

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

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona, M. S.,
May 2, 1946.

Dear Highway Friends:

The days go along so swiftly. It doesn't seem possible that it will soon be time for Beulah. I do pray it may be a great Camp Meeting with much blessing from above. How my mind goes back to the many happy days I spent at Beulah, of many rich blessings received there, etc. It also gives me a sad feeling that so many I shall never see at Beulah again. They have gone on before but my loss is their great gain, and I'm expecting to meet them in Heaven some glad day.

The days are getting shorter and cooler and more delightful. The fields are getting brown and soon the people will be reaping.

Many have been very ill with malaria and many have died. For some weeks there has been a daily average of deaths of four, from malaria fever, around Piet Retief. Three weeks ago last Sunday my girl Paulina was taken very ill. I took care of her that week, the dear Lord was gracious and she is much improved. The following Sunday, after I had finished my Easter message, I was also taken sick.

Eugene had gone away to be gone until Wednesday. I tried to get a runner to go for my husband and failed but Monday afternoon a neighbor agreed to take Glendon and Reginald out to boarding school and go for help. My husband could not be found and the missionaries agreed that Sister Grace Sanders should come to take care of me. Tuesday morning she discovered that in my stupid condition, with high temperature, I had taken the wrong drug and the fever had such a start that we were obliged to send for the doctor. He made two calls and due to his help and the good care of Sister Sanders, I am now on the way to recovery and able to be up for part of the day. I do praise God for His help at this trying time and pray that I shall never have malaria fever again.

Last Sunday Eugene went to Entungwini. He had a very good service with about sixty present. The people here enjoyed a good message from Sister Sanders and about sixty were also present.

Our last young peoples' service was very poorly attended due to the fact that so many were watching the amabele gardens to keep the birds away and others were herding cattle. I had asked Glendon and Jostina Sibiya to take charge but Jostina was detained so Glendon was the only speaker. He gave a brief little message from John 3:16 and nearly all present gave good testimonies. Some reported victory and others were having a hard time to keep true and expressed their desire for help.

Next Sunday is again the young people's ser-

vice and they intend to have an offering. This is a big event as they only are able to have a collection twice a year, as they have so little to give. We are so glad to be able to have Sister Grace Sanders with us for that service as I know the young people will enjoy the message that she has promised to give.

The class meetings today were quite well attended. Sister Sanders had charge of the morning class and Trifina Msibi preached this afternoon. Each brought a good message.

May the Lord bless and be with you all, is my prayer.

Yours in Him.

G. M. KIERSTEAD

P. O. Delfkom, via Piet Retief
May 5th, 1946.

Dear Highway Friends,

With Beulah less than two months away our minds run forward to your gathering together, to the business meetings and to the various services that will be held. Would that we were nearer and could take part with you in the deliberations and fellowship! But then the Lord knows where we are needed and are therefore content to be in His will. We pray God's richest blessings upon the Camp.

On making up our statistical report we notice that we have a total membership of 193 in the Transvaal, an increase of 26 over the 1940 figure of 167. It is not a great increase, I admit, but since it refers to the 'net increase' in 'members in good standing' it is something. During this period there have been ten deaths, thirteen withdrawals by letter and otherwise, and ninety-five set aside from partaking of Communion for one offence or another. The same period has witnessed ninety-four baptisms and fifty others coming into the Church by letter or being restored to the Lord's table. Our preachers have increased by two and the Bible women by three. Three young men are showing promise and are beginning to help in the work.

Last Sunday I visited our Entungwini church and had a Communion service. We had an attendance of sixty. Samuel, our preacher, reported a new seeker, a young heathen woman.

Our native preacher held a three days' revival services at Mbuca over the Easter week-end. They reported twelve new seekers during the services.

We have been troubled by an abnormal amount of malaria fever this year. Two of our Bible women had very narrow escapes from death—Paulina and Talida. Gladys has also just recovered from her first attack since coming out here.

The South African Church has taken the initial step in a great step of faith by deciding to attempt to buy a piece of land of 211 acres in the

Paulpietersburg area, thirty-three miles or so from Hartland, as a Mission centre and a residential site for our preachers in that area. Pledges of two hundred and fifty pounds payable within the next two years were taken during our April Quarterly towards the cost. This will cover about half the cost. We are planning to make a drive for pledges in all the outposts and from all the members in the near future in order to raise the balance needed. Canadian pledges would not be refused if they were made. One acre will cost just about ten dollars.

For those who may wonder what useful service the land will serve I will answer as follows: It will give us ownership rights to a Mission site situated in the centre of six or eight outposts located on private farms and on which we have no legal rights other than the verbal or written consent of the farm owner, it will give us a centre from which we can work without hindrance or molestation, and finally it will give us a place on which to place our preachers for that area who at present are on private farms and must supply six months free labour to the owner as rent hence curtailing their usefulness and security.

Others may wonder why we do not try to buy a small acreage. We did try but failed. Farms out here are much larger than this for the most part; even this is not considered to be a farm—it is merely a portion.

Our work out here needs this site very much if it is to be placed on a firm footing. We shall need others in the future if they are available and we can get the means.

Yours in His service,

E. A. M. KIERSTEAD

Altona, M. S.

Dear Highway Friends,

One morning very early I wakened and began to think over all the way the Lord has led us during these seven years of service for Him in Africa. We have had a share of troubles and trials but the blessings from God have been so much greater. As I thought along this line I opened my daily reading book and it opened to these words: "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me." How very true that has been in so many instances and we praise God for it. As I read on through the reading for the day I came to these beautiful words at the close I shall write them as they may help someone else as they blessed me.

The Eye of the Storm

Fear not that the whirlwind shall carry thee hence,
Nor wait for its onslaught in breathless suspense,
Nor shrink from the whips of the terrible hail,
But pass through the edge to the heart of the gale,