

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland, M.S.,

November 15, 1937.

Dear Friends:

I take this opportunity to greet you from this one of the "ends of the earth," and to wish you each a real time of cheer and Divine blessing at Christmas. How much we have to rejoice about: another year has passed and we are yet allowed the privilege of living here for Christ and doing His precious will. Many are the Divine protections which have been ours; and we have enjoyed so many, rich, blessings from the hand of our God. It is a high privilege to be a "bond-servant" of Jesus Christ.

God has revealed His willingness to bless us here as we have gone from meeting to meeting and from place to place; we are glad and do rejoice for this, but I feel these preceding drops are but the forerunner of a great revival God wants us to have out here in this land of sunshine and shadows.

Summer is here with all its beauty; and, also with the probability of destruction by lightning, hail, flood and possible drouth. Last year the people of this district had a good crop.

Let us look forward with increased "faith" and "works" for all the work that God has entrusted to our care whether in Canada or the field of Africa. May God find us such that He can delight in us, and make our way prosperous, through each hour which shall be ours to experience.

Yours happy in the Master's service,

CHARLES D. SANDERS.

South Africa,

Nov. 24th, 1937.

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings one and all from your co-workers in this harvest field of the Transvaal and Swaziland.

A little over three months have quickly passed since my last report. This past period is the best portion of the whole year for evangelistic work. From now on rain is due and any appointments may be spoilt by bad weather. I have made the most of this fine opportunity, making an average of seven miles per day by bicycle, horse or car. The cycle has far exceeded the horse or car by doing a little over a thousand miles. Encouragement, praying friends. A woman gave herself to the Lord last month from the kraal of the man who gave his people his consent for them to seek the Lord. In all there are over a dozen with others elsewhere. Secondly a new outstation was opened for good last Sunday on the border of Swaziland 16 miles from the first outpost mentioned in my last. It is very promising with 4 members in good standing and two seekers, not counting five children.

At the starting of this work at Altona there were four Government farms all bordering the Pongolo river, which is the boundary between Natal and the Transvaal. Natives are allowed to farm on these farms, by the payment of 12½ dollars. Now the government expects to buy up a large tract of land, or 27 farms, whose average is over 2,000 morgen in area. Natives will move in and the population will be greatly increased as much as 50%. Schools will be encouraged and the medical side of this work will have, as it were, a new field. Of all this area we have three churches counting Entungwini's church, and seven outstations, on eight of the 27 farms. This area is manned by three paid workers with other voluntary helpers, two of which are worthy of financial assistance and thereby they would be able to spend their whole time in this work.

Another step forward in the school question. The money side of this line has fallen very of-

ten on the ones who were in charge here, as each scholar pays 12 cents per month, and it takes a good many to pay for the board and salary of the teacher. I have 27 on the roll which leaves a balance of over six dollars per month. From April, 1938, which is the beginning of the government's financial year, I have been informed that the government will give aid in supplying a qualified native teacher. Later another letter arrived stating that there is a prospect of this help to begin in February at the first quarter of school opening. Then this school will be registered and no other school may be opened or operated within a radius of five miles. This will bring more opportunities as well as more work.

Then, lastly, a native malaria assistant was stationed here for the moment. He undertakes to go to the kraals and teach the natives the danger of the mosquito and how to combat its raids. If he takes a liking to this place he may be permitted to settle somewhere near here. He is a Christian and has taken a liking to our church.

In closing I will wish you all a blessed and prayerful New Year and hope Christmas was a happy one.

G. W. SANDERS.

South Africa,

Nov. 17, 1937

Dear Friends:

Once more we send greetings in our dear Lord's name from this part of His great harvest field. Truly, we feel to pray more earnestly than ever for Him to send forth more labourers as, from time to time, we hear of new sections where hundreds of precious blood-bought souls have never yet heard the Gospel story told. Yes, our hearts ache when we hear of the number of missionaries on the waiting list, of different denominations, with the call of God burning in their souls. "Prayer changes things!" So let us "not faint" nor even consider the difficulties or obstacles in the way of these men and women of God, but believe God, as did Abraham, and do our part; then watch God work. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The closed doors will swing open; consecrated messengers of God will soon find themselves embarking for India, China, Africa, Japan—or wherever they feel called to go. The Bread of Life will be taken to the famishing souls and we will have the joy of meeting them around the throne of God, having "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

One little saint has gone on before. Befu Kimene's hunch-back daughter about twenty-six years old, Lifina Ndebele. She was a great sufferer when brought here. We did the best we knew for her but God wanted to take her away "to be with Jesus which is far better." She was saved very young, had a fairly good education and taught school several terms. At times, when the pain would permit she would sing some hymns and quote scripture verses, then pray aloud. It was very touching and blessed all who were present. A number of times she was heard to say to her sister, "I have been a disfigured girl but when I stand before Jesus my body shall be perfect in form." She told her mother, the day before she left us, not to cry—she noticed her tears. Bertha lovingly smiled through her tears and said, "No, my child, see I am laughing." Aloni came in to pray for God to raise her up but she interrupted him, telling him to pray only "Thy will be done." When he then prayed thus the "Amen" poured forth from her lips. Later on as death drew near, she said, "Mother, there is Jesus! Oh! Mother your tears drive Him away—move away from me. Ah! Here He is. My Jesus! Mother put your hand up and say,

'Jesus'. Mother, Jesus' grace is sufficient for me." To her sister, "Tembekile though my head feels as if it is being chopped off, yet I find Jesus' grace is sufficient for me." She was taken away without a struggle, just raised her hand and happily said, "Jesus, thy grace is sufficient for me!" Bertha said in class today, as she related these incidents to us, "My heart is comforted—but oh, how I miss her!" Lifina was always her joy and comfort. Before Bertha could read the Bible herself, Lifina would read it to her and encourage her in the Lord at times of persecution and trial. Bertha needs our prayers.

We had a letter from Alfred Metula last night (our worker near Paulpietersburg) reporting the death of their seven-year-old daughter. Let us pray for these fine Christian parents.

The same day Lifina died another very sick woman was brought here—had been operated on at Vryheid we think for cancer. She lived only five days. Oh! how terribly emaciated the poor soul was. Her husband was so devoted to her. I never saw a native man so good to his wife as he was. She prayed twice when I had prayers with them, and I gathered from her (her understanding was rather dull) that she had the witness of sins forgiven. Her husband and his mother listened so interestedly to the Gospel story. He seemed almost heartbroken. She left no farewell messages. These people said that they were Catholics.

There is a blind native man staying here now for treatment, Solomon Sukazi, from across the Pongolo River. He used to sit at mother's feet years ago and memorize Scripture verses as she repeated them over and over to him. Now that privilege is mine (as I put the drops in his eye with which he can see a little). Yesterday two children came to tell me their parents were taking them out of Sunday School to watch the cattle so they will not get in the gardens. As I read the verse to Solomon they came up close to me and repeated the verse softly after me too! Dear little boy and girl! So eager to learn and now being robbed of their one chance for several months. A number of other children are having to leave Sunday School for the same reason. For the month of September the average attendance was 48, and 46 for October. There were 40 last Sunday and two visitors. Eighty-seven enrolled.

For months we have been burdened over the hard-heartedness of two of our kitchen girls—splendid trustworthy workers. Praise God He is answering prayer. Gradually they have softened till they manifested a real heart hunger. Usually I talk to them when they have occasion to come into the dispensary and urged them to seek the Lord. Both prayed but neither claimed the witness—their part was not yet fully done. A week ago I had another time of prayer with one and that night, after our prayer meeting, a little messenger was sent to ask me to pray with them in their room. This was a happy surprise. The little messenger prayed through and the older girl also claimed the assurance of sins forgiven. Last night they requested "a verse and a prayer." The little girl said she had had victory all day but did not know how to pray—so, as before, I helped her. Charlie conducts the natives' prayers in the mornings.

We feel sorry that we write so few personal letters. Hope you will forgive us, call the "Highway" letters yours and keep writing to us.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year with God's blessing and smile of approval upon you each day.

Yours in Jesus,

GRACE M. SANDERS.