

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
South Africa,
20th June, 1950.

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the year I wrote you of the sense of dread of the unknown, near future, which came over me, as I stood upon the threshold of the New Year. It seemed my spirit sensed the nearness of terrible events about to take place, and in dismay cried out, "Oh Lord! except Thou go with us carry us not up hence!" "But the reassuring voice of Jesus, sweet and strong, replied, as I put my hand in His, "Fear not, my child, but be of good cheer! Surely I will be with thee." Then came the physical set back and, instead of going to Durban, as planned, I returned to Altona. I just "let go" most of the time and became "lazybones". Only those who have been very active in the Master's Service, and then have to sit back and let others struggle under the burden, which seemed so light to you, and such a joy to carry, know how heavy that cross seems. For awhile I seemed at a standstill. Then I asked our Altona Bible woman to pray for me. She did so, and I believe God touched me, because in some ways I've been almost 100% better. I am trusting God to complete the work which He has begun. Praise His name!

It gave me such joy to be able, during those trying weeks to be of some use in the mission work, such as interpreting for Bro. and Sister Parks; taking the workers' reports every two weeks; prescribing now and again for a native and speaking to a number of their Saviour.

You will be as surprised as I am to know that I left two new-born babies when I left Altona Saturday (17th) to come here. Their mothers landed there about 10 days apart, in such a condition they could not walk back home (5 miles). With Sister Park's help I managed nicely. A girl looked after the first mother for 5 days, and now that happy mother turned nurse to the other — her brother-in-law's wife. Though it tired me out a lot, I don't think it hurt me. I praise God for the privilege in ministering to His two native children in their time of extremity. They come from a kraal which only recently has been opened to the Gospel. One is a church member who is letting her light shine so bravely amongst hard hearts. The barriers are being broken down.

I came over here to help Charles, as Myra is convalescing from a serious attack of sickness. For awhile her life hung but by "a thread." She is at the Kiersteads now. The children are very good. It is so good of God to make it possible for me to be here now! We do thank God for making Myra better.

It was indeed a great blow to so unexpectedly have our brother Norman called away to be with Jesus! We were eagerly looking forward to meeting him again and to his joining us out here, as we are so short handed. But though we can't understand now, we shall some day. Our hearts have been comforted of God by His Word and the "blessed hope."

We have heard how nobly our brethren in the ministry and friends stepped forward and so graciously helped our family in Amherst and the tokens of sympathy and love. This touches us deeply. Mother wrote, in relating some things: "I've always looked upon our ministers as my brothers; but this went deeper!"

God bless you each one for your loving sympathy and various ways of expressing same, and the comfort you have been to our mother, Norman's wife, children, and our sister and brothers at Amherst.

We are preparing for our Quarterly Meeting, which starts the same time as Beulah Camp. We are praying God to richly bless the Camp meeting this year. We would all love to be with you.

Remember us and God's work before the throne of grace.

Yours happy in His comforting love,

GRACE SANDERS.

Hartland M. S., June 19, 1950.

Dear Highway Friends,

On the 19th of May I received a phone call from the Post Office, and they told me the news of my brother Norman's death by drowning. The message was so unexpected that I had to ask them to repeat it to make sure that I had heard it correctly. Since then we have received an air mail letter from George, giving the details of what happened. Later an air mail letter from Mother, gave some particulars of the kindness and sympathy shown the Sanders family at this time of sudden sorrow. I take this opportunity to say thank you all, the ministry and laity, for what you have done for us at this time.

No doubt it has been a great comfort to Bessie to have felt, and seen, what you have done. In her letter, Mother tells of how deeply she felt the sense of fellowship and brotherly sympathy given by our ministers during this time of sorrow.

In his letter, George says that we should have the grace and faith to be able to say, "He hath done all things well," even though there are ideas that may come to us to lead our minds astray. To quote from his letter: "... thanking Him for allowing our youngest brother to be taken and me left: who have served my best time, and am only of secondary use, in human thinking." In a letter to Grace from a friend, it is stated that if only we knew how wonderful it is in Heaven we would not sorrow even as much as we do when a loved one goes home to glory. We are told in God's word that we should not sorrow as others who have no hope. And it is this hope that does most to comfort us regarding Norman's Home going. The knowledge that he had kept the faith. The knowledge that he had kept true to God.

As many of you know, Norman and I meant very much to each other. We grew up together, went to school together, progressed in Christian experience together, and since we parted in 1937 we have followed with interest each other's activities. I had looked forward to meeting him again and talking about many things of mutual interest but this is all now a closed chapter of our hearts. I trust that some one else will feel the call to train as a medical Missionary, to fill the place that Norman was preparing for.

On the same day that Norman left us, May 16, Myra was taken suddenly ill. She has suffered a lot in the last four weeks. The doctor was out to Hartland twice to see her, then she was taken to Paulpietersburg Nursing Home, and finally to the Vryheid Hospital, where she had an operation on June 7. In the afternoon of the day of the operation the pain became so severe that we most despaired of her life. And for a few days after that she was still not out of danger. However God an-

swered prayer and has spared her to us. She left the hospital on the 14th instant, and is staying at the Kiersteads, for a time, to regain her health. Our local stock inspector and his wife were very kind in caring for our children while I remained with Myra at Vryheid. I am back again at Hartland having left Vryheid on the 16th. Myra was able to be about a little and I trust she will soon be here with us again in the work of the Lord.

So in spite of sorrow and sickness we have much to thank the Lord for, and we are glad to know that we are not alone in this battle. He hath promised never to leave us nor forsake us. We are encouraged to know that there are many Christian friends who are taking a little of their prayer time to make mention of us before the throne of grace.

Our Hartland Quarterly is scheduled to begin on the 5th of July and we trust that none of these things will hinder it. Our Quarterlies are such times of inspiration and encouragement and a time for solving of some of our problems, that we do not like to miss them. We pray that this one may be no exception but rather it may be even more blessed than usual.

We are very grateful for the improvement in Sister Kierstead's health. I was happily surprised to see this improvement when I was in Vryheid. However she is still far from normal health and we should continue to pray for her, full recovery.

Grace has come to Hartland for a time, she will likely stay till after Quarterly. We are glad that she is feeling better. She will be quite a help with the children and the home and the medical work till Myra is able to come home. Brother and Sister Parks were kind in sparing her for a while from Altona.

Yours happy in the Master's service,

C. D. M. SANDERS.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

The Quarterly Meeting of District No. 4 convened with the Havelock Church, May 25th to 28th inclusive.

Rev. H. C. Mullen was in charge of the opening service, on Thursday evening, using the theme, "As a man is, so is his strength."

Friday evening Rev. George Sanders showed us many fine slides of the work done by our missionaries in Africa.

On Saturday afternoon the usual business meeting was held.

"Be ye holy, for I am holy" was the subject used by Rev. H. S. Wilson on Saturday evening.

Sunday morning Love Feast was conducted by Mrs. H. C. Mullen. This was a really wonderful service, with many fine testimonies. The sermon of the morning was delivered by Rev. H. C. Mullen, afternoon by Lic. William Morgan, and Rev. H. S. Wilson brought the closing message in the evening, portraying the awful picture of not being prepared to meet God on the judgment day. Several seekers responded to an invitation given to find Christ.

The Quarterly Meeting was blessed by ideal weather, the attendance was fine at every service, and most important, the presence of God was very real. I hope that we will have many more such Quarterly Meetings.

ETHEL R. MULLEN,
Secretary