



THE REEF

Many years ago I was your Missionary, living on the old Mission Station at Hartland. I was young and strong and preferred walking, to riding a donkey, which was no faster. For years I saved and at last (was in 1914?) bought a nice young horse for £8! Now I could go further and faster so went to more distant outposts to preach.

Those were the days!, An enjoyable ride along the narrow foot-paths over the rolling hills of Natal. Sometimes up and down the cliff-broken mountains of the Pivaan and Pongolo Rivers, in places so steep one had to dismount and lead the sweating horse over and around the great rocks.

Can you visualise the pastoral scene as I come over the hill in sight of the kraal, the cattle grazing in the long grass, and a flock of goats nearby; in the valley were the extensive gardens luxuriating. The kraals were always built in a circle around the cattle kraal, another circle; and each of the huts were round like a half orange. With well polished floor and heavily thatched, they were cool and one was glad to be in out of the hot sun. Those that gathered for the service sat on grass mats on the floor, and if ten or twenty were there, I, felt well rewarded.

Now the scene changes. Each town and city on the REEF has laid out one or more Native Townships (Locations). The rule in all the new ones is one family per house; they vary from one to four rooms, and some have bathroom and kitchen, and all water is piped. Most stands are 40 feet wide by 70 deep. No garden land and no cattle allowed, and one sees very few fowls. Kalfontein Native Township is to cover ten square miles!

Today we are going to Natal Spruit; and thank the Lord again for a motor that can carry benches for our open air meetings. Another enjoyable ride, but this time along tarred roads. The chances are we'll see a wrecked car or two. Smashes are frequent here on the REEF, reckless drivers are a constant menace. We always thank the Lord for safe journeys.

Now with our P.A. System we sing for the first mile after entering this fast expanding Native Township, which already has 41,000 Natives. We busily hand out Tracts as we pass individuals and groups. Then as we approach, we start calling for the service. Lately Mary and Rev. Malaza's wife have walked the last $\frac{1}{4}$ mile inviting people as they go from door to door along the street. A number are already there when I reach our centrally situated church stand. They willingly offload and arrange the benches. Mary and the group following her arrive and we start. The sun is usually blazing hot and the distraction of large numbers makes them restless; We always have 300 to 400 here. Many have given themselves to follow the Lord, including a fair number of adults; and we are really anxious to get a house built so our Native Pastor can live right here among this group.

The position is that the Municipality have given us the land to build a church and Pastor's house on. They have now sent the documents on to Pretoria for final Government approval, and tell us they expect this any day. In the mean time we have received wonderful news.

It is a great encouragement to us to be able to tell you Dear Homeland people of our needs here, knowing that you will do all you can to meet them. God does

wonderfully supply our needs, PRAISE HIS NAME!

This is the wonderful NEWS; Fort Fairfield Congregation is raising money for a church on the REEF! This will mean in NATAL SPRUIT! Do praise the Lord with us for this. Yes and strengthen their hands with prayer as they go forward with this project!

How pleasant it would be to go back to the old way—but times have completely changed, that peaceful way of life has gone for ever.

The Native population has increased tremendously. A million and 64,000 are living on the REEF, and more are moving in all the time. We are placed here, where large numbers is the main feature. How we long to be able to place a church and Preacher among each 10,000 or 20,000 Natives! In Daveyton there are 46,000; we have one church and Preacher's house there; praise the Lord. (I was there last night for our weekly Bible Study, how we were blessed as we studied the first of the four spans of the bridge of salvation—the Incarnation). Our Preacher Kumalo, his wife and Joana, our other Bible woman, are a fine spiritual team, how we do thank the Lord for them.

Mr. Shabangu came in during the lesson. Afterwards he said he had come to apologize for leaving, and to ask to be allowed to come back to his spiritual home. My heart rejoiced indeed to hear this. Mr. Shabangu and his wife are a soundly saved couple, they have five children, but have never been married. A while ago I had a serious talk with him pointing out that it was necessary for him to be married, so he could be baptised and go on with the Lord. Later he came saying he wanted a letter of dismissal, he had found a church that would baptise them as they were! I asked him and his wife to come the following Bible Study day. They came and our Daveyton workers and I had an earnest talk with them pointing out that salvation and sanctification are of the utmost importance, that some churches did not teach this, and they might lose out with the Lord; ending by asking them not to be ashamed to come back if they were not spiritually happy where they were going. Well, they have come back; and we do praise the Lord. Shabangu got saved under Kumalo's teaching. Pray for us, dear friends. We are facing lots of problems, but the Lord is able!—Have just had word that the Natal Spruit documents are on their way to Cape Town for the final formality "Ministerial signature".

Yours for the salvation of souls,

Paul & Mary Sanders

ERMELO

We greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Christmas is already past and we have begun the New Year. The old year had a busy ending and the new year started off quite busy for us. We moved from Paulpietersburg to Ermelo on December 1. The Native Conference at Altona was from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 and our Missionary Conference followed at the same place from Jan. 4-6. Yesterday Pamela, Esther and Joy began school here in Ermelo, they each go to a different school. There was much to be done to prepare for returning to school.

We enjoyed our three years of Mission work at Paulpietersburg. The Devil saw to it that there were many battles and God saw to it that there were many victories. We praise Him for the grace and strength He gave day by day. We appreciate the prayers that you offered on our behalf while we were at Paulpietersburg. Local prayer meetings at Paulpietersburg were an encouraging feature.

Paulpietersburg is about 4,000 feet above sea level, Ermelo about 5,690. The white population of Paulpieters-