

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission Station,
Sept. 23rd, 1939

Dear Mother:

It is time that I wrote you another letter. Most of the time I seem to be so busy that I do not do much writing.

This is Sunday evening and I am home after having been to one of our nearer outposts. Today I had only Johansi, our station evangelist, with me. We went on bicycles along foot-paths all the way (about 6 miles one way). As it was early when we arrived we went up to one of our preacher's kraal and had prayers for two sick children. About a dozen people were present; several were heathen.

Before we left the kraal they brought me some tea and I ate the lunch I had brought with me. After that we went down the hill to a near-by tree under which we were to have our service. About 50 were present. All except 3 or 4 children were either church members or seekers. The service lasted about two hours (quite a short one for here). We got home around 4 o'clock. I had a native teacher to interpret for me while preaching.

This week has been unusually busy as far as trips on bicycles are concerned. During the last 8 days I have made 4 trips; about 90 miles in all. I do not seem to mind the exertion very much and some of the trips are quite interesting.

I am getting most of the extra work done around the mission. I have a good sized garden planted and quite a bit more spaded ready to plant. The well I started is finished for the present.

One rondevaal (hut with walls) has been re-thatched and my chicken roof is about half finished. The fence has been altogether rebuilt around two sides of the mission acre. I have planted or transplanted about 15 fruit trees (peach, quince, banana and lemon).

I have enlarged the verandah to nearly double its original size (that is the rock work has been done around the edges and the inside has been filled with dirt); sometime I want to put in a cement floor and an iron roof. I have put in cement floors in the two bedrooms (10 ft. x 18 ft. and 10 ft. x 20 ft.). I enlarged a room (5 ft. x 9 ft.) so that it is now 10 ft. x 20 ft.. Then at the door that opens outdoors from this room I have made a cement porch 6 ft. x 8 ft. I also fixed the fire-place in the living room so that it works. I put up 20 ft. of guttering along the back of the house and have 40 ft. or 50 ft. more of it nearly ready to put up.

I have fixed up all the screens on all the doors and windows. One door and four window screens had to be replaced. Then I had to put up strapping all around the three doors to make them fly proof. I have had all the spaces between the top of the brick wall and the corrugated iron roof filled in with mud plaster. We are at present filling in the holes along the corners and ridge of the roof with cement in an effort to make the house mosquito proof. When it is finished we should be about safe from mosquitoes. Then we built a new rock and cement base for one water tank. I also put in seven window panes in the church.

These are most of the odd jobs I have been doing since we came here. The rest of my work has been going somewhere every Sun-

day and sometime during the week, having Thursday Bible class and preaching service, attending indaba's, etc., etc. I think I can let up some as plastering is the only big job at present. It is probably just as well as it is getting gradually warmer; we shall soon be having hot weather and rains.

September 30

Did not get your letter finished so will try to write more today. Just now we are having a very mild thunderstorm. Enough rain has fallen to water the garden. We have had new beets, spinach, carrots, lettuce and peas that I planted after I got here: I have quite a nice garden if the hail or locusts do not destroy it.

We have not had letters from Canada for a couple of weeks. The submarine menace must have caused mails to be delayed. If it were not for the radio we would not know that the war had started. This past week I was able to get some more thatching done, also some plastering as well as some planting.

Nearly 50 adults and children have given themselves to our church as seekers in this Transvaal area since we arrived here. Quite a number of children have been presented as well. Six have been baptized.

We are thinking of starting a new school about 4 or 5 miles away as an experiment. This section seems to be very promising as far as competition from other churches and seekers are concerned. Then a man and his wife want to learn to read. They probably aspire to become workers. This school will probably cost me between \$1 and \$2 per month.

There are lots of things which are interesting that I might write about but I guess I will close for the present.

Lovingly,

EUGENE

Hartland M. S.

To our Highway Friends Everywhere:

Dear Friends: Greetings in Jesus' name. We trust this letter will find you all well with your faith in Him. He who calmed the troubled sea can keep you in this time of war and distress of nations.

May great grace be given to you all but especially to our boys and girls who may be going forth to war. And to their fathers and mothers who must part with them.

Conditions have changed very little in this country. Prices have gone up and mail is much longer on the way, but otherwise things are as usual. A sign seen in most places, especially the towns, is, "Business as Usual." We should continue our evangelistic efforts, not only as usual, but with greater stress than ever, for many will soon have had their last chance to choose God, for whether in war or peace, many young and old will soon pass out to meet their God. May we all be faithful to our trust.

We are grateful for all God has done and is doing in our African work, also for all the good reports from the Homeland.

We thank God for our new missionaries and for the way God is helping them and using them in the work. They are fine workers and in every way they are proving themselves "the called of God." May His blessing rest upon their loved ones in the Homeland with whom they had to part. Do not forget them in your prayers. They need your prayers that they may be given health during the next few hot months.

Generally the outlook was never brighter in our work despite some who fail to make the progress they should, on the whole, things are bright. Souls are seeking and finding God; believers are going deeper with Him and hard fields are taking on an upward trend.

We lost by death some good people last year, but others are coming along to fill up the gap. One outpost lost six within three months, all died in the faith giving bright testimonies.

We are seeing young men called into the work laid down by their fathers, and others who have come from the darkest or heathen homes finding God and taking their places in His work. This and the deepening experiences of some of the older ones are most encouraging signs for us.

Some new places are opening up and we expect to see new stations started in the near future. One or two of the larger ones have two or three places where they hold special meetings. One or two meetings are held weekly in addition to the Sunday meetings.

We thank God for all that has been done and we are believing for greater things in the future. We thank you all for your prayers and support during these years. We pray that you will see many brought into the Kingdom during your winter campaign.

Yours in His love,

D. M. MacDONALD

Altona Mission

Dear Highway Friends:

We want to return grateful thanks to our Heavenly Father for bringing us to this land in safety and getting us settled before war broke out. It is now a little over six months since we landed in Durban. We want to thank God for what He has enabled us to accomplish in that time. We have added a bed-room, laid two cement floors, dug and rocked up a twenty foot well, re-built fences, built a small church, put in a good sized garden, have had a rondevaal re-thatched, and have done considerable repair work around the mission house. Then we have gone to our outposts and studied Zulu besides this. From now until the next dry season our activities will probably be restricted.

A few days ago we succeeded in getting a government official to go with us to Gunsteling farm and mark off the church and school site (one acre) that had been granted to our mission before we came. We were fortunate to get a location on the farm boundary, near to a road and water and with mulberry and peach trees, already bearing fruit. This means that in the near future we shall have to move the Entungwini Church or build another. The latter course will probably be taken as the old church has very little of value to it. It has no window sashes or frames, a very poor door, and the roof needs to be re-thatched.

Last Sunday George and I took our bicycles and went about seven miles away to what is known as the Mozaan outpost and church. We were to have a Big Sunday and seek to raise money, labour and materials to enlarge the church building. About seventy people crowded into a room 9 ft. x 18 ft. in spite of unfavorable weather conditions. I based my remarks on Nehemiah's account of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. I stressed the fact that Nehemiah accomplished what he did (1) because he was doing God's will, and