

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Altona M. S.,
South Africa,
23rd January, 1949.

Dear Highway Friends:

Once more we take up a pen to greet you in our Redeemer's precious name.

Since coming here, the last of October, I have again found God's promise, attached to His great commission, true. For truly He has been with me so I have not minded being alone much of the time. Your prayers, gifts, Christmas cards and letters are appreciated very much, and I hope to get "thank you" letters written to each as soon as possible. In the mean time please let this suffice:—thank you! God bless you!

I've received a warm welcome here from the people and there is a sweet spirit of fellowship and co-operation prevailing.

We had a very blessed Quarterly. Both George and Charles were present! Praise the Lord! George stayed 2 weeks getting about with crutches but had to return to hospital on the 3rd. This week we should hear the report of the X-ray findings, as to the extent of the knitting process—if complete and satisfactory or not.

The Kiersteads were a great miss, Mary included. The burden was heavy but God carried us through some how! Bro. Kierstead was able to attend one only business session.

We rejoiced to see a girl and two stalwart young Zulus follow Christ in Baptism. Two babies were dedicated.

New Year's Eve we spent in a watch-night service which closed at 1 a.m. It was one of the most blessed such services I've ever been in. The spirit of God laid such a burden of prayer on our souls for the sick workers and unsaved ones! It was blessed to hear the workers get under the Burden. How they wrestled with God and us that night! Heaven seemed to touch the earth—as God was entreated. Shouts of praise went up and the building trembled so real was the presence of His spirit, as we received the assurance of answered prayer. I feel convinced God is going to do GREAT things for us this year, beloved! Praise Him!

Answers coming in already—

1. Paul Nkosi of Ngenetsheni is being restored to God's work and to his wife and family.

2. Sister Gladys was a little better—last report—getting about a bit but very weak still.

3. One of our Bible Women's son was reclaimed Friday from backsliding. Oh, the prayers that have gone up for him!

4. The door is opening for me to get out again kraal-visiting.

I have made three visits to the chief's kraal—per his request twice. One of his 14 wives is sick—a heart condition with other complications. For a week I have been supervising her diet a bit. The change in her whole condition is remarkable in that time.

I invited folk in for prayers—about ten came in. I read the story of Blind Bartimeas; touched on the Rapture of the Bride, and the Tribulation and closed with a season of united prayer. An old woman prayed and wept beside me. I had tried to explain the necessity of having the "know-so" salvation. This old woman turned to me saying, "I've been blind. Now I just begin to see that I have no book

(she meant "Witness"). When Jesus comes down like a drop of rain I don't know if I shall be taken or left!" And fresh tears welled up in her eyes and streamed down her wrinkled, brown face. She had confessed all her sins but never had received the Witness. I explained to her how to receive Him, but had to hurry away home as it was dinner time. Also a special farewell service for Johainsi Nkosi and Traifina to follow. They are moving to Piet Retief tomorrow. This was a sad but very blessed service. A special offering amounted to £4 : 12 : 3 (including what had been received a few days before—7/6). The promise of 6 fowls and a basin of potatoes and 2 clay bowls. Received besides the cash was a grass mat, a clay bowl, basin of potatoes and a bowl of beans, a cake and head-dress. They were touchingly pleased and grateful. Johainsi said now he could take the bus with Traifina instead of leaving early on bicycle because of lack of bus fare. Pray for these—as they take up their work in this new field of labour.

Yours for souls,

GRACE SANDERS.

226 Market Street,

Vryheid, Natal,

February 19, 1949.

Dear Highway Friends:

Such a beautiful sunny day here in Africa! We praise God for the sun that brightens the world but how much more we praise and thank Him for the sun of righteousness that has arisen in our hearts, bringing light, encouragement and blessing to us. Truly we need God these days to teach and lead us, on the Christian journey.

First of all I want to tell you that Sister Campbell left on Monday for Swaziland where she was admitted to hospital and after examination by Dr. Hynd, was pronounced to have a chronic appendix, and operated upon early Wednesday morning. A telegram states that she is making good progress, so we do thank God and trust that our sister will soon be much better and more able to carry on the work that God has called her to.

At present Sister Grace Sanders is with me. It's so nice to have her with us and I trust she will enjoy the change, after being several months alone at Altona M. S.

With so many of our workers ill, it is rather difficult but yet it is wonderful how God has undertaken and the work has gone on, praise the Lord! Sister Grace has been able to help many around Altona and she says that our headteacher George Dlamini and his wife Flora has been a wonderful help to her. A good teacher is a great blessing. Please pray for the young man and his wife, that they may ever be a great blessing to their own people.

We have moved again lately and are not now on the college campus. The cottage there was very small and was needed for some ladies, so we consented to move into town. This house is larger and better in many ways and here the boys are able to get home at noon. For all good things we praise God. I cannot now understand the "whys" of all these things, the future looks uncertain, but my times are in His hands and my trust and hope is wholly in Him. We greatly need your prayers, friends, for continued healing for my body.

May God bless and be with you everyone.

Yours in His care,

GLADYS KIERSTEAD.

GUEST EDITORIAL

CHRIST, OUR EXAMPLE
OF MISSIONARY COMPASSION

The work of the Church, at home and abroad, has been moving under adverse conditions for the past decade. Truly, these troublous times consisting of depression, war, inflation, and general spiritual decline, have done much to handicap the activities of the Church in regard to world evangelism. In spite of these difficulties, there has been an increased tempo manifested by the Church in its desire to herald the "Good News" of salvation to those that sit in darkness.

There seems to be no field of human endeavor that is so filled with emergencies as is the field of soul-winning. Behold the terrific emergency which brought Christ from the splendors of Heaven to the earth! He became a foreign missionary in reality as He began His earthly ministry.

Matthew's gospel gives a very beautiful word-picture of God's great Missionary in chapter 9, verses 35-38.

Herein are given the prerequisites of a missionary. While the missionary needs have seemingly revolved around the two factors of men and money, there must of necessity be more than those two things, before a missionary enterprise can be successful, and helpful to the Church. Beyond question, the paramount needs in missionary work center in "the goods of the Spirit" which are of far greater importance than finance or men.

Jesus sets the pattern as He is beheld in His constant attempt to be of benefit to His fellowman during His earthly ministry. There was sufficient opposition and difficulty confronting Him upon every side to have offered grounds for discouragement, but the dark picture of a sinning world, settling down in complacency, without hope, was a veritable challenge to Him who, upon seeing the multitude, "was moved with compassion on them," (Matt. 9:36). What a picture unfolded before His eyes! His condescension from glory that He might be clothed with humanity, gave Him an outlet for His compassion and sympathy. The fountains were opened by His observation of the human needs that were constant in the vast multitudes surrounding Him.

The spring of all missionary work is contained in the element of compassion. If compassion is lacking in a degree, or absent, the individual who would do service for Christ will be defeated. But if compassion is resident in the heart, there are no needs that will stifle the work. Could there be any greater needs than those which confronted Jesus in His earthly pilgrimage? Yet He moved majestically forward. So it has ever been with the service of God that is performed by consecrated folk. The mass of human suffering, sin, want, and despair is not something to drive God's servants to despondent fear, but is, in reality (if observed through the eyes of the compassionate soul) a vast harvest field into which the prepared soul-winner is privileged to enter and do service for Christ.

What a striking picture and tremendous challenge Jesus presents as He moves out in His Galilean ministry! Such unceasing activity, as He "went about all the cities and villages" in that densely populated area! Here was something new under the sun—a Missionary from Heaven, keeping Himself busy in

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