

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,  
Dear Friends: May 11th, 1942

It hardly seems possible that time has gone so quickly: Five years were fulfilled on the 7th of this month since my sister and I arrived back on the Mission field. Many changes have taken place both here and in the homeland since 1937. Many of our loved ones have been promoted to glory. A large number has come into the family of God to help fill the places of those gone from our midst. Would to God that more had accepted salvation, in fact when we consider the provision that has been made, the number saved is small, very small. May we see greater results in the days that lie ahead of us.

When we read of great revivals of the past, we feel that we would be very happy to see these things happen again. Instead we see things going from bad to worse, generally speaking. There are hopeful signs we find here and there, and our hearts are encouraged to believe for real showers of blessing upon our communities.

Out here in the Mission field we need a revival and to a small extent have been praying for it. At times we have felt God's special blessing upon us; souls have been saved, and still are being saved, but not to the extent we would like to see. I believe that God has greater things for us, and will give as soon as we have brought "all the tithes into the storehouse." His abundance is greater than our lack, and we may have it if we ask and act rightly. "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." That is the way God talks to us. This kind of language should assure our faith and put the desire in our very bones. But you will notice that these three little words: "ask, seek, knock," are full of meaning, and when arranged in succession, seem to imply a following after something till you overtake it.

I hope that we are getting in that kind of a mood out here, right now. God has stirred up your workers, white and black, and we are doing a bit of earnest praying. May God help us to keep on this line till the windows of heaven open upon us with an abundant blessing. God has laid it upon the hearts of some to fast and pray. On the Wednesday preceding Good Friday we had a day of fasting and prayer, and we tried to leave undone all unnecessary work on that day. On the 25th of April we prayed and fasted; and the Lord willing we plan to have another such day this Wednesday. We are praying that God will search us, and that He will remove the hindrances which are keeping away His blessing and power, to the spreading of His Kingdom in our midst. I do not know when the break will come, but I feel sure that if we do not worry, nor compromise, there will be a breaking up of enemy forces and we shall see "The glory of the impossible." Many of you are praying for this work among the Zulus; for those it will be of particular interest to know that there is a stirring in our midst out here. It will encourage you to pray more earnestly.

It is a sad sight to see so many defeated souls about us, who, like the sow that was washed, have gone back to the wallowing in the mire: drinking beer, smoking, using snuff, or indulging in some other of the Devil's trash. Let us pray for these backslidden, former fellow-Christians: and may this be a year of deliverance and jubilee. Thanks be

unto God for His Divine grace that has kept and still keeps those who trust and obey Him. Here among the Zulus and Swazis and Mashangane, there are those who are standing the tests that come. The three names given are names of native tribes from which we have converts, who have believed on the Son of God unto eternal life.

May the God of the everlasting covenant bless us and make us a blessing in this hour of the world's need.

Yours for greater things in God,  
C. D. M. SANDERS

Altona Mission,  
Dear Highway: May 5th, 1942

I have just returned from a visit to Hartland so thought you might be interested in hearing about some phase of the mission work over there.

I do not know whether it is a co-incidence or not, but it is a fact that the hospital buildings at Hartland are just about in the centre of the Mission buildings, geographically speaking. Ever since the beginning of your mission work out here the medical work has had its place. With the passing of the years the medical work has increased in importance and usefulness. Today the hospital at Hartland is the centre of activity there.

The late Dr. Sanders being a medical missionary, early began to teach the natives the benefits and value of European medicines and medical care. Many, if not most, of the natives were either afraid or had no use for European ways; they had herb and demon doctors of their own who doctored them for sickness, demon possession, being struck by lightning and so on. It took many years to enlighten them on these points. Even today many natives will not go to a European doctor or hospital or use our medicines.

During the early years the late Dr. Sanders carried on the medical work as a private burden. It was not until about 1922 that the Government began to make a yearly grant towards the upkeep of the hospital. I believe the grant amounted to \$250 or so a year. This grant was forthcoming practically every year until Dr. Sanders was furloughed to Canada in 1929. A special grant of \$250 started the present hospital building. The Government grant and local thank-offerings seemed to be sufficient to carry on the work in the modest and economical way Dr. Sanders carried on. A note in his accounts states that he put all his medicines, books, instruments, bottles, pill boxes, etc., in the hospital as a loan to make possible the carrying on of that work. I believe that he treated from 1200 to 1500 patients a year during the last years. The fact that he used Homeopathic medicines, for the most part, accounts for him being able to carry on on such a modest sum of money.

Rev. MacDonald and his wife Faith continued the hospital work until after Sister Grace Sanders arrived. The hospital grant was restored about 1936 and has been increased from time to time until today the grant is about \$900. The number of patients has increased as well so that 3,000 or more patients are treated each year.

Sister Grace carries on the hospital work practically alone except for the native helpers she may have or need. She is matron, nursing staff, dietician, doctor, etc., all in one; quite an undertaking for one mortal, don't you think?

The hospital buildings are two in number:

The main building and a small two-roomed building that serves as a kitchen and quarters for visitors or patients. The main building is roughly 20 feet by 40 feet and is now divided into four rooms: the two largest rooms accommodate patients and supplies, one room is used as a delivery room in maternity cases, the fourth room is a combination examining and dispensing room and dietary kitchen. You can readily imagine that Sister Grace finds it hard to work in such cramped quarters and is at her wits' end to know where to put new supplies.

If building materials can be obtained, it is hoped that two new rooms can be added to the existing building and the whole building re-roofed. The Government has promised a special grant of \$125 towards this end. If this plan can be carried out, provision will be made for a store-room, a dietary kitchen, and an extra room for patients.

With the present staff, Sister Grace is almost always overworked; she should have more, and more efficient, native helpers or else a European assistant. All this of course entails an expense that we cannot at present see around. Let us pray the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust forth suitable helpers and that He will provide for their salaries, expenses, and so on. A healed body is often on open door to the soul.

Yours in Him,  
E. A. M. KIERSTEAD

MINISTER OF CHRIST FOR THE TIMES

## XXII.

"Hid with Christ"—Col. iii, 3

The minister for the times is a hidden man. He is God's, and God is his hiding-place. How is the minister to go out amid the frowns, insults, dangers, and fiery trials incident to a faithful herald of the cross? Goes he forth all exposed and unprotected? No! Christ is with him alway, even to the end of the world. Walls of fire are around him—a canopy of love is over him. Though invisible to a worldly eye, yet the chariots of God fill all the mountain round about Elisha. The true minister's shield is God. His tower, his rock, his stronghold, is the Holy One of Israel. His dwelling is the secret of the Most High—his abode is beneath the shadow of the Almighty. The wings of God cover him, and his refuge and his fortress are there. The terror of night, the arrow, the pestilence, the wasting destruction, have no alarms for him. The ruin on the right hand and on the left comes not near him. Angels have him in charge, and keep him as he goes. He is hidden from the fascinations of the world and of sense, for he is ingrafted into Christ. He is a branch of the heavenly stem, and a partaker of the divine nature. He is hidden with the Saviour, and the glory of the divine and spiritual life engrosses all his affections. He outrides every storm, for the anchor of his soul is away within the veil. "He has renounced self, and naturally seeks a low place, remote from public observation, and unreachd by human applause. When he is silent to human hearing, he is conversing with God; and when he opens his lips and speaks, it is the message which God gives, and is spoken with the demonstration of the Spirit. When he is apparently inactive, he is gaining strength from the divine fountain—drinking nourishment into the inmost soul; and when he moves, although with quiet step, the heart of the multitude is shaken and troubled at his approach, because God moves with him."\*