

OUR TRIP TO AFRICA

by Mr. Stora Emmett

For us, our vacation had gone all too quickly, but we enjoyed it immensely. It was nearly time to be getting back home to prepare for another year of school and we did want to visit our missionaries and work down in the Republic of South Africa.

Storer had promised that he would go down to our Bible School at Altona and teach a short course or two to the students there. Communications travel very slowly in Rhodesia, but we were finally able to book flight from Livingstone to Johannesburg. Wilma and the children had hoped to go down with us, but we had to leave a week before her school closed for vacation. By some last-minute rushing on the part of the doctor, the three of us boarded the plane and we bade farewell to our missionaries, friends, and relatives and took flight for the Republic.

With the Sanders

We arrived at Johannesburg at about 7:00 p.m. and were met at the airport by Charles and Myra Sanders. It was so late in the evening that they could not show us around much on the Reef so we got our supper and drove about 140 miles to Ermelo to Charles and Myra's home. We enjoyed meeting Charles and Myra and their daughters again. The weather was much colder down in the Republic than it had been up in Rhodesia and we found it rather chilly. It was nearly midnight when we arrived at Ermelo, but Pamela, Esther, and Joy had waited up for us and had a lovely fire going in the fireplace.

The next day Charles and family took us in their car around to see some of the sights at Ermelo. We visited the site of where our former church had been and went out on the Native Location where our new church will be located. We met Evelina, one of our Bible Women, and her family while on Location.

Glendon met us that afternoon and took us to Piet Retief where we visited our work there and met Preacher Abel Dlamini, who is our native worker there. They have a lovely little church building there, and as is true with the most of our churches there is a legend that surrounds them. For example, Rev. Eugene Kierstead constructed this fine brick edifice while serving the Altona-Piet Retief area of our mission work. The funds were made available for this construction by Sister Thelma Woodward of our Beals, Maine church, in memory of her father. Above the entrance of the building is the word "Kolwa" which interpreted in the native language means BELIEVE.

With the Glendon Kiersteads

We traveled from Piet Retief to Altona Mission Station where we were to spend that night and the next day with Glendon, Betty, Terry, and Dale. We got around early next morning as they were starting a Sunday School at the Mission.

We will not soon forget our Sunday spent at Altona Mission. The people began to arrive at about 11:00 a.m. for the 1:00 p.m. preaching service—some of them bringing lunches with them. We hurried over to the lovely church at about 1:00 and found the church filled with people. Apparently it was a "Big Sunday" as there was to be a dedication of children and a communion service. Miss Mina Nkosi, one of our teachers at E. H. B. S., and the school choir sang several songs—very beautifully done. Storer sang one number by request and then preached the afternoon sermon, with Glendon as his interpreter. Near the end of the service, Preacher Timothy Dlamini announced that there would be a love offering given for Mr. and Mrs. Emmett who had come from far away

America to bring them greetings from the Mother Church. It was very touching. We would have preferred that they did not do it, but Glendon said to me, "They want to do this to show their appreciation for your coming—it is a tradition." May the Lord bless them, the offering was used for a good cause. One soon learns to love these people.

With Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Kierstead

Eugene and Alice Kierstead met us late Sunday afternoon at Altona to take us to their home in Vryheid. Eugene had held a preaching service in Swaziland near Altona. We went right to the European church at Vryheid where Karl Gorman was holding the service. Along with others, we met the Gormans, and David Titlestad, the husband of Grace Sanders Titlestad. We had a very enjoyable visit with Eugene and Alice Kierstead. David and Grace Titlestad had just purchased a home in Vryheid, and Monday a.m., we went over and made a call on Grace. We also visited the site where our new European church will be built at Vryheid.

With the Morgans

Elsie and Murray Morgan arrived at Eugene's at about noon on Monday and took us to their home in Louwsburg which is a distance of about 60 miles away. As it was getting along in the late afternoon we got some most picturesque views of the Louwsburg panorama. The terrain is really beautiful. We met Bill and Suzanne upon our arrival and spent a most enjoyable evening with the Morgans.

The next morning was spent wandering around, taking pictures, and admiring the Morgan's most gorgeous flower garden. Bill took the afternoon off from his job and we drove around from place to place seeing portions of our African work in the Louwsburg area. We were most pleased to meet Mina Nkosi's mother who is one of our Bible Women at our church in Louwsburg. Our missionary work in Louwsburg covers such a vast area that Bill is able to reach each location of our work there about once in every quarter. Thus it becomes very necessary to depend upon our native pastors and workers to carry on the spiritual work among their own people under the supervision of our missionaries.

With the Gormans

We left Louwsburg rather late Tuesday afternoon with the Morgans to return to Vryheid where Karl met us to take us to Paulpietersburg. We were very happy to meet Helene and the children, Sherry, Stephen, and Philip. They endeavored to acquaint us with the missionary work in the Paulpietersburg area as best they could for the next day was to be a busy one. Karl's missionary work covers a vast area. We left early in the morning so as to cover as much of it as we could. During our travel of the day, we visited the location and church at Paulpietersburg. We visited the church at Calvary and met Rev. Johanasi Nkosi and family. We made the trip in to Calvary by car, but the only easy way to get there would be to fly in. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to visit for a short time with Dan and Faith MacDonald. One of our most interesting visits was at the Hartland Mission Station, the site of our First Missionary work in Africa. We were glad to have had the opportunity to see the layout of the Station much as it had originally been. Due to the segregation law in the Republic, we understand that changes are being made at the Station, thus limiting our holdings there.

Glendon and Storer arrived at Paulpietersburg in the afternoon to take us back to Altona where the natives had sent in chicken for our supper. We spent another

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The King's Highway