

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission,

Nov. 18, 1939

Dear Highway Friends:

Our natives are in the midst of their planting season. For several weeks there has been great activity all around us. One of the first morning sounds we hear is the cracking of whips and the teaming of oxen. A \$12.50 plow, three yokes of oxen fastened to it, and the teamster, sower and plowman are the working units. Plowing and planting is generally done in one operation. Already much of the land around us resembles a patchwork quilt; the background is green grass and the coloured patches are ploughed lands or green corn just coming up out of the ground.

Yesterday we went to Mfene for a Big Sunday. This outpost is rather inaccessible, being along the Pongola river where steep, rocky and rugged mountains rise on either side to great heights. To get there one has to take narrow cattle paths torturously twisting in and around the rocks along the face of the cliffs. Personally I prefer a five or six mile walk to a precarious horseback ride. Yesterday's trip was unusually trying on account of the heat. Gladys said the thermometer registered 88 degrees in our living room. This is the hottest day we have had since we arrived.

Between fifty and sixty natives attended the services. We had baptism, preaching, and communion. One girl was baptized and taken into the church, four children were presented to the church to be trained up as Christians rather than heathen, and possibly twenty partook of communion. All the services were held out-of-doors. I preached on the text: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." I stressed the fact that Christians should lift up Christ in their hearts, in their thoughts, in their morals, and in their daily living in the home, at their work and in their contacts with their fellowmen. Six or seven men and women came forward for prayer.

Beginning Friday and extending over Sunday we are to have our Transvaal District Quarterly Meeting. We are trusting that the Lord will undertake in all the services. We are expecting a time of blessing, a baptism, and some backsliders restored to church fellowship among other things.

May the Lord bless you all is our prayer.

Yours in Africa,
EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

Dec. 3rd, 1939

To the King's Highway:

Dear Home Folk: Greetings in the name of our Lord. We trust this may be a glad New Year despite the war. Our God can cause even this to bring joy. May His peace keep your hearts steady in this hour of conflict.

We trust also that good health may be yours during the coming year. We thank God for His leading during the year and trust Him for the future. We have seen His good hand upon this work during the year and thank Him for victory.

While we are glad for all that we have seen during '39, we are looking for even greater victory during the new year. We are all so glad for the coming of the Kiersteads and for what they have already meant to the work here in Africa. The Lord has used them

in preaching the gospel through interpreters and they are both doing well in picking up the language.

Last week we had the special meetings which go with our quarterly at Altona. These meetings have proven such a blessing to all and I am fully convinced that the last was one of the best ever held at Altona. God blessed in a wonderful way the entire meeting, for which we praise Him.

Now that the rains are here I am so thankful to have a man at Altona who can get about and care for things without the long drive through the mud, which has been necessary through the years I have been here. With Mr. Kierstead and George Sanders there a great burden has been lifted from my shoulders and I feel especially grateful to God for the way He has been using them. Mrs. Kierstead has a splendid interpreter in the teacher and while Sanders and Kierstead are away, she and the teacher are able to carry on. Mrs. Kierstead is a fine preacher and her messages are well received by the natives. How glad we are for what they each bring to the work, thus years of training, his teaching in the home-land and his pastoral work make him a fine man for this work. May God continue to bless you in the homeland in the support of all of your workers. We all need your prayers that God may lead us so that the most possible can be reached with the gospel before it is too late.

May the blessing of the Lord continue to be yours in the Homeland, may there be many souls saved during the fall and winter. Evangelistic work can best be carried on in our winters as well as yours, although you would hardly call our winter a winter at all.

Yours in Him,

D. M. MacDONALD

Altona M. S.,

South Africa,

Nov. 20, 1939

Dear Readers:

Having the privilege again to write you greetings in the name of Jesus, I will wish you all a belated New Year's greetings and hope you spent a Merry Christmas.

I feel ashamed not to have written before and hope to do better hereafter.

By the time you see this letter in print, the old year will have died, and the new one ushered in, with all its unknown contents of labour, sorrow and joy. May the Lord endue each one of us with His power to faithfully do the smallest and meanest service in His vineyard, as well as the greatest, during the coming year, is my prayer for you.

The following is to encourage you in praying for this work and we hope you will continue to do so:

Since the coming of the Kiersteads, the results are almost doubled. I do thank the Lord for their safe arrival, and knowledge that the blessing of the Lord is following their efforts here. The Natives have taken greatly to them, are highly pleased by their fluency in reading, and do not understand why they cannot talk Zulu when they read it so well.

We were counting up the number of people who have given themselves to seek the Lord, the day before our Quarterly of Nov. 24-26. On Sunday, the 26th, four more stood to seek the Lord, making our count fifty. This is since the coming of the Kiersteads. Of the four last mentioned, three were child-

ren of around ten years of age. I think 75% of the above fifty natives are young people under sixteen, and also that the Sunday Schools have had a large portion of this success to their credit. I have started two Sunday schools in the last three months. They are on Klipvaal and Prudentie, with 48 and 49 on the rolls and an average attendance of 20 each. I am continuing this letter after two days. Today I had Sunday school at Klipvaal, and after going from kraal to kraal, inviting the children to come, I had to wait over half an hour. It was interesting to watch them come up from their homes in the valley far below. Some had nice dresses on, others a cotton blanket or the usual skin garment that does not cover much, but a few had only a string of beads on. A few remembered the hymn we had sung just once, over a month ago. Cards were given out and attendance marked. Some little children who sent me these S. S. cards will be pleased to know who got them, and will also remember these little black children in their prayers. Will you do so?

Yours to win for Christ,

GEORGE SANDERS

WILL KEEP HIS WORD

The Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, was approached by an officer who complained of a general. The Duke listened to the man's tale in silence. Presently he inquired, "Did the general really say he'd hang you if the rations were not there by twelve o'clock?"

"Yes," replied the officer.

"Are you sure he said he would hang you?"

"He did, indeed," replied the officer, thinking that a severe rebuke was in store for his superior.

"Well," said the Duke, "I know the general very well, and I know that he is a man of his word. If I were in your place I should take care to have the rations there."

The officer went away, and the rations were there punctually at twelve o'clock!—Sel.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

I. Corinthians 1:9

Introduction: The Bible is full of this great theme (Psa. 36:5; 92:2; 119:90).

I. God is Faithful to Himself;

He is a covenant-keeping God, and this in spite of man's unbelief (Psa. 89:33; Rom. 11:1-4; 2 Tim. 2:13). God can do nothing to conflict either with His holiness or His love. So no sinner can be pardoned apart from the death of Christ, and no sinner trusting in Jesus can be lost. Our salvation is dependent on His faithfulness, not our faith.

II. God is Faithful to His Covenant Promises:

1. To forgive and cleanse (I. John 1:9).
2. To hear and answer prayer (Psa. 143:1; I. John 5:14).
3. To succor His tempted ones (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Thess. 3:2, 3).

III. God is Faithful in Completing That Which He Has Begun: :

(1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:23, 24). Don't let sin mar your fellowship with His Son, but "hold the faithfulness of God."—Arthur Gardner.

There are 355,084,256 non-Christians in India who still await your obedience to the great commission, "Go ye."—Selected.