



## REPORT FROM BETHESDA HOSPITAL\*

by Storer Emmett, M.D.

I propose to write a short article each month for the Highway reporting on the progress and development of our Bethesda Hospital and incidents that I feel may be of interest in connection with our medical work in Rhodesia.

The report this month is a little lengthy since I would like to give a statistical summary on our medical work for this past year, 1960. Except for the month of December following my arrival, the work has been under the direction of our two nurses, Miss Uta Chase and Mrs. Nina Haywood. There were 931 in-patients admitted to the hospital during the year representing a total of 5,096 in-patient days; among these there were 7 deaths. There were 2,950 patients seen in the out-patient clinics during the year representing 7,725 treatments. One can really see that our nurses have been very busy.

On October 12, 1960, a new 22 foot two room plastered brick Clinic Building was opened at Jambezi (Jam-bay-zi), an area 17 miles farther into the Reserve. It was built by the mission from a grant given to us by the Wankie Council (a group of native head-men and government representatives). Since its opening, a Clinic has been held each week at Jambezi attended by 40-80 patients. The seriously ill patients are taken to Bethesda for hospitalization. A short service is held before the Clinic is begun each week. The Clinic has been a contact for us in that area of the Reserve and a church is growing at Jambezi.

On February 2, 1961, the ground was cleared for an extension on Bethesda Hospital to include another ward, a medical laboratory, a delivery room and temporary operating room, and a doctor's office. These features are

badly needed. Ward space is at a premium. The average in-patient load for January has been 29 patients per day; this has meant that on certain days there have been as many as 42 in-patients. The children have one relative with them to care for their personal needs. All this in a hospital with only 14 approved beds in two 19 by 19 foot wards plus a small maternity ward. Needless to say, many patients are sleeping on the floor. The situation is entirely unhygienic. At present we are attempting to rid the hospital of a bed bug infestation which is an inevitable occurrence with such crowding—although all beds, blankets are cleansed thoroughly and each patient is issued a clean hospital gown on admission.

I hope that you will sense the challenge as we do. There has been a steady increase in our patient load and without increased accommodations and facilities we are at a loss to cope with the situation. We believe that each challenge carries with it a clear cut call to action. We urge you to pray for our hospital extension program and to give liberally until the Mission Board is able to allot us the necessary funds with which to build.

This month I want to tell you briefly about Smarty Tshuma, a 10 year old Munanzwa boy admitted to Bethesda Hospital shortly after my arrival. (The Munanzwas are a more primitive original inhabitant of the area in contrast to the Mundebele—near Zulus—who also live in the area; the Munanzwas have no written language).

Rev. Haywood and I were called to an area 10-12 miles from the hospital near the Zambezi River which becomes quite rocky and almost impassable even by Land Rover. Entering the darkened smoke-filled hut, we noted on a mat in the corner the form of a small boy. The pulse was rapid and the fever high. His neck was severely arched and every movement called forth a cry of pain. With a clinical diagnosis of meningo-encephalitis we hastily transported him to Bethesda Hospital where he was placed on the critical list. With no further facilities available for laboratory diagnosis, he was started on 10 million units of penicillin in intravenous solution—the first intravenous to be given at Bethesda. (To next Page)

## MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR MARCH

SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
			The Sunday School work <b>1</b> in Rhodesia	Nina Haywood's <b>2</b> Birthday	Myra Sanders working in the <b>3</b> National wards of the Ermelo Hospital	An ambulance for the <b>4</b> Bethesda Hospital
Revival in the <b>5</b> South African Districts	Shirley Kierstead as the <b>6</b> Rhodesian women's meetings resume after reaping	Against the <b>7</b> revival of heathenism in South Africa	Salvation of natives <b>8</b> contacted through Jambezi clinic in S. Rhodesia	A native preacher may be available to place <b>9</b> at new site at Mandhlangempisi in Ermelo District	Problems that arise <b>10</b> in Mission Administrative work	Establishment Spiritually <b>11</b> of new converts on the Reef
A real burden for meeting <b>12</b> Mission Budgets by our churches at home	Rev. Khumalo's work at Stirtonville on <b>13</b> the Reef who wishes to join our work	Definite Christian witness <b>14</b> by all teachers in our mission schools in Rhodesia	Spiritual need of Stephen Mkalipi <b>15</b> native preacher in Ermelo District	The safety of our missionaries <b>16</b> in these troubled days	Daniel Nkanyane native preacher <b>17</b> at Meadowlands Native Township on Reef	Bill and Elsie Morgan and <b>18</b> their work in Louwsburg District
Spiritual needs of Elias Nkosi— <b>19</b> native preacher at Wattville, Reef	Betty Kierstead and women's <b>20</b> meetings in Altona District	Missionary Board treasurers wisdom in obtaining <b>21</b> and allocating Mission Funds	Elias Moyo, native preacher recently <b>22</b> transferred to Libuyu, N. Rhodesia	More missionaries to work in <b>23</b> Native townships on Reef, Pop. 1,100,000	Reformed Baptist young people willing if God <b>24</b> should call them to mission work	Native preacher Darlington recently <b>25</b> transferred to Mizpah, S. Rhodesia
Work at the Hartland <b>26</b> Mission Station	Effectiveness of new school <b>27</b> at Borehole 36 Rhodesia	The missionary children as a <b>28</b> new school year has begun	Salvation of the household <b>29</b> servants of the missionaries	Tribes yet untouched <b>30</b> by the Gospel	Karl & Helene Gorman and <b>31</b> their ministry in Paulpietersburg District	