

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
Jan. 5th, 1950

Dear Highway Friends:

Wishing you God's blessing and special wisdom this New Year as we are faced with great opportunities and a great decision.

Many parcels arrived from the homeland to brighten our Christmas and to make it possible for us to give to our natives that we labour amongst. They appreciated the bits of clothing very much. I take this opportunity to say, thank you, for remembering them and us at this time. The gift in itself is valuable to the receiver, but it seems that even greater than what is received, the fact of being remembered is encouraging, especially when we realize that behind the card or gift is an individual who keeps in touch with God on our behalf.

At the close of the old year we begin to make our new plan for the New Year, included in this plan are our Quarterlies and Christmas, and we try to make quarterly visits to each outpost, a visit by one of the Elders, white or black. Then we try to put in quite a few revival meetings. Then we should try to get to new points that are calling for us to "come over and help" them. But with our present staff we find it difficult to get to those last mentioned points. Even to do justice to our regular outposts it seems impossible. After having put in a few days in one outpost, perhaps longer than we usually do, we go away feeling that we should have stayed longer as the need seems to have just been discovered. We need more workers and more funds and better means of travel.

We ended the old year and began the New with our Hartland Quarterly and Christmas. A new feature was the early arrival of most of our workers. The natives usually have to walk or ride bicycles, and a few usually arrive a day or so before the Quarterly is to end. Three groups of our native Christians hired a truck and were thus enabled to arrive early and easily. This same truck took them back again. The people were not so tired, and Myra commented that she did not have so many calling at the Hospital for medicine, as is usually the case. Then Brother Kierstead brought quite a few more in the new pick-up. In fact his first load was the first lot to arrive for Quarterly. If this could be done at each Quarterly I think it would improve our meetings and make for greater success. The meetings were blessed of God and there seemed to be a growing desire to work for the Lord. Brother Parks' Bible class message was so good that those who were not able to attend this service wished that it be repeated.

As has been mentioned before, I think, we are calling upon every member to work for the spread of the Gospel. The loss of workers and the lack of new ones to fill their places has helped us to get this idea and in the end the working of this method will likely solve our problem of workers, as far as the natives are concerned. If we could add to this a Bible school for our promising young people it would give us a stronger foundation upon which to build a more durable work for the future.

We should soon build two new churches, near Hartland, and open day schools in them, if we are to hold our own in this area. The Government has already bought several farms and is negotiating to buy more, to make this

a native reserve, and that means added numbers, making a denser population; one government official expressed the opinion that the population would likely be doubled when the plan was finally effected, and all the intended natives brought in. So, for us it means that our present opportunities would be doubled. If we are to meet this challenge we must be willing to invest. It takes money and management and hard work to build two new churches. Then in several other sections of the field work has already been started and is quite far advanced, but will need more materials and a lot of work. So if any one has money lying idle which he or she wishes to invest for the Lord, here are many opportunities. We do not know how much longer we will have these opportunities. Opportunity does not usually wait for one very long. Opportunity is usually in a hurry to get away.

To end the old year I lost a dog and to begin the new year my horse died. But then God's word tells us that "all things work together for good." So we believe He is able to make it so.

We praise the Lord for the safe passage George had to Canada. It will be good for him to have a visit in the homeland, after so many years of service. It is interesting to note that already some of our people are asking him to come and give them messages about Africa and the Lord's work there.

We are glad to note the rising tide of interest and activity in the homeland and we on the foreign field are trying to have a similar revival. May the Lord prosper us in extending His work this New Year.

Yours happy in Him,

C. D. M. SANDERS

Altona Mission Station,

January 4, 1950

Greetings to our Brethren and Sisters
of The King's Highway:

Four months have so quickly passed since arriving at the denominational Mission Field in South Africa. Many and varied have been our activities as a representative of our Home Churches and Foreign Mission Board, on behalf of those precious souls in the survey of this Field and the gathering of information for the Board and our local Missionary Societies as they are advised through the Board.

Since Sept. 15th, 1949, we have been in charge of Altona Mission Station. The care of the Station and supervision of local activities has occupied much of our time. We are preparing an accurate map of our Mission enterprise, occupying an area of 520 square miles. Our aim is to record all possible information pertaining to our Missions and Outposts, statistics, etc., upon this map, have it photographed upon our arrival back in Canada, sometime within the next two years, D. V., and to have pictures made available to all our local societies in the Homeland for their use that they might intelligently be able to follow continued ventures for God in this area. Monthly letters have been and will be sent to the Secretary of our Foreign Mission Board covering vital business matters and information to facilitate the activities of our means of more fully co-operating in our responsibilities for this effort which under God we share together. In our survey we are continuously gathering data which sooner or later will be available to all, so that with the sharing of responsibility whole-heartedly continued, we shall make progressing ventures

under the leadership of the Holy Spirit that will bring continued and ultimate success in the forward movement of our work here. Cooperation in our varied capacities as individuals with Him and one with the other. You folks at home and the group of earnest, faithful workers, native and white, on the field. Our white workers are few in number as one considers the area there is to cover, but we have the loyal support of many native workers.

Sister Grace Sanders, who is our co-laborer at Altona Mission, has not been with us since Nov. 18th. After a brief visit at Vryheid she was taken down with a severe attack of appendicitis, which necessitated an appendix operation, from which she has been convalescing first at Vryheid then at Hartland for Christmas, and we expect to have her back with us in full strength with renewed health the latter part of January or February, to pursue her duties in connection with the hospital. Meanwhile Faith and I have been carrying on assisted in interpretation by our native school principal. We are taking lessons in Zulu from him.

Now some information to you from a recent "Communion Sunday" at Altona and the New Year Quarterly Meeting at Hartland, Natal.

Every Sunday is "Communion Sunday" somewhere on the Mission area, and important matters coming up are brought to the Saturday afternoon and sometimes evening business sessions. We had one of these week-ends December 18th at Altona. The sessions tend to keep a close and efficient check on the various departmental activities going on throughout our Mission endeavor.

Four were questioned as candidates for Baptism as a part of the business on Saturday. On Sunday morning at 10.30 these candidates were baptized by Rev. Daniel Sukazi and in the afternoon service were added to the church. The afternoon service began at 12 o'clock noon with Rev. E. A. M. Kierstead bringing a stirring message to a large congregation. Then followed the dedication of two infants and advice to a couple in public engagement. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered by Rev. Sukazi. I had the privilege of being with this fine brother in the Lord, a few Sundays ago at Kipanyawo on a "Communion Sunday."

At the Hartland Quarterly a large number were in attendance. Small groups began to arrive on Wednesday, Dec. 29th, until by Saturday a peak attendance was made possible by a huge truck load of natives from the Piet Retief and intervening points. Our new 3-ton truck belonging to the Mission Field also made a major contribution to the attendance at its first Quarterly duties. This vehicle will be of great value in the building construction work with our Missions and Outposts so far from the railway and towns. Business sessions were well attended, beginning Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8.30. Profitable devotional and preaching services were held throughout the days with many finding their way to an altar of prayer. Three were added as baptized members on Sunday. The theme of all the services was, "Let us go forth as never before spreading the gracious news of Full Salvation." Natives and white missionaries alike share in this outlook.

Faith and I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many kind remembrances sent us in Christmas greetings, from friends and Mission Society groups throughout our home