



## SPADE WORK IN A NEW MISSION FIELD

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Foreign Mission Work has the taste and tang of adventure and romanticism. At least this is the idea many people—even candidates to the foreign fields—have. (One brother even asked me some eighteen years ago if I was not being called to Africa by its adventure and romanticism . . . I, who had been teaching ten years and had a wife and three children).

Foreign mission work is very little different from church work in the homeland . . . it is merely carried on in a different environment and amongst people who have different customs, different languages and perhaps a different coloured skin . . . it can be very satisfying when people come to the Lord and as you watch them emerging from heathenism and barbarism but it can also be very dull and frustrating when spade work is the order of days and years and when the language barrier keeps you at arms length, or even farther from the people you wish to reach.

During the two weeks Gladys, Kenneth and I spent in Rhodesia—some time was spent in sight-seeing and in relaxing but most of the time was spent at our first Rhodesian Conference or in just plain common spade work that was more or less dull and which gave rise to sweat (perspiration) more than anything else.

I had hardly set foot into Harold's home upon arrival in Livingstone, when I said, "Where is the farm (the projected mission site)? and off we went out of town and along sandy roads and into the bush. We walked up hill and down dale until it was so dark we could see no more. The next morning was a repetition of the previous day's exercise until we were fagged out and wet with . . . sweat.

The walking and exercise convinced us that we might get a cheaper site nearer to town so we jauntily announced at mid-day that we were off to Lusaka, the capital of Northern Rhodesia, 300 miles away . . . and off we went arriving there ten o'clock at night.

The next morning we went from Hardware stores selling pumps and pipe, to Government Departments handling crown land, in charge of bore-hole drilling machines, in charge of native education, and back again until we were as tired and hot as we were in the bush.

After lunch another 300 miles by car and we fell into bed somewhere about midnight!

Other spade work included more tramping around in Livingstone seeing the District Commissioner, other land and bore hole men, more education officers, the Town Clerk, viewing available building sites, etc. How would you feel after you had found a nice building site in a good location at a reasonable price if you were finally told that it had a building clause with it requiring you to build a house worth \$12,500 on it?—A mission house at that! All your tramping for nothing.

Quite a lot of mission work in Rhodesia has meant foot-slogging through sand and bush from one kraal to another—talking to kraal heads, praying in the homes, arousing interest in our mission, and in planting the seed of the Gospel kernel by kernel.

When Harold first tried to reach our "bush" outposts he was using a Chevrolet Panelvan but he soon found that unsuitable after ripping off several of the under parts (muffler, muffler pipe, etc.) and getting bogged down in the sand. He is now using an old model of a Land Rover—

a cross between a riding horse and a bucking bronco. He spent several hours of several days lying under it keeping it in good bucking order, while we were there. (Prospective missionaries . . . be sure and include a course in motor mechanics in your preparatory course and gather together a kit of mechanic's tools to bring with you when you come out . . . 1937-1949 models (fitted to missionary pocket books) are no dream to run . . . may be, like Eric Haywood, your nearest garage may be 40 miles away!

## MISS THELMA ROSE LEAVES HAITI

In a recent letter from Thelma Rose, our missionary serving in Haiti under the Haiti Inland Mission, we have learned with regret that Sister Thelma has found it necessary to leave for the United States to seek medical advice and help. Miss Rose has been in poor health for some months and the executive council of the H. I. M. has advised her making the trip to the U. S. We are sorry that this temporary suspension of missionary service has been necessary, but we trust that it is all in the will of Him who causes all things to work together for good.

Miss Rose's present address is: 156 Mystic Valley, Arlington (Parkway), Mass., care of Mrs. Harry Burns. It would doubtless be a help to Sister Rose to hear from a number of her friends, so will you send her a card or write a letter?

## THE FOREIGN MISSION TREASURER WRITES:

The reporting of our foreign mission receipts is, in one way, a dangerous policy. Without an accompanying list of expenditures, the people may assume that the foreign mission treasurer is "flush."

Note, if you will, that through every three-month period we must build up a reserve of at least \$3,000 to meet the regular quarterly allotments for the field. Further, we must prepare for such heavy financial outlays as passages for missionaries. Consequently, a balance on hand of \$5,000 or more is never an occasion for ease. Due to our quarterly system, which is peculiar to our department, one day we may have five thousand dollars and the next day five cents.

June 1, the general treasury contained around \$7,000. After paying quarterly allotments June 21, totalling \$3,500, passage and such for the Sanders family, totalling \$2,200, etc., we could not meet the quarterly obligations due at the end of September (totalling \$3,400) without an emergency measure. In the next two months over \$4,000 is needed. At the moment money is coming in slowly.

In view of the present plans, it appears that this year we should build up a much larger reserve than ever before. Costs in connection with outgoing missionaries and homecoming missionaries may easily amount to \$5,000, which alone is over half our budget.

This is our greatest year of challenge. May it be our greatest year of giving. Latest reports from our fields tell of ninety being saved in Rhodesia and the Union. These are our eternal dividends.

C. E. Stairs, Treasurer

## A CALL TO PRAYER

The superintendent of our African Mission work writes that special prayer is needed for our Rhodesian enterprise. Various hindrances and difficulties have appeared which threaten to impede the progress of our venture for God in that area. We request that our missionary groups, prayer bands, etc., join in special prayer that God may lead us forward on this new field.

The King's Highway