

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.

Dear Highway Friends:

August was a very busy month and September promises to hold lots of work for us also. The promises of God are very precious to me these days, especially such as "My grace is sufficient," etc.; "As thy days so shall thy strength be," etc.

We have two boys staying here and going to school. The older one is the nephew of one of our Hartland workers while the younger is the oldest son of our worker Paulina. He is about Harold's age and a very nice little boy. He is very obedient and gives me no trouble at all. I wish there were more like him.

We have a large day school of about 80 children with two teachers. Also we have quite a few sick people to look after. Yesterday a very badly burned baby was brought here from Swaziland. I have never seen one so badly burned. One night when all were asleep this wee baby awakened and crawled into the fire. Poor baby, I hope it will soon be better.

We are expecting the preachers to return now for the completion of the six week Bible course. It may be difficult for Johane Kunene to return as his wife, Lena (also our worker) seems to have developed T. B. or some serious chest condition. She has now gone to see Grace in the hope of getting help. Then Paul Nkosi's wife, Joana, split her toe while cutting wood and is still at the hospital. It may also hinder Paul in returning.

A few weeks ago I attended my first native wedding feast. Harold took care of Kenneth and we took the other boys with us. Owing to delay in getting the certificate we were not able to have the Christian wedding, as we had hoped, but a few days later they came to the Mission and were married. Both young people are our seekers.

Tulina is a small woman but she is brave and seems determined to get her children married by Christian rites. She has now a daughter and the son married and three other boys at home. I believe they have all given themselves to the Lord as seekers.

I found the proceedings very interesting. When the time came to receive their gifts, a table and chair were brought forward with pencil and pad and a girl friend of the bride's wrote down all the gifts and names of the givers. It was amusing to me when each name was written down, a man appointed for that work, turned and told the people about the gift and at once all hands were lifted and clapped while everyone shouted "Hulay Hulay," meaning hurra. This was done twice and I suppose it was to show their appreciation. We didn't feel that we should give our gift there as it was not the real wedding, so Eugene stood and said that we wanted to give a gift also but would do so when the Christian wedding took place, and it would be a Zulu Bible. They received it the day they came to the Mission and seemed very pleased.

After the gifts were given, the bride and her attendants started for the isibaya (the enclosure where the cattle are kept at night) with their arms full of mats, brooms, etc. Cattle are their wealth and the isibaya is the most important place of the kraal. The mother-in-law sat on one side and the bride's party stood on the other—no one else entered—but when everyone had gathered around the outside the girls began to sing and bending low, they slowly advanced to where the mother-in-law Tulina sat and laid the things at her feet. Then without turning and in the

same bent position they slowly went back to their place. I was much interested in watching this strange ceremony.

We were served to dried corn that had had the hull removed from it and been boiled, with meat, gravy and tea. Tulina is a good cook and the food was very nice indeed. We arrived home rather tired from our trip and found that Harold had had prayers for the natives and had also put Baby to bed. This lessened our evening work.

The first day of September we took all the boys and went to Hartland, and very early next morning we started for Vryheid to see the dentist. The two older boys and Sister Grace went with us while Gadelina cared for the two smaller ones at Hartland.

We had a good trip but most of our time was spent at the dentist's. However, we had time for a little window shopping and were able to buy a few needed articles. There is a great shortage of many things, it seems, while other things cannot be bought. I was very much in need of every day cups, but was told that there was not a cup to be had in all Vryheid.

We left Hartland the next morning and spent another day at a German farmer's home. It was interesting to be in a home where family prayers were held night and morning, where blessing was asked at the table and where we saw no smoking. The prayers, etc., were all in German.

They had lovely flowers and while there I walked around among the flowers with Glendon and Kenneth when suddenly we saw a small puff adder, about a foot away from Kenneth. Glendon ran to his daddy while I caught Kenneth up and ran up onto the verandah, so I could watch the snake. It saw us and kept sticking out its forked tongue. The man of the house and Eugene came and killed it and I was very glad for they are a dangerous snake.

We arrived home about noon, Sept. 4th, so glad to be at Altona again. Brother George Sanders very kindly stayed at Altona during our absence.

Eugene spent Sunday at Entungwini and had a good service. About sixty present, a good altar service at the close. I was not able to be out to the service here as Regina is again having trouble with his eyes. The poor boy is quite ill indeed as he also has a cold and had sore throat with it. The eyes are not as bad as they were last winter so we are praying that they will soon get better, also that the others will not catch it. Pray for us, friends.

The Lord is blessing us in our souls and our trust is in Him. May the Lord bless you all.

Yours in His Service,

G. M. KEIRSTEAD

Dear Friends:

Hartland M. S.

The old year is drawing on to its close: and how great have been the happenings of the past twelve months. We thank God for the help He has given each of us in these difficult and needy times. May the New Year find us prepared for great things in the winning of souls for Him who gave His life for their freedom.

Last week we had some of the heaviest rain I have seen since coming back to Africa. Within about three-quarters of an hour 2,112 inches fell, the total rainfall for about 24 hours was 4.65 inches. There are two natives who have been carried away by swollen streams, and only God knows the state of their souls now.

Another sad happening of the past week was the death of a little native girl of about ten years. Her parents came home from working in their gardens and found their little daughter sitting in the small hut, slightly hidden by the door. A rope was firmly tied around her neck, with the other end of the rope passed around one of the small holes of the hut framework. The poor parents tried what methods their ignorance afforded, to bring back to life the yet warm body of their child, but failed. That is the story, with as yet very little further information to solve another tragedy of this yet sin-benighted district we are trying to work in, to save souls. So it is souls are being hurled out into eternity prepared or unprepared, some by violent deaths and many by the slow but sure effects of diseases. And what are we doing to save them?

Here is the message that the Master has spoken to me this morning: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. "Clean hands fully pardoned for all guilty acts before God." And a pure heart, cleansed from all inbred sin, and filled with the Holy Spirit of promise. That is a grand and full message of deliverance from sin, and many of us rejoice in its power that we have experienced, and do now experience. But have you ever thought of this point, about the "clean hands" part: Here is what Paul said in speaking to the elders of the church at Ephesus: Acts 20: 26-27: "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. "Can I with Paul say that I am "pure from the blood of all men . . . ?" Can you? I do not think that I can, and that is why this message from Jesus makes me evangelists. For several years I've followed to others. That's the work of pastors and needed for you to testify or to preach the Gospel lived in Jesus the devil said to me, "There's no ing his composure, he said: "When I first be-murder that was coming out. Finally, regain-his sobs. I thought that it must be a case of overcome. The whole platform shook with man as he was about to confess, was quite following appears on page 169 and 170: "One forth, D.D., is telling of a revival in China, the book called "By My Spirit." Jonathan Go-I have been impressed by what I read in ground."

brother's blood crieth unto me from the What hast thou done? The voice of thy is what the next verse says: "And He said: know not: am I my brother's keeper?" Here Where is Abel, thy brother? And he said: I Gen. 4:9: "And the Lord said unto Cain, ing. feel so concerned about this matter this morn-the devil's advice. I shudder to think of how many souls I have murdered. . . ." An ex-preacher, who had gone into business and acquired considerable wealth, cried out: "There is no telling how many souls I have murdered, because I gave up the preaching of the Gospel and followed my covetous heart."

It were as though I could hear Jesus saying: ". . . Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" and I felt within me the response that the prophet Isaiah made: "Then said I, here am I; send me." How many of us are willing to attach our signatures to that statement? It is the solemn duty of every converted soul to give to others as freely as he or she has received of the Lord. It seems to me, friends,