



RHODESIA HOSPITAL REPORT

Dear Highway Friends,

I am somewhat late in sending you our yearly report from Bethesda Hospital for the year ending December, 1963. The year, I believe can be summarized best by saying that it has been an encouraging and profitable year although it has not been a building year. We have not attempted to undertake any major developmental projects but we have made some improvements in existing facilities. The visitors houses below the hospital were completed making suitable accommodations for relatives who may be visiting patients at the hospital. Night lights were installed with a charger unit working off our electric generator and permitting us to have a 24 hour current for lights as needed. The exterior of the hospital has been painted and paint has been purchased for the painting of the interior of the wards. Following the receipt of a generous gift, new uniforms were purchased for our nursing students

During the year we had opportunity to reach a number of people with the Gospel message who otherwise may not have heard it. This was accomplished through services held at the hospital and at the Rosamond Dow church for the patients by the hospital evangelist, Find Nyoni, and others of our native workers and missionaries. We have held services regularly in conjunction with our 3 weekly clinics, a Sunday service, and patients attend the mid-week prayer service on Tuesday evenings. As weather has permitted, we have had special out-door services utilizing religious slides on Sunday evenings. A short morning devotional period conducted by our African nursing staff each morning for the patients has been inspirational.

We have had a number of unique opportunities to witness to many of our patients or their relatives and to personally invite them to Christ. It may have been a matter of speaking to the parents of a child who was critically ill, offering prayer at the grave side of a deceased loved one at the mission cemetery, or passing out a religious tract to a patient who was able to read and noting his acceptance of it. A number have given their hearts to the Lord while here at the hospital.

Our daily average of 46 inpatients was slightly less than that of 1962 when the average was 49. We had 1,477 admissions to the hospital and multiplying this figure by the number of days each patient spent at the hospital we arrive at 16,676 inpatient units; there were 17,817 during 1962. We had 161 maternity confinements as compared to 156 in 1962. There were 22 deaths. In our clinics we treated 3,355 patients and multiplying this by the number of treatments each patient received, we arrive at 9,546 outpatient units. Our total outpatient units for 1962 was 12,074. Several reasons seem to account for this slight drop in patient attendance: (1) the Government Road Construction Camp which had been sending us a number of patients and where we held a clinic biweekly was relocated early in the year, and (2) as of June, we found it necessary to charge a small fee of all patients attending the clinics and entering the hospital. Although indigent patients are attended and admitted without payment if they have a letter from the African chief, the payment of fees has to some extent cut down on the number of patients attended.

We have appreciated several liberal gifts which have been sent to us, often, we have felt, as direct answers to prayer. We have appreciated the boxes of hospital supplies

THE VALUE OF BEING A TEN PERCENT CHURCH

by Rev. W. C. Burbury

There is a well worn statement that goes like this: "God blesses the missionary minded Church." This has become reality to the Church at Old Town. We find it so true and wish to share our experience with you our people.

The Challenge came in the fall of 1961. Brother Cochran wrote me sometime in the fall asking us to accept the Challenge of being a ten percent church. He mentioned how valuable he felt it would be to our church, although we were small. By this time of year, however, it was late to get started on this type of program as the year's activities were well under way. The matter was brought to the church nevertheless, and it was suggested that we pray and plan to start with the new church year. In our June 1962 Annual Meeting, the Church voted to pay a tithe to missions. It was a big step of faith in our particular situation.

The Complexion of the Church soon began to change. First, we found we were giving more to missions. Second, we discovered we had more to give elsewhere than before. The year previous to initiating this program had been difficult financially. On one occasion the treasurer had to borrow to meet the pastor's salary. Third, our second mortgage on the Parsonage, heretofore neglected, received a five hundred dollar payment before the year was out. Fourth, the pastor's salary was raised three times. Fifth, the overall income of the church was up thirty-five percent above the previous year. Sixth, the Church closed the year with a bank balance equal to ten percent of the previous year's total giving.

The Climax. A number of folk found help. Sixteen were converted. Some were reclaimed, seven were baptized and eight received into church membership. It would be ridiculous to rule out the possibility that there would have been an increase in our work and giving last year anyway. We very well could have made some gains. However, I am mighty suspicious that because the church was willing to venture by faith that God came on the scene and blessed in a wonderful way. In fact the evidence more than convinces me that it pays to be a "ten percent for missions" church. In closing let me say that our missionary needs on the field are mountainous. With our present structure we cannot hope to provide enough funds for all of the demands, not to mention Home Missions.

It seems that if all our Churches would accept the challenge of a "tithe to missions" God would in turn give a new dimension to our work as a denomination, both at home and in the "Regions beyond."

*Pastor, Old Town, Maine

HOW MUCH CAN YOU GIVE?

A great temple was being built in honour of a heathen god. The Christian missionary, curious to know the cost of the great edifice, asked one of the worshippers, "How much is your temple going to cost? You people must sacrifice much to make possible such a beautiful temple." The answer came back—with rather startling suddenness, "Oh, we never know what our temples cost. No one ever bothers to tell us. We are just expected to give all that we have—and we do."

sent from our Missionary Auxiliaries since we are greatly dependent upon these supplies of bandages, patients' apparel, and toilet articles. Above all, we have appreciated your faithful prayer support. Praying for the effectiveness of our ministry among the sick is the most important thing which you can do for us. We greatly solicit your continued prayer support.

Sincerely in Christ,

S. W. Emmet, M. D.

The King's Highway