



## TRIP TO RHODESIA and BETHESDA HOSPITAL OPENING

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A few days before Christmas, Glendon, Betty and I left Vryheid for Victoria Falls so as to be at the half-yearly Conference of our Rhodesia Field and at the official opening of the new Bethesda Hospital. We covered the 1100 or more miles in two days by travelling fairly fast and for long hours.

At Victoria Falls we found Harold and family well and busy getting ready to go out to our Bethesda Mission Station where Eric, Nina and Uta are stationed. Since my last visit Harold has been able to build a double garage on to the existing out-buildings. It was interesting to note that his car stood outside in spite of this double-garage; the garage seemed to be a storeroom for building and other mission supplies.

Our first activity at Bethesda was to go on a tour of sightseeing about the Mission Station to see the new and recent additions to the mission set-up. It hardly seems possible that it is only a little over two years since Eric and Nina moved out to Bethesda to stay in an old house trailer in the midst of a fairly dense forest where there were no improvements what-so-ever. It is rather wonderful how the Lord has provided financially for building up this youngest of our Mission Stations and has enabled the missionaries up there to accomplish as much as they have in such a short time. Since my last visit, the Haywood's have built-on a garage to their unfinished house and have screened in a breezeway between their house and the garage so that they have an extra room to what they had before. Their quarters are not less cramped and this screened-in area is the coolest part of their house.

Uta's cottage has also been improved by a new roof, ceiling and a screened-in veranda which serves as an extra room or rooms as her cottage previously had only one room.

The Rosemund Memorial Church has also been somewhat improved and is complete except for a steeple which they would like to add some time later.

What I had not seen before were the Hospital buildings, a school house, a teacher's cottage, the water system and the new baptismal pool or tank.

In a section of the country where water is so scarce and yet so necessary the newly installed water system is a god-send. The missionaries were fortunate to get the use of a Government bore-hole just outside of the Mission premises so they have not had to have a well bored. Until recently all water had to be pumped by hand out of this deep well and then carried or hauled several hundreds of yards up to the mission buildings. A gift of money from Mr. Ralph Adams of Bloomfield has since made it possible to buy a bore-hole pump-head, engine and pipe so that water is now pumped into the Hospital and also pumped up as far as the Haywood's house. One of these days they are hoping for extra funds so that a reservoir can be built and the water piped into the Haywood's house as well as over to Uta's cottage and the house that is yet to be built for the Emmett's. A round outdoor baptismal tank was constructed above the Hospital but along the pipe line going up to the Haywood's house. This also fills a great need as, previously, candidates had

to tramp several miles to and from some pool or dam where they could be immersed.

The new Hospital buildings should fill a very great need for that Native Area as the nearest Hospitals are 35 to 40 miles away at Livingstone and Wankie respectively. Provision has been made for a Labour Ward, two Wards of six beds each, a Doctor's office and supplies room, two toilets, a bathroom, a kitchen and a pantry. Brother Eric did a very good job as the main builder of the Hospital. I told him we should now induct him into the position of our Rhodesia mission builder. Sinks, toilets and bath are all supplied with running water. We are very grateful to the Rhodesia Government and our Moncton Church for this Hospital set-up as each donated half the costs. The natives of the area are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Doctor whom they have been told is likely to come out next year.

The official opening of the Hospital was held on Friday the 18th of December. A large crowd of Africans was present besides several officials and visitors. Speeches were made by the District Native Commissioner, a local Health Official, the local native Chief or Headman and the writer. All mentioned the advantages the Hospital would have for the local people and expressed their appreciation to the Government of Rhodesia and the Reformed Baptist Church in Canada for their financial help.

Before next year this time we trust that the Dr. Emmett's house will be complete and that the Doctor and his family will be occupying his house and will be working in the Hospital.

The District Native Commissioner envisions not only a Hospital at Bethesda but several Clinics in the Wankie area as well. I understand that the Government of Rhodesia has agreed to pay the Doctor's salary besides the other financial help it is already providing.

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## REGULATING OUR MISSIONARY GIVING

More and more, churches and individuals interested in our foreign missionary work are sending in donations marked for special projects. With monies received from those who have this interest, the Mission Board is able to make allocations for such projects as Bible Schools, Hospitals, churches, and new homes for missionaries. And all who are interested in the foreign mission enterprise are happy that these special donations are made and that we are able, as a consequence, to sponsor such projects as referred to. And we hope that missionary giving will be maintained and increased so that we may continue to expand our work in this vitally important area.

But pastors, churches, and individuals concerned with our total missionary programme, are urgently requested to give careful consideration to the following facts:

The total budget for foreign missions is less than half the amount we must have to meet current expenses of our missionary programme.

If churches and individuals aim at barely meeting budget payments for current expenses, and ear-mark all other missionary monies for special projects, we shall not have what is needed to pay salaries of missionaries and native workers, and meet the expenses related to the general missionary programme.

If missionary giving for general funds is not increased, we cannot give missionaries salary increases and increased assistances.

When we send out new missionaries, we are brought under increased demands in respect to salaries and general