



## FROM SANDERS FAMILY IN AFRICA

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you each from Africa:

It is good to be back and we feel right at home. We had a very nice trip across, leaving Saint John, N. B., on Sept. 5th and arriving in Durban on Oct. 5th. We passed quite close to the Cape Verde Islands, but could see nothing on account of fog. We touched Africa at the mouth of the Conga and went up to Bonna and Matadi (about 90 miles) to discharge cargo, then down the coast. It was quite warm in the Congo, but we enjoyed the experience of seeing another bit of our adopted country. The weather was exceptionally fine while in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London, so we had opportunity to visit some of the old churches, museums, public gardens and other places of interest. The captain and crew were very kind to us. The captain was the senior captain in his company and the new ships are handed over to him first, so we felt that we were in good human hands as well as in our Heavenly Father's hands. Capt. Abrahamsen towed the "Kon Tiki" from Tahiti to San Francisco. Our accommodations were lovely, and we were the only passengers, and this only the second trip of the Thorsdrake.

Arriving in Durban we had very little trouble getting through customs, and spent a few days at Concord Missionary Home. Bill and Elsie Morgan and Grace came to meet us and took some of our luggage home. We bought an Austin A40-1952 model and drove up. We think and we hope that we got a good buy. Anyway, she looks good! We spent one night in Vryheid with Eugene and Gladys Kierstead and Nina and Eric Haywood. It was lovely to see our friends again, and to sit down and talk with them. Thursday afternoon in a typical African thunder-storm we reached Paulpietersburg, and our new home. It seemed almost too good to be true that we were back. Everyone gave us a nice warm welcome and made us feel that they were glad too. Sunday we were at our native church in the location.

It was good to worship with our native Christians again and to realize that we had not forgotten our Zulu after all.

"We thank God upon every remembrance of you" in the Homeland, who are holding the ropes. There is a great job for us to do out here, or God wants to do a great job through us. He can do it if we will pray, sacrifice and cooperate. Thanks for sending us back. God bless you all as you labor with us.

In Him,

The Sanders Family

### S. O. S. FROM TRURO

If the foreign mission board does not receive help quickly, we shall be "sunk."

Only five hundred dollars has been received since our report two weeks ago. We need twenty-five hundred in the next two weeks—a great and immediate need. The present financial problem has been created partly by the cost of sending out a missionary family and partly by the usual slowness of churches in sending contributions in the first part of the church year.

With our present funds we shall be able to pay only half of the missionaries' salaries. Do I need to say more?

Send whatever you have in your local foreign mission treasury. Give what you can personally. Pray.

C. E. Stairs, Treas.

## FIRST RHODESIAN CONFERENCE

E. A. M. Kierstead

When Harold and Shirley Kierstead and family moved to Northern Rhodesia (Livingstone) in February, no one dreamed that in six months or less we would be having our first full-dress Rhodesian Conference, or rather Camp Meeting, or was it both?

On the 12th of July Harold, Kenneth and Rev. Paul Maloza climbed into Harold's Land Rover and careened over the roads and wood trails to the scene of the Conference—Chidobe. They had an evening meeting, left Rev. Maloza and returned to Livingstone well into the night for a short night's sleep.

If you searched for Chidobe on the map, I am sure you would not find it—it was only a native word of a very localized nature until recently — now Chidobe is a PLACE; is the birthplace of the Reformed Baptist Church in Rhodesia!

Chidobe is just a clearing in the bush (woods) where the natives (Amandebele) were recently put down with their cattle, boxes, mats, chickens, and pots and were left to make themselves homes, cut down trees and make gardens, and to gather together the threads of community life after having been uprooted from their homes 200-300 miles away. As a result they have no churches, no schools, and other amenities of civilization and progress.

Our Conference services were held in a most primitive tabernacle . . . branches were stood up in circular style to form the walls, an opening in the stacked branches formed the door, the sky and tall trees formed the roof, and poles laid across crotched sticks formed the benches . . . it became a tabernacle-de-lux at night with stars decorating our ceiling and a large and bright fire providing us with light to read by and with heat to counteract the chilly night air.

Our average congregation of from 40 - 60 appeared in the strangest manner . . . they seemed to appear out of the ground or from behind one of the many trees that surrounded us in all directions. We had the usual services . . . early morning prayer meeting . . . Bible classes . . . preaching . . . testimonies . . . business sessions . . . and so on. Three new converts chose the Lord during the days from Thursday to Sunday.

Sunday, of course, was the "great day of the feast." We first trailed down through the bush for 2 to 3 miles until we came to a dam which was used as a baptismal pool or font. (It was only partly built but the man in charge of building operations kindly had the dam especially filled for the occasion and even laid down a stone walk and baptismal platform (under water) to lend a modern touch to the event). Four Christians were baptized—the FIRST FRUITS of our Rhodesia mission work—three women and a young man!

Later in the day these four FIRST FRUITS plus another man, coming into our church from another evangelical church, were given the right-hand of fellowship and so the first Rhodesian Church was born. There too these displaced natives and our new church members gave out of their poverty and the Chidobe church treasury was started.

It was said that most of the Conference expenses (food) were covered by the local camp company and visitors . . . according to all customary meeting reports that should have made it a most successful Camp Meeting. Aren't you sorry you weren't there?

P. S.—Chidobe is in elephant and leopard country but we didn't see a single elephant or leopard! We only heard interesting and hair-raising tales. Perhaps some time in the future we will be able to oblige you with what you expect to hear from Africa.