

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,
Transvaal, S. Af.,
May 30, 1936

Dear Homeland Friends:

Please forgive our long silence. We do not mean to be so neglectful but the days and weeks seem to fly and the Highway letter does not get written.

I am very thankful that I can write again, and trust to do so much more often in the future. I had to be very careful of my eyes for a long time but am happy to say that I am using them constantly now and trust by the goodness of the Lord to avoid the second operation. Also we are grateful indeed for renewed strength and health. Our holiday certainly came just in time and though we have been home a long time we are feeling now the good effects of it and are able to get out again on horseback to the kraals. We thank God and the dear homeland friends for making it possible to have the rest we needed. Our hearts are full of praise and gratitude.

Helen has had fever once this year but we hope it will not recur as it did so frequently last year, and that she will continue to improve in strength.

It has been so long since I have written and God has blest in so many ways I hardly know what to say first.

Our evangelist, Johanisi Nkosi, has had to leave us now—perhaps will be gone ten months—at least six months will pass before we can expect him back, for his landlord has called him to work for him.

He is a very spiritual boy and a good holiness preacher and one of the most willing helpers I ever saw. There was no work too heavy nor any duty too small for him to do and we do praise the Lord for having him with us during the past year. He has a lovely wife and two dear children. She looks after the work across the Pivaan River now that he is away—she is staying in his father's kraal, but she was here a great deal during his stay with us.

The Lord has given me a very sweet assurance that He is going to bless us greatly during the coming winter weeks. My own heart is greatly refreshed and quickened by the Holy Spirit, and I am exceedingly happy in the comfort of God's love. I believe He is going to do great things for us.

I see so plainly that we must be more definite in preaching holiness to these natives and am asking the Lord to help me to so live and teach it that these dear natives may learn the way more quickly and enter into the "rest of faith." So few of them "go on to perfection," and we pray that this may be a year of definite blessing and victory in seeing souls purified and baptized with the Holy Ghost. My heart is very hungry indeed to see this, and we know it is indeed the will of the Father that it should be, so we can ask in faith believing and it shall be done. Praise His Name! I feel a great revival spirit in my own soul and am so happy to have renewed strength of soul and body. How I do praise Him for all goodness and love in bringing us through to this glad day of renewed strength. To Him be all the glory, and we do thank all you dear ones for your prayers and loving support during the year.

At Klip Vaal the enemy has been working hard to steal some of our people, and though one has left the ranks the others are standing

true and have been strengthened by his departure. We praise God for this.

At Emozane the church is filled every Sunday, and there is a real hunger in many hearts for the Holy Spirit's power. A class of young men whom Johanisi had there has been confessing many sins. Some have told of things stolen when working for their landlords and are determined to make restitution. We are trusting that Filimone Nkosi may be able to come over fortnightly and take over this class of men. They do need to be led on lest Satan should gain the advantage over them.

Agnes, the widow of Isaya Sangweni, is being used of the Lord in the little outpost in Swaziland. Trifina Msibi is doing a good work at Kipa Nyawo, where she has a class every two weeks. A little girl who recently gave herself to God had been greatly troubled in spirit because she had treated an old woman in her kraal very badly. She confessed with great weeping to Trifina how she used to treat the poor old woman (who is now dead) and at night she had terrible dreams about her until her heart was so convicted she could not rest. After her confession and prayer for forgiveness the Lord graciously comforted her and gave her peace. Other young girls are confessing sins and walking in the Light, and we do praise Him for that. Some of the women in that section are dear Christians and their testimonies are a blessing.

At Sabete Ngosi's outpost some are doing well, while others have come up against things almost too hard to confess, but God is able to give them the victory.

Just this week the devil has sent some of the deceased Zionists (under another name) to carry on some of those foolish things which appeal so to the Zulu imagination. Three white robed women with crosses sewed into their garments on the breast, claim to have been sent by God from Johannesburg to the home of the Kushite preacher to hold prayers, heal the sick and prophesy. The kraal is in full sight of us and it is amusing, though sad, to see the great number who have gone for treatment. They pray over water, which makes it holy, and therefore will heal their sickness. We are happy to say that our people have not been greatly moved by these wonder-working women and though a few went to see what was being done, many have not even desired to look into it. We do thank God. Already their fame is losing its greatness, and their falseness will soon be disclosed, we believe.

This coming Sunday is our Communion Sunday and we trust for a gracious meeting. Some of the workers from Hartland will come over with Mr. MacDonald and the workers in this section will be present with the outpost congregations, so it will be a time of blessing for all.

The whooping cough is among the school children and pretty widely spread all around us.

We had three terribly cold days last week and a scarcity of wood at the same time, which added to the discomfort. It was so cold, wet and windy on Sunday we held the meeting in our house—only a few present, and they sat huddled up in their blankets trying to keep warm. We had a good service indeed and at sunset it cleared off so beautifully, but grew even colder—wind raged all night. Monday morning being a holiday (25th) we decided to go with the teacher and our native

family, with our lunches out to some sunny hillside to get warmed up and to save fuel. We found a beautifully sheltered spot and had a day of relaxation which did us much good in soul and body. The view was magnificent and the sunshine delightful, and we had sweet communion with God, the maker of heaven and earth. Truly it is good to know Him and the comfort of His love.

We are having delightful bracing weather all the time now. Soon you will all be gathered at Beulah. May it be a time of great blessing and salvation we pray.

We will write again after "Big Sunday", and hope to be more faithful in writing hereafter.

Yours, happy in Him,
ALICE F. STERRITT

Altona M. S.,
Transvaal, S. Af.,
June 16, 1936

Dear Homeland Friends:

We are having beautiful weather indeed and how we enjoy continuous sunshine and bracing air of this African winter. It is really delightful, dear friends.

We had a splendid meeting on "Big Sunday." Mr. MacDonald came over Friday evening with four of the preachers from Hartland. Sunday morning George and Aloni rode over on horseback. Saturday morning the preachers held prayers in several kraals where there were sick ones, and in the afternoon we had a very fine meeting with a small congregation. There were some good testimonies. It is reaping time and the people are very busy and not knowing that so many were coming we had not appointed a regular meeting, for which we were sorry. However, those who came were glad.

Isaya's widow, Agnes, was here from Swaziland. Her shining face and unctious testimony brought joy to our hearts and conviction upon the service.

On Sunday we had a crowded house and from 1 o'clock to 4.30 there was not a break in the service which was full of power and blessing. The testimonies following the preaching service were unctious and brought such comfort to our hearts.

A spirit of prayer was on the people and the meeting closed with much of God's Spirit in our midst, and we all felt it had been a "Big" Sunday in the true sense of the word because of His presence.

Mr. MacDonald, George and others went home by car after service while others remained until Monday and held prayers again with the sick ones whom we are glad to say are improving. The whooping cough still prevails but many are on the convalescent side now.

Aloni and Samuel Mavimbela stayed until Wednesday and held prayers on Tuesday at the Kraal of Chief Msib, where a large number of people both Christian and heathen were gathered. It was a fine service they said.

Aloni and Angus Zikalala came over for this week-end and have gone today to "Kipa Nyawo" to have prayers.

Salete has had to go and bury an old woman down near the Pongola River. We have not heard whether she left a testimony of salvation; she was once a seeker.

Sunday, Angus and I rode to Klip Vaal and though our congregation was extra small the Lord blest His word and the testimony of this native man. He is a fine man indeed.