

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

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

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.

Dear Homeland Friends:

The days are dark, wet and cool. Malaria fever will, no doubt, be worse after this rain. Fever is around us, but not so many cases as yet. Whooping cough is still very bad indeed and children are dying nearly every week. I think it is mostly caused by pneumonia. The little ones get whooping cough, then run about outside these mornings, with no clothing on their little bodies, and of course they get cold, which results in pneumonia. The mothers know so little about caring for them, some will listen when I tell them what to do, while others laugh and say it's just the "white people's fairy tales." We need patience and love to keep on doing our best to help them to know God and also to know a more healthy way to live too. I'm so glad that He put in my heart a great love for these people, to whom I was to minister. I believe He does it for all who are truly called of God.

We had lovely services over Easter. I did enjoy them so much. The first service was held Friday evening. As usual the people were late in arriving so we started at half past eight. Eugene preached a short sermon, about the death and suffering of Jesus, etc. Seven workers were present and they all gave short talks and then the people began to testify. It was most interesting and I didn't get so tired and sleepy, so stayed right through. We closed with a good altar service and reached home about one o'clock.

On Saturday a goodly number spent the day going from kraal to kraal holding short services. It was too far for me to walk so I stayed home and let my girls go. Eugene was too tired at night for a service so we had prayers and went to bed early.

Sunday morning was our monthly Young People's service. It being Easter Sunday I felt it would be nice to have an older person speak so asked Johannesi, but he failed to get the message I sent, so Eugene helped us and gave a good message about the Risen Saviour. I believe nearly everyone testified and I felt that the spirit of the service was very tender. About thirty were present.

At one o'clock the long service of the day began. Johannesi and Daniel preached. Three babies were presented, one woman was restored to church fellowship and many partook of communion. The collection was about five dollars. We felt it was indeed good to be there, that Easter Sunday, and enjoy the fellowship of the saints and rich blessings from God upon our souls.

I am troubled, at present, about a little girl

who has been with me a great deal lately. Her father is dead and mother backslidden, and now she has gone to be the wife of a heathen with many other wives. She started to move to his kraal but her first husband's people objected and said she could go there herself but the children of her first husband should not go. This little girl who has been staying with me is a very bright child of about 11 years. When she goes home her mother scolds constantly, does not wish her to go to pray, does not allow her to come to church, but says she must make mats and learn to work instead. She is to return to her home tomorrow and is feeling so badly today. I cannot afford to keep her longer and I do not need her but I have told her she must go home and try to stay nicely, but if she fails I shall try to think of some other way to help her. When she stays with me, I give her mother about \$2.50 a month. Food is a problem to obtain now too.

Preachers' school begins on Tuesday. Eugene is hoping that more will come and get the benefit of the lessons for they need it.

We are glad to hear that the school children are staying nicely in Louwsburg. It is getting very cold there now, I expect.

We were greatly saddened when the news reached us of Brother Archer's passing. He was our pastor at North Head the first year we were married and we learned to know him better and appreciate very much our fellowship with Brother and Sister Archer at that time. I always enjoyed Brother Archer's good sermons and he was a splendid pastor, always anxious to help those who were sick or in trouble. May God especially bless and comfort dear Mrs. Archer at this time, I pray.

May God bless and be with you all.

Yours, for souls in Africa,

G. M. KIERSTEAD

Altona M. S.

Dear Friends:

Eugene and Glendon have gone, by bicycles, several miles away to hold a service. It is raining hard so fear they will get wet coming home but I do trust they are having a good service.

Recently Eugene was telling me of an experience he had a while ago. He was going on a long bicycle tour and had gone about 30 miles when he had to ford a small river. He crossed safely and the hill on the other side was several miles long. He pushed and pushed in the hot glaring sun, until he nearly reached the top, when he remembered a spring, just off the road. So he laid his bicycle down and went to the spring only to find a big spitting cobra on the other side. He was tired and thirsty and needed water badly but the snake seemed to be guarding the spring, so he hunted for

sticks or stones but not one could he find to kill it with or drive it away. So he returned to the spring and with his eye on the snake he carefully dipped up handfuls of water and drank. When he finished and prepared to leave the snake also glided away. It surely was dangerous for he had nothing to defend himself with, but surely the Lord took care of him.

Recently we have killed two large spitting cobras here at Altona, one by the house and the second, out of the mission but near. The second one was the largest one I've ever seen here. I often think how God does protect and care for us and we do thank Him for it.

Sunday was a very wet rainy dark day. Johannesi was present and preached for us, from 1 Timothy 6 and part of verse 17 "Trust in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." In spite of the rain, about thirty-five were present and all enjoyed the good sermon. Many testified to victory in their souls.

I long to be of greater use, in His vineyard, and I realize that He called me to this work and as long as I keep in His will, He will help in every direction. After all, as the poem goes,

We are but under-workmen;

They never choose

If this tool or if that one

Their hands shall use.

In working or in waiting,

May we fulfill;

Not ours at all, but only

The Master's will!

And truly too, the only time we are really happy, is when we are doing His work, in His will.

March 24 and 25 we spent in near-by places watching the Royal train and seeing the Royal family from England. We saw them a number of times and were very grateful for the privilege. The first morning, when we started out I said: "Well, boys, we have brushed our clothes, polished shoes, etc., to see our earthly King but when Jesus comes, we'll be much more interested in the condition of our hearts—if its clean in His sight." Man will look at the outward appearance but God will look at the heart. May we purpose in our hearts to prepare NOW to meet Him, so when He comes we will have our lamps trimmed and burning, and waiting for our Master's call.

May God bless and be with you all and keep you safely in His love.

Yours, in Him,

G. M. KIERSTEAD.

A CALL

A call comes floating
O'er the restless waters,