

JUST A DAY IN THE RHODESIAN FIELD

By H. J. Hockley

Wherever we are, I suppose life tends to become somewhat monotonous week in, week out, much the same places to see and things to do; and even out here in the African field one is inclined to feel that the daily round is of no particular interest to others, or worth writing home about. However, here goes for a little attempt to picture a quite commonplace kind of a day with us here, the day being last Sunday, 21st July.

As usual it commenced by our going our directly after breakfast, Harold and I, in the "Landrover", to one of the several large African townships on the outskirts of Livingstone, where is held a small service, more of a Sunday school than anything else, to which a few faithful women always come, occasionally a man or two, but mainly a group of fairly small children, plus the few mothers. This service is conducted by Harold, I merely contributing a bit towards the music, and an occasional small talk, interpreted by Harold.

On returning from that we found Shirley and the two small children ready, plus a tin of sandwiches and some flasks of tea, so off we went to the "bush". Some 7 miles from home we passed, to us a very commonplace object the wonderful Victoria Falls, across the only bridge which spans the Zambezi gorge, into Southern Rhodesia, where most of our outstation work lies. Distances are measured from the Falls, then it is usually some 2 or 3 miles through the bush along tracks of very loose sand, to the little mission stations. At No. 13 milestone we passed the track which leads to Chidobe, which now has quite a good church building, a good Sunday congregation, as well as a day school. On this Sunday its services were being taken by a devoted Christian couple who live here in Livingstone. Next, some 5 miles or so farther on, we passed the track leading to Mizpah, which also now has a good church building, used for the day school during the week, and there last Sunday services were being cared for by Eric and Nina Haywood. Then some 10 miles farther on we turned into the sand track which leads to the new clinic site (so far it has no name). Along that track we saw several evidences of recent elephants, but no animals did we see. At the clinic site we ate our lunch, while a small congregation began to arrive. The Haywoods are now living there, in a caravan which Harold picked up cheaply at a sale, in a very broken and rotten condition it then was, but after a lot of repair work it is now not too bad, and to my surprise it stood the journey from here out to the bush site without falling to pieces, in fact it seems none the worse for that rather testing journey. At last the congregation was ready, though a few stragglers still kept coming along, and a simple service was held for them in the shade of some trees. There were 2 men, one of them a blind man, who was led by a woman by holding on to a stick. All told, the congregation finally numbered nearly 40, some 21 women and quite a number of children. By the time service finished it was about 3 p.m. and we pushed on through the bush to where it had been planned to contact a new little congregation. The African folk all around that area have been brought in within the past year or two, from land which will be under water when a big dam is formed on the Zambezi, and settled on what was practically empty land. The government has drilled bore-holes at intervals

of 2 or 3 miles along a slight valley, which eventually runs into the Zambezi. During the rainy season it evidently (Continued on Page 6)

THE HAYWOODS WRITE:

Dear Friends in Christ:

Greetings in Jesus Name.

We have moved from Altona to Rhodesia, to the new work that God has called us to.

We moved up the last week in June, arriving at the Kierstead's the 1st day of July. Kennie K. and a native teacher drove the lorry with our things and we followed on behind in our car. We had a flat tire otherwise things went quite smoothly.

We moved out here in the bush on the 6th of July. Harold had bought an old house trailer and a few repairs, it is alright to live in. We took the back off the lorry, sat it up on cement blocks and that is our kitchen. It is airy and one end is open but it serves its purpose. We have a stove, a frig., 2 chairs, a folding table and 3 or 4 boxes in it. The floor is mother earth, just plain sand. I've had to get up at 5 a.m. once or twice to drive out the donkeys, but no other animals have been around.

Eric is busy now getting the foundation down for our house. We are building half a house plan for the time being. There are 17,000 cement bricks all made. Eric has to haul the rocks and proper sand for foundation from places several miles from here. We want to have the house finished and be able to move in before the rains, the Lord willing.

We will build a temporary clinic building for the time being.

The church will be built just as soon as our house is finished. We are already holding open air services.

Our Mission site is 35 miles from Livingstone, down into Southern Rhodesia. We go by the famous Victoria Falls every time we go to town.

We wish to thank our people for parcels which have come and you may not have received any thank you. I'll try as soon as possible to send out form letters. The parcels that have come since I left Altona are being taken care of by Mrs. E. A. M. Kierstead. Cards have been readdressed but not dutiable parcels. Dutiable parcels have to be re-packed and re-addressed. Please accept our thanks for parcels.

We need your prayers in this new work.

The R. C.'s are very strong in this area, and have a mission site a few miles from here. We have the clinic site for this area and no one can have one officially. We need to go ahead and build up a good work here.

Remember us in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Eric and Nina Haywood.

New Address:

P. O. Box 447, Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia.

A NOTICE TO CHURCHES Supporting Native Workers

Recently the Foreign Mission Board increased the total paid to our native workers by one half (in order to extend their services by putting more workers on a full-time basis).

Local churches supporting native workers are requested, if possible, to increase their next payment by one half and future payments thereafter in order to help cover the advance.

Gratefully in Christ, C. E. Stairs, Treasurer