

Go Ye Into All the World and Preach the Gospel to Every Creature

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,
June 13th, 1946

Dear Highway Friends:

Winter has nicely started in this land of sunshine. Many do not even enjoy the short African winter but I enjoy it very much. To me, it is a wonderful change after the long hot days. The ground is covered with frost, every morning, and everything is very bare and brown. Many have nearly finished the reaping.

Eugene has had a very busy week. On Sunday he went to Mfeni for special service. Our teacher and one of the school boys went with him. They returned about seven o'clock that evening, very tired, but happy to have taken the Word to others.

On Monday we were up bright and early and Eugene got ready as soon as possible and took two couples out to Piet Retief to see about their weddings. Everything went along nicely, so as these people live quite a long distance from here, the Swedish missionary in Piet Retief kindly consented for them to use his church, so Eugene had a double wedding. The brides were sisters.

On Tuesday Eugene had to go miles away to get some sick people and bring them to our clinic and take them back in the afternoon. Yesterday, Wednesday, he and Johannes left early for Louwsbury, to be gone a week or two. There are good prospects, in that direction, of extending our work. May God bless we pray.

The doctor started a D. V. Clinic, a week ago last Tuesday. That day he inoculated twenty-four natives and examined and gave medicine to many others. This week he came again on Tuesday and inoculated thirty-one, besides attending to many others. He will be coming every week for a while and we do pray it may be permanent.

Today has been class day and quite a crowd present. I had to do the morning class. I hadn't finished working at the Bible lesson that I was to give when one of the workers arrived and wanted me to take the reports of his classes and by the time I finished it was time to begin the service. So I just asked the Lord to especially help me and he answered my prayer. Zulu came very easy for me today as I gave a half hour Bible lesson from I Kings 18 beginning at verse 17. I especially tried to stress the courage of Elijah and his wonderful faith in God.

Timothy Dlamini, a young man who feels a call to preach, gave a short talk this afternoon from Matt. 25—the story of the wise

and foolish virgins. His talk was chiefly about being prepared and ready when Jesus comes and the danger of sleeping and neglecting to have "our oil in our vessels with our lamps." Evryone testified. As soon as the service ended I had to go and measure the tenth of some things some women had brought from their gardens. These I put away to use to feed the hungry people during our Quarterly Meeting in July.

Then I came back to hear more reports and to find out from each worker if they had any to be baptized, etc., at the Quarterly Meeting. One worker had one girl to be baptized, another said she had a bad report to bring as a famous witch doctor has been and I believe still is, going around among the people and deceiving many, and several of her congregation have been mixed up in these affairs. For instance, if someone has died they ask this witch doctor to find out the person who caused his death. Two other workers have two each for baptism, etc.

I just finished in good time to have prayers and supper at the usual hour. My head felt tired but we really had a good day in the Lord and I hope others got blessed as much as I did.

I am thinking of Beulah, every day. Soon you will be meeting at the beautiful place. I do pray that God will be especially near with blessings and will also give help and wisdom in all the work of those days. We are constantly looking unto Jesus and trusting Him for all things.

Yours in Him,
GLADYS KIERSTEAD

Altona M. S.

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings in His Name, from Africa. We do praise God tonight for His guiding power. He called us here and has been with us in a very special way and we know He will continue to bless as we keep in His will.

Winter is very slow in coming. We have had no very cold days as yet. The nights are very cool and the days full of sunshine, but not hot as in summer. The days are getting shorter and the evenings long.

Malaria fever seems to be dying out, but now the children especially are having bad colds. A woman came to me one day recently, telling me about her baby. She got medicine awhile ago and the baby improved but now it was sick again. I asked her if she had made a little dress for the baby to keep the cold air from it. She said she didn't have any cloth and her husband had been sick, etc. So I hunted up some cloth for her but I wonder if she will use it. The natives seem to think that

babies do not feel the cold and a string of beads is quite sufficient for the coldest days. So the babies get colds, pneumonia, etc., and many die. Some of the babies and small children are so afraid of my white face. One little boy came one day accompanied by other children bringing wood. He had never seen a white person before and when I stepped out he screamed and tried to hide behind the older children. They were not much larger so he failed, so with another scream he slipped through the fence and ran for his life. We had a good laugh but no amount of coaxing could persuade him to return. Poor little fellow, as far as I can remember he never came back.

There are so many heathen between us and the Pongola. One day a few little boys came and I tried to talk to them, but they were real little heathen boys. They had no desire to go to school so then I said they would get nice food at school, but they said they had plenty of sour milk and porridge at home. Then I asked if they didn't want to know about God but they said no. Their hearts seemed so hard for such little boys, but Jesus died to save them too, and He has power to soften even a heart of stone. Let us pray that God will help the children of this land and help them to accept His love before they grow old.

Last Thursday in class we had two heathen men join us. I was surprised to hear one of them say Amen. After the service was over I found that they had come for medicine. The one who seemed more interested had a very sick daughter. I did my best for him and told him that humanly speaking I felt there was little hope of the girl improving but with God all things were possible and we would pray that if it was His will that his child might recover. He listened very attentively to all I had to say and just as much as said that he would pray himself. I do thank God for what I can say in Zulu but I long to talk better.

Our new head teacher is being very helpful so far. A good teacher is such a blessing to a Mission Station, while a poor one can be such a trial and really hurtful to the work. This young man seems much interested in Sunday School work and has a good way of bringing out helpful suggestions about having our sins forgiven, living right in home and school, etc., etc. Please remember him when you pray. He enjoys the services and has been with Eugene to outposts, once or twice, and expressed a desire to go to all the nearby places.

We are thinking of and praying for the Camp Meeting at Beulah. Please pray that we also will have a time of blessing in our July Quarterly Meeting held at Altona this year.

Yours in Him, G. KIERSTEAD