

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD.

AFRICA.

Editor of The Missionary:

May I beg space in your columns for the inclosed letters? The reading brought tears to my eyes, and sent me afresh to my knees. May God use these letters to open many hearts and purses toward our African field, and may the full amount needed to send out our new missionaries at once be sent in.

Sincerely,

MAY ANDERSON HAWKINS.

LUEBO, Congo Free State, Africa,
July 18, 1900.

My Dear Mrs. Hawkins:

As my husband, Dr. Snyder, and I have read in several different papers and magazines of the "Heart-to-Heart Band" organized by you, we have rejoiced to know that one person at least in the Southern home land has the needs of this field deeply at heart, and is doing so much to supply the great lack of workers here. We have felt that we must write to you and tell you how glad we were to read that only four more members were needed to complete the sum for the support of a new missionary, and as that paper so stating is several months old, we are trusting that the needed sum has ere this been raised, and perhaps the missionary already chosen. The needs of this field are so great! The missionaries now here have their hands more than full! Mr. Morrison and Dr. Snyder are trying to give as much time to the translation of the Bible as possible, so that when the printing press arrives in the fall as much can be given the natives of God's Word as hands and brains can get ready. The school is suffering for lack of books, and along this line I hope

to give all the help I can. And the school needs teachers so very much! Then, around about us, in such easy reach, are thousands and thousands of people who hear not the gospel because there is no one who can go out day by day and preach and teach. Mr. Morrison, Mr. Hawkins, and my husband have the whole burden of this great field, with its countless demands and its wonderful opportunities on their shoulders. They must preach, teach, study the language, translate, direct every bit of the labor of the natives on the station, attend to the business details, settle "palavers," etc., and my husband has many patients coming for treatment daily, and frequently those to whom he must go in the surrounding villages. And certainly God has wonderfully blessed, and is blessing this work. Even a stranger coming here can see quickly what greatly impresses one—the marvelous changes that seven years have wrought in those people who have come under the influence of the mission. Since our arrival four months ago twenty-seven have been received into full church membership, and about eighteen or twenty more are in the catechumen class under daily instruction.

In the present condition of political affairs in the Congo Free State it is deemed wise not to send out more missionaries at present. There is absolutely nothing, political or otherwise, to prevent ten men and women from going about in the villages lying just at our doors, teaching and preaching salvation, except the apathy and indifference of the church at home. I mentioned ten, because we have all been praying very earnestly that God would send us speed-

ily a reinforcement of at least ten new workers. We trust that the money raised by the "Heart-to-Heart Band" will go to the support of a new worker, for it is advance and increase in the force that is so sorely needed. Is no one offering to come to Africa, or are all who are offering being sent to China or elsewhere because it costs more to send men here?

There is a large field for "women's work among women" here that is as yet absolutely untouched. When I can speak sufficiently well I hope to do all I can along that line. The women are so totally ignorant, so degraded and down-trodden, that one must begin with the very alphabet of instruction, and the field is very large in just this one direction.

May I say a word before I close about the health of new missionaries. Coming up on the river steamer, dirty, ill managed, inconvenient, with most miserable food, and a journey of thirty-seven days, I had four days of fever. Since then not a touch of it has come to me. I have kept very well, and see no reason why I should not continue so. If one comes out here with ideas of good, sensible living and dressing, I see no reason why ill health should be his or her portion. Conditions of travel are constantly improving, our own boat will make the river journey infinitely better in every way. One can have more healthful and comfortable houses than formerly, and in short be no more liable to sickness here than at home.

To a woman coming out here I would like to say this, although I am but a new worker myself: Prepare sensible, plain clothing, as you would for summer time at home, know all you can about healthful, ordinary cooking and house keeping, and bring as many simple little comforts and adornments for your home as

you conveniently can. These things you will find of great service.

Will you and the members of your Band pray more earnestly than ever for this field? Will you try to send us that new worker as soon as possible? And may God bless you very richly for all that you have done to advance his work and his kingdom! If any of the members of your band, or any others you may know, would like it, I shall be very glad to write to them details and descriptions of the work and the life here.

Please accept from every missionary here grateful appreciation of your interest in this work, and kindest regards from my husband and myself.

Sincerely yours in Christian fellowship,
GERTRUDE LOUISA SNYDER.

P.S.—In this letter I have written specially of Luebo Station, but please do not think that I forget, or would have you forget, Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard and Mr. Phipps, who are working so bravely at Ibenj. They need encouragement, sympathy, and reinforcement just as much as we do here. Should you care to publish this letter you have my full permission to do so.

Again sincerely,

G. L. SNYDER.

MRS. SHEPPARD.

IBANJ, AFRICA, Aug. 7, 1900.

My Dear Mrs. Hawkins:

One year ago this month it was my privilege and pleasure to meet you at the Montegle Assembly. And ever since reading in the "*Christian Observer*" of your "Heart-to-Heart Band," I have been wanting to write to you and tell you how very grateful we feel for the interest you have taken in our Congo work. It does our hearts good, and certainly is an encouragement to us in the work, when we know that some one is