

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

LETTER TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Hartland M. S.,
South Africa,
July 18, 1948.

Dear Young People:

Today is the last day of the Beulah Camp meetings and we shall be glad to hear of the great blessings and victories that have been gained by young and old who were privileged to attend. You are interested to hear about the work that the Missionaries do, and your Missionaries are interested to learn of the happenings in Canada and the United States.

There are many young people in this part of the country, but very few who are saved and living a victorious, clean, Christian life. It takes much grit to live for Jesus out here in Africa. Try to picture yourself as a young Zulu boy or girl. Your parents heathen or possibly your mother a Christian. Even this Christian mother would still have many superstitions which had been indelibly imprinted upon her mind. One superstition that these Natives find very hard to get rid of is that of the witch. The witch may be a man or a woman, generally living not very far from them. The witch coming around at night riding a baboon, and holding on its tail. The witch with huge feet and going about naked with ashes rubbed over his body. Coming at night to cast some spell upon you or upon some one of your loved ones. If he wishes to, having the powerful medicine that he may leave on your door-step so that next morning when you come out, on passing over it you immediately take seriously ill or suddenly collapse and pass out.

Then think of the various entertainments the young people employ out here. An engagement party, or a "bayeni" party. When a man has the preliminary feast and ceremony that celebrates his paying most of the cattle that buy him a wife, they call this "bayeni". Many nights spent in practice singing and dancing and all the evil setting, and the dark doings that attend these things. Many parents send their young girls to take some dish of food or goard of drink. There these young people are detained by the various attractions, and be sure of it, Satan is careful to catch them in one or other of his pitfalls.

To dis-believe in the witch, or to fail to attend a "bayeni" party, means to say "No!" in the face of great pressure of public opinion and ridicule from others of your own age. It costs much to live a true Christian life out here in a heathen land; where there are many other things to try to cause to fall, those who wish to stand for the Lord.

One young man, the eldest son of one of our Christian women; whose father is still a heathen, is standing true. He said in a recent testimony: "I live where the knobkerry flourishes." And you probably know what a knobkerry is. It is a stick with a knob on the end, which is used for hunting and fighting. He said that the Lord had tied him up so that he did not go after the evil things about him.

This particular young man has become engaged to a Christian girl of another denomination. It is quite common out here for girls to just begin to get interested in a fellow after he succeeds in winning his first girl. It is often quite easy for him to get a second and third one. So for a Christian young man who intends taking only one wife it means the exercising of deep determination, firm faith

and a careful walk to avoid the snares that Satan has set for his feet. To marry by Christian rites and to fulfill the vows thereof takes a firm resolve and a deep devotion to God. It means to give up for ever the idea of taking more than one wife. As this particular young man is the eldest son, his heathen father, and relatives will feel that he is casting lightly aside the right to greatness: and for them greatness means many wives, much beer and many children. Of course they do not tell him of the family quarrels, jealousy, fighting and even poisonings that often attend the polygamist's kraal.

Your prayers for this young man, and for the "few" other young people who are following Christ will be appreciated. Also for the "many" young people who are out in the dark night of sin, away from God growing into hardened sinners. May they too be saved.

May God bless you as you pray and work for Him.

Yours glad to be in His service,

C. D. M. SANDERS.

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU

Is it nothing to you that a sinner must die

For want of the soul-winning word?

Can you turn a deaf ear to the heart-rending cry

Of millions who have never heard

That wonderful story of pardon and peace,

With power to revive and renew?

How can you believe it, and still be at ease—

O friend, is it nothing to you?

Is it nothing to you that the harvest is white,

And is ready for the reapers today?

It will soon be too late, with the on-coming night—

Consider your fatal delay,

While the call unto service is urgent and clear,

And the workers today are so few,

As the call of the Savior reaches your ear,

Dear friend, is it nothing to you?

Is it nothing to you, as you hear from abroad

How millions of heathen today

Are waiting to hear of the only true God

Who taketh transgressions away?

If you have accepted the gift of God's love,

And gladly his bidding would do,

Can you turn a deaf ear to the call from above?

Dear friend, is it nothing to you?

Is it nothing to you that the soul-saving cause

Is neglected by those who profess

To be saved by the blood shed on Calvary's cross,

And by faith life eternal possess?

When you think of the many in darkness of sin,

Must you not to the Master be true?

When he calls you to serve him, lost sinners to win

O friend, is it nothing to you?

—Anon.

FIELDS WHITE UNTO HARVEST

The fields are white unto harvest,

And the harvest, the souls of mankind.

Souls for whom God gave the Saviour,

That all men His garner might find.

Come, lift up your eyes, O ye ransomed,

Those sin-stricken souls there to view;

Then hark to the voice of the Saviour,

"Go work, for the laborers are few."

The fields are white unto harvest,

And the Master is calling for men.

Men who will go forth to the labor,

Not counting their lives dear to them;
Who'll give Him the vigor of manhood,
Nor fail neath the sun's noonday glare,
To rescue the souls who are dying,
Ere they're lost in eternal despair.

The fields are white unto harvest,
And the Saviour is calling to you—
Children of God who are idle—

To go, for there's work you can do.

He cares for the lost and forsaken,

The children neglected and sad,

The youth groping blindly in darkness,

And He needs you to help make them glad.

The fields are white unto harvest,

Though many may laugh and seem gay;

Souls going down to destruction,

And speeding along the broad way;

But laughter and song cover heartaches,

While deep in the heart is despair;

And Jesus is calling workers,

Who will labor and sacrifice there.

—Heart and Life.

MISSIONARY UNBELIEF

The Christian that does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the great commission. Repeat it and see.

The Christian that does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Apostles' Creed. Repeat it and see.

The Christian that does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the Lord's Prayer. Repeat it and see.

The Christian that does not believe in foreign missions does not believe in the doxology in long meter. Repeat it and see.

The Christian that does not believe in foreign missions does not believe that verse so often quoted, John 3:16. Repeat it and see.

The Christian that does not believe in foreign missions believes that two-thirds of the earth's population should perish without hope.

How many more millions must die before the church of God moves forward? "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."—Temple Evangelist.

FERTILITY OF PALESTINE

An American official of the United States Department of Agriculture has been investigating the efforts of the Zionist colonies to restore the fertility of Palestine's soil. He states that the colonization of the wasted land of Palestine is one of the most significant phenomena of our day. During centuries of neglect, the land once described as "flowing with milk and honey" was reduced to a wasted condition. The Jewish settlers, however, are showing what can be done in the way of restoring the productive capacity of the soil. Marshy, pestilential lands have been reclaimed by draining, and malaria has been eradicated. The higher plains have been made to produce agricultural crops, sand dunes have been converted by irrigation into citrus groves, and forests have been planted on barren slopes. An agricultural experimental station, which has been established and equipped, is one of the best of its kind in the world.—The Christian.