

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Natal, South Africa

March 10, 1938

Dear Highway Folk, One and All:

Another of our long delayed greetings. This is the first day of our quarterly. We had good services today, but as we have no meeting tonight we have time to write.

The appearance of the work in general is the healthiest I have ever known it to be. Quite a number are seeking the Lord.

We had a splendid service over at Altona Sunday before last; a nice baptism service with three candidates. There had been a faction fight a few days before near Altona, and many badly injured; one man killed. Some of the worst cases were brought to the Mission Station. Grace stayed over there a week to help George with these cases.

On Saturday last I went across the river to see the owner of a farm where we want to have a school. It is the first time I ever met this man. When I asked him for a site, his answer was, "I know your work. I know what you are doing among the Natives. I knew Doctor Sanders' work. You are welcome to build anywhere you want to on my farm, for I believe you do help the Natives to live better lives." We rejoice because of this opportunity, and because of the fact that outsiders see the transforming power of the gospel in the lives of our Native converts. This man lives about twelve miles from us, across the Pongola, but when the river is full we have to go twenty-five miles to reach his home.

I must add another testimony of how men see our work. Another Station, over thirty miles from here, where the farm owner's own Denomination tried to get him to put us off after we had built a nice little church. He said "No. You people have done nothing for the Natives. These people are helping them, and they are going to stay." Two years afterwards he testified, "I am glad I gave you the Church site, for you do make our people better."

We also rejoice because of the Government recognition that we are now getting, both for school and medical work, and for the general sympathy and willingness to co-operate, which they have shown during the past few years. Doors are open wide for our work here. If we are able to live up to our opportunities, we must have more workers.

We must have help for Altona soon. George needs his furlough, which is long overdue.

Yours for souls,

D. M. MacDONALD

Altona M. S., Transvaal

My Dear Friends:

Again we would greet you in Jesus' name. We thank God for the good news we hear from "home" from time to time through The Highway or personal letters from friends. Even though we are here—at times almost "swamped" with work—our interest in the Home field does not wane. May God continue to bless you daily as you labour for Him. We are encouraged too, to know that you are praying for us. Yes, we can "feel" your prayers, as it were, supporting us.

"As your day, so shall your strength be," is truly a wonderful promise, and one which I have just proved over again. Dan brought me over last Thursday to stay over Sunday with George for the quarterly meeting here. We

left Daniel sick, so after marrying a couple, Dan returned home. Friday the natives were to have a feast at the bridegroom's home. George and I walked over. He spoke in the service, to a large congregation of Christians and raw heathen. Before he was through we saw a now rather uncommon sight. About seventy warriors, in full heathen regalia, marching towards us. Each carried several sticks and a shield. Another group were seated on the hill above us and soon began to get restless. The newcomers disappeared around a hill behind us and suddenly attacked those above us, using stones. Though we were at a safe distance, still there was a feeling of apprehension, but we knew God would take care of us. There came a brief pause, men returning and gathering together and then a fresh attack. The thick of the battle took place in a valley beyond. Many were wounded with sticks, knobkerries, stones and some sharp instruments like a spear, by the looks of the sores. A native rode to the scene on horseback to separate the two armies, and after a few minutes of terrible suspense, the men came back; some limping and groaning and blood dripping from their heads and arms. As they passed us George called to them, looked them over, and said, "Come back with me and I'll wash your wounds for you." Five came. One was too weak to stand alone, so a truckman, who had driven up, took him and us home and would take nothing in return. We did praise God for that truck. We had no time-piece but I am sure it was midnight when we were through with those wooly heads and had a chance to eat our supper. They had from three to five wounds each on their heads—horrible gashes, baring the bone and fracturing the skull in several cases. Three went home—two stayed, and are still here, and two more have come to stay since. All who came to us right away are recovering wonderfully, for which we thank God. The last one arrived yesterday, with a high temperature, pussy sores, at least two fractures (of the five head wounds), a broken finger and two bruises. Daily a number of their relatives bring food steaming hot. Others come to call on them and express their gratitude to us for our assistance. This reminds me of the prayer God has been laying on our hearts for the salvation of the head-men of the kraals round about us. Now God is giving us a chance to help answer our prayer. He is sending the unsaved head-men here! Not only here but to Hartland too. Just about a week before I came over, an old man was brought there for treatment. His son-in-law gave him a bad crack on top of his head, making a double fracture, and a bruise over his left eye. Quite a few head-men came to see him. Thus we are having God-given opportunities to reach these hard eternity-bound souls.

We feel you will add the head-men to your prayer list too. Our hearts just long to see each of these four raw heathen saved before they leave our care! By joining us in praying for these men you too may have a part in winning their souls for Jesus.

Yours in Him,

GRACE M. SANDERS

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.—I. Corinthians 15:51-52.

"THE GLORY IS DEPARTED FROM ISRAEL"

I Sam. 4-21

This is one of the saddest statements contained in the Word of God. God has shown us some sad pictures in the Old Testament of the Children of Israel, but we notice He never left them without a remedy to cope with every situation.

Let us consider this subject under four headings:

I. The condition of Israel.

II. What glory is not.

III. What glory is.

IV. The necessary conditions for having the glory restored.

Let us look at the condition of Israel. In the context we find that Israel was judged by Eli whose two sons Hophni and Phinehas had sinned. (1 Sam. 2:22). Although Eli was a man of God, and it grieved him because his sons had sinned, nevertheless he allowed them to continue in the ranks of Israel. He tried to persuade them to renounce their sin, but persuasion only, is not sufficient in dealing with sin. Considering the fact that God cannot look on sin with any degree of allowance, He deemed it necessary that Eli's two sons must absolutely forsake their sin in order to have His divine blessing and victory in the whole camp of Israel. Therefore it is clear to us that there was sin in the camp of Israel. As this condition continued we find that Israel went up to battle against the Philistines, and was cruelly defeated, and about four thousand Israelies were slain. This is indeed a sad picture, brought about not because they were outnumbered by the Philistines but because there was sin in the camp. Lack of power and victory in the church or individuals is the result of unconfessed sin. Israel realized that something must be done. Instead of confessing their sin and crying unto God for deliverance they sent to Shiloh to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord of Hosts, and when the ark came into the camp all Israel shouted with a great shout so that the earth rang out. (I Sam. 4:5). Surely we would say now that there was victory in the camp, but sin still remained. Eli's two sons were there when the ark arrived and joined in the shout, sin and all! It has always been a problem to us how these two men living in sin could stand by the ark of the covenant and join in the shout. Yet it is not so ancient, for we find many people today who live sinful lives and yet profess to be in the ranks of the Israel of God.

This brings us to the thought of what glory is not. Many people would have us believe that outward manifestations of joy are an evidence of the glory of God. This is not true. Although Israel shouted so that the earth rang out, as we continue to read the story we find that they were utterly defeated in the very next battle, thirty thousand footmen being slain, the ark of God taken, and Eli's two sons were also killed. This proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that while Israel had the outward manifestations that would cause one to believe that they had the glory of God, yet in truth, they did not possess it. During this conflict Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching and his heart trembled for the ark of God. (Chapter 4:13). Would to God that more people today had such a concern for the cause of God. After Eli heard of Israel's defeat he fell off the seat and died. The wife of Phinehas gave birth to a child and before she died she told them to call the child Ichabod, saying "the glory is departed from Israel." While I am personally convinced that manifestations alone are not an evidence of the glory of God, yet shouting and such, which usually accompany