

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Box 33, Vryheid Natal,
January 16, 1950.

Dear Highway Friends:

Over two weeks ago I started a letter to you and since that time I have written to my mother only. Apparently I deserve the reproof I received for not writing to the Highway more frequently. You are oft in my thoughts and prayers but it does seem difficult for me to write as often as I should.

At the moment I am in Paulpietersburg for another two weeks' D. V. B. S. and evening evangelistic services. Like services at Louwsburg seemed well worth the extra effort put forth. The crowds were not large since it is a new place and I was there in the hoeing season, but God's word bore fruit. One man and a big boy were, or seemed to be outstanding examples, Mr. Sitale and Andrea Xaba. Pray for them. Our native and white workers are so few in number compared to the number of preaching places that new converts never get the help that they need. The meetings at Piet Retief were well attended—over 190 children all together, and there was much fruit, especially among the children of our own people, praise the Lord! At Kipunyawo I spent a week living in real native style except that I slept on a camp bed instead of on hard benches. Two native women and I lived, preached and taught in our church there. During the mornings we taught children as in D. V. B. S. work, in the afternoons we travelled far and wide, over the hills and far away, praying in kraals and inviting children and adults to come out to services. Sometime D. V. we expect to return as the time there was too short and the kraals too far apart to see much in such a short time.

Surely the Lord does bless us as we put forth these special efforts to win souls for Him. And what a blessing and help the little car is in this work! God bless one and all who have given or are giving anything towards it! At first it seemed like such a monstrosity to me and it was when I realized the state of my finances; but it is wonderful the way the Lord has undertaken thus far. Once in awhile the enemy causes me to become a little panic stricken when I look ahead to the time for licensing, insuring, etc., but at such times I go to the Lord and remind Him that the car was purchased solely to work in His vineyard, that personally I with my slight knowledge of machines had no desire for a car, and that I was depending upon Him to undertake. Such praying **always** brings me peace. Certainly, the mission work would be hindered if I had always to depend upon the mission truck to carry me hither and yon.

This is my first letter to the Highway in the New Year. God grant that the year 1951 may prove a very fruitful year spiritually. Though wars rage round about us, 'tis wonderful to have the peace of God down in our hearts. And friends, watch and pray for we know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh. I want to be found a faithful steward, don't you?

We had a very nice Christmas. Thank you, dear friends for the part you played in helping us to have a good Christmas. The gifts from overseas do mean much to us, perhaps so much the more because our friends care to remember us. Sometime before next Christmas I'll try to get personal letters of thanks written, but until then won't you all accept this as

a big "Thank You."

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." God bless you one and all!
Yours for souls at home and abroad.

MARY.

Natal, South Africa.

Dear Friends:

We are all feeling well here in Africa. We had a very nice Quarterly Meeting at Altona. Two people were baptized. We were very thankful. We had a lovely meeting on Sunday. The preacher spoke on the birth of Jesus. Timothy and Mr. Parks preached. It rained a lot so there wasn't much of a crowd but the meetings were good.

The Government has given us a new site near Hartland. It is called Lujojwane. We are very thankful.

Mother is feeling a little bit better. I think it is the Lord's doings that she is better. Please pray for her very much.

Mr. Mkuze lent us his school hall and we had a nice Christmas program for our Wayside Sunday School children. A friend gave ten shillings to help buy a treat and they all had candy, etc. They enjoyed it very much. Quite a few people came and we all had a good time. We do hope that the Lord will help these little children to become Christians.

Thank you very much for the presents you sent us. We appreciated them very much. We thank you very much for sending Auntie Nina and Auntie Uta out to Africa. We hope they arrive soon.

Your African friend,

KENNETH KIERSTEAD.

Altona Mission Station,
February, 1951.

Dear "Highway" Friends:—

Greetings from your South African workers. On Feb. 4th the new Altona church was dedicated. It is the largest and finest looking building on the whole Mission Area and meets a great housing need.

According to the plan here for financing such construction, to the £330 sent by "A Friend" in Canada, another £300 or more was added to the investment by Missionaries and Natives on the field. Nearly £60 was realized in the services from the Natives, so this latest advance has been reached, clear of debt. Praise the Lord.

The crowds began to arrive early on Saturday until by the Grand Opening Service around 400 Natives, keenly interested, including the Chief of that area were there. They gathered about the entrance of the old church building, now converted into two large class rooms for Day School, scripture was read, prayer was offered, and singing, the procession headed by our superintendent, Bro. Kierstead and missionaries marched to the new building and around it with great rejoicing. Prayer was offered by our local native pastor, Timothy Dlamini, the doors were unlocked and the meeting assembled. The service was rich in the blessing of the Lord and the people were enthusiastic in their praise and thanksgiving to God.

The work in the Transvaal began years ago under the ventures on foot over many miles by the late Rev. I. F. Kierstead. In the early years the Sterritt sisters invested in an all-out effort in every way on behalf of this Altona work. And largely under the faithful efforts of E. A. M. and Mrs. Kierstead in late years the work not only at Altona but our whole Trans-

vaal work has been brought to fruition and is the most promising investment on our field today. Just now in the Transvaal there are two smaller churches to be constructed at Entungwini and Sobotsheni. The Natives need both schools and churches. The new Altona church is our first church building not to be used as a school house as well, due to necessary financial restrictions. Those of our missionaries who have made the greatest investment on the field have said the least about their efforts.

Sister Campbell, on Feb. 4th, assumed the care of Altona Mission ventures. The Day School here numbers around 100 pupils, is Government recognized and we have a fine staff of Native teachers.

Miss Nina Smith and Miss Uta Chase will soon be welcomed to share with Miss Campbell in the work and responsibility of this most progressive station. The majority of our quality Native Christians are in the Transvaal Province.

Yours in Service, for His Glory,
R. H. and MRS. PARKS.

Natal, S. A.,
Jan. 5th, 1951.

Dear Highway Friends:

Happy New Year to all our friends, and Christian greetings from us all here at Vryheid. Our thoughts have been so often with you during the Christmas season and we have prayed that it has been a blessed time for you and trust that the New Year will hold many rich blessings from His hand.

We want to thank everyone who helped to make our Christmas a happy one. I shall try to write personal letters just as soon as I am able to do so. The cards, letters and gifts do bring a great deal of Christmas cheer to us. Home and friends seem nearer then, it seems. I never get over missing the snow, but I'm so glad that we do not have to have the things we are used to, to have the spirit of Christmas. Jesus is just the same, in the heat of Africa, as He is in the cold of Canada, and we do praise Him for His love for all His children, all over the world.

The Quarterly Meeting at Altona was a time of blessing. The crowd was small, because of heavy rains, nearly every day, but from all the reports, the presence of the Lord was felt.

The past week Brothers Sanders, Parks and Kierstead have been working on the Altona Church, putting on the roof. Oh, we do pray that this church will be a real lighthouse for holiness, in that section. It is a very strong building that will last for many years. We do praise God for it.

May God bless and be with you everyone and especially bless you during this New Year. May we all be very faithful in our work for our Master, I pray.

Yours in Christian love,
GLADYS KIERSTEAD

CORRESPONDENCE

Fredericton, N. B.

Dear Highway Readers:

It was our blessed privilege as a church to have our Superintendent, Rev. B. C. Cochrane, with us for five services, and what blessed services they were. Souls found definite help. One precious young lady found the Lord in sanctifying power as she sat in her seat. Brother Cochrane was at his best.