

Solwezi disaster in May 1964: (Correspondence from 18th February through 6th July 1964)

Pre-disaster Mid-February to late April 1964: Solwezi and Travels

18th February 1964

Fulbright approval for another year. Today I heard from London and I quote the letter to you. "Dear Mr. Wilkin, I have heard today that the Commission strongly recommends that your award should be renewed for a further year. This recommendation is being sent immediately to the State Department for their final approval. This sometimes takes time, so do not worry if there is a slight delay in receiving final approval. I hope your work is still going well, and we are glad that the assignment is proving so mutually satisfactory. Sincerely, J.O.A. Herrington" (London)

My parents worry about my safety in Africa. By the way, I do believe that you folks love to worry. Remember, Africa is a big place. And, because there is trouble in the northern part of the Congo, it doesn't mean there is trouble here. That is like my worrying about you because there is trouble in Guatemala in Central America. While things may change by next October with political change from colonial rule to home rule, I am presently safer here than I was on the streets of Cleveland. In fact it reminds me of a small town in the USA as far as crime goes. Last October there was a car thief who stole a man's car and petrol out of mine when it was parked in a deserted part of the school yard behind an anthill. The whole village, African and non-African were all agog. Since then there has been little else to worry anyone, until last week when he came back from the Congo. The whole town was all agog again, as upset over a car thief as they would be in Linnville [Ohio]. Other crimes, this goes to show, are no worry at the present time. So, don't be silly, unless you enjoy it! As the Post Office in the country is being changed around and is not as efficient as it was, don't go chewing your nails if it takes a few days longer to get my letters. . . .

Religious activities at the school. Presently, I am working very hard with the youth group to learn new songs. They seem to enjoy them. Last week I preached on "Walking Along the Path" and compared the Solwezi-Chingola road to the Christian path showing how we get on and off it. Then, in the afternoon, we had our first outside speaker, a fine Christian man, **Mr. Mwondela**, who attends our little Solwezi church. He spoke on Paul and Timothy. The boys really enjoyed him. And it was good because we are limited on the adult Africans we can get to speak to them in English. The vernacular languages do no good as there are five or six languages spoken in the school, and English is the only universal one. . . .

23rd March 1964 (5 pp.)

I just looked at my calendar and discovered it has been two weeks since I last wrote to you. All has been very normal in Solwezi and I am in best of health. I have been busy as usual. I keep meaning to go through all your letters since December and answer all the questions you ask. But I just don't have time. . . .

One question you have asked me several times that I keep forgetting is when does my second year start and end. Realizing I still haven't received final verification of my contract, I am still planning on a second year. In fact, should I not get it, I think I would still ask N.Rh. to put me on the payroll until December of this year. Anyway, the second year would be 17 July 1965. The reason that all my correspondence is via London is because that is a sub-branch that deals on

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with appointees to the British Commonwealth Countries: United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom, London W1.

Anyway, back to Solwezi. Except for the monstrous amount of work, the school has run smoothly this term. The clinic has been fascinating and very educational. One interesting case that I should continue -- I think I started in the last letter -- was [Thomas] Samungole who was stung and whom I rushed to the Solwezi Clinic in pain. Anyway, he's all right, -- but my window that I broke getting there is still in the same condition!

By the way, right after I got you out the last letter, March 9th, I moved out suddenly from Bob's. Greatly surprised him and his cruddy household management. No more chronic diarrhea from Thomas's dirty hands. One thing Thomas made good bread, but that was about the extent of it. Anyway, I moved next door (in the same house) with my ex-worst "enemies"-- the Parry's who I quarreled with endlessly. Anyway, lately we became very good friends. And so here I am. I feel the arrangement will be mutually profitable if we all are careful and don't quarrel. I will buy all that furniture they don't want to take back to Wales in June (rugs, bedding, cooking utensils). Of course, the rest is Government supplied: chairs, table, bed, etc.. It has been grand as there is no place to buy that sort of thing. Also, I will (and most important of all) "inherit" their houseboy who is excellent. No more cruddy food. It has been grand. Also, they will benefit by having a place to live from May to June after they send back all the necessary things by boat.

My strong religious beliefs continue as shown in my teaching at this time. I am beginning to think I am more as a missionary than the missionaries. Despite the fact I am beginning to loath the word "missionary"; that is unless you take "missionary" be anyone actively working for the Lord. However, if you take it to mean preaching to the pagan, I am more and more convinced there is no further need in this remote part of N.Rh. Even the boys from the most remote bush are highly trained (taught) in the Bible.

I am now teaching the single period religious knowledge class to all the junior school (4 classes all on Monday [today] -- 120 boys). And also I am teaching 34 boys, or rather guiding 34 boys in senior school for their senior school G.C.E. examination. This is an optional subject, but one of 7 they can take and pass to graduate from secondary school (high school). This is over ½ of the upper two forms (grades 11 and 12). I am delighted so many are taking it. The only class I am presently not instructing is Form III (grade 10) which I had to put off and told them to wait. I couldn't teach any more until "Dear Mr. Nisbet" makes more time in my schedule. (We are expecting another master before vacation that starts 17 April.)

In Form One (grade 8) today we studied Jacob and Esau (Old Testament in this form). In Form Two we studied calling of the disciples, in Matthew, Luke and Mark. In senior school we are doing very detailed study of Luke, chapters 19 -- 24 for the next few weeks. I meet with the senior school class over two hours weekly.

Between the last sentence and this one, there has been a two hour break. I went up to school and helped plan our Easter Program for next Sunday. One complication is that I won't be here. The boys asked Bob to help them learn the songs and he is sour at me for their asking him. I'm afraid it's not starting well from that angle. But, anyway the boys are most excited. They are planning two services -- one for Christian Union only at (outdoor) sunrise -- singing, prayers and a short reading; and the other during the regular service to be composed of hymns and scriptures on the death and resurrection. Lord willing, it should work out well.

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Early April: Trip to Mwinilunga with Philip Muke – see also the pdf file just of this trip

I am taking the chance of vacation during the 4 ½ day Easter weekend and going out into the bush at Mwinilunga near the corner of Angola and Congo. [Philip] Muke (the fellow who travelled with me through Rhodesia at Christmas) is going to show me around as this is his home area. It is mainly the large Lunda tribe (very friendly, don't get any silly ideas). There are several interesting offbeat tourist things to see. And, also I want to get out into the bush and get a better look at the distant villages. It should be a thrilling and beautiful weekend, as I know we will meet many interesting people. Above all it is safe as travel at home. In fact, I'll probably be back before you get this letter. . . .

2nd April 1964 (2 pp.)

The trip to Mwinilunga was wonderful. This week, as usual, has been so busy I feel I can barely keep my head above water. . . . This will help us, I hope! . . .

I am sending you a copy of the Easter Service. [copy not saved] I worked very hard and had Bob's and Gwen (Parry's) help to get it ready. They felt it went very lovely. They [school boys] learned several new songs, such as "Christ Arose" and "The old Rugged Cross". We borrowed the piano from the home church and Mr. Nisbet in his usual forgetful way did not return it until today, so the Provincial Commissioner (PC) ("Governor" of the province gripped in person). While I couldn't care less what the PC (Provincial Commissioner) thinks, Mr. Nisbet's bad memory will be the end of us yet. You might be interested to note I more or less told the PC's wife off the other day when she wondered why we didn't help her plant flowers around the church (boma). I told her she was like Martha in the Bible always worrying about looks and not the real purpose of the church. She never bothers to attend except when the Anglican minister comes once a month from Chingola. She told me if it was not for the Marthas, the Mary's couldn't survive. HA! You would also be amused to note they finally roped me into attending one of their Anglican "eventides" and baby dedications. I was in misery. I felt like a hick farmer in the middle of a debutant ball! (HA) Anyway, I never made that mistake again.

Tonight I was up to school, looking at the stars -- very lovely. In fact, during a bright moon -- light night -- you can actually read by the moon. Two days ago I played a tape for the boys from a school in New York City that we are communicating with. I met the teacher at the hotel in London -- very enthusiastic young woman to teach in one of N.Y.C.'s "problem schools". Yesterday I received the shock of my life. I was up to school coaching the basketball team when Qwen [Parry] came up to school with the chap who travelled in South Africa with me, Jim Haynes, the real nerk who I finally left at Genadendal. He brought me some pictures I had asked him to take in Jo'burg. One thing for sure he has a fascinating life. He left Australia in 1962 and is now hitch-hiking north through Nyasaland, Tanganyika, Uganda, Kenya, the Sudan, Egypt and cross over to Europe. After that he hopes to re-cross Europe from G.B. through India and S.E. Asia back to Australia. One thing he has patience and nerve. One day he sat along the road 3 days before one car came who could give him a lift.

I'm getting tired and haven't even told you of Mwinilunga. A summary, more details later. Visited the Bible Training school for ministers in the vernacular Lunda language, Zambezi rapids, Zambezi source, Sakeji school for missionaries' children, Kalene mission, Ovimbundu tribe from Angola, crossed into Angola and visited chief Ikelenge village. Slept on the floor of Kalene

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Mission school two nights. Missionaries are fine Christians, but so blinded (not religion but what is happening). They gear their work to the old tribes, but the young men of today are not so tribal. I understand why all the boys are very anti-missionary, even the best Christians. God help them to wake up before they cause themselves to become martyrs.

16th April 1964 (2 pp.)

All is well . . . and I am very sorry it has been two weeks since I last wrote. I have been terribly busy and I had many exciting and time consuming things happen to me. In fact that is why I have delayed writing so long. I intended to make this a very long letter as my last were. However, I decided tonight that if I waited longer, for that elusive "time", I would never get it done. I will, however, attempt this long letter next week. First, a very brief summary. One, I have never told you about the **Mwinilunga trip** that was very educational and most fascinating. Second, after my return I had to make up for lost time at work. Third, I went down to Chingola and Kitwe the next weekend with our new master that just arrived two weeks ago, Mr. Hassan, from South Africa. And, of course, I had serious car trouble. I had two complete car breakdowns coming back. In fact we walked the last 7 miles to Solwezi at 2:00 AM in the morning. They went ahead and I started 30 minutes later. Thus, really, I had only to walk 4 miles and they the seven. One nice thing, the moon was very bright and I walked most of the way without a light. It was very beautiful and safe really. But, of course, I will give you all the facts in the next letter to scare you. As you should know by now, we don't have lions in Solwezi; you would have to go quite a ways from the centers of population to find such creatures.

Fourth, I had to try to get my car repaired and walked around Solwezi for over a week. (Just got it finished a few days ago, and still have major repairs . . . My car has literally fallen apart under me. Man! do I ever hate Morris Mini Minors! And, if I ever get rid of this car, I never want to see another. Back to good old Volkswagen for me. I have seat belts by the way. Got them last vacation.

Fifth, our school closed three days ago, on Monday. It closed three days earlier because of a new holiday, "Africa Day" and because the stupid principal as usual forgot the day, he had planned to dismiss the students on a day when no busses leave Solwezi. Thus, he had to move it up another day at the very last moment. Of course I didn't mind the early vacation, but it threw every plan I had to the winds. Ruined my last day library party, final exams etc.. Thus, we are at the moment **on vacation until May 20**. As soon as you receive this letter stop sending mail to Solwezi. I will have left for the trip by that time, although I can still get mail for a while as the Parry's will forward it to Salisbury. . . . I have not received my South African visa and no-one can ever predict if you will get one. Anyway, I'll notify you as soon as I can get the correct address in SA. My first port of call will be the man-made wonder of **Kariba Dam** again. This will be next Tuesday, April, 22. I will have with me the new teacher, Mr. Hassan (Coloured/Indian) who is a very pleasant chap, but already very homesick for all his old friends; we all feel very sorry for him. Also, as I may have told you, I sponsored a library reading contest to encourage the reading of books for pleasure. Thus, I will take along two very fine chaps. Both, fortunately, some of the best students in the school and the finest Christians. After that we will go to Livingstone and the falls again, they will be now at their greatest height. After this I will bring them back to Lusaka and probably back to Solwezi as it appears I must return to take care of

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business before going on. If the visa comes through, I will get into **Salisbury May 1** and then go to Johannesburg, then into Portuguese East Africa (PEA) and see the beautiful city of Lorenzo Marques. If I do not get the visa, I will still go to Salisbury, but stay there longer and go into Beira, another part of PEA **[all cancelled after tragedy]**.

Anyway I must close soon as my paper is running out, and my time, too. Tomorrow at 5:30 (9 hours hence) I must get up and go with a student and Mr. Hassan to Chingola to get my car repaired and ready for the trip. Then I have to return on Saturday night and pack for my trip which, as I told you, will start on Tuesday.

Anyway, I've saved the best news till last that I knew you would enjoy it the most. Last Sunday was a high point in my work as a Christian here. As I said, I have a chance to meet and work with more important people who will run the country literally in a few years that ever they do, and also do not have to worry about translators or other worries. Anyway, we had five boys baptised last Sunday. And, remember, the school is only 200, and many are already Christians. I thought this quite wonderful and felt you would most be delighted to hear such news. . . . [These] were the first baptisms that had ever been held by the local ministers (Africans) for the school boys.) Anyway, as I was saying, to top it all off, I have spent my last three days giving 4 to 6 hours daily religious instructions to our seniors who wish to take religious knowledge as an examination subject. Believe it or not 10 stayed over the first three days of vacation to do the work we had to do to catch up in the subject. Of course, their first purpose was an examination, but also it was a blessing to study God's word with these boys who, as I tell you, know it better than many adults in America. The nice thing we left all our past ideas out we had indoctrinated with and just looked at Luke with a microscope. What a blessing and how revealing, you should try it some time.

29th April 1964, Salisbury (3 pp.)

Truly the Lord has been good when I look back and [over] the year and see the great things He has let me partake of. 12 months ago was just previous to my car being wrecked [in Newark, Ohio]. Things had gone wrong endlessly it seems. But, then, suddenly from the hardest to the best year of my life. If I had this year to do over, **I would do it exactly as I have done.**

To think that I would be standing in Salisbury in a plush and lovely hotel, would have been too good to dream of this time last year. It still seems like one mass dream. Here I am in Salisbury for the fifth time again at the Jameson Hotel and just finished [a] supper fit for a king. I told you at an earlier date that I made (including money for fares over between \$9,000 and \$10,000) -- quite good for a teacher. While I haven't saved a lot, I feel it is important to do my travelling now as I am free to enjoy my free time. Besides this I pay lower taxes than before. Besides all this to think I have travelled the world and met many fascinating people. **TRULY THE LORD IS GOOD.**

Anyway, down to details. Last weekend, as I told you, in my plans, I went to Livingstone.

Now it's morning and I'm just ready to leave for **Zimbabwe Ruins** and the SA border. By tomorrow noon I hope to reach Jo'burg. A young chap at the school is going along. This was to have been a long letter, but the food was too good and I fell asleep. I will try to write from Johannesburg. . . .

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[May 1964: Tragic death of three teachers: the effect on the whole of SSS

6th May 1964 Durban (2 pp.) Tragedy

Been waiting for days to send you a long letter about my trip. Planned to do so tonight but got the most terrible news today I could get except for injuries to you each or Danny. Three people travelling north from Livingstone back to Solwezi were killed and three in the other car killed. I read a description of the accident and people in the Durban paper (2,000 miles away) and, immediately, even though names were withheld, I recognized them. I just about had a nervous breakdown until I finally got a hold of myself. I made three calls north and sadly it was them. They were my best friends in Africa (or among the best). [Abe Hassan] The one coloured chap had just joined us few weeks ago and rode down to Livingstone with me and the two school-boys. The other two (man and wife) I have also spoken of -- both from England (John and Angela Nash). Wonderful people, all of them. To quote Shakespeare: "They were too full of human kindness." (Macbeth) I was shocked beyond words. Tomorrow I will head back. But, it is at least a three day's journey driving safely. The Nashs had a sweet little girl (2 years) who is injured. (The only one in both cars to survive; don't know others in other car.) Besides, Angela Nash was 6 months pregnant. We don't understand these things. The tragic thing was the Nashs were anything but Christian. Yet, all dedicated to helping others. So tragic.

Well, I don't feel like saying anything about the trip now. Will next week when I write. I'll be careful going back -- don't worry. Please, understand if I don't have much time to write. My work will be heavier than ever. . . .

10th May 1964 (2 pp.)

I am at the Ridgeway in Lusaka, a lovely hotel. "My sad heart aches till it nearly breaks" to quote the song. I, as you know, I have had friends, relatives die, but never like this. These all young, all three my closest friends. We made plans together, lived together, worked together, etc., day by day and moment by moment.

I travelled on Thursdays (7th) and Fridays 1350 miles with Clive Inman, but he can't drive. I travelled carefully, and I am tired but alert. Yesterday I was at Choma where they are all buried and talked to everyone possible. Last night I called Cape Town to talk with Abe Hassan's brother direct. (I have paid out over \$30.00 in phone calls already.) As soon as I eat breakfast, I will head for Kitwe where I may stay or head back for Solwezi. The distance is minor now after that cross-Africa journey two day ago (as far Ohio to Utah).

I am in excellent health. I want to get back to Solwezi to make sure Mr. Nisbet doesn't do something foolish before I locate John's papers on English and History. There is no one to teach the seniors in English history, literature, religious knowledge, or geography except me. . .

11 May 1964 (6 pp.)

I am now back in Solwezi and don't really know where to begin amidst all the disorder and tragedy. Somehow as I wrote you the letter in Salisbury, my last place of rest and in the lap of luxury, I felt something was going to happen and the Lord was preparing me to withstand something horrible but I didn't know what. While my life has been and still is wonderful, the

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terrible agony of any experience like this has to be felt to be understood. Only a person who has lost a father, mother, or children or close friends can understand.

I have twenty minutes more and I am not going to tell about the trip or details of the accident as I won't have time. Instead, I want to deal with things, some unanswered in your letter or so brought up. . . . I had purchased some lovely things in Livingstone but you will never see them as I had given them to the Nashs to bring back. Although they were solid and endured the crash, . . . I told the police to leave them with their belongings as their relatives wouldn't know and could consider them as final remembrances. . . .

By the way, a sore spot of people all over this country, and Africa and myself, for which you as a typical person constantly blunder on in your letters. Stop referring to Africa as a country. It's like saying we live in the country of North America. Rhodesia (Northern) will be a complete country. The continent of Africa is twice the size of North America (almost). From Durban, where I was when I got the bad news, is almost two thousand miles away. And if you look at a map, it's only a short distance when you consider the whole continent.

My health and weight. My health lately has never been better in my life. My weight has leveled off to a steady weight of 165 lbs. from 175 lbs. when I was in Cleveland). I am exercising constantly. A fat person here (except for heavy drinkers) is a rarity. . . .

[I raise the issue of possible pen pals with young men in the school. Here are some mentioned.]

- a. Freddie Kaweza -- Form V (grade 12): interests football (soccer), music (singing), table tennis.
- b. Philip Muke -- Form V -- track, football (soccer), music (singing), photography
- c. Julius Malikinya -- Form IV -- hobbies -- music, football (soccer), reading
- d. Oliver Tindi -- Grade 8 -- a real linguist speaking, I believe 6 languages, about the best in school

The first two are as solid Christians as you could find anywhere. The second has been the one to travel with me. Wonderful young men. . . .

16th May 1964 and also 21st May (8 pp.) [combined letters]

I'll commence a letter on all the past month's happenings now and try to finish it later tonight. I am now in **Lusaka**, as you can tell at the comfortable "Ridgeway" -- cost \$ 5.60 for bed and breakfast! I'm still living high. HA. This is my third time in Lusaka on this rather odd vacation. I just received word last Wednesday in Solwezi that I have formerly been appointed to N.Rh.[**Fulbright**] until the end of July 1965, which quite delighted me. In fact, had I not been offered, I would have gotten a contract from NR Government and stayed anyway.

. . . . it is getting "cold" here (never below freezing) but without any heat it seems chilly. Also, all rain has stopped and none expected, whatsoever, until October. . . .

21 May 1964: Solwezi (continued on same paper)

Well, I was 500 miles away in our capital city, Lusaka. Now I am back now in my bush home of **Solwezi**. I went out for supper to visit and met the government head of the new adult literacy campaign, . . . 2/3 of the adults in the land are illiterate. [text now illegible] . . . Old customs and mores are being forgotten and Christianity in this time of world crisis and lowering morality

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can't fill the gap. . . . I had a lovely evening and am finding myself getting involved in this new [literacy] work.

More and more I am having to stand on my own two feet and lead. I love to teach, but have always abhorred and ignored or sidestepped leadership positions of decision making. While I have had to take great responsibility, I have really "grown". One side effect, however, is as the events of my last trip show -- I'll tell you about them if I ever get time -- I am getting set in my own ways. I guess I'll have to remain a bachelor as I don't think any woman could get along with me . . . HA

Well, once again back to the main topic. I was in Lusaka until [this morning] (17th). This had been the third time on the trip I had been in Lusaka, in case I am getting you mixed up. I had gone there after returning to Solwezi and organized, or rather started to reorganize plans after the tragedy. . . . Anyway, my trip down had been costly, as my lemon of a car always had been. I had spent a day on the way in Kitwe with the Wallace's (our ex-Solwezi teachers) and visited Jones Banda, my old friend. (Incidentally he is taking over a very responsible position in the Government.) I always have interesting things happen when I see him. This was no exception. He took me to N'dola to meet a young lady whose parents used to live in Solwezi (Mr. and Mrs. Dodsworth) to discuss the possibility of riding to Salisbury and coming back with Bob. This [idea of] going to Salisbury I decided against and returned to Kitwe with him.

[Jones was travelling so he could sort out becoming] . . . the national government representative of Fort Jameson area to the legislative, . . . (equivalent to one of our senators.) Anyway, the next day, -- Friday night, I left for Lusaka . . . When I got back to Kitwe, the Wallace's met me and took me to the **Kitwe Agricultural Show** which was very nice. It was like one of our "fairs". Somewhat bigger than Lancaster and smaller than Ohio State. "Ohio" popcorn was sold which made me laugh. And, then to top it all off, I went to the road safety film. It was a film of the Ohio State Patrol and the problems (bloody) of the horrible accidents on roads (good) in which people travel too fast. This is also our problem here, . . . But, it was hard to believe seeing a film in NR which showed all scenes of roads and accidents in Ohio, of all places. It seemed funny seeing people drive on the right again and not on the left and seeing the steering wheel on the "wrong" side, as they would say here.

I left Kitwe on Monday morning -- school started on Tuesday as I believe it was Whit Monday which is a national holiday here. I arrived back safely to Solwezi. I picked up a student in Chingola. I feel much better if someone is along on the road in case of car trouble. There is no worry about personal injury if stranded, but, if I would have to leave the car with many things in it, they would all probably be gone upon my return to it, as it would too much temptation for such desperate poor people to resist.

Anyway, this week has been one of the vast reorganizations first of classes and then of usual things such as the library. (I had begged, borrowed, bought, but didn't steal . . . 150 new books for the library many of \$10 value.) Next week we are supposed to get a new master and I hope and pray he comes. At the moment I have stopped worrying about all other forms and am helping the Form V's, which can ill afford to miss any class, if they are to pass external exams and graduate. I am teaching them this week in history, geography and R. K, . . . fortunately we are reading Macbeth . . . there are endless numbers of slight differences in English English and American English. Hope all can be more normal next week. . . . Cold weather is with us. . . .

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However, at the moment, I have only a tee-shirt ("vest" as they say) and short sleeved shirt on, as it is warmer tonight. And, tilley lamps have a tendency to put out considerable heat.

Likewise, . . . Men are starting to burn the high grass to keep it from catching fire at a later and more dangerous time when it really gets dry. A large bush fire is quite an awe inspiring to see. .

31 May 1964 (2 pp.)

" . . . It will only be a few more days until I will have been out of the U.S.A. one year. . .

We were sent a new master at the beginning of the term -- two weeks ago and he promptly left two days later-- couldn't stand the bush. . . . We now have a new master from Scotland to teach English (came last week) with five children. Very nice chap, . . .

This weekend seems to have been one of endless work and injuries (for the students). I have been marking senior school note-books in R.K. . . . These exams expect them to know Luke and Acts very well. . . better than I know them myself at the present . . .

Anyway, another school came to Solwezi to compete in sports and we lost most matches. One boy broke his arm in football and one of the other team got sick last night. And, at 1:00 AM today I had to get out of bed and take him to the dispensary [in town]. It was minor, . . .

24 June 1964 (2pp.)

I had a busy but enjoyable day as two friends came up from the Copperbelt and I had a library party Saturday night. Sunday we went to Mutanda Mission to have a picnic, conference and see the folks (28 miles from Solwezi). I planned a picnic for seven and had 6 for dinner Sunday night (buffet style). I'm quite pleased with my achievement. Anyway, about 5:00 AM Monday I started with diarrhea, and by 8:00 AM I was empty, weak and sick. I taught part of the morning, saw my friends off. But, by night was the sickest I can recall in my adult life. I really had dysentery (fortunately not amoebic). Anyway, yesterday I stayed in bed, but the crisis was over and today I half stayed in bed and finally taught a few classes. By tomorrow I should be back to power again. Anyway, this was my first trial at tropical illness. I take daraprim regular to avoid malaria. . . . Had it been serious, I could have been [moved] to one of the world's more modern hospital in Kitwe, which is beautiful.

Pressure on teaching has let up as we have received these new masters. I am not quite as enthusiastic as I was about the great classes, as the work quality has not been high as I found last year (or so I think at this stage). Also one class has given me some trouble. Discipline here is not by individuals as in Cleveland, and is rare but when it comes it is big and by the whole class.

Anyway, I'm still keen on another year and in late July I should receive \$3,000 as part of my salary next year.

6 July 1964 (7+1p.) Post disaster events

I will try tomorrow to make a tape recording of my hazardous trip back April. [Some details of the sad deaths and the child.] The grandmother came out from England to get the little girl, but there is a terrific court case on who should get her -- the wife's parents (who we feel should) or the husband's parents (who came out to get her).

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. . . I have really made a mess of the pen pal problem. I will check on again on who would like a pen pal. The trouble I have found out is what you have found out with your girls. They are too "girl-crazy". As no girls are around Solwezi with any education, they crave to hear from or to write to them anywhere else in the world. Also I don't just like to send you any old name for a pen pal. . .

I recently signed my [Fulbright] contract. Next year I will make \$4,500 salary, have \$2,000 expense allowance and get \$1,000 in my Cleveland Teachers Credit Union account. Total about \$7,000 to \$7,500 (\$5,000 taxable). Quite good I feel, considering they will pay all travel expense allowance back to America besides. Also will pay \$200 for shipping extra clothes and materials collected here. . . .

This is a long weekend, as Monday and Tuesday are National Holidays. What for, I don't know. As I probably told you last Monday and Tuesday, I was in Kitwe seeing the doctor for complete physical and complete tests. All seemed well according to him. He felt I should be in good shape provided I don't have any more bouts with dysentery. At any rate I haven't done much teaching lately with holidays and sickness!

I'm not quite sure what I'll do in my month long mid-August to mid-September holidays. I may go to Salisbury to rest, and possibly make an extension to Kruger National Park and Swaziland, and Lorenzo Marques, or I might just make a shorter extension to Beira. My car is really [becoming] "a hunk of junk" to quote Sis. Brooks [in Cleveland, Ohio]. Bush roads . . . have really wrecked it. I never want to see another Morris-Mini or rather own one in my life again.

I am now (for two weeks) am sporting a goatee. I like it very much despite the fact it makes my face look longer and older. My weight is stable at 160. The climate is healthy provided you can miss the germs and parasites! I'm serious, you really fall in love with it.

Last Friday I made a step I have long considered. I more or less adopted (unofficially of course) a young chap [Samson] whom I had observed a long time as a bright and a likable boy. Probably 17 years old. He has had a third grade education, but speaks good English. His chances of ever getting a further education were nil. So if he keeps me company and from getting lonely now that I have lost many good friends, he will certainly be worth having him around. It will also be interesting how he responds to new chances at learning. [One typed page of the Christian Union's Youth Conference was included in the original.]