

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland Mission Station,
Natal, South Africa,
June 18th, 1944.

Dear Highway Friends:

After greeting you in our Captain's name, I wish to thank those who continue so faithfully to pray for the work, and workers.

I remember the crowd of friends, who came to see us off at the railway station of Hartland, thirty years ago, and their last goodbye, "We'll pray for you." It has often come back to me as an encouragement, just to know "they are praying for me." No one will ever know how much their prayers have accomplished, or how little, till we meet Him face to face. Yes, prayer changes things. That is why our King has called us all to prayer, at this momentous crisis of the United Nations. But, although the Lord gave us instructions "to pray without ceasing," (1 Thes. 5:17), to get one's prayers answered is the point, and a very vital point too, with those who have the Lord's work at heart or friends in danger zones. To know that Christ prayed for us is comforting, but to have His "Comforter" not only to help us to pray as we ought, but to make "intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Rom. 9:26-27). And we notice that our "infirmities" which hinder us from knowing what is God's will for us, is all overcome by this same Spirit.

Before Pentecost, poor old Peter failed many times, but after he was "clothed with power from on high," he was one of the outstanding characters, whose prayers were answered. He had excepted Christ's offer to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and his after life was only the outworking of God's Spirit, who knew God's desire, and got Peter to ask accordingly.

In the Lord's Prayer, we find the plan, whereby any one can and is expected, to use this mighty weapon of the Spirit of Prayer "Thy WILL be done." If you give up your will to Him, He will give you His will, and His Spirit, to give you the courage and strength to do it.

I reconsecrated my will to the Lord, when in the Bible School in Cape Town, and have enjoyed a closer companionship with the Lord through His Spirit, which grows sweeter every day.

This leads me to ask you, if you are making the most of your opportunities of prayer, are your peepsights adjusted right for your distance, or are you going just by the sound of your gun, regardless of its position. There are many things which hinder our prayers being answered, besides the Evil One, who hindered Daniel's. If we feel called to prayer, clear the decks for action, let the Holy Spirit have His way, and He will care for the results. You owe it to the call, as well as to those in need.

"Lord teach us how to pray." "Oh Lord of the harvest, teach us how to pray."

Yours to do His Will,

GEORGE W. L. SANDERS.

Altona, July 12, 1944.

Dear Highway Friends—

It's a mild winter evening, here in Africa, after a week or more of very cold days. It is still and quiet tonight, it doesn't seem so cold but I expect we will have a heavy frost.

We are enjoying our winter holidays. The quiet about the Mission is very enjoyable and it's so nice to have the older boys. They arrived home the last day of June and will return to school the first of August.

I closed my Friday Sunday School just before school closed. We had a short review lesson

with singing and then I gave little prizes. When I came to Africa I brought quite a few bags like the natives like to carry their Bible in, and later Mrs. Good from Moncton kindly sent me some more.

When we arrived we took out enough to give each worker one. We filled them with patches, needles, buttons thread, etc., and told them that it was a gift from their friends in Canada. They greatly appreciated them and I have given out others as demands have arisen and I had just sixteen left—just enough to give to each child with perfect attendance for the half year. I also gave little prizes to those who did the best in their classes and a little gift to the teachers. One of our church girls, Violet Sangweni, teaches the beginners. She has been wanting a Bible for a long time but they are unobtainable here now. However Eugene got some gospels of Luke and I was so glad to have one to give her that day. She was baptized last Sunday.

Last Wednesday we began our July Quarterly Meeting. It was the largest Quarterly Meeting that we have had at Altona and the largest baptism in any place since our arrival here in Africa.

We started the services at noon on Wednesday. Johannesi Nkosi was the speaker. He brought a good message about the sower, Matt. 13 from verse 18 to 24, after which many testified. We felt it was a good beginning.

Johanesi's wife Trifena, had been sick for several days and before I reached home I had a call to go there. I went at once and did all I could for her and when I reached home I found that Brother Charles had arrived. We were very glad to have him with us, both in the home and in the services.

After my children were in bed I went again to Trifena. I helped her all I could and told her to call me if I was needed later. Our worker, Talida, was present and after the evening service led by Daniel Sukazi, she went up and about two o'clock a baby daughter arrived. We are grateful that Trifena is recovery nicely. She is a good worker and has the cause of souls at heart and even though she has many home cares, she does not neglect her church work.

Thursday morning the early prayer service was led by Eugene, I think at eleven o'clock Bro. Charles had charge of the morning class meeting, while Absolom Sibeya and Talita Nzima were the afternoon speakers. Jona Myeni preached at night.

By that time the crowd was increasing. Thursday evening, just before the evening service, I heard singing and going to the window I looked out to see a crowd of people coming. It was moonlight, a lovely night, and the singing was so beautiful. They were mostly from Alfred Metula's section.

Friday afternoon again I heard singing and went to see about ten people coming in single file. They were also from afar, from Paul Nkosi's section. They came through the big gate and down by the church and stood singing to us. Then still singing they entered a round house near by, took their bundles of clothes, etc., off their heads and sat down and then we had the privilege of going to greet them. We were so glad that Paul's wife Joana, was able to be here. Her baby had been very sick but improved enough to bring it. She came in to visit me and was so delighted when she saw the Sterritt Sisters photo, on the shelf above the fireplace. She looked and looked and then said, "Au Amakosazana" and as if they replied she said "Umntanami," "My child," in English. Then she told me how she went to them as just a little girl and they took such good care of her. Joana has had five

little girls and one boy but one little girl died of measles about a year ago.

Friday morning a young man from Alfred Metula's section had charge of the early prayer service. I had the morning class, Bro. Charles Sanders interpreted for me. The afternoon service was a very good service indeed. Andrew Mietwa from Hartland, and Simon Mabasa, a Shangaan or a native from Gazaland or Portuguese East Africa, were the speakers. Johannesi Nkosi and Kelina (Mrs. Mietwa) preached at night.

Saturday morning Jimson Ngomazulu led the early prayer service. In the afternoon, a visitor from another church, a nephew of Talida's, I believe, and Daniel Sukazi, brought good messages, while Paul Nkosi preached at night.

Saturday night it became very cold indeed and Sunday morning was about the coldest weather we ever had at Altona. Heavy coats had been appreciated, all the week, but on Sunday the wind was blowing very hard also.

Trifina Msibi brought a good message at the early prayer service after which the people hurried to eat and to later gather at the river. It was very cold and just as the service started it began to rain but God answered our prayers and after a few sprinkles, the rain stopped and the sun came out. There were seventeen candidates for baptism and Eugene and Johannesi baptized together. They went into the water by twos. It was a lovely service. I believe it was Bro. Charles who said it would have been worth coming to the Quarterly Meeting, if they saw only the baptism. I had the pleasure of seeing Harold and Glendon baptized. I do pray that they all will continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ Jesus, their Lord.

The afternoon service started before twelve. Alfred Metula and Bro. Charles Sanders were the speakers. Those baptized were given the right hand of fellowship, three joined the church by letter and four were restored.

Evelyna, Absolom Sibeya's wife, Joana, Paul Nkosi's wife and Locelina Lushaba were made abakokeli or women workers. Five were made abatandazeli or prayer women and three were made amajoini. The amajoini are prayer women too but they know how to read which really increases their usefulness.

Three babies were also presented to the church. Two of these were the children of the Chief Msibi's and one was a nephew's child. To my surprise the old chief was present and when the children were taken to the front with their mothers, church caretakers (the workers), etc., the chief went up too.

One of his wives and his daughter-in-law were among the new abatandazeli so the chief had been called to one of the worker's meetings to ask his consent and to agree that these women need not attend heathen ceremonies. He said they must go where he sent them, if food needed to be carried they must take it but he did agree that they could return home—they need not take part in the ceremonies.

The offering Sunday afternoon amounted to over \$10 which I felt was good. Quite a large number left after the service, which closed about four o'clock, but those who remained had a short service at night too.

The people brought their tenth of corn, pumpkins, etc., and we were all able to buy a goat. The food committee did well and I had less work, in that direction, of any Quarterly Meeting yet. I made bread for the workers and also for lunches for the babies as they journeyed home. There were several lovely little children and babies here all through. Seems to me that