

Balovale (Zambezi): 15 Jan. 1965–15 April 1967

Important note: These letters end one year before I left Zambia in early 1968. The file for the last year is missing.

8 Jan. 1965 (1 p.), David to Mom/Dad [after my surprise trip to Ohio in Dec. 1964]

Have safely arrived in Nairobi (yesterday AM). Good journey thus far. The weather and climate of Nairobi are wonderful. Like a cool spring day both day and night.

Visited downtown London on our 12 hour stop. Rather cool there and also in NYC (2 hour stop), but no snow in either place.

Am planning to proceed to Ndola and Zambia this Sunday morning (10th) although I could wait until Mon. P.M. Will go sightseeing the city of Nairobi in ½ hour.

10th Jan. 1965, Kitwe (2 pp.), staying with Geoff Iredale at Mindolo

You can consider me safely home. I am staying until Tues. morning with my friend, Geoff Iredale in Kitwe and on Wed. will head to Balovale. Won't have a chance to write until Balovale. Anyway, the trip went well. I left Nairobi (Kenya) on Sat. 9:00 AM instead of Sun. AM due to a plane mix-up. The trip was long compared with jet travel I had had up to that time. It took 5 hours with a stop in Dar es Salam, the capital of Tanzania (Tanganyika). Nairobi has a wonderful climate and I went on two tours. One of the city and one of the game park. Saw and photographed 8 lions in the park. There were so many tourists around it's a wonder that they did not get carbon monoxide poisoning. Anyway, I was bored on the game park trip as it reminded me of a glorified outdoor zoo. . . .

15 Jan. 1965, David to Mom and Dad: [Move to Balovale]

Arrived in Balovale yesterday mid-day. Had a safe and pleasant journey, but the last 100 miles of road are bad and I don't intent to attempt the trip in my car until April again. The place here is as lovely as I have described it -- indescribable really -- the view from my [bedroom] window to the river in this wet, hot, green season is enough to remember through one's whole adulthood.

The first two days (yesterday and today) have been hectic, as expected, but I have taken them calmly and passed off as a joke any impossible calamities that have happened. For example, we won't get desks for the boys to sit on until after one month after school opens. I am pleased the major necessary items are here and my planning for them at least passable -- other than desks.

21 Jan. 1965, Balovale (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Airmail must go in a few minutes or not go until next Tuesday. All is well. School has started and we are short a teacher out of four which is hard. Also, it is very hot this week as it hasn't rained since last Saturday -- about 85°F.

However, Balovale has great compensations. The people are very friendly and the view is lovely. Also a 17 room house is rather interesting although hard to keep going even with Joseph and a garden boy working full time.

We have fresh fruit galore! mangoes, guavas, etc., etc..

Will go to Chavuma to get bananas and pineapples this Saturday.

31 Jan. 1965 (Balovale, 4 pp.), David to Mom and Dad Also see sketch of **house layout elsewhere**

Haven't really had a good chance to write you before, but nothing has been wrong. All is well. I am now well settled in at Balovale. The home and school are now starting to settle down to regularity.

The headmaster's home and surroundings

Balovale is indeed the loveliest place (by far) that I have ever lived. I have set the desk, where I am writing now, in the living room and every few seconds look over the river and river valley. The river is starting to flood and the valley will be covered in another month. Also out in front are orange and mango trees. Mangoes were out in full when I arrived and are now just about gone. They look like an elongated peach with a hard pit like a peach, but much harder (firmer), and the flavour reminds one of the combination of an apple and a peach. To the west side of the house (outside my west bedroom window) are paw paws which ripen slowly year around and taste closest to an unsweetened but not sour musk-melon and a guava trees (look like ?, but tastes slightly like ??? (can't think of a comparison). Also a large tree with flowers like orchids only brilliant orange. The oranges and lemons won't be ripe until the cool, dry season, but are now forming. I'll try to send you some slides next month.

The house is an older style (45 is old for this country, especially a wood frame as white ants (termites) are impossible to hinder -- they are everywhere and even in places where there is brick made with straw). The living room was too big with the furniture, so I used my cabinet (from Solwezi) and the bookcase as a room divider. One part is the living room and one part the library / study. It has worked quite well. Mrs. Firth was an immaculate housekeeper and flowers surround the house. (The front yard that slopes towards the river has four terraces.) My bedroom faces both the south (river) and the west as I mentioned. Samungole's bedroom is at the other end of the living room across (opposite) from mine and is small, but probably one of the nicest rooms in the house. We have a large guest room, dining room, toilet. shower room, bathroom, large enclosed terrace, kitchen, ironing room, large store room and five others that lie unused--a total of 17 if I haven't forgotten any.

The school and staff. At school things have been very hard as many supplies have not arrived. For example desks, -- imagine the difficulty! Luckily books have arrived -- except Bibles and exercise books for Science and English. Things could be worst, but on the other hand a lot better.

The staff consists of myself, (teaching 26 periods and headmaster); Thomas Samungole (pupil teacher but teaching 30 periods); Mr. Kakwisa (teaching 14 periods of woodwork and also boarding master); a school clerk, Jonas; three labourers; a school cook; and a school truck driver. Another difficulty we only have a truck a couple of days a week, a hard situation here. I teach maths (don't laugh); religious knowledge and geography. Well, I'm tired. I'll draw you a sketch and quit.

6th Feb. 1965 (4 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

All is well [as usual] in Balovale. Almost one week has passed since I last wrote. Got your last letter in slightly less than a week. It must have made all the right connections. A lot has happened.

Tell Dad when I was in Chavuma two weekends ago I bought two strings (bunches) of bananas for a total of 48¢ and pineapples from 4 ½¢ to 8¢ each depending on their size. Meat costs 20¢ to 30¢ a pound although the quality is never really high. It is merely just hacked apart rather than cut

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

properly. An ear of corn costs 1¢ and mushrooms which we have abundantly several days a week about 4¢ for a bag. But, Lord help you, when you import other things -- it's a contrast between unbelievably cheap and expensive. Things, in this whole country, are cheap that are dear in America and vice versa. As machines are dear and labour cheap and abundant, we have the 15 to 20 acres at the school cut by hand -- meaning slashing the grass down with a curved metal piece -- not any form of mower.

The river outside my window is slowly rising. Quite lovely. Each day the trees sink lower into the water and each day the boat across has to travel further. Quite a lovely sight as the sunsets and sun downs cover the area and small boats are the only objects to break the tranquil picture.

This past week I have spent trying to add a library of sorts, game room (ping-pong, darts, Monopoly, etc.), and "culturize" the boys. I realized that while they would be bright they would be "bush" and indeed this is correct. We have had to teach them how and what toilet paper is this week. One wonders how much better they would have been under a little more favourable conditions.

Yesterday PM four of the five top Government officials (called ministers) in the Ministry of Education, Lusaka, flew up to see the local manager of school for the primary department and myself and the school. I ended up chauffeuring them about in my Volvo as they did not have good Government transport locally -- either the trucks and official cars were broken, out of the township, or non-existent. In fact I constantly reiterated our crying need for a school truck. I have had to do everything except get firewood in my car.

We will get a half-time teacher as of next Tuesday which greatly relieves me. She is a graduate (college) and well qualified. She is the wife of a local missionary. Also, desks arrived yesterday, so we are much better equipped. All this makes work much easier. Life here, despite problems and patience, is easy going and slow. When you go to Balovale, you feel as if you are in a frontier city at the end of the world. "Good old general stores like Grandmother knew, is the rule." Of course, one has to have patience and a good sense of humour, or he would soon go mad. And, I am slowly learning the value of these two things.

Despite problems (not political), in short, I am happy and love it.

Mon. 15th Feb. 1965 (5 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Yesterday went very slowly as it rained very hard -- 8 hours without stopping at all . . . Thus, I read and wrote the whole day -- church not even held. It was raining too hard to get there. (No paved roads, remember.) Planned to write you in the evening. But, after ten letters was too tired of writing.

A lot of events last week besides the usual events of rising water (very beautiful), inches of rain, teaching duties, household duties, etc.. All these things are becoming more regular and life here moves slow --that assumes you are patience personified. When anything runs out you wait for two weeks (if lucky) or if unlucky until the holiday in April. I amaze myself at the things I am able to do that I thought I had no talent for -- carpentry, masonry, radio and tape recorder repair, etc.. One nice thing is you don't have any pressure on you to get things done, except your own sense of duty in knowing what should be done in running a school. Frankly, the lack of pressure is rather hard to get used to after all these years -- even Solwezi.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Anyway, on to the more unusual events -- only time to tell of one and that is plenty. I'm sure you'll think. Last Wednesday at 5:00 P.M. I thought I was dying! No joke! I thought I was seeing one of my last days. No! No murderer or riot or such. I know now I had a serious chemical food poisoning from mushrooms (or rather a toadstool in the mushrooms).

In looking back I think it's all a good joke for the future. So don't go preaching about my health or I won't tell you anything in the future. Second, if I give you the details, don't ask me why I didn't let you know back in Newark, Ohio. If you are urgently sick, you don't go sending telegrams to Newark, Ohio 10,000 miles away -- especially knowing they may not arrive until you're perfectly well -- as in this case -- Ill (desperately) on Wednesday and completely well on Friday.

Food poisoning. Anyway, the fascinating details on the near decease of David Wilkin. At 4:00 a.m. Wednesday (10th February) I woke up very sick in the pit of my stomach. Finally pain subsided and I went back to sleep. -- Again, at 5:00 -- same result -- got up as usual at 6:00 a.m., shaved, dressed, opened up the clinic and came back at 7:00 for breakfast -- wham -- very sick again -- told Sam to take [school] assembly. Went back to sleep, up at 8:30; started to school Wham! and now worse than ever. Back to bed and sleep. Same result at 11:00 only worse and then at 1:00 really bad. Told Sam to go for nursing sister (name for registered nurses, not Catholic). Joke was car broken, school truck broken, refrigerator broken and not even a bicycle. (All working now.) Pouring, and so he ran two miles to hospital. Doctor Bwanausi was in Copperbelt. So, the nearest doctor was Dr. Worsfold at Chitokoloki Mission, on 40 miles of absolutely terrible roads. Sister brought ambulance (given to hospital by American Government at Zambian independence). Away we go. -- SICKER, SICKER, AND SICKER, AND SICKER. Thought I had appendicitis despite pain in wrong place -- no temperature. Most amusing now, but not then. I wrote your address and Danny's and told of Will and even where to bury me here in Balovale! Thought I had had it! Do thank God for His love and care. Doctor was in a village, but came in and about 5:00 p.m., looked me over, and said appendicitis was out! I told about my mushrooms and he said "yes" -- food poisoning: a shot of morphine and to bed. -- Couldn't even keep water flavored with orange down.

Very weak, but felt better by morning. Stronger by Thursday night and Friday fine.

So goes the story of P. David Wilkin. Very thankful but not worrying about future. *Que sera sera* (whatever will be, will be), won't even promise the doctor not to eat mushrooms again. Too good. Oh, well! I'll let you worry.

Have to get to mail box. Will write next Sunday on other events in the Life Episode of P.D. Wilkin, adventurer, unincorporated.

20 Feb. 1965, (2 pp), David to Mom and Dad

All is well in Balovale. Am in excellent health. Week has gone normally -- not too busy. In fact not as busy as at Solwezi, for which I am thankful. I received your last letter and they call to mind several things. One, mail is always coming through, but very spasmodic. . . . I imagine the same is true for my letters. . . .

If you want to make sure all items to be sent regular mail reach me, send then soon. Trouble between the white controlled Rhodesia and Zambia is brewing and Rhodesia may cut the Zambian rail link to the sea and thus cut off, or at least greatly delay (6 months or more), regular mail. Don't worry, I won't be in any trouble spots, but regular mail may be completely disrupted.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

The river continues to rise -- very, very lovely. Has progressed up to the path on the hill below the house about 29 feet in a week. Will continue rising until approximately the end of March I'm told. Can't really cross the river now with safety, so I stay solely on this side. I have taken several photos. If they come out all right, I'll send you some.

3 March 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . Been very busy for the last week. Last Friday had the doctor and his wife and nursing sister for supper. Sunday went to Chavuma. The falls are very full and very lovely now. Got my usual supply of fruit. Got 3 strings of bananas, 11 pineapples and 40 Lb. of potatoes for \$2.80. My [paraffin] refrigerator is now working after 6 long weeks of stop and go. Hope it continues.

We gave mid-term exams on Monday and Tuesday and now am trying to mark them between all else. Had an interesting incident at school today of mass-hysteria. A snake got into the room. Two boys saw it. One yelled "snake" and the other ran to the front. Instantly all became panic stricken and before Mr. Samungole could do anything, desks, chairs and table had been overturned in this haste to move. One boy jumped out of the window and badly cut his leg. I took him to the hospital. In all, 5 out of 37 were injured. Ridiculous! I was quite upset. All because of a tiny snake. He probably couldn't have done as much damage, had he struck someone. Anyway, shows what can happen when a group became panic stricken.

Provincial Education office is constantly annoying me with stupid plunders. -- I certainly won't take this job as headmaster for another year. -- Give someone else the headache. I long to go back to being a full-time teacher. I just don't like administration.

Important explanation for many of the following letters

Zindi and I met each other at the Independence celebrations and she helped me when I was very ill with food poisoning. We suddenly decided to get married with short notice to everyone in April 1965. This caused a lot of consternation among my family in Ohio and also some friends. My boss in Solwezi in the Ministry of Education even wrote my parents in America to try to stop the wedding, but told them not to say he had written. This caused them to panic and possibly helped cause my mother's death about two years later. I knew nothing of this interference for several years until when I went home for her funeral. Needless-to-say I was very angry!

14 March 1965 (6 pp.), David to Mom and Dad. Very important letter with plans for wedding

. . . . Probably it will be my 26th birthday by the time this reaches you. It has been very warm here of late, as the rain was very heavy and seemed to end in its prime. I have been busy both with school and social activities as you will see. Yesterday the **Vice-President of Zambia, Mr. Kamanga** was at the school along with other dignitaries including the **Minister of Health, Mr. Mutoka**. I gave the party a personal tone and had met them at a special party at the Balovale club the night before. The Friday previous (5th), I had The District Secretary to supper. He is the top Government official in the Balovale area. Last Monday I went on a picnic with **Zindi** to Chinyingi ---- 18 miles north and across the river by canoe.

Incidentally, who is Zindi? Well, shock of your life, she is my fiancée. No joke. Love! Ah, the beauty! My fiancée is **Zindi Gqomo** from South Africa. She is the local (one of two) nursing sisters (meaning registered nurses). She is quite light skinned and rather short. A charming personality and a real party leader. Age 29.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

We plan to get married on the 10th April and will give details later. It will be a real international wedding. British-Zambian customs. We will get married by Mr. Solomon (British), the D.C..

All the town is quite agog and most cooperative except the C.M.M.L. Missionaries who do not approve at all. They feel it is not what they like -- mixed marriage. And, to please them, despite all the work with this group, I have left all Church Fellowship. Odd the people who don't and do turn out to be friends.

Samungole (Zambian) will be the best man. A South African Jewish girl will be the maid of honour (not confirmed yet). Probably at the wedding will be Americans, Zambians, South Africans, British, Malawians, Swedish, Nigerians and Indians and New Zealanders. How's that for international!!!!

When did this all start I met the girl in October very casually. Never saw her again until late January. . . .

Anyway, she was the person who took me to Chitokoloki when I thought I was dying. We met in social activities here. . . . The decision came last Monday when we went on the picnic. . . . She has poise, sophistication and life and is not American. American women I fear are too spoiled. Can't stand up to others. She was to leave Balovale the next day to move to Broken Hill to start at a hospital there. However, I decided then to ask her to marry me and the next morning she said "yes".

I know all the questions you might ask. I also know you are wonderful parents who give me all possible and necessary. I also know you are reasonable. One, I am very happy. I was lonely as you know. Sue [ex-American girlfriend] couldn't have satisfied this. This, Zindi does! How about the Church? Well, I'm not sure Newark would approve of my conduct at the moment. However, I still have not forsaken God and the wonders of the past -- no matter what you think. I'm also hurt at the C.M.M.L. missionary attitude (which incidentally the local elders don't seem to hold.) Three, what about acceptance? Well, I'm 10,000 miles from America and I'm thinking very internationalistic. Likewise, America is changing. -- greatly noticed at Christmas. Also remember when I come back trusting good health and all in one piece, I will not be living in a small society, such as Newark but a cosmopolitan City and likely university. Being a Headmaster (principal) at 25 and Fulbright for two years should give me a wide range of jobs, friends and environment. Also am I likely to live in America all my life when I return?!? I'd like to try Nigeria about 1970.

I will give you more details as we decide them.

Incidentally, there is a school holiday from 9th April to 10th May and we will tour Zambia for our honeymoon. . . .

Letter from Mr. J.M. Dunning that troubled my parents

16th March 1965 (1 typed page): from J.M. Dunning

I regret that I have not had the pleasure of meeting you, but I feel that I must write to you on a matter of some importance. Your son, David, may have written to you on the same matter. But in case he has not, I regard it as my duty to inform you that he is intending to get married early in April to an African nursing sister. As David only met the girl in Balovale a few weeks ago, I am convinced that he should wait a little longer before making up his mind on such an important matter. It may be that he intends to inform you after the event, in which case a letter from you

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

might persuade him to postpone the date of his wedding. I shall be seeing him later this week and will do what I can to persuade him to give the matter more thought.

David will probably be extremely angry with me for writing to you, but I am sure that you will appreciate that I am doing so for his benefit.

Yours sincerely, J. M. Dunning, PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

21 March (4 pp.). David to family in Ohio

Just two more days until my birthday and your eldest son will be 26. . . . All is well in Balovale, but very busy need I say. Yesterday Zindi and I went for a lovely picnic to Chingingi mission area -- about 18 miles up the river from here. We crossed the Zambezi in a dugout to the mission where we met a friend, Mr. [Fr.] Rock, and then he had his house boy row up the stream for about 1 mile to a peninsular area that was very peaceful and nice -- a place to talk and relax. A woman's touch can sure do a lot around a place and as Zindi had resigned a week before, we were engaged, [as she was] planning to move to the hospital in the Broken Hill run by the big mines. She has not resumed work here and will not until the middle of May, after we return from our honeymoon. Thus, she has been preparing the house and it looks very nice.

School has been running normally after last Monday when the secondary school inspector from Lusaka ended the list, for a while, of official visitors. Last Saturday (13th March) the Vice President of Zambia, the **Honorable Mr. Kamanga** visited the school for an official visit. A very nice man, -- quiet and dignified. I escorted him and his party -- it included **Mr. Choma**, a senior official, **Mr. Matoka**, the minister of health, the resident minister for the NWP. (same as a state governor in the USA) and the local officials of Balovale.

So much for the visitors. We are planning a formal [wedding] reception, although under the circumstances the wedding must be in the D. S.'s office -- Mr. Solomon -- short notice and civil. Not a religious ceremony as the C.M.M.L. does not approve and, of course, did not care to have a Catholic ceremony. At the ceremony there will be present Mr. Solomon (D.S.) (British), Mrs. Putuse Appollos (South African), Dr. and Mrs. Bwanausi (Malawian and South African), Mr. Thomas Samungole (Zambian) and possibly two others. At the reception we expect a real international group: Malawian, Zambian, American, New Zealander, British, Irish, Swedish, South African and who knows who else -- groups of all nationalities are common here. Enclosed is an invitation. . . .

We are planning a good tour around Zambia for our honeymoon, as Zindi can't leave Zambia, yet.

Next Friday we will go to the Copperbelt to get appropriate clothes and supplies.

Well, all for now. It has been very hot and prematurely dry, -- although today we have had a little rain.

[March 1965 personal letters to and from family in Ohio about my pending wedding are not enclosed as personal matters.]

28 March 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

I just returned from a four day trip to Solwezi and the Copperbelt with Zindi and her friend Mrs. Bwanausi (the local medical doctor's wife. I purchased a new suit for the wedding . . . Plans are

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

almost all set for the event. I am indeed very happy and convinced I have made a very quick but very wise action.

Balovale, 4th April 1965(3 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

All is well in Balovale. This will have to be short as I must go to the post soon. Been very busy with planning exams and end of school next week on the 9th and then the wedding on the 10th.

Had a bad arm for 10 days (better yesterday). Got a case of prickly heat in my arm folds, belly button -- caused by hot humid days lately. I scratched my right arm and it turned septic -- looked very bad last weekend. Very infected -- nice marrying a nursing sister, -- just as having a nursing sister for a mother. You have a nurse at your bedside. Zindi was a real help and along with some of the new powerful drugs all is well, for which we may thank God. . . .

I am very happy. . . . We [Zindi and I will] have three to four weeks honeymoon ahead of us. Will travel all over Zambia.

Balovale 15th April 1965 (2 pp. David to Mom and Dad, written on honeymoon

All is well. Sorry I have taken so long to write but the finishing plans for the wedding, the wedding itself and now our honeymoon have been most time consuming. All went very nice. Quite a cosmopolitan group at the reception, but all seemed to enjoy themselves. At the actual government ceremony were: Dr. and Mrs. Bwanausi (he signed as a witness), Mrs. Putuse Appolos (R.N.) (she signed), Dr. and Mrs. Ramkinson, Mr. Goddard (magistrate), Joyce Mpati (R.N.) and the official in charge Mr. Salmon. About 40 at the reception. That lasted until 5:00 p.m. and then about 40 school boys. In the evening the celebration continued at the Balovale Club. We left at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday P.M. we took off for Kabompo and stayed at the rest house as the start of our honeymoon. Monday P.M. we stayed at Solwezi, and Tuesday and Wednesday here at the Edinburgh hotel in Kitwe. Today we head towards Ndola—Kapiri Mposhi—Serenge--Mpika (tonight) on the Great North Road. Lord willing, we hope to hit Abercorn by Good Friday this week. We will stay in Abercorn for a few days and then slowly work towards Malawi. If we get into Malawi we head from north to south to south, and then cut back to Zambia into Fort Jameson and then Lusaka. About May 4th we will go back to Ndola and be back at Balovale by the 8th of May. Having a great time.

P.S. Zindi and I are having breakfast as the Edinburgh now.

Lusaka, 22nd April 1965 (2 pp.) David to Mom and Dad. I am now in Lusaka. Last wrote you a week ago. This A.M. at breakfast. Had a lovely week. Zindi and I left the Edinburgh in Kitwe, proceeded to Mpika Thursday and Abercorn on Friday. We stayed and rested in Abercorn until Tuesday morning. We proceeded back to Kasama and decided to come to Lusaka and go to Malawi next week and take care of business this week in Lusaka. In two days time, I should be able to you whether we will come home [to America] in August 1965, or December 1964, or December 1966.

Did a couple very stupid things on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday I did not fill up the tank in Kasama and ran out of petrol 25 miles north of Mpika. What a mess! Got a lift to Mpika and got petrol easily, but wow! Trouble getting back to Zindi. And the car (took 4 hours). Finally took a

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

bus! Wow, a real experience to share a second class bus with people, chickens and etc.. Thus we stayed in Mpika on Tuesday instead of tiring ourselves and trying the last 400 miles to Lusaka.

Yesterday (Wednesday) I lost my new license plate. (I knew it was loose and should have removed it on dirt roads.) Probably get picked up today before I can buy another one.

Have no way for you to reach me until I return [to Balovale] on the 8th of May as we are not sure of our travelling itinerary.

Lusaka, 25th April (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

I am still at the Ridgeway Hotel in Lusaka with Zindi in comparative luxury. We were supposed to leave today to go to Fort Jameson (and attempt to get through Malawi customs and immigration for a visit there). But 20 miles out of Lusaka we had a blow out and on Sunday replacing a tyre here is impossible. So back we came. Didn't feel it wise to go 400 miles on dirt roads (especially on a weekend with no spare).

Had a lovely stay here in Lusaka. Delicious meals, wonderful entertainment (in comparison to the bush with nothing), and got a lot of important business finished. One item that is of vital importance I should mention. Next week on our return to Lusaka for a day, Zindi and I will sign a contract with the Zambian government. Hers will be indefinite and terminable with a month's notice, as nursing sister in Balovale. Mine, so they insist, will run from 17 August 1965 to 17 February 1968 (terminable 17 August 1967). A year longer than I wanted, but time to stabilize myself in a wonderful place that is a good place to settle down for a while. Why should I want to rush back to riots, hurry, threats of war, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc., now that we have good jobs. I have companionship, nice home. All I need for the moment. Don't worry, I'll come back eventually! (HA) Guess what? When I get back to Balovale, I plan to buy a boat (dugout canoe really) and learn to row it up and down the Zambezi -- a little harder to maneuver, I'm told, than regular boats.

25th April 1965 [date not 100% clear] (4 pp.) [Describes wedding and challenges us.]

. . . . So nice being married (though I don't regard waiting until 26). . . We are only too aware of dangers besetting us and our marriage. But will face each day together and the problems they may bring. I indeed am happy and feel while things may have been fast my past experience with people gives me fast insight into their merits. Also, short though our engagement was, we probably had a chance to get better acquainted than many engaged for months.

While we are both travelers and adventurers, Balovale is a quiet place that is an excellent spot where to start a marriage. I just yesterday agreed to stay until December 1967 with the Zambian Government. (I will sign the contract next week.) Likewise, Zindi will have an indefinite post as nursing sister (registered nurse) In Balovale. We will have plenty to keep us busy, a beautiful home, plenty of help, little likelihood of financial troubles, a quiet spot, and each with mutual desires of helping others and travelling. All of which I'm sure you'll agree, should be good qualities to start a marriage on.

We had a simple but lovely ceremony (10 present) and a happy reception for 55 at my home -- not elaborate but combining the customs of America, Britain, Zambia, and South Africa. Had many modest but sincere and lovely gifts.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Likewise, have had a pleasant journey. Left Balovale the day after the wedding (Sunday) and have stayed in Kabompo, Solwezi, Kitwe, Mpika, Abercorn (Eastern), and now Lusaka. Tomorrow we endeavour to enter Malawi via Fort Jameson. If we fail to get through customs and immigration we will return and visit Livingstone and the Falls. Plan to go back to Balovale on the 7th or 8th May and will collect all mail there. Trust no-one I know was injured in the storms that hit the Midwest. With all the storms, riots, threats of war, etc. in America, I feel far safer here in the heart of Africa.

3rd May 1965 (David to brother, Dan), postscript to unmailed letter of 25th April

. . . In Kitwe now. Had a pleasant but hurried stay in Malawi. Things seem to be quite tense there. (Inspected the car at road blocks many times.) Dr. Banda [Malawi's President] seems to think his rebel ex-cabinet ministers are out to take over. (Dr. Bwanausi who signed as a witness at the wedding was once [last August] a Government minister in Malawi.) Zindi had no passport or really any identification, but we got clear to the capital before they realized it. When we reported it, we were rather worried -- could have landed in jail -- but nothing really went wrong in the end. I was all right with my passport and they declared Zindi a prohibited immigrant; but, then gave her 7 days stay so that we could finish our journey. Malawi is quite small and mountainous -- called the Switzerland of Africa --and indeed a land along the lake -- Lake Malawi (Nyasa) and of mountains. The largest city, Blantyre -- is the size of Newark. And the capital -- Zomba -- the size of Granville!

In this holiday I have swam in two of Africa's mighty lakes -- Malawi (Nyasa) and Tanganyika. Saw the high Kalombo Falls. Visited Malawi. Signed a contract to stay here until 1968, etc., etc.. Rather good for a honeymoon. Plus the honey -- don't you think? (HA) I'm joking, I'm really quite thankful for all of God's mercy and kindness in getting around.

10th May 1965 (2 pp.), David to Dad and Mom

Zindi and I are now well settled back in our Balovale homeland. We arrived last Wednesday night. All went well and we had a lovely adventurous honeymoon. As I told Danny in the letter I wrote him from Kitwe, we had an exciting time in Malawi (Nyasaland), and was there four nights and three days. We visited Lilongwe (staying there 3 of the nights) and spent the other night at Palm Beach (north of Fort Johnston) on the southern tip of lake Malawi (Nyasaland). We passed through Blantyre, the largest city (about the size of Newark) and the capital, Zomba, (about the size of Granville [Ohio]). Quite a rural country.

We were mostly on dirt roads the whole trip, but had little trouble except with tyres. The last 145 miles to Balovale were very bad. (They are putting in a new road and have the old all torn up.) We had our tail pipe and silencer knocked off and broke a water hose.

Zindi started back at the hospital today and was appointed the sister-in-charge of operating theatre, and was started promptly with helping on an operation. Likewise, students arrived today and classes start tomorrow. Thus, we are back to the old grind. Really, it's good to be back. Everyone has been very nice and pleasant and indeed Balovale is a perfect place to be at this time. We have just about all we need.

16th May 1965 (2 pp), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . Zindi's work is going well and ditto at the school. She has had three night operations to help Dr. Bwanausi with this week. Might interest you as probably never found in America or rarely. One, a uterus fully pulled out of the body and stuffed full of African "medicine". Two, a

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

strangled hernia that was very infected and broke in operation; and, third a large problem -- a difficult problem of a woman with an ectopic delivery -- she died -- had bleed 5 pints of blood into the abdomen before coming to hospital. And so life in a hospital at the edge of the world goes.

Now to the school -- less exciting with me than her. Teaching started the first day and by the end of the week all students had returned. Rare for a school (boarding) in this part of the country. Tried to start showing them basketball yesterday, but complications -- the net and the hoop fell down after ten minutes of play!

Had Dr. Ramkinson and wife for dinner last night. Slept till 11:30 a.m. today. Went to Church in PM.

27th May 1965 (2 pp), David to Mom and Dad

. . . We had a holiday on Monday and Tuesday and so had a long week to rest. Zindi had to work on Monday A.M., but was otherwise free. Thus, we are all rested up and a good thing as Mrs. Quillan is off this week. And, Samungole and I have to take her classes. . . .

I am now teaching one night a week at the Balovale Primary school for night classes in adult education. I am teaching geography. Samungole is teaching history, civics and English.

Our cold season really started a week ago. I even have an undershirt on at 2:00 p.m. today -- very rare for 10 months a year. However, with the pressure lamps our room stays warm in the evening. By morning a couple of blankets are needed.

I am just starting to grow my beard again. Zindi thinks I will look all right and it makes it much easier not to have to shave my chin.

20th May 1965(1 pp.) Mom to Zindi. [First letter as mother-in-law]

. . . I want you and David to be happy! And I am also anxiously looking forward to your coming to the State to be with or near us.

I want to tell you David has always been good, so kind and thoughtful toward us, as a son, that I feel so confident that you, too, will know those qualities of a good husband! . . .

I will close my short note, by saying, sincerely with love, your "new" mother. Elsie Wilkin

10th June 1965, Zindi to Mom [Zindi's first letter of introduction]

Thanks for your nice letter you wrote to me. I am very delighted in fact. I have always been thinking how would I go about starting correspondence with you; and, when your letter came, I was overjoyed. My home is in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Both my parents are still alive, and, of course, very old now. My father is about 80 years old and my mother about 60, but still very active. They are very strict Church goers. Our Church is the Bantu Presbyterian Church of South Africa and both my parents belong to all the different sections and groups of the Church; like the Women's Christian Association and Templers. (I.O.T.T.)

I'm the fourth child of a family of 6 children and first daughter. My first two brothers have got their own families in Port Elizabeth. My third brother is not married and just staying at home. Then comes me. And I am a qualified nurse.

My fourth brother is in Yugoslavia. He left home before I came to Zambia. He just disappeared and only after a year, when I came up to Zambia, I managed to locate him. He is doing Electrical

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Engineering which, of course, be only be done by Europeans in South Africa. The sixth child is also a girl. She is married, too, and a nurse. We have followed the same course.

I am very happy with David. He is very good to me and understanding. I am also trying my best to please him.

We are both very busy. He is running the newly opened Secondary School and doing everything working over weekends as well. And, on the other hand, I'm at the Hospital which is pretty busy. We get the most unbelievable cases, especially of midwifery. People in this part of the world still believe strongly in customs and African medicine. And both these make the most complications of simple cases. Sometimes we come across people with sewing needles pricked under the skin around the chest and back; and that is supposed to prevent T.B.. They still sharpen their teeth. They have the most amazing maternity cases. And always come to the Hospital when a woman has been in labour for 4 or 5 days, and sometimes is about dying. We have a clinic. Though, few women come for check up. . . .

Greeting to you all, Your daughter-in-law, Zindi Wilkin

27th June 1965 (6 pp), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . All is still well here. I got over malaria shortly after writing you and promptly got a badly infected throat after singing and talking one day for about 10 hours. (I was teaching the boys American folk songs and ballads.) This put me down for a day or two. Now Zindi has a badly infected throat. We just can't seem to throw off everything. However, other than such things, all is doing well. The house looks very lovely. We have put mats purchased in Malawi up on the living room and will try to take pictures for you soon.

Having a little trouble with the cook at school and I am trying to get rid of him. He puts ideas of witchcraft in the boys' heads. Otherwise the school runs smoothly. We have already school garden. Will soon have beets, carrots, egg plants, lettuce, leek, peas and already have beans and carrots. Boys are doing well by and large Am rather in charge of swimming. Many from this area are far better swimmers than I. The sand banks are coming out now. They think the water is cold, but really it's hotter than it ever gets in Lake Erie. The cold season is in its height but still warm and crops are growing well. Night's get down to 40-45oF but still goes up to 80 oF in the afternoon and lovely for swimming. Still we watch out from crocodiles. Tricky beasts! But quite rare now in this part of Balovale.

Yesterday (Saturday) I went swimming with Zindi, Putuse Appollas (the other sister at the hospital whose picture is enclosed) and the three children she has: Nora (girl) 9, Mbrumba (boy) 3, and Jomo (boy) 5. They are lovely boys and Nora is a very bright girl. Her husband is a politician now at the International World Court working on the present case of South West Africa's position [now Namibia].

Nora and I were the only swimmers and one doesn't want to go too far yet. Still a little more risk of crocs until the water goes down more and a lot of current. Zindi and Putuse waded up to their knees and Mbrumba and Jomo paddled along the air mattress I have. Then I and the three children buried each in the lovely sandy beach. All deserted except us. Only in Balovale could such a lovely place be found! While we buried each other, the ladies set on the sand bank upstream and talked Xhosa. I said their silhouettes looked like two fat seals on the coast in the South West Africa. To this they just laughed.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Details on **wedding] pictures**—see some of them on the webpage

A note on details of some wedding pictures: Some of our guests, also taken in the front yard. Two men at left (other main background unidentified) are Father Luke and Mr. Deneen (the local store manager). Women, from left to right are: Mrs. Deneen, Mrs. Goddard (magistrate's wife), Mrs. Drew and Mrs. Colliass, (local merchants and lay ministers with Christian Brethren [Christian Mission in many lands], here in Balovale, Mrs. Young, American C.M.M. missionary from Chavuma, and . . . and Mrs. Ishindi, rather Queen Ishindi, is the senior Chief's wife on this side of the Zambezi. VI. Mrs. Ramkinsoon alone in front of the house in beautiful Indian sari. She and her husband are two of the most handsome people I have ever seen in my life. They are not from India, but Durban, South Africa. (Just like Polish or English Americans.) . . .

In the middle of this letter [is] a one day lapse; today I thought as usual and Zindi was working at the hospital. (She's feeling better today.) Went swimming with the boys this P.M. Lot fun.

21st July 1965 (3pp), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . We had a dinner for Sister Appollos (the other nurse) and Dr. Rankinson as a farewell party last week before he left us to move back to South Africa.

Been busy with usual business at the school. Had trouble with the cook and have had to suspend him, pending decision of the P.E.O., my superior (Provincial Education Officer). Our new school is now getting underway. Government plans to spend a lot of money here in the next few years and it should be lovely.

Zindi has been likewise very busy. Dr. Bwanausi has been annoying (and can be difficult at times), but they had a lovely farewell party for Dr. Ramkinson . . . Zindi says they had to exhumate a three week body today -- horrible beyond words -- for a post mortem as it is now thought the woman was murdered! She said she was so sick it has taken her the rest of the day to get over it.

Doesn't seem possible, but already I am planning the next holiday in August (7th August to 7th September). Just seems like the last with the honeymoon ended. Zindi has to stay here and I will be making three journeys. One to Kitwe only and back by the 14th as the **Zambian President Mr. Kaunda** is visiting Balovale and will visit the school! Sort of split my plans in two, but makes me pleased as I've met the Vice-President, **Mr. Kamanga** and shown him around. And, now the President, who is indeed an honourable man. After his visit I will make a second journey to Kitwe (1,100 miles round trip) to get a new teacher, **Mr. Lycett**, who is flying in from England. After I get him settled into Balovale, I will leave for business to Salisbury for a week, arriving back just before school. I plan to take Samson along if all goes well. He is still around here working on his lessons. I am trying to take two years of school with him in the next year. **Samungole** has now moved into his own home. We felt we wanted our own place alone by now.

1st August 1965 (5pp), David to Mom and Dad

As usual time has flown by so fast. There it has been almost two weeks since my last letter. All is as usual. School has been especially trying. (I have had several problems over a cook I dismissed.) But, otherwise, all is well. Our school term (the second of three in 1965) will finish next week. Doesn't seem possible. I will have a month's holiday. I will first go for a quick week to Kitwe on business to get supplies and come back on the 13th for the President's visit to Balovale. And, then go for a few days to Kitwe again to greet our new teacher from England. After a second return to

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Balovale, I will go to Salisbury to the dentist and take care of getting tape recorders, etc., fixed. Zindi has to be on duty, so will have to settle with Samson for company. . . .

Didn't have time to tell you in the last letter, but recently went to Chavuma with Zindi and Sister Appollos and her three children. We had a lovely stay. Last Thursday I made a second journey with our new school truck, which just arrived a week ago, to look for dried fish for the school boys and to put on a play at the Chavuma Girl's School and Chavuma Boy's School. (They are primary schools -- the upper grades 6--7--8 knew enough English to listen to the play.)

I may have mentioned to you that Thomas Samungole moved into his own house a while ago (three weeks). We decided that we wanted to be alone in our 18 room house. (HA) Well, at 11:30 p.m. last Friday, (30th July) we heard pounding and banging on our doors! It was Sam. He was very drunk and had gone to his science laboratory to get mentholated spirits (which we use to start lamps as it is very flammable and a very hot flame). Why he went we don't know! Anyway, being drunk, he spilled it on his pants and hands and lit it! Wow! He has a bad burn on the back of the right leg and on his hands. We got him to the hospital; but he had had so much alcohol that the strongest drugs won't even put him to sleep. He got violent, so the police were called. And, finally, he walked out at 3:00 a.m. we were later told. We had left at 12:30 a.m. and came back two miles to his house! The alcohol seemingly had made him temporary insane. Sad. Finally, the next day they got him back to the hospital. A sad situation. I will go down to see him later. He will now probably have to stay for a week or so. This will put a lot of pressure on me during the last week.

17th August 1965 (3 pp.) [Family letter, second letter from Zindi to Mom; personal material omitted]

David has already started his Holidays. He left me alone for a week and went to Kitwe. And today he has gone again to Ndola to meet the new teacher from England to join his staff. And he won't stay long after that but will take off to Salisbury. So, I'm really miserable.

Last week-end we had **Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's President visiting the district**. He was very impressed by David's work. I understand he has praised him highly (at his back of course). I must say David has really worked wonders starting a school from nothing. But, if you could see this place now, you can never believe so.

We are getting busy day by day at the hospital. The amount of maternity and surgical work is increasing tremendously. Recently we had a case of a woman with a fractured arm assaulted by her neighbours in the village. She was suspected of exhuming a child's body from its grave to make African medicine with certain parts of the body. A mere belief of course. This was discovered when the woman's dog was found eating the child's body not far from the supposed grave which I think was too shallow hence the others went to attack the owner of the dog accusing her of witchcraft.

One of our cooks has suddenly died after consuming large quantities of liquor brewed at the villages. This is the strongest drink I've ever heard of. It makes some of its victims completely mad.

Just recently [our] doctor was called to the Police Station to exam a man who became mad after taking the drink. And his relatives took the woman responsible to the police thinking that she had put the medicine in the drink to bewitch the man. But, because the doctor has had so many of these cases, he could easily diagnose the cause. Even Mr. Samungole burnt himself under the

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

influence of this drink and stayed at the Hospital for one week in a confused state . Anyway, he is discharged now and he is back to his normal senses.

David has received two letters from my Home [South Africa], one from my Father and the other from my brother.

17th August 1965 (2 pp) David to Dad and Mom [written in Kabompo]

I am now on my second (of three) journeys on this holiday. Got your last letter yesterday which pleased us. Last week I was in Kitwe from Saturday until Thursday. I was at home from Thursday until today and am now at Kabompo with Samson at the rest house. We will arrive in Kitwe tomorrow. On Thursday we will collect our new teacher, **Mr. Lycett** in Ndola. By Saturday PM we plan to be back in Balovale. (Zindi is planning a big supper to welcome the man.) I'm not driving on this second trip but going in school transport. The road from Balovale to Kabompo is being replaced and is badly torn up with ditches and deep sand.

Dr. Kaunda came to Balovale last Friday and I met him with other civil servants at the airport and at a "Sundowner" at the Sports Club from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Truly he is a great man. What a marvelous impromptu speech at the airport! -- Have never heard a better one in my life. On Saturday AM we met him at the school for a 30 minute visit from 10:30 to 11:00 AM. I showed him all around. Very exciting! We showed him mainly our woodwork shop, gardens and the new school buildings which are now rapidly going up. I was never so honoured before in my life. A crowning glory.

Anyway, all was soon over. (Zindi likewise met him with me on Friday and at the Hospital on Saturday.) So I am now on my second holiday. When I return to Balovale, I will be there three days and then go to Salisbury for 3 weeks.

24th August 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

I have just returned (last Saturday) from my second journey. It was very busy getting supplies and getting our new teacher, Mr. Lycett, from Nottinghamshire, England. He will teach biology, math and French and will be a great help at the school. I feel he will and is adjusting quite rapidly to the bush.

I was to have left today for my third journey, but cancelled at the last minute. Will just hope my teeth don't ache 'till Christmas holiday. Business was too pressing at the school and I needed to help get the new teacher adjusted. Also it was really unfair to Zindi to be here alone so long while I was out enjoying myself. Last, I was tired of the hurry. (I guess at last my three year travelling spree is calming down. I want more rest on the holidays.)

I have just signed a contract with the Government. Or rather it just started. Guess I will be homesick in a year or so and ready then to return to America, but not yet. I'm happy and I have about all a king could wish for. While, when I hear of the unrest and trouble in America, I wonder what a strain it will put on my (and Zindi's) happiness. Why take the risk for a few years? When we have fully adjusted to one another and can face the strains of America and the world outside our friendly like corner, then we'll try it. I'm sure you'll fully agree.

30th August 1965 (2pp), David to Dad and Mom

. . . . I have cancelled my trip to Salisbury as I have told you in the last letter. Too tired of travel on this holiday. Been swimming several times lately. The water's delightful. Zindi's busy as the second

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

sister is leaving on transfer, our old friend, Putuse. She will now be the only sister! Tonight Zindi has prepared and wrapped a tape of Dr. Ramkinson's farewell party (started in July) and Putuse's farewell and her children. . . .

I have lost [Philip] Muke's address or rather contact with him. He's now out of school and has a good job on the Zambian railway. . .

We have lovely gardens! About the best in the province for general vegetables. I'm very proud of them.

P.S. A man was just here [selling] fresh bream from the river.

6th Sept. 1965 (2 pp), Mom to Zindi

I may never be able to express my joy, thrill and appreciation I felt on receiving the lovely hand woven basket and vase! They are beautiful and seem even more so because they come direct from you to me. They arrived in perfect condition, although I marvel the vase was unwrapped and exposed at least 1/3 the way from the top. The basket was fully wrapped and not broken one bit! I was quite amused at one thing -- it must be a "trade mark" of the nursing profession the world over, as it was said here years ago -- "you can tell who is a nurse when you see how things are mended, wrapped, or fixed by the adhesive or dressing and safety pins used! (Ha! joking) I am very pleased with your thoughtfulness. . . .

Your letter also arrived the day after the gift and I was so pleased to hear the good report of the President's visit. I have truly prayed much and carried a heavy burden, in my heart, for you both (you and David) that the visit would be a success. As I know you both have worked so hard to get the school and the community in better condition. And, too, the other things you wrote about were interesting yet sad and horrifying. But I also realize just as terrible and sinful things go on in this country and community, too. . . .

28th Sept. 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . Had a final lovely journey to the Copperbelt and Lusaka. School has started and this has kept me busy. As they day was the starting, I had a bad case of tropical dysentery -- but had lovely care from Zindi and now am as fit as a fiddle!

Very hot lately and have gone swimming quite a bit.

Am now writing as I am waiting for the boys to come to the clinic and for school to start. Also airmail goes at 9:00 AM this morning. Start our day at 7:00 AM and end most classes (except Tuesday PM) at 1:00 PM to avoid the heat. In afternoon have rest or quiet activities or swimming.

21st Oct. 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . we greatly enjoyed the first of [their gifts] However, it is not necessary to go to the cost at the moment of sending things by air. Later it may be, . . . if Rhodesia declares a U.D.I. (Unilateral Declaration of Independence) in which case there may be trouble. Anyway, all is peaceful in Balovale and likely to remain so. So, send things if possible by surface.

Our school is making big plans for expansion. And much against my previous plans, I am applying to continue as principal. If chosen, I will get US\$1,500 more a year. So that will be nice. The hospital has Zindi busy as usual.

In this weekend are the big first anniversary celebrations of Zambia. We will have two long days and nights of celebrating. The holidays (official) will be Saturday, Sunday and Monday. I am hoping to go on a long canoeing trip on Monday with one of the school boys. We are getting our school canoe repaired today for the journey. . . .

As is usual, in October the weather has been very hot, but the rains have started very early. Had one inch in September and two inches thus far in October, which is rare. School garden is supplying about all vegetables you can think of. Just had our first corn on the cob last night. This will continue off and on until April.

26th October 65, (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Our big 1st anniversary independence celebrations for Zambia are not over. It is now one year since I first came here with definite plans of taking over the ex-trades school. Yet, it now seems so short. Got your lovely letter last week. However, I fear you cannot count on a visit before I leave Zambia as: a) it would be illegal, and b) it would be far too costly as I am making less money now. Anyway, we are well and happy and trust you are likewise. God is everywhere -- protecting and caring; so, don't be feeling bad. Zindi gets homesick for S.Af. occasionally, but knows she can never go back to see friends and relatives. At least I know I can come to America whenever it is necessary or I desire.

Yesterday I had a lovely adventure. I took the school canoe and one schoolboy and we left Balovale at 8:00 a.m., proceeding down the river; stopping to rest, knocking out the water out of the canoe and swim. Had a lovely day. And, after all was over, got back about 5:00 PM. Zindi had to work both Saturday and Monday mornings despite the holiday as she is the only Sister. This annoys me that the silly doctor just now made application for a second sister. But, she will get extra days of in January for the overtime which pleases us as we can have a week to travel and give her a break from the usual Balovale routine.

31st Oct. 1965 (6 pp.), David to Dad and Mom

. . . . I had three trips to the Copperbelt on the last holiday. The first in early August, right after school was out, by my car; the second by the school van to get Mr. Lycett, our new teacher; and the third just before school started in early September.

I spent most of my money on the first, so had to economize on the others. In fact I cancelled my Salisbury part of the trip and only went to Lusaka for a day on the third to save money. (Fulbright finished paying me in July and Zambia just started last week. So, a long 3 ½ month wait with no pay.) All's well financially now, as Zambia as Zambia has paid past arrears.

My old friend, Geoff Iradale, had just returned from a 4 month tour in England and acted as a good host. (He is the National YMCA secretary) I am well ready to go swimming and take Zindi to visit friends -- will continue tonight.

It is 9:00 p.m., had a jolly nice afternoon. Zindi went to visit Mrs. Banda, our local Education Officer's wife (a charming person) and I went swimming with a school boy. The water is perfect for swimming and the days very hot. So it makes a nice afternoon.

Back to the story. After the hectic usual opening of the school, I came down with amoebic dysentery. Had many injections which were very severe; in fact, the cure almost was as bad as the

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

disease. This put me off my feet for a week and sure for several more. (Had excellent care. -- Nice having a nurse for a mother ---- and now as a wife another nurse!)

Anyway, all is well and I am in excellent health now. The heat makes this a bad time for illnesses . . . As mentioned Zindi and I went to Chingola a few weeks ago. Had a nice weekend. Trouble lately is Zindi is the only sister and kept too busy with now two doctors. We don't like it, but not much can be done. I don't want her to quit as there is so little a woman can do here; with houseboys, and garden boys. And I think she needs it to give a break into an otherwise uneventful day. And, she agrees.

It is time to inspect the dormitories. I like to inspect once a week to keep everyone on high toes and not come in late. This school is really expanding. . . .

Well, back from the inspection. All were in. Didn't go to church today on account of the swimming anyway. I'm sick of C.M.M.L. and especially Mrs. Quillan and also rather tired of missionaries in general. It's time Africa sent some to America and America stops sending them here. I think more governments will eventually follow Nigeria in which to get in a missionary has to have a skill -- teacher, nurse, doctor, etc.; quite a good idea in my opinion. I feel stronger on this all the time.

A few words on Mr. Lycett. He is a good teacher, teaches Maths, French and Gen. Science and most adaptable to the bush. Is a secretary of our "exclusive" Balovale sports club, which incidentally had an independence anniversary party last week and a *braaivleis* (barbecue) last night. Very tall (6'3") and astonishes all Europeans by going for 10 miles hikes -- unheard of here. But a great fellow all around. . . . [Added note from Zindi] . . . I'm still alone at the Hospital having a hectic time.

7th Nov. 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . .School has run rather normally; I am ordering equipment for 1966. Zindi has been the one with the problems this week. Dr. Bwanausi has had a heat stroke and been flown by special plane to Lusaka and Dr. Desai has had to go to Lusaka to testify in a high court case involving a dead (as a witness) ?? this year. Thus, Zindi is running the whole hospital, -- as I have told you, the biggest in the province. If cases are serious, she has to rush them 30 miles to Chitokoloki Mission Hospital to Dr. Worsfold. Before I came there was a spell without a doctor, and she ran the hospital, but then she had a sister to help. Now she is all alone. The hospital has more than 165 beds, and almost 50 daily employees and approximately 30 medical staff (medical assistants, etc.). So you can see the problem. Anyway, she is a good administrator by any standard, but still a very great strain on anyone. They have telegraphed the headquarters to send another Sister at once. But, unsure of course what the headquarters will decide to do!

Rains have just set in hard and all is turning a beautiful green. The river is still low yet for swimming. I am working to prepare large gardens for the rainy season. Now it is just the perfect time.

Last night we had a large impromptu party for the boys. Many went to Chinyingi with Mr. Lycett and Mr. Samungole for a concert and the others looked rather glum. So I quickly got a party stirred up for them. All had a good time seemingly. We tried many old games from parties in the States.

Today I hope to go for a swim and this morning practicing my Luvale. I can now speak a little. Zindi is working on French for our journey later on through Africa.

29th Nov. 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

By now you'll think something awful has happened. . . . just the usual end of year, busy rush at a school. A year ago I was making secret plans to come home doesn't seem possible, does it? Also I am (I have been doing so for 5 months in anticipation) stocking all goods needed for next year now, in case our unfriendly neighbours decide to break the railroad tie with the outside world.

It is probably unwise to send nothing else except letters by air as one can't be sure that Rhodesia "won't try to hold Zambia for ransom" as Britain puts the pressure on her. You should have got some idea of what's happening from Time magazine and newspapers. We are right in the middle of a large school expansion as I've told you do hope things don't get too bad in the blockade.

As far as now there is no reason that Zambia should have one except the outside world (U.S.A. and Britain) get involved against Rhodesia's rebels. Trouble in the Congo again (change of government). I feel sorry for Dr. Kaunda, calm, with storms around. I fear what will affect us is shortage or rationing of scarce items.

Incidentally, I'm in Solwezi (two days) for a Provincial Selection Committee of Grade VII and Grade VIII pupils for secondary school, only 420 out of 1400 get to enter; sad isn't it. But the country is expanding and this will improve next year.

P.S. Zindi's keeping the home fires burning "in" Balovale until tomorrow P.M.

28th Nov. 1965 (4 pp.), Zindi to mom – . . . Have just said goodbye to David an hour and a half ago. He has been urgently called by Solwezi by the P.E.O. (Provincial Education Officer). I'm a bit worried and lonely, not knowing when he is coming back, either on Tuesday or on Wednesday. He gets these calls occasionally; the last time it was and there he worked so hard sorting up marks from all primary schools of this province. And I think he has gone down for the same thing and to select secondary school pupils for the next year. And as far as I can see, he seems to be the only hard worker or the only one who takes trouble on the advancement of education of the Province. So, I'm going to be alone for the moment 4 days; and, I'm about 3 ½ miles from home. Even if I would feel like taking a walk and visit the new Doctor's wife, I wouldn't as it's a long distance through the bush and heavy rains have started. There are plenty of snakes, commonly black mamba. I don't even get out of house from work these days for fear these creatures. We have big trees, mango and guava and ordinary trees around the house. And several times snakes have been killed climbing bring up the mango trees. I understand the mamba likes mangoes. David says the 1st mamba was seven feet long. So our Mr. Lycett skinned it and is keeping the skeleton frame for his lab. He is very much interested in these horrible things. He goes to the bush to collect all sorts of spiders and other things for dissection; his is going to write a book on Central African creatures, I think. He has sent the mamba skin to his people in England. I wonder if they will like it. It may frighten them.

The Rhodesian situation is keeping everybody worried. As it is, the government has passed a law to petrol stations and car owners rationing petrol (gasoline). We don't know what steps will follow this, because everything in this country comes from the outside [especially] food, which is the most essential.

I'm still alone at work. This keeps me puzzled. I don't know what our P.M.O. thinks. Dr. Bwanausi is leaving the station following his illness. He is getting a transfer to the line of rail. So, that will leave the new doctor and I. I'm praying hard for a replacement for Sister Appolus, as we are

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

planning to go to the Livingstone for a week in January. But, I have no hope at this juncture unless I write to the P.M.O. and tell him that I'm going to be off for one week. Taking the days off owing to me, which I couldn't take due to pressure of work. I sometimes go continuously for 2 weeks without off duty having nobody to relieve me. I felt this more when Doctor Bwanausi fell ill and the other doctor was also away, so I was all by myself at the Hospital.

. . . A lot is happening at the Hospital. I'm getting a lot of twin deliveries these days. Yesterday I had one [where] the child was completely blue and limp -- the first twin. It took another 45 minutes resuscitating it, applying mouth to mouth respiration and artificial respiration at the same time. Fortunately, it responded and it was still alive. The second twin was not delivered until about after 3 ½ hours. That gave a good chance to attend to the 1st one. And, of course, the second twin didn't give me trouble.

We have had all sorts of interesting and horrible cases since I wrote you. Hippo bits, buffalo attacks; but most shocking is a case of two sisters assaulted by their brother who believes that they have kidnapped his child and have eaten him. This sort of things is common here, people accusing others of eating human beings, especially children. There was one court case in Ndola. A man kidnapped a child, went to a near bush and killed it; and, unfortunately was seen and arrested. He told the court that he was going to sell the dead body to the Indians in Tanganyika. Apparently, the new doctor's wife is from Tanganyika born and brought up there. Only yesterday she was telling me of how one African tribe staying in the thick forests there sucks blood from live cattle and drink it and also drink blood from human beings; of course, not from their own tribe. And they would go into town when they wanted human blood to kidnap people. It sounds unbelievable.

13th Dec. 1965 (3 pp.), Mom to Zindi

[I] appreciated [your letter] so much as I know your time is very occupied with your work at the hospital, home keeping house, cooking etc.. But, I enjoy the interesting letters you write and I re-read them many times. And realizing writing is very time consuming. And I do thank you for it all. Also the tape you, David, Sister Appolis and children, Dr. Rankinson and others as I told you in the letter I wrote you David together, and have played it several times and feel I know you all better and understand who they are now when David spoke of them in his letters. . . . [Rest of letter was personal family information]

30th Dec. 1965 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

We have had a pleasant holiday. On Christmas we rested, except for a few hours at the hospital in the A.M. for Zindi. We went for a walk, read and visited the Deneens (business family) in Balovale before lunch. On Christmas Eve we went to the Turners (a new health inspector and his wife from the U.K.). And, on Monday PM we had the Goodmans (magistrate) to tea.

On New Year's Eve we will have a party for Lycett (usual guest we get stuck with), Goodmans, Bandahs, Desais and our two school teachers. So, this is a holiday visiting season in Balovale as well as the rest of the world. HA.

We will get three new teachers in January plus Mrs. Desai -- two from the U.K. -- Mr. Britton and wife (dental nurse) and McIntyre and wife and two young sons, plus Mr. Musumali (Zambian). Samungole will leave for literacy project work and training in [this work].

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Interested in the clipping on the Zambian wedding. However, it was wrong as there have been several such as ours which are interracial but do not involve Zambians. This (the clipping) was the big wedding of the year as he is very rich and owns several newspapers and she is the daughter of the royal Barotse family. [I think Mom sent a clipping, but not sure.]

30th Dec. 1965 Zindi to David,. [A wonderfully sweet letter year end letter of her love for me. Nothing about school or hospital]

Darling,

I thank you for all the things you have done for me. You have been so sweet and understanding, in spite of all my moody spasms. I hope you understand, and I pray you should remain ignoring me, and not once, take me seriously.

I love you dearly, I just have no words to describe my love, and very clumsy to show it. You have been wonderful to me. May God bless you and keep you for many more years.

Love, Zindi

Late 1965 but no date [received in Ohio on 6th Jan. 1966], Zindi to mom (3 pp.)

. . . . Our Xmas was a quiet one. We were invited out on the Xmas Eve by the Health Inspector. He and his wife have just been posted to Balovale about 3 weeks ago from England. So the inspector is working with us in the Ministry of Health. Also we have a new Magistrate in Balovale. We will be soon getting another doctor in place of Doctor Bwanausi. On New Year's Eve everybody will be coming to our house.

We are expecting two families from Rhodesia coming to join the staff at the Secondary School (teachers) that will be very nice indeed.

Mr. Lycett went on holiday a week ago and happened to go to the Victoria Falls and Kariba. He has just returned and he told us that the immigration at the border is really strict and unreasonable. I understand that it's such a nuisance to go to Rhodesia from Zambia. So far they have only rationed petrol in Zambia. I hope things will not turn out badly.

I am still alone at the Hospital. I feel so tired now lately. I wish I could just get a short leave.

On New Year's Day we will be driving to Chavuma. We are invited there by the Ilers. They are missionaries from America. So we will spend the whole day with them at the Mission. I've already told the doctor so that he stays at home that day and attend to all the maternity cases. He couldn't say "no", as I've been continuously on call, even Sundays when I'm supposed to be off. I wish it doesn't rain that day.

I have failed to get a week away from work this year. So I intend to get 3 weeks in April next year. I hope there will be a second sister at the Hospital by then.

. . . . It is still a long way before we can leave this country, 2 ½ years I believe. . . .

3rd Jan. 1966, Zindi to Mom, It is now Monday, and we have just finished our lunch. Instead of lying down for a rest, I have thought of giving an account of how we spent the New Year. On New Year's Eve we had people at home until 12 midnight. We woke up very early the following morning and drove to Chavuma Mission.

We had a peaceful day with the missionaries. There are two families at this mission and a lady teacher. There were also people from Chitokoloki Mission, Dr. Worsfold. So it was very good

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

company for the day. And before we left, Mr. Iler played organ music and everybody joined and sang. . . . We left the mission at 4 PM in the afternoon and got home at about 8:30 PM.

I was very thankful to this visit to Chavuma. I was away from the Hospital without disturbance at least once in five months. But, at 1 AM, I was called to the Hospital for a Maternity case and called twice on Sunday.

This coming Wednesday David is driving to Kabompo to go and meet the first family of the new teachers from the UK. I think these new teachers will have to stay at our house until the new houses are completed. This pleases me very much because I'm going to have neighbours at least.

The Rhodesian situation is now at a standstill. Our Petrol ration is 1 gallon a week; it's so little we hardly can move the car anywhere these days. . . . David is so busy these days running around in circles getting things ready for the school opening. . . .

17th January 1966 (2 pp.) David to Mom and Dad

. . . School officially opens again tomorrow. Doesn't seem possible. We have had very little rain this year, but lately it seems more normal. Had rain tonight. Probably with our kind or luck here tomorrow will be pouring.

Have had to make four journeys to Kitwe and Chingola since 1st December. So tired of travelling on dirt roads for the present.

We did not get to take a holiday -- poor Zindi! She could not possibly get the time off after all. They have not sent a sister to help her yet! Anyway, we will try again in April.

Rhodesian crisis has not affected us personally yet except on food shortage (cooking oil) and petrol which come from Rhodesia.

The **Brittons** (Peter and Hazel) have lived with us for the last 10 days waiting for their house to be ready this week. Our new home, likewise will be ready before you get this. We plan to move in slowly in the next month. It is on the other side of the school, in the new section and is very beautiful -- probably \$25,000 class with three bedrooms, kitchen (nicely equipped), lavatory, bath, hall, dining/living room of copious size. I'll leave details to Zindi later.

Our staff includes: the Brittons, the McIntyres (just arrived with two tiny children), Musumali, Kakwisa, Lycett, Mrs. Tanner (temporary) and Mrs. McQuillan.

9th January 1966, Zindi to mom

I received the parcel you sent me before Xmas. I wonder if I will be able to fit in with American life of nurses. I think they must be very advanced, but I'm looking forward to start working as soon as I come to America. I am responsible for everything at this Hospital. And this morning I did a D&C: Evacuation of Retained Placenta under General Anesthetic. I would never have done it under normal circumstances. But the last of our doctors is ill. That's 6 doctors in one year. And in between I have to do everything. And I'm at that stage at the present moment. I think David told you about the Egyptian doctor. He only stayed two weeks. Then Dr. King from England has been with us only for a week. He is in Lusaka Hospital treated for infective hepatitis. Doctor Worsfold, the mission doctor who usually relieves is also incapable to do operations with dermatitis on both hands. I hope Dr. King will recover soon and come back.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

I have been dieting seriously lately as I want to bring my weight down, though I am stoutish by nature. I have managed to get myself to 36" bust, 28 waist and 38 hips. I have no scale so I take my measurements. I think my size should be 38.

Today is the 10th Jan. 1967. I'm on duty. I've just done a quick round. . . . I have admitted another retained placenta. I've put her on plasma while trying to get a blood donor. She needs blood before I attempt to remove the placenta. I just want to finish this letter and sent it to the Post.

David is not at home. He went to Solwezi for the selection of Form III Candidates last Wednesday. The school opens on the 17th. One of the next staff members arrived yesterday afternoon. I think the next will come this week-end.

We have had a lot of the serious casualties from Angola. The fighting is still going on.

I received a letter from home yesterday. Everybody is well. My mother is spending Xmas holidays in Cape Town.

6th Feb. 1966 (6 pp.) David to Mom and Dad

. . . This has been my first chance to sit down and do anything for the last three weeks with school opening and moving into a lovely new home. Quite a usual suburban type home -- a real change to our Victorian, stylish, rambling home on the river. We do not have any view which saddens me. But, I was getting so tired of the big place -- just too big for daily comfort. . . .

Last Sunday Senior Chief Ishinde and his wife invited us to his court (home) for the afternoon. It was a lovely time. He is very traditional but also very progressive. He has a lovely home and modern cars and lorries. He took us through his big maize fields and gave us maize (corn), pumpkins, sorghum and a chicken. Peter and Hazel Britton went with us. They are now on the staff and he teaches mathematics. We just had the chicken last night for supper and then played Clue (remember that game?) and talked until 1:00 AM.

Things are becoming more normal at the school and it doesn't seem possible we shall start our fourth week of classes on Monday. Although I drove to Lusaka in early December for an interview, I still have not been finally appointed as H/M -- Principal. But, by simple deduction it does seem likely I will. I will be very disappointed if I don't as I have done all the planning for class expansion through 1966 and into 1967. Our school now has 180 students (175 boarders) and next year will go to 270. Expansion is unbelievably fast. They plan to add a girls' boarding school, either next January, or more sensibly in 1968.

Our softball equipment just arrived and likewise our volleyball equipment. So our sports department has leaped forward. We were short 109 desks and chairs, almost all dining tables and benches, library equipment, parts of staff furniture and 20 mattresses. So, this has made our work (mine and all teachers and students) doubly difficult. Everyone has done his best. However, the desks and chairs have arrived which has helped our situation some.

Our Christian Union Club (Scripture Union) is reorganizing. So I hope to help them learn new choruses and to try the song "I'm a Child of the King". We put on a play last year on the theme "Love your Enemies, do good to those that despitefully use you." (I may have told you about it.) The boys put it on at four upper primary schools and had a fifth come here. Plus three other productions. It became the real drama season of Balovale. (HA) I think few people had seen a full play before. We will try later on to do another play.

19th Feb. 1966 (7 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Our river is reaching the flood peak and our rainy season hasn't been as rainy as usual. . . .

I am sitting here listening to the 25th March 1964 Wednesday night sing spirituals tape, trying to write and also keep awake after Zindi has fed me a big lunch. She's at present fixing supper for a temporary doctor who is relieving Dr. Desai while he's on holiday. So, excuse mistakes. . . .

Now a little current news before I stop to set the table for tonight. Zindi has dismissed her house servants except the washer and ironer and has all the preparation for tonight to do herself and with a wood stove. In a hot summer day in Balovale it can be most unpleasant. Likewise, living in a new house can be all kinds of trouble here -- no water in the house for two days!! I have one garden hose running through the kitchen window and one running into the bath. . . .

I am very annoyed at the Government at the moment. They have been utterly silent for almost three months ever whether I will receive a permanent appointment to the post of principal. There are major policy decisions that must be made soon and I hate to take the responsibility if I am not going to hold on to the post and resume full time teaching. I watch each (mail) post with greatest care, I can assure you. I don't think I care about the post as much as the indecision of not knowing. No doubt all will work out for the best.

I probably have told you a little about our staff. We make an interesting bunch of people. Mick Lycett who joined us in September is now teaching General Science and French. He's a real character. -- worse than I when single. He works himself crazy on unnecessary projects and then complains. Or when on the clinic, drives all crazy telling about the various discusses.

Peter and Hazel Britton are some of the only ornithologists in Zambia. They truly spend every single minute tramping around the bush looking at and classifying the birds.

The **McIntyres** have two small children and seem average type of teachers -- typical middle class. They have really had it rough, but remain most pleasant as luggage has never arrived. Seems lost somewhere in Zambia. Quite a usual problem. Mrs. McIntyre speaks fluent Arab and French. He teaches English, Latin and Ancient History. Britton teaches all maths -- math major at the University. Mrs. McIntyre would like to start teaching someday probably English and French.

Our other new teacher, excluding McQuillan [usual old crab apple] and Kakwisa [usual hard drinker] is **Musumali**, a very quiet young man. He is expecting his wife to join him this weekend from Kasempa where she taught. All are under 30 years old of the new crowd. . . .

22nd Feb. , 1966 (8 pp.) Danny [brother] to me [personal letter]

Oh, I must close, but I must tell you a little bit about our trip to New York City over the Christmas vacation. We left on Wednesday and came back Sunday. We saw everything possible and we were on Time Square New Year Eve to watch the full drop . . . along with 3 million other people. David, it is beyond human comprehension, all the people gathered in that small of area. It covered about 15 blocks and there was nothing but people everywhere! When they leave, they leave all at once! We were pushed three blocks before we could free ourselves to walk naturally!

13th March 1966 (8 pp.) David to Mom and Dad

Mail problems. Got a note from Danny last week saying there was a few week gap in your getting my letters. I imagine it was due to the mails. With the Rhodesia crisis continuing, the airmail is

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

overloaded to the extreme and it will probably take about a week, at least, to get correspondence. Your letters are taking two to three weeks to arrive now. However, all is well, you need not worry. The Rhodesian situation is always explosive, but no war as yet. Balovale, moreover is remote and quite safe in any event. When considering all the usual crises America is in, I imagine we are safer here. I watch the Vietnam situation daily via newspapers, magazines and radio. I must say I adamantly oppose our continued war there. So, I'm probably better off here in my little private, beautiful corner of the world.

You will be interested, I'm sure, to hear we have been having very nice services at the school on Sunday PM at 4:30. The turnout is good. **Mr. Kandepu** is in charge of organizing. I don't think I've mentioned him before. But, he is a fine Christian man and operates the local end of the large Balovale Transport Services (Copperbelt to Balovale). The speakers are all African as I rather discouraged missionaries. (As I told you, I'm rather sore at the local Brethren missionaries.) The services are largely simple and evangelical and quite good. It's quite nice not having to worry about church names and just meet as Christians together.

I have changed a few words of the hymn -- song -- play "I'm the child of the King" to fit the situation and the boys plan to learn the song -- play and build up a church service and a sermon around it. Several boys are indeed devout Christians. In fact, it is this fact that more and more makes me sore. When I see pagan and heathen American sending out missionaries to Africa which may be poor but no more pagan, in most places (excusing some areas), it bums me up more and more daily. If they can teach, build or have a skill, fine!! -- like St. Paul, the tent maker. But, just coming to convert the heathen -- bah! They better do more converting in America and Britain. . . .

Some of the boys would put most people in America, . . . to shame with their faith, work and study. Shame you can't hear some of the sermons here in English by local African ministers. . . . Anyway, that's off my chest. (Smile)

I'm very busy studying Luvala and have lessons each day and do hope to be able to speak to villagers by the end of 1966. Am mastering main parts of speech right now. Takes lots of time.

Still haven't gotten final appointment as headmaster. Trust I will learn soon.

Zindi, busy as usual at Hospital. We are now settled down in our new home. She gets, at long last, a holiday in May. We hope to just plain rest in the Copperbelt. . . .

Zindi and I are indeed happy and you will never understand probably, but each has helped the other get his/her feet on the solid ground table to face a future that looked confusing in different ways. We are really quite well off here in all ways: financially, psychologically, spiritually, etc., without a hostile, chaotic world beating at the door. I'll hate to leave it later on I fear.

20th March 1966, David to Mom and Dad (1 p.)

No, I did not buy a new typewriter. I borrowed Hazel Britton's, our neighbour's last night to write a short humorous play for school boys to do in assembly next week. I still have a few short minutes so I thought you could at least read the beginning of the letter easier if I typed it. It is now 11:00 A.M. (probably about 4:00 AM in Newark). The sun is shining, although we have had much rain lately as our rainy season as of late has been very rainy. Let me try black now for a while.

Zindi is trying a new recipe for a pie and is hard at work in the kitchen. She does at last get a long needed holiday from the hospital starting on the 1st of April. Our school holiday will start on the

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

7th until the 3rd of May. So we hope to spend at least two weeks of holiday together in the Copperbelt. The river is higher than it was last year and is surprisingly still rising rapidly. The rains were very late this year, as I said and are heavy now. Rather unusual.

Yesterday I had two boys take me on a long boat trip over the flooded plains area to Mize, the nearest city (village) on the other side of the river. We were on the water for at least three hours in our old school semi-dugout and semi-built canoe. A very interesting journey. Also, they are the boys helping me to learn Luvala, so I had a chance to practice my language. Zindi has decided she feels she knows enough African languages. If she does learn French, we should have at least six different languages between us. However, the joke is the only language we can share will be English.

Our old house is now the guest house for the school. Four to six school boys live there and are responsible to keep it clean and to learn how to care for a big home. We pick only the best students for the honour who are likely to go on and get big government jobs and have big homes in their future. So we accomplish a double purpose. Next week we are supposed to have a staff tea over there. The view is gorgeous as the river is high and the floods extensive.

I have been interrupted with the school boy who has returned from the boma with the post office mail. . . .

28th March 1966 (2 pp.) Mom to David [most of letter not relevant and omitted]

. . . . I am happy to know you and Zindi are so happy and getting more and more adjusted (which all marriages take time).

21st April 1966 (2 pp.) David to Mom, from Chingola

Sorry it has been so long since I've written, but do hope the telegramme helped matters. Been busy resting! Zindi and I left Balovale on the 10th of April and have been in the Copperbelt since. We start back tomorrow and plan to get in Balovale on Saturday (23rd). Coming in we stayed in Kabompo and Kasempa and had the car break down 75 miles from Chingola. We came on to Chingola and had it towed in. And after minor repairs went on to Kitwe. We stayed at the Civil Servants rest hotel "Lothian House" and today came to Chingola for final grocery shopping. Today and tonight we are staying with Dr. Ramkisson whose voice you heard when he left Balovale for South Africa. Well, he's back and living in Chingola now. We hope to go to Kasempa tomorrow night and Balovale Saturday. It has been a lovely holiday and restful and just what poor Zindi needed after a solid year of Balovale for her.

We no longer have a '62 Volvo, but a 1966 Toyota Landcruiser with 4 wheel drive and 50 gallons of petrol tank (enough petrol for 500 to 1000 miles depending on the roads). Got about \$1150 for the Volvo on trade and paid \$3300 (£1100) for the new cruiser (including the trade in). Should last until we leave Zambia in 1968. Not exactly pretty but should be useful on our bad roads. Can make long bush journeys on poor or nonexistent roads and long journeys without refueling.

I will make a journey to Lusaka next week after a few days in Balovale on business. Zindi will resume work before the end of the week.

10th May 1966, 2 pp., David to Mom and Dad

. . . Returned from the holiday I wrote about and telegrammed you about and then made separate journey to Copperbelt myself in our new Landcruiser and also to Lusaka -- largely on business.

Now both of us are hard at work again. When on the business journey, I went to one of the big weddings of the year. **The Seretse Khama (Prime Minister) of Bechuanaland was the man to give bride, Miss Muriel Williams to John Sanderson.** I know Muriel quite well from my Copperbelt journeys. Seretse is her brother-in-law. (He married her sister, an English woman, 20 years ago! namely Ruth Williams). The wedding was informal but very dignified and the social event, as Seretse afterwards visited the state house and Dr. Kaunda. Quite exciting. [This was added to Muriel's webpage.]

Anyway, we're settled back into our work routine for better or worse. We expect two Indian teachers, **Mr. and Mrs. Chacko** in two weeks. **We have two Indian families at present, the Patels and Desai's.** Both are doctors and Hindu! However, these are Christian Indians and over 50 years old. So, it should be nice.

Naturally, we're busy with the school starting.

23rd May 1966 (2 pp.), David to Dad and Mom

[I'm] back in Balovale. Two new teachers have just arrived from Ethiopia. They are Christian Indians from India (their homeland) and have travelled widely. They are much older than the rest of us. Both are in their fifties. They have lived and taught in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for over the last 10 years.

We are now getting into our cool season. Nights are getting rather chilly now. Probably your summer is rapidly approaching now, on the other hand. Our river is going down and hope to go swimming by July, if not earlier.

This term is proving a very busy one with new staff. There are great new problems. And with our rapid and absolutely fantastic building programme (over \$1,000,000 (dollars) in the next few years, all is truly unbelievable.

Zindi's work had a few problems [at the hospital] last week. But, all seems well now. Still no new Sister to relieve her a little bit. Anyway, we can still hope for help in the near future.

I shall try to take pictures of our home and the new expansion programme as soon as possible. I have to be careful or I put in British spellings or £ (pounds) in place of \$ (dollars).

29 May 1966 (17 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

All is well in Balovale tonight as usual. I have just been to school to check on my 180 boys and usual problems. All was chaos. The paraffin lamps had not been locked up last week. And someone had stolen paraffin, hence no lights for study! Now I have given them paraffin (kerosene) from my house and will give them 10 minutes before going to check and see if all is in order. Just an example of a daily small problem in an exciting life. . . .

Zindi is at present at our neighbours, the McIntyres having a French lesson and chit-chatting. . . . I'll go to school and will continue later.

29th May 9:08 P.M. (continued)

Well, school is settled [down for the night] and now . . . the boys preparing for the bed. I've replayed your tape and taken a bath. Zindi's still at the neighbours. So, I'll continue for a few more pages.

[Details about the school expansion and staff] Our school has grown again and will again next month. **Mr. and Mrs. Chacho** (I might have mentioned them briefly in my last letter) have arrived from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They are Christian Indians, but she still wears the beautiful typical Indian sari. Both are much older than the rest of us and have wide experience in much of the world. They don't seem to be happy. But there's not much either of us will be able to do about it. They signed to come to Zambia and have assigned the bush school of Balovale. And likewise we got them and all are stuck for two years. I really feel sorry for anyone coming not willing to adjust to "bush" life. We have 180 boys at present and will get 105 more in January plus 105 girls to total almost 400 pupils. I wrote to a friend recently in Cleveland that **at times I feel I am managing a small city instead of a school**. In ten months we have had 18 new buildings completed plus the 15 odd old buildings by January next at least 35 more in addition to the 33 at present! How's that for rapid growth. In case I've not summarized before: **Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre** with two small children are Scottish and teach French, Latin, English and History. (They speak between them -- French, Latin, Greek (classical), Greek (modern), German, English and Arabic.) **Mr. and Mrs. Britton** (English). He teaches Math and they both are ornithologists. **Mr. Lycett** (English) and teaches science. Mr. and Mrs. Chacho, whom I've already mentioned -- he teaches Maths and Science and she teaches English and History. **Mr. Kakwisa** – boarding master and woodwork, an old trade school instructor and Zambian. **Mr. Musumali**, also Zambian, very young and recently married. He teaches history, geography, maths and English. As he is a qualified Zambian, on the staff he will likely take over the school, if all goes well for him. **Mrs. McQuillan**, Irish and whom I already mentioned. Incidentally I saw **Samungole** at the wedding in Kitwe last month and he is doing well. He is taking a special course, which I helped him to go into, sponsored by the Central Government's Community Development Department for teaching and writing both for adult illiterates so they can learn how to read. Thus, it's really a basic journalism course. This month he will go to Lusaka to start a full time work there on the big programmes. He will specifically work with the Luvale literature.

My work in Luvale continues. I have a lesson 5 days a week. But, I am really a very poor student. Too many other duties keep me from studying and thus I improve slowly. However, it's really fascinating. When I get to America, it will be a fun to know I will speak and write a language almost no-one else in America will know. It should make me a real authority. (Smile)!

Zindi has been very busy at the hospital lately. (She just came in.) Also some of the staff has troubled and threatened her. If the member of the staff had not been removed, I told her to quit. Fortunately, the P.M.O. (senior official) for the province came and removed him. So things are much better as she feels now.

While in the Copperbelt, we did make a beginning plan for our journey [to America] in 1968. . . .

With the low Zambian taxes, low subsidized rent and free medical care, we should be able to save money while here, so it will be very nice indeed to end with a lovely journey. Furthermore, when we leave, we will sell most things, shipping only a few to give us plenty of leaving cash.

One last item of the night on the weather. Our cold (cool) season has come in with a bang and now a sweater, vest (undershirt) and shirt feel good at night. Although it's not cold by American standards, the warm afternoons make the nights seem awful. Today by afternoon I have shed all but the short sleeved shirt. Even had to take my west (undershirt) off. Well enough for the night. Good night.

Continued letter at **2:00 Saturday, 28th May – more on Muriel's wedding**

Good afternoon! I'll resume again. I have 6 pages left and in this note pad. So will continue and then stop the letter. I'll start with the lovely wedding I described earlier. (I'm enclosing a paper clipping from the *Times of Zambia* (the main daily newspaper). Probably the clipping describes most everything. The service was in both English and Bemba and very multiracial -- which was appropriate for the occasion. Although the couple are both European (white), they are very actively involved with the African Government and both African and European communities. The big attraction as I told you before was the Seretse Khama of Bechuanaland to give the bride away. He is Muriel's brother-in-law and will be Bechuanaland's first President when it becomes independent next year as Botswana. It was a lovely celebration with a marvelous outdoor dinner reception for 200 to 300 people. We were sorry, both Zindi and I couldn't go. But she had to resume work that day. So I brought her back after our two week holiday in the Copperbelt to get the Toyota Landcruiser and to rest. After getting her back, I went back to Kitwe and on to Lusaka before getting to the wedding and returning to Balovale. In short, a busy full three week holiday. Zindi did get some much needed rest after a long, long year with few breaks.

We didn't try to do too much except shop in Kitwe and get our new Japanese made Toyota Landcruiser which is 4 wheel drive. (I'll try to take pictures soon and send you one.) We decided it would be better (and bigger) than a British Landrover, the main 4 wheel driver produced. We like the Toyota very much and do hope it will easily give us good service. Already we have driven 300 miles in it.

Incidentally the petrol rationing is much better now and we are allowed 14 gallons a month without giving reasons as to the need. In fact Zindi and I hope to go to Chavuma tomorrow. We both need a picnic and a day to get away from the school boys and also the staff! I'm rather annoyed at them at the moment and at myself for being involved in petty small town gossip; e.g., Britton thinks Zindi talks about Hazel (Britton) to Eileen (McIntyre) and the McIntyres think I favour the Brittons (both of which are silly small town gossip). So it will be good to get a holiday and rest. I have learned a hard lesson on staying clear of subordinates except on business or when all are together.

We had a real tragedy when Mr. McCrae, a European employed in Kabompo by the government died in the hospital last week. Due to government red tape on who was responsible, his body lay in the mortuary 7 days. (No one embalms here.) And what an odor, wow! Finally, I helped Mr. Goodman, the magistrate and others and we got him buried this A.M.. Plus other morning problems. A busy day. Well, the stationary's gone and I must go to the school for the indoor games Sat. P.M. program.

28 June 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . Your letter that arrived yesterday took only a week. More normal is 10 days. And the letter before, 2 ½ weeks. However, as you keep asking and I keep telling you, all gets through. . . . The big holdup news to be the seems to be mail from Britain with the seaman's strike tying up the nation.

Zambia is having her problem with no rail traffic, which is the main route, going through Rhodesia. Supplies come mostly from the U.K. and very little from Rhodesia and South Africa now. It takes months to get many things and when one store runs out of something, all seems to do so at the same time.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

Thus, we all are doing well, but need patience to get some things. We ordered clocks 10 months ago and they still haven't come and will have to be changed from my past financial year to the next. Can be rather annoying.

Still don't have time and space to tell you about our school church service recording for the RZ (Radio Zambia) or about our visitors a few weeks ago.

On Sunday (26th) Zindi and I spent the afternoon in Chavuma. We bought pineapples, oranges, etc., and had a lovely day there. On our way back we stopped in to see the Ilers. They have taken in a little girl one year old weighing 10 lb. (Within two weeks she now weighs 15.) Will tell you about this tragic case later.

20 July 1966, (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Just dawned on me you haven't got a letter from me for some time. Get your lovely letter (July 4th) a few days ago.

Zindi and I made you a tape a week ago. But I've been so busy since then I haven't even got it into an envelope. As I'll tell you on the tape, I'm just getting over malaria at that time. Now I'm fully well and very active and very busy with a big new idea we are seeking approval on today. It is a new mass cooperative which we hope to initiate among the staff, students and employees and could prove to be one of the biggest, most exciting undertaking of my life.

Last Sunday we went 40 miles along the **Chinyama Litapi** road to get ferns. (I tell about my July 4 and 5 Chinyama Litapi trip on tape – very exciting.)

24 July 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . I'm in a writing mood today. . . . Do trust all is well and that you are in the midst of summer. Our cold season is just ending and summer will be on us by late August.

School is busy as usual. I am in the midst of organizing a cooperative. The idea seems very exciting and I'm quite keen to try out the idea. We plan to open up a 400 acre farm and have already been granted the land by the local chief. (No cost for the land as used by the cooperative.) Also to open up a store for members at reduced prices. We hope to have such services to members such as a loan department for school boys.

Zindi is resting today. This is our "lazy" day. If we feel all right and active tonight, we plan to try to make pizza. I want Zindi to try it and also try some American "cookies" and "candies." Incidentally please send us your recipes for "barbeques" and for "cole slaw." Likewise when we get to America in 1968, we'll show you some South African, British and Zambian dishes.

31 July 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . I reluctantly preached today at church for the second time this term. I filled in with 1 minute notice when Mr. Kandepu couldn't come. I must say though I don't think H/M authority and discipline go well with preaching so I try to leave this job to others. **Mr. Kandepu, Mr. Sebente and Mr. Kazhila** are generally our preachers and all really quite good. For your interest I spoke on Peace with yourself, others and God.

Anyway this afternoon before church (ours is from 4:30 -- 5:30 PM) I went to our new farm that we are opening. The Government has given us 400 acres of crown land (most land is not owned personally here) at no cost except the equipment and expansion. It lies on the edge of Watopa

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

stream and has great possibilities. It is about 13 miles from the school to the centre of the farm. Will be telling you more later.

23rd August 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . . Balovale has been in the news lately (greatly exaggerated from our "action end" but still an international incident from the Government's point of view). A little remote village about 50 miles from here was bombed by the Angolan, Portuguese government just across the Angolan border. (The civil war in Angola has caused hundreds of refugees to come into our district keeping Zindi busy at the hospital.) Case went to the United Nations.

I just got back from a week journey to the Copperbelt last Saturday -- both business and to get a little rest. Zindi had to stay and work. But next week (28th to 4th) we shall go to Lusaka together. I must attend a big important conference of all headmasters and mistresses (principals) in the country's secondary schools. It should be very interesting and a good place to meet people. We shall stay at the University of Zambia which is now functioning well.

For the (Principal) Head work goes on this week. We are marking selection papers for the Grade Seven who will enter next year. This is always a big job we are glad to get over. Unfortunately, our students next year won't be as good as this year. We shall have 245 new Form I's (like Grade Eighters in America), 110 Form II (Grade Nine) and 35 Form III (Grade Ten), so the school will grow rapidly. In fact, we are suffering growing pains as the school doubles by the time you get used to the old figures. At last we seem to have plenty of teachers. -- I hope this continues! It is great to be properly staffed and not to be short.

31st August 1966 (2 pp.), David to Dad and Mom

I know it has been ages since I've written and I'm terribly sorry. This is the school holiday and I've been busier than ever. When the school closed early in August, I worked for a week getting it closed and then spent a week on business in the Copperbelt. Then a week back in Balovale coordinating the marking for selection papers for our new 245 pupils we will have next year. Then three days ago off with Zindi (who has a week's leave) to come to Lusaka where we are now to an important H/M conference of all Headmasters and Headmistresses of Secondary Schools in Zambia.

They would not offer Zindi accommodation as they said this was a conference. But she wanted to come, so now we are in a hotel and I also have a room at the University where the conference is being held. Quite an excess of housing!! -- in a city where housing is about the shortest in the world!

Zindi plans to rest and visit old friends while I'm at the meetings. Hotels are more expensive here than in America. We plan \$20.00 a day for room (without bath) and meals!

30th August 1966 (3 pp.), Mom to David [Mostly family matters about mom's poor health]

Again I realize that it has been about 2 weeks since I have written you. And, it has been 2 ½ weeks since we heard from you -- (receiving at that time 3 letters in one day, and a tape 5 days before that). . . . I can appreciate that your and Zindi's days have been very full. I am so anxious to know the progress of your farm project and also the store and development of everything as it continues to develop. . . .

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

David, I feel I now have some unpleasant news to write you. But, I feel I must be honest, but I am not at all well and I feel my condition is very serious from all the symptoms.

5th Sept. 1966 (4 pp.), Mom to David and Zindi [mostly personal family news]

[In this letter mom described their camp meeting that had ended, her continuing serious health issues and other local events. Also that Dan met Jan, his wife-to-be]

12th Sept. 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

We [David and Zindi] are now back in Balovale and had a lovely journey through the Copperbelt to Lusaka -- though very busy. Balovale is as usual. I must add, however, school opened more smoothly for the third term than ever before. . . .

Zindi is at work at the hospital since we returned as usual, but finds the doctor at present a bit tough to work with as he is young and inexperienced and doesn't always act wisely.

On our journey we stayed in some lovely "plush" places. We spent the first night at Kabompo (100 miles east of Balovale), the second at the exquisite Edinburgh hotel in Kitwe (\$24.00)!, the third at the Savoy in Ndola and then to the Lusaka at Lusaka. The Lusaka hotel has wonderful food.

The H/M conference was really very interesting and profitable. Just meeting other heads was very educational. Our old friends, Dr. and Mrs. Bwanausi now have high posts in Lusaka. Quite a change since they left Balovale less than a year ago. Zindi also saw many old South African friends who have also fled South Africa.

[Long sympathy paragraph on Mom's continued serious health issues.] . . . May God guide you both [mom and dad] together as you make decisions.

18 Sept. 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

. . . Incidentally do you notice that I am slowly picking up the local English idioms and losing my Ohio ones, e.g. "terribly happy", "revise", "petrol and paraffin" instead of gas and kerosene, etc. . .

We are busy around Balovale as usual. Last night I showed my travel slides of South West Africa to the school boys. Zindi is still going the same at the hospital. The school is running reasonably smooth. Had one excitement though that almost caused disorder. Someone in shipping our "mealie meal" (made from corn), which is the staple food, got some gas spilled in and it was cooked in. However, all has been solved though we lost US\$100.00 to US\$150.00 worth of food.

Our new coop farm and store progress has leveled out as we get better organized. We are trying to get our first house built now. . . .

27th Sept. 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

This is one of the hottest days and one of our hottest Septembers on record. We had wind, but little rain last night. But, the rain should start soon at this rate. . . .

I have had a lot of trying trouble with my Toyota lately [despite being] quite new, it really gets one to get trouble. The gaskets in the fuel pump have gone. And getting spares in Balovale is a real magic trick! The trouble may have been brought about by our bad petrol (gas) lately. I had four gallons of water in 20 gallons of petrol (gas) lately and had to take the fuel system all apart. My! I hate mechanics, but here you have to learn and learn fast.

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

School is largely as usual; the term started peacefully, but the usual small problems. Plus, lately our bad petrol which is not only bad but very scarce. And same with all other supplies such as paraffin (kerosene) for lights, kitchen equipment, books, etc., makes running a school a real task.

I think after I leave as headmaster of a secondary school under our handicaps, I could run the State of Ohio or should apply as superintendant of the Cleveland Public Schools! What do you think of that!? (Smile)

21th Sept. 1966 (4 pp.) Mom to David [family news and her poor health and a short note on Jan, my brother's new girlfriend – later wife]

2nd Oct., 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Another week has almost passed, but all remains the same at Balovale. Our Toyota is still out of action with "pump" trouble and we can't get the part (washers or gaskets) to Balovale -- usual trouble. Anyway, all else is well. It is now very hot and perfect for swimming. I like to go whenever I get time.

Heat makes all restless -- boys and staff, but not unusual. We just have 6 weeks off [until holiday time]. Your hottest summer days and then cooling rains.

We had our neighbours, the McIntyres and Tom van Rooyen (the contractor) for supper last night and had a good evening. It is so easy to slip into gossip in a small community anywhere in the world, as all know what everyone else is doing. And, you just can't get away from either friend or foe. Anyway, we avoided the temptation and had a pleasant, simple evening.

If I get my car fixed this week, I will hope to go camping this weekend to Chinyama Litapi and Lake Mwenge. I visited just before I got malaria you may remember with my bad luck with tropical illnesses this last year. I will probably get bilharzia dysentery in the next few months! (Smile)

This AM we had an annual staff -- student football (soccer) game. Zindi feels I did better this year. I was very pleased. We only lost 2 to 5. (I expected it to be 25 to 1.) This afternoon I typed, went to church, helped fix the tilleys (lights) and fixed supper. How's that for a busy day! -- Oh, yes, I also slept for 2 hours in between it all.

17th Oct. 1966 (3 pp.), Mom to David [Family news and her health]

27th Oct, 1966 (2 pp.) David to Mom and Dad

I just realized I did not get you out a letter this week, hence this "quick 5 minute" scribble. Our celebrations for **Zambia's 2nd anniversary of independence are over**. All went well. The boys really celebrated and looked a little dissipated, but all in all they gave everyone a good break from school.

Our summer holidays are a mere four weeks away at the end of November. Until then we will be busy! Our first Form II will sit exams this year and this is big. (It would be like having exams after the ninth grade to take [only] ½ into the tenth.) We will only accept the better ½ back next year for form III.

It is hot. For weeks now it has soared over 100°F.. A really hot year, wet year; we are eagerly awaiting the rain.

Zindi has just put a big parcel in the mail for you -- a beaded bottle -- one of the best. Hope it reaches for Christmas. . . .

8th Nov. 1966 (1 p.), Mom to David [Only family business]

16th Nov. 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

I am very ashamed to say it has been over 3 weeks since I have last written. ---- Too much activity I guess. . . . A few of the activities:

- (1.) Extra teaching as [we are] (temporarily) [short] a teacher;
- (2.) Trip to Solwezi to select our new 245 pupils next year;
- (3.) More petrol (gas) trouble with Toyota;
- (4.) Big (and first) public parents weekend;
- (5.) Planning for school closing and Form II exams, plus usual!

Copperbelt had race riots recently, but Balovale calm as usual; even they were mild compared with good old USA. Such things always sad anywhere, however.

Oh! Have had visits from many V.I.P.'s (Very Important Persons) lately. Provincial Ministers yesterday and Provincial Education Officer today, etc.. Life always exciting and never too routine.

30th Nov. 1966 (3 pp.), Mom to David [Family business]

30th Nov. 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

I am afraid this will be a very brief note a gain to tell you "all is well." . . .

School is now out and I am trying to get office work caught up this week after the usual hectic closing. We are planning now (summer holiday) for opening on Jan.19th for 166 new boys and 81 new girls, plus the usual old [students] -- all boarders.

Last night we had guests for dinner, the first time in a long while, Dr. Worsfold from Chitokoloki. Mission and his wife came up. A real dedicated and top notch mission doctor. One of the world's top leprosy specialists. We had a lovely evening, plus Mrs. Drew who lives in Balovale with her brother, his wife and her son, Ronnie. They are general small business people. A lovely evening, in short. . . .

12th Dec. 1966 (4 pp.), Mom to David [mostly family business]

. . . do you realize it was 2 years ago today, **Dec. 12, 1966 [that you]** dropped in for a 3 weeks visit?

12th Dec. 1966 (4 pp.), Mom to Zindi [Mostly family business]

Many weeks have come and gone and I have meant to get you out a personal note or letter to let you know how very much I have appreciated your personal letters and gifts you have sent me from time to time, I always mean to include you in my letters when I write David. I think of you with much love in my heart for you as I think of David and his activities. And, I am truly looking forward to your coming to the USA with a love and joy in my heart. **10th Dec. 1966 (2 pp.) David to Mom and Dad**

I am presently in Kitwe getting supplies. I arrived two days ago and will return to Balovale on Tuesday. . . .

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

A new doctor (white) has just come to Balovale which the thought of has pleased Zindi. The past two doctors (from India) have been real "duds" and, as we have told you, there has been long gaps between those. The Egyptian doctor was only there (quite good) for a week before he injured his neck and left (so I didn't count him). This doctor plans to stay for a long time. So maybe all will be well.

[Important paragraph about the school] We are supposed to get 7 (seven) new teachers before January 19 when school opens. Four are already in Zambia and 3 in UK ready to come. I just hope the ones in the UK don't change their minds and not make it. This should give us quite a respectable sized staff even for 400 children (240 boys and 60 girls).

26th Dec. 1966 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad [Interesting comments about Lorahs at Kabulamema]

All is well in Balovale. Had a lovely hot Christmas (85-90° F) and today went swimming. Xmas Eve went to a party. And last night again, both terribly boring. But, had a wonderful day yesterday. We went to Kabulamema Mission (about 75 miles towards Kabompo) and had an excellent American Xmas dinner. Mrs. Lorah reminds me of grandma Gutridge in speech, looks, actions and sets the table almost as grandmother would have for 15 plus 10 elsewhere (total 25). They did it for me as a guest of honour. I was very pleased. They are truly wonderful Christian people. Oddly enough they are both from Ashland College! I don't think I have even mentioned them before. Quite careless of me. I can't think of any missionaries so devoted and truly reaching the people at their level without unconsciously considering to them as inferior heathens (which is the downfall or hold back of most, our own included in my opinion). Along with their son, David (my age) and Miss Falconer who has an orphanage for 65 children. (Plus Mr. and Mrs. Cain, South African Coloreds.) They run a school, clinic, etc.. They are independently supported and not by any denomination, really worthy of support.

They showed us around the orphanage and mission in general and in short a lovely day. We arrived back at 7:00 p.m.

A friend of mine, Eddie Wotela is here from the college of National Resources in Lusaka. He will stay until 7th January before going back to school and joined us at Kabulamema yesterday. Our swim was excellent this A.M. . . .

29th Dec. 1966 (4 pp.) Mom to David [Family business]

1st Jan. 1967 (3 pp.), David to Mom and Dad,

. . . We are well and the weather is scorching hot. The rains here stopped -- corn is stunted, etc.. This will be a bad year for farmers. Anyway, have done lots of swimming lately with the friends of mine visiting until next week. The water has been marvelous, no *vangandu* (crocs) seen! (Smile)

Last night we had 5 friends in to see the old year out and new in. Played Monopoly until 1:30 AM. I got them home and went to bed at 2:00 AM. Guess what time we got up? -- a record, at 3:00 P.M. this afternoon. How I will ever go to sleep tonight I don't know. Today (or what has been left of it) I have read *Time* magazine and written letters.

Our new doctor has taken infectious hepatitis and was taken to Lusaka. Dr. Worsfold has dermatitis so bad he can't operate. Thus, no doctor who can operate with 350 miles -- an unpleasant thought. Also, this means poor old Zindi is running the hospital again!

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

I plan to go to Lusaka next week. But, we have not had gas for over two weeks and I'm getting worried this petrol crisis seems to be ruining us. Have 8 new teachers joining us this next two weeks -- 6 are already in Zambia. I'm really very busy getting the school ready to open.

8th Jan. 1967 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad (written in Kitwe)

As you can tell, I am on a journey to Kitwe at present. All has gone well except petrol (gas) is very scarce. I hope I get enough here to pay back the loans in Solwezi and Kitwe. School opens in 10 days and I am frantically trying to get needed supplies. Beds and mattresses, our most urgent requirement, the C.E.O. now admits have not been ordered at all! Yet earlier I was told they have ordered in September -- gross inefficiency!

Tomorrow I go to Ndola for a busy frantic day of shopping and making contacts for future supplies. I hope I can finish by 4:00 PM. If all my frantic shopping goes well and I have no more car trouble, I hope to reach Balovale by Thursday mid-day.

I left Zindi in good health in Balovale. She had a few days holiday over the Christmas season but is now busy again at the hospital. . . .

19th Jan. 1967 (4 pp.), Mom to David [Mostly family affairs]

. . . We got your last letter, written in Kitwe, in 4 days. The greatest speed so far! I hope you got through your frantic shopping and back home OK. . . I have been praying much for you and your problems, realizing the much greater complication with all those girls boarding there with inadequate supplies -- especially beds, etc.. I'm sorry Zindi doesn't have a stable Dr. who could relieve her of her heavy load.. . . .

17th Jan. 1967 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Sorry it has been several weeks since I wrote you on my last journey to the Copperbelt. But, getting school started is always a strain. And the work this year is greater than ever before. At any rate school has been started and we have 10 new staff members -- **Mr. and Mrs. Oomman (Indians from Tanzania), Mr. Hyde, Kirwan, Moore, Burk, Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and Mr. and Mrs. Warner**, all from the UK. So, we have a big staff now.

To top all the work off, I have had a touch of flu this week, but am almost recovered now.

My journey back from Copperbelt went well. Found Mr. and Mrs. Crawford dumped in Solwezi and brought them on to Balovale. It rained all the way which made the roads slippery. All the rain lately is causing the river to raise -- another month and it will be well flooded.

I have just stopped for five minutes to speak with Hazel Britton and Zindi. Zindi sends her love. Incidentally she is still alone, as Dr. King is in Lusaka hospital recovering from infectious hepatitis. But, we hope he will be back soon. Also, Mrs. Warner is a Sister and may join Zindi next month which would relieve the load greatly.

Mr. Musumali and Mr. Britton are proving to be big helpers with general office routine this year. I hope all continues well, as it will relieve my load greatly.

3rd Feb. 1967 (1 pp.), Mom to David [All family business]

. .

5th Feb. 1967 (4 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Balovale (Zambezi) Vignettes: January 1965 – April 1967

A wet rainy morning here today. Our rains are in full force. . . . We had visitors last night from Lukolwe and Chavuma Mission. They came to have a special entertaining programme for the school boys last night and church service today. (I didn't go today as I have had a rough, busy week. Am still a little weak from the effects of the flu.)

Anyway Zindi had been busy getting supper and now lunch ready -- just left for the hospital (9:00 AM it is now -- Church this year is at 8:00 AM). A new temporary doctor is here until Dr. King returns from sick leave at the end of this month. He is an Indian surgeon Doctor Doctor! (His surname is also Doctor!) Zindi is now in better spirits as the hospital has been in chaos (!) with the drunken staff and no doctor and last week the bullet cases from the Angolan side of the border at Chavuma. (Most were septic!) A mess. So this will help matters.

School is plodding along. Have 10 new staff and all very good, tho' are rather difficult. -- Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, they are hard workers, but feel everything is wrong and tell you so quite rudely! I am inefficient and an professional, etc..

Think I'm repressing the African and act like I'm an old colonial. So, all in all rather annoying. I have turned both cheeks and they are sore! (Smile), so now I have to use my power (very great, as Headmaster) before they ruin the teamwork and good will among staff. There is always a difficult person everywhere I guess. . . . (2.) **Kabulamema** where we went for Xmas is 75 miles along the road east towards Kabompo. Then on a private road two miles south. It would not be on many maps. It lies on the Kabompo river. . . . [rest is family business]

20th Feb. 1967 (1 p.), Mom to David. [Only family business]

5th March 1967 (2 pp.), David to Mom and Dad

Afraid several weeks have gone by without writing. But, all has been well so no worry! I have returned from a quick journey to the Copperbelt to get supplies for the school. For once no petrol trouble and all was pleasant except bad potholed and muddy roads. But, this is to be expected at this time of the year.

The floods have not been high this year. -- In fact almost non-existent here in Balovale.

Today Zindi, Mr. Kakwisa and I went through Chitokoloki, south of here 30 miles to find lumber for Mr. Kakwisa's woodwork classes. We had good success and a pleasant journey. We stopped in to see Dr. and Mrs. Worsfold in Chitokoloki and had our afternoon tea there. Also, I am negotiating for a dugout canoe -- hope to get one for £8 (\$25,00) which would be nice for practice rowing up and down the river. Will be lots of good exercise and fun.

Zindi is in good spirits as Dr. King is back and the prospects of good help coming look brighter than before. Also we are negotiating on some exciting ideas -- I still won't tell you until we get more information -- that excites Zindi very much. Oh yes, we are planning to fly to Livingstone and the Falls in April for a week's holiday. It should be a good rest for us. . . .

14th March 1967 (4 pp.) Dad to David about [about Mom's death]

It may be a little hard for me to express my thoughts at such a time of great sorrow. . . .

Due to poor cable communications it was impossible to contact you sooner. . . . Mother was very conscious of everything until last breath.

15th April 1967 (1 p.), Dad to David [about Mom's death]