

Altona, October 19, 1945

Dear Highway Friends,

Another day is fast drawing to its close. It's been a very interesting day. We've had the usual number of sick people but only one very sick one. That was a baby with pneumonia. I did my best for it and am praying that God will undertake. It is the day for sewing, in the school, and I've been helping a bit there too.

The Zulu women are beginning to trust me more now and therefore I am able to help them more too. Several months ago a woman came to me. She had had five children but only two were living. They know so little of the rules of health even, so I did all I could to help her. Yesterday she came to visit me, with her little two weeks old baby. It was the dearest little native baby I have ever seen, really nearly as white as my own babies were. That woman is a Zionist and her church does not approve of medicines but she felt she did right to break the rule. She seemed very tender when I talked with her.

Today another woman came, whom I have also helped. She had four children who all died at birth and this is a real grief indeed to a native woman. Today she was so proud of the little son she brought to show me—her first living baby. I told her she should give this little boy to preach the gospel, if it was God's will. It makes me so happy to help these mothers. Sickness and troubles nearly always soften their hearts and they listen to and appreciate the things of God. It is a wonderful privilege that we have!

I have a real good Christian girl, working for me now, and it seems wonderful to be able to tell her many things, from the Bible, that she never heard before. I often think the same about my S. S. Class. Many of the children know almost nothing about Jesus. I do pray that the words will fall on good ground and bring forth fruit unto His glory.

I must tell you about our Quarterly Meeting. It began October 4th. Bro. Charles Sanders arrived Wednesday evening so he had charge of the first service, held at 11 o'clock, on Thursday morning. He spoke from the first verses of Mal. 3. Everyone enjoyed his message very much.

The speakers of the afternoon were Daniel Sukazi preaching from Ps. 1 and Johane Maseko preaching from the first verses of Gal. 6. The crowds were small that day but a blessing was present in every service. Thursday evening Absolom Siluja was the first speaker. His text was Rev. 3:11. He was followed by Locelina Lushaba who preached from Eph. 2.

Friday the early prayers were led by Andrew Mtetwa. He read part of Rom. 6 and spoke a few minutes, after which we all knelt and prayed together. It is a grand way to start the day.

I had charge of the Bible Class. I read the last eleven verses of Romans 8, basing my remarks on those words in verse 35. "Who can separate us from the love of God?" Bro. Sanders kindly interpreted for me and without his help I couldn't have put my message across to the people, but I did have a difficult time to remember to talk in English and several times said sentences in Zulu. I've been trying to preach in Zulu for so long but I still cannot talk fluently so really need an interpreter, if I speak for very long.

The afternoon service was good, a very tender spirit present. There were three speakers, Jimson Ngomezulu preaching from 1 John, first chapter and last five verses, Talida Nzima

preaching from the last few verses of Matt. 20 and Evelynsa, Absolom Sibiyi's wife, preaching from the first few verses of Eze. 37.

Everyone said that Friday evening service was the best of all. I missed it but have heard lots about it. Rev. Paul Nkosi, Trifina Msibi and Losaya Msibi were the preachers. Losaya preached from Heb. 12:14. "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" and that seemed to be the verse that everyone remembers about it, even today. Eugene also used that verse and spoke awhile. The service closed at 3 a.m. so it must have been a grand service to hold the attention of a crowd for that length of time.

Early prayers Saturday were led by Eugene speaking from Is. 55. Bible Class was in charge of Bro. Charles Sanders continuing from Mal. 3. The afternoon service was in charge of the Young People and I got richly blessed indeed. There were four speakers. Glendon, speaking from the first five verses of Matt. 5. Nokalina Sibiyi, reading from Matt. 24, Asilina Sibiyi from 1 John 2:1-7 and Absolom Dlamini from 1 John 1:5-10. Absolom feels a call to preach the gospel and we do thank God. The first three speakers were very young but they all did well and Absolom also gave a fine message. Nearly all the young people testified, some reading verses of scripture, here and there through the Bible, and talking awhile from them.

At the close, I spoke a few minutes and asked if there was anyone who needed definite help. I had hardly given a call for prayer when with one accord, everyone present came to the altar. I really received a richer blessing there than in any other service. Some were really in earnest and the blessed presence of the Holy Spirit was present in our midst. It was grand. I wish you dear homeland young people could have been present. Even if you couldn't understand the words spoken, you would have felt the presence of God. God is working among our young people. Quite a number have been under great conviction and since the Quarterly Meetings a good bit of confessing has taken place. One girl in particular, I have been wondering about for months. Well, praise God, she got courage enough to confess it all in Girl's Class last Sunday. She had done a very wrong thing, several years ago, and had been hiding it all this time. She also said that she had stolen things from me. Poor girl! How hard it was for her but now she will have a chance to grow spiritually.

The Saturday evening service was to be in charge of Johannesi but a minister's meeting was called so Absolom Sibiyi took charge and preached a good sermon from Matt. 24:27 on the second coming of Jesus. Four other preachers also spoke and the service closed at half past ten, very early for their evening services, so that everyone would be rested for Sunday. Sunday morning about ten o'clock we gathered at the river where Eugene baptized eleven—nine girls and women and two boys. Our third son, Reginald, was among them. We thank God for them all and pray that He will help them to grow in grace. Just as Reginald was going into the water I looked and saw Bro. George Sanders, coming on horse back. He had been to Zululand but we were glad that he could be present for one day at least.

The afternoon service was five hours long. The church was packed but the crowd very orderly. H. Mdlalose, our Paulpietsburg preacher, Rev. Johannesi Nkosi, Revs. George and Charles Sanders and Eugene all preached. Many partook of communion. One baby was presented, the eleven who were baptized and one other,

were given the right hand of fellowship, several were restored and two set aside. The collection was over \$10.00, I think.

The better I understood Zulu the more I am enjoying the services. Each Quarterly meeting seems the best one yet. As some one said: "From the first Bible Class, led by Bro. Sanders to the last prayer on Sunday, it was all grand." I say the same.

The Sterritt sisters will be very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Johane, the third son of our worker Tulina Dlamini. He stayed with them for some time and was a very nice looking and lovable little boy. We are all glad though that he died trusting in God. Just before his death he asked them to sing a Zulu hymn "Son of David, Have Mercy on Me". After that he prayed and then said "Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit" and left this world to be with Jesus. Surely the saying is true "The old must die and the young may die". How important to keep prayed up and ready for we never know when our call may come.

Eugene has gone to Mbucy today for special services tonight and tomorrow. All next week we hope to have special services at Entungwini. Our worker there is old and has only one leg, but is faithful even though he cannot get around very well.

Continue to pray for the work and workers. We trust you will all have a Happy Christmas season, with rich blessings. May He bless and be with you all.

Yours, for souls in Africa.

GLADYS KIERSTEAD

Hartland Mission Station,

October 21st, 1945.

Dear Homeland Friends:

By the time this reaches Canada it will be time to say 'Merry Christmas' and may the New Year be one of great blessing to you all.

We are rejoicing in the fact that no matter where one spends Christmas, geographically, we can have with us Him who is called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. The angel's message is still ringing out: "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" and everywhere messengers are proclaiming peace to the one who is afar from God. Today it is ours to 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel'—the message of peace to all. Let us not be weary—for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Today, my testimony is this lovely hymn:
"Peace! Perfect peace! In this dark world of sin?"

The blood of Jesus whispers Peace, Peace, within.

Peace! Perfect Peace! By thronging duties pressed?

To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

Peace! Perfect peace! With loved ones far away?

In Jesus keeping we are safe, and they.

Peace! Perfect Peace! our future all unknown?

Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.

It is enough: Earth's struggles soon shall cease, And Jesus call to Heaven's perfect Peace.

"And the Peace of God that passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. For 'He is our Peace'."

Today we had only a few to the service, but they listened very attentively to the story of the prodigal son, as Grace told it. I could catch a little here and there and was sorry that I had no interpreter as she seemed to make it very interesting.

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