

MISSIONARY PAGE

FROM HARTLAND MISSION STATION

Bill and Elsie Morgan

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings from South Africa in the wonderful name of Jesus our Lord and King.

We have now been in Africa for seven months. It doesn't seem possible that it has been that long and yet in some ways it seems like years since we left home. We do feel to praise the Lord for helping us to adjust ourselves to this country. Almost everything is so very different to that which we were used to. However our very first impressions were favorable and still are. We love it out here.

For the last few weeks we have been trying to carry the work on by ourselves here at Hartland. This work needs the interest and prayer support of every one of our people. We are rather handicapped at present as we do not know the language. We have a young native boy who speaks very good English and we use him as an interpreter. Bill takes him on Sundays to the outposts where he has services and he interprets the messages for him. I have had to carry on the services here on the station on Sundays, but as I have had no one to interpret for me I usually have one of the native Christians preach. We now have a native man teacher for the school here, he just came two days ago, and he speaks English. I am hoping he will interpret for me on Sundays.

I imagine most of you readers know that the mission house here at Hartland is being rebuilt. It surely needed to be. As the old building was torn down, the need of rebuilding was realized more and more. We do appreciate very much the opportunity of having this done before we moved in. We hope the house will be finished enough for us to move in by Christmas.

We attended our first native wedding last Wednesday. It was indeed an interesting event. Bro. Charles Sanders was to perform the ceremony. The wedding was to be at Calvary Mission and was scheduled for 10 o'clock a.m., but Bro. Sanders who is accustomed to such things assured us that it would be at least 2 o'clock p. m. Time doesn't mean a thing to these people (natives). We left here around nine o'clock in the morning. Bill had to go to Grootspuit to visit one of our Government-aided native schools, so first we went there. From Grootspuit we went to Calvary Mission arriving there around one o'clock. Three hours after the wedding was scheduled and still they weren't ready. We sat around there until almost three o'clock before they finally began their procession, etc. Around two o'clock they were still doing some stitching on the flower girl's dresses.

The first part of the ceremony was the procession of the groom and his people parading very slowly and singing a rather mournful tune. The groom was dressed right to the last button. He had on a black suit, top hat, bow tie and white gloves and all the rest. His attendant was a girl dressed in white with a clothes brush in her hand with which she kept brushing him off every few minutes. She kept a very watchful eye on him and the first little speck of dust—whether real or imaginary—that fell on him,—off it came with the brush.

WINNING SOULS . . .

Someone asked Dr. Lyman Beecher in his old age: "What is the greatest of all things?"

The sturdy veteran of the Cross replied: "It is not theology; it is not controversy; it is saving souls."

He had been the king of the American pulpit; but, as he looked back over his illustrious and noble career, he felt that the greatest good that he had accomplished was in leading polluted, guilty souls to their Saviour.

While David Brainerd, one of the most celebrated of our missionaries, was laboring among the poor, benighted Indians on the banks of the Delaware, he once said:

"I care not where I live, or what hardships I go through, so that I can but gain souls for Christ. While I am asleep, I dream of these things; as soon as I awaken, the first thing I think of is this great work. All my desire is the conversion of sinners, and all my hope is in God."—Clipping.

There was a little old woman who kept running around, dancing and singing in front of this procession; it really was very funny to see her.

The groom's party came from the back of the house, outside, and as he came to the front, the bride and all her attendants came out the front door. I believe the bride walked out with her father; two bridesmaids dressed in white came behind carrying the ends of her veil; another walked beside her holding a big black umbrella folded with a bow of white crepe paper tied on the end. Two more girls in white carried the wedding cake on a tray. The cake was a two tier affair with the top layer being supported by three little pillars coming from the bottom layer. The top layer had not been set on the cake and I was appointed the privilege of doing this when it arrived at the church. However, back to the bridal procession. There were four little flower girls each folding an empty tumbler. I haven't yet figured this one out, any flower girls I ever saw, carried flowers! The bride's procession were also singing as they came from the house. Outside the front of the house the bride and groom-to-be met and then we all paraded to the church together singing as we went.

When everyone was seated in the church, a wedding piece was sung by the whole church. Bro. Sanders preached and then he married the couple. The groom's attendant with the clothe's brush kept up her duties at the church also. Every time he stood up she straightened his coat tails for him and when he sat down she brushed him again. When the time came she also took off his gloves for him. The girl with the umbrella looked after the bride. The bride and groom were both very attractive and made a very nice looking couple. The bride is a daughter of our ordained preacher at Calvary Mission. The groom has just recently become a seeker and has already felt a call to go into

HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR AFRICA TODAY?

FROM VRYHEID, NATAL

Mrs. G. M. Kierstead

P. O. Box 33,
Vryheid, Natal.

Dear Highway Friends,

Greetings from us all, in His dear Name! We are glad to report victory in our souls, this afternoon. The Lord is very gracious to us and we have so much to praise Him for.

I think it was during the July Quarterly meeting that Shadrack, 17 year old son of Rev. Johanesi and Frifina Nkosi, declared a call to the ministry. Now he has decided to go to the Nazarene Bible School in Swaziland. On Sunday he called, and my husband gave him the application form, and on Monday he returned it, all filled in.

He is a fine looking young man and I do pray he will continue to keep true to God.

His testimony is as follows: "I thank the Lord who forgave my sins. I know that He dwells within. I also know that the Lord has called me to His work, to work for Him. I know that through Him I can conquer all the temptations of Satan, which will arise along the way of the Lord. I trust the Lord at all times." He also says he knows that the Holy Spirit reigns in his heart because he feels His power and has left the things of the world.

Well, I say "Praise the Lord." Young Zulu boys are hard fish to catch for the Lord but I do praise God for everyone who takes a firm stand for Him.

Shadrack is here in Vryheid attending school in Grade IX and on Sundays he helps Reginald with the wayside Sunday School. His father felt that, as his clothes were very few, he should work for awhile, but we felt that it would be so good, if he could go to Bible school at once. So we looked through the used clothes we had received from home and found enough to meet his needs, then we added a few things and now he is quite prepared to go.

In writing to a friend, a few months ago, I said that one of our greatest needs now was for more young men to enter the ministry. So we do thank God and take courage.

The Oct. Quarterly meeting is to be at the Calvary Mission Station. It is to be a week or so later than usual as Rev. Metula's second daughter has recently been married. Nesta, the oldest daughter is married to one of our workers, Aloni Mbata, and they have four children and now Pricilla, the second girl is married. We do pray that the services up there, will be truly owned and blessed of God and that many will be blessed and strengthened.

May the dear Lord bless and be with you, is my daily prayer.

Yours for souls,

G. M. KIERSTEAD.

Christian service. We do hope the Lord continues to lead them both as we do need young native men and women as workers in the work out here.

I guess my letter is already too long so will close with a brief testimony. The Lord is with us every day helping us and keeping us. We do praise Him for the sustaining grace and the rich blessings that we enjoy in Him. The Lord is indeed good to us. We do not regret having followed Him, even to Africa.

Yours in His loving service,

BILL and ELSIE MORGAN.