She is a dear grave little woman and needs our prayers that she may be kept from the snares of heathen custom.

Yesterday the other churches asked to meet here with our people and ask for God's mercy. The three violent hail storms last season stirred many hearts and they have been uniting in different places to pray that His anger be turned away. It gave us a gracious opportunity to give out the truth and the service was greatly blest of God. It was truly a very convicting meeting and we do thank the Lord for those who were present. Many never came to a "Big" Sunday meeting or our regular services but came yesterday be-