

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland M. S.,

June 16, 1951.

Dear Highway Friends,

On Sunday morning the third of June I put my bike on the Mission truck and had a lift, up to the top of the hills, on my way to our Cibini outpost. It was quite early and there was a very strong wind blowing, so the lift saved much hard pushing and also brought me to this point earlier than otherwise would have been. So I thought that I would look up a Native kraal which had moved to this side from the Transvaal side of the Pongolo river. The first kraal I called at was deserted of its inmates so I went to the next kraal which proved to be the home I was looking for. There are some of our seekers in this kraal, so I had prayers and a short message there and invited these people to attend our meeting. The mother of this home told how she had once sought salvation but became discouraged and stopped, and is now overcome with the love of beer and a feeling that she is wasting her time if she attends services. However she and one daughter came to our meeting that day.

The next kraal I had prayers in was the home of one of our best Christians at the Cibini outpost, whose husband has been ill for some time. To see the crude dwellings, and the poverty therein manifest, and the lack of convenience for the duties of keeping a home, and the lack of knowledge of sanitary methods, and the lack of enterprise that could relieve some of these needs: these things are what shock the newcomer to these parts, and they are hard to overlook, for any Missionary. However they are the very things that prove the need of spiritual and temporal improvement among these people.

After the service of the day there, I went on to Paulpietersburg, to stay over night. I was glad to see Brother Kierstead again that night, at the hotel, for I had forgotten a parcel containing the marriage register and necessary papers for the wedding we were to have at Calvary Mission on Tuesday the fifth. I had left this parcel in the truck when I took my bike off. So Brother Kierstead kindly brought it to me as he passed through Town on his way back to Vryheid.

Having completed some necessary business in Paulpietersburg I went on to visit our Grootspuit, Government Aided school, and to put a new rim-lock on the door and fix the door of our church there, so that it would not drag when opened.

That night I slept in our new parsonage at Calvary Mission, and enjoyed the fellowship of the Metula family. Having been advised beforehand I had brought the tooth forcips and it would have been interesting if you could have been there on the morning of the fifth to see me pull two teeth for a little girl of about 7 years. She consented to the pulling of the first one, though she did struggle and cry quite a bit before it came out. When it came to taking out the second one she refused to cooperate. She even told her parents that the offender was now gone. Finally the parents put a stop to this kind of actions by the use of a small greenhide strap, giving her what Paddie gives the drum. The same morning I pulled one tooth for Mrs. Metula and a very hard tooth for her married daughter.

The event of the day was to have taken place at about 11 o'clock that morning, a

Christian ceremony wedding in our Calvary church, of one of our Christian men. Eleven o'clock came and went and no signs of the bride were to be seen. Even the groom became uneasy when 1 o'clock struck and no bride was in sight. Not till an hour later did she come, with her small company of young people. An hour later we were through with the little sermon, the wedding ceremony and the preliminaries. So this young couple have passed out of the difficult events for Natives in this area. There is usually something, or things that come up to hinder, or prevent them having a real Christian ceremony. The Devil seems to hate Christian weddings and he somehow finds quite a few agents to help him try to prevent such a ceremony.

God was good to me that afternoon for I had two lifts by light trucks, from Paulpietersburg to Hartland, thus landing me home at about six in the afternoon instead of two hours later.

On the following day we had another Christian wedding here at Hartland. The son of one of our workers was married. Before the ceremony took place there was a letter handed to me from the bride's father. He stated that since the cattle paying for the bride had not all been paid, and the groom's party did not seem to be trying to pay these remaining cattle, he refused to attend the wedding. After the wedding I wrote him a reply, that we were very sorry that he was not present to attend: to see and hear for himself the beautiful Christian ceremony. However we were proceeding with the wedding and so far as the cattle that were still due him, he should abide by their agreement signed at the court house. I understand that the girl's father thought that we could not legally proceed with this Christian ceremony, unless he were present. If this was his idea, he was mistaken: as he had already granted his approval at the court house and the official license for marriage had been issued.

We have a new school, started last year, I think it was. In our Xaba section, or to be more exact, between this outpost and the Watervaal outpost. Sunday the 10th I was there and learned that they have 23 children attending. We hope to receive permission to put up a temporary building there for school and church services. This is on the farm Kleinfontein where one of our former workers Befa Ndebele has moved to. This is another section in which I hope we shall eventually be able to secure a grant of land on which to put up a permanent church building, in which we may also have a school, to help educate these needy people.

Yours happy in Him,

C. D. M. SANDERS.

Hartland Mission Station,

June 10th, 1951.

Dear Friends:

It is a clear, cold day after a rain-storm and a frosty night. We are happy to have warm clothing and fires to-day. This morning in prayers, we were thanking God for all the temporal blessings that He has given to us. When we look about us, we find that we have many things to praise the Lord for. I desire to be like the Psalmist and 'bless the Lord at all times.' Truly we have a wonderful Father who supplies all of our needs and does for us more than we ask or think.

At long last, the authorities have released the boxes, etc. that came out with Misses Chase and Smith. We understand that they

are now in Vryheid. To all who sent gifts, used clothing, etc., we express our appreciation and say, 'Thank you' to each one. It will mean much to the natives to receive these gifts of clothing at this time of year when it is beginning to get so cold. We thank you on their behalf.

We were so happy to see our two new missionaries. Miss Smith called us on the phone shortly after arriving in Vryheid. It was good to hear a Canadian voice. They had their first glimpse of Hartland and its mud on the day of the welcome service at Altona. Brother Kierstead brought them down when he came to pick us up to take us to the welcome service. That day, they did not think much of Hartland, but they had a happier time when they came for a short visit and welcome service over the week-end of the 29th of April. They were well received by the people here and at Altona who were very happy to see new additions to the mission forces. They were presented with the usual gifts and seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the givers did. We thank God for them and for their willingness to forsake all and follow Jesus, even to Africa. Pray for them as they engage in language study.

We are now awaiting the truckman to come and cart the bricks, etc. for the Lujojwane church. It will be good to see the building going up in that area. We do pray that it may be a real Light-house and that many in that section will come to know the Lord through the witness of the Christians in that area. To-day, Charlie has gone to Xaba, another needy area. We have only a few believers in that section, and some are not very strong Christians. I am sure that the pictures that Brother Parks took of the work and the surrounding areas will help you to see the work and to understand conditions much better than in any other way. And as you see, and pray, and get under the burden more for this work, the Lord will reward your prayers and giving by precious souls, trophies of Grace to lay at His feet on that great day.

Time has passed so quickly and it does not seem possible that it is nearly Beulah time again. We are praying that the Lord will give each one who attends a great blessing and that as many as possible will be able to attend. Our July quarterly will be on at Altona about the same time, and we know that you will be remembering us in prayer too. To all our pastors as they enter new fields of labor or go back to the old, may the Lord bless and give you each a good year. May we each, in our places of labor do our best for the Master this year, that we may not be ashamed at His appearing.

Our new teacher for this Hartland school arrived and began her duties last week. We do not know if any of the children will enter on the half year but we do hope that there will be those who will avail themselves of the opportunity to take Std. 3 in the new school year. Half-yearly vacation will begin at the end of this month and during the vacation, I hope to have a D.V.B.S. here again. I have thought at different times that it would be good to have a youth camp for our Y. P. Now that our staff has been augmented by two young people who know how these things are done, perhaps it will become a possibility. We have some nice young people and they do need all the help that we can give them. When we think how the Y. P. work in the homeland has grown in the last few years