

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S., Oct. 1st, 1947

Dear Highway Friends:

Another month has begun and I am going to write my monthly letter to you on the very first day.

First of all, I want to give you a brief report of our Quarterly Meeting. The services began on Wednesday, Sept. 24th, and closed the following Sunday. On Tuesday Eugene went to Hartland and early Wednesday morning he returned, bringing Brother and Sister Sanders and little Pamela. We were so glad to have them with us at that time.

Brother Charles Sanders had charge of the first services held at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning. He gave a good Bible lesson from Phil. 4:4,5 and 6. In the afternoon Rev. Paul Nkosi preached from Ps. 15, after which nearly everyone present testified. Very few were present Wednesday evening so only prayers were held that night in the different rooms.

Mary had charge of the early morning prayer service Thursday morning, reading in Matt. 13, about the parable of the sower, while Myra gave us a splendid Bible lesson from Heb. 5, about Jesus, our High Priest.

Thursday afternoon there were two speakers. Timothy Dlamini spoke from Luke 3, verses 4, 5, 6 emphasizing the need of making our paths straight. Locelina Lushaba spoke from Eph. 6, verses 10, 11 and 12. She spoke of the need of being strong in the Lord, of putting on the whole armour of God, etc. Blessing and conviction were on the service.

Absolom Sibuja spoke in the evening service from Romans 8, verse 6: "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Friday morning Jimson Ngomezulu used the same chapter, Romans 8, for his reading in early prayers. Eugene had the morning Bible class at eleven o'clock. He gave a searching message from three different passages of Scripture. The first in John 21, where Jesus asked Peter if he loved him and told him to feed the sheep and lambs. Then in Ez. 34 where God told Ezekiel to prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Then in I. Peter 5:2: "Feed the flock of God which is among you." He talked to the workers and I felt it was good for us all.

On Friday afternoon Reginald was sick and I did not get out to service and forgot to ask, at once, who preached. By the time I remembered it was too late to get the texts, etc. Daniel Sukazi was the first speaker but I guess nearly everyone preached and it was really a good service.

Saturday was a very busy day. Brother Charles Sanders gave the Bible Class lesson and Rev. Alfred Metula preached in the afternoon from Luke 1:68 and 69: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David." He was followed by Mary, who gave a good sermon about the "Two Books," which are described in Ex. 32:33 and Rev. 20:12. I'm sure we all want our names to be written in the "Book of Life."

Saturday evening Johanesi had charge of the evening service and all said it was a good service with much blessing present.

Sunday morning Aloni Mbata led the early prayer service and at ten o'clock many gathered at the river where Johanesi baptized one young girl. The long service of the day began at eleven and lasted until nearly three o'clock. Rev. Paul Nkosi and Eugene were the speakers. I missed Paul's message but Eugene preached from Romans 12:2: "And be not conformed to this world." Four were restored and the girl who was baptized joined the church. Many partook of communion, one baby was presented to the Lord and the collection was L1.13.5 and about 15c was given to Mary as a gift by two people, who were not present at her welcome services. We felt it was a good service, owned and blessed of

Sunday evening everyone was tired, so the natives had evening prayers, and we had a little English service in our living room. We sang several lovely hymns. Mary read Ephesians 3, while Myra and Brother George Sanders led in prayer. God was very near!

Brother George Sanders did not arrive until Sunday and is staying this week and helping Eugene with the roof of the Kipinyawa Church. Eugene and George plan to leave on Friday, accompanied by several of the workers to spend a few days in Ermelo. Then next week I believe Eugene, Charles and George all plan to go to Kwabanakile to start the new church there.

Everything is very quiet around the Mission, as the native school closed last Friday. The noise of over a hundred children does get tiresome at times, and I do enjoy the holidays. European schools close on Friday and we are expecting to have the boys home for next week.

We are looking unto God to help us in every way, and daily praying for a revival. Many,

That night they had a long evening service. I believe, were helped during the Quarterly Meeting, but we long to see greater things. Help us, pray, dear ones!

Yours in His love,

GLADYS M. KIERSTEAD

Hartland Mission Station, October 19, 1947.

Dear Friends:

It is time I got busy with my letter writing again. Since Quarterly I seem to have neglected it. Speaking of Quarterly, I attended my first one at Altona since my arrival here about two and one-half years ago. Generally, I keep house and let the men go, as there is so much business, etc., that needs to be done. However this time after receiving invitations from both Gladys and Mary, we decided to lock up the house and all go. Bro. Eugene and Reggie came for us on Tuesday and stayed over night and we left early Wednesday, arriving about 10 a.m. The nice greeting received from both missionaries and natives was heart-warming. Though not as many people gathered on account of the cold rainy weather as at times, yet the Lord was there, and we enjoyed things right from the start. The messages from both missionaries and native workers were rich to our souls. I felt it indeed a privilege to attend and received new strength and encouragement.

On arriving home the following Monday, I found a small baby boy had arrived the night before. He had fallen into the fire and burned most of the skin off his tummy. The hospital girl had fixed him up nicely so he was quite comfortable. He stayed until Friday and his burns were clean and healing when he left. As his home is quite a distance from here, across the Pongola, I have not heard from him since. His mother is one of our workers.

Charlie left last Wednesday for Kwabanakile to join Bros. Eugene and George who had started to build the new church there. George arrived here for dinner yesterday on his way to the outpost meeting for Sunday and said that the church has been finished, and that a little house, I suppose for the school meal service, was being built. Out here our churches serve as both school and church. About a week ago, two women from Kwabanakile came over to get the windows for the church. They said the missionaries wanted bread and sugar, but it was finished at the store. I coaxed them to stay and got busy and did some cooking. By the time I had a small carton of food packed, they had finished eating mulberries, and were ready for home. They objected at first and thought their loads would be too heavy, but presently consented to carry it all. It's such a long way and so steep, but