

his loss. "The things which happened" turned out all right. Lord give us special grace, wisdom, and strength, so that we may be able to say with Paul, "Though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak; I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (I. Cor. 9:19-22).

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.

Dear Highway Friends:

The Lord has been very precious to us during the past year. We have had occasions to test and try the promises of God and never once have they failed us. We feel its been a good year in the Lord, the work looks encouraging so we are praying that God will give us a real uplift and blessing during the Quarterly Meetings, to close the old year, and that He will enlarge our vision and give us strength to do more for Him in 1947 than we were able to do in 1946.

The summer is starting with intense heat but refreshing rains every few days to water the thirsty land and bring relief to us.

We had some very interesting days during December, beginning the 1st with a Young People's service. About thirty were present and three young girls spoke, just about everyone testified and the Spirit of Jesus was so near to us I felt we should have an altar service. Many came forward and we had a good season of prayer. I felt it was one of the best young people's services we ever had and some of the young people said they felt the same. I've had a service for the young people every month this year, and I believe its been a help to the boys and girls and I've always been blessed too.

That afternoon we had a very good service. Johanesi preached and after the service we took up an offering for our Christmas feast. About \$10.00 was given, in money, also the promise of a goat, several chickens and dishes of dried corn. Considering what the people have, I think our people at Altona are good givers and I know that God will bless them and make them a blessing, if they do His will.

The Government has agreed to continue the clinic for six months more. Typhoid fever and dysentery have broken out among the children and many have died. I believe it was Dec. 3rd that a whole wagon load of the sick was brought here from Daniel Sukazi's section to see the doctor. Two were at death's door but the old doctor helped them and they are all getting better now, for which we thank God. This is helping the people to see that the doctor can help them, so more are coming each week. It's been a lot of work disinfecting and cleaning the hospital after these very sick people have been there, but I feel that by so doing I am helping the people and am so glad to be able to. I have tended alone over sixteen hundred sick folks during the year. It's not very many but I've been glad to be able to help those with colds, etc. It's been so nice having the doctor for the serious diseases.

The 6th I had my S. S. Christmas. We had chosen the best pupils in each class and to these I gave Zulu Testaments and to the second best, scrap books and books made from the lesson sheets; to those who can read English I gave nice prizes; to those who had had perfect attendance during the year and to those with perfect attendance for half a year, I gave pictures. Several times Miss Flora

Brown's school children have sent me their pencils that were left, when school closed. I had saved part of them so I would have enough to give each school child here, when I had Christmas for my Sunday School. This time I had enough so each child had a pencil, pretty Christmas card, handful of raisins and candy. I also gave a gift to our two teachers, who had been so very kind and helpful to me. After the opening exercises, giving of the prizes, etc., and I had given a short talk I told them that their friends overseas had sent some of the prizes. I told them about Mrs. Branscombe's S. S. of Moncton and others who helped me with the S. S. work and asked them what I should write to these friends of ours. With one accord they all rose and said together, "Ngi ya bonga, ngi ya bonga"—"I am thanking, I am thanking." We all said the Lord's Prayer in Zulu, sang our little good-bye song and left. I heard so many say how nice it had been and we all enjoyed it and I too want to thank all who have sent cards, papers, things I can use for prizes, etc. It is a great help to me and the little brown children do enjoy every little thing so much. I believe that God will bless you for remembering these less fortunate than yourselves, and do pray with me that the seed may fall on good ground, in the hearts of these dear children, and bring forth fruit unto His glory.

Our teacher has been encouraging more gardening. He divided the school garden into plots and the boys have been busy getting them in shape. The 10th he invited a number to inspect the school garden and decide on the best three plots. He had bought prizes for them and he asked me to present them. It was a hard day for me to leave as the doctor was here so I had to ask Eugene to take my part and his too.

The following Thursday was the public school closing—a day of noise and crowds—but the drills were nice, also the singing exercises, etc. I didn't even see the drills, except from the window, as Kenneth was very ill. He was in bed for eight days, is up now, but very thin and white, but we are so grateful that the dear Lord undertook. We had the doctor examine him on Tuesday, and he thinks he will have to have his tonsils removed as soon as we can manage it.

I have sent out a good many parcels of clothing to near-by workers for their families for Xmas. I've made two trips out to take things. I've made some new garments, fixed over others and we've all given some articles of our own to help out. The natives are poor and clothing is so expensive and it's been a pleasure to help out at this Christmas time.

Yesterday was a dark rainy day. I started to write when I happened to look up towards Johanesi's and saw Johanesi, Trifina, Losaya and a large number of our church members. They had dishes on their heads and were singing. I rushed in to the study and called Eugene but he knew no more than I did. I called Paulina and she knew nothing but they were coming towards the Mission. Sure enough, they turned in our gate and in a minute were coming in on the verandah. They kept on singing, came into the living room, sat down and sang. Soon they all knelt and prayed, then Johanesi stood up and said that I had taught them what a donation was (we have had two for him) and they felt they would like to give us a Christmas donation. He told how the dear Lord had blessed us with rain and everyone had food and they were happy to bring some to us. Eugene thanked them and I tried to do

so too, then we all stood and had the benediction and we were able to greet the friends. Two of the ladies had brought mud pots of the sour native drink that they are so fond of, besides dishes of potatoes (each one about enough for a dinner), two tiny new pumpkins, a bunch of onions, two small cabbage, 18 eggs, a small dish of green peas, a melon, two little pkgs. sugar (several cups in each), candle and box of matches, 18c in money, a few quarts of corn meal, and Johanesi brought a neat little wooden meat tray and a wooden spoon that he had made. There were a number of little dishes of potatoes and when they were emptied there must have been two pecks. I did appreciate it all very much and the things will be a great help during the Quarterly Meeting. We thank God, the Giver of all gifts, for the help at this time and pray that God will bless the people for their thoughtfulness.

Mrs. Branscombe's S. S. Class recently sent me a nice box. In it were eight special gifts from the girls. The idea was that I would try to find girls with names as near like theirs as possible. There were other things in the box very suitable for gifts—balls, pins with scripture on them, barettes, etc., and I had a few things I could spare so I decided to call the girls' class, also the boys, and give them all a present. Well, I had a difficult time about the names and some were not too near, but I did the best I could and they all enjoyed it a lot and sent their grateful thanks to their namesakes over the seas. The boys were also very pleased. When we remember how very little they have, it's no wonder they appreciate even a little gift. I do pray that God will bless the dear young people who made a happy day for our dear young people here.

Our boys are home now for summer holidays. They all did well in their final exams, so will start new grades when school opens Jan. 21st.

I have had five native children here all the year. Our school ends with Grade VI., and four of the five children were in that grade. Three passed so will not be back next year. One boy failed so he plans to come back and repeat. The youngest boy, Philemon, will be in Grade IV. and he intends to return. Another little girl wishes to come too so the prospects are that I will have three native school children next year instead of five. I shall be very glad to have less care along that line, although the five children were all quite good children and we thought a lot of them, especially Charley Lukeli, Paulina's son, who has been with us four and a half years. After so long, it seems as if he sort of belonged here and we will be sorry to say good-bye to him. He is staying now to earn some money but will leave the end of the month.

I'm so glad that the Christ who was born in Bethlehem's manger still lives to help and bless and give peace unto His children and truly "He who hath helped us hitherto will help us all our journey through." Praise His Name!

Yours for souls in Africa,

GLADYS M. KIERSTEAD

WEDDINGS

Mullen—Stone

At the Reformed Baptist parsonage, Havelock, Nova Scotia, on February 14th. Viola May Stone was united in marriage to Douglas LeRoy Mullen. Rev. Ronald T. Sabine officiated.