

## MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,  
July 6, 1948

Dear Highway Friends:

Our Quarterly Meeting is over and what a blessed time we had! The services were owned and blessed of God, the business sessions were times of real harmony with the presence of God very real and near. We had a good cook, who cared for that part of the work, the food committee looked well after their tasks and everyone was well fed, both in soul and body. If they were not, it was their own fault, for a good supply of food was present for both purposes.

The Saturday before the Quarterly Meetings started, we had rather a unique service here. Johanesi asked the people to bring in their tenth and take it to the church. Everyone had gathered by one o'clock and when we went over we were surprised to see the pile of nice pumpkins and melons surrounded by dishes of dried corn, beans, etc. Johanesi spoke from Mal. about bringing in all the offerings unto God and if we did so, we could expect rich blessings from Heaven. I also spoke a few words and thanked the people. Then we had a short prayer service. There was a very tender spirit present and I trust it will encourage more of our people to give their tenth.

I was especially impressed with the tenth from Johanesi and Trifina. They had over two hundred pumpkins this year, so the older children helped by putting them into piles of ten and the nicest one was taken out for their gift to the Lord. They measured their dried corn, beans, etc., and brought a tenth of all their garden products. I hardly think that many do all that, but they are learning and the Lord is blessing and helping them along this line too.

The following Monday Sister Grace Sanders arrived. On Tuesday we expected Brother George Sanders to arrive and Wednesday night came and still he was not here. That evening we had a long business session and had just got to sleep when we were awakened. A neighbor had arrived saying that Brother George had collided with his truck; was badly hurt and had been taken to the Piet Retief Hospital. You can imagine our feelings and I am sure we all offered a special prayer to God for His help at that time. We awakened the workers and told them too and early Thursday morning we met together and had special prayers for the recovery of our brother who was in trouble. Only last week someone broke into his room at Hartland and stole a number of useful articles too. But in spite of these things we know that God is with us, so we put them all in His hands and continued to pray for the success of the services too, and praise His name, He didn't disappoint us.

Early Thursday morning my husband went out to learn more about the accident. We were glad it was no worse but the badly broken leg will be a long time getting well. The doctor was here for clinic today and says he doesn't think he will be out of the hospital under two months, as the bones were broken in four places. But God can undertake and our trust is in Him.

I want to tell you about some of the services that seemed to be especially blessed of God, although they all were very good indeed.

The services started on Wednesday, with a small congregation. That afternoon Rev. Paul Nkosi preached from Rev. 3:15 and 16. It was a wonderful message and I believe we all had

a great desire to be on fire for God and not a lukewarm Christian.

On Friday the early prayer service was one of special blessing to me. Sister Grace read and spoke awhile from II. Tim. 2:21: "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

That day at eleven o'clock, Sister Mary Campbell had charge of the Bible Class, with our teacher acting as interpreter. She brought a fine lesson on leadership. It was truly a searching message, afterwards Johanesi said that the message pierced their hearts like red hot needles, so you see the thoughts went home to more than one heart.

My husband had charge of the Bible Class on Saturday morning, and again we had a searching message from II. Tim. 2:15: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." A large crowd had gathered by then and all seemed to be enjoying the messages.

Saturday afternoon Sister Mary brought a fine flannelgraph lesson to the young people. It was about Tyndale, who was burned to the stake, and it was enjoyed by the old as well as by the young. Sister Grace interpreted.

On Saturday a goat was donated to help feed the crowds and the people were very glad to have meat. Shortly after supper we heard singing. We listened and sent Glendon out to see what it was all about. He came back saying it was a girl's quartette and they were singing to thank for the meat.

So we asked them to sing in the service on Sunday. They agreed and sang twice. Two of the girls are members of the church, while two others are seekers and doing well. As they sang my eyes filled with tears and how I wished I could send the lovely singing across to you at Beulah. I know it would have blessed your souls, even if you couldn't understand the Zulu words. As they sang, "I don't agree to keep silent about the Gospel," I just prayed that God would help these girls to get a real experience in Him and spread the gospel to their own people.

On Sunday morning there was a baptism at the river, where Rev. Daniel Sukazi baptized his eldest son, Johane, and also a girl and a woman.

In the long afternoon service Rev. Paul Nkosi and Sister Sanders brought good messages. Five were set up as prayer women and preachers' helpers, the three who were baptized were given the right hand of fellowship, one baby girl was presented to the Lord and two girls were set aside because of misconduct. The collection was the largest we ever had at a Quarterly Meeting at Altona—it was over \$15.00.

Many left that night but the remaining ones had a good service that evening at the teachers' house. Truly the Lord blessed in every service!

The blessings linger too. Today (Tuesday) we all got so blessed in the morning prayer service. We began by singing in Zulu, "Tis the Old Time Religion." One girl said it was so good we should have sung it again. The Lord was very near and we felt it was such a good start for the day.

Yesterday my husband took Sister Grace Sanders back to Hartland and Sister Campbell went also, as they wished her to give a flannelgraph lesson to the young people next

Sunday morning.

Through the services of last week, many were at the altar and some seemed to get definite help. We were sorry that none gave themselves to the Lord, but a young heathen woman chose the Lord, in our regular service, a week ago Sunday. That did so encourage us and we are looking unto God for greater results.

Such a busy noisy day we have had today! Two doctors were here for a vaccination clinic. I believe about a thousand natives were vaccinated.

We are thinking of you all at Beulah and trusting that the dear Lord is very near to you all.

Yours, for souls in Africa,

G. M. KIERSTEAD

Hartland Mission Station,

July 13th, 1948

Dear Friends:

It has been some time since I last wrote, so will get busy this morning and see what I can do. One generally is interrupted several times during the letter writing process before one proceeds very far.

It is rather a dull dark day. Our spring rains have apparently started, as we've had a bit of rain the last two days. We rejoice, because the first year I was here, the rains didn't come until after Xmas and the food situation, especially among the natives, was serious. We have already started to plant our corn and other vegetables.

Brother Eugene came over the last of June to do some work here and took Grace back for the Quarterly Meeting. Charles did not go to the Quarterly, due to the fact that we have had several thefts here on the station. George lost much of his clothing, but the guilty party has been caught and the clothing recovered. Some of his and Charles' bicycle parts and tools are still missing. George left late on Wednesday on his motorcycle for Altona and on the way met with this serious accident which will keep him hospitalized for at least two months.

As our Big Sunday was approaching I sent an invitation to Mary to come over and give a flannelgraph talk at our Young People's Meeting. We were so happy when she arrived with Grace on Monday after the Quarterly. On Wednesday she gave flannelgraph talks in both services and again to the young people on Sunday morning. How they enjoyed them. Four of our young people sang in both the Sunday services, very acceptably. Saturday evening we had an "umliendelo" which lasted until 1.00 a. m. or after. I do not as a rule go to these services, especially if they are in the church, because I cannot leave the children. This service was held in our front room, so I stayed right through and enjoyed it so much. We had the largest crowd for Big Sunday that we've had since I've been here—quite a number of visitors from other churches too. I did not get in for all the afternoon service but Grace preached a good message on the Second Coming of Christ and we had communion service. Then collection was over twelve shillings, which I thought was good for the number who gave. We do feel that the Lord blessed and gave us a profitable weekend. We did enjoy having Mary with us. And you folks who are praying for the Lord to help her with the language, pray on! She is doing splendidly and will be preaching in Zulu before too long, I think. We are having about