

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona,
Dear Highway Friends: Jan. 24, 1943

The Christmas season is over and the New Year has well started. May it be a good year, in the Lord, for us all.

Sister Grace Sanders left for her home the 4th, after spending nearly three weeks at Altona. I enjoyed her visit so much. Brother George, with the help of the native nurse, Mrs. Mngati, took charge of the hospital work, while she was away and a few days after she returned, he left for Cape Town. We trust that the Lord will help and bless him while he attends Bible School.

We are having a nice cool day after having had about two weeks of very hot weather. Last night we had a very heavy rain that has nicely cooled the atmosphere.

Our Altona school started last week but the children seem always so slow in returning. It takes about three or more weeks to get them gathered in again.

Quite a few people near us are sick, at present. We are entering our malaria fever season and already there are reports of cases near us. I hope it will not be a hard year for fever.

Last week one of our seekers from near the Mozaan River, met with a serious accident. She was sent out to gather wood along the cliffs by the river, and in some way she fell over and went crashing to the river edge below. It was a long fall and the girl was badly hurt. The one who brought the news to us did not expect her to live.

I do not know the girl myself but I hope she was ready to meet God. She was taken at once to the Piet Retief hospital and we have had no further word.

Truly in the midst of life there is death. How important that we keep ourselves in His love and ready for a sudden call, if it should come to us. Then sudden death would mean sudden glory for us.

Our worker, Tyleta, is recovering from smallpox and has been able to attend a few services, but is not very well yet. The Lord graciously undertook for her and spared her to the work. Let us pray that He will give her greater strength and make her more useful in His service, than ever before.

Poor Tyleta has had another burden lately too. Her oldest son who, about two years ago, married one of our good Hartland girls, has recently chosen another girl. He was called, during our last Quarterly, and the workers talked with him but it seemingly had no effect. He has evidently counted the cost and is willing to give up his christian experience for a girl. How sad! I feel very sorry for his wife too. May the dear Lord yet speak to him, in some way, and keep him from this sin, is our prayer.

I think about a year ago I wrote about attending a service at our new outpost near Moolman and also of a man there, who prayed so earnestly for the Lord to deliver him of beer, tobacco, etc. I didn't see him again until he attended the quarterly meetings, here in December. He seemed to enjoy the services very much.

Yesterday Eugene had service at his kraal. What a change! Last year he was drinking, smoking, using snuff, etc., etc. but today he has left them all. Praise the Lord!

This man built a square house and has agreed to let it be used for service and yesterday it was used for the first time and at the close of the service his old mother joined our church.

He is praying now for strength and courage to make a confession to his white man. Some years ago, while still a heathen it was his work

to take his white man's sheep over into Swaziland. Each time he went, there were natives there, who caused him much trouble and on one or two occasions they also gave him a beating. He reported it to the white man and asked for a gun or a spear but the white man paid no attention. At last, however, he sold two of the sheep and bought himself a large spear, satisfying his conscience by saying that he did it to protect his master's sheep. But now he feels he must confess and lacks the courage to do so. I do pray that the Lord who has so wonderfully delivered him from tobacco, beer, etc., will graciously undertake for him now and give him the courage of his convictions. Pray for him, friends.

Yours, in His love.

GLADYS KIERSTEAD

Dear Friends:

Hartland M. S.,

A new day has broken over the dark continent of Africa; may the time hasten when there will be a new dawning of spiritual light and life, not only for Africa but for the whole world. The war seems to have increased the need by intensifying the contrast between the light and the darkness.

It is a beautiful time of year, as all nature seems so busy with the work of summertime. The chirping of the quail, the cooing of the ring-necked dove and the clear notes of the king-bird mingle with many other bird voices. The hillsides are pretty with their green covering of grass, which is fast maturing as it grows taller and taller. The garden lands are green once more, after their having been marred by the ploughman's labours, and the corn seems to be realizing good success in its development. We have been blessed with good rains this summer, so unless some insect hosts or hail come, we have the prospect of good crops this year. I will be glad, for the poor natives.

The many rains have kept the two main rivers, Pongola and Pivaan, rather full a lot of the time. But God made it possible for people to attend the Quarterly at Altona at Christmas time, and to attend our Ngenetsheni outpost for the week-end meetings of the 9th and 10th instant. And we are praying that the Pivaan river will be passable for this week-end again as we conduct meetings at a point near that river, as we have members on both sides of it.

The trip to Ngenetsheni takes us over long, rough and steep hills. At the latter part of the journey the path leads through a pass that breaks away into sheer cliffs on either side. Monkeys and baboons inhabit these wilds; vultures find the high cliffs a good place for rearing their young. The natives told me a story about one of these cliffs: A native man who wished to get rid of a dog took it to the edge of the cliff and tried to push it over the edge, but the dog escaped its intended doom and turned on its owner and bit him; the man made a jump to get away from the dog and fell headlong over the cliff and was himself killed.

There is one encouraging feature that I am very glad to observe here at Hartland. There seems to be a rising tide of prayer. We are having weekly prayer meetings from home to home among the natives of this farm. These seem to be very beneficial to all who attend. A sudden storm broke in fury last Saturday, just about the time the people would have been leaving their homes. It soon passed over and a few came. The little meeting was one of blessing, and the rain that the storm brought was very welcome. I trust that this interest in prayer will in-

crease till God sees that He can give us a revival.

Yours glad to be in His service,
C. D. M. SANDERS

Altona, M. S., South Africa,
January 1, 1943.

Dear Highway Friends:

Since last writing many interesting things have taken place. We had a nice visit, in November, from Jean Doyle. It gave us quite a thrill to have one of our own people, and that from our home town (Amherst) in Canada, come to see us! She stayed a week, during which time we took a flying trip to Altona Mission Station to see the Kiersteads. This was another treat. I hadn't seen Sister Gladys for some time. It was a complete surprise to her, though a great pleasure by the look on her face. We had come prepared to stay over night, so Gladys could also enjoy our visitor, but Dan changed his mind, and, directly after an early supper, we started back for home. We were soon in the teeth of one of the worst storms I've ever seen in Africa. We got onto the wrong road and the rain came down in such sheets we could barely see the road and were in grave danger. We did praise the Lord for His protection from accident and lightning. We arrived home at 11 p. m. very weary and chilled almost to the bone. I contracted a severe cold which I could not throw off for a month. It took a lot out of me as there was little chance for a let up: Jean and I have, naturally, quite a bit in common. The Sunday after she came two native women were admitted—one at twelve noon. She assisted me in delivering her at 1 p. m. of a pretty little girl baby whom she named Jean after herself. The second arrived at 5 p. m. I assisted Jean in delivering her of another big girl baby at 9 p. m. whom she also named Jean after herself, saying she must have some namesakes in Africa! It was so nice of her to so willingly turn to and help me when she came for a rest. I thought it would make her visit have more of a thrill to it. I appreciated her help very much as the native nurse was sick that day.

It rained much of the time of Jean's visit, but we managed one kraal visit in between the showers. She was quite proud of the fact that she is the first one of our denomination to visit our Mission work in Africa. I told her she was making history. I wish more of you could visit our work—if only the ocean were not so wide and travel so expensive.

Having Jean step in and give a helping hand, here and there, helped me to realize more keenly what a great help Myra Crowell will be to me and it makes me look forward with eager anticipation to her coming.

I was able to see Jean off at the station and a wave of homesickness swept over me as she waved us farewell, when I realized she would very likely soon be seeing my dear mother's face and those of the rest of the family—and of many of the dear Highway family at home.

Brother Eugene had to come over unexpectedly in connection with the school teachers, as the schools were closing for the Christmas holidays. The Quarterly meeting was to be at Altona at Christmas time, so I accepted Brother and Sister Kierstead's kind invitation, and came over here the 15th of December. It has been over two years since I was able to be at Altona, and longer since I attended a Quarterly meeting here. We had a very blessed session. God's Spirit seemed so real and I felt much blessing in my own soul and liberty in the messages I had the privilege of bringing to the people. I am invariably moved at a Baptismal service. We had a very good one and, as the youngest candidate, a young girl,