

FROM REV. HAROLD KIERSTEAD

Dear Highway

Once again we bring you greetings from Rhodesia in the name of our precious Saviour. We do praise the Lord for the progress over the past church year and we continue to look to Him for the future of His work here in Rhodesia.

Our missionary staff is now up to full strength with the arrival of the Haywoods and Bethesda is looking like a small town. Each family is housed including Miss Chase and they are all doing a full time job of work either in the Hospital or school. We are very fortunate with the staff we have here in Rhodesia and we do thank the Lord for them.

Progress during the year; A church and parsonage have been built at Senkobo, Northern Rhodesia and there is a resident African preacher, one new preaching place in the reserve near there. In Southern Rhodesia we have three new preaching places making a total of four new outposts in all.

One of the biggest upsets of the year has been the break-up of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. We now have African governments in both Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. This break-up means that all the missionaries are resident in Southern Rhodesia which is now a foreign country as far as N.R. is concerned and it seems very probable that the Kiersteads may have to move to the other side of the river. This has been fully discussed with the other missionaries and I would request your permission to make this move providing (a) We are able to let the Mission House at Victoria Falls and (b) We use the money from this to let a house in Livingstone. This does not involve any sale of property at this stage, also there will be no financial burden as far as the Board is concerned.

This year we have over 700 children in our day schools and over 1000 in Sunday School. We have in our employ 20 full time teachers including missionaries and we receive salaries for all these from Government. The Bible is being taught to all these children every day of the week including Sundays.

The gains in membership are rather small this year as some of our members have moved away and we have lost track of them. We have however many more in schools and Sunday Schools and we trust that these will bear fruit for the Master. We now have a full time Youth Worker Preacher Elis Moyo and we have groups at most of our churches. The African Young People need your prayers. Satan is putting in a great deal of overtime these days. It is hard for these young people to walk in the Light of the Gospel. Do pray for them.

We have now been granted a church site at Jambezi and we are busy putting up a temporary building for worship. The McCall church at Chisuma is complete and Dr. Emmett has been having good services the past few months. As I advised the board some months ago we have been asked to start work in a new area of Wankie some 40 miles from Bethesda as the crow flies and 70 miles by road.

We are still awaiting advice from the Board on this.

Our new figures for the year are as follows:

National workers 26
Active membership 242
Seekers 176
Children in day schools 813
Children in Sunday Schools 1027.

May we once again in closing say a very sincere thank you to our Foreign Mission Board and also the North American church for their unfailing support over the past year. We know that you have done all and even more

The King's Highway

MISSIONARY RALLY

Riverside Camp

Tuesday, August 11th

7:30 P.M.

Hear Rev. and Mrs. Paul Sanders
in their farewell message

SOCIAL EVENTS AT BETHESDA

I so often think that you people overseas just hear about our work and I have been wondering if you would like to hear a bit about our social times. We have been blessed with several extras this past month.

On May 23 we were all invited to a farewell "Barbecue" at Rev. Harold Kiersteads for Rev. and Mrs. John Price from the Pilgrim Holiness Church who were being transferred to the Republic. The barbecue was followed by a hymn sing and tea. The evening was closed with prayer.

During the following week we received a visit from two families from the Brethren in Christ church, Dr. and Mrs. Rue-Baker from U.S.A. They are retired missionaries out on a short tour of the field. The other couple was a Mr. and Mrs. Frisk from the same church who are teaching at the "David Livingstone Teachers Training College" in Livingstone. They are from Hamilton Ontario.

On June 6 we had a tea for the students who were being capped that night. Each student was allowed to invite two guests, and we had invited several friends from Livingstone. We served tea to approximately forty people.

Mrs. Phyllis Jones from Liverpool, England, is visiting her daughter in Livingstone. She was interested to visit a mission-station while here. So it was my privilege to entertain her in my home for four days. Her husband is the local secretary for the "Regions Beyond Mission."

We were all having tea at Mrs. Hudsons on June 7th. when a car drove into the yard. We were pleasantly surprised when we discovered there were three missionaries from the border between Northern Rhodesia and the Congo. One girl was a Miss Ross from Truro, N. S.; another a Miss MacDonald from Cape Breton and the third a lady Dr. from England. They were on holiday at Victoria Falls and when hearing we were so near they decided to come out. They couldn't stay long that afternoon but they came back on Tuesday for lunch. Since we all wanted to get better acquainted with our guests we all ate the noon meal together as it was the only opportunity the teachers would have to get to know them. When they had gone Cheryl said "Well it will likely be another six months before anything like this happens." And so likely it will be. These are not every day happenings at the mission but are some of the extra surprises He so graciously gives just when we need them the most. Uta Chase.

than is possible to support the work with your giving and your prayers and we can only pray that God will bless and prosper you in the new year even as we are sure that He will do the same here in Rhodesia.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Rev. Harold Kierstead.

(Note: This letter was written to the Foreign Mission Board but is of interest to Highway readers.)