

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

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,
February 5th, 1947

Dear Highway Friends,

If you were near enough I would say 'let us sing, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.' What for? Well, let me tell you about it.

Nearly ten years ago Brother George Sanders applied for a church site at Kipenyawo but nothing came of it. Shortly after we got here we applied again but were told that nothing could be done as the war had started and a German missionary had also applied for the same site. Finally as soon as the war was over we re-applied again—this time for a church and school site. This time our request almost came to grief because the local native chief and a rival native controlled church opposed our request on the grounds they wanted the church site for themselves and furthermore they wanted to control the school rights in that area. The native Chief called a public meeting of his followers and of course they all supported his claim. We felt that the day was all but lost. In final desperation I wrote the Government officials and told them what the Chief had done and suggested that they grant the rival church a site about two miles from Altona (where they have had their church building for years) and that we be given the Kipenyawo site as we had prior rights—having worked in that area first and having the larger membership.

About a month ago I heard that our rivals had been given their old site. On Monday I was handed an official document—"Permission to Occupy"—granting the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada a piece of land (a little over one acre in extent) on which to build a CHURCH and SCHOOL. Isn't that enough to sing the Doxology over? This is the third permanent site that we have been able to procure within the last few months; this last is the only one that we obtained 'without money and without price.'

I wrote about our desire to place a preacher and his wife at our new site at Louwsburg. This is now an accomplished fact. Gladys and I went around last week by car taking the preacher's wife and children; the preacher and his niece followed by train and bus.

While in Louwsburg Brother George and I fitted in two new windows and nine panes of glass, etc., to get things ship shape for the new occupants. Monday I heard that six of our church children had arrived in Louwsburg to stay with the Sibiyas and go to school—so at last we have a Hostel for our church children where they can go to a higher school and yet

be under Christian care and influence.

On our way home we passed through Vryheid where we visited the Evangelical Teachers' Training College that is in the process of being built. It is to cost \$50,000 or more. Six Missionary Societies are co-operating in the effort.

The Societies are so 'fed up' with the usual type of teacher that they feel that they must get together and try to produce CHRISTIAN teachers else their missionary efforts are doomed to failure. Drinking, smoking and immoral teachers annul the efforts of Missions and Sunday Schools to a great degree. Just as the Hospital, Dispensary, and Clinic bring a certain group within the missionary's influence so likewise do schools. If we can get the young under our influence for their several years in school we may succeed in getting many of them to become Christians. This is what usually happens. A very large percentage of our new members are contacted through the schools in the first instance and the Sunday School and Church in the second. Few native workers are successful in their outposts without schools in their kraals or one near by.

Rev. Johanisi Nkosi is over across the Pongolo river at Kwabanakile laying the foundation of a new church building at that outpost. Our Government site there was only recently marked off so we are required to "Occupy" the new site within a certain time limit. We shall also need to build a new building at Kipenyawo within a year or we shall be in danger of forfeiting the grant made to us.

All of this proposed building requires a certain amount of money—\$100 to \$150 per church—so I am appealing to you to help us as we, out here, have committed ourselves to the limit for the next year or two in pledging for the Grootsprint and Louwsburg sites. It would be a pity if we lost our Government sites through our inability to build within the stipulated time.

We shall start in building almost immediately—on FAITH. We are trusting that the Lord will put a burden on some of your hearts regarding these urgent needs. We SHALL be able to go up and possess the land if God's stewards are faithful. When God suddenly unlocks barred gates we should pass through. We not only should rejoice in inflated salaries but we should practice inflated giving.

Yours looking forward,
E. A. M. KIERSTEAD.

Hartland Mission Station,
January 12th, 1947

Dear Homeland Friends;

Greetings from this distant shore. We wish

to thank all those dear people who sent us cards, letters and gifts during the Christmas season. They are still arriving in every post. To you all we say 'Thank you and God bless you.'

We had a very nice Christmas which we celebrated on the 24th as Charlie had to leave on the 25th for the Quarterly meeting at Altona. Pamela was quite interested in the proceedings and really enjoyed herself. First we had prayers for the natives, and then opened our gifts.

Each of the natives present received some little gift also which they appreciated very much. It was a cold rainy day, but we did not seem to mind. Our thoughts turned to the Christ whose birthday we were celebrating.

Charlie returned the following Monday with the report of a good Quarterly and the good news that two people had given themselves to the Lord; which is good news indeed.

We had a lot of rain and some of the people could not get over to the Christmas celebration at Altona, so on New Year's day we held a 'small Christmas' here mostly for the old people and the children. There were over one hundred present and everyone seemed to enjoy himself or herself. There was a nice service at first and then the Christmas tree. There is quite a bit of confusion when you get about six people shouting out the names of the various people who are receiving gifts. It is nice too to have a bag of sweets or something that one can hand out for you are accosted by various ones saying, 'Christmas box'. One of our neighbors most kindly donated a bag of salt to be given out so each native received a good measure of salt and they did appreciate it so much. There was a feast of goat meat and mealie samp which was enjoyed to the full. As the people were leaving a storm came up which looked as though it was going to be quite severe and quite a number of the people took refuge in the church until it was over.

Now we are in the new year and praying that the Lord will revive the work. We did pray earnestly for the services last week and there was a better attendance and interest. Today the Sunday School attendance was better; also the attendance at the afternoon service. We do thank the Lord for this answer to prayer. One woman arrived at 4.00 p.m. to attend and was surprised to find the service out.

These people do not go by watches as we do and one can expect them to arrive at all hours.

Charlie has the new program for the year made out and it seems that I will have most of the Sunday services here at the Station; as he has very few Sundays at home. Sometimes