

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

## PHILIMON'S STORY

Philimon Nkosi, a fine looking Zulu man nearing forty, is one of our native workers. He was given an outpost across the Pevaan river, up among the Cliffs in a most inaccessible situation. The distance and roughness of the way much discouraged his soul when he first began going to that needy and neglected section. The heathen seemed so hard and indifferent, his congregations so small after the long journey and results so slow that he decided it must be because "Nfundisi" did not love him that he sent him there. However he faithfully travelled the mountain track, crossing the Pevaan river, often in flood and often at real risk to his life. He visited the people in their homes and prayed with their sick and gave them the gospel message. God's word did not return unto Him void, and though the results, at first were slow and many disappointments saddened his heart, convert after convert was won, beautiful clear conversions, real deep experiences, an exceptional proportion of young men, and at least four who give promise of becoming workers themselves, has marked that work. One of his first converts was a cousin of his own, Johanisi Nkosi. He has advanced rapidly from heathenism to seeker, from seeker to helper, church member, young preacher and now with his young wife, also a Christian worker, he has become the Station Evangelist at Altona, a great blessing to the work there and a real blessing to us all in his soul passion, humility and spirituality. He calls himself Filimon's son and a deep and touching affection unites their hearts.

Another very promising young man has just returned from nine months' service to his "white man". This is Paule Nkosi, a cousin of Johanisi Nkosi. He seems to be another live coal, is a good reader and has had daily prayers and Sunday services with his fellow labourers while in service and helps in Filimon's absence at this "Ngenetsheni" (Enter-the-Rock) outpost.

Filimon's wife is Martha, one of Father and Mother's first converts and one of our first women workers. She has an extra clear and definite experience of Holiness and can describe the cost, the death, and the manifestations of "the old man" in a remarkable manner. They are an unusually progressive and industrious couple, have recently moved on the Mission Farm and are building up quite a nice little homestead. They have a little family of nice children, their three little boys especially are very bright and smart. They are "full of good works" doing on the quiet, much to clothe the naked and feed the hungry.

This fine Christian couple and home is one of the beacons God is planting in this dark land through your efforts and prayers. I started out to tell you Filimon's story. His testimonies or sermons are never dull. He has a very interesting, earnest and dramatic style and always has some striking incident or illustration. This day in our Quarterly Samuel Mavimbelo our one-legged preacher from Ntungwini had been preaching on Matthew 3. Filimon in comment on his message said:

"I think we must be the generation of Vipers that John the Baptist spoke of, for our fathers worshipped snakes. I can remember my old grandfather with a couple of goat skins tied round his neck, one clothing either side, belted at the waist—remember seeing him worshipping these snakes which were supposed to embody the spirits of his ancestors. I remember he had

a certain goat and a certain cow killed in sacrifice and offered to the "Madhlozi" or green snakes in which the souls of his fathers were supposed to live. Beer was made for them at certain seasons and offered in special huts.

"When I was just a little fellow our Kraal was moved from the old site over to a neighbouring hill. Shepherding the cows and goats with my little boy friends we used often to feed them near the old Kraal-site with its overgrown bush-covered graves. We built ourselves a little shepherd's hut for the wet days and thatched it with grass. One day coming into our little hut we found a long green snake among the poles of our hut. We tried to dislodge it with our sticks but it twined in among the thatch so we decided the only way to get him was to fire the hut. Rather sacrifice our little hut than to let the snake go. So we fired our hut and looking in saw the snakes writhing in the smoke and flames—suddenly we remembered!—these green snakes were the "Amadhlozi" whom our people worship. No one should kill an "Idhlozi"! They had told us these serpents when thus murdered would rise even from their ashes and choke the murderers at night". Now what shall we do? We cannot stop the fire and save the snakes—oh what shall we do? Surely now we will be killed tonight by the ashes of these murdered snakes!" Dumbly we watched the flames complete their deadly work. With trembling limbs and ashen faces we crouched through the long hours till sunset. Gathering the flocks we silently crept home and never a word to any one of the horror that weighted our hearts. We looked for the last time into the faces of our loved ones, and covered our heads, waiting for the cruel shocking folds of those long green snakes. Morning dawned, and we were still alive—the "Amadhlozi" had not killed us—then that story was a lie after all!"

FAITH MacDONALD

## CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland, N. B.

Dear Highway:

Just a word in regard to our recent meeting held here in Hartland. Brother W. E. Smith was with us over four Sundays, closing Easter Sunday. He preached with unction, and in the demonstration of the Spirit. His message was just what the Churches need, and we feel badly that so few walked in the light of them. We are glad for those who sought the Lord, and trust that the good seed sown will in the days to come yield a bountiful harvest. We enjoyed Brother Smith's fellowship, and feel greatly strengthened after having the privilege of listening to his clear cut holiness messages. I am enjoying the blessing of God in my own soul, and am determined to keep true.

Yours in the fight,

J. A. OWENS

Millinocket, Me.

Rev. H. S. Dow:

Dear Friend and Brother: Just a line to let you know that I have not forgotten you and yours. This letter leaves us well and hope it finds you enjoying yourself. Please find enclosed \$2.00 to renew the Highway as I don't think I could get along as well without it. I enjoy reading it and it is a help to me as I go through.

I am, yours truly,

A. B. CRAIG

Dear Brother Dow:

Another year has rolled around and I can

now count the blessings that my Heavenly Father has given me. I enjoy the Highway, also the morning worship on the radio by some of the brothers of our denomination.

I am enclosing renewal for my paper another year and the balance to the Highway Supplementary Fund.

Yours in Jesus,

MRS. A. E. DOW

Gordonsville, N. B.

## NOTICE OF QUARTERLY

The last Quarterly before Beulah Camp of District No. 1 will be held at the Belvidere Church, Maine, May 28th-31st.

A good representation of pastors and delegates is expected. Let us all try to have our church reports in early.

Forgetting the general trend of the age, let us one and all unite in a real effort to cause these three days to tell mightily for the glory of God and the upbuilding of His work.

N. J. SANDERS, Secy.

W. Jonesport, Me.

Dear Highway Friends:

A note from us might be in order at this time since we have not written for so long.

We are enjoying God's continued blessings on our souls and feel this way of salvation gets better every day.

During the past months since we came to Jonesport our people have stood by us nicely by their support and attendance. When we first came we were remembered with a donation of groceries; later in the fall with a harvest party, and several personal gifts at Christmas time; also quite often some folk remember us by sending in meat, vegetables, groceries or some other necessity. We thank God for laying it on people's hearts to do these things, and also for making it possible for them to find ways to help support us as their pastor. We pray God's blessing on all members and friends of our church who so kindly minister to our needs.

We feel that the Church is doing better than just holding her own, and although we look for better results, we thank God that four have been baptized and received into our membership, and we expect to baptize three more before this appears in print. We had a good series of meetings in February, with Brother Burrell Kimball. He gave us some able preaching and God honored the Word, with some seeking pardon or sanctification. At the present writing we are having special meetings again. Sister Orval Green remained with us a week after the Young People's Convention at Beals. This week and next we are continuing meetings. We have no special speaker, but Sister M. Orcutt, of Lawrence, Mass., is helping us in special singing. As yet we have seen no outward results but believe God's Word will not return to Him void, and our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

We appreciate the prayers of all God's people.

Yours in Him,

REV. E. R. and MRS. BRADLEY

Dear Highway:

Just a few lines again from St. John. Let me say our work is going on well. We had Lic. Donald T. Cochrane with us for three Sundays beginning March 29th, and went over the 12th of April. We enjoyed his ministry among us very much. I would say he did