

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission Station,
South Africa,
March 2, 1940

Dear Highway Friends:

Another Quarterly Meeting has closed and you may be interested in receiving a report of it. I think you would also be interested in hearing of a recent trip that Eugene took by car to bring home a sick boy from the mine compound near Vryheid.

Quite early one morning a man came to the Mission saying that he had just received word that his son was very sick in the hospital; that no more could be done for him and that they must come at once and take him home.

Eugene was not very anxious to go as it is nearly one hundred miles from here, but after considering the matter he felt that he should, so as soon as they could get ready he started.

They did not return until after ten o'clock in the evening. They had had a hard but interesting day.

The man's name is Gideon and it seems that some time ago his wife wanted to become a Christian in our church, but he refused his permission saying that he wished her to go to a church that is run solely by the natives. This she refused to do; she said she would remain a heathen before she would go to that church and she has done so.

Gideon received quite a fright at the hospital for as he was entering he met several men carrying a dead boy from his son's room. So he was very pleased to see his boy again, for he had feared that he might be dead also.

On the way home George talked with him. He reminded Gideon of his wife's desire to go to our church and he admitted that our church had done more for his family than any other. He told George of one child being badly burned when the Sterritt Sisters lived here and how they had nursed it and saved its life. He said that he had already told that one that it could become a Christian in our church.

Then he told of three occasions when his wife had been very ill and how our native worker Belina had come and nursed her and thus saved three babies and now the "white teacher" had saved his boy so he could come to our church too, if he wished. George pointed out the fact that it would be very unwise for the children to go to one church and the mother to go to another or remain at home as a heathen. The mother would long to be with her children. I pray that he will see how reasonable this is and that this kraal will soon be a Christian kraal instead of the heathen one that it now is.

Our Quarterly Meeting was held last week. We had our usual services on Thursday. George had charge of the morning service and his subject was "Obedience." I believe it was a profitable service. In the afternoon Eugene preached especially to the children from Matt. 7:24, 25, 26 and 27. He stressed the importance of building a good foundation—both physically and spiritually.

On Friday morning we had early prayers for those who were present and class meeting at half past ten. Then in the afternoon a goodly number gathered again, and I did my best to give the people a few thoughts from Psa. 16:11: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy: at Thy right hand there are pleasures forever more." I endeavored to show the people, 1st, how important it was that we let God show

us the path that we should take, and, 2nd, how important that with the help of God we continue to walk in that path, etc. I think nearly everyone present testified, and I believe it was the desire of all to keep in the straight and narrow way that leads to God.

The Friday evening service was opened in the usual way and then Andrew Mtevive, one of our Hartland native workers, brought the message. It was a very nice service and the people seem to like to linger where there was such a blessed atmosphere.

We had early prayers and class meeting on Saturday morning. Eugene led the morning class. He based his remarks on the Bible teaching about divorce. He also read the covenant, showing what we, as the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada stand for along this line.

We changed our program somewhat about the afternoon service and the people went out by groups to have prayers in kraals in different directions from the Mission. They held in all, about twenty services. One group was chased off by an old man with a cane but that didn't dampen their spirits, and as a result of these services, four people gave themselves to the Lord as seekers.

We were very pleased to learn that Gideon's sick boy was one of the four. We do thank God very much for this. Then you may remember in a recent letter that I told of a blind man's daughter who gave herself to the Lord as a seeker in one of the Altona services. Well, the old blind father was one of the four too, and we also thank God for this and pray that the father and daughter will not rest until they know that God for Christ's sake has forgiven their sins.

It was most interesting to see the groups as they reached the mission about dark. I had gone out to serve coffee to the people when I heard music and here in one direction came one group singing and so happy. Soon another group came from another direction and they too were singing. Soon all the people had arrived and after they had rested a bit and eaten a good supper of goat meat, etc., they gathered in the Church to relate their different experiences.

Mngati, the malaria assistant and also one of our Hartland preachers, was present and after the singing, prayers, etc., he gave a short message on love. He seems to be a spirit-filled man of God and we enjoyed his message. Then the leaders of the groups told the happenings of the afternoon. I wish you could have seen their shining faces and heard their words. It was an inspiration to all present, I am sure.

We began Sunday by having early prayers in the church. Then came Sunday School. At present we are studying the life of Moses and I think the children enjoy the lessons. At the close of the Sunday school I talked a short time to the girls who were present. Then we hurried home to get a lunch before starting the afternoon service at twelve. That service is always long as so many wish to take part.

After the usual prayers, hymns, etc., we had five of our workers speak ten minutes each. Then Eugene, George, Brother MacDonald and I spoke briefly after which four babies were presented to the church, one young man was made a preacher helper and two girls gave themselves to the Lord as seekers.

Lastly, as many as felt worthy, gathered

to the front and partook of communion. It was a good service and a good Quarterly Meeting. I felt it was well worth the effort we put forth to make it a success and I think we all felt that it had been good for us to thus gather to have our souls refreshed and blessed.

By the time this reaches you, you will be beginning to think about Beulah Camp Meeting. May the dear Lord be with you and help you in every way that many of you may be able to gather at beautiful Beulah Camp again this year. We remember you all and pray for you daily.

Yours in His service,
GLADYS M. KEIRSTEAD

Natal, South Africa,
March 9, 1940

Dear Homeland Friends:

For some reason we received two issues of the Highway last night. It is good to hear from the dear Home friends and we are glad that the Lord is blessing you as He is.

This year the Lord made it plain that He wants us to have a governess for our children and that I should spend more time in His work here. He has, at last, sent us a nice young girl whom the children like, and we trust is His choice in this matter.

We have had a new set of membership tickets printed, and I am trying to supply every church member and every seeker with a ticket. I have always loved this part of the work, writing the names and tiny notes on the history and walk of the various ones. It takes hours of precious time, but it gives one a permanent knowledge of the various cases that could be gained in no other way, and also the one who keeps these books, knows every member, every seeker, their condition and needs, and has a knowledge of the work as a whole that is invaluable. This was one of my duties when a girl at home with father, and in spite of the many cares of my present life, I have carried it on.

There came a fine looking Zulu to Grace the other day for treatment. She called me in for consultation, and I recognized him as Mzululeki Nkosi, a young cousin of Johanisi, our Altona Evangelist. An exceptionally kind and tender-hearted young fellow, an orphan, now living in our district, but born and brought up in the Ngenetsheni section, across the Pevaan, I had treated him in June, and advised him to come to the Mission farm and spend a few weeks with the Christians here as his symptoms point to demon possession as the cause of his pain and weakness. He has been very ill since then, and though a heathen, is hungry for God. Grace and I pleaded with him and prayed with him there, then later my husband and Charles and I gave him another seige in which he made his surrender, and we claimed for him deliverance from the presence and torment of the demon power.

He came here with one of our church members, in whose home he lives. She also brought her little daughter, just the age of our Maryella, but about four inches taller. I took this little girl into the house so she could tell me the names of her brothers and sisters so I could supply them all with tickets. She told me there is a whole kraal full of them, I supposed, of course that they were our seekers.

The kraal name is "Kwa Mziyanda," "The Home of the Growing Kraal," and when you