

MISSIONARY PAGE



"He Healed The Sick"

By Thelma Rose

The dispensary at La Victoire is a medium through which God works to break down barriers which gives us and His Word entrance into lives and homes. Sister Helgen, having a better grip on the language, has been a wonderful help in doing personal work as I minister to sick and sore bodies.

There have been many cases of bad fever lately and a number of deaths resulting, one in the home of a near neighbour. We did not know of the young man's illness until we heard the wails of mourning begun at 12:30 p.m., immediately after his death. This typical mourning did not cease until the next afternoon when he was buried with Catholic rites. The house had been filled with relatives and friends gathered to join the wails that were occasionally intermingled with singing. Miss Helgen and I called at the home but there was no opportunity to speak that day. We also attended the funeral at the Catholic church and followed to the cemetery the procession behind the narrow, home-made coffin. To our amazement some of the women joined the others who quickly filled the grave with dirt. The native pastor explained to us that such was a custom that expressed deeper sympathy.

Some days after this I was called to the same house, for the family feared the death angel would carry away also the young daughter then sick with a very high fever. After we did the best we could, God undertook, and the girl improved and was normal in a few days. We believe they recognized God's aid in their behalf.

Following this, a man came to our door asking us to visit his wife who proved to be another serious case of malaria, and she too responded favorably to treatment. Within a week he was back asking us to again visit his home. This time we found his granddaughter and her father both seriously ill. We ventured giving quinine shots and the favorable response encouraged me to continue with treatment for malaria. We are thankful for the progressive and normal recovery in each case, but most of all we are encouraged because of the remarkable entrance God has given to these homes where we had prayer and left His Word. We sense a spirit of appreciation and confidence in these homes which were hitherto strange to us. In no other way could we have had such a fine contact. We are trusting the Lord to give more definite results in the salvation of souls.

In such places we need much prayer for we continually work against odds and face delicate situations because of superstitions. For instance, many believe they should not receive a "shot" when the weather is damp, or after they have eaten certain things, etc. I am always careful to get the agreement of the people rather than work against their superstitions,

for in the latter case some may blame the nurse if the sick did not recover.

It is interesting that so many people in these districts have no estimation of time in years. One woman brought her child for treatment. The child's age would determine the amount of medicine. The mother did not know the age. I judged about two years and was preparing the remedy. Meanwhile the mother disappeared to return with a supposed Baptismal certificate she obtained from the town Bureau of Records. This was no help for it had no date.

Often parents don't remember how many children they have. One answers "plizie" (many). Another man upon inquiry, asks his wife who gives a number I couldn't account for, they being our neighbors.

We are faced with problems continually, and have learned to supervise as closely as possible the giving of remedies. With the help of an interpreter, we had instructed one man (clearly we thought) how much to give his sick wife. Yes, he understood. The next day upon our return we questioned how he had followed instructions. He proudly showed us the almost-empty box. We were startled to learn he had given her three a dose rather than three a day. Other than a few skips in her heartbeat the woman showed no ill effects, and the fever had quickly departed.

Another forgot instructions by the time he had returned the five miles home, and gave his wife about two ounces of strong liniment internally which was given him with instructions to bath her aching joints externally. She survived too! Yes, we often pray that the Lord will heal because of remedies or in spite of them, and He does!

Christmas gifts have enabled us to get some needed supplies for the dispensary, and to contribute some toward the much needed church which as yet we see by faith. Those who have contributed are sharing in the spiritual and physical healing of this little nation of Haiti that is sick in head, heart and body. God bless you!

Yours for a better vision of the need,
Thelma Rose.

"The uttermost part of the earth" means going to the extremes with the gospel.

NOT EMPTY HANDED

E. E. Hewitt

**Not empty-handed would I go
To Him whose love hath blessed me so;
Some precious jewel would I bring
To shine forever for my King.**

**Not empty-handed would I go;
In life's great field some seed I'd sow;
Some golden sheaf for Him would bind;
Some blossoms tend, some fruitage find.**

**Not empty-handed would I go;
His grace will hidden treasures show.
Oh, may I win them for His sake,
And, day by day, love's offering make.**

**Not empty-handed would I go;
Thro' summer's bloom, thro' winter's snow,
I'll work for Him who died for me;
Till, by and by, His face I see.**

Our Christmas Holiday

Myra Sanders

Tuesday morning saw the Sanders family, packed into the old Willys, heading for Hartland to spend Christmas with the Morgans and Miss Smith. Charlie had arrived home the night before from the Rhodesian trip, and I had most of the packing done. The car was really loaded, with suit cases, camp-beds, edibles, not to say anything of Christmas presents. You folk in the homeland must have read that "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver," for by the parcels we received, you must have given cheerfully alright. It was a warm day and about noon we arrived at the Warm Baths where we all had a swim. We had promised the children weeks ago,—a swim on the way to Hartland. We arrived about 5.30 p.m. and as we entered the big cool livingroom, a beautifully decorated tree with gifts piled underneath greeted us. Christmas cards on the table and mantle and a scene of the Nativity above the fire-place. Just like home! After we added our gifts to the pile under the tree, it would have done your hearts good to have taken a peep into the Morgan's livingroom. We had a lovely time of fellowship each morning, enjoyed last minute cooking, jelly-making and stuffing the turkey and fowls. With the three children all snug in their beds on Christmas eve, we turned to filling stockings. What fun on Christmas morning when the small children and big children opened their stockings. After breakfast, Bill read the Christmas story in English and Charlie read it in Zulu, and we had a season of prayer. After prayers, came the opening of gifts. Can't you imagine the excitement! Nina would say, "Oh! Look at this!" and Elsie would say, "Isn't this lovely" and the children were enjoying themselves too. Bill would admire a tie, and Charlie say "Look, socks!" The native girls each received several parcels and added their "Ohs" and "Ahs" to ours.

Thank you, dear Lord, for sending Jesus whose birthday we celebrated. May He live in our hearts this New Year. Thank you dear friends for the gifts. Thank you Bill and Elsie and Nina for a united celebration. God bless you all.

THE PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Southport Methodist Magazine tells of the missionary who was asked whether he liked his work in Africa. He replied, "Do I like this work? No, my wife and I do not like dirt. We have reasonably refined sensibilities. We do not like crawling into vile huts through goat refuse. We do not like association with ignorant, filthy, brutish people. But is a man to do nothing for Christ he does not like? Liking or disliking has nothing to do with it. We are here to do the will of God."

We do know, or should know, that some missionaries endure hardness and unpleasantness. In fact, we expect that in the lives of missionaries.

But what of us at home? May we avoid the unpleasant and the inconvenient? Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."—The Free Methodist.

A missionary-minded person is one who is looking in the same direction as God. Can the pure in heart see God—and not missions?

The King's Highway