

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona, Sept. 22, 1945

Dear Highway Friends:

It's a beautiful summer afternoon here in Africa. The last two days have been warm indeed, but today is cooler, for which we are grateful.

The land is very parched and dry as we have had only one little rain, in over six months.

Our quarterly meeting begins the first Thursday in October and we are praying for gracious showers of blessings. We want more than just showers though, we long for a real outpouring of God's holy Spirit upon us all.

The 2nd of September was our monthly young people's meeting again and a real important day for us all, as we were to take up our first collection. Harold was the first speaker reading from Matthew the story of Peter walking on the water to meet Jesus. Monacia Nkosi followed reading from John 15. Both gave short talks and expressed their desire to become more like Jesus. Nearly all present gave encouraging testimonies. The attendance was about sixty, most of them were young people and children but a few older ones were present also.

The collection was very interesting. It was a table offering and each came forward with their gifts. When it was all counted it was found to be over \$5.50. The largest amount given was 60 cents and the smallest, one cent or 1/2 penny here.

We all felt it had been quite the nicest service yet. The attendance was so good, the spirit of the service was tender and all gave so freely. I really got greatly blessed myself and I think most everyone felt it was a very good place to be in. We are looking forward to another young people's service, while our quarterly meeting is on, and pray that God will richly bless. These dear young people do need Him so much.

I've just had to leave to tend a sick woman. Poor soul, I do feel so sorry for her. Her husband died recently, of tuberculosis, and it appears that she also has the disease and all her children. One bright young girl is very ill at present. I've had several very sick people to try and help today. How I wish I was a doctor and could do more for them! Some days, the medical work is easier and I only have toothache, headaches or colds, etc., to find medicine for—those days I don't feel quite so helpless. But when these very sick people come it makes one long for someone who is able to do more for them. I can only do my best and recommend Jesus as the great physician. He does help so much and I praise Him for all His help and care.

Reginald has been ill so we had to bring him home from boarding school. School closes the 28th for about two weeks of holidays and we are trusting that Reginald will be well enough to go back to school again after the holidays.

A Mr. Roberts has built a store for the natives very near us, so we have neighbours now. Our boys are enjoying little white children to play with.

I expect it will be nearing Christmas by the time this reaches you and we all join in wishing all a very happy Christmas season, filled with the peace that Jesus came on earth to bring. May God bless you everyone.

Yours for service in Africa

GLADYS KIERSTEAD

Hartland Mission Station,
September 10, 1945

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Africa. I know that you are all rejoicing that the end of this awful war has come. How we do praise God that at last the world is at peace again. God has been good to us during this conflict. May we spread the Gospel to all lands as the doors are opened. Our hearts were made to rejoice on reading that missionaries will be allowed to enter Japan to preach the Gospel. Let us pray that the person who made that promise may keep it; and that a revival will sweep that nation, for truly they need Jesus.

Yesterday we had the second rain since I arrived here in March and it was needed badly. About one-sixth inch fell. Everything has been so dry and the cattle are starving for grass. It is very hard to keep them out of gardens. So we praise God for this shower and pray that more will come. It has been very cold ever since the rain, but before that the weather was very nice and getting quite warm some days.

We have been busy in the Hospital during the month of August. We treated 488 out-patients. There has been much sickness according to reports. For June, July and August we treated 1125 patients. Some days we are very busy and other days it is fairly slack. Our daily average for August was 15.7 persons. That has been our busiest month since I arrived.

We get some very sad cases and cases who need both spiritual and physical help. It is a great privilege to be able to help them. I wish I could do more but that will have to come later as I master the language.

One of our in-patients has been greatly helped spiritually. She came to us very ill and as she is old it is not likely that she will live much longer. She was demon-possessed. Her daughter-in-law had accused her of bewitching a small child because of trouble about a garden. When the old lady became so ill, these people came to make this thing right. Even before they mentioned why they had come, Maina said, "I have forgiven all of that." She is very happy. I heard her saying 'Aluluyah.' This makes us very happy and now we are praying that her old husband may find Jesus too. He seems to be held back by beer.

We would like to go to Altona for the Quarterly meeting the last of this month, but train and bus connections are very poor, and it is about 15 miles over rough country by horse. So I hardly think a green-horn like me should tackle it. Then there is the river to cross also. But we are trusting that the way will open somehow for us to get there.

It is wonderful how one can be so happy in a strange land far from home and family, but I am very happy here and have not had a moment of homesickness. The Lord has been so good. Every day I find new reason to praise Him. 'There is joy in serving Jesus' and there will be more joy as souls are won to Him.

We think of all the friends at home and our hearts are warmed as we realize that you are praying for us. So we say, Pray on! The harvest is great and the laborers are few, but we desire to be faithful that when the Lord of the Harvest appears we will have sheaves to lay at His feet. God bless you each.

Happy in the service of the King,

MYRA A. SANDERS

THE HOUSE TO HOUSE REVIVAL

"And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: and how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:17-21.

This short retrospect, in point of time, covered several years of Paul's ministry in an idolatrous city that marked perhaps the greatest victories of all his evangelistic efforts. Ephesus was the center for the worship of Diana. There stood the great temple 342 1/2 feet in length and 164 feet in width. "It consisted of 100 columns, each a monolith of marble 55 feet in height." Into the shadow of this great temple walked an unsalaried evangelist carrying a bolt of tent-cloth and some needles. He rented a sail-loft and began his work. There was no mission hall, so he resorted to open-air meetings and house to house visitations. Within a period of three years the marble columns of the temple of Diana, figuratively speaking, were beginning to list dangerously. In the year A. D. 262 the temple was destroyed by fire, and some of the stones were used to build the great church of St. Sophia in Constantinople. The remaining wreckage lies submerged in the mud of the River Cayster.

"How did you get started in the work?" This question is often asked by our young people who feel the call upon them to enter the ministry. At the present time it is not so difficult to find a place to begin, for talented and qualified workers are much in demand both at home and abroad. Now we have both boards and funds, and from that angle our problems are not as perplexing as in the early years of our work. Perhaps our most disheartening situation is the lack of attendance by the people of the community where many of our church buildings are located. We have many beautiful places of worship, the committee was wise in the selection of the lot where our own local church was built, the pews are comfortable, the music is good, the pastor is an able minister, but the people of the community do not come to our services. What shall we do?

This is what one church did in a city of twelve thousand inhabitants. It was getting near Christmas time. A Gospel message of salvation was printed and placed in an envelope. Along with that was a brief statement of the church's creed, and the work done for souls both at home and abroad by the members of the little flock. For good measure a New Testament was added, and then the entire church became a working force and placed one of these envelopes in every home in that city of 2,000. Many read the contents of the envelope who perhaps never came to the place of worship, but the information caused many to respect these truth loving saints, and the writer conducted a gracious revival in that city.

As a rule when the work is new the people come out in great numbers. It is after ten or
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