

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission, South Africa,
Dear Highway Friends: Feb. 6, 1940

I think it is time again for another letter to our homeland friends.

The weather still continues to be quite hot. Some days seem to be especially close and oppressive but the nights are very nice so we have no complaints to make. The Lord is so good to us in every way and we feel each day that we have a great deal to thank Him for.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the dear people who so kindly remembered us, at Christmas, with cards, letters, etc. The mails are so irregular that most of our Christmas mail did not arrive until after Christmas but everything was greatly appreciated. You will never know how delightful we were with every card and word from home during our first Christmas in this far away land. May God bless you all, is my prayer.

I think I will tell you about a little girl who recently gave herself to the Lord in our Sunday service here at Altona. She had visited the mission on different occasions. Twice last winter she came with ear ache while lately she has several times brought wood for salt. I have talked with her all I could and George has also encouraged her to be a Christian.

Her mother is dead and her father is blind and quite the dirtiest old heathen I have ever seen. Her grandmother is also a heathen and her aunt is a witch doctor. With not a Christian in her kraal this girl has made a start towards God. It seems to me that she was a very brave little girl where she has no help whatsoever in her home. Her name is Mina Kkosi. I hope someone will pray that this child will seek until she really knows that God has forgiven her. That is the prayer of my heart for all our young seekers. I believe Mina is in earnest—she has started to come to night school now. I am very glad for she stays all night here and therefore we have opportunities to have prayers with her too as we have prayers for our natives nights and mornings.

My heart aches for many of our young seekers. If they have heathen fathers they have been given beer since they were very tiny and by the time they are old enough to become Christians they have acquired a thirst for it that they find very hard to overcome. Some of our little girl seekers are up against that very thing right now. All I can do is to earnestly pray that God will help these dear children and give them the needed strength to do the things that He requires of them.

Our school teacher has been sick all day and it touched my heart this afternoon to see all the school girls going to the teacher's room to sing and pray with her. Continue to pray for our dear people here and for the work in general. It needs our united prayers that it may be built up and extended.

Johanesi Kkosi, our native evangelist here at Altona, wishes me to send his best regards to all our people across the seas.

We remember you and pray for you all each day. May God richly bless and keep you all very close to His dear side, is our prayer.

Yours in His service,
GLADYS KEIRSTEAD

Altona Mission,
February 17th, 1940

Dear Highway Friends:

This is a wonderful summer day. There is scarcely a cloud in the sky. Would that the same were true in the affairs of nations! Would that

the leaders of the world would bow down before the Prince of Peace!

Brother George Sanders is out on horseback to one of our nearer outposts having Sunday School and prayers with some of the sick.

All of our family are keeping well. We are liking our new home very much. Our black neighbors are very friendly; they frequently bring in treats of meat, fruit and vegetables.

Two neighboring farms, Oranjedal and Bonghaspoort have recently gone into the Native Trust area. We have lost a white neighbor but we shall gain many native neighbors. These will increase our missionary opportunities.

Our government aided school at Altona seems to be picking up in attendance. Twenty-five are enrolled in day school and thirteen in night school. The government pays our teacher \$12.50 a month while she pays us \$2.50 a month for her board. At present we have pupils in the first five grades. The girl in the fifth grade is our night school teacher. It might interest you to know that this girl's mother is one of our native workers. This worker was recently restored to her former position. She had been set aside for talking too much about church business and the affairs of her parishioners. She seems to have learned her lesson and is doing good work in a small and out-of-the-way outpost. Two have chosen the Lord at her outpost since we came here.

The government recently appropriated about a quarter of an acre of land near the mission and a brook for a school garden. A few days ago I was down with the government official to mark off the area the children at Altona are to use. Today the children started to get their individual plots ready for planting. The aim is to teach the natives to grow and eat a variety of vegetables. At the present time their diet is very limited, many only eating corn at this time of the year. At other times they eat corn, amabele (grain), pumpkins, beans, and a few other things.

We expect (D.V.) to begin our Transvaal Quarterly meetings on next Friday. We may not have as large an attendance as usual as the natives are working hard hoeing, watching their cattle and grain, and so on.

After some months in Africa we are still satisfied that God called us here. Sometimes it seems as if we have always been here, except when we try to hear and speak the language. We know that if we keep in God's will He will lead us aright. May we all listen for God's voice.

Yours in Christian love,
EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

QUARTERLY MEETING DISTRICT No. 1

The Quarterly Meeting of District No. 1 convened with the church at Fort Fairfield, Me., March 7th through the 10th. The president, Rev. P. J. Trafton, brought the opening message from Ezekiel 33:7, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." Due to the storm the congregation was not large but there were delegates present from Hartland, Victoria and Royalton. The following ministers were present at this service: Revs. P. J. Trafton, H. C. Mullen, E. R. Watson, S. G. Hilyard and the pastor.

The next service was held Friday evening with Rev. E. R. Watson as the preacher, who spoke from Mark 14:72, "When he had thought thereon he wept."

A goodly number met at 10:30 a.m. Saturday for a prayer service. Bro. Trafton read from Psalm 15, made a few remarks and the remainder of the service was spent in prayer.

The business session was held Saturday 2.30 p.m. with the president, Rev. P. J. Trafton, in the chair. The meeting opened with a hymn and scripture, Acts 4:8-20, followed by prayer by Bro. Anderson. Minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Roll call of minutes found the following present: Rev. H. C. Mullen of Hartland, Rev. S. G. Hilyard of Royalton, Rev. H. E. Mullen of Fort Fairfield, Rev. F. A. Anderson of Millville, Rev. E. R. Watson of Meductic, Rev. F. A. Dunlop of Marysville and Rev. P. J. Trafton of Fredericton.

Roll call of delegates found them from the following places: Hartland, Royalton, Victoria Corner, and Fort Fairfield. Election of officers followed: President, Rev. H. E. Mullen; Vice-President, Rev. E. R. Watson; Secretary, Rev. S. G. Hilyard; Treasurer, Mrs. Otis Ames; Highway Agent, Bro. H. S. Dow.

A vote of welcome was given to visiting brethren. Letters were read from churches at Woodstock, Marysville, Maple Ridge, Fredericton, Hartland and Lower Brighton. The devotional committee brought in their report which was adopted.

A vote of thanks was expressed to the church and people for the fine entertainment. A motion was passed to send our sympathy, as a Quarterly, to Sister Mrs. Silas Burt and Mrs. T. W. Whitten in their recent bereavement.

On motion, resolved that Rev. H. S. Dow and Rev. P. J. Trafton be a committee from this Quarterly to go to Belvidere and Crystal churches and encourage them and offer to help them for the coming year. Motion to adjourn. Prayer by Bro. H. C. Mullen.

The service Saturday evening was in charge of Rev. F. A. Anderson who spoke from Rev. 14:7, "The hour of his judgment is come."

The Love Feast began at 9.30 a.m. Sunday, led by Bro. Dow, who spoke on Luke 18:1, "Men ought always to pray." This was followed by a good season of testimonies. During the testimonies one soul knelt at the altar and found victory. The preacher at 11:00 a.m. was Rev. S. G. Hilyard who based his message on II Cor. 7:1, taking up a few promises noted in the previous chapter. Rev. H. C. Mullen preached in the afternoon from a text found in Rom. 6, emphasizing the thought that sin was not to have dominion over you.

The closing message was brought by Rev. F. A. Dunlop who spoke from Deut. 32:11, 12. This was a heart searching message on Spiritual Development. The meeting closed with testimonies.

We feel that it was a profitable Quarterly.
S. G. H., Sec'y.

THE DOLLAR AND THE CENT

A big silver dollar and a little brown cent,
Rolling along together they went,
Rolling along on the smooth sidewalk,
When the dollar remarked—for the dollars talk;
'You poor little cent; you cheap little mite!
I'm brighter than you, more than twice as bright;
I'm worth more than you a hundred fold,
And written on me in letters bold
Is the motto, drawn from the pious creed—
'In God We Trust'—which all can read.'
'Yes, I know,' said the cent, 'I'm a cheap little mite;
I know I'm not big, nor good, nor bright,
'But,' said the cent, with a meek little sigh,
'You don't go to church as often as I.'

All the doors that lead inward to the secret place of the Most High are doors outward—out of self, out of smallness, out of wrong.—George McDonald.