

MUTANDA RIVER MISSION: FILE P (1)

"REPORT BY PRINCIPAL AND MANAGER OF SCHOOLS, MUTANDA"

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FOUND AND RETURNED TO MUTANDA RIVER IN JULY 1975

P. D. WILKIN

Items in the file are in reverse chronological order.

P. 1

24/4/52

Report for Pioneer on Educational Work at Mutanda
District, 1951-2.

If this were merely a statistical report, it would have to show a steady decline in all departments of the school work. We have had to close one village school this year through lack of African staff, and next year we may well have to close others. The number of teachers is yearly diminishing, as there are now so many other useful occupations open to boys leaving school. Less schools means less schoolchildren in the villages to feed the Upper School here at Mutanda, and so the whole thing becomes a vicious circle - less Upper School students, even less teachers even less schools, even less schoolchildren, and so on.

Then there has been a serious decline in our finances - funds are no longer adequate to pay ever rising costs of buildings, equipment, maintenance, salaries and so on. On top of all this we lack a trained worker to supervise and care for the 15 schools scattered over the remoter parts of this large Mutanda district. These schools are having to fend for themselves for months on end, without inspection or encouragement from the Mission.

But statistics are not everything, praise the Lord. Against this background we see over 40 professions of conversion amongst the Upper School students; a considerable number of backsliders restored to the Lord through the ministry of a village school headmaster who lived 80 miles from Mutanda; and on my recent round of visits to village schools I found that in practically all there was a good solid testimony for the Lord resulting in conversions amongst the children.

Some years ago God opened a wonderful door of opportunity in the schools of Kaondeland, and no man could shut it. If God Himself is now beginning to shut it, it is not for us to try and keep it open with schemes of our own making. The management of our schools will next year pass to the Local Education Authority, and our influence over the children will be somewhat less direct. But we believe that God, who has blessed the work in the years passed, will continue to use us to win the young people of Kaondeland for Himself.

P. L.

R4

1951

REPORT ON CONFERENCES AT MUKUMBI L. & FALAMYAMBO.

At Mukumbi L. the Conf. was held about half a mile from the school, about 70 people gathered, a few more men than women. Twenty-five at communion service. Three new Catechumens taken into class, no one baptized. The meetings were good and singing hearty. At the last meeting several confessed to come back to the Lord, and one young woman made a profession of faith for the first time. A man and woman, elderly, were taken back into fellowship after having been out for several years.

We went through the Church roll with the leaders and were pleased to see so many Church members were going on well with the Lord. Teachers John and Goodfellow, the latter especially, were a real help in the meetings. Diaz stood up to confess his 'mambo' He had taken his wife to her people intending to divorce her, and at the same time married another woman. This was in March 1950. From that time until school closed neither of the women lived with him. He never went back to the second wife but became reconciled to the first wife and took her back as his wife. The second woman died on the 30th. July after about two days sickness. He has continued as a Teacher all this time with no suspension. I cant recall that I heard he had married a second wife.

We went to Mukumbi by car all the way. The road is quite passable. 13.2 miles with a bridge about a mile from the Conf. place. A mile and a half from school I should say. The bridge gave way under the vanette and we built a new bridge with the help of the village people and some of the Conference people. The sticks for main supports should last for several years and would take a three ton truck I think. Cross sticks are good too but more need to be added to the motor road side of the bridge as the ground is soft even now.

Falamyambo Conf. seemed to be fresher than Mukumbi L. and good preparation had been made in the way of houses and paths. They had made a very good job of these. There were more people present, nearly 100 I should think. Twenty-six four were taken on as Catechumens. Oswell the Teacher was baptized. There were about fifteen at the Communion Service. Chief Musole was there and seemed very interested. Thomas Chinyama also was there and spoke one morning in Ni-Lunda. The Chief spoke to the people the last night and told them that he had gone away from the Lord for a long time but he had now come back and he wanted to serve the Lord faithfully, and they too should do this.

Regarding Oswell's baptism, altho' he has had trouble with his wife this year and considered a divorce, after having a talk with him I thought as a Teacher we should receive him. The beginning of the trouble was when she first became pregnant, he did not know of this. She was very bad tempered. It was easier to be patient with her when he knew her condition. I felt that if he was suitable to be out as a teacher he was suitable to be baptized, I

question if a person who is not a Church Member should be used as a Teacher, except Pupil Teachers.

Obed the Teacher at Kaindu has divorced his wife and married another. The first wife was guilty of adultery in November and in March. The new wife is hardly a Christian. She made a profession when he asked her to be his wife, and as a Catechumen he was certainly wrong in taking this woman without consulting any leader in the Church about her. He admits this but pleads ignorance and that whenever he has been as a teacher he has never had an elder with him to instruct him. I pointed out that that was rather a poor show for a teacher. He has been a catechumen since 1947. The Council in that part think it is unsatisfactory that the case of Obed should be dealt with by some suspension. The case of Obed has only now come forward as he has only recently married this other woman. He was justified in divorcing the other woman as she did not want him at all, but he should have married a recognized Christian woman. They did not press for any action to be taken with Obed but that he be put back a year as a catechumen.

Mukumbi L. School was visited on the morning of the 21st. Just for an hour. The floor of the school was clean but the walls were very dirty and badly need whitewashing. White ants were all over the the Misaba and into roof. The new class room a store was unfinished the roof not being trimmed and the big hole in the ground in front of the door not levelled up. The New house for a teacher while well enough built seems to have been dropped from the blue as it is in no line with other buildings and the corner sticks right out into the road and blocks the road. There were either seven or five boys in Sub. A. with one teacher, two boys in Sub. B with another teacher, and four in Std. III. with the third teacher. Stds. 1 & 2 meet later in the day. Total of 30 on the register. A very disappointing show.

Kaindu had 30 at school including two girls. They were very quiet and the whole place was very clean. Drill was in progress when I got there but it was an awful show, and finished up with confusion. They strolled instead of marched, and turned all ways. The building there was well done, roof well put on and thatching pretty good. Mukumbi school house had most of the bamboos on the rafters, about two feet at the bottom to do all round. About half the grass needed for the roof was there. Two men were supposed to be pulling schoolboys carry it in as it is far away. Kisasa teacher houses thatched and school should be about started with thatching now. Carpenter busy with frames at Kisasa and hopes to go to Kaindu soon.

Boarding School.

Larger stocks of food this year enabled us to accept more boys than last year. We have 48 boarders and 14 dayboys in the Lower School, standards III and IV, which caters for boys from our own outschools; and 115 boarders in the Upper and Normal School, which draws from 5 Mission Schools (including Luampa) and 4 Government Schools in 5 Districts. 38 boys will be sitting the Government Standard VI School Leaving Exam in May.

13 of the older boys are Church Members and 97 are enrolled in three Catechumen classes led by Mr Wright, Mrs Young and an African teacher. Two boys help in the Station Sunday School and several give Bible talks at their own Sunday afternoon service. Several of the station teachers take regular part in conducting Station Services.

Outschools.

16 outschools have an enrolment of 700 boys and 177 girls. Two schools have been closed during the year owing to poor enrolment and one new one has been opened in a new area. Numbers are ~~not~~ going down rather than up. School visitation was hampered by shortage of staff in the Boarding School which kept Mr Wright at the station all the first term. The position is easier now. The addition of Mr Fossum will greatly ease the situation once he has learnt something of the language and got into the work. We are looking forward to Mr Letchford's return in August to replace Mr Wright during his furlough.

A regular Gospel witness and Scripture teaching is carried on at all these schools, and at some real fellowship in the work between teachers and preacher is encouraging. We should like to see an even greater keenness on the Gospel in some of the teachers.

MANUSCRIPT OF LETTER TO P.E.O., NDOLA DATED 18/12/48

S.A.G.M. MUTANDA, REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL WORK 1948

Village Schools

There has been a serious falling off in attendance through the year. At the beginning of the year there were several schools with an enrollment of over 100. At the end of the year there was only 1. Reasons for this seem to be

- a) The novelty of schooling has worn off, and many children now find the demand for regular attendance irksome.
- b) Government sponsored movements of villages into 'streets' have left some ~~of~~ schools high and dry. It will presumably be necessary to move schools into these 'streets'.
- c) Except in one or two cases, the African attendance Kapekus have ~~be~~ been slack and inefficient.
- d) Teachers still maintain a regrettably low standard of performance. Higher academic and professional qualifications will not necessarily cure this - they need a sense of vocation and responsibility.

2. All Std III teaching has now been removed from the Mission Station to Village Schools (except that those who do not live within range of a Middle School board at Mutanda and learn at Mwelumuka). This decentralisation, desirable as it seems on paper, has not worked too well, partly owing to the failure of ~~xxxxx~~ schemes to feed village school children and partly due to the ~~x~~ lack of suitably qualified staff for Middle Schools.
3. The emphasis in handwork has this year been shifted from porridge spoons and wooden axes to building repairs and planned gardening. It is intended to restart lessons in carving, ~~xxxxx~~ pot, basket and (?) making when the ~~xxx~~ balance has been restored between this type of thing and the more strenuous and less popular types of handwork.
4. All village schools are now digging contour ridged gardens, and crops are to be planted in rotation. An agricultural refresher course was held during the year, at which the elementary principles of planned gardening were taught. School gardens are being regularly visited by the S.A.O. and African supervisors.

Upper Middle and Normal Schools

1. Examination results in VI were satisfactory, though 16 out of 50 failed in V, for failing to put their backs into the practical course.
2. 20 ~~xxxx~~ bags of millet and 2 of beans were grown this year. A further seven acres is now planted with Kafir corn, maize, beans, nuts, rice, and vegetables.
3. A number of boys who have completed the practical course found it possible in the long holidays to earn between £4 and £6 a month at carpentry and building work.
4. Candidates for J.T.C. are now required to cover about half of the Std V agricultural training.
5. The Schut Troop continues to flourish, and although membership is voluntary, over 90% of the school is enrolled. P. Letchford
Man. 10/12/48

WORK OF THE MUTANDA BRIDGE MISSION

1946

...mission with an enrolment of 1235 children.
...the new Middle School at Mutanda, which has
...from III to VI (boys only), and at present has an
...of 120, all boarders. Estimated enrolment next year
...

- (b) Special training is being undertaken at Mutanda this year for teachers of the Vernacular grade. 9, all male, are in training. The Elementary School at Mutanda, enrolment 220, is used as a practising school.
- (c) Total Mission teaching staff is: 2 of H.T.C. grade (Std. VIII), 10 of S.T.C. grade, 3 of Vernacular grade, 3 pupil teachers (all Std. VI), and 2 teachers in training, making a total of 27.

Development Plans

...teacher training only. Govt. proposes to dispense with
...training establishments, and to open five Primary Development
...in different parts of the territory. These centres will
...training for Medical Orderlies, Agricultural Assistants,
...and, later, Veterinary Assistants.

...Christian Council this year passed a resolution rejecting this
...as a for ruthless secularisation of teacher training, and
...found that it substituted a mere experiment for work of long
...and of proved value.

...rejected the resolution of the Council on the grounds that it
...the whole idea of rational development within the territory;
...measure of this charge the Christian Council feebly withdrew
...The matter was however referred to Edinburgh House,
...taken the matter up with the Colonial Office.

There is, however, no immediate prospect of this Development Plan
...into operation. The reason for this is largely financial. Of
...asked for by the N.Rh. Govt. from the Colonial Develop-
...in London, only £2,500,000 was awarded, and this has to
...years. Add to this the inevitable slump in the territory's
...which will accompany the inevitable decrease in the demand
...and it will be seen, inland revenue will not be the
...thing it has been during the war years. One is not surprised
...therefore that the Governor gave Mr. Suckling to understand
...if any part of the plan came into operation, it would be a small
...The implementing of the whole plan was quite impracticable. No
...was made of the Plan in the Governor's recent speech on post
...development. Chilibana Govt. Training School, which was to have
...to make way for the Development Centres, has announced that
...work of teacher training will go on as usual.

From all this I suggest we can infer that the Govt. plan will not get
...the White Paper stage, and that we can continue to develop our
...educational work along whatever lines we think best. In any
...the Kanda-Linda Province was expressly left out of the Develop-
...plan; so that if anything had come of it we should not have been
...affected. What then seems to be the most fruitful line of
...for our educational work?

3. Prospects for the future.

- (a) To occupy the area in force with as many village schools as we can staff, before the R.C.s or other heretics get their noses in.
- (b) To encourage teachers qualify H.T.C., to turn certain of these into Central Schools, taking Stds. up to IV.
- (c) To continue Mutanda for boys and at Bukinga for

Education for Girls at Mutinda:

Classes VI and V could be added to the existing school, and the training of Vernacular Teachers would be continued as long as the Government recognises this grade.

Education for Sixth Boys at Mutinda:

There are two main possibilities, (1) Teacher Training at E.T.C. level, and (2) Secondary School, Forms II, III and IV, up to Matric standard.

Of these, we unilaterally favour the second, Secondary Schooling, at any rate as a first objective. The reasons for this are:

- a) In coming days an increasingly limited number of boys will take up teaching as a career. We wish to maintain contact with as many post Std. VI boys as possible.
- b) If teacher training assumed any appreciable dimensions at Mutinda, boys would have to be sent away from the Mission station for practice, as the elementary school here could accommodate only eight or so. The main objective, that of keeping contact with post Std. VI boys, would thus be defeated.
- c) The average age of scholars is annually becoming younger. Std. VI boys will soon be too young to take teacher training, and a Secondary School would enable us to keep hold of these boys until they were ready for teacher training.
- d) The Government require that character be the primary recommendation for secondary schooling. This means that the spiritually worthwhile boys would be the most likely to enter secondary school.
- e) While it is our whole aim in undertaking higher education to keep the boys under mission influence as long as possible, there is a positive advantage in the boys doing some part of their training, say two years, in another setting. Other things we have no means of testing the reality and depth of their professions of faith. It must be recognised too, that from an educational and psychological point of view, the contact with people of other tribes and areas is of very great value and gives a greatly broadened outlook. Mr. Foster has asked for it to be recorded that in previous years, when D.C. pressed so hard for the starting of teacher training in Kaondeland, boys were leaving our schools after Std. IV, and we saw no more of them until they came back as fully trained teachers. Now however boys are with us for at least three years after Std. IV, and these three years make it a spiritual practicability to send them away for teacher training; especially as some will continue at Mutinda for anything from 2 to 4 years for Secondary School, even after Std. VI

It should be stressed that Secondary School and Normal School are not necessarily mutually exclusive. If Secondary School were started, the idea of a Normal School need not be wholly abandoned.

It is not yet possible to determine what Govt. grants would be forthcoming for this venture. It is reasonable to suppose however that they would give salary grants towards Europeans, and these would total 2500 per year, if given at the customary rates. Govt. might wait to see how the school "went" before giving other grants. If things came to the worst, we might even have to exercise some faith in the matter!

There is only one other Secondary School in Northern Rhodesia, the Govt. institution at Munsali. Mutinda would thus be the only Mission secondary school in the territory. In addition to Mr. John Wright, who is expected to join the staff here in September, one other European, a science graduate, would be needed.

14th March 1946.

REPORT ON THE EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE MUTANDA BRIDGE MISSION

1946

(a) 1000 schools with an enrolment of 1235 children.

(b) 1000 schools (and the new Middle School at Mutanda, which has standards from III to VI (boys only), and at present has an enrolment of 120, all boarders. Estimated enrolment next year 150.

(c) Special training is being undertaken at Mutanda this year for teachers of the Vernacular grade. 9, all male, are in training. The elementary school at Mutanda, enrolment 220, is used as a training school.

(d) Total Mission teaching staff is: 2 of H.T.C. grade (std. VIII), 10 of H.T.C. grade, 3 of Vernacular grade, 3 pupil teachers (all std. VI), and 7 teachers in training, making a total of 27.

Development Plans.

Govt. proposes to dispense with certain establishments, and to open five Primary Development Centres in different parts of the territory. These centres will be for training for Medical Orderlies, Agricultural Assistants, and later, Veterinary Assistants.

The Council this year passed a resolution rejecting this plan as a too ruthless secularisation of teacher training, and substituted a mere experiment for work of long and proved value.

The Council rejected the resolution of the Council on the grounds that it was against the whole idea of rational development within the territory. In the face of this charge the Christian Council feebly withdrew its objection. The matter was however referred to Edinburgh and the matter up with the Colonial Office.

The immediate prospect of this Development Plan is not bright. The reason for this is largely financial. Of the £2,500,000 offered by the N.Rh. Govt. from the Colonial Development Fund, only £2,500,000 was awarded, and this has to cover the inevitable slump in the territory's income which will accompany the inevitable decrease in the demand for copper, and it will be seen that inland revenue will not be the lucrative thing it has been during the war years. One is not surprised to learn therefore that the Governor gave Mr. Suckling to understand that, if any part of the plan came into operation, it would be a small one. The implementing of the whole plan was quite impracticable. No mention was made of the Plan in the Governor's recent speech on post war development. Chalimbana Govt. Training School, which was to have been closed to make way for the Development Centres, has announced that its work of teacher training will go on as usual.

From all this I suggest we can infer that the Govt. plan will not get beyond the White Paper stage, and that we can continue to develop our Mission educational work along whatever lines we think best. In case the Khanda-Lunda Province was expressly left out of the Development plan; so that if anything had come of it we should not have directly affected. What then seems to be the most fruitful line of development for our educational work?

3. Proposals for the Future.

(a) To occupy the area in force with as many village schools as we can staff, before the R.C.s or other heretics get their noses in.

(b) As various teachers qualify H.T.C., to turn certain of these village schools into Central Schools, taking Stds. up to IV,

(c) To provide higher education at Mutanda for boys and at Makindu

Recommendations for Girls at Mkinga:

It would be added to the existing school, and the regular teachers would be continued as long as the school occupies this grade.

Recommendations for Boys at Mutanda:

There are two possibilities, (1) Teacher Training at E.T.C. (2) Secondary school, Forms II, III, and IV, up to Matric.

We are decidedly in favour of the second, Secondary schooling, at any rate as a first objective. The reasons for this are:
(a) In the long run an increasingly limited number of boys will take up teaching as a career. We wish to maintain contact with as many of our Std. VI boys as possible.

(b) If teacher training assumed any appreciable dimensions at Mutanda, it would have to be sent away from the Mission station for training. The elementary school here could accommodate only a few boys. The main objective, that of keeping contact with the boys would thus be defeated.

(c) The average age of scholars is annually becoming younger. Std. VI boys would be too young to take teacher training, and a Secondary school would enable us to keep hold of these boys until they were ready for teacher training.

(d) The school should require that character be the primary recommendation for secondary schooling. This means that the spiritually worthwhile boys would be the most likely to enter secondary school.

(e) Our whole aim in undertaking higher education to keep the boys in the area as long as possible, there is a danger that the boys doing some part of their training, especially in teacher training. Otherwise we have no means of maintaining their professions of faith. It is a result of an educational and psychological process which the people of other tribes and areas is not likely to undergo as a greatly broadened outlook. Mr. Foster has reported that in previous years, when D.C. was starting of teacher training in Kaondeland, after leaving our schools after Std. IV, and we saw no more of them until they came back as fully trained teachers. Now however we are training for at least three years after Std. IV, and these boys would make it a spiritual practicability to send them away for teacher training; especially as some will continue at Mutanda for 2 to 4 years for Secondary school, even after

It should be stressed that Secondary School and Normal School are not mutually exclusive. If Secondary School were started, the need for a Normal School need not be wholly abandoned.

It is not yet possible to determine what Govt. grants would be forthcoming for this venture. It is reasonable to suppose however that they would be higher grants for Europeans, and these would total £600 per year at the customary rates. Govt. might wait to see how things went before giving other grants. If things came to the point we might even have to exercise some faith in the matter!

There is only one other Secondary School in Northern Rhodesia, the Gvt. school at Mwalali. Mutanda would thus be the only Mission secondary school in the territory. In addition to Mr. John Wright, who is expected to start here in September, one other European, a science teacher, would be needed.

SOUTH AFRICA GENERAL MISSION

on the Educational Work managed from MUTANDA BRIDGE
Station, for the year 1945.

CHIEF SCHOOLS: Since the opening of the schools in August, the number of children on the roll has gone up by as much as 100% in some schools, and by 50% in most. For this Chiefs Kapijimpanga, Mumbwa and Mukumbilubinga and their Attendance Kapasus must take a good share of the credit. Attendances have averaged over 80% and might have been higher but for the food shortage which began in the latter half of November.

All schools have been visited at least twice by me this term, and in general they seem to be maintaining a good standard

TEACHERS: The present shortage of trained teachers is expected to last for three years, until the boys at present in Std. VI at Mutanda have qualified. After that there should be a steady flow of material. The shortage is largely accounted for by the absence of the Kaonde and Lamba boys to 'stick it out' at Johannesburg.

There are boys doing their third year H.T.C. at Mutanda, and when they qualify will make a useful addition to the school staffs in the area. Another boy is in his first year H.T.C. at Chalimbana, and another will be entered for the course next year. It is hoped that a fair percentage of our teachers will be able to complete the H.T.C. course.

There has been made of qualified Vernacular Teachers and, as a temporary measure, of ex Std. VI Pupil Teachers. The helpful attitude of the latter, with regard to the latter has been appreciated.

Teachers have been suspended for 6 months for misconduct. The Dept. intends to follow out the recommendations of the 1943 report in this matter. Teachers so suspended will be offered reinstatement only if we are satisfied that their unreliability and irresponsibility do not extend to their work and character as a whole, as is usually found to be the case.

ENROLMENT: One new village school has been opened, at Chief Mumbwa's Village. The present enrolment is 140.

The Lower Middle School with Std. V and first year Std. VI was started in August 1945 with 31 boys and 2 girls.

Numbers in the Lower Middle School have gone up from 31 in Aug. 1944 to 83 in Aug. 1945.

A large number of new buildings have been erected this year. The new school, with a floorage of 3,200 sq. ft. was put up almost entirely by schoolboys. It has burnt brick foundations, cement floors and Barotse thatch. 10 new dormitories and other houses have also been put up this year. The Dept. of A.E. has co-operated by giving a 50% grant of £150 towards the cost of the school.

TEACHER TRAINING: A course for Vernacular Teachers has been started this year, and there are 9 men (no women) in training.

P. LETCHFORD.

Manager of Schools.