

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Vryheid,
May 6th, 1951

Dear Highways,

Time goes so rapidly that I did not realize that it has been so long since I wrote last.

Our first school term of the year is nearly finished so it will be only a few weeks before the mid-year examinations are written.

Since the first of February I have had added responsibilities here at the Evangelical Teacher Training College as I have been Acting-Superintendent as well as Principal. My collegé responsibilities include the care of one hundred and eighty student-teachers and a teaching staff of fourteen teachers. Mr. Bowler, a missionary of the South Africa General Mission, and a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance is my assistant and looks after the gospel services and the practical work around the place.

I am still free to go out week-ends to supervise building operations, to transport materials, or to have Communion services (Big Sundays) where needed in the Transvaal.

Yesterday's trip of two hundred and eight miles was a typical Saturday's trip. I first went to Hartland with a load of barbed wire to fence in the portion of Balmoral that was not sold, collecting on the way two windows for the proposed Lujowwane church and a few things for the Sanders family. At Hartland I loaded up another load, consisting of corrugated iron and two doors from the old Mission house, to take to Kipunyawo where a teachers Cottage is being built. Here I also picked up Sister Smith who had been visiting at Hartland for the week. From Hartland I went to Altona where I added two small school cupboards to my load and from there went to Kipunyawo.

The building operations at Kipunyawo were well along so I found it necessary to return there next Saturday and take poles, 2" x 3" purlines, more corrugated iron and cement, and a window, etc., to finish off the job.

The Kipunyawo teacher, William Mutungwa, seems to be very co-operative and reports that the work of the school is going well. The present enrollment is thirty-nine. The teacher is expecting a larger enrollment in August.

From Kipunyawo I went back to Altona where we had a fine supper with Sisters Campbell and Chase.

Once again we loaded up with cement and corrugated iron (new) left over from building the Altona church and off we went for home which we reached at about eight o'clock in the evening.

I do not know whether I have written anything about Sisters Chase and Smith's arrival or not. Whatever the case, we are very grateful for their timely arrival and are expecting that they will faithfully serve their Lord here in Africa. Already both have settled into their respective niches and are getting acclimated, visiting various churches and outposts, studying the language, and even settling down to the more prosaic jobs of tending the sick, writing letters, packing away their goods from their trunks, cooking, practicing bicycle riding, and various other chores.

Our four main centres at Altona, Hartland, Piet Retief, and Calvary Mission have already had a chance to see our new missionaries and to welcome them with gifts of dishes and money.

All of our workers and the churches are grateful for the arrival of these new re-inforce-

ments and are looking forward to meeting others to come.

One of our workers, Meli Mdiniso, from down into Zululand, who came to see me about personal and church matters, when she heard of the new arrivals said, "Scatter them around and be sure to send at least one down to us in Zululand." I regretfully had to tell her that we had none to send down there as yet and that even though we had, we had no mission site down in that area, and that our funds were limited for extension work. "The harvest is great, the labourers are few, PRAY YE therefore, that the Lord of the harvest will SEND FORTH labourers in the harvest." "How shall they preach except they be sent?"

The Lord has been providing needed funds for the various extension and consolidating projects as they have come up but we are still praying for more funds for a church and preachers house at Msobotsheni, a church at Entungwini, and a Mission house at Louwsburg.

I wonder if I told you that I had the privilege of marrying our eldest son Harold to Shirley Raley, of Johannesburg, on Easter Saturday? The wedding was duly performed in the Troyeville Baptist Church and afterwards a buffet luncheon was enjoyed in the home of one of the bride's brothers. The bride and groom spent their honeymoon in Vryheid as Harold's mother was unable to go to the wedding.

Shortly after Harold and Shirley were married they wrote to the Mission Board telling about their call to mission work and offering themselves as missionaries to our society. Harold is an Electrical Engineer and his wife Shirley is a private secretary. We could not help but feeling happy that God is calling them into Gospel work. May they find the place God wants them to be in and may God's richest blessing rest upon them.

We understand that Brother and Sister Parks arrived home safely. Brother and Sister Parks' stay in Africa was very much appreciated as they had an opportunity to see most of the mission field first hand and remained here long enough to appreciate the difficulties and problems involved in working in a country like South Africa. The natives, especially around Altona, were sorry to see them leave and often ask if they arrived home safely and what they are doing. They were very much disappointed in not getting a good chance to say good-bye to them in real native style. In lieu of that Reverends J. Ukosi and A. Metula cycled all the way to Vryheid bringing with them several good-bye presents which they desired sent on to the Parks.

Brother and Sister Parks should be able to give the Mission Board and our churches in general a new slant on our mission field and its needs, its challenge, and its problems. Brother Parks gamely sampled all phases of life out here and was bravely seconded by his wife. May the Lord richly bless them as they represent the mission cause in Canada.

Yours in Him,

E. A. M. Kierstead.

Dear Friends in Christ:

I take up my pen to write you a few lines from Sunny Africa. It may be called sunny, but it's not very warm right now. I've been nearly frozen for two or three weeks.

I've been around to quite a few of the outposts and seen a lot of the country. There are mountains and valleys everywhere you turn. One can hardly imagine such beautiful hills and valleys being populated by thousands of

natives, living in their kraals, many which never have heard of Christ and His saving power. Many have heard but cannot give up their heathen rites and superstitions. Then there are the ones who have accepted Christ and are living for Him. I sometimes wonder if we are doing our best for these people who are less privileged than we are? We were born in a Christian country and home, while they were born in superstition and darkness. They will not hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ unless we take it to them.

I have been to Altona, Hartland, Piet Relief and Calvary Mission for Welcome services; to Entungwini for a Big Sunday; and also have seen our works at Kipunyawo and Louwsburg.

When Miss Chase and I were on our first trip to Altona, we received information as to where some of our out-stations were. This information was received from Mr. Kierstead. The truck would slow down and Mr. Kierstead would say—"See that clump of trees over there," (pointing with his finger) "yes"—"See that building a little to the left,"—yes—"Well that is so and so church." We would go on a little further and the truck would slow down again. "See that hill to your right,"—"No," "That one that is quite rounded at the top,"—"Yes", "Then see that one to the left and just beyond,"—"Yes"—"Well down over that hill and to the left is another small station." I would get lost if I tried to go alone over these hills, as I haven't as yet got north and south from east and west figured out yet, and I imagine I would get lost if I did, as there are so many of them.

I'm getting there slowly in my study of Zulu. I can read a little, but that is the easiest, I guess it takes time and patience to learn and understand it.

I praise God that He called me to this work, and I am thankful that I answered that call. He means more to me as the days go by.

Yours in His Service,

Nina J. Smith.

Dear Highway Friends:

This is my second attempt on paper and the hundredth in my mind towards writing a letter to The Highway Family this month. It seems that time passes so quickly since coming out here and so many new things happening to take up our time and interest.

Since writing to you last I have been given the privilege of attending another one of our churches. This time to a "Big Sunday" at Kipunyawo. It is a nice little church beautifully situated and the attendance at that service was encouraging.

Sister Mary is now in Piet Retief conducting D. V. B. S. services, which will continue for eight days. During this time she and the pastor of the church are conducting evening services as well. How this place needs a special visitation of the Holy Spirit. We are praying that many will give their hearts and lives to Him; and that the church group will be made more conscious of their responsibility as Christians.

During this time Sister Nina and I are alone on the station. As at this time the school is closed for winter holidays, we were afraid both teachers would be away; but one remained for this week. I can't tell you how pleased I am that he and his wife remained as they both speak English. They are therefore a great help when the sick come with their many complaints and needs. When someone isn't near to translate I find that my hands along with actions help a great deal to get