

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,
Feb. 23, 1950

Dear Highway Friends:

We have just been writing some letters to try to express our gratitude to some who have sent us parcels for Christmas. If we should fail to get a letter of appreciation to some individual or group, please forgive us and accept this thank you as for you. It does seem the least a person could do is to write and say, thank you, after some one has taken his or her money and spent time and care to choose a present and to mail it to so distant a place; but I am afraid that that is what happens sometimes: we fail to write such a letter some times.

I have been over in the Transvaal two times quite recently to marry natives who desired a Christian wedding, and there is another such ceremony to take place next month. The last one meant 28 miles by horse and 14 by bicycle. At the point where I crossed the Pongola river there is quite a large pond a little up stream, and in this pond there was supposed to be a hippo. I did not see it but have since heard quite a bit about the destruction that it has done to the native corn fields. Crocodiles are common in this river (though I have never seen one in it yet) but the hippo is not very common so far up stream.

We are glad that in spite of being handicapped for lack of sufficient workers, the missionary effort is still pushing ahead. Not as fast as we would like to see, but nevertheless there is progress being made. Yes, even new places being reached. May there be new white and black workers added, this year, to our ranks. And may the Lord give those already engaged further strength and patience, and spiritual vision, and vitality, to carry on till the reinforcements come up. It is hard not to overdo even under ordinary circumstances in the missionary work. A missionary is practically a servant of servants. And a servant makes about the hardest master that you can get. Then the climate too seems to make one feel that a change would be good. At times the heat seems to absorb one's strength.

We have the prospect of a new site, one acre grant from the Government, for the purpose of building a church which can be used for a school too. Then we need about two or three other such sites if we are to hold our own and take advantage of the prospect of a doubled population in this Hartland area in the (possibly) near future. The Government plan of turning this into a Native Trust area is slowly gaining ground as new farms are being bought by the Government, from private owners for this purpose. Other denominations are keen to take advantage of this growing opportunity, and we have got to keep on the move if we are to have what I feel is our right, after so many years of missionary work in this Hartland area. May we all do our part to help this to come to pass. God is able. He seems to be leading this way. There are many obstacles and adversaries, but if we follow Him we will win. Already we have surmounted many seeming impossibilities and I trust that we shall have faith and prayer and action enough to get over the top of those that are ahead of us now.

Yours happy in Him,
CHARLES & MYRA SANDERS

P. O. Box 33,
Vryheid, Natal
March 1, 1950

Dear Highway Friends:

It is a very warm night here in Africa and we all wish to send greetings to you all in His name. I am so glad tonight that I obeyed God's call and came to Africa. It does pay to serve Jesus! I do praise the dear Lord for His leadings and for His help at all times.

I don't think I have written since Christmas. We enjoyed a very happy time with Brother and Sister Parks and Sister Campbell with us. Harold also was able to be home for the occasion. We received gifts from some of the home churches and friends and about two hundred beautiful cards, which helped to make the season very happy for us. I am trying to write to all but will be some time in finishing, so I will also take this opportunity to thank you all and ask you to be patient until my letter reaches you. We do pray that God will bless you and make you a blessing every day.

The work seems to be doing well in different directions. My husband has been to Louwsburg recently and it seems that our worker, Absolom Sibiyi, is doing his best to advance God's cause and kingdom in that section. We do praise God for this. I wondered, when our worker, Paul Nkosi, left us to be with Jesus, just how the work would be, but after all, it's God's work and He makes no mistakes, and if we are faithful, He will not fail us. Praise His Name forever.

Last week end my husband went to Hartland and Altona and also to visit our work in Paulpietersburg and Calvary Mission. At Hartland he found Brother and Sister Sanders and the girls all nearly sick with colds. The summer has been so dry and hot, and our missionaries have really suffered because of it. How well I remember, each day gets hotter and hotter until I used to think I couldn't stand another day, but I always found the promise was ever true: "As thy days so shall thy strength be," and praise God it will always be true.

Sister Grace Sanders went back again to Altona and there also Brother and Sister Parks had found the heat very trying, but were carrying on faithfully. How we do thank God for such loyal workers. Surely God is blessing their stay among us.

The summer here has been delightful. We have had some hot days but lots of rain and cool days which has helped very much.

Sunday afternoon, when my husband was returning, the car got stuck in the mud and had to be helped out, but he arrived safely, feeling it had been good to visit the different places and happy that the work of God was going on nicely.

We have been so glad to hear of good revivals in our home churches. May God bless every convert, we pray, and help them to keep true. We also pray that God will bless all our workers. Truly we need His help at this time.

I am much as usual. Through February I was in bed with acute bronchitis and malaria fever but I am able to sit up now and move around my room a little again, but I cannot walk very much yet.

The daily reading in "Streams in the Desert," seemed just for me and the last verse especially blessed me.

So I will thank and praise Thee for this puzzle
And trust where I cannot understand.

Rejoicing Thou dost hold me worth such testing,

I cling the closer to Thy guiding hand.
Truly there is much in life that is a puzzle to us now, but when we are in His will it's so blessed to rest on His promise, knowing He will fulfill them in His own time and way.

Yours for souls in Africa,
G. M. KEIRSTEAD

LETTERS FROM OUR PASTORS

North Head, N. B.

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings in the Master's Name! The joy of the Lord is our strength. We do praise our God for the Gospel as taught by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Who made it possible through His great sacrifice upon the cross that whosoever will may be recipients of its gracious benefits—the forgiveness of sins through regenerating grace and the cleansing of the heart accompanied by the infilling of the Holy Spirit through sanctifying grace, that, great grace may be the experience of every believer. We are so happy to think that every one may have the privilege of spreading the Good News. To every one who has received its benefits duty demands that the full gospel be preached by precept and example. We cannot afford to preach any other gospel. We must declare the whole counsel of God. The trumpet must not give an uncertain sound. May every heart whether behind the sacred desk or in the pew be true to the trust given under God to them.

Since coming to this field of labour we have so much to thank the Lord for, that all could not be mentioned. However, we do wish to enumerate some things. We thank God for the loyal group of people He has given us to work with in the gospel. Thus we have been able to see the work of God go forward in this place in the improvement of church property which was very much in need of repairs, an increase in interest in spiritual things by the unsaved as well as the saved, and, during our special service with the Mullen Trio, God graciously met the need of many hearts in reclaiming, saving and sanctifying grace. Also the saints were edified.

We would mention the kindness of the church and friends who so tangibly expressed their esteem for their pastor and his wife in presenting them with a purse of money during the Christmas season.

We are so grateful to our Heavenly Father for His rich blessing upon our united efforts as pastor and people during this year and are looking forward to even greater blessing upon our efforts during the coming year as we have accepted a unanimous call to remain as pastor of these good people whom we esteem so highly in the Lord.

May God's best be realized in the life of every member of the Highway family as we labour together for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom. AMEN!

In Calvary's Bonds,
REV. RALPH L. and MRS. SABINE.

Fort Fairfield, Maine.

Dear Highway:

Have just closed another revival campaign with Rev. R. L. Sabine at North Head, Grand Manan, N. B. We surely enjoyed labouring with this brother and his church. God gave us a gracious revival, we felt.—Thirty-nine at the altar to be saved, reclaimed or sanctified and many that were saved or reclaimed were for-