

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.

Dear Friends:

By the time this letter reaches its readers you will have entered the new year, no doubt. I trust that you will have a time of being blessed and being made a blessing at the Christmas celebration and that good health (at least spiritually) a new vision, and faith, will be yours for the great possibilities of 1944.

I have just been looking over my work up to the present for 1943: the number of times I have been away from home to visit our outposts. We have about 15 main outposts on the Natal side at present. If I should count all the small points that are being worked up by our Native pastors, there would be quite a few more to add to this number. The distances to these various outposts from Hartland varies from about three miles to about 60 miles, with an average of about 15 miles to each. I am glad for what has been accomplished during the past months, but I am far from satisfied, both with my own efforts and with the total results. There is a fairly good programme we have been working on since October. For the new year we plan to make out a new plan on similar lines. Brother Kierstead and I each have a native ordained elder with us on the field. This new addition called for a readjustment of our plans and allows for the accomplishment of more work. Brother Kierstead's assistant lives a short distance from the Altona Mission Station while mine lives near the upper end of this field. There are advantages and disadvantages both ways.

You have already learned of the old Lembe outpost's returning to our church, no doubt. It had gone to a Zionist group called the "Owls." This peculiar name was adopted by this sect on account of their being disliked by everybody, it seems, so they considered themselves as being treated the way the day fowl treat an owl whenever it intrudes upon the scene in day time. The Lembe outpost comes back to us largely through the efforts of Brother Kierstead. Down in Zululand we have several members scattered at different points. They do not wish to join another denomination and yet are too far from any of our outposts to be cared for, so several of our workers have been down at different times to visit their former members and to have meetings with them. The last trip was made by our two native elders and about three preachers, and like the two good spies they brought back an encouraging report. After Christmas several workers desire to make another visit down there and it may be that before long, God will give us some men to take up that work permanently, and thus open up a new field.

Visiting outposts require a variety of means of travel; at present the bicycle and horse render us the greatest service. (To go to an outpost in a car is the unusual now). Usually there is some walking to be done to complete the trip. Visiting outposts gives one a variety of experiences too, especially when there is a flooded river to cross, a sudden thunderstorm or hailstorm to try to escape from. Sometimes there is a snake to startle one. There are encouraging and discouraging experiences when it comes to dealing with our members and those who are seeking but have not yet been saved. Some few get through in a short time, but many spend some

time wandering in the wilderness. But taking it all into consideration, I am glad to be here and am praying that God will continue to lead and teach me and to bless me so that I may be able to help some of these needy people.

Not long since a young Jew asked me if I thought that the Natives appreciated what we were doing for them. I told him that there were those who did appreciate our efforts and there were those who opposed us. This opposition or detraction comes very often from other denominations, particularly those which had become independent of white supervision. On the whole I think that they do realize that we are here to help the Native, spiritually, mentally and physically. But after all we are not here for what thanks that we may be given; we are not working for human appreciation; we are merely discharging our duty to the call of God. If at the end of this journey He is satisfied, nothing else will matter. After all, humanity is very changeable, and Jesus told His followers: "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you." Yes, if we are true followers of the Holy One we shall suffer persecution.

I hope some day that one of our fellow ministers in the homeland will be able to come out here and see and hear; and then return to speak of what he has seen and heard. It has been the privilege of several of your missionaries to come back to the homeland and to tell you friends of this distant field, so why should not some of those in the homeland be given the same privilege, even if it be only a short visit. I feel sure that the Native church would appreciate such a visit. I have even spoken to a few of our Native workers of the idea of one of them visiting our people in North America; but I suppose this is an idea that will not be realized for some time yet. After all, this work out here is a part of that in the homeland, having shared with it the blessings, and now slowly trying to share the responsibilities in a greater way.

I must close now as it is about time for our afternoon service.

Wishing you God's blessing and praying with you for the work there and here.

Yours glad to serve the Master,

C. D. M. SANDERS

CORRESPONDENCE

Perth, N. B.

Dear Highway Readers:

I feel that a word from Perth would be in order today. On November 14th we held our first services in the new church. We were able to have a furnace installed, using it for the first time Dec. 26th and since then we have been able to heat the building with ease. Our Sunday school has doubled in attendance since we moved down town and into the new church, also the attendance at our evening services has shown a marked increase. We were very sorry to mix up many people over the date of the dedication, but thought it wise to wait until travelling improved in the spring. We would also be in a better position to know the entire cost of the completed building. We appreciate the fine continued interest shown in this project and continue to solicit your prayers for this work and financial aid. We expect to have Sister Sterritt on Feb. 2nd, with her slides of Africa, in a great missionary meeting:

The Lord through many of His children remembered us well at the Christmas season.

We hope to have revival services soon and we ask that you pray for us that the Lord may give us a great revival in this town.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,

REV. S. G. and MRS. HILYARD

North Head, N. B.

Dear Highway Friends:

We feel it our duty to report from this part of God's work at this time, realizing that another church year is fast slipping away.

Though it is our sixth year with these good people, we can truly say in every respect, it has been our best year, and their untiring efforts to make us feel our labors among them are appreciated, touches our hearts deeply. On November the 19th, being their pastor's birthday, a surprise party was carried out, at the parsonage, in the form of a donation, leaving our table loaded with groceries and a goodly amount of money in our purse.

Then the Christmas season seemed to surpass all others in both spiritual and temporal blessings.

We not only received a generous purse from the church, but many personal gifts from members, and also those who are not members, but seem deeply interested. May God's love soon win these to Himself.

We feel like one of our pastors in their letter, who said, we wish we could really make these people know how much we appreciate all these things, but there is One who knows.

Our church was also very generous in their boxes to our soldier boys overseas and in training camps everywhere, from whom we have received lovely letters of thanks. May God bless all our boys engaged in this awful war.

We expect to have Sister Manning with us Feb. 13th-27th in revival meetings, and would ask all those who have ever been acquainted with this work, especially, to pray that God will give us a mighty outpouring of old-time salvation and ingathering of souls.

Yours in Christian love,

REV. G. A. and MRS. DeLONG

Saint John, N. B.

Dear Highway Friends:

We trust it's not too late to wish you one and all a "Happy New Year." We should have had these few lines in the last issue, but we as a family were pretty well used up with flu, and bad colds. At the present writing the children are all sick with whooping cough. About all the church folk have, or have had the flu. Many of our older members have not been able to attend the services at all this winter.

We would like to express our thanks to our friends far and near for remembering us at the Christmas season with greeting cards and gifts. The people here and in Grey's Mills were very thoughtful of us, and we do feel so unworthy of the many tokens of their love and generosity. Besides the many useful gifts received by each member of our family, a substantial amount of money was given us by various church members and friends, with which we have purchased a fine davenport for our living room. Again we say thank you, one and all. Truly it was the finest Christmas we have ever had. In spite of sickness, God was blessedly near and real. We face the New Year with courage and faith, knowing that grace will be ours for every trial, and His presence to guide. Praise His dear name for