

"BUSH" HOSPITALS

by Storer E. Emmett, M.D.
Medical Missionary to Rhodesia

I have been asked to write to you a short article of interest regarding some phase of our work in Rhodesia. I wonder if you would be interested in a description of the life of the people among whom we are working, especially as it pertains to our work in a "bush" hospital, or so it is termed in this country.

The term, "bush", is used to describe the country area of much of Rhodesia where the soil is very sandy but supports a fairly solid growth of trees and during the rainy season a luxuriant undergrowth of grass and small shrubs. Since there is drought for nearly eight months of the year, the most of the undergrowth dies away but many of the trees are green throughout the year.

Bethesda Hospital is located on the side of a sloping hill leading down to a long valley which runs through a great deal of the Reserve or native area. Grass grows in the valley and is used for feeding the cattle during the winter. Along the edges of the valley, one or two miles apart, the government has dug bore holes (deep wells) from which the natives obtain their water. There are villages at each of these bore holes made up of 10 to 15 kraals or family units, each containing several huts made of poles plastered with mud and thatched with grass. The fields are located behind the villages where each family cultivates a plot of land. This represents the sole support of many families, although some may have wage earners working in the towns or cities.

The people live rather simple lives. They usually have a few chairs, a table, occasionally a bed, and for the most part they dress as we do, although often poorly. They subsist on corn maize, peanuts, a few vegetables, goat, and occasionally a cow is slaughtered although they are usually kept by custom as a symbol of wealth.

It is among these people that we have our church work and our medical work — actually in two Reserves. Our work is primarily in the new Reserve where our hospital is located which is populated by the Mendebele (or near Zulu people). We do, however, hold a clinic once a week in the older Reserve, which is populated mainly by a more primitive Munanzwa people who have, as yet, no written language, although there are some fairly educated people among them.

Since we have the only hospital for 40 miles on either side of us, we draw patients not infrequently from as far as 20 or 25 miles from the hospital and probably serve a total population of about 10,000. Most of our patients come from villages neighboring the hospital. They come to us by foot, or by bus which operates twice a week in the Reserve. Not infrequently the "ambulance" is called. A charge is made of the patient for the ambulance since we use our own Land Rover jeeps or trucks as the case may be, but medications and hospitalizations are given to them free as contracted under the Government Assistance Program which we are receiving.

It is a real challenge working with these people whom we have come to love. It is rewarding to be able to help them in their illnesses, but it is even more compensating to be able to tell them of Christ and of the way of Salvation. Perhaps sometime in the future I will be able to tell you more about the life of a doctor or a nurse in a mission hospital.

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"What the world lacks most today is men who occupy themselves with the needs of other men. In this unselfish labor a blessing falls on both the helper and the helped."

—Dr. Albert Schweitzer

The King's Highway

E. H. B. S. Today

by G. F. D. Keirstead — Principal

With just two weeks to opening day, we would like to take a look at our Bible School in Africa and note some of the accomplishments and plans for the future. Born at our Mission Station in Louwsburg during 1955, E.H.B.S. has undergone many changes.

In January of 1958 the School moved from Louwsburg to Altona. The move favoured a larger student body, so since then we have had a much larger number. Every building on the Station has had some work done on it, and four new buildings have been erected. These include two small houses for married couples, a Men's Residence and a Library. The latest addition, and a very welcome one, has been the addition of a lighting plant, though of our own making and leaving much to be desired, we can use up to fifty lights with little strain to the plant. Perhaps the most significant thing about this plant is that it was built and installed with money that was donated by other groups that have had students in our school.

We feel that the courage and vision of our Young People's Society in the homeland has played a great part in the growth and success of E.H.B.S. The financial support, together with the many prayers that are offered in behalf of E.H.B.S., is not given without results.

As we start the New Year we look to God for His continued blessing on the School. It is with courage that we look forward — courage because of your faithful support because we are convinced that training Africans to reach their own is our most urgent task, and also because we have a wonderful people with whom to work.

We shall be admitting as many students as we can afford without straining our means. It is our hope that we shall be able to improve our present water system that is very inadequate for our present needs. It will include the putting down of new larger plastic pipe. We are also planning to erect a workshop so that we will be able to make more of our own fixtures, etc. Preparations are being made for many special services to be conducted by our students.

Please pray with us for the needs, plans and the future of E.H.B.S.

DID YOU KNOW ?

. . . . that Bernard Mullen, former Vice-President of the Y.P.A., is teaching school in Sarawak.

. . . . that Peter Emmett, last year's Reading Contest winner, is studying medicine at McGill University in Montreal.

. . . . that Dr. H. K. Sheets, Youth Rally speaker in 1960, is to be the evangelist at Beulah Camp this year.

. . . . that the Beals Society takes a special offering weekly to help in transportation costs to the Spring Youth Rally.

. . . . that the Moncton Society just finished a very successful Youth Week with Rev. H. R. Ingersoll and Paul D. Mullen.

. . . . that the Marysville Society presented a Christmas pageant in their church on Sunday, December 24.

. . . . that the Port Maitland Society recently had complete charge of a Sunday night service in their church.

. . . . Next to Godliness, youth is a church's greatest asset — George E. Failing.