

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission,
Jan. 10, 1940.

Dear Highway Friends,

I have just recently returned from a three day stay at our Mbucu outpost. I had been there once before visiting but this trip was in the nature of taking over the supervision of this section of our mission field. Brother MacDonald is now able to confine his work to the Paulpietersburg and adjacent districts, while I, with the help of George Sanders, work the Piet Retief district in the Transvaal.

Mbucu is a little over 35 miles from Altona by car. If one went by horseback it would be 10 or 12 miles nearer.

The church building at Mbucu was built under the supervision of Mrs. H. C. Sanders. The outpost was worked up by Paulina Maseko, one of our native workers.

There are about 30 church members in this section. Most of them are in good standing but several have backslidden and are drinking beer or are living with men without being properly married.

Most of the people in this area are either seekers or have been presented to our church as children. If these adherents could really be reached with the gospel this section looks like one of our most promising outposts. At the present time the work there is suffering somewhat by not having a resident worker. Johanne Maseko, a worker from Hartland, goes there about every two weeks. The work is also affected by the fact that the widow of the former native worker has gone into sin and is allowing herself to be courted by a heathen with five wives.

The church building which is fairly old is tumbling down and is in need of being repaired. It is much too small for the present congregation so we are planning to rebuild in the near future if funds come in. The farm owner has already given us permission to do this.

Our first service at this outpost was in the nature of a Christmas service. Brother and Sister MacDonald, Miss Moe, a Swedish missionary, George Sanders, some native workers, and I all spoke briefly. A Christmas feast followed. The natives provided four goats for themselves and a hen for us. Brother MacDonald presented each native with a cup of salt. The MacDonalds were obliged to leave early on account of rain but my carload stayed until Monday.

We had prayer meetings on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Sunday morning was taken up with interviews and the afternoon with a preaching and communion service. At the latter service there were about seventy present. The church only holds about half that number so our service was held outdoors. Eleven children were presented to the church and six young people gave themselves to seek the Lord.

We felt that our Mbucu visit was well worth while in spite of the bad roads, rain, having to sleep in the church with the natives, and so on.

We trust that you will put this outpost and its people on your prayer list.

Yours in Him,

EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

Altona Mission,
South Africa,
Jan. 12, 1940

Dear Highway Friends:

The New Year is well started and our school has begun for the black children. They all seem very happy to have their teacher back again.

I think my Zulu improved to some extent during her absence for I had to depend upon myself

more when I talked with the natives and altogether in the services for the other missionaries were away every Sunday during that time. I am sure the people are very glad that I have the teacher as interpreter again.

The weather is very lovely here now. We had a few real hot days during the Christmas season but the past days have been very nice. We do thank God for all these blessings.

Several days ago we had quite a bad electric storm and just as my girl was taking a large pot of porridge from the stove the lightning came through the window and she received quite a shock. She staggered and nearly fell. She was burned on her legs as the porridge spilled on the floor. She did not feel well for several days.

This girl has just recently come to work for me as my other girl had to go home to help her mother weed the gardens. The new girl has been recently cut off from the church because of sin that she committed, so after the lightning struck her Eugene told her that she no doubt had a narrow escape and that she should be a good girl now. She seemed to take it all very much to heart for the following day in the afternoon class meeting she stood up and told the people that she wanted to get back to the Lord again and she asked them to pray for her. She came forward and the people prayed with her and I believe she feels that she has received help. I have thought that perhaps God took that very way to help her to see that life can so quickly end and it is best to be prepared. I pray that God may lead this dear girl along and help us to be a blessing to her while she remains with us.

At present we have four girls staying here all the time—the Government paid teacher, another girl who goes to school days and will teach school at night for the benefit of the children who have to work in the daytime. She lives too far away to return to her home at night.

The girl who helps me is the third and the fourth is the daughter of one of our workers. This child lives five or six miles away but comes to school faithfully in spite of ten or twelve miles to walk each day. Now there is serious sickness in her kraal and we are keeping her here that she may not get it.

They are all dear girls and I love them but I should so gladly be without the care of them if it was right but I feel it is the Master's work to build up our schools and to care for those who need our attention.

I do each day pray for patience and grace to help me over each testing and trial that may come and I thank Him for His leadings and guidance.

Yours in His Service,

GLADYS KEIRSTEAD

SHALLOW SOULS

It is said that coral beds growing out of shallow water are often disturbed and even greatly damaged by severe storms, while those growing from the bottom of deep water remain in quietness in spite of the tempest which beats the surface, however violent that agitation may be.

So shallow souls are most affected by the incidental things of life. They wish to be treated right, to be recognized. They want attention and compliments. They are much hurt by slights, real or imagined. If others do not treat them better, they will play at religion elsewhere or they will not play at it at all. They do not bear responsibilities. They want to be babied always. They are never willing to grow up and take care of other babies (of whom there are too many). They never get the "set face" which Jesus

had and go straight forward to the accomplishment of a great purpose.

What is needed? The second experience in grace in some cases. Sometimes conversion is the first need. In all cases perhaps a shaking over perdition until they smell brimstone and grasp how awful it is for souls to be lost and how possible it is for them by smallness to contribute to their own damnation or that of others. These are strong words but childishness is a bad disease. If anything will bring a cure, the church and many souls will be benefited.—Free Methodist.

A NEW APPRECIATION

From a News Bulletin we quote a very interesting paragraph, an expression from Dr. Albert Einstein, the great German scientist, who has become a citizen of the United States. "Being a lover of freedom, when the revolution came in Germany I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but, no, the universities immediately were silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks. Then I looked to the individual writers who, as literary guides of Germany, had written much and often concerning the place of freedom in modern life; but they, too, were mute. Only the church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced to confess that what I once despised, I now praise unreservedly."—Dr. Albert Einstein, in News Bulletin.

IN THE CATACOMBS

The church in the catacombs exists in Germany, S. H. Moore, headmaster of Silcoates School, Wakefield, told the Assembly of the Congregational Union of England and Wales recently. He said that he had visited this secret meeting place and addressed a gathering of more than one hundred pastors there. "The battle is bringing the gospel in Germany to its place and power—have no doubt about it," he said. "In spite of trials, testing and temptation, the spiritual principles of the Reformation are still intact in Germany, and a secret synod I attended in the heart of the country a short time ago based all its actions upon these principles." Since 1933, he said, there had been 7,000 arrests for religious offenses—an average of four a day. "Of the 18,000 Protestant pastors in Germany, 1,300 have been imprisoned, some of them several times over. Many members of that grand army of martyrs have lost goods, liberty, and, in some cases, life. Germany has set up the sword and 'Mein Kampf' in place of the Bible and the Cross. 'The party claims the totality of the soul of the German people.'"—Methodist Protestant Recorder.

The official Catholic Directory for 1938 gives the Roman Catholic population of the United States, including Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, at 21,451,460, an increase of 492,326 over 1937.—Alliance Weekly.