

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona Mission,
Dear Highway: June 18th, 1941

A few Sundays ago I went to a new promising out-post by bicycle. I went alone as Bro. George Sanders had gone away for a holiday.

This new out-post is about twenty miles from here near the road that leads to Moolman.

Absolom Sibiya, one of our youngest preachers (licentiates), had been visiting this place regularly for several months and had found several women who were interested in our church. Several had been members of a native supervised church but were backslidden and uncared for.

On arriving at the appointed kraal (group of huts) I found quite a European atmosphere; tables, chairs, beds, dishes, etc. Dinner was served me in European style and with European dishes—table-cloth, dishes, knives and forks; chicken, potatoes, rice, bread, butter and oranges. My only difficulty was to eat enough of what they had piled on my plate to make them feel I really appreciated all their work.

We began the service shortly after noon. About forty people crowded into the rondevaal (hut with walls) which was to serve as our church building.

Absolom Sibiya, the young preacher, and Tulina Dhlamini, a woman worker, were also present.

I preached from 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The Lord was with me and helped me in this one of my first attempts to preach in Zulu without an interpreter. I was quite encouraged when several testified that they heard and understood all that I had tried to say. My talk was followed by those of the two native workers.

Seven women stood up and publicly chose our church and gave themselves to seek the Lord for forgiveness of sins. Five children were also "given" to the church as adherents.

I understand that about ten others have given themselves as "seekers" since that service.

Pray that God will continue to work in the hearts of these seekers until each one will come to know Christ as his or her personal Saviour.

Yours in Him,
EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

P. S.—We are praying that God will richly bless you as you meet at Beulah. Pray for our yearly Convention that meets at Hartland at about the same time.

Altona M. S.,
Dear Highway Friends: June, 1941

It is a very cool winter evening here in Africa. I expect at home many of you have gathered at Beulah and are enjoying nice summer weather there. We are especially praying that God will wonderfully undertake and bless at Beulah this year.

This year the winter was late in coming, but about a week ago, the cold weather started with a vengeance, and has seemed to have been trying very hard to make up the lost time. For three days of the past week we have had our fireplace going all the time and even in the house the kiddies have had to wear coats also to keep warm.

Recently I had a dear little black baby girl

to tend. Her foot and leg had been terribly burned with hot water. The natives had been treating it with their black medicines which made it look even worse. I dressed it the best that I could and then gave the mother medicine, bandages, instructions, etc., and I trust that by now the dear little thing is much better. She is a lovely healthy baby and was born in the Hartland Hospital.

Our little boys are all well now except Reginald. He caught a bad eye disease from some little native boys, and has been sick for nearly three weeks. He is now able to see a little but the eyes are far from well. Please pray with us, friends, that the eyes will not be permanently affected.

Our schools have closed for the winter holidays and our teachers have departed to their homes. It is nice and quiet here at present, and we are enjoying it. Sixty children on a small plot of land can make a lot of noise.

Recently we had a special Sunday here at Altona. Some of the people came on Saturday and we had an afternoon and evening service on that day too. Sunday morning we had prayers and then Sunday school. That day I closed my second quarter, a week early so as to have the teacher with me to interpret. After the usual exercises, etc., we had a very interesting review of the Book of Mark. Then to those who knew their lessons well I gave each a Bible picture to hang up in their homes; to those who had come every Sunday I gave books that I made from Scripture calendars, and to several who could recite the 138th Psalm very nicely I gave handkerchiefs. After singing and prayer we sang our little parting song that I have taught them.

Our Sunday school is over and we are going home,

Good-bye, good-bye, be always kind and true;

Good-bye, good-bye, we will be kind and true.

The children sing it in English but I have had it interpreted to them so they know what the words mean. I do pray that our efforts in the Sunday school work will not be in vain. May God help these dear children to become Christians and then it will not be hard for them to be "always kind and true."

At twelve o'clock we started our afternoon service. Several preached, after which a goodly number partook of communion. It was a good day in the Lord and I believe we all felt that it had been profitable.

Yours in His Service,
GLADYS KIERSTEAD

THE MILK TREE

In Venezuela there flourishes a species of tree that produces a bland, nourishing milk in such quantities that it is used as food by the natives. The tree itself appears to be lifeless. The foliage is dry and the branches look dead and withered. The roots scarcely penetrate the ground, which is without moisture for several months a year. When the stem of the tree is notched or bored, particularly at sunrise, a rich yellow milk flows freely, and natives from all parts come with bowls to receive it. Some empty their vessels on the spot, while others carry the milk home to their children.—Publisher Unknown.

He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.—Franklin.

"WITH HIM"

The treasures of the material universe are perfectly boundless. From the atom, invisible because the human eye is not tuned fine enough for it, to the mighty spheres, too far for our vision, there lie wonders only slightly revealed. Besides all this, there is the world of thought and the unmeasured realm of moral quality.

The trouble is that man is not where God can give him the highest benefit of His riches. He is like the prodigal son—away from the father's house feeding swine. Those who have drawn near to God must, for reasons of discipline, be kept back a little while from their final good.

But the Son of God became also the Son of man and died for us that not only salvation from sin and hell might be obtained, but salvation unto eternal life. Very properly and wisely we think often of the negative aspects of the provision in Christ. For our encouragement we ought often to consider also the positive plans.

If you have seen spring move in upon the meadows and forests and orchards and fields, if you have seen the sun rise from some lofty mountain, if you have gazed into the heavens at night, just remember that "He who spared not his own Son, but offered him up freely for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Not without Him but with Him. How blessed we are now! How unspeakable the prospect.

God, in infinite time and space, will unfold His treasures to those He loves. How? He will know how.—Free Methodist.

THESE PREACHERS DID IT.

Two ministers who rolled up their sleeves and went to work to stop crime and accidental death, are credited with making the town of Shelby, Ohio, a "crimeless community," and the winner of two national safety awards.

One of them is the Rev. D. B. Young, pastor of the First Lutheran Church and mayor of the town. The other is Leroy Coffee, who was a minister of a Baptist Church before Mayor Young selected him for his chief of police three years ago.

These preachers decided that they would have the best policed city in the country—at least in Ohio—and they succeeded. They started by declaring that the law had to be enforced—and they meant it.

Running a town was a new job for both men, but they decided they would learn the best way to do it. That they succeeded is shown by the fact that Shelby was awarded the National Safety Award in 1937 and again in 1938.

The technique of the two ministers includes the velvet glove as well as the mailed fist—even though intoxicated drivers who are first offenders are fined \$100 and costs. Second offenders—they stay out of Shelby.

Those who wail that the law against drunk drivers, gambling, etc., can't be enforced should call in some preachers like Young and Coffee. They'll do the job easily enough.—National Voice.

Professor Lamont of Edinburgh recently called attention to the fact that five recent presidents of the Royal Society (chief British scientific society) were believers of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible.—United Presbyterian.