

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Aug. 2

Dear Highway Friends:

This is a beautiful day for our class and prayer services and there is a good crowd here.

Winter is giving way to spring and the days are warmer. The abantu or the black people of this land greatly enjoy the warmth, but for my own part I like the winter much better. In the cool weather one has more energy for working while the heat saps one's strength.

Eugene and George are over the river at present. Johane Kunene, our good worker from the Hartland area, is here at present plastering the house, so he took charge of the morning class meeting. About twenty were here and we had a real good service. It was an inspiration to me to hear Johane read and talk Zulu, and the people enjoyed it and were blessed.

Five workers are here this afternoon, so they all preached a short sermon and then everyone who desired, testified.

Just before the afternoon service several children came with wood for salt. They were a pert little bunch of very dirty, half naked children, and after doing my best to talk with them awhile, I gave them their salt and said good-bye, but they were not inclined to leave.

They told me that they were not Christians and as nearly as I could understand, they had no desire to be. I expect they were from heathen homes so they see no need for anything better.

When the service went in I told the children that they must either go to church or go to their homes. I don't think they liked it for they went home.

Poor little children, my heart aches for them! The older they get the more sin they will have entered, and then the harder it will be for them to get salvation. If we could only get all the fathers and mothers to become Christians how much easier it would be to get the children to get interested in Sunday school and such things that will help them to know Jesus and His love.

Our school has started here at Altona and this term we have a well qualified man teacher. He understands his work well, and I have never had such good help in my S. S. work. I do thank the Lord for this and am praying earnestly that we may be able to gather more children in that we may teach them the word of God.

The people are beginning to bring in the tenth of their crops. Yesterday a pan of peanuts and a dish of amabele arrived, and this morning a little dish of dried corn. We buy all these things and put the money towards the building of churches, etc. The natives enjoy seeing these things done and to feel that they have helped. The Altona tenth is at present being used to build the stone and brick house for the visiting natives. It is near completion and looks so nice that I think we are all rather proud of it. Everything seems to move slowly in this land and we thank God very much for all we see accomplished.

Our new worker, Losaya, is proving herself to be a real help and blessing to us. Quite a number of young people have given themselves to the Lord as seekers since she began her work. She is a sincere Christian and has had a good report for some time. May the Lord continue to use her and all our workers

also to win many souls for Him.

Some things look discouraging but I am so glad for that blessed tide that cleanses sin, its mighty billows o'er me roll; I feel the power and joy within for I have the glory in my soul. Praise His name.

Yours, in His service,

GLADYS KEIRSTEAD

Altona Mission Station,

July 26, 1940

Dear Homeland Friends:

It is so easy this morning to let my mind go back to days that I spent among my own people and to those days that we visited in many of the homes of our friends as we were planning to leave our dear homeland and come to this far away one. So many of the things I feared do not trouble me at all as I expected that they would, while on the other hand many things that I did not know or understand prove to be trials, but I find that as God gave me the courage to come here He also never leaves or forsakes me. I have proved Him to be an ever-present friend, and I thank Him for His love and blessing all along the way.

This afternoon I was singing the lovely hymn:

Willing am I, and ready alway,
Willing am I, His word to obey
Willing am I to speak in His name,
Willing His love abroad to proclaim.
Willing to do what Jesus requires,
Willing to go where Jesus desires;
Willing to serve Him, ready alway,
Speak to me, Master, I will obey.

I thought of singing it at home and of saying, Yes, Lord, I wilgo w heyr edonu... saying, Yes, Lord, I will go where you desire." But sometimes it seemed hard to say it then and since coming here I have wondered why it did seem so hard. It is truly a delight to work for the Lord, and I believe God rewards us richly, even in this life, by giving us a contented mind and a happiness that we can never know if we simply lead selfish lives.

I have also been thinking, this evening, of an experience I had while in the hospital at Johannesburg. I had only been there a few hours when a lady came in the room and soon she came to my bed and started conversation. She was a very pleasing person and I enjoyed a short talk with her.

The following morning she came again and as she sat down beside my bed I saw that she had been crying. Then she told me of the doctors' consultation that morning and the verdict was that her only hope was to undergo a very serious operation. This was to be performed as soon as her health improved. She told me that when everything had gone so easy for her she had forgotten God, and perhaps He had allowed this to happen to make her remember, but now she felt her only hope was in God.

I had just been reading some precious promises, and I felt they would help her so I gave them to her. She read them and we talked awhile about them and when she left she seemed more comforted.

Quite early the next morning she came again, and her first words were: "And what are our verses for today?" I told her that I was sorry but I hadn't read yet but that I would do so right away. She left, but soon came back. I believe God led me to passages that would just suit her, and later that day

she borrowed my Bible to read for herself.

We had quite a few good talks during my five days stay and when I left she told me that she had enjoyed them and that she was praying and trusting God. This week I received a letter from her and was very glad that she was better, but, oh, I was so much more pleased when she told me how God had helped her through all her sufferings. She said she felt that God sent me there to help her. Oh, friends, I felt thankful to the dear Lord that He allowed me to be of a little use during those few days. As my friend wrote: "God does work in mysterious ways." I felt so keenly the fact that we had to leave Altona when the quarterly meeting had just begun, but perhaps God had a bit of work for me to do there. God always knows best and we will not go wrong to follow Him.

The two weddings that we expected have taken place and there will soon be another of interest at Hartland. Our worker Talida's son is to be married soon to one of our good Christian girls from the Hartland area. We thank God for these Christian weddings.

The weather, for the most part, is still cold but it seems that we may have an early spring for already we have had one or two warm days.

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Yours in His service,

G. M. KEIRSTEAD

Hartland M. S.,

June 21, 1940

Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. At such a time these words of Jesus seem more priceless than ever: "Oh, the peace that Jesus gives, peace that nothing can destroy." This is my own constant experience and in Him I find sweet rest.

In the testimony and conversation of our Native Workers and Christians of late, I have been struck again and again by this note of restful trust.

Johan Naseko's sick wife recovered, but his little ten year old son, a few weeks later, was stricken and died. By the death-bed and at the funeral one great comfort was the confidence shown by both father and mother in the love of Him who had taken this their third little one to Himself. You could see it in the look on their calm sweet faces. You could hear it in their brave happy testimony. It reminded me of Aaron Nkonza, whose consistent victory in his bereavement when Jostina was taken so suddenly, has been the source of real strength in our work.

Jacob Ngadi, our native malaria assistant, a fine type of young educated Zulu, shows this spirit. He and his young wife have been parted now for over two years, while she takes a nurse's training at Bremersdorp, Swaziland. She came home for her holidays in March, and oh the parting when she had to go back this time, seemed harder than ever. Yet Ungadi is such a bright, happy, young Christian. He says, "I have Jesus—I need nothing else—Jesus satisfies my every longing."

When he came here he was a beer drinking, cigarette smoking church member. Our teaching was so different from any he had ever heard, it puzzled him greatly. He said to him-