

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission Station,
August 16, 1939

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings from Africa! My long silence requires some explanation. Like many who make excuses, I shall merely say I have been too busy or too tired to write.

Some of you realize what it is to move and get settled. Well, that has been just one of the labors that have occupied us. All our freight landed safely in Durban and after some little trouble we "got through" the customs. The next thing was to get our freight to our new home, about 375 miles away. About two-thirds of our goods were sent by freight train to a station 32 miles away from the mission station; the rest I took in my trailer behind our car. My, but you should have been with us on that trip up country! We enjoyed the scenery very much and hills, I should say mountains, were without number. Our load made the poor car's engine boil several times and at times we were quite nervous about whether we could "make the hills" or not. It was a great relief when we at last got home. I used the same trailer to bring the rest of our freight from the station. While bringing the last load, the road was so rough, I broke the trailer pole, but fortunately the trailer broke away from the car on a level road so no harm was done. A Dutch neighbor was coming right behind me and he stopped and helped me mend the broken pole.

I have also been well occupied with building and repair work around the station. I had to make a shelter for my car and chickens; have a rondaval re-thatched, make a winter garden, enlarge a small verandah room to make a second bedroom, repair the fences, and last but not least, dig a well. The latter operation was in the nature of an experiment. We dug the well about 6 feet in diameter and about 20 feet deep. It is now in the process of being rocked up. You may be glad to know that we struck water and that now, near the end of the dry season, there is about 3 feet of water. The value of the well must still be proved, although so far it has made possible a winter garden. When you realize that previously most of the water had to be carried 500 yards or so you can see how valuable the well may prove to be.

Then a good deal of my time has been taken up with getting acquainted with our mission field in the Transvaal and to some extent in Natal.

The centre of our Transvaal work is at Altona. Here we have about an acre of land granted to our denomination by the government and on it a church, a mission house, two rondevals (sleeping quarters for the natives), and another building which contains George Sanders' room and the store room. The church here will seat about 150 natives. It has been full on at least two occasions since we arrived.

To the south-east there is a small outpost on the Klipvaal farm but we are handicapped by the fact that we can never have a church building there. Another mission society got ahead of us. This outpost is about 4 miles away. We probably have a dozen or so church members in that area.

To the north-east we have three outposts. A twin outpost at Mozaan and Kipinyawo which is about six miles away and the third

just over the Swaziland border (probably 15 miles as the crow flies, but more than 30 by car). The Mozaan and Kipinyawo outposts are among the strongest as far as numbers are concerned. We have over 40 in that area. At two different services we have had in these places, our attendance was about ninety. Incidentally we have only one small church building to serve both outposts and that is sadly in need of repairs. We have put in an application for a church site in that area; so has another mission. Pray that God may put it in the hearts of the government officials to grant us this site if it is His will.

The outpost on the Swaziland border is a comparatively new work although we usually have 30 or 40 people out to the services. We have started a second outpost in Swaziland about 20 miles to the west of the other. The people seem to be interested. Pray for these new sections.

Not far from the road we take to go to these Swaziland outposts is another outpost near the Sulphur Springs police camp. We generally have a congregation of about 30 there. We are building a new church there of poles, mud, and grass in the kraal of our native worker.

Our farthest outpost is at Big Mapandhleni about 40 miles away. It is about 8 or 10 miles beyond our station, Moolman. Here too the congregation is between 30 and 40.

To the west of Altona, and more or less along the Pongola river, we have a string of six outposts; one on Prudentia, two at or near Entungwini, Mfene, Little Mapandhleni and Mbucu. Entungwini and Mbucu are the only two which have church buildings.

Entungwini is the location of our second government grant. We have about 40 members there but we have 70 or 80 of a congregation. Quite a few young people attend the services there.

The rest of the outposts are small although the congregation probably average 25 when we are present.

I believe Mbucu is a larger outpost but I have not been there yet. A native worker from the Hartland Mission goes back and forth to this outpost.

You have thus seen that our Transvaal work has about fourteen outposts with a total attendance of 400 to 500 people.

Our greatest need at the moment is for money to build churches and support additional native workers.

We shall soon have 6 church buildings, such as they are. Two need to be enlarged and others to be fixed up and repaired. At the remaining outposts the services are held in huts or out-of-doors.

The Lord is continuing to speak to hungry hearts, and hearts are being opened to receive the Word.

We shall try to tell you about our native workers in a later letter.

Yours for service,

EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

NOTHING IS EASIER

Than finding fault in a friend.
Than criticizing the government.
Than starting a scandalous story.
Than drifting with the crowd.
Than making cowardice look like expediency.
Than blaming our misfortunes on others.
Than holding our acquaintances under suspicion. —Sel.

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

SLANDERING THE WOMEN

If Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt would not talk or write, people would not be constantly reminded of her lack of information and her eternal bias toward that which is evil. Her latest notable deliverance, contained in the magazine, *This Week*, reads:

"In recent years American women have conducted three crusades. The first was for suffrage, the second was for prohibition, and the third for repeal of prohibition; and in each case they won their cause."

It is charitable to say that the woman does not know any better.

The repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, as every person of ordinary intelligence and information knows came by the following facts:

1. Prohibition was badly enforced, especially in the cities, because enforcement was in the hands of the enemies of prohibition or of persons who took bribes of money or votes for poor enforcement. (However, the miserably-enforced prohibition was one hundred times better than license at its best.)

2. The liquor interests poured millions of dollars into propaganda to break down prohibition.

3. Newspapers and magazines hungering for their share of the blood money which they could have out of liquor advertising carried on great propaganda against prohibition for their selfish ends. The newspaper and magazine share of present profits probably runs into scores of millions of dollars annually.

4. A fourth great cause for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment was the promise of Mr. Roosevelt in 1932. He said:

"By no possibility, at any time, under any circumstances, shall that institution, the saloon, or its equivalent be allowed to return to American life."

Many believed he was sincere in making this promise.

5. The depression, which was by the propagandists, Roosevelt, Farley, the wet papers and the liquor interests charged to prohibition.

6. The moral backsliding and consequent indifference of the church.

7. The failure of voters to cast their ballots, which caused repeal to come by the votes of approximately forty per cent of the voters of the states—never by a majority of the voters—only a majority of the votes cast.

Mrs. Roosevelt's charge upon the women is therefore only what we have come to expect.—Free Methodist.

WHEN PRAYER IS HEARD

There steals a blessed sense of peace
Across this heart of mine,
When prayer is heard by God on high,
Through faith in Christ Divine.

How often burdens are laid down,
And comfort is received,
And sweet assurance floods my soul
With promises believed.

I would not take all that the world
Could give of purest gold,
For knowledge that my prayer is heard;
'Tis wealth to me untold.

—Frances Ure