

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
March 9, 1949.

Dear Friends,

We thank you for your prayers for this work in general, and for our recent seige of sickness and accident.

It is with very grateful hearts that we are able to report improvement of health for those for whom we sent urgent appeal for your prayers. George hopes to be able to leave the hospital soon, as the broken bones seem to be healing at last. Gladys has felt some improvement in health. Mary has returned from the Hospital and is to visit us for a time of rest and recuperation. Paul Nkosi seems to have been helped, and we hope cured, by his treatment for cancer. He has returned home and is able to do a little work to care for his outposts.

These have been hard blows to the advancement of the work, yet God uses even hardships to be the means of advancing His cause. We have been more in prayer and we feel that each one must try harder to do more so that the work will go on; and these two increases have been the means of greater blessing to ourselves and to the work and to those who have been laid aside for a time. We need to continue praying for these brothers and sisters that God will not be hindered by our lack of prayer or faith on their behalf.

It is encouraging to see improvement in our work about Hartland. The Christians seem to be slowly getting a new vision of the need of the unsaved and a new interest in serving the Lord. There are four women in one section who conduct a weekly prayer meeting, visiting a new kraal each week. These women have children to look after and have husbands who are unsaved, except for one, and who drink and make it hard for them in various ways. Still they have enough concern and spiritual vitality to carry on a work like this.

As I visit the outposts for their quarterly meetings I find that the few local Christians are gaining in spiritual life. Then usually there are a few others who come from other parts to attend these meetings, and it is interesting to see the rising spiritual morale.

We are trying to so lead and teach these people that if it should become necessary for them to be left without a missionary they would have something for themselves that would survive opposition whatever form it would take. There are two dangers in missionary work: one is to make the people too dependent on the foreign missionary. The other is to leave them too soon and they seem to fall back into a sort of heathenized Christianity.

It is encouraging to see some old ones who had fallen out by the way, returning to active service for the Lord. These are good signs, but there is yet very much improvement that is needed in our work here.

We now have a telephone. What an improvement for this area. It saves so much time and saves money too some times: but naturally it is an expense too. We are 17 miles from town and receive mail only two times a week and have no regular means of conveyance; so you can realize just how much this will mean to those who live in this area.

It has been many years since this area was considered for a Native Trust area, that is, it would be reserved for Natives to live in. But only recently has anything definite taken place.

The Government has bought several farms and the plan is to continue buying out private farmers. Eventually more Natives will be brought into this area and it may be that the population will be doubled. Of course we can not be sure just how long this will take. But it is our object to strengthen our outposts so that we may be able to take advantage of an added opportunity when it comes. There are many sects and various other forms of opposition, increasing, but the truly hungry hearted still come to Jesus for His wonderful saving and sanctifying grace.

Yours happy in His service,

C. D. M. SANDERS.

226 Market Street,
Vryheid, Natal,

March 13th, 1949.

Dear Highway:

Today has been a rare day in our life out here as we have had the privilege to attend two European services. This morning I attended a Full-Gospel Fellowship meeting—a prayer and testimony meeting concluding with the breaking of bread—and in the afternoon I attended a United service in the Dutch Reformed Church in the interests of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Both services were interesting in that the two official languages out here were used, that is, English and African.

As most of you know, we are in Vryheid—mostly in the interest of Gladys's health and so that she can have medical attention near at hand. We are glad to report that she is much better than she was a month or so ago but she is still in need of your prayers as she is still very weak and far from being out of danger.

It was quite wonderful how God opened up the way for us to come here, to get a house when housing is so scarce, and to meet the extra financial needs.

For the present I am teaching Science and Agriculture in the Evangelical Teacher Training College for Africans during the week and going out week-ends, when it is possible, to our outposts or to supervise various phases of our mission work.

It might be interesting for you to know that the E.T.T.C. is a college that was started only a little over a year ago by five large evangelical missionary societies for the training of Christian African teachers. Our present enrollment is just over two hundred students. We have a teaching staff of twelve missionaries and African teachers at present but this will be increased to fifteen or sixteen in the near future if suitable teachers become available.

Each day is begun with a chapel service at which one of the teachers brings a short message. Three services and a Sunday School are held on Sunday as well.

Plans have been made to send out teams of students to teach in Sunday Schools, to preach, and to sing. I have been put in charge of these phases of evangelistic effort.

On two different occasions I took a Quartette of student-teachers, who call themselves the "Sea Birds," and visited our Grootspuit and Paulpietersburg outposts. Our people enjoyed the singing of the young men very much.

Rev. Johanisi Nkosi has moved into our new Piet Retief parsonage at last but the building is still in need of windows and plastering inside. I arranged for the plastering to be done when I was there two weeks ago but have not been able to go back and see what has been done as the Ford is in the hospital for a major

operation.

Brother Charles Sanders and I got to Altona recently and finished putting on the corrugated iron roof of our new school room. We still need to lay the floor, put the windows in, and have the plastering done.

Three of our sons, Glendon, Reginald and Kenneth, are here at Vryheid with us and are attending the local schools. We are very grateful that we no longer need to send them away from home to boarding schools and hostels.

Our eldest son, Harold, is in Johannesburg taking an electrical apprenticeship. He has recently told us that he feels a call to go into the work of the Lord. Pray that he may be guided in following God's choice for his life and in taking the training best fitted for the work God wants him to do.

We are grateful for your prayers, gifts, and interest in our family during this time of sickness and testing. God is able to do exceeding above all that we can ask or think.

Yours in His vineyard,

E. A. M. KIERSTEAD.

Altona M. S.,

6th April, 1949.

Dear Homeland Friends:

Greetings in Jesus' name. I regret not having written more frequently the last few months, but seem to find letter-writing a problem when there is so much else pressing to be done.

I spent five happy weeks at Vryheid with the Kiersteads, caring for Gladys, so Sister Mary could go to hospital and Hartland. I had been so anxious over Gladys, all those months, but seeing how she had improved and did improve while I was there made my heart rejoice. She is very weak and ill still, though so much stronger, so we must pray still harder for her speedy and complete recovery. Her faith, spirit and courage is inspiring. My soul was blessed in that home.

Once again I've taken up the work here with the additional duties of "sewing mistress" to about 40 girls from Sub. B. to Standard VI. This occupies 4 to 5 hours each week. Their eagerness to learn is inspiring and it is wonderful how quickly they catch on and improve. Dear girls! How I love them. Then Fridays comes the thrill of bringing the whole school of over 120 children a "Sunday School" message. God blesses much in these sessions.

Last week I visited a very sick native woman. I felt quite certain that she had malaria fever. Monday I heard two other women and a child had died 2 or 3 miles from here and 2 other women were sick. So I went to see them. On the way I heard one was already dead and being buried! We found the other sitting outside swaying from side to side from weakness. She staggered into the hut and almost fell headlong onto the floor. She had the symptoms of malaria fever so I gave her medicine and a cup of hot OXO and a piece of bread. How greedily she ate! Then 2 men came in and we had prayers. What a wonderful opportunity with hearts so touched and terrified from the deaths. "I am bewitched! They bewitched us both the same time. We were visiting together. She is just buried. I wonder what is going to happen to me?" cried this poor benighted soul. I told her of Jesus' victory over the grave—that He is the "Life" and "the Resurrection," and that if we die "in Christ" we shall rise again with new incorruptible, glorified bodies and spend eternity with Jesus our Saviour. I asked, "Have you the witness? Is your name written in