

Altona M. S., South Africa  
Dear Children who attended Riverside last year, 1945:

We were surprised to receive the gift of money from you and we want to thank you very much.

We have been thinking about Beulah lately and wishing that we could be present among you but as that cannot be, we pray that you will receive many blessings.

I expect you would enjoy a visit to the Mission Station and if you could understand Zulu you would enjoy talking with the native children. They play games of running, drilling, etc., and enjoy it as much as the little white children. You would like to see them drilling and they also sing very nicely too.

We have a young people's service with anywhere between twenty-five to fifty or more present. Mother helps out with this service and appoints two young people to give short talks. We are always glad when we can be there but we are all at boarding school except Kenneth, and sometimes we cannot get home. We have our young people's service the first Sunday of every month, in the morning.

We hope that you will pray for us and for the native children. It isn't always easy to live a Christian life but God does help us and we intend to keep true to Him. May God bless you all, we pray.

Harold, Glendon, Reginald and Kenneth

## CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland Mission Station,  
May 19th, 1946

Dear Highway Friends:

This is a lovely cool winter day. It is so nice to have some cool weather again and really move about one's work in comfort. But now that the warm weather is over, I can look back and say that it wasn't too bad after all. Thus far we have had no frost and only one winter wind.

I am at home with the baby waiting for her to wake up for her feeding, so could not go to church; but from here I can hear the singing. How I love to hear the Africans sing. There is something about it that just grips one. Some people passed the house awhile ago on their way to church. I do pray that the Lord will give a good and profitable service. Both Grace and Charlie are at home today; George has gone to a meeting a short distance from this station.

About three weeks ago we were very much shocked when some neighbors of the Kiersteads arrived and told us that Gladys had malaria. It did not take long for Grace to pack a bag and get off to Altona. We awaited news anxiously, for malaria has been so bad this year, and did praise the Lord when we heard that Gladys was improving.

Grace was away three weeks and George away one week so Charlie and I carried on alone. Some days we were very busy. One Thursday I prescribed for thirty-three patients besides those the doctor injected. But every day was not like that. I really think that my Zulu improved a little too. One Sunday I was alone for the first time. We had Sunday school and afternoon service. The baby was awake so she went to both services, and was very good. When the singing would get too loud her lower lip would tremble

a little but she didn't cry. Nathaniel Nyembe took the S. School for me and one of the workers the p. m. service. I tried to testify in Zulu but I don't know how much the people could understand. But the Lord blessed me anyway. When we talk to Him we need no interpreter.

Two weeks ago on Monday we moved into the upper house. We wondered how we were going to furnish this large house with our few things, for we had all we owned in two small rooms; but since we are here and have spread things out some we seem to have enough and some things over. Again we say, Praise the Lord! When we were moving we used every available person (it was a dull Monday and not many people around.) Everyone took something on his or her head (no, I should not say that as it is a disgrace for a man to carry things on his head). The men used wheelbarrows. Anyway, I would look out and see a table coming along and when it got here, out would pop Jumima or one of the Soko twins or Lizzi. In no time at all our things were all transferred. And the real work began—of getting settled, curtain-making, etc., and it is still going on. When company comes we have to entertain them in the dining-room as we haven't the front room fixed yet. It is much quieter here for Pamela and she sleeps much better in the day-time. Then too, it is nearer the hospital. Grace and George are having their meals with us now as their kitchen floor is in the process of being repaired.

Grace arrived home a week ago Saturday, and I was just getting an attack of sinusitis followed by one of the worst throats I have ever had. Ran a temperature for two days, and they wondered if I was getting malaria, as I ached all over and had several of the symptoms; but it was only the sinus trouble. I don't think I want to get the type of malaria that has been going about this year. So many people have had it and so many people have died. We are continually giving out quinine, which we can now obtain from the Magistrate, and give free to those who cannot afford to pay. Roughly, we have given out between 1,000 and 1,500 tablets of quinine and atabrin.

Soon everyone will be making plans to go to Beulah. We trust that it will be a great time of blessing, surpassing all other years. May the Lord bless in a wonderful way and may many souls receive a personal experience in the Lord. May we have a real revival, both there and here. The Lord is blessing in the services and we are expecting even greater things than we now see. May we be faithful to the trust that He has left us; may we seek to do our best.

I thank the Lord today for all that He is to me and for all that He has done for me. Though I feel that I do little yet He blesses and gives great happiness in this place where He has placed me. Perhaps it is not so much what we do, but the fact that we are in His will, in the place where He wants us to be. Someone has written these words:

'I am happy in the Service of the King;

I am happy, O so happy.

Through the sunshine and the shadow I can sing:

In the service of the King.'

Yours, to do His will,

MYRA SANDERS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MID-WEEK SERVICE

W. E. Smith

The importance of the mid-week devotional service to the welfare of a church, in aiding its members to maintain a vital Christian experience, has ever been recognized by those who have the spiritual vision as to what a real church is, or ought to be. A religious organization that does not emphasize inner experience that must find an outlet in that fellowship where prayer and praise are the dominating features, can of course put on a mid-week meeting, but it must be a dry affair in which the pastor has to occupy the greater part of the time and few of the deacons offer prayer.

But a real devotional service is more than perfunctory or sanctimonious lip-service. It is where the Spirit of God comes upon the hearts of the worshippers in refreshing showers. The lips overflow with praise. "Heaven comes down the soul to greet, while glory crowns the mercy seat."

The strength of a real church will not be seen in the size of the Sunday morning service, the grandeur of its auditorium, the beauty of its ritual or the eloquence of the preacher. It will be found in the prayer and testimony meeting. This has truly been called the power-house of the church. Jesus did not say, when you find a great temple or cathedral, with highly ornamented altar, vested choir and cultured preacher, there I will be found. No! He did say, "Where two or three are met together in My name, there am I in their midst." Where the Spirit is, there is the church. How often we have been in great congregations, when there was much that was pleasing to the eye and to the ear, but little or nothing for that inner life that longs for soul food. Alas! that many of the larger congregations do not have a real prayer and devotional meeting. Such a meeting cannot exist unless emphasis is placed in a vital relationship with God.

This being the case can we think of a so-called holiness church that maintains regular Sunday worship, allowing the mid-week service to die. Because, only a few came is no excuse for having no prayer-meeting. The preacher and his wife can have one, and if she cannot co-operate he can have one alone.

He can pray and hold on to God till more come. A weak or dying prayer-meeting is a challenge to a holiness preacher's faith in the gospel he proclaims. He needs it for his own spiritual good. In every prayer-meeting, though the attendance may be small, a truly spiritual preacher while trying to encourage others, will feel that he himself has had a boost heavenward. He gains inspiration from the prayers and testimonies of his people—even the weakest of them. Paul, writing to one of his churches tells them how he longs to see them, in order that he with them might be refreshed. Even the mighty apostle felt his need of Christian fellowship. True he was giving out to them from that deep inner experience with God, but they were giving to him. He tells us that once he was greatly cast down. Yes, of course he prayed and God blessed. But that did not wholly meet his need. He adds: "Nevertheless God who comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus."

It was a good thing for Paul that Titus went to prayer-meeting that night. Thus we

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