

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,  
Dear Highway Friends: South Africa  
Greetings to you all, in the name of Jesus,  
from this far away land of Africa.

We can picture you these days as you don heavy coats, etc., and go out into the snow and cold to get to the services. I have tried to imagine where special services are going on now and have been praying that many souls will be blessed and helped during the winter months in Canada.

Our summer is at its height. The rains are not as frequent as they should be to make the gardens grow well, but the fields are quite green and the corn is growing very well. Our garden is very dry but we are able to get some food from it nearly every day, which is a help.

Insects about and all such things during these warm days. We have seen only one small snake on the mission this summer. While I was away a city rat got into our house and completely destroyed my best dress besides eating into the lining of my coat and two other dresses. Eugene killed it and so far we have not been troubled again. They are very large and very destructive.

Eugene is away at present attending the Quarterly Meeting at Hartland. I hope it will be a season of great blessing and that all who attend will receive help. We had a very large congregation here on Sunday and a very nice service. School has started and now I have a teacher to interpret for me. This is a help for now I am more sure of being understood properly.

The women and children are coming often with wood for salt and I have opportunities to speak to them about their souls. Yesterday two women came with very heavy loads on their heads—one was in full heathen array while the other was in Christian dress. The Christian one said that she belonged to one of the native churches but the other one told me that she was just thinking, and had been doing so for a long time. So I asked her what she would do if Jesus came while she was still only thinking about being a Christian and very quickly she replied, "I would ask Him why He didn't send someone sooner." This surprised me but I said, "But you haven't that excuse now, missionaries are here and to-day I ask you to think very seriously about the way of life and decide for Christ now." Then I found that she was only making excuses and really was not at all concerned about her soul's salvation, for when I asked her if she went to church to try and get help she said "No." Then she began to make light of it all, so I saw it was useless to talk and with a parting word I left to pray for her. It made my heart ache to see the indifference, but I wonder if we are not living in an age of indifference as far as the things of God are concerned. I also wonder what it will take to awaken even some of those who have heard the gospel story all their lives, from their indifference about their spiritual condition. So we cannot expect more of these who have set in heathen darkness for so many long years.

Oh, friends, there is so much to be done and one only has just so much strength and energy. Some days I just wish I could be several people. Just now my duty seems very plain. My work is to care for the work here as best I can and let the men work far-

ther afield. My days are full with teaching, caring for the baby and home, looking after the natives who come and go, speaking a word here and there, etc.

I would also like to become better acquainted with our more distant outpost, and then, too, there is kraal visiting which I believe is a great work and one that greatly helps in reaching souls that, very likely, would not be reached in any except this personal way.

As I am writing of kraal visiting, I am reminded of one of our quarterly meetings when the workers and Christians went to visit and have prayers in different kraals. That day, in one kraal, a poor old woman who had got drunk and tumbled into the fire, was very ill from her burns but she gave herself to the Lord. Several weeks later she came to church for prayers. She was only half dressed, hair sticking out all over her head, dirty, etc., a really dreadful looking creature, but she felt the Lord blessed her for coming. I didn't see her again until just before I went to Johannesburg and I was astounded at the change—in fact I hardly knew her. She was clean, had a kerchief on her head and had on a blouse, skirt and shawl—even her face looked different. Isn't it wonderful what salvation will do for people? But I have no doubt but that that poor soul would still be a heathen if the worker had not visited her kraal.

The Lord is richly blessing me these days and each day is fulfilling His promise to give me strength and grace for the days and glory in my soul. One day quite recently I was much troubled and disturbed and at once I went to talk it over with Him and soon peace came and the words of an old hymn came to me so clearly:

When thou walkest by the way I'll lead thee;  
On the fatness of the land I'll feed thee;  
And a mansion in the skies I'll deed thee,  
And the high place I'll bring down.

I got so blessed as I thought of how God does so wonderfully lead His children along and then when all the trials and testings are finished He has a place in Heaven waiting for us. As we think of it in that light how small the "light afflictions that endure but a season" appear to be."

I am praying much these days for extra strength, courage, grace—all things that I need to make me more useful in His service. May the Lord help all His people to be up and doing while it is called day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

Yours, glad to be working in Africa for Him,  
G. M. KEIRSTEAD

## GENTLENESS

Some of you are wanting in gentleness. You resist evil instead of turning the other cheek; you do not receive reproach with gentleness, no, nor even reproof. Nay, you are not able to bear contradiction without the appearance, at least, of resentment. If you are reprovved though mildly, you do not take it well; you behave with more distance and reserve than you did before. If you are reprovved or contradicted harshly you answer with harshness, with a loud voice, or with a sharp, surly manner. You speak sharply or roughly when you reprove others, and behave roughly to your inferiors. In short, you have not what I call perfection; if others will call it so, they may; however, hold fast what you have and earnestly pray for what you have not.—John Wesley.

## A SOUL-WINNING MINISTRY

The ministry of Jesus Christ, the ministry of the gospel, is a soul-winning ministry. That is its chief work. To feed the ninety and nine is essential (they must be kept in the fold), but to go after the lost sheep is imperative. A much greater degree of soul-burden is needed by the ministry in general. But chief of all, the ministry should lead their congregations in soul-winning work. They should hold classes and prayer meetings for soul-winners. They should inspire soul-winning activities. They should fire their members with soul-winning love and passion. Definitely, purposefully, skillfully, should the ministers lead their congregations into active, fruitful, soul-winning work. Definite plans should be laid for the inspiring, the training, and the handling of the lay soul-winners. Definite assignments of areas, definite limits of leadership, and other arrangements, should be made so that the whole congregation may exert its powers to bring men to God. This training of workers and delegating their fields of labor and inspiring them with passion for souls will do more to win the world for Christ than if the minister shoulders the whole responsibility while his members sit inactive before him.—Sel.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

We may rest fully assured of this—a man's influence in the world can be gauged not by his eloquence or his zeal, or his energy, or his orthodoxy, but by his prayers.

We may work for Christ from morn till night; we may spend much time in Bible study; we may be earnest and faithful and "acceptable" in our preaching and in our individual dealing; but none of these can be truly effective unless we are much in prayer. We shall only be full of good works, and not "bearing fruit in every good work" (Col. 1:10). To be little with God in prayer is to be little for God in service. Much secret prayer means much public power. Yet is it not a fact that while our organizing is well-nigh perfect our agonizing in prayer is well-nigh lost?

## THE ONE THING CHRISTIANITY LACKS

In one of the villages of northern India, a missionary was preaching in a market place. As he was closing, a Mohammedan came up to him and said:

"You must admit that we have one thing you have not, and it is better than anything you have."

The missionary asked courteously, "And what is it you have?"

"When we go to Mecca," replied the Mohammedan, "we at least find a coffin. But when you Christians go to Jerusalem, which is your Mecca, you find nothing but an empty grave."

The missionary smiled and said, "That is just the difference. Mohammed is dead and in his coffin. And all false systems of religion and philosophy are in their coffins. But Christ is risen, and all power in heaven and on earth is given to Him. He is alive for evermore!"—Sunday School Times.

According to The Overcomer, eighty per cent of the children in the Protestant Sunday schools of America leave the Sunday school without having been asked to accept Christ.—Sel.