

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Vryheid, Natal,
Nov. 22, 1950.

Dear Highway Friends,

Greetings from this fair land, in the name of One who was born a babe in Bethlehem's manger, so many years ago. May His peace fill your hearts and make you happy, during the Christmas season, I pray.

The year is nearly ended and as I look back over the past months I see that many and varied have been the experiences the dear Lord has called me to pass through and yet through them all He has stayed very close and has never once left me alone. I am sure that you all can give the same testimony, to His wonderful keeping power.

Sister Campbell is busy getting her driver's license, etc., and packing up for the summer work. She leaves this afternoon for Altona, to help with the school closing there on Friday. I believe she and Sister Parks will be making cakes so as to be able to serve the children coffee and cakes.

We have been busy gathering up all the used clothes, etc., and Sister Mary has many bundles done up to take along to gladden the hearts of our workers and their families. We wish we could do more for them but many of them are so poor and the used articles fill a real need.

Next week Sister Mary will begin her D. V. B. S. work in Piet Retief again and then she will be very busy right up until February. We do feel the little car will be a real help and blessing to her in her work.

We were pleased yesterday, to receive an air letter from Sister Grace Sanders, telling of her safe arrival in Canada. We thank God and pray that He will use her greatly, for His glory, in the homeland.

Our boys are all busy with final exams. We thank God that He spared Reginald to us. He was very sick with his appendix but his operation was successful and he is now quite fit again. It's grand to know the Lord when such things happen.

The reports of the Quarterly Meeting at the Calvary Mission were blessed and we do pray that much good was done. It's nice to know that they have a good church and parsonage there now. We enjoyed a few days' visit from Bro. and Sister Parks, at that time. It's always so nice to see our other workers and to have fellowship with them.

The next big event will be the Quarterly Meeting and Christmas held at Altona, the end of December. Many attend just for the Christmas feast, etc., and sometimes I have wondered if we are able to accomplish what we long to—to lift up Jesus to the crowd. Then I have been reminded of a Sunday at Beulah. I was young then and the rain poured all that Sunday and I was glad and said so, as I felt it would keep away so many who only came to look on. But someone older and wiser than I, heard me, and said "Yes, but there may have been one in the crowd who would have given their heart to the Lord today." Sure enough and I hadn't thought of it that way. Since coming here, I've often thought of it, as I looked over the medley of dark faces and prayed, "Lord, grant there will be at least one." There have been some too and good seed was sown that we trust will bring forth fruit unto His glory.

Continue to pray for us and the work. I am still trusting God for my healing. In closing

we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Yours, in His glad service,
GLADYS KIERSTEAD.

Vryheid, Natal,
Nov. 11, 1950.

Dear Friends:

We are all feeling well here in Africa. Mother is feeling quite a lot better and we feel that it is the Lord's will that He is healing her. We are very glad that you are sending Auntie Nina out. We are all hoping that Auntie Mary is going to have a good time in her D. V. B. S. work.

Auntie Mary is soon going to Altona for the Sunday School closing in two weeks' time and then she will be in the D. V. B. S. work until February.

Glendon, Reginald and I have started a small Sunday School for the little native children who don't go to church anywhere. Glendon is in charge of the teaching. Reginald is also teaching and helps with the music with the accordion and guitar.

I look after the giving out of the Sunday School cards. I pray for these little boys and girls. Most of their parents don't know the Lord.

One little boy came to Sunday School drunk and it made us feel bad. I'm starting to give out tracts both in English and Zulu.

Dad and Reginald have just gone to Altona.

Your friend,
KENNETH.

Hartland Mission Station,
Via Paulpietersburg, Natal, S. Af.,
November 12th, 1950.

Dear Friends:

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you each a blessed Christmas and a New Year of happiness in the Lord. I also wish to thank those who remembered me in prayer and for letters and cards during my illness. Last week I went back to Vryheid hospital for a few days for treatment. I would appreciate your prayers for a complete recovery. How the Lord provides for His children! Over and over we have seen manifestations of His loving provision for us.

Pamela, Esther and I had the happy privilege of going to Calvary Mission for the church opening. Brother Kierstead came for us on Sunday morning, and after leaving the main road, we bumped across the velt, opening and closing five farm gates in the process, before we arrived. There was a good crowd there and a good spirit in the service. Johansi Nkosi, our pastor at Piet Retief preached first, followed by Charles, so the people received good spiritual food. They were also fed well physically too for after the service great platters of meat and crushed mealies were served. A woman from another church stopped me on the street one day in Paulpietersburg and told me how much she enjoyed that service.

Charlie is at the Watervaal outpost to-day, going by horse-back. It is a cold, chilly day, as we had rain last night. The country is getting green again due to recent rains. A lovely change from the drab brown of winter.

I am carrying on Sunday School and afternoon preaching service each Sunday in Charlie's absence. Our people do not seem to see the importance of getting their children off to Sunday School each Sunday. The ones who come seem very interested in the flannel-graph lessons and choruses, but they need real

encouragement in the homes. I hope to have a D. V. B. S. during the Christmas holidays, God willing.

Andrew Mtetwa, our worker here at Hartland, is in poor health, also Joanna Nkosi, Paul Nkosi's widow. Joanna has had some hard tests since her husband's death and has stood true. Don't fail to stand behind her in prayer. It isn't easy being left a widow, a native widow, with a large family to bring up, and being a Christian doesn't make it any easier from the standpoint of relatives, customs, etc. We solicit your prayers for these ambassadors of yours and Christ's.

How wonderful it is that God has given us the opportunity to pray one for the other. My heart is encouraged to push out in prayer and to get close to the heart of God. How often there are things that we think that we need, yet when we really pray and get close to God, those things seem as nothing. I am still happy because I am here in His will, even though I've seemed to do little the last few months but "He knoweth the way that I take." Continue to pray for us all.

Yours in Him,
MYRA SANDERS.

P. O. Box 33, Vryheid,
November 19th, 1950.

Dear Highway:

Some twenty-five years or so ago a certain Metula family moved out of the Hartland area and went to live thirty miles away near Groot-spruit. One of the sons Alfred, was a Christian so he started an evening school for his brothers and sisters. It was not long before neighboring children attended as well.

Young Alfred read the Scriptures, prayed and sometimes preached. Soon some of his scholars chose to become Christians and after a time these were reported to Dr. Sanders and when the time was ripe some of these were baptized. And so the Groot-spruit area work had its beginnings.

Ten years ago there was a well developed day school and a strong congregation at Groot-spruit together with two or three smaller outposts but the church building was very poor and ready to fall down. Alfred, the preacher, had now grown up and had a family and a home of his own and was living as a labourer-tenant on a certain German's farm and was only free to preach full-time because the mission paid about \$25 per year to the farm owner to free him from the usual six months compulsory farm labour. Even with this payment his wife was obliged to work several days of the week for the farm owner and one or two of the children had to take their turns working for six months out of the year and so were out of school a good part of the time.

Alfred Metula was one of the first African preachers to be ordained in our mission and is still a faithful and capable pastor.

For some years we tried to buy a site near Groot-spruit for a mission station but no one would sell us a piece of land that was small enough and cheap enough for us to buy. At last we just about got discouraged that we would ever get a piece of land of our own so we got permission from the same German farmer to re-build our church building so that it would fulfill the Government requirements that were necessary if our school was to receive government aid. A new church building was eventually erected out of cement blocks and burned brick and it was not long before