

Articles from *Echoes of Service* (Vol. 73, 1944) & Vol. 74, 1945) about missionary schools in the Beloved Strip (including the NWP) and educational policies

Vol. 73 (1944), Jan, p. 5

NORTHERN RHODESIA. Miss

A. R. Banning (Kalene).—I have been out on trek a week and have passed through twenty-one villages and there appears to be more interest shown than usual. One girl followed me as I left her village, saying she wanted to believe, but had not a cloth suitable to attend the meeting. I told her that the Lord took notice of her heart, and not her appearance.

To reach a chief's village we had to cross a plain carpeted with a marvellous profusion of blue and pink flowers and glistening reddish brown plants. Across the centre of the plain there is a jungle of brilliantly green trees, through which flows a dark silent stream; the edges of the jungle are lined with enormous palms. A herd of roan buffaloes were feeding in the far distance and great hawks were wheeling above

catching locusts, which were flying into the bush. The carriers of the caravan cast envious eyes at roan and locusts, for these folk are always meat hungry. It is in jungles such as this that the rubber is being collected for the war effort, and the leader of the caravan brought a branch to show me.

We passed a river where men were boiling and beating out the bark and branches, which is hard work, as it is being handled in a primitive fashion. When they told me how hard the work was, I reminded them that it would have been harder to go to the war. People with aches and pains came round my tent begging for injections and quinine, so I had a busy time at each camp handing out medicines and tying sores, and opening abscesses. A few patients, beyond the help of the camp medicine box, were given a note to go to the hospital for treatment. I have gathered the people together for simple hygiene talks and the women for midwifery lessons, which upsets many of their own theories.

I enjoy going round the huts to find the old and crippled folk, but how difficult it seems for them to take in the message of the Gospel! It has been encouraging to see the good attendance of children at each school, for many of them have to walk several miles each way. The teachers need much prayer for they are usually the only Christians in the village. Tracts were left at all villages for those who can read, and they have instruction to read them aloud so that all may hear. Several villages were completely empty, all the people having gone to camp by the rivers where the rubber vines are to be found.

Miss D. Wareham (Chitokoloki)

We are glad to have 110 girls in the boarding school this term continually under the sound of the Gospel, at least, during the weeks of school. When the holidays arrive all, except the forty orphan girls, return to their various homes, and then is the time of special temptation for them. It is easy enough to be "out and out" for the Lord whilst in the company of Christians, and living at a mission centre, but it is a very different matter when they are in their own heathen villages, and mixing with unsaved relatives. Pray for them, and also for the boys. There are about 400 boys in the school now, not counting the day-boys. It is always my privilege on Sundays to join about twelve women and spend the whole afternoon visiting the villages. For the past three weeks, we have had some large crowds gather together to hear the Word of God, although I fear many were quite indifferent to its claims. These large numbers were really congregated for drumming and dancing, but at our approach agreed to put their drums down whilst we had a short time with them. Last week the drumming and divining was over a sick man, and it made my heart ache to see

the poor man lying down at the mercy of the diviners, some of whom were his own relatives. The superstition of the people is very sad, and it is difficult to persuade them of the foolishness of such beliefs. The wife of the man mentioned above was wearing a small skull of an animal around her neck, and when I asked her why, she said, "I have a pain in my neck, and this animal will take it away." I tried to remonstrate with her that such a dirty skull had no power left to do anything, much less take away sickness, but she was adamant. The work is certainly great in this land, and the labourers few. We are glad to report an increased number attending the Gospel services on Sundays, especially amongst the women. Last Lord's day it was a joy to see an elderly woman and a man confess the Lord publicly by baptism. Afterwards they joined with us in remembering the Lord in His own appointed way. At the same time another man was restored to fellowship.

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N. RHODESIA. Mr. G. R. Suckling (*Chitokoloki*).—Mr. Reed's normal school students passed their examination for the Teachers' Certificate, and those belonging to our district are now out at their different centres as teachers and evangelists. Thirty-two boys passed Standard VI Government examination, the highest number in the territory. Four of them have been selected for secondary education at Government expense in a Government School at Lusaka.

Last month we had a very helpful Refresher Course for the teachers. Such occasions revive their zeal and increase their efficiency. It is always a special joy to meet the teachers from the out-schools and to hear of their difficulties and of their encouragements. One told us how his three young children had come to profess faith in the Saviour. He added, "I now

understand how they came to make their decision, as I see how the Christians here are praying for the children of believers." Another told about a Christian woman, who is a member of the chief's family amongst the Luvale, whose husband had mental trouble and was taken by his relatives to a witch-doctor for treatment. The doctor told the woman that she would have to take part in the healing ceremonies and must not return to her house as it was bewitched and she would surely die. She refused to do as the witch doctor said and returned home, with the result that the husband has sworn never to give her any more clothes, and all his relatives and even her own are ostracising her. Another woman was sick and her relatives wanted her to agree to their divining for her. When she refused on the ground that she would rather trust God than the diviners, they told her she could look after herself in her illness, as they would neither come to visit her, nor wait for her when she died. The God she trusted in could wait for her, but they would not. Though there is little active persecution of Christians in this part of the world such opposition and testing do have to be faced and we thank God for the grace that enables them to stand.

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Vol. 74 (1945), Jan. 1945, note

NORTHERN RHODESIA. Mr. V.C. Reed (*Chitokoloki*).—Last month the new school year began and we have more than ever attending. There are now sixty students in the Teachers' Training School. A new one-year course has been instituted, and this allows us to give some training to persons who are not of a very high academic standard but who, because they are Christians, can do very useful work in out-schools. Our daily Bible readings are proving of great interest. We were praying before school began that there might be a real turning to God on the part of the boys and girls right from the beginning of the term. God has graciously answered this prayer and from the first week some have professed conversion. A very noticeable thing this term is the high standard of the mid-week Gospel addresses which have been given by several teachers. They are young men who have finished their training within the last four years. They have given original and well thought-out addresses, presenting the Gospel in a logical, yet attractive, way. We are thankful to see such growth in them.

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another is a backslider, though he attends the meetings regularly. They have both used their influence to increase the number of children in the out-schools. One teacher had to ask the chief to desist as he already had eighty children in his beginners' class. Some of our young men, trained at Chitokoloki, have gone out to these schools, they are proving a help in the class work, as can be easily seen, we believe that they are also accomplishing something for the Lord in, what is to them, a new sphere of labour. We hope to have them in for a few days meetings at the end of the year, with their older fellow-teachers.

Mr. G. R. Suckling (Chitokoloki)

—We have been informed that our son Kenneth was killed in action in Burma on Oct. 27th. Our eldest son was killed in the Sudan in 1941. Kenneth was the youngest of three. He lived with us here for over a year before he felt compelled (having reached military age) to join up. Though he was too young to be looked upon as a missionary, during that time, he greatly endeared himself to the hearts of the people around. He was such a worker that he proved a great help to us in building and gardening but it was his kindness, thoughtfulness, and consideration for others that won affection on all sides. The sad news deeply stirred the Christians and villagers.

One of our most mature Christians, a man who has served us as a teacher for more than twenty years, has been chosen as the Chief Councillor for the Luvale Chieftainess Ndungo. I was asked to be present at the installation and it was instructive to see how these heathen headmen and even the chieftess herself, had felt compelled to choose an outstanding Christian for this high position. One headman summed it up well: "We have chosen you because you hear God's words and you speak with God." The position will be a very difficult one, and we ask prayer for Jelemiya.

There are over five hundred boys and girls in the boarding-schools. There is a large compound for teachers and their families and another for artisans and workmen with their dependents. There is the hospital compound with its constant need of plenty of water and then the much larger Leper Colony. There is the Compound of Compassion, where live the crippled and the aged and those afraid of being killed off as witches. There are already four European establishments and we hope there will soon be more.

Mr. H. T. Deubler (Mufulira).—The Lwena, Lunda, and Chokwa people are our special care, and though the results of the work have not been spectacular, some have professed to return to the Lord after years of backsliding, while a few have professed conversion and two have obeyed the Lord in baptism. For the baptism we

had to go to a little stream eight miles from the town, all nearer streams were either dry or polluted by the Mine workings. Three car loads of African and European Christians went out and a number of interested Africans from a near by village came to watch.

There is a regular breaking-of-bread meeting here now amongst the African Christians and a number attend, usually about twenty. They are of all tribes.

N. RHODESIA. Mr. C. R. Nightingale (Kalene).—Our school term ends on Friday and we have had the joy of seeing several of the children making a profession of faith in Christ. One of the local chiefs is a Christian,